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*Smallest HT as of Jan. 1998
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ON THE COVER: Customer Service Agents Nancy Dovelle and Christina Muczko put baggage on board an aircraft at the Key West International Airport in Florida. However you travel, be sure to take that new scanner along! And if you’re still looking for a new wideband receiver, check out Joe Schroeder’s review of Alinco’s DJ-X10T on page 54. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)
GRUI DIG of everything for the radio enthusiast. Request your copy today! This new catalog printed in June is our biggest ever! 116 pages.

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Jam With That Call, Sir?

Remember when non-smoking seating was first required in certain places of public accommodation, such as restaurants, shopping malls, offices, and airports? It was a great day for the breathing public. Even the Army, way-back-when, had a regulation (they've got regulations for just about everything, you know) about how much smoke was OK in a room occupied by a specific number of persons, ventilated by a certain number of windows of a certain dimension. Things are much different now. I'll bet the no-smoking regulation is 50 pages long!

In many areas of the country you can't light up anywhere. I recently passed through an airport and there they were in a designated smoking room. It was blue. But I just kept huffing and puffing, dragging my carry-on trying to make my connecting flight! Personally, I think breathing second-hand smoke as I try to wolf down a cheeseburger, Coke, and fries just isn't healthy. You don't have to be a rocket scientist or need congressional and industry studies to figure it out. It just isn't good for you. Now before we get into the benefits of smoking outdoors, let's look at the consequences of everyday folks like my brother-in-law or the guy down the street who rings with the stock market just crashed, or their kids off at Sue's by noon, we'll be able to send it to me yesterday afternoon, but I know I only asked you to check on the status of that proposal you were sending me. I know I only asked you to send it to me yesterday afternoon, but there's the user-initiated call from flubber life-and-death conversations, and you have too. No, not on an unblocked scanner, but right there in person. I've heard these conversations without trying to catch the 3 o'clock train? And then there's the user-initiated call from flubber lips at the next table. "Hello, John. I'd like to check on the status of that proposal you were sending me."

"I wonder if that makes most Americans felons, or in the speak of the '90s, non-electronic verbal stalkers."

Apparantly the not-so-cheap devices (they sell for around $500) have a range of about 20 feet or so, are the size of a pack of cigarettes and can even be hung on the wall. Think of the possibilities. You're having lunch with that special person and don't want any distractions. Or you're almost ready to fall asleep at the theater watching yet another Disney movie with the kids, and i-i-n-n-g, the doofus in the seat behind you gets a call from her neighbor asking if she'd like to get together later for tea and cookies. Now, I know that sometimes an important call, like making a pit stop on vacation, just can't wait. But you'll never convince me that all the millions of cell phones on the tables in restaurants and attached to the belt of millions of everyday folks like my brother-in-law or the guy down the street will ring with news that the house just burned down, or the stock market just crashed, or their parakeet died. Nope. I've overheard these life-and-death conversations, and you have too. No, not on an unblocked scanner, but right there in person. I've heard at least half the conversation without trying. It's always the same basic stuff. "Right, right. So you think if we drop the smoke was OK in a room occupied by a certain number of windows of a certain dimension. Things are much different now. I'll bet the no-smoking regulation is 50 pages long!

Reader Brandon Armman of Pennsylvania sent in a clipping from his local newspaper titled "Japanese Turn Off Cellular Phones With A Jammer." It seems that folks in Japan are getting sick and tired of being disturbed by the ringing of cellular phones and the resulting loud conversations in public places. So, one company has come up with an answer to the problem. They've developed a small, short-range jammer called Wave Wall. The device puts out a signal on the cell frequencies essentially blocking both incoming and outgoing calls. They're selling pretty well, too; so far about 6,000 of the units are in use at restaurants, coffee shops, theaters, concert halls, hospitals, and virtually any public place. This is a pretty neat idea, don't you think?
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Voting Against Crime Prevention?

Dear Editor:
I have a couple of thoughts on different subjects. I read your magazine in braille and enjoy it quite a bit. It would be nice if more communications magazines/publications would be available in braille as I don’t have time to read a lot of things on tape or other spoken media.

Now for the thoughts I mentioned. It is possible we are approaching the HR 2369 problem in the wrong way. Perhaps instead of calling it a vote for privacy, it should be pointed out to Congress that what they are actually doing is voting against crime prevention. If a scanner listener hears about a crime that has been committed or is going to be committed, they will not, and legally cannot, report it or they will be arrested for invasion of privacy (and the criminal will probably not even be touched). If, on the other hand, Congress leaves the law alone, people will still be able to report criminal activity without being worried about being arrested. Of course, this is probably what Congress is trying to prevent as they are the ones mostly likely to get caught this way.

My other thought concerns the amateur radio service and code. I am somewhat ambivalent about removing the code requirement. I am currently studying to get my license and I agree that the code is a large pain. But, on the other hand, I am planning on using it when I get my license and it is possible that I might enjoy it so I don’t think we ought to get rid of the code frequencies. To use them, one of course must know the code and pass a test for the same. Also it should be that with every hobby there is something you must learn that may not be fun to learn but you might find useful at some point.

Tom Masterson, Bremerton, WA

A Little Ditty

Dear Editor:

The following is a charming little ditty called "I’m Going To Marry My Radio." It’s something I have worked on during my weekend SWLing binges. I also do poems and odes to computers, Sporadic-E, and satellites, but I won’t torture you with that. I think the following is enough. I’ve been a Pop’Comm reader for nearly 10 years and enjoy every page. Good job and 73s!

Nile Kelly, Registered Monitor CA6WB, Unit 2482, Force Ten Radio

Dear Nile:
You’re a pretty talented fellow. Please, just don’t put this to music!

I’m Going To Marry My Radio
By Nile Kelly

I’m going to marry my radio, and we’ve already set a date
Yes, I’m going to marry my radio, we’re going to be lifelong mates.
I just can’t help it, I had to propose, because I can’t resistors.
Instead of flowers, instead of rice, we’ll all be throwing transistors.

I’m going to marry my radio, and I’ve already bought the rings,
Shiny 14-carat torroids, for the super DX that it brings.
Long ago I’d a YL who promised me media mass,
When I found she had no QSL, I had to leave the lass.

I’m going to marry my radio, gotta love them circuit boards,
Superhet, regen, Baygen, NiCd packs and electric cords.
When the big day finally comes, we’re going to TX sacred vows,
Over 4146 power tubes, with more plate volts than the law allows.

I’m going to marry my radio, and my friends all think I’m a wack,
But you’re all invited, 1700 UTC at the radio shack.
AM, FM, shortwave, it really doesn’t matter to me.
Wideband, narrowband, multiband, with a little bit of S-S-Bee.

I’m going to marry my radio, General Electric will be the best man,
Grundig, Drake, and Collins will show up if they can.
The only drawback is that we can’t have any kids,
But we’ll add more speakers — like woofers, tweeters, and mids.

I’m going to marry my radio, what a spectacle it will be,
To see a guy get lawfully hitched to his machinery.
Hammarlunds, Vikings, and Bearcats will be wedding guests of course.
And no where in history has a radio filed for divorce!

Tom Masterson, Bremerton, WA
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- Band activity "scope" display with "save trace" capability
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- BNC antenna connector
- Wide choice of accessories

These are but a few of the features of the new AR 8200B. Visit your dealer or the AOR web site for more information!

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Remembering The Ladies —
A Salute To The Women Of Early Radio

Pioneering Women Behind The Microphone
And In The Manager's Chair . . .

By Donna L. Halper

Women were involved in broadcasting right from the beginning, although you might not know it if you read the majority of the textbooks. Because most historians have concentrated on the technological development of early radio, their focus has been on the inventors and the corporate entrepreneurs, most of whom were men — Guglielmo Marconi, Reginald Fessenden, Lee DeForest, Edwin Howard Armstrong, and David Sarnoff. Given this approach, it is difficult to show how important (and how necessary) the women of early broadcasting were. If you find women mentioned at all, it is usually as performers: early radio needed live talent, and, as a result, numerous women, and even a few young girls, worked as singers and accompanists. (Even back in the days when women were not supposed to want a career, the study of music was encouraged; many women who had received some formal training suddenly found themselves invited to entertain an invisible audience of thousands, rather than just performing for family and friends.) But although a few of radio’s earliest singing stars were female (most notably Vaughn DeLeath, “The Original Radio Girl”), it is also true that a few of radio’s earliest managers, several station owners, and even a couple of engineers were female.

... a closer look at what they actually did proves their roles were far more extensive than just typing letters or answering the phone.

Eunice Randall was 20 when this photo was taken at what was then 1XE, in 1921. She was the first woman on the air in Boston Radio. (Courtesy Eunice Stolecki)

Whether you support the idea of feminism or not, the fact remains that women who took non-traditional jobs in the 1920s faced many more challenges than women do today. Back then, there were no laws about equal pay; station executives could (and did) say they would never hire a woman; and some journalists who believed that radio should be a man’s job wrote columns that were highly critical of women announcers. Although the ’20s brought great social change (women got the vote, many more women attended college), old attitudes
refused to die: the common wisdom said that women who worked in radio should confine themselves to being secretaries or playing the piano or possibly doing an occasional program about cooking or fashion. But women doing the news? Women managing the station? Unthinkable! Yet in spite of all the opposition from their society (and at times from their own colleagues and families), certain women refused to accept a limited role. These pioneers and their achievements are seldom acknowledged, so let me introduce you to some of them.

The Story Lady

Perhaps the first woman to be both an announcer and an engineer was Eunice Randall (later, Eunice Randall Thompson). At the age of 19, she was broadcasting on 1XE, a Boston-area radio station owned by AMRAD — the American Radio and Research Company, which manufactured radio receivers and various types of ham equipment. The year was 1920, and the station operated from studios on the campus of Tufts College (at Medford Hillside, Massachusetts) with a dedicated staff comprised of student volunteers and AMRAD employees. Eunice Randall had come to radio by accident, having been raised on a farm and intending to go to art school. But needing extra money, she found a job as a draftsman in AMRAD's factory (the first woman they ever hired), and this provided her introduction to the growing wireless industry. It wasn't long before she was deeply involved with both professional and amateur radio: she soon built her own ham station, and ultimately became one of the first women in New England to hold the first-class license (her ham calls were 1CDP, and later W1MPP). Interestingly, she had no role models in her family for any of this — I have met several of her relatives, and as far as they recall, none of the Randalls was a "radio bug." To Boston Radio fans of the early '20s, Eunice Randall was "The Story Lady": two nights a week from late 1921 through 1923, she had a sponsored program (the station's first — brought to you by Little Folks Magazine), reading stories to children. She also did the police reports, gave Morse code practice, sometimes announced the news, and when guests didn't show up, she and one of the station's engineers would sing duets! She even became the assistant chief announcer. 1XE (which was re-named WGI in February of 1922) was heard all over the United States. And Eunice received fan mail (and more than a few marriage proposals) from people in many different cities. Gradually, her technical skills and her willingness to do whatever it took to keep the station on the air — including climbing the tower if necessary — earned her the respect of her male colleagues at AMRAD, most of whom had been vehemently opposed to hiring a woman when she first applied. Eunice was frequently written about in the Boston and suburban newspapers, and, unlike some other female announcers who encountered ridicule and hostility, what was written about her was very complimentary. In case you are wonder-

“S.O.S. TITANIC” ...12:45 a.m. April 15, 1912.

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ing if perhaps she was extremely attractive and the columnists wished they could take her out. Eunice was very tall for a woman of her day — at least six feet tall — and while pictures of her show a woman with a wonderful smile and a pleasant face, she does not look like a potential model. Rather, those who knew her say it was her dedication to her work and her outgoing personality that won over even her critics.

While she had fun on the air, Eunice truly loved the technical side of radio, and studied hard to keep up with the much more experienced men at AMRAD. The company soon expressed their confidence in her by making her a member of the team of experts sent to discuss and demonstrate AMRAD's newest equipment at conventions and radio shows. Given how few women were in the technical end of radio back then, we can only imagine the impression it must have made on people who met her at the AMRAD booth and discovered she wasn’t the receptionist — in several cases, she had helped to test or build that equipment!

If 1XE/WGI’s parent company, AMRAD, had not been beset with financial problems — by 1925 it was bankrupt — Eunice might have stayed on the air much longer. As it was, she did remain a dedicated ham radio operator for her entire life, and, although she left commercial radio, she continued to do drafting and engineering work until she retired. Occasionally, she appeared as a guest on women’s shows during the 1930s and ’40s, talking about her adventures in radio’s early years. Eunice Randall was by all accounts an amazing and courageous woman. Her desire to enter the all-male world of radio totally mystified her father, and I am told he never accepted her decision. But she must have been an inspiration to numerous young women of the early 1920s who heard her voice on the radio and thought that maybe someday they, too, could be like her.

Bertha Brainard — One Of The First Women Network Execs

Another woman who had never planned to be in radio was Bertha Brainard. She grew up in New Jersey, and, as a child, dreamed of becoming a movie star or performing on the stage. After serving as a nurse during World War I, she pursued her love of theater. In the fall of 1921, when professional radio came to Newark, she volunteered to do a program of theater reviews and news of upcoming shows. (Like most performers and announcers from radio’s early days, Bertha didn’t expect to get paid for her work on the air. She did it because it was fun to be a part of a brand new mass medium.) Her show, “Broadcasting Broadway” marked the first time a woman had been on the air at station WJZ, which, not long afterward, moved from New Jersey to New York City, making it even easier for her to interview the actors and actresses. In fact, she had such excellent contacts that she was hired in a paid capacity to find and book the talent for WJZ. This led to more responsibilities, and, by 1925, she was working directly with the management running the station; she even developed new programs and hired announcers.

Before I continue, I should explain that in radio’s early days, titles often meant something very different from what they mean today. For example, a program manager did in fact manage the programming — by finding enough musicians and guest speakers to fill the demands of live radio. And a station secretary — while usually a “woman’s job” with a comparatively low salary and not much prestige — was often pressed into service on the air, especially if she could sing or had some expertise in domestic arts, such as cooking or sewing. In Boston, Jean Sargent, the woman originally hired to be executive secretary to John Shepard III (he was president of the Shepard Stores and owner of station WNAC), ended up doing a successful daily show for homemakers. She became so well known that when she left the name remained; a succession of women who filled the secretarial role also served as “Jean Sargent” on WNAC. Thus, while it is true that many women in early broadcasting were listed as “secretary” or “studio hostess,” a closer look at what they actually did proves their roles were far more extensive than just typing letters or answering the phone. Many were doing work we associate with managers — they often produced their own shows, hired the talent, brought in the guests, and even surveyed the audience to find out what topics interested them! As a result, women who worked as station secretaries often felt very lucky — it was much more exciting than the typical office job. They met interesting people; their duties changed constantly, and sometimes they even got on the air themselves. Early stations could not have functioned effectively without these versatile women!

The original “Jean Sargent” had something in common with Bertha Brainard — both worked for men whose attitude about women’s proper role was very traditional. Unlike Bertha, who stayed on at WJZ despite a boss who was less than supportive of her goals, “Jean Sargent” left WNAC because her boss refused to give her more opportunity to move beyond a “women’s show.” As long as she remained in the role considered normal for a woman, she was encouraged, but when she asked to do shows considered men’s jobs, she was not even considered for a try-out. Frustrated by this, she ultimately moved to the mid-west, where she took a radio job with more opportunities. Meanwhile, Bertha Brainard was working for a program manager (Charles Popencoe) who said in a magazine interview in September of 1924 that he believed women lacked the skill to be announcers, and if it were not for Bertha’s reputation as a credible theater critic, he would have taken her off the air long ago! We can only imagine how she felt seeing that quote, but then, Bertha Brainard seemed to have an attitude similar to that of Eunice Randall — disapproval did not stop her, and she handled criticism with remarkable poise. Based on what I have read about her duties, Bertha was the equivalent of the Assistant Program.
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found herself named station manager. It. Not long after that phone call, she (WGU), and he asked her to help him run it. When radio beckoned, she was interviewed her called her one evening to tell her he had just bought a station. WGU ultimately folded — early stations were fun to own but expensive to maintain. Judith’s radio career was far from over, however; she was soon back in radio with WGU’s next incarnation, WMAQ. As one of the few women station managers, she quickly became known for her ability to persuade famous classical musicians and opera stars to perform (back then, talent was not always paid — radio was still a volunteer activity at many stations, and for putting on high-quality programs. By the late ‘20s, Judith Waller was developing educational programming on WMAQ — she strongly believed that radio should not only entertain but also be a vehicle for learning.

In 1931, NBC took over WMAQ and, again, David Sarnoff found he had a talented and very competent woman running the station. She had established an arrangement with the University of Chicago to have debates, panel discussions, and even some courses on the air; she was developing programs in music education for children, and thinking up creative ways to do more public service. Her diligence was rewarded — Judith was named head of NBC’s new Educational Division, responsible for all of the educational programming on NBC stations throughout the Midwest. During her years in radio, she wrote many articles for scholarly journals, as well as a book about broadcasting and public service, Radio: the Fifth Estate. She was an eloquent spokeswoman on behalf of the importance of public service, and while she loved music and radio drama, she did not want her industry to ignore the need for programming that would inform the audience and make them think. Judith Waller’s career with NBC spanned more than 25 years, and numerous civic and professional organizations — from the Parent/Teachers Association, to the American Medical Association — thought of her as Chicago’s “First Lady of Radio.”

The Station Owners

In the early ’20s, a small number of women were active in amateur radio, building and operating their own stations. But professional radio was more of a challenge — it required an outlay of cash that most women did not have. However, in the small town of Vinton, Iowa, in the summer of 1922, a unique event occurred: Marie Zimmerman put a station on the air. The daughter of immigrants, Marie had grown up on a farm and had never thought much about radio until she married Robert Zimmerman, an electrician who was fascinated by the new radio craze which was sweeping the country in 1922. He introduced Marie to ham radio, and they both decided to try to put a professional station on the air. Bob built it (he had to ask for donations to pay for the equipment), but the license was issued to Marie, who operated it and did all the things that station managers in those days had to do. WIAE was typical of small “mama/papa” stations of the early ’20s — Marie and Bob were the entire staff of the station since they couldn’t pay anybody to work for them. Studios were in the living room of the Zimmermann home, sometimes in a rented office, and sometimes in Bob’s truck, which he drove around Vinton — Marie did the announcing as

Chicago’s “First Lady Of Radio”

Another woman who found similar success with NBC got her start in Chicago on a small station known as WGU, which broadcast from a department store several times a week in the spring and summer of 1922. The station didn’t last very long, but the woman who managed it (which meant that she booked the talent, did the publicity, performed classical selections if a guest failed to appear, and almost single-handedly kept WGU operating) would go on to a long and successful radio career.

Judith Waller had hoped to become a journalist. When radio beckoned, she was working for the American Red Cross and considering her options. She had recently tried to get a job at the Chicago Daily News; to her surprise, the man who had interviewed her called her one evening to tell her he had just bought a station (WGU), and he asked her to help him run it. Not long after that phone call, she found herself named station manager.
"The public was amazed when their radio sets brought them the voice of a candidate for local office telling why he deserved their vote."

they demonstrated the magic of broadcasting to people who had not seen it before. The station operated on a shoestring, relying on local volunteers to sing or perform, and, when no talent could be found, Marie played a few phonograph records. It was an election year, and suddenly local politicians discovered that giving a talk on radio reached many more people than going around town campaigning. The public was amazed when their radio sets brought the voice of a candidate for local office telling why he deserved their vote. It was the first time radio and politics had met in Vinton: to us today, candidates giving speeches are commonplace, and usually boring. But in 1922, listeners had a sense of wonder about broadcasting: they would put on their headphones and marvel at what they heard. WIAE broadcast live from the County Fair that year and tried to maintain a presence at other local events. Marie's living relatives do not remember it, but the two of them were not rich, and it might have lasted longer than it did. Had it not been for the fact that the Wilson 1000 gives 58% more power gain than the K40 Electronics Company, K40 Antenna, this means that the Wilson 1000 gives you 58% more gain on both transmit and receive. Now you can instantly increase your operating range by using a Wilson 1000.

One other woman owner was Ida McNeil, who ran a one-woman station from her house (like Marie Zimmerman, her husband had built it for her in 1922; unlike Marie, she was still running it 20 years later); she gave the audience weather reports, farming tips, some music, messages of interest to the community, and whatever else she felt would be helpful to local people. The station began as an amateur operation, but by 1932, KGFX in Pierre, South Dakota, was a full-fledged commercial station, although Ida was still 99 percent of the staff. KGFX occupied such a positive place in the hearts of her listeners that Ida and her little station were written up in Time magazine in 1941!

There are so many more women I want you to meet — such as Eleanor Poehler...
of WLAG in Minneapolis. She overcame personal tragedy (the unexpected death of her husband after they had only been married a year and she had just given birth to their first child) and not only became a respected singer, but she was then hired as Minneapolis' first woman station manager. A critically acclaimed soprano who had studied in Europe, Eleanor became a vocal supporter of classical music on radio; when the owners of WLAG went bankrupt, she worked as Music Director for their successor, WCCO.

There was also another famous vocalist who managed an early station — Vaughan DeLeath, who had a long and very successful career as a singer and a recording artist, but who also served as Program Manager for a New York station, WDT, in 1923-24. As mentioned earlier, many of the first program managers were performers themselves, mainly from classical music or opera backgrounds, or playing for an orchestra. This made it easier for them to find colleagues who would be willing to volunteer at the station — the exposure was good for a performer's career, since it gave him or her free publicity. And, while not every station had the good fortune to be run by a vocalist as famous as Vaughan DeLeath, most stations tried to have at least one announcer on the staff who could step in and perform if an emergency arose.

Other women in early radio did the "women's shows," but many took their show beyond just recipes and fashion tips to bring in interesting guest speakers on topics as wide ranging as foreign policy and current events. Caroline Cabot of WEAI in Boston was typical of this genre of women's show; she received huge amounts of fan mail from grateful female listeners, and she soon had her own staff and her own office, where her daily show could be produced more efficiently. By the '30s, some women were even doing a sort of talk show — the best known of these was New York's Mary Margaret McBride on WOR.

I haven't even begun to discuss such pioneering women announcers as Jessie Koewing or Halloween Martin, or women radio columnists such as Jennie Irene Mix, or other women owners like Mary Costigan — perhaps I can do Part Two at some point!

Today, few people think about the women radio columnists such as Jennie Koewing or Halloween Martin, or women radio columnists such as Jennie Irene Mix, or other women owners like Mary Costigan — perhaps I can do Part Two at some point!

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The Great Brooklyn Radio Wars!

Too Many Little Stations, Not Enough Frequencies

By Alice Brannigan

When radio caught on with the public, everyone either wanted to listen or to broadcast. In the early 1920s, the government was willing to issue a broadcasting license to virtually anyone who applied for one. Many companies primarily engaged in broadcasting applied for high-powered stations. But hundreds of applications also poured in from individuals, churches, stores, schools, clubs, hotels, newspapers, amusement parks, and others asking for licenses to operate with transmitters running as little as 5 to 100 watts. In larger metropolitan areas, this eventually resulted in too many stations crushed onto the few available frequencies. Someone or something had to give. But who, or what? The Great Brooklyn Radio Wars that began in the mid-1930s provide a typical example.

Enter WLTH

In September of 1925, R. M. Lacey and J. A. Bergner, operators of the Flatbush Radio Laboratories, 1421 East 10th Street, Brooklyn, New York built a 100-watt radio station at their shop. They asked for a license and received the callsign WFRL, which permitted them to commence immediate operation on 1460 kHz. A year later, WFRL became incorporated. Stockholder Samuel J. Gellard, a bright young go-getter, was appointed treasurer. Soon after, the station's license was transferred to R. M. Lacey, individually. At that point, WFRL illegally jumped from 1460 kHz to 910 kHz. Stations changing frequencies and power at will was common during late 1926 and early 1927 because the United States was without effective radio regulation.

In early 1927, Congress created the Federal Radio Commission (FRC). In April, that agency assigned WFRL to 1370 kHz, permitting it to increase power to 250 watts. In May, WFRL relocated to shared space in the Strand Danceland ballroom, 635 Fulton Street.

This 1929 snapshot shows WLTH's dapper Sam Gellard relaxing in Brooklyn's Prospect Park after horseback riding with friends. Gellard is seated in the rear center of the photo, wearing the dark sweater. (Original photo from the personal collection of a reader who asks to remain anonymous.)

In late July, WFRL was acquired by The Voice of Brooklyn, Inc., Sam Gellard, President. The following month, he moved the studios into the mezzanine of the newly built luxurious Leverich Tower Hotel on Willow Street, in upscale Brooklyn Heights. Gellard changed the station's call letters to WLTH, incorpo-
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rating the initials of the hotel. The frequency was changed to 1170 kHz, although the transmitter remained on the roof of the Strand Danceland. In mid-1928, however, the transmitter was relocated to a site at Avenue W and East 38th Street (now a park).

WLTH received permission to increase power to 500 watts in September of 1928, soon after changing its frequency to 1400 kHz, but the FRC forced it to share its broadcast time on that frequency with several other small Brooklyn stations. Those were times of transition motivated by the start of the Great Depression. The luxury hotel fell upon hard times. Even though the hotel tried to cut back on its amenities, it still went bankrupt. In January of 1930, WLTH checked out, moving its studios to two rooms in the offices of The Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper, 305 Washington Street. This gave WLTH the opportunity to broadcast bulletins obtained from the newspaper, while providing the newspaper with wonderful exposure on the radio.

Hanging On

The Great Depression was tough on most businesses, and broadcasters were no exception. WLTH and its local time-share companions all directed the major portion of their programming at New York City’s large Yiddish-speaking Jewish population. Most also provided some programs for other ethnic groups, including Italian, Irish, and Scandinavian.

Sam Gellard had merchants eager to reach WLTH’s audience, and the method he devised to stay in business was both clever and unique to WLTH. Unlike WLTH’s competitors, his station did not establish commercial air time rates. Instead, merchants could get free plugs before and after individual music selections were played. The audience would be told that a particular song was brought to them by one of the local merchants. WLTH asked merchants only to chip in a small payment to help defray the royalties paid for the use of the music. This ran merchants less than $4.00 per week, if they signed contracts for three months.

This unorthodox sales method worked well. WLTH was doggedly competing with its three local time-share stations, WARD, WBBC, and WVFV. Minor problems constantly arose between this rowdy and feisty bunch, as each fought for the prestige of controlling the frequency’s “main station” identity, as well as adherence from advertisers and listeners. They bickered whenever one remained on the frequency beyond its allotted time period, ran a program perceived as too similar to another station’s, lured away another station’s artists or advertisers, or made a comment another station didn’t like, etc. It was definitely war.

In April of 1930, WLTH moved its transmitting site to 180 feet south of Avenue V, on the west side of Flatbush Avenue (at 2568 Flatbush Avenue., the present site of a brick business structure on the corner of Henderickson Place). In October of 1935, Gellard moved out of The Brooklyn Daily Eagle building. New studios were opened at 105 Second Avenue in Manhattan, although the community of license registered with the FCC remained in Brooklyn. These studios contained a small auditorium for live dramas.

Problems Arise

But all was not roses. The FRC had long known that despite their time-sharing efforts, broadcasting was still bursting at the seams in metropolitan areas. The agency decided to weed out stations it found unnecessary, irrelevant, or which it deemed as being operated poorly or technically substandard. In April of 1934, FRC Examiner Ralph Walker went to Brooklyn, New York, where a total of eight small stations existed. Unfortunately, he got an earful of the antics on 1400 kHz. He recommended all four community stations sharing 1400 kHz (WARD,
WBBC, WLTH, and WVFW) for deletion. Walker alleged the stations were all being operated in a disorganized and careless manner.

In December of 1934, the government’s tentative plan was to combine WARD, WLTH, and WVFW so that their air time could be taken over by WEGL, a new proposed station to be put on the air by The Brooklyn Daily Eagle. WBBC would be permitted to remain in operation and share time on 1400 kHz with WEGL. In January of 1936, WLTH and the two others were officially deleted by the FCC, so WEGL could start operations.

It Was More War!

Gellard took up the cudgel, leading the three endangered stations in raising a loud squawk, fueled by listener support. Gellard wasn’t about to pull the plug and go away quietly. The stations kept on broadcasting. They demanded a hearing. As of April 1936, they had managed to remain on the air by postponing the effective date of the deletions no less than four times. It demonstrated to the FCC that it wouldn’t be a breeze deleting existing popular stations.

In late 1936, WLTH and WARD drew up plans to combine into a single station that would operate on 1400 kHz, although the two stations were still in court fighting to remain on the air independently. As of October 1937, WLTH, WARD, and WVFW were still operating, although they had been dropped from Commission’s license records in August. The FCC finally gave up and decided to renew the licenses of the three stations. Plans for the Phantom WEGL were scrapped, and the station never went on the air. Had The Great Brooklyn Radio Wars at last ended? Not quite.

Moving On

By mid-1938, WLTH was calling itself “The Radio Theatre of The Air.” The station’s daily six-hour schedule still consisted of ethnic-oriented programming, primarily in Yiddish.

In October of 1938, a fire destroyed the station’s Flatbush Avenue transmitter shack. WLTH was able to make arrangements with WVFW, one of its timeshare partners, to temporarily use that station’s transmitting facilities at Foster Avenue and East 57th Street, Brooklyn. By December of that year, WLTH had found a new site for its transmitter at Provost Green, and Huron Streets. A 195-foot vertical radiator was constructed there. The station’s studios remained at 105 Second Avenue.

Sam Gellard then took a second look at his 1936 plan to merge his WLTH with timeshare station WARD. This time, he included the two other small Brooklyn 1400 kHz time share stations, WVFW and WBBC, in the concept. Unified, they would create one full-time 1400-kHz station. In January of 1941, Gellard announced the four-station merge, and he would become 25 percent owner of the new station.

A Slight Problem?

Things appeared all set, at least until the FCC’s NARBA Treaty reallocations put a slight hitch in the realization of this arrangement as originally planned. The NARBA Treaty, announced by the FCC on May 1, 1941, required many stations to
Dear Sir:

Your report of reception received.

After a complete check up with our station log, we find that your report corresponds. Same is hereby verified.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Oscar Kronenberg
Radio Station WARD

Brooklyn's WARD, owned by Rabbi Aaron Kronenberg, was yet one more timeshare 500-watt station uncomfortably wedged onto 1400 kHz. This 1931 verified letter is signed by Oscar Kronenberg.

shift to new frequencies, bringing them into alignment with a new North American broadcasting master plan. Under the new NARBA Treaty, which took effect prior to the four-station consolidation, all four stations were to move from 1400 kHz and begin operating on 1430 kHz. On May 1, 1941, Gellard returned the WLTH license to the FCC for cancellation. He had become one-quarter owner, vice president, and a member of the Board of Directors of The Unified Broadcasting Corporation of Brooklyn, Inc., the licensee of new 1 kW (500 watt days) station WBYN, Brooklyn, New York.

Gellard's equal partners in the UBC were WARD's Rabbi Aaron Kronenberg (who served as UBC's president), WBBC's Peter Testan (who served as WBYN's Chief Engineer), and WVFW's Sal d'Angelo (who became UBC's secretary). Together, their talents combined to run a station that audiences simply loved. The stickler was that, after so many previous years on the same frequency, as fierce competitors, they found that they just didn't like one another and couldn't get along. Ego problems constantly arose, and petty annoyances from years past kept being dredged up and rehashed. It was still war!

Despite the fact that they had a popular station, and were operating at a profit, within a few years, they realized they had to sell WBYN and go their separate ways. The feuding partners sold the station, and after 11 years, The Great Brooklyn Radio Wars finally ended!

As of late 1946, WBYN had been sold to The Newark Evening News, in New Jersey. The price was nearly a quarter of a million dollars (serious money in those days). The station was moved to Newark, where it became known as WNJR. Today, under new owners again, WNJR operates with 5 kW, primarily with popular ethnic programming, directed by Latino and Caribbean audiences.

Eleven years after the Great Brooklyn Radio Wars ended and with pugnacious WBYN gone from town, the beloved and colorful Brooklyn Dodgers would also depart. As Chesi A. Riley might have said, "What a revolting development this is!" Brooklyn could never be quite the same again.

This report was compiled from a variety of sources, including (with permission), information excerpted from the detailed report on WLTH prepared by Broadcast Pro-File, 28243 Royal Road, Castaic, CA 91384. BP-F can supply (at a nominal fee) historic profiles on any American AM or FM station, past or present. Their catalog is $1.00.

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Astronomers Need YOUR Help
Your Monitoring Data Could Help Scientists Unravel An Extragalactic Mystery!

By Harold Ort, Editor

It happened on last August 27 when a very powerful gamma ray burst, originating some 15,000 light years from Earth, struck our planet at 1022 UTC. A neutron star designated SGR 1900+14—a so-called “magnetar” or magnetic star—unleashed a torrent of gamma rays so powerful that even at our tremendous distance from the object it tipped the sensors off-scale! But that’s not all. Since the bombardment occurred while the U.S. was in darkness, observatories that normally monitor solar gamma and x-ray radiation weren’t operational. This burst essentially missed the solar detectors on the sunlit side of the Earth, resulting in a real lack of instrumental data on this extremely rare event.

That’s where radio monitors and amateur operators can help. If you noticed anything while listening to the radio on Thursday morning, August 27th around 1022 UTC (0622 EDT or 0322 PDT), please report it via E-mail directly to Paul Harden, NA5N, at <pharden@nrao.edu> or <pharden@nrao.edu> or Pop’Comm at your earliest convenience. Please include your location (QTH) and if you’re an amateur operator, the person you were in contact with at the time, so path trajectories and distances can be determined. Shortwave listeners, scanner enthusiasts, and those who were monitoring the AM broadcast band on August 27 at 1022 UTC are also asked to report any unusual phenomena they observed.

Scientists believe this event may have even sparked a major aurora and geomagnetic storm, causing a near-total radio blackout for several minutes. Please don’t rely on “the other guy” to report any unusual fadeouts or blackouts. This five-minute extraterrestrial burst was the first known event that ionized the dark side of the Earth. The only other two known large gamma ray bursts to hit the planet occurred in 1979 and 1984, and they apparently didn’t affect our ionosphere or magnetic field as this one did. The August 27 burst caused ionization to our ionosphere’s D layer. An M- or X-class solar flare (from our own sun) normally causes such an event, but this gamma burst was so powerful that absorption was detected down to around 10 kHz. According to Harden, gamma rays may have reached the Earth’s surface.

This five-minute extraterrestrial burst was the first known event that ionized the dark side of the Earth.

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CIRCLE 62 ON READER SERVICE CARD 21
Finding old radio parts can be challenging. Every radio seems to be missing one item. Are you looking for a knob, tube shield, or something that hasn’t been made in 50 years? The obvious source for major components is donor sets; radios that are beyond restoration can be raided for IF transformers, power transformers, tuning capacitors, etc. I had several items on my wish list. I needed some Philco tube shields for my Philco 89 cathedrals. An ad on the Rec Antique radio+phono newsgroup yielded two of the needed shields, and the two remaining were found on a Website dealing in vintage radio parts. I suggest you add John Kendall’s Web address <http://vintage-electronics.com/rjy.htm> to your browser’s address book, as it’s a great resource for finding many radio items. I have had several dealings with John; his service has been fair and prompt.

Besides the missing tube shields, John was able to supply a vintage Philco electrolytic can that was missing from the newly acquired Philco 89 cathedral. A repairperson had discarded the can and used an under chassis replacement. He also supplied a replacement Philco shadow tuning meter for one of my 1938 Philco sets. Philco used shadow tuning meters in their more expensive sets. The shadow meter is like an S-meter, but shows the relative signal strength as a bar graph projection on a translucent yellow celluloid dial. It is useful for fine tuning a station or for relative signal strength. I will be covering Philco shadow meters in future columns. Two styles were used. The early sets had the meter assembly bolted to the chassis; model years 1937 and 1938 used meters that clipped to the front panel bezel. Often the fine wire in the meter coil would open, and repairmen would simply discard and bypass the meter as a simple repair. I had been searching for a shadow meter for three years, so I was very pleased when John was able to locate one for me. I am gathering a list of tube suppliers who make radio dials, escutcheons, and cabinet part replacements.

Grille Cloth Installations

Last month’s column covered some of the basics for installing grille cloth and, more importantly, where to find correct replacement material. Several of my radios had destroyed or missing grille cloth, so I sent an order into John Okolowicz for replacements. As usual, his service was prompt and, the product excellent! I promised we would take a practical look at doing some grille cloth replacements this month. I lied. I had good intentions. I even made it to the local crafts store and bought the prerequisite embroidery hoops and adhesives! But, too many projects and not enough time as usual. I’ll do the work and take some photos in the near future. Trust me.

A Reader’s Collection

Reader Robert Pote from Greenwood, Indiana, wrote us a nice letter and was kind enough to enclose a photo of his neatly displayed collection of early bakelite radios. Robert has been collecting radios since the late ’50s, and likes the smaller bakelite sets best. Not shown in the photo are his three consoles. At one time, Robert had over 20 consoles and 75 table radios in his collection, but a move to a smaller home forced him to downsize his collection. Robert notes that he belongs to the Indiana Historical Radio Society, and he suggests that others look to local clubs as a good source for information, old radios, and parts.

The Indiana Historical Radio Society holds four meetings each year at different locations in Indiana. I would be happy to mention vintage radio clubs in this column, so please send us your meeting dates and location and some information about your club.

My Little Zenith

One of my favorite little radios is a Zenith 7S432 mantle radio. This little chassis sports seven tubes and rivals many small consoles in performance. An old timer gave me the radio several years ago and urged me to look into it. I must say, I have been impressed. This little radio is a great performer. I hope to do a column on this little beauty soon.
A replacement is fabricated for the Zenith switch assembly.

The Zenith 7S432 has seven tubes on a tiny chassis!

ago. The cabinet was shot and the set was missing knobs, push buttons, and the dial glass. It was a sorry looking sight — the sort of orphan one finds hiding under the tables at radio shows. What you see here is a composite of several donor sets. The bezel and dial glass were found at an infrequently held Connecticut radio show. The cabinet came from reader Charlie Warfield, after I saw it sitting on a shelf empty in a photo he sent in. Thanks, Charles! The knobs are reproductions and were obtained from Alan Jesperson1. The set features two white plastic "hook switches," either side of the slide rule dial for the bass and treble tone controls. One of the switch assemblies was missing. Alan was able to supply us with a reproduction hook lever, but I wasn't able to find an exact replacement for the switch. Fabricating a small aluminum bracket, that, along with some industrial adhesive, is used to mount a miniature slide switch to the bezel, solved this problem. More adhesive connects the hook lever to the slide switch.

This poor radio sat around in various states of disrepair for some time until all the pieces finally came together! I had refinshed the cabinet, and it is one of my first attempts at using lacquers. It looks nice, but the coloring — done with toners — isn't quite correct for this set. The finish is a little darker than it should be. Luckily the column photos aren't done in color, so I won't get too much hate mail from the Zenith fans.

One other problem with this radio is that Zenith used a photo-etch finish on the wood bands that provide contrast across the top and bottom of the set. At first glance, these bands appear to be of a lighter wood veneer, but in reality they are produced using a decal-like material. Any attempt to strip the cabinet would also destroy the finish, as I learned the hard way on cabinet number one. Philco was guilty of using photo-etch finishes on many of its less expensive cabinets. The photo-etched decal imparted some nice grain to cheap birch veneer; but many of those early finishes have now deteriorated beyond salvation.

Notice that the set has antiqued brass bezel. The bezel had darkened with age — it was almost black when I found it. The antiqued brass finish was restored by gently rubbing the bezel with 0000 steel wool — just enough to bring out the brass highlights and no more! Two coats of clear spray lacquer were applied to help preserve the metal finish. This radio is fairly common; I have seen several at radio shows over the past few years. In good condition, the 7S432 is worth about $125.

Veneer Repairs

After refinishing the cabinet, I noticed the top veneer was beginning to delaminate from the cabinet. I probably could have left it alone, but I was afraid something might snap the veneer, breaking or chipping it. Fortunately, this is a very easy repair. Early radio manufacturers used animal hide glue to hold the cabinet and veneers together. Over time, heat and moisture can weaken the glue bond, so it isn't unusual to find many old cabinets with loose veneers. One trick used by cabinetmakers involves reactivating the old hide glue if enough of it still remains. First, some water is spritzed into the gap...
Wetting and heating with a hot putty knife can often reactivate the old hide glue.

The old glue must be removed before new glue is applied. The glue is dampened, and a matchbook cover is used to scrape out the residue.

between the veneer and its subsurface. For the next step, a putty knife is heated over a gas flame until it is quite hot (not red-hot!), and it is then quickly thrust into the gap. The heated blade almost instantly turns the water into steam, which mixes with the old glue residue to reactivate it. The piece is clamped until the glue resets.

I use carpenter's glue for my veneer repairs. But first, all of the old hide glue needs to be removed to provide clean surfaces for the carpenter's glue to adhere to. Simply trying to add fresh glue over the old glue doesn't work very well in the long run. I simply spray a little warm water into the gap and use a putty knife to mix the water with the old hide glue. This forms a goop with the consistency of wallpaper paste. Next, I use index cards or matchbook covers to slowly scrape out as much of the old glue as possible. Once the old glue is removed, I let some woodworker's glue seep into the gap. Again, a putty knife can be used to help persuade the new glue to reach the deeper portions of the crevice.

Once the glue has been allowed to flow into the crevice, the veneer needs to be held in place until the glue dries. Some sets may need woodworking clamps to do the job properly. I was able to get by using my Rider volume 18 (a work of ponderous proportion and weight!) to do the job! Be careful! If too much pressure is exerted, all of the glue can be driven from the joint, resulting in a weakened and poorly glued repair. Use a damp rag to wipe away any excess glue that exudes from under the veneer.

Reference 1: Alan Jesperson, Great Northern Antiques, P.O. Box 17338, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Phone 612-727-2489, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
How I Got Started

North To Alaska: Congratulations To Marty Foss, AL7JF Of Talkeetna

Our January Winner

Pop'Comm reader, Marty Foss of Talkeetna, Alaska writes: "I remember a summer night in 1958. As a youngster of six, I listened to my newly-acquired portable transistor radio. This radio, a little gem of its day, was on the cutting edge of technology for the late-'50s. As I tuned the small dial, stations such as WOAI, San Antonio; KFAB, Omaha; KOMA, Oklahoma City and KOA, Denver, somehow traveled through the summer night. This made a lasting impression on me. Here I was, a small child, secure in my parent's home in New Mexico. These stations were coming hundreds of miles through the night sky to entertain me with music, news, all-night truck driver shows, and all kinds of entertainment — all for me! I was impressed!

"Now, years later in Alaska, I am still a mediumwave and shortwave listener. Also, I'm very active in amateur radio as AL7JF on HF using CW and SSB modes. How could I have realized as a six-year-old what excitement, pleasure, and fulfillment radio would bring me!"

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CIRCLE 73 ON READER SERVICE CARD
As you get deeper into the fascinating world of radio, your outside antennas are probably getting taller. Last month we talked about the omnidirectional collinear antenna for improved VHF and UHF reception. With the collinear, gain is achieved by robbing the wasted energy in the sky lobe, and concentrating transmission and reception capabilities down close to the earth with a low angle of radiation. The more collinear elements stacked vertically, the more gain down close to the horizon, where VHF and UHF radio signals are coming from.

Ham radio operators on 50, 144, 440, and 1296 MHz can also enjoy improved omnidirectional coverage by switching from a unity gain ground plane over to a 6-dB to 9-dB gain collinear. The ham radio collinear antenna is usually encased in a white fiberglass radome, and may be constructed to cover up to three bands of operation. Just keep in mind that tuned elements are placed end to end (vertically on top of each other) to redirect energy down close to the horizon in all directions.

**The Beam**

As you continue to get more serious about this fabulous hobby of radio communications, you will naturally want to pick up more distant stations and pull in radio signals that your buddies with a simple ground plane can’t even hear. Or maybe there is a distant VHF, UHF, or even a shortwave high-frequency transmission you just can’t seem to pull in clearly. Finally someone suggests going to a beam to improve reception and reduce the amount of electrical noise you are picking up in the unwanted directions.

**Q. The beam antenna will exhibit gain in how many directions?**
A. One direction in the major lobe
B. Bi-directional
C. Omnidirectional
D. Undetermined various directions

This is an easy question. Just like your television antenna, the ham radio and scanner beam offer gain in one general direction, generally referred to as the main lobe. The shorter elements of the beam, called directors, point toward the desired distant station, and the coax cable hooks up to the rear of the beam to the driven element. In back of that are longer elements, called reflectors. Beams can be monoband, dual-band, tri-band, and can even be constructed to cover up to three bands of operation. Just keep in mind that tuned elements are placed end to end (vertically on top of each other) to redirect energy down close to the horizon in all directions.

Some beams are fed with open-wire transmission line, yet other beams may be commercially available with a matching transformer to accept a direct feed with conventional coaxial cable.

**Q. What is another name for that impedance matching transformer?**
A. Zepp
B. Direct dipole feed
C. PL-259
D. Balun

Your answer is balun — balanced to unbalanced. The dipole, fed at the center, looks balanced. Coaxial cable is unbalanced, so the job of the balun is to couple the coax directly to the driven element (the dipole) of the beam and provide a proper match for best performance.

The driven element usually sits on the beam’s boom and is located slightly back from its midpoint. At the rear of the beam is a reflector element that will (as the name implies) reflect the received or transmitted energy back into the dipole and reinforce the transmitted or received radio wave. Specific phase relationships must be maintained when computer modeling the beam and its associated elements to ensure the precise placement of the reflector.

In front of the driven element may be one or more directors. The directors assist in the intensifying of the incoming and outgoing signal to enhance the radio wave that is captured by the dipole. On the worldwide ham bands, there might be as many as eight directors and a couple of reflectors. On VHF and UHF frequencies, there might be as many as 30 or 40 directors with two or three reflectors at the rear.

**Q. Which singular component of the beam leads to increased forward gain?**
A. Boom length
B. Number of reflectors
C. Number of driven elements
D. Number of directors

Hams call them long boomer. Your better half will call it “too long on our roof.” But as a radio operator, you will soon see that the mathematical calculations for antenna gain are most influenced...
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by how long the boom is, not how many elements on the boom. I will take a 20-foot boom, five-element, 6-meter beam over a 10-foot boom length, 6-meter beam with twice as many elements. The beam with the longer boom will usually achieve the highest amount of gain.

A beam with considerable gain in one direction will also have two distinct nulls at about 45 degrees off of the main lobe. And a good beam will also have a good front-to-back ratio, where signals to the side and rear are rejected and reduced. Those two deep nulls may be a great way to lower noisy power line interference from power poles that aren’t in line with your main radiation pattern. Many times you can swing a beam and find the exact spot where the desired signal is coming in relatively strong off of the main lobe, and you find the exact “sweet spot” to null out that noisy power pole off to the left or right side of your beam’s heading. Or maybe you have a lot of noisy power lines directly behind the direction you want to pull in. The beam will cause those signals to be dramatically attenuated when it is pointed 180 degrees away.

However, if you have noisy power poles in direct line with the distant station you are trying to pick up with your new beam, you’re out of luck because everything will get amplified from that one general direction.

The Versatile All-Band

Q. What do you call a beam that may operate over hundreds of megahertz?
A. Quagi
B. Log periodic
C. Tri-bander
D. Discone

If you answered discone, you are probably thinking of a frequency-independent, omnidirectional antenna that might work from 50 to 2000 MHz. But it is not a beam — it’s a unity gain receiving antenna that pulls in signals from all directions. In fact, many times on lower frequencies the discone is actually minus gain over a regular halfwave dipole.

It is the feature of a log periodic to cover a wide range of frequencies at low SWR, while still offering gain in one direction and rejection in all other directions. You can spot a log periodic antenna by its elements, which get progressively shorter in a uniform manner. The longest element may determine its lowest frequency of operation, and the shortest element may determine its highest frequency of operation. The big monster quads normally cover from 10 to 30 MHz, with everything in between. For VHF and UHF scanning, log periodic antennas normally cover from 50 to 1200 MHz.

While you might think that a log periodic antenna is the best way to pull in those distant stations on both low band, high band, and UHF, you may find that its rather dismal forward gain capabilities don’t offer that much radio range extension. But they do help where you might have noise in back of the beam, and the desired signal at the front of the beam. But don’t expect a log periodic to do nearly as well as a beam cut to a specific frequency, or a beam that may be cut for two or three specific bands of frequencies.

The majority of hams, shortwave listeners, and scanner enthusiasts will buy the beam that has been commercially manufactured and that’s pre-drilled and cut for “easy” assembly. And if you regularly put together this one type of beam, the assembly indeed gets easier. But if you have never assembled this particular type of beam, plan to spend a day or two finally getting it on the air.

Most commercially made beam antennas come with a good set of instructions and everything included inside the box.

"Here at Cushcraft, we weigh every

All Cushcraft hardware was stainless steel — more than we can say about our wrench!"
beam antenna before it gets shipped out, allowing us to make absolutely sure everything is included — right down to the last nut or washer,” comments Ed Hammond, WNII, National Sales Manager for Cushcraft Communications Antennas. “We also protect the unassembled beam elements by wrapping them in soft padding, plus re-weigh the plastic bag full of the loose screws, washers, and mounting clamps,” adds Hammond. “And many of our ham beams can be used quite nicely on VHF and UHF scanner frequencies, too.”

I wish all manufacturers of unassembled beam antennas would double-bag all of the screws, nuts, and bolts. I can’t tell you how many times I have opened up a big beam antenna, and found loose nuts and washers rolling around on the inside, and not knowing how many actually slipped out of the packing box. Cushcraft does a nice job of protecting all the hardware and elements from leaking out during shipment.

Assembling a beam antenna for either worldwide ham radio use or VHF/UHF ham and scanner reception, is no an overly complicated deal but it is a job that takes time and patience.

Q. What is the most common error in assembling a beam?
A. Wrong element lengths
B. Wrong size hardware
C. Reversal of key elements
D. Misalignment of elements

One of the most common errors is not measuring individual screws and hose clamps. This is especially true on VHF and UHF beams where the clamps and screws are slightly different, but almost look the same. If you use the small hose clamps on the elements that needed very small hose clamps, you will find that the very small hose clamps left over won’t fit the other elements that need small hose clamps! The same thing is true with screws. If you use up all of the screws that are a little too long, all of the remaining ones will probably be a little too short. So it’s always a good idea to let your better half (the detail person, right?) lay everything out as identified on the parts list.

Measuring of the elements is straightforward. Be sure to have a tape measure and a felt tip pen to mark element placement. Most beam instructions go into great detail on exactly how to assemble the boom, how to get the elements onto the boom, and provide suggestions on how the coaxial cable gets matched to the driven elements.

End wrenches are very helpful, and a plastic socket set is useful in tightening down the hose clamps. Never use a ratchet socket on hose clamps because you can easily strip them by over-tightening. And watch out when tightening element bolts. If you tighten them down too much, you can crease the aluminum and then you will have big problems ahead with a loose connection.

I recommend conductive grease on all elements. This does two things: it will maintain a good DC contact, driving out corrosion, and it will also keep the two aluminum elements from seizing up. If you continuously work two pieces of aluminum elements together, they all of a sudden become fused, and you will probably never get them apart again. The conductive grease helps.

I also recommend non-conductive, double-braided Dacron/polyester rope to add support to the boom. If you have a boom over 10 feet long, it will tend to droop. The polyester black line is UV resistant and should last for as long as your beam is up.

Finally, use Coax Seal™ putty on the connection point where the coax meets the antenna. Use this putty to seal up all exposed PL-259 connections, plus any other connections on a balun to driven element. I also use Coax Seal on all of my black tape connections to keep the tape from eventually unraveling.

By the way. when unwrapping black
If you live in a windy area, your beam antenna rotator may be subjected to stresses beyond what the rotator housing and internal brake may take. Or, if you are turning a large array of directional antennas, the starting and stopping torque might be too much for the rotator to handle.

Yaesu solves the problem with all of their rotators with an optional assembly called “absorber joint,” part no. GA-2500. The plate mounts below the normal Yaesu rotator, and compensates for up to 2 degrees of offset from vertical, and significantly reduces stress to rotator gears and reduces the chance of binding by rubber cushions absorbing the shocks.

The installation is simple. Install the absorber base onto the tower's rotator mounting plate. You may need to drill new holes for the Yaesu rotators. Now slide the rotator and rotator base over the rubber cushions and onto the base plate. Tighten the two plates together using the supplied hardware. That’s all there is to it! The plate has worked well for many of my installations. While it is designed specifically for a Yaesu rotator, re-drilling it could accommodate ANY rotator. The absorber plate is designed for in-tower use only where the mast protrudes through a strut bearing at the top. Remember, it is not designed for outside tower mounts.

And when you are ready to put the antenna up in the air, you might want to test it for proper resonance using an SWR analyzer. MFJ Enterprises (601-323-5869) has one of the better SWR analyzers. I just finished reviewing their new MFJ 259B, and it is absolutely the finest piece of antenna analyzer equipment I have ever worked with. Besides measuring SWR, it can determine return loss and reflection coefficient, distance to coax faults, percentage transmitted power to the lobe, velocity factors, testing tuners and stubs, testing baluns and chokes, and a host of other neat things for you antenna gurus.

A simple way to test your beam is to tip it straight up in the air, putting the reflector on the ground and the driven element skyward. Now, sweep the antenna with the SWR analyzer, and note where it is resonant. An antenna down close to the ground is indeed influenced by ground capacity.

And when you are ready to put the antenna up in the air, you might want to test it for proper resonance using an SWR analyzer. MFJ Enterprises (601-323-5869) has one of the better SWR analyzers available for checking antenna resonance. The SWR analyzer saves the time and effort of running back and forth between your rig and the antenna to see if the antenna is properly tuned. MFJ makes several different varieties of SWR analyzers. I just finished reviewing their new MFJ 259B, and it is absolutely the finest piece of antenna analyzer equipment I have ever worked with. Besides measuring SWR, it can determine return loss and reflection coefficient, distance to coax faults, percentage transmitted power to the lobe, velocity factors, testing tuners and stubs, testing baluns and chokes, and a host of other neat things for you antenna gurus.

A simple way to test your beam is to tip it straight up in the air, putting the reflector on the ground and the driven element skyward. Now, sweep the antenna with the SWR analyzer, and note where it is resonant. An antenna down close to the ground is indeed influenced by ground capacity.

Q. What happens to resonant frequency the higher up an antenna is mounted?

A. Stays the same
B. Goes higher in frequency
C. Goes lower in frequency
D. Periodically goes higher and lower

When you get your beam antenna at least one wavelength above the ground, it will usually operate slightly higher in frequency than where you originally tuned it on the ground. After a couple of wavelengths up, this effect is not noticeable. But if you tune a 6-meter antenna just six feet off the ground for perfect resonance at 50.100, it will probably be perfectly resonant at 50.250 MHz when you get it up over a wavelength on that tower or support mast. But remember, the higher the antenna, the higher the resonance.

Anytime you’re working with antennas and sharp elements, have everyone around you (including yourself) wear protective eyewear. Plastic glasses or goggles can prevent eye injury.

Always watch out for overhead high voltage wires! In fact, even the little junction box to your home phone system can ring your bell if it touches one of the antenna elements while the phone is ringing. Be careful!

So consider the directional beam antenna as a great way to increase signal in one direction, and decrease noise coming in from the tail or at the sides.

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The Ham Column

GETTING STARTED AS A RADIO AMATEUR

Morse Code — Friend, Not Foe!

While the FCC is busy revamping amateur radio licensing and many hams are rallying around the “kill the code” flag, why bother with a column about boosting Morse code performance and enjoyment? Is the “Ham Columnist” a code elitist? A die-hard Morse proselytizer to the bitter end? Neither, really.

Although I do enjoy slinging dits and dahs, my reverence for the ancient mode comes mostly from its practicality. Morse code blows away SSB when conditions are poor, you’re running low power, you have a crappy antenna, you’re running a homebrew rig, you’re operating portable in the field, or you just have to work DX, and so on.

When the FCC eliminates its Morse code licensing requirement (it’ll happen sooner or later, international treaties notwithstanding), ham radio will likely benefit — Morse code ops included. The way I see it, when the code barrier falls, those hopefuls who’ve been chomping at the bit can become hams and start hunting the SSB subbands for contacts — leaving the code subbands for true aficionados.

Obviously, Morse code isn’t for everyone, but I’ve noticed that most ops’ frustration with the mode comes from not really knowing how to use it effectively. Maybe they didn’t give it enough time, or maybe they didn’t become proficient enough to “get into the groove.”

If you’re willing to give it a go, this month’s column is full of CW operating advice gleaned from expert ops. Practice makes perfect, of course, but practicing correct techniques right from the start can reduce the time it takes you to perfect your Morse code skills and reduce the time it takes to actually enjoy the experience.

First Things First

First, forget about calling CQ for a “good long while.” Until your confidence and proficiency are suitable, you should look for big, fat CQ calls from someone else — someone with a good fist who is sending at a speed that’s comfortable for you to copy. Once you’ve replied to the other guy’s CQ, you’re almost home. If there were no other hams, you’d be the only game in town! But what happens if others respond, too? Your biggest challenge is to be the caller the CQer responds to. And don’t think that having a big signal is all it takes. In fact, timing and knowing exactly where, when, and how to transmit makes all the difference.

Transmit Here

Where to transmit is almost always exactly on the same frequency as the station calling CQ. This is called zero beating; as the audio tone produced in each receiver is at the same pitch. Most stations tune only 1 or 2 kHz when listening for replies to their CQs, so if you’re too far away, the CQer won’t hear you. If you’re right on frequency from the start, the CQer will hear you right in the center of his receiver’s passband. And chances are good that he’ll hear you instead of some other caller who is slightly off frequency. (DX stations sometimes prefer off-frequency replies to manage the sheer volume of callers.)

Transmit Now

Now that we know where to call, it’s time to talk about when to call. This is pretty simple. As soon as the CQing station finishes calling and signs K, immediately start your reply. If you hesitate, another station might jump in. If you transmit first, the other station may wait.

The J-38 Straight Key

The J-38 straight key (right) means a lot to me. The classic military coder was given to me by an old timer when I was 12 years old. The tacky rubber feet cost a penny a piece at a local surplus store, and the poker chip “knob accessory” was purloined from my father’s den. I used this key to make hundreds of contacts as a Novice. As much as I love this key for nostalgic reasons, I can hardly stand to make contacts with it today! Blasphemy? None. Just reality. Sending clean code with a straight key is an art form that I no longer relish. If straight keys — and most beginner keys are nowhere near the venerable J-38 when it comes to quality — are the bane of your Morse code enjoyment efforts, put “them things” in a drawer and get a decent keyer and paddle!

Although I had a few — mostly junky — paddles before I acquired the Bencher (shown at left), I found that even the most modest paddles can transform Morse sending from torture to pleasure (you’ll need a keyer, of course).

I stop short of sending CW with a computer and keyboard, however, because I enjoy being “involved” with the process of sending Morse code. Hey — hams are funny about this stuff! The moral of the story is: If you’re really going to explore the code, find the tools you like best and use them.
not wanting the competition. As long as you’re on frequency, the CQer will start copying the first reply he hears, which is hopefully yours.

Here’s an old-timer’s trick that still works today. Many ops use full break-in keying (QSK) while they’re calling CQ. That is, they can hear receiver audio between the dits and dahs they’re sending. If you send something to get their attention — a string of dits, perhaps, or a long dah — the QSK CQer usually stops to hear what’s going on. Quickly, just after the CQer pauses, give the op a quick call (his callsign DE your callsign AR) and you’ve snagged him! There might have been a half-dozen ops waiting to reply to the same CQ! Don’t abuse this tactic — and be discreet. If the CQer isn’t QSK, you’ll simply interfere with his call and that’s not a display of good manners.

Transmitting Tips

How to send is more complex than where and when to send. Let’s break it down into simpler parts.

• Send at the same speed the CQing op is using. He’s sending at a speed that’s comfortable for him, and he’ll want your reply to be in the same ballpark.

• Learn to adjust the length of your reply. If the CQing op sounds savvy (good fist, strong signal), a short reply will usually do the trick (his callsign once and your callsign once or twice). If conditions are poor or if the sending op sounds less sure of himself, send both callsigns two or three times. Experience will help you get the feel for this.

• Your Morse code should be crisp and accurate. Nobody wants to answer calls from sloppy senders. In fact, many sloppy calls are ignored! And these callers thought the bands were dead or that their signals were weak.

• Practice sending code off the air until yours sounds good. Have a friend who is a good CW op listen to your code. Work toward excellence! This one point makes all the difference when conditions are less than ideal.

• Make sure your signal is clean. Don’t overdrive your rig or do anything foolish. And don’t run out and buy a linear amplifier. Keep your rig tuned and adjusted properly and put up the best antenna system you can manage.

More Info

• Learn from your on-air experiences. Carefully see what works and what doesn’t, and always stay in the realm of good behavior.

• Learn to copy code in your head without having to write it down. This makes Morse code more fun and less work.

• Don’t just copy what the other op is sending. Learn to anticipate — within reason — what he’s thinking and try to understand what he’s hearing on his end of the radio path. That kind of approach will help you become a successful CW op who has successful contacts.

So, there you have them: expert code tips. Will I hear you on the Morse code subbands? Keep your photos, letters, and suggestions coming to “The Ham Column,” c/o Popular Communications. 25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801.

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ALPHA DELTA Model VRC-2 Ducted Port Bass Reflex Speaker System

(Also as above but no amplifier/filter-a pair of these are great for your PC)
Recently I got an E-mail that really sent me back into "nostalgialand."

The Popular Communications reader lamented that he could only put up an antenna that was a little bent. Well, actually, it was a lot bent. Figure 1 is a reasonable rendition of what the fellow described, but with the sizes for 40 meters that I had many, many years ago.

In the late 1950s I lived in Arlington, Virginia. My parents' house was on a standard quarter-acre lot, with power lines coming in from the rear property line in such a way that I could not put up a wire antenna back there. The only alternative was running one to a tree in our neighbor Mr. Collins' yard (he was sympathetic to a young ham operator because he was a radio engineer for the Voice of America).

One end of the antenna was supported from the roof of our house, and the center was tied off in Mr. Collins' maple tree. The other end drooped back towards the ground at some convenient, but unplanned angle. If you look at this zig-zag dipole from above, the two wires more or less form an approximate right angle (more or less ... I never measured it).

Because the antenna was designed for the 40-meter ham band, the elements were each 33 feet long, for an overall half-wavelength run of 66 feet. The center was connected to a length of 75-ohm coaxial cable that went to the rig (or receiver if you are an SWL). I show a mast in Figure 1 (which is what the reader described), but mine was installed in a tree. It actually worked pretty well.

Indeed, I've had a number of odd-schtick antennas over the years and they have worked more or less well. My comparison is always the half-wavelength horizontal dipole because I don't know how to make an isotropic source antenna (which only exists in antenna textbooks).

The reader wanted to know what the pattern would look like. My recollection from more years ago than I care to admit (my knees remind me, however) was that it seemed most sensitive in the directions that one would expect from a dipole. To answer the question, and see if my memories were faulty (after all, I survived the 1960s), I decided to do a little modeling.

I've reported on my modeling program before. I use Nec-Win Basic by Nittany-Scientific. It's a nice, low-cost Windows version of NEC-2 code, and works quite nicely. If you are interested, type in "Nittany-Scientific" in your Web browser and see what pops up.

Figure 2 shows the azimuthal radiation pattern of the antenna described in Figure 1. The antenna length runs from the 0-degree to 180-degree points on the compass. That means the nulls off the antenna's ends are at 0 and 180 degrees, while the main lobe maxima are at 90 and 270 degrees.

The standard dipole pattern is roughly a figure-8 with the nulls and maxima exactly as described above. And, I might add, exactly as you see in Figure 2. Note that the main lobes are a little bit distorted. The actual pattern for a half-wavelength 40-meter dipole is shown in Figure 3 for comparison. This pattern is cleaner than the pattern in Figure 2, but only moderately so.

So what's the bottom line? If you have the space, then a half-wavelength horizontal dipole, properly installed, is a darn fine antenna. It's cheap, easy to erect, and easy to maintain. But if you don't have enough space to put up a half-wavelength dipole in the proper way, then put one up the best way you can. No, it's not going to work as well as a properly installed dipole, but it's probably going to work. And guess what? It'll surely work better than a 20-foot spritz of hook-up wire run along the living room baseboard molding — which
is one of my current antennas. It doesn't work for much of anything, but it works well enough for my present purpose.

A Product Worth Trying

One of the nasty things about listening to shortwave, especially in the mediumwave and "tropical bands," is the rather raucous noise from power line harmonics. Normally, one would not expect much of a problem from the harmonics of a 60-Hz source when listening to shortwave bands. After all, there's a lot of distance between, say, 5000 kHz and 60 Hz. But there are a couple of problems with that argument (not the least of which is experience... go listen to it!). First, the high powers (kilowatts) mean that harmonics are proportionally stronger. Second, high voltage corona and arcing can cause RF noise. Third, even at 120/240 volts, loose connections, appliances, dimmers, and a host of other things will cause RF noise. It goes on ad nauseam.

Now there's a product that can do something about it. MFJ Enterprises, Inc. P.O. Box 474, Mississippi State, MS, 37062; 601-323-5869 (voice); 601-323-5511 (Fax); 800-647-1800 (orders only); Website: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com> has a new product. Their Model MFJ-1026 eliminates locally generated noise before it reaches the receiver. It looks like an active antenna (which it can also be used as), but plugs in the line between the "real" antenna and the receiver's antenna jack. It cancels noise in the signal that matches the noise picked up by its little whip antenna.

Other MFJ products worth looking at are their VSWR analyzers. I use the MFJ-259 analyzer and love it. Shortwave listeners have a problem making antenna measurements that hams do not. They cannot connect a transmitter to the line to measure VSWR on an RF wattmeter or VSWR meter. But both hams and SWLs (or scanner owners) can use a VSWR analyzer (one model or the other will cover the HF and lower VHF bands.)

The MFJ-259 instrument has an adjustable signal generator and a built-in frequency counter for precise adjustment of the test frequency. It will then read the VSWR and radiation resistance of the antenna. That makes it easier to do impedance matching and to precisely find the resonant point of the antenna. It will also allow you to make a plot of the VSWR over a frequency band with only a few minor measurements.

MFJ recently announced a follow-on "B" model (i.e. MFJ-259B). According
to the advertising, it will do a lot more than the original MFJ-259 model. I hope to get one and report on its use in a future "Antennas & Things."

**Boat Anchors**

One of my passions is antique radio (a.k.a. "boat anchors"). I am slowly reconstructing the ham shack I had in 1960. Most recently, I obtained a (non-working) Hallicrafters SX-28A Super Skyrider that I intend to rebuild. "Real radio guys know that real radios glow in the dark." If you are similarly inclined, and want to get in touch with other antique radio buffs, you might want to get on the boat anchors list. They will give you a one-month free trial to their list server, but after that require a modest contribution to help with expenses. Contact Boat anchors via E-mail at: <listown@jacketaking.theporch.com>.

**Connections**

I can be reached by snail mail at P.O. Box 1099, Falls Church, VA 22041, or via E-mail at <carrjji@ AOL.com>. I welcome your comments and questions.

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Tuning Tips

January 1999

This listing is designed to help you hear more shortwave broadcasting stations. The list includes a variety of stations, including international broadcasters beaming programs to North America, others to other parts of the world, as well as local and regional shortwave stations. Many of the transmissions listed here are not in English. Your ability to receive these stations will depend on time of day, time of year, your geographic location, highly variable propagation conditions, and the receiving equipment used.

AA, FF, SS, GG, etc. are abbreviations for languages (Arabic, French, Spanish, German). Times given are in UTC, which is five hours ahead of EST, i.e. 0000 UTC equals 7 p.m. EST, 6 p.m. CST, 4 p.m. PST.

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Radios On Belt

Quick Draw Clip Systems new Magic Flexible Button holds your tools, cordless phone, cell phone, CD player, or radio — almost anything with a flat or rounded surface. It is made of polyurethane and comes with 3M adhesive that holds 70 lbs per square inch, an alcohol pad to clean the surface it's attached to, and fits all the clips produced by Quick Draw Clip Systems, Inc. (beltless clip, camera clip, oval clips, etc.)

Prices start at $7.95 plus shipping and handling. Each clip comes with the New Magic Flexible Button. Additional buttons may be purchased separately. Orders are taken at 888-254-7797. For more information contact Quick Draw Clip Systems, Inc. at 4869 McGrath Street #130, Ventura, CA 90030. Check their Website at <http://www.clipystems.com>.

Shortwave Receivers Past And Present


Fred didn't forget the famous inexpensive brands either, like Lafayette, Allied, Heath, Knight, and Globe. And he's included overseas makers like Grundig, Eddyson, Telefunken, Siemens, Rediion and many others.

In all, Fred covers more than 770 communications receivers including desktop, general coverage, professional, ham band, shortwave, and specialty receivers from 100 worldwide manufacturers. That covers just about every radio and manufacturer we ever heard of, and many previously unknown to us. In this chunky 473-page book, you'll find a
photo of each, a description of its features, tech specs, accessories, model variants, availability, date sold, size/weight, reviews, price when new, used value, value rating, and current status. Information about the manufacturers themselves is also provided.

In the rear of the book, there’s a great cross-reference that allows you to look up a receiver according to any of its variant model names including military designations. So if you looked up a AN/URR-74 (V) 2, you’d see it’s the military’s modified version of the Watkins-Johnson WJ-8718A. Or the R-2368/URR is a U.S. Navy version of the Harris RF-590. And did you know that the NC-121W is the old National NC-121, but in a walnut case?

What great historic stuff can be discovered here! Like the National FRR-24. It weighed 1,200 pounds! Too big? Then what about the 967 lb. RCA SSB-R3 receiver? There’s the legendary Hallicrafters SX-42, dream receiver of 1947. How about the ugly Ecophone EC-1? It was the World War II ancestor of the popular Hallicrafters S-38 beginner’s receiver?

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Happy New Year!

Of all of the time-honored traditions associated with the start of the New Year perhaps the most honorable is the making of resolutions. You know, those promises we make to ourselves and each other to do things differently, hopefully better, in the year to come. This year I am only making two, and I’d like to share them with you in the hope that you will hold me to them.

Number one on my list is to double-check all dates I mention in this column. Case in point, last November’s issue — the on-air mixer I asked you to attend on “Saturday November 24.” Well, there is no Saturday, November 24. The correct date is Saturday, November 28, the last Saturday in the month. My apologies.

Number two is to devote more time and energy promoting on-air CB activity, particularly on-air mixers. Judging by your response to the ill-fated November attempt, you think that promoting such events is an excellent way to increase activity, meet new people, renew old acquaintances, and stimulate on-air conversation.

One More Time

Obviously, by the time you get to read this, it will be too late to correct the misinformation about the date of the November mixer. However, since we are looking ahead to 1999, let us schedule at least one more. So, if you would, please mark your calendars to meet at 9 p.m. on the last Saturday in January, the 30th.

Use the same plan and procedure as outlined in the November 1998 issue (if you don’t have it drop me a note and I’ll send you a copy), with one noted exception. That exception is that AM operators should use channel 25 instead of 35 as the initial call channel. SSB participants should still use 36 LSB where possible.

Why the change for AM operators? Andrew U. Hassman (BD-738) of the Westside Big Dummy SSB Club in Marina, California, wrote and reminded me that some areas of the country still use channels 31 through 40 exclusively for SSB operation. Other areas only set aside channels 36 through 40. Thank you Andrew for bringing that to my attention.

Moving the AM call channel to 25 should help eliminate any possible AM/SSB conflicts. It should also give AM operators a few channels above and below to use as alternates or talk channels.

Whatever restrictions exist in your area, whether for home, SSB, AM, or other special radio uses, let local customs rule. While the main goal of the mixer is to build activity, we should also strive to promote good relations between various on-air factions.

And yes I’ve checked, checked, and checked again. January 30, 1999, really exists and really is a Saturday. Not only that, I’ve checked to see that at least some of my radios have channels 25 AM and 36 LSB (so they also really do exist) and for the past few Saturday nights, I’ve been watching the clock, and 9 p.m. has happened every time!

Spreading The Word

Obviously, the times, days, channels, and procedures for future mixers are subject to change. Mistakes we make in our first few attempts will help to refine our approach. Participants will have to be kept informed of these changes. So, one of the major obstacles I will be working on is how to get that information out.

While it would be nice to think that everyone who has a CB faithfully reads this column, we all know there are one or two who don’t, and we don’t want to miss anybody. So, to reach as many as quickly as possible, we will have to include other methods of communication. Two that come immediately to mind are the Internet and CB.

Do you know any CB-related Web pages that could carry information about future mixers? Is there a CB net in your area that would announce or host them?

This Solarcon A-99 antenna could be a CB base antenna. It's also a very economical vertical for 10 meters! We can't help but wonder how cities like Kingston, New York, will tell the difference once the inspectors hit the road on a mission.
If so, is there a member of that net who can receive E-mail and pass the information to the net? Would you like to be put on an E-mail list to receive future announcements? Drop me a note and let me know.

Monica Saves CB

Well, sort of. As I write this column (October, 1998), Congress is adjourning for the year. As you know, there are several measures in the House and Senate that, if passed, would empower local authorities to enforce certain FCC regulations as they pertain to CB Radio. For the moment, unless these bills find themselves attached to one of the last minute appropriation bills, none will become law in 1998 as this is written. But 1999 is another story!

Why? Well, the folks on the “Hill” are too busy with other things and just couldn’t find the time. Thanks to Monica, we might sneak through another year without the fear of Barney Fife beating down our door and carrying off our radios. Our reprieve is only temporary. There is every reason to believe that one of these bills (H.R. 2612, S. 608, and others) will, in one form or another, become law in 1999. We do, however, still have time to influence its final form. So, do keep in touch with your representatives in Washington.

I have been working with Cameron Wilson, legislative aide to Michigan’s Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, author of H.R. 2612. He attempted to get a line added which would require that a complaint of interference be filed before local authorities could go after people. Unfortunately, that line will never make it into the bill. It seems the concept does not make sense to the legal department. They say that it was already “implied”. Something to do with “Probable Cause.” That seems a little vague to me. I guess we will just have to wait and see.

Hold Onto Your Antenna

While the world waits for Congress to act, the problems that have prompted the proposed laws persist. Namely, interference to television and other electronic entertainment devices — stereos and radios — caused by CB radios.

Some local communities are tackling the problem using whatever means they can. Case in point, the city of Kingston, New York. David A. Barger wrote to inform us of a new ordinance (#189) which, as of October, 1998, regulates CB radio antennas. Among other things, this new ordinance limits the number of CB antennas per residence to one. In addition, it requires that a building permit be obtained to install any CB antenna which is free-standing or that extends more than 12 feet above the structure to which it is attached. Other provisions of the ordinance will require copies of the manufacturer’s specifications for the antenna or antenna support structure and details of footings, guys and braces, copies of insurance policies, site plans, and more.

I spoke with Donna Hintz of the city’s Corporation Council and asked her if the “Interference Factor” had played a role in the formulation of this new law. She confirmed that it had. She also pointed out that structural safety and aesthetics were also legitimate concerns.

I asked Ms. Hintz if the erection of a CB antenna would preclude city residents from having other antennas for scanners or amateur radio? No, this only applies to CB. She told me that the amateurs were adequately represented by the ARRL in the formulation of the law. In fact, her office had consulted with the ARRL’s legal advisors.

Was there any input from the CB community? Ms. Hintz said that there were several CBers at some of the meetings, but did not think that they were members of any organized group or that they could be readily identified or contacted. Once again, our brothers and sisters in the amateur community seem to have dumped the blame for some problem, real or imagined, squarely on the backs of CBers. “Once again, our brothers and sisters in the amateur community seem to have dumped the blame for some problem, real or imagined, squarely on the backs of CBers.”
antennas. These are the people who will be charged with the enforcement of the law. When asked, one official said he did not know that a radio operator needed more than one antenna to work different bands. To them, one antenna looks pretty much like another. Come to think of it, they do. I know a number of amateurs who use CB antennas to work the 10-meter band.

I don’t blame the amateurs for doing whatever they can to protect themselves. I wish we could do the same. I do think that they are a little short-sighted. While CBers and amateurs claim to see vast differences between their respective pieces of the radio hobby, outsiders don’t. To them, as with the “enforcers” in Kingston, we all look pretty much alike. The truth is, when you get right down to it, we are! Because we are so much alike, is it unreasonable to conclude that increased restrictions on CB will eventually find their way to the amateur community?

Need To Organize

Once again, as I approach the end of this column, I am forced to face the fact that the biggest single difference between the amateur and citizen’s radio communities is that one is organized and one is not. Recent events in Kingston painfully drive that point home. CB needs to organize. If we don’t, piece by piece, we are going to lose it.

We don’t need to organize “everybody.” We don’t even need to organize “most of us.” We do need to organize a few. How about you, can you help? If you don’t, who will?

Computer Eats Homework

Finally, I must apologize to a half dozen or so readers who have sent me E-mail and have not received a reply. You see, my computer ate my homework. That is to say, my E-mail program deleted your notes. I read them, that is how I know you wrote. Unfortunately, after I read them, the E-mail program deleted them. I have found and fixed the problem, but the lost mail is really lost. So, if you have written and have not received a reply, please forgive me and try again.

Well, that’s it for now. Thanks for writing me here at the magazine or via the Internet where my address is <edbarnatt@global2000.net>. And, as always, if you can (especially on January 30th) catch me on the radio! -3

Ed

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We’ve got lots of great logs again this month, so here we go (don’t forget to send in yours)!

Radio Metallica, 6955 at 2252, with talks on Monica, Paula, Clinton, plus rock numbers. Also heard at 0246 and 0031 with ID and sign-off. (Tim Taylor, PA) Same heard from 0210–0256 with Dr. Tornado and Sr. El Niño. (William Hassig, IL) 1341 with standard and hard rock. Blue Ridge address announced. (Dave Jeffery, NY) 2248–2332, also on various dates at 0010, 2240, 1349, 0311 (Lee Silvi, OH) 6958 at 0027 with Ramstein’s “Du Hast” until 0033 close. (Sean Ingram, VA)

Mystery Radio, 6955 USB, tentative, 0315 with space music, strange talks. Again at 0301. (Hassig, IL) Also at 0410, then off, back at 0500. Mention of Belfast, NY address. Sign-off at 0541. Also tentative at 0353 with swing and “jazzy type” music. Off at 0405. (Taylor, PA) 0303. Also presumed this at 0142–0211 close. And at 0308 and 2032. (Silvi, OH)

WBIG (The Big One) 6955 at 0100–0120 with IDs and music. (Silvi, OH) 0125; gave the Belfast address and phone-in number. Said they took the name from the song of that name. (Silvi, OH)

Voice of the Twilight Alehouse, on 6955 at 0023–0100 off. Providence mail drop. Said they took the name from the “Secret Agent” theme at 1502. Blue Ridge Summit address. (Jeffery, NY) 0053–0237 with several Queen songs. (Silvi, OH)

Voice of the Twilight Anthouse, 6954.8, 0022–0100 close with rock and talk about Clinton leaving office. Said would have mailbag address in future shows. Providence address. (George Zeller, OH) (I suspect the above two are the same station — Ed.)

Betty Boop Radio, on 6955 USB heard at 2329 with Betty Boop music, IDs. Providence address. Off at 2343. (Jeffery, NY)

WMPR—1030, 6955 at 2238 with pops. (Vincent Everett, NY) WMPR—MicroPower Radio, 0145 with mostly techno-pop. Off at 0153. (Taylor, PA) Tentative at 2227. Also at 1652, again with no mail drop announced. (Silvi, OH)

Radio Aladonia, tentative, 6955 USB, a relay from Germany at 0206 with several IDs and off suddenly at 0226, then someone — possibly Mystery Radio — doing a modulation test. (Taylor, PA)

Radio Xanax, on 6955 USB, 0113 with humorous comments about drug use. Stoneham, MA maildrop. (Everett, NY) 0022. (Silvi, OH)

Voice of the Pig’s Ear, on 6955 USB, 2352–0029. No mail drop announced. Also at 2331, 0138, and 0220 with program in response to Tangerine Radio. Also at 2355. (Silvi, OH)

Jerry Rigged Radio, 6950 USB at 0300 with Latin and Indian music. Also heavy metal. (Hassig, IL)

Polka, on 6955 USB at 0204 with polkas. (Hassig, IL) 0222. (Silvi, OH)

Radio Free Euphoria, heard on 6955 USB at 0124–0149 close with Captian Ganja, rock and drug sketches, marijuana songs, advocacy for pot. Belfast address. (Zeller, OH) On at 0121 with song “Ride, Captain, Ride.” (Silvi, OH)

Voice of Anarchy, monitored on 6955 at 0058 with big band and swing. (Silvi, OH) 0104 with Bram Stoker and Rusty O. Atega. Also various skits and spoofs, including new segment “The small Furry Critter Report.” Belfast mail drop. (Taylor, PA)

Deliveryance Radio, on 6955 USB at 0133 with usual squealing and repeated theme song. (Silvi, OH)

Radio Nonsense, heard on 6955 USB, 0114 sign-on to 0137 off. Also 0117–0243 and 0201–0243. (Silvi, OH)

Radio Freedom, monitored on 6955 USB at 2036 with various songs including a couple by Jim Morrison and “You Are listening to a test of Radio Freedom—enjoy.” No address announced. (Taylor, PA) 1945 with test. Also at 2049 with rock. (Silvi, OH)

Voice of P929590 (tentative ID), 6955 USB monitored at 2308. Lots of alternative rock. The “P9329590” ID at 0010 but not sure if this was the same station as at tune-in. Someone mentioned they were in downtown Toledo (OH). Off at 0029. (Taylor, PA)

Voice of the Raving Lunatic, on 6955 USB 0351 with various tunes, uncopied phone-in number. Said there was no address. Off at 0402. (Taylor, PA) 0316. (Silvi, OH)

Tangerine Radio, monitored on 6955 USB, around 0052. (Taylor, PA) 0149. (Silvi, OH)

WEIR (We Like Radio) on 6955 USB at 0143. (Silvi, OH)

WRYT, on 6955 USB at 0251; mention Belfast drop. Also heard at 2006 and 0309. (Silvi, OH)

(Continued on page 77)
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, one and all. Thanks for your continued support of your column!

In the E-mail and letters that we receive, the one question that we keep getting is "where can I find someone to work on these old units?" In the past, we have provided suggestions for sources of crystals, tubes, and schematics. However, I don’t have a good answer for this question.

We also get a lot of requests from readers to work on different units. I wish that we could take care of them all; however, we can only do a very limited number because of our regular work and the fact that I have to do much or most of the work myself. While my technicians are good, they are current generation and not really "up-to-snuff" on tubes and wires and such. They grew upon pc boards and transistors. Perhaps some of you have found a shop or two that we could pass on to other readers. If so, send us their name, address, and phone number, what experience you have had with them, and how long they have been in business. If it sounds good, we could pass it on, but with no guarantees. The readers can check them out for themselves.

The Polycom 23 was one of the first versions of the very popular and high-performance Polycom radios. You can tell this from the outside because it has a two-position slide switch on either side of the MOD/PA control, just to the right of the meter, and the two Poly Call controls are adjusted through the back panel of the radio. The later model has a four-position rotary switch just to the right of the meter and the Poly Call sensitivity control beside it. The Poly 23 (Photo 1) is the same as the Senior 23 radio, minus the Poly Call circuit and controls. In the November issue of Pop'Comm, we discussed what this circuit did for you and that you must have two radios with Poly Call for it to be of any use to you. From the E-mail and letters I receive, it's amazing how many of you had, or have gone out and found, one of these radios. Get them working and you'll be very pleased.

Checking It Out

On initial examination of this unit, we observed the following facts. It has extensive corrosion on the chassis in spite of the cad plating, but none of it seems to be in any area that will affect its performance or reliability, only its looks. It looks as though something was spilled on the top of the radio and ran out the back. As you can see, the bottom was not affected and, because of the Teflon insulation, the wiring is in good shape (Photo 2).

The next thing that I could see was that the shield over the power supply is miss-

![Photo 1. The old Polycom 23.](image1)

![Photo 2. The bottom of the CB wasn't affected by the spillage, and the wiring is in good shape.](image2)
ing. It covered the area in the lower left section of the radio that I outlined in white all the way to the back of the chassis. While this cover did keep your fingers out of the incoming 117-volt power and the high voltage in the power supply, its main purpose was to reduce vibrator hash. Other than the 117-volt hazard, there are a lot of places for you to get into the high voltage all over the radio. I recommend you cover the back of the power plug with tape. It's not a big deal unless you are going to run the unit on 12 volts DC.

If you look carefully at Photo 3, where the top arrow points, you can see a crystal socket with nothing in it. This is where the receiver's second conversion crystal should be plugged in. The radio will not work without it. I happen to have one, so this will not delay us (they can be obtained from one of the crystal manufacturers). Also in this picture at the lower arrow, you can see where this radio was modified with a control mounted to the top of the modulation transformer. A wire from it ran through the socket where the tone frequency element for the Poly Call should plug in. I will have to trace this and see what they have done and why.

In Photo 4, the left bottom arrow points to the test socket. The pin-out for this plug is shown in Figure 1 and provides about all of the test points that you need to tune this radio. You can use any decent 20,000-ohm/volt analog meter for this. Don't try to use a digital meter since it will jump around too much for tuning purposes.

The middle arrow in Photo 4 points to audio output and relay circuit terminals. Use Figure 2 for its pin-out. The top

**Figure 1. Pin-out for the test socket plug.**

**Photo 3. Notice the empty crystal sockets where the receiver's second conversion crystal should be plugged in.**
arrow on the picture points to the vibrator, which is used if run mobile (so unless you intend to run mobile, remove it.) I have seen a few cases where a defective vibrator has caused problems during 117-volt operation.

Last, but not least, we have provided you with the wiring for both the 117 and the 12-volt power cords in Figure 4. Be careful to use the correct one. If you need the plug for the radio end, most any radio and TV supply house will have it. Do not plug this radio in without fuse protection. The fused plug originally used was made by Elmenco. If you cannot find one, get two in-line fuse holders and use them with 2-amp fuses. Be sure that the fuse holders are rated for 117-volt use.

Ready To Plug It In

Now we are about ready to apply power to the radio. I have already checked all the tubes and replaced four defective ones. Also, I like to apply power for the first time using undersized fuses. The radio was made to run on 2-amp fuses, providing for transmit and a little extra. We are going to only be using receive at first, so if there is a major problem, a 1-amp fuse that we will use to start with will blow quicker. This reduces the amount of smoke and damage.

Please keep in mind that there are dangerous voltages present all over the bottom of this radio. THEY CAN BE LETHAL! So, if you don't know what you are doing, stop and take it to someone who does!

We have put in temporary 1-amp fuses, removed the vibrator, and made sure that the Off/On switch is in the Off position. Plug the power cord into the wall outlet and turn on the radio. You will note three NE86A neon tubes on the underside of the radio. These are used as a "poor man's" voltage regulator and/or peak limiter. Some light up all of the time and others only while limiting. They glow a red-
dish-orange when working, but some will only light up part of the time.

All of our tubes have a standard filament glow, the meter bulbs came on along with the bulb behind the channel indicator window and the one amp fuses didn't blow. If they had blown, we would have had to hunt down the cause of it pulling too much current. **HINT** — if they blow right after you turn the radio on, you have a short in the power supply or on one of the B-plus power or filament lines. But if it took 10 to 20 seconds or more for them to blow, you most likely have a short due to a tube pulling too much current. This is most often caused by a coupling condenser to the grid leaking voltage onto the control grid. Either is easy to trace. Be sure to look and check for the obvious: a tube in the wrong socket or someone's finger having pushed some wires together.

I forgot to mention that this unit uses the microphone to provide the speaker ground and, if that pin is not grounded, you won't get a peep out of it on receive. For temporary test purposes, you can use a clip lead from the microphone's plug pin 4 to ground. The plug is numbered on the front side. Also, to ensure that the speaker is working after you plug in the microphone or install the jumper mentioned before, set your VOM to the R-1 scale and hold one lead to ground and touch the other to the high side of the speaker before you plug the radio into power. When you touch the lead to the speaker, you should have a "pop" from the speaker. This tells you that your jumper or microphone ground return for the speaker is OK and that the speaker will provide sound if the receiver is working. You would be amazed at how many radios we get that the owner thinks has a receiver problem when all that is wrong is a bad speaker.

After a couple of minutes of watching for smoke, a tube glowing too brightly or any other non-standard thing, we were pleased to see that none of these things occurred, and the 1-amp fuse didn't blow. These were very good signs. While waiting, we did note that all of the switches and controls were stiff and will need cleaning with a proper spray cleaner. I did momentarily "blip" the transmit line and noted that the meter hangs up at the 1/2 scale point. It will have to be replaced and may be hard to do or find.

We have some readers who have asked "why spend a whole column or two on one radio? I don't have one of those."

First, many of the tips work on other brands, like the preceding speaker test: and, second, you may find one at the local flea market next week. So save the columns for future use.

### Receive Voltages

After a few minutes and all seems well, I want to check the receive voltages at the base of the audio output/modulator tube V-8. This is a 6BQ5 located just behind and slightly right of the speaker, when viewed from the rear of the unit. Measure the voltage referenced to ground. Pin 3 should be around 8 to 10 volts positive, pin 7 should be a plus 320 or so, and pin 9 should be about 10 percent less than pin 7, or about 290 to 300 volts. All of them were fine on this unit.

I had planned to do this radio in two parts, but because of all the pictures and figures and the complex nature of the unit, I can see that we are going to have to do a third segment. If you have any questions on old CB radios, you can E-mail me at <Oldesttimer@aol.com>; or write me at: Don Patrick, 3701 Jenny Lind, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901. Be sure to include an SASE if you want a reply. See you next time in the March issue.

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**January 1999 / POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS / 51**
Lately it seems that clandestine activity aimed at Nigeria continues to change monthly as additional groups discover that their views can be heard by an international audience on shortwave. The latest development is a new broadcast in support of the Igbo people, airing a program from a studio in Washington, D.C., backed by a group calling itself the Eastern Mandate Union/EMU Abroad, a group of Igbos living in other countries who want democracy for Nigeria and better treatment for their people by the current government in Nigeria, including reparations for losses suffered in the war in Biafra.

The "station" is called Ogene Ndigbo Radio and was initially airing a program on Wednesdays at 2100 via U.S. shortwave station WHRA on a frequency of 15.460. The broadcast announces an address of P.O. Box 24549, Baltimore, MD 21214.

One of the several other broadcasters aimed at Nigeria is the Voice of Free Nigeria, which airs on Saturdays at 1900 to 2000 on 12015, on behalf of the Free Nigeria Movement.

The anti-Khartoum station, Voice of Sudan, signs on at 1600 on 8000 or a half-kilohertz or so lower (check 9025 and 12008 at this hour, too). This one is run by the National Democratic Alliance and broadcasts almost entirely in Arabic (English is aired only occasionally). It is believed to operate from transmitters in Eritrea. A second broadcast goes out at 0400 on the same frequencies.

Another anti-Sudanese government station is the Voice of the People of Kurdistan, which speaks on behalf of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. It broadcasts in Kurdish and Arabic from 0200 to 0500 and 1445 to 1800, both on variable 4060, and also from 1130 to 1300, generally between 6015 and 6030. Monitors in the eastern part of North America will have a chance at hearing these stations on their evening (our time) broadcasts, but we can all forget about having any success with the 1130 airing.

The Democratic Voice of Burma program is now aired on 11850 via Norway, 13820 via Dushambe, Tajikistan, and 15330 via Julich, Germany, and runs from 1245 to 1345. This broadcaster is fairly easy to hear in North America and usually responds to correct reception reports with a nice QSL card. The station’s address is P.O. Box 6720, Skt. Olavs Plass, N-0130 Oslo, Norway.

By the time your eyes see these words, your ears may be able to hear the newest of Washington’s growing list of broadcasting operations in the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty vein. Radio Free Iraq should be on the air now. As of this writing, it had its staff nearly in place, and a director, David Newton, the former U.S. ambassador to Iraq (and Yemen). The Radio Free Iraq service will use the facilities of Radio Free Europe — Radio Liberty — and will be based in Prague, the Czech Republic.

There’s a catch, though. Although the Czech government seemed nervous at the idea of hosting a broadcaster which might draw the ire — and perhaps the fire — of anti-U.S. elements in the Mideast, they have given an OK to Radio Free Iraq, but they insist on the right to approve of where the studios are situated (the Czechs are concerned about the possibility of terrorist attacks on the station). Radio Free Iraq will be a service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. You can check the status of Radio Free Iraq’s progress by checking <http://www.rferl.org>. There should be an operating schedule posted there by now.

Remember to send your clandestine loggings to me at 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, New York 11801.
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CIRCLE 161 ON READER SERVICE CARD
By Joe Schroeder, W9JUV

Product Spotlight

POP'COMM REVIEWS PRODUCTS OF INTEREST

Alinco DJ-X10T Wideband Receiver

This is one fabulous radio — a receiver that tunes 100 kHz to 2000 MHz with excellent sensitivity that’s so user-friendly that you can operate it right out of the box without opening the manual, and has so many neat features that you may never get around to using them all — that’s the DJ-X10T! I was first introduced to the DJ-X10T at the September 1997 Radio Expo, the Chicago area’s biggest fall hamfest. When I entered the Alinco booth, Evelyn Garrison, WS7A, handed me a sample radio. “What do you think of this, Joe?” she asked with a big smile, “It’s our brand new wide-range pocket receiver! Why don’t you take it outside, away from all the hash in this metal building and try it out — I think you’ll be impressed.”

“I’d love to,” I replied, “but how about a manual so I can figure out how to make it play?”

“I don’t think you’ll need one,” she said, “and besides it’s so new I don’t even have one yet!”

She was so right. I took it back to my van where I had some odds and ends laid out for sale, sat down in my lawn chair, and mounted a BNC-equipped telescoping 2-meter antenna to the receiver (I had learned from other “all-band” portable receivers I’ve owned that the best of “all-band” rubber ducky antenna makes lousy HF antennas). I keyed in 14.2 MHz and heard a familiar voice — Marti Laine, OH2BH/0HO, operating the Scandinavian Activity Contest from the Aland Islands off the coast of Finland! And he was loud! I was impressed — very impressed — and even more so when I noticed the display showed USB (upper sideband) and read 14.2000; I turned the tuning knob slightly, the pitch of Marti’s voice changed just a bit, and the display read 14.2001 — this thing tunes in 100-Hz steps!

OK then, but what happens when I go to other frequencies? In quick order I keyed in 15.2 MHz and heard a familiar voice — Marti Laine, OH2BH/0HO, operating the Scandinavian Activity Contest from the Aland Islands off the coast of Finland! And he was loud!

For the next hour I quickly ran the DJ-X10T through its basic paces. On 460-MHz UHF, I heard Chicago police dispatchers — 40 miles away. On FM and...
jumped at the chance. There was just one checked out in exotic locales, not just a curve. My wife and I were going on our available for review. Then I threw Evelyn did have cellular blocked. Until they did, the DJ-X1OT for import, even though it

What a life: sitting in a deck chair on the afterdeck of a luxury liner, listening to shortwave broadcast, and hams from all over the world, airport and police activities from nearby islands, and South American broadcast stations. The only frustration was not having a transmitter to respond to the many exotic DX stations I heard on the ham bands!

Unfortunately for Alinco, the FCC moved at a glacial pace in approving the radio and my review production unit didn't arrive until almost a year after my first exposure to the DJ-X1OT. The good news is that it was well worth the wait.

One of the things that initially—and still—impresses me is how easy this radio is to use. At least for most purposes (though I never did figure out how to store memories until I got a manual). Key in a frequency, press Enter, and you're listening to that frequency—in the appropriate mode and tuning step. If you want to change the mode, press Function and then Mode and you'll see a menu with AUTO at the top followed by AM, NFM, and the other modes. When AUTO is selected, you automatically get the appropriate mode for the frequency you've keyed in. If you want a different mode, select it with the tuning knob and press Enter.

The automatic mode selection is not always infallible, however. When you key in WWV on 15 or 20 MHz, it selects upper sideband (USB) instead of AM; 2.5, 5, and 10 MHz gives you AM as it should. Also, on 2 meters and higher ham bands, it selects NFM across the entire band, even though those bands do have CW and SSB segments. Pretty minor gripes, but worth noting.

Similarly, if you want to select a specific tuning step, Function plus Step gives you the STEP menu. Selecting AUTO automatically selects tuning steps generally appropriate to the frequency you've chosen. However, if for example you
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want to rapidly tune a CW band to search for possible activity, you might want to select 1- or even 2-kHz steps instead of the much slower 100-Hz automatic step.

Channel Scope is another of the really neat features of the DJ-X10T. This function, activated by the SRCH button on the side of the radio, provides a visual scan of the band immediately above and below the frequency to which you are tuned. Signals in the search band appear as spikes in the display, the height of which is proportional to relative signal strength. Tuning the radio while in Channel Scope mode moves the display up or down, and whichever signal’s spike is centered will be heard by the receiver.

The Channel Scope tuning range is 40 tuning steps. If you’re in VHF NFM auto mode (5-kHz steps), the Channel Scope display will span 200 kHz (5 x 40 = 200), but if you’re in the auto SSB or CW mode (100-Hz steps), it will be only 4 kHz (1 x 40 = 4). The search refreshes every 10 seconds, and reception is blanked for about a second during refresh.

Plenty Of Memory

The DJ-X10T has 1,200 memory channels, and here Alinco has provided a real bonus — with a “Good New, Bad News” aspect. The good news is that they have factory-loaded in hundreds of very interesting frequencies: shortwave, aircraft, VHF, and UHF. The bad news is that, due to some obscure computer programming glitch, most of these have a built-in audio squelch that can’t be turned off! Those channels that aren’t so afflicted do provide interesting listening. Doug Wynn of Alinco assures me that he expects to have that problem, along with the others, solved soon. In the meantime, re-entering a frequency in any of the blocked channels restores normal audio so those channels aren’t permanently lost. Happily, one pre-programmed block that does not have the blocking problem includes all TV audio channels from 2 through 69! With a DJ-X10T, you can catch the evening news or your favorite TV talk show no matter where you are — in the car or at the beach.

The DJ-X10T has a host of other features, of course: those 1,200 memories have a variety of memory scan modes, including an Auto Memory Write. There are two VFOs, a clock function with Off and On timers, a PMS mode, which scans any of 20 preselected ranges, a priority channel, battery save and more. You’ll have to read — no, study — the very complete 56-page manual before you’ll become really expert with this radio. There is also both a Beginner’s and Expert’s operating mode. And though the radio comes out of the box in the Beginner’s Mode, some of the really neat features aren’t accessible there. I didn’t find the Expert’s Mode that tough to start with.

An important technical note: The very first time I used the DJ-X10T, I noticed no apparent internal microprocessor noise. Every other compact receiver I’ve ever had an opportunity to use had a lot of internally generated hash of varying amplitude and frequency, depending on how you held the radio and the antenna’s orientation. The DJ-X10T has absolutely none that I could detect. A real plus!

Does it have any warts? You bet. Images are very noticeable on some frequencies. For example, at some times of the day I’ve heard a loud international broadcast station on 5 MHz, though not in the evening when WWV is audible. I found fairly strong FM broadcast images where channel 6 TV would be if we had it here, and some very weak ones in the aircraft band. TV Channel 60’s audio (751.75 MHz) can also be heard at 1289.85 MHz.

I’ve also found a few internally generated spurs, including a fairly strong one at 448.0 MHz, but most are weak enough for images to be noticeable. A fair number of them show some sort of a pattern, some have a 9-kHz spacing, others a 10-kHz one.

Criticisms

Does it have any warts? You bet. Images are very noticeable on some frequencies. For example, at some times of the day I’ve heard a loud international broadcast station on 5 MHz, though not in the evening when WWV is audible. I found fairly strong FM broadcast images where channel 6 TV would be if we had it here, and some very weak ones in the aircraft band. TV Channel 60’s audio...
not to be a problem. There’s also some weak TV buzz in the aircraft and NOAA weather bands, but again not enough to bother reception. All that said, however, spurious responses like these are to be expected in any receiver that doesn’t have room for lots of high-Q preselector circuitry — some even turn up in top-of-the-line lab-quality radios!

Similarly, the DJ-X10T receiver can be overloaded. With as much gain as this receiver has in order to achieve its exceptional sensitivity, expect to have some overload and cross modulation when too much antenna is used. This is one reason I like using a telescoping whip — if you do experience overload, simply shorten the antenna or engage the radio’s attenuator function.

I’d also like a bit more selectivity on AM. Alinco is using the narrow FM IF (15 kHz) for AM, with the result that it’s sometimes a bit hairy separating closely spaced international broadcast stations. However, selectivity on SSB and CW modes — though not particularly sharp — should be plenty adequate for most users.

The DJ-X10T has one odd glitch I noticed, though only on SSB or CW. When tuning across either type of signal, it tuning jumps backward about 800 Hz when tuning on the low side of zero beat. Most of the time when tuning these modes, I don’t even notice it, but it is there. It may do the same thing on other modes as well, but their tuning resolution is such that it’s not noticeable.

A Word About Antennas

I was actually impressed with the six-inch rubber duck that comes with the radio. It does pick up signals, from AM broadcast through UHF TV. That said, however, the only place it’s as good as even a fully telescoped whip is at UHF. Everywhere else, though, you can indeed hear signals and even have a lot of fun with the DJ-X10T. You won’t hear nearly as many signals or hear them as well as you can with a telescoping whip antenna.

The antenna I ended up using has eight sections; telescoped it’s only six-inches long (ideal for UHF) while it extends to 40 inches! On the shortwave, AM broadcast, and even NOAA weather bands, I easily copy signals on the whip that I can’t even detect on the duck!

Finally, one of the many things I like about Alinco is their battery philosophy. With the DJ-X10T they give you a NiCd battery pack, plus a drop-in charger! No more wall cubes!

Summing It All Up

I’m convinced that for its size the DJ-X10T is a truly great radio! Its excellent performance and ease of use over an extremely wide frequency range have made it a necessary addition to my ham shack’s extensive stable of radios. No matter where I am, with it I can check world news from BBC or VOA, tower traffic at the local airport, solar conditions, or precise time from WWV. I can learn why the local police are running around with sirens screaming, whether there’s anything interesting going on any of the ham bands I operate, or even what’s going on with local AM, FM, or TV broadcasters. Do I like all that capability in my pocket? You bet I do! Check it out and I’m sure you will too!

Note: To translate MDS into the equivalent FM quieting specs, at 51.5 and 151 MHz where MDS measured .04 µv the receiver required a .2 µv signal for 12 dB quieting and .6 µv for full quieting. At 1101 MHz (MDS .3 µv), 12 dB quieting was 1.4 µv and full quieting about 2.8 µ. 
The mysterious disappearance of syndicated overnight talk show host Art Bell has everyone talking. Bell pulled the plug on his broadcast career in a surprise announcement on his program, citing a threatening series of events that placed his family at risk. Furthermore, Bell went into hiding, disconnecting his phone and essentially disappearing off the face of the Earth, in what many believe to be a real-life X-Files occurrence. In his final broadcast, Bell said that for the protection of his family, he could not reveal the reason behind the sudden sign-off.

Bell is famous for his investigation of the paranormal on his "Coast-to-Coast" and "Dreamland" talk radio programs. UFO sightings, alien abductions, and government conspiracies were often the central themes of the talk shows. Bell also supported a theory called "The Quickening," which predicted the coming of a New World order. Some thought the disappearance was the direct result of Bell's beliefs and programs, while others were suspicious of a publicity stunt. Nevertheless, the story has captured the imagination of millions of listeners. "Coast-to-Coast" was the most listened to overnight talk radio program across the nation. For the latest on the Art Bell situation, visit his Website at <http://www.artbell.com> — that is, unless you fear that someone is monitoring you!

More News!

Former Green Beret Colonel James "Bo" Gritz announced on his radio talk show that a member of his volunteer group trying to locate abortion clinic and Atlanta Olympic bombing suspect Eric Rudolph may have sighted the fugitive outside their camp in North Carolina. Gritz hosts a talk show on the Talk America Radio Network. Gritz said on his program that someone might have been scouting the search group on behalf of Rudolph, later speculating that it could have been Rudolph himself.

Billboard's afternoon rock jock of the year, Nik Carter on WBCN 104.1 FM in Boston, was recently in hot water after an uncensored interview with Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready. In a live phone interview, McCready used a particular explicative repeatedly. Carter was suspended for not following the station's policy which required a seven-second delay for live interviews, or that they be taped for later broadcast to censor inappropriate language.

A number of legitimate advertisers, including candidates for Congress, have been heard advertising on a local pirate radio station, Prayze 105.3 FM, in the Hartford, Connecticut region. This is upsetting some licensed broadcasters competing for the same advertising dollars. Despite license applications for Prayze FM being denied by the FCC, the station has continued to broadcast illegally. Recently, Prayze FM challenged the FCC in court to remain on the air — and won. The FCC is appealing the ruling. Prayze FM covers about a 20 to 30-mile radius from Bloomfield, Connecticut. Programming is reported to be professionally produced, unlike the raw nature of most pirate broadcasters. Prayze FM is especially popular in the region's African American communities, providing gospel music unavailable on other local stations, along with R&B and rap. WKND Windsor on 1480, the region's licensed African American station, has filed a complaint with the FCC.

The BBC news team has been experiencing growing pains over the installation of a new digital recording system coinciding with a move to new studios still under construction. Listeners to local and World Service news programs were perhaps entertained by a number of embarrassing bloopers, but the BBC news staff wasn't laughing, calling it a disaster for the world-respected news organization and threatening a strike if the problems weren't resolved.

WCVB channel 5 TV in Boston commenced digital broadcasting in November. This is ahead of the FCC-mandated 1999 start for digital TV in major metro areas. Unfortunately, the first digital televisions to hit the market will be well beyond the reach of many consumers. List prices are in the $10,000 range, but are expected to drop as more receivers hit the market and competition heats up.

Japan's Lighthouse Stations

There are 28 lighthouse stations operating in Japan (see box). All operate every hour for one to three minutes, giving weather and ID info. All operate on 1670.5 kHz in the H3E mode. Station location and the time the station is on are announced in the identification. No call letters are used. All stations ID in a pattern like this: "Kakukyoku, kakukyoku, kakukyoku (station name), (weather information), owari. Kochiraha (station name) kurikaeshimasu . . . (weather information) . . . owari. Kochiraha (station name),"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Miyakojima</td>
<td>00:00-02:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Toi</td>
<td>06:30-08:30</td>
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<td>3) Ashizuri</td>
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<td>4) Muroto</td>
<td>12:10-13:40</td>
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<td>5) Osaka Harbour Rader</td>
<td>13:40-15:10</td>
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<td>6) Shionomisaki</td>
<td>15:10-16:50</td>
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<td>7) Daio</td>
<td>16:50-18:30</td>
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<td>9) Hachijojima</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Inubo</td>
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<td>12) Kinokma</td>
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<td>13) Todogasaki</td>
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<td>14) Shiriya</td>
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<td>15) Erino</td>
<td>33:00-34:40</td>
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<td>16) Kushiro Harbor Rader</td>
<td>34:40-36:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>17) Meshima</td>
<td>36:20-38:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>18) Wakanisima</td>
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<td>19) Kamitsushima</td>
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<tr>
<td>20) Hagimisima</td>
<td>41:20-43:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>21) Takohana</td>
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<td>22) Echizenmisaki</td>
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<td>23) Hegura</td>
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<td>24) Awashima</td>
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<td>26) Tappi</td>
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<td>27) Shikotan</td>
<td>55:40-57:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>28) Yagishiri</td>
<td>57:50-00:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

kurikaeshimashu... (weather information). Sayonara. Kochiraha (station name). While we're in Japan, here are some broadcast changes of note also from Osamu Aikawa. JOXR, 783 kHz is now on 864 with 10 kW. JOIP has moved from 639 kHz with 1 kW. NHK Sasebo is a sister station of NHK Nagasaki (JOAP 684 kHz) and relays NHK-Nagasaki's program and ID; no ID for NHK Sasebo. New stations on the air: KQTY-1490 (P.O. Box 165, Borger, TX 79008-0165) tested on Monday, November 23, and Monday, November 30. Code IDs accompanied their normal top-of-the-hour station ID and network ID breaks from 0159 to 0559 Eastern Time. KQTY is an SMN/Real Country affiliate. Reports may be sent to Mr. George Grover, Station Manager. Test arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC.

DX Tests

North America's two major medium-wave DX clubs, the National Radio Club (NRC) and the International Radio Club of America (IRCA), arrange for DX tests to be conducted by AM radio stations while servicing equipment or facilities. Tests are typically scheduled for after midnight local time, when the FCC allows stations to test with different antenna patterns and output power, including non-directional operation at full power. During normal nighttime operation, many AM stations operate at reduced power and with a directional antenna pattern to prevent interference with other stations. Non-directional full-power operation often results in a wider coverage area, allowing DXers to log a station that might otherwise be nearly impossible to hear. In addition, these stations will verify all correct reception reports. Program material during a test may include special announcements, Morse code, and unique music such as polkas or marching bands for easy identification. Here's some DX test information courtesy of the NRC. For more information about the NRC, visit their website at <http://alpha.wcoil.com/~gnbc/>.

KLER-1300 (P.O. Box 32, Orofino, ID 83544-0032) tested at 0200 Eastern time Monday, November 16, for an unspecified period with 1000 Hz tones, Morse code IDs, and Cajun fiddle music. Reports may be sent to Mr. Jeff Jones, Owner.

WODI-1230 (1230 Radio Road, Brookneal, VA 24528-3141) tested at 0200 Eastern time Monday, November 16, for an unspecified period with 1000 Hz tones, Morse code IDs, and Cajun fiddle music. Reports may be sent to Mr. Dave Marthouse, President/GM WODI (Dave is also a member of the NRC's DX Audio Service). Test arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC.

QSL Information

693 4KQ Brisbane, Australia. Received letter, stickers, and info about the station in 22 days for a taped report, signed Peter Verhoeven-GM. Address:
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Broadcast Band Loggings

All times are UTC.

640 R.Progreso, Cuba at 0250 with "la onda de la alegría" ID, disco, and salsa music, ad for Gilberto Santa Rosa concert on "FM estéreo o con onda media.

(Conti, NH) At 0415 dominant with Spanish female vocal parallel 660 kHz.

(Connelly, MA) 720 R.Drago do Mar, Fortaleza, Brazil at 0025 with telephone talk in Portuguese, reverberated announcements mentioning Fortaleza, atop Florida with no trace of CBF-Montreal thanks to auro-ra.

(Connelly, MA) 1160 VSB3 Hamilton, Bermuda alone on the frequency at 2300 with BBC radio drama parallel 5975 SW.

(Conti, NH) 1470 KOME Sacramento CA. I don't know when they made the switch, but I noted during my home-bound commute that KQPT-1470 is now KOME, using slogans "Low Rider Oldies For Sacramento" and "1470 The Cruiser."

(Conti, ME) 1395 Business Radio, Lopik, Netherlands at 0335 fair with news items in Dutch and news theme music interludes.

(Conti, ME) 1494 JRTV Al Karanah, Jordan heard at 0150 fair with flute instrumental background music and a man in Arabic into 0200 news parallel 11935 SW.

(Conti, NH) 1521 BSKSA Duba, Saudi Arabia, sign-off at 2300 with anthem parallel 9555 and 9870 SW.

(Conti, NH) 1630 KCJJ Iowa City IA, at 0400 with a great signal and full programming. They were giving frequent IDs and in 45 minutes of listening every ID I heard was different. The music was a mix of old and new modern pop.

Mark Connelly reports that the first weekend of the autumn Newfoundland DXpedition only produced what could be called "ordinary" DX. Indeed for the first couple of months of the mediumwave DX season, transatlantic DX seemed subdued, dominated by short skip from Spain and the mouth of the Mediterranean. However, there have been a couple of good auroras, providing for brief periods of good Caribbean and Latin American DX, as evidenced by some of this month's broadcast band loggings.

We'll have more from Newfoundland, along with your loggings next month. Thanks to Osamu Aikawa, Henry Bialoglowy, Mark Connelly, Rick Dau, Glenn Diggs, Bob Gilbert, Patrick Griffith, Allan Hislop, Patrick Martin, and Rich Toebe. 73

0030 "Dreamland with Art Bell" talk about crop circles, News-Talk 690 WOKV ID, and hurricane evacuation PSA.

690 R.Drago do Mar, Fortaleza, Brazil at 0025 with telephone talk in Portuguese, reverberated announcements mentioning Fortaleza, atop Florida with no trace of CBF-Montreal thanks to auro-ra.

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CIRCLE 76 ON READER SERVICE CARD

62 / POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS / January 1999 THE MONITORING MAGAZINE
### Applied for Permits to Construct New FM Stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>City</th>
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<td>Cascade</td>
<td>88.9 MHz</td>
<td>2.25 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Creston</td>
<td>90.9 MHz</td>
<td>250 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>89.9 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Marshalltown</td>
<td>88.7 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Marshalltown</td>
<td>91.5 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Oskaloosa</td>
<td>90.5 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Post Falls</td>
<td>90.3 MHz</td>
<td>100 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Rapid City</td>
<td>90.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Gridley</td>
<td>90.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>90.7 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>Chesterton</td>
<td>91.1 MHz</td>
<td>1.4 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>South Haven</td>
<td>91.1 MHz</td>
<td>150 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>Tipton</td>
<td>88.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Emporia</td>
<td>89.7 MHz</td>
<td>3 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>90.9 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>90.9 MHz</td>
<td>360 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Benton Harbor</td>
<td>89.9 MHz</td>
<td>275 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Mackinaw City</td>
<td>88.5 MHz</td>
<td>4.6 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Muir</td>
<td>88.5 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Trout Lake</td>
<td>89.9 MHz</td>
<td>500 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>89.5 MHz</td>
<td>7.2 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>International Falls</td>
<td>91.9 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Country Club</td>
<td>89.7 MHz</td>
<td>3.2 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Moberly</td>
<td>90.1 MHz</td>
<td>250 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>Billings</td>
<td>89.9 MHz</td>
<td>1 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>89.1 MHz</td>
<td>500 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Ogden</td>
<td>88.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Scott Hill</td>
<td>88.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Grand Isle</td>
<td>91.5 MHz</td>
<td>6 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>91.7 MHz</td>
<td>100 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Wilber</td>
<td>89.9 MHz</td>
<td>4.8 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>Beach Haven West</td>
<td>88.3 MHz</td>
<td>100 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NV</td>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>101.3 MHz</td>
<td>(KRNL booster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>88.1 MHz</td>
<td>100 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>89.1 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Waverly</td>
<td>88.5 MHz</td>
<td>350 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Bend</td>
<td>88.1 MHz</td>
<td>450 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Greshen Beach</td>
<td>89.3 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>90.3 MHz</td>
<td>135 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Tillamook</td>
<td>91.1 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>Coventry</td>
<td>91.5 MHz</td>
<td>100 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Clifton</td>
<td>106.5 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Lawrenceburg</td>
<td>88.5 MHz</td>
<td>150 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Alice</td>
<td>88.1 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Bay City</td>
<td>89.5 MHz</td>
<td>22 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>91.5 MHz</td>
<td>25 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Bluff Dale</td>
<td>90.5 MHz</td>
<td>9.9 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Bushland</td>
<td>91.5 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Floresville</td>
<td>89.7 MHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROsat for WINDOWS Systems</td>
<td>from $888.00 to $1074.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROsat for DOS Systems</td>
<td>from $788.00 to $974.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**THE MONITORING MAGAZINE**

January 1999 / POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS / 63
Granted Permits to Construct New FM Stations

LA
IN
MI
TX
WY

Natchitoches
Greenfield
Negaunee
Plainview
Glendo
91.5 MHz
89.3 MHz
99.5 MHz
88.5 MHz
100.1 MHz
91.5 MHz
89.7 MHz
99.5 MHz
88.5 MHz
100.1 MHz
91.5 MHz
89.7 MHz
99.5 MHz
88.5 MHz
100.1 MHz

Proposed Changed AM Call Letters

New
KD\A
WDMN
WHAN
WN\SG
WRTB

Old
KL\LL
WVO1
W\PES
WKDA
WL\VU

Lubbock, TX
Toledo, OH
Ashland, VA
Nashville, TN
Dunedin, FL

Proposed FM Call Letter Changes

New
KL\NO
KPRF
WMTT

Old
KMBV
KNSY
WMKB

Navasota, TX
Amarillo, TX
Ridgebury, TX

Changed FM Call Letters

New
Old

KANG
KBCP
KBDT
KBER
KBGG
KBGY
KB\GZ
KBH\A
KB\HD
KBHI
KBHJ
KBHM
KB\HO
KBHQ
KBHV
KBHY
KB\IE
KB\I
KBIL
KF\MK
KGKS

Santa Barbara, CA
Belview, WA
Hastings, NE
Kent, WA
Clear Lake, SD
Newport, OR
Faribault, MN
Galena, KS
West Village, TX
Kerman, TX
Miner, MI
Jackson, WY
Johannesburg, CA
Bonnieville, MO
Maapa Valley, NV
Weltion, AZ
Atkins, AR
Ingalis, KS
Coeur D'Alene, ID
Hatfield, AR
Mena, AR
Ada, OK
Grand Isle, LA
Round Rock, TX
Scott City, MO

El Dorado, AR
Shasta Lake City, CA
Albion, WI
Sun Valley, NV
Florence, OR
Mt. Brugger, WY
Idabel, OK
Dell Rapids, SD
Flandreau, SD
Ingram, TX
Big Lake, TX
Vancouver, WA
Cordele, GA
Cross Hill, SC
Norway, NC
Knoxville, IL
Norris, TN
Machins, ME
Siren, WI
La Crosse, WI
Brookville, PA
Smiths, AL
Barron, WI
Parker's Crossroads, TN
Roan, IN
Prentiss, MS
Old Forge, NY
Falmouth, MA
Kempton, IN
Dekalb, MS
Greenfield, IN
Emporia, VA
Kosciusko, MS

New FM Call Letters Issued

KANG
KBCP
KBDT
KBER
KBGG
KBGY
KB\GZ
KBH\A
KB\HD
KBHI
KBHJ
KBHM
KB\HO
KBHQ
KBHV
KBHY
KB\IE
KB\I
KBIL
KF\MK
KGKS

Lake Havasu City, AZ
Belview, WA
Hastings, NE
Kent, WA
Clear Lake, SD
Newport, OR
Faribault, MN
Galena, KS
West Village, TX
Kerman, TX
Miner, MI
Jackson, WY
Johannesburg, CA
Bonnieville, MO
Maapa Valley, NV
Weltion, AZ
Atkins, AR
Ingalis, KS
Coeur D'Alene, ID
Hatfield, AR
Mena, AR
Ada, OK
Grand Isle, LA
Round Rock, TX
Scott City, MO

Ely, NV
Sacramento, CA
Ball, LA
Fairbanks, AK
Bakersfield, CA
Floresville, TX
Hastings, NE
Huntsville, MO
Delano, CA
Esparto, CA
Sanger, TX

New
Old

KCL\S
KDND
KHF\X
KK\ED
KKXX-FM
KLEY-FM
K\OR
K\OW
K\M\J
KTTA
K\ZN

TCLS
KDND
KHF\X
KK\ED
KKXX-FM
KLEY-FM
K\OR
K\OW
K\M\J
KTTA
K\ZN

Ely, NV
Sacramento, CA
Ball, LA
Fairbanks, AK
Bakersfield, CA
Floresville, TX
Hastings, NE
Huntsville, MO
Delano, CA
Esparto, CA

New
Old

WBB\R-FM
WBK\X
WIM\Z
WCL\X
WJOT-FM
WK\L\X
WXN\G
WOHE
WPP\R
WRR\G
WRR\B
WSOX
WTNX
WVGN
WX\K\X
WSS\S
WX\TM
WZ\E\C
WZ\R\K

WXKX
WAZ\N
WHCG-FM
WP\C-FM
WW\P-FM
WAVE
WNGX
WAQI
WZPP
WYO\C
WURN
WHIM-FM
WSSY
WWNX
WHCK
WANG
W\L\C
W\G\N
W\F\N

Parkerburg, WV
Yankeetown, FL
Metter, GA
McArthur, OH
Wabash, IN
Beavendal, KY
Argyle, NY
Crystal Falls, MI
Atlantic City, NJ
High Springs, FL
Marietta, OH
Red Lion, PA
Sharpsville, PA
Charlotte Amalie, VI
Parkerburg, WV
Little Rock, AR
Jerseyville, IL
Hoovick Falls, NY
Stephenson, MI

THE MONITORING MAGAZINE
WHCQ — The Planet — is now on the air from rural Maine. The station is currently operating only during the late afternoon and evening hours (as early as 2200 and as late as 0600), running 50 kW on 7415. The programming includes a wide variety of block segments with content ranging from "commercial" religion to anti-whatever talk shows to eclectic music. And from what we've been able to gather, the station is being well received, both from a signal and appreciation standpoint. WHCQ’s address is: WHCQ, The Planet, 97 High Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043. The actual transmitter site is a few miles outside of Kennebunk, at Monticello, Maine. Check their Website at <http://theplanet.wbcq.net> for updated information on current programs.

Apparently the first tests have been run at WWBS, Macon, Georgia, so we may hear this one on regular schedule before long. It’s taken these guys awhile to pull everything together. Keep an ear on 11910 (or 11905).

Remember the old TV comedy show “Laugh In” back in the late ’60s (back when the network comedies were actually funny?). One of the many standard lines on that show was “Sock it to me!” Well, that’s what Radio Norway — actually NRK, the Norwegian state broadcaster — has done to us. They’ve pulled the funding — a whopping $66,000 per year — and so Radio Norway has had to discontinue its weekly half-hour English program “Norway Now,” which, under one name or another, had been on the air since the 1950s. You can send your complaint to Radio Norway International, N-0340, Oslo, Norway.

“Brussels Calling” — the daily English program from Radio Vlaanderen International is now on the air at 0830 on 9925 and 9940; 1130 on 9925 and 13745; 1730 on 5910, 12080, 13650; 1830 on 13745 and 2230 on 13670 — this latter one via Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles.

AFRTS transmissions continue to be heard on shortwave, but expect the plug to be pulled at any time. It’s simply too good to last! Frequencies in use at this writing are 4278.5, 6458.5, and 12689.5, all in upper sideband.

J.R. Stephens in Washington state sent us a very good article from the July/August issue of Disabled American Veteran magazine. The article, “ShortWave Radio Monitors Let Families Know of Their Capture,” recounts the great work a number of SWLs did during WWII in monitoring Axis broadcasts for announcements about POWs — then notifying the families that their loved ones were alive, often providing the first word the families had received.

Army Sgt. Frank Davis was one of those prisoners of war whose family was notified that he was alive. Until he went through his mother’s personal effects and found some three dozen cards and letters from shortwave monitors notifying her that Sgt. Davis was alive, he’d been completely unaware of any of this. Now Davis is working to get a memorial which would honor these shortwave monitors for the many hours and dollars they spent to bring peace of mind to worried families. Davis is trying to locate more of these monitors, and get information about those who are no longer living. If you know or know of someone who was active in monitoring prisoner of war
Here's the QSL card of WBCQ — The Planet — the latest new U.S. shortwave station, operating from Maine on 7415. (Thanks to Edouard Provencher)

Ed Lindley covers everything from the AM broadcast band to shortwave, FM, TV, and CB from his shack in Biddeford, Maine.

broadcasts, please write to Mr. Davis at P.O. Box 6207, Stanton, DE 19904 — or you can call him at 302-994-0109.

You know, we never finish one of these columns without having to check a frequency, look up the spelling of a station name or a mailing address, or figure out whether a particular log was relayed from another transmitter site. Our main source — the rock of information we rely on is Passport to World Band Radio (PBWR). If you are into shortwave listening, monitoring, or DXing, this yearly guide to what's on and where to find it is nothing short of indispensable. You can order it through most SWL and ham radio suppliers or check your local bookstore. If they don't have it in stock they can get it for you.

Remember that we always need and appreciate your shortwave station loggings. The only requirements are that you list your logs by country, double-space between items and include your last name and state abbreviation after each item. We also appreciate receiving spare station photos, literature, and schedules for use as illustrations. Also QSL cards and information on any changes in or clarifications of station QSL policies, address changes are needed.

Back when yours truly got active in shortwave, one of the most exciting things that could happen to you was to open up one of the nationally circulated radio magazines and find your shack photo had been featured that month! Either people today find it no big deal, or they're shy. Whatever the reason, we don't get many shack photos these days. That said, note that two brave souls came forth this month. How about the rest of you?

Here are this month's logs. All times are in UTC, which is five hours ahead of EST, i.e. 0000 UTC equals 7 p.m. EST, 6 p.m. CST, 5 p.m. MST, and 4 p.m. PST. Double capital letters are language abbreviations (FF = French, AA = Arabic, SS = Spanish, etc.). If no language abbreviation is included the broadcast is assumed to have been in English.

ANGOLA — Radio Nacional, 4950, 2345 to past 0000 with variety of local pop, U.S./Euro pops, PP announcements, ID at 0000. // 7244.93 and 3374.91. (Alexander, PA)

ANTIGUA — BBC, 5975 monitored at 0300 with news update. Prom Concert. (Jeffery, NY)

ALBANIA — Radio Tirana, 6220 at 0130 with local news and music. (Lindley, ME) 12085 at 0200. Radio Tirana offers a way to obtain one of three different certificates from them. They will send info on the requirements if you write and ask. (Lindley, ME) (P.O. Box 900, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria. Probably wise to make it attention English language service — GLD)

CANADA — Radio Canada Intl', 5960 at 0200 with IS, announcements, news in Japanese? (Wilden, IN) 9535 in SS at 0046. 17820 in RR at 1639. (Perron, MD) BBC World Service, 9515 at 1257 with sports, "Newshour." (Jeffery, NY)

CHILE — Voz Cristiana, 17680 at 1625 with contemporary Christian music. // 21549.95 (good), and 21500 (weak). (Alexander, PA) 21550 at 1430 with Christian music in SS and EE. (Provencher, ME)

CHINA — China Radio Intl', 12050 at 1120 in Indonesian. Request for letters. (Ziegner, ME) 15600 at 1934 in CC. (Perron, MD)

CONGO (Democratic Republic of) — Radio Nationale Congolaise, presumed, 15343 monitored at 2024 in FF with continuous music, talk by man and woman. (Jeffery, NY)

COSTA RICA — RFPI, 6975 at 0130. (Jeffery, NY) 0351. (Wilden, IN) 15050 at 0157. (Jeffery, NY) 0136. Also 21460 at 1930. (Perron, MD)
CUBA — Radio Havana Cuba. 13605 at 0205 with “Mailbox.” (Perron, MD)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Radio Cima, 4960, 11 at 0825 with SS announcements, salutations, merengues, IDs. (Alexander, PA) Cristal International. 5011.8V, 2345 to 0100 close with continuous Sergio Mendes music to 0034, several Auturo Sandoval songs. ID at 0058, off with national anthem. (Alexander, PA)

ECUADOR — Radio Federacion, 4960 at 0224 in SS with music. (Jeffery, NY) IHCB, 9745 at 0532 with instrumental Christian music. (Foss, AK)

EGYPT — Radio Cairo, 9475 monitored at 0008, on at 0011 with IS of local music. JORDAN — Radio Jordan, 15435 in AA at 0025 in SS with mostly music. (Alexander, PA) Cristal 4960.11 at 0025 with SS announcements. Salutes. (Alexander, PA)

FRENCH — Radio France International, 5920 at 0233 in FF. 13700 in PP at 0151. (Perron, MD) 17620 at 1646 and 1110 to 1140 in Mongolian. Into CC at 1141. (Ziegner, MA)


GREECE — Voice of Greece, 9740 at 1733 with “Jolly Good Show” program. (Foss, AK)

HUNGARY — Radio Budapest, 9580 at 0105. (Perron, MD)

IRAQ — Radio Iraq Int’l, 11785 at 0303 starting EE broadcast with ID. Schedule, news. (Silvi, OH) LUXEMBOURG — Radio Luxembourg, 11845 at 2000 with “Africa World Tonight.” (Ziegner, MA) 0109 in AA. Also 15415 in AA. (Perron, MD)

ITALY — RAI, 11800 heard at 0147 in II. (Perron, MD) JAPAN — Radio Japan, 5960 via Canada in JJ at 0238. (Perron, MD) 11760 at 0618 in RR and 17810 at 0610 with Japanese and Asian news in EE. (Foss, AK)

ISPANIAD — Radio Hispavision, 11765 in FF. 15415 in AA. (Perron, MD)

ITALY — RAI, 11800 heard at 0147 in II. (Perron, MD) JAPAN — Radio Japan, 5960 via Canada in JJ at 0238. (Perron, MD) 11760 at 0618 in RR and 17810 at 0610 with Japanese and Asian news in EE. (Foss, AK)

JORDAN — Radio Jordan, 15435 in AA at 0211. (Perron, MD)

KAZAKHSTAN — Kazak Radio, 11825 at 1740 to 1800 in Kazak. Discussion program. (Ziegner, MA)

KUWAIT — Radio Kuwait, 9855 and 15505 in AA at 2112. (Perron, MD)

LIBYA — Radio Jamahiriya, 15235 at 1437 to 1645 in AA. Very angry man giving a speech. (Ziegner, MA) 0109 in AA. Also 15415 in AA. (Perron, MD)

LITHUANIA — Radio Vilnius, 9855 monitored at 0035 with news and features. (Ossman, NY)

MONGOLIA — Voice of Mongolia, 12085 at 1110 to 1140 in Mongolian. Into CC at 1141. (Ziegner, MA)

NETHERLANDS — Radio Netherlands.

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Radio Taipei International QSL ed
Lindley's July/98 reception via WYFR on 5950 with this full color card.

6020 at 0130 with "Sincerely Yours" and "Sounds Interesting." (Provencher, ME)

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES — Radio Netherlands via Bonaire, 15315 in SS at 0126. (Perron, MD) 17605 at 1930 with ID, news, weather. "Sincerely Yours." (Jeffery, NY)

NEW ZEALAND — Radio New Zealand Int'l. 11635 at 2200 with Sunday EE program. (No more! GLD) 15235 at 1500 in NN with news. (Ziegner, MA) 13805 at 0146 in NN. (Perron, MD)


PHILIPPINES — Far East Broadcasting Company, 9405 at 0210 in unidentified language, to India. (Perron, MD)

POLAND — Polish Radio, 9525 in GG at 0040. (Perron, MD)

QATAR — Qatar Broadcasting Service, 11785 in AA with Koran monitored at 2121. (Perron, MD)

ROMANIA — Radio Romania Int'l, 9510 monitored at 0037 in RR. Also 9570. (Perron, MD)

RUSSIA — Voice of Russia, 7180 at 0200 with EE to North America. Also 9665 at 0120. (Perron, MD)

SLOVAKIA — Slovak radio, 7345 in Slovak at 0138. Also 9485 at 0036. (Perron, MD)

SOUTH AFRICA — Channel Africa, 9685 at 0120 with news. (Perron, MD) 15240 at 1600 to 1630 with news and sports at 1625 into FF at 1630. (Ossman, NY) 1638 to 1830 in PP and EE. (Ziegner, MA)

SWITZERLAND- Swiss Radiolnel, 9885 at 0110 with news and current events. (Lindley, ME) 0405 with news. (Wilden, IN) This is via Costa Rica. GLD) 1640 in SS on 17715 and 17805. (Perron, MD)

SWEDEN — Radio Sweden, 9495 in Swedish at 0225, into EE at 0230. (Perron, MD) 15238 at 1423 in Swedish. (Ziegner, MA)

SWITZERLAND — Swiss Radio Int'l, 9885 at 0110 with news and current events. (Lindley, ME) 0405 with news. (Wilden, IN)

SYRIA — Radio Damascus, 12085 and 13610 at 2105 in EE. (Perron, MD)

TAHITI — RFO/Radio Tahiti, 15169 monitored at 0223 in FF with music, news, ID. (Jeffery, NY)

THAILAND — Radio Thailand, 15395. 0055 to 0100. Man with talk on Commonwealth games. (Ossman, NY)

TURKEY — Voice of Turkey, 9445 and 9460 at 0211 in TT. Also 11885 in TT at 0141. (Perron, MD)

UKRAINE — Radio Ukraine Int'l, 12040 at 0300 to 0330 plus with ID, news, program of local music. 9550 (both good) and 7410 (weak). (Alexander, PA)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — UAE Radio, Dubai, 15395 at 1533 in AA with Middle eastern music. (Jeffery, NY) 1940 in AA. (Perron, MD)

UNITED STATES — WBCQ. 7415 at 0000 first day broadcast. Said the transmitter is a Harris SW50 mediumwave converted to SW and is Pulse Duration Modulation instead of plate or linear type. Antenna is a "hybrid beam-log periodic at 60 feet above local elevation. Off at 0312, to return with new program at 0400. Gave their Website as <the planet.wbcq.net> (Silvi, OH) AFRTS, 12689 USB at 0159 with baseball. (Jeffery, NY)

VATICAN CITY — Vatican Radio, 9605 in SS at 0140. (Perron, MD)

VENEZUELA — Ecos del Tolbés, 4980 at 0234 in SS. (Jeffery, NY)

That cleans out the file for this time. A roaring round of applause, please, to the good people who supported the cause this month: Brian Alexander, Mechanicsburg, PA; Ronald A. Perron, Glen Burnie, MD; Tricia Ziegner, Westford, MA; Dave Jeffery, Niagara falls, NY; Marty Foss, Talkeetna, AK; Susan J. Wilden, Indianapolis, IN; Lee Silvi, Mentor, OH; Edouard S. Provencher, Biddeford, ME; Ed Lindley, Biddeford, ME and Bob Ossman, Ellicottville, NY. Thanks to each one of you!

Until next month, good listening!

This Radio Taipei Int'l QSL shows the foreign language staff. (Thanks Ed Lindley)
First, as we jump into a new year, I want to pass on to readers a new direct address to send logs and info. Please use: P.O. Box 4450, Youngstown, Ohio 44515, USA in care of myself. If a personal reply is desired, an SASE is always appreciated. Of course the E-mail address in the column header works always appreciated. Of course the E-mail address in the column header works.

The system in use by Canadian Forces to support air assets is known as MACS for Military Aeronautical Communications System. Listed frequencies are 3047 (Edmonton/Trenton only), 3092, 3073, 5715, 6694, 6706, 6745 (Edmonton/Trenton only), 6754, 8989 (Edmonton/Trenton only), 9007, 11232, 11265 (Edmonton/Trenton only), 11271 (Edmonton/Trenton only), 13257, 15031, 15034 (weather VOLMET only) 17994, 18012, and 23250 kHz (Trenton only) in USB mode. Trenton broadcasts weather for selected Canadian airfields on 15034 kHz between 1000 and 0000 UTC and on 6754 between 2300 and 1100 UTC. MAC Communications Stations are CHR, Trenton Military, Ontario, CJX, St. Johns Military, Newfoundland, and VXA, Edmonton Military, Alberta. A MACS station had been located in Lahr, Germany (callsign VEG), but was closed many years ago. Unfortunately, it still shows up in some lists circulated and in some dated reference manuals. Stations at Halifax Military, Nova Scotia (CFH), and Vancouver Military, British Columbia (CKN), support other Canadian Forces requirements, including Search and Rescue coordination for Halifax and Victoria Rescue Coordination Centers.

Initial contact is to be on 11232 and 9007 kHz when aircraft are located east of 90 degrees west and on 11271 and 8989 kHz when aircraft are west of 90 degrees west. The primary callsign heard is "CANFORCE," which is the equivalent of the U.S. "REACH" callsign. When flying a United Nations support mission the callsign "UN" is used. Communications heard are similar to what is heard on the U.S. GHFS system — aircraft making phone patches to obtain weather for destinations or to check in with their parent commands. Give it a shot and see what you hear.

Other News

On August 29, 1998, a transmission was made using the world's only working Alexanderson alternator at SAQ. Radio Station Grimeton, Sweden. The transmitter, developed by Ernst Alexanderson and built by General Electric in the U.S., was installed in Grimeton in 1924. On December 1, 1924, the traffic of radio station Grimeton started on 16.7 kHz with the callsign SAQ. The station was linked in a path to the receiving station in New York across the Atlantic. Of the approximately 20, 200-kilowatt Alexanderson transmitters which were built by General Electric and installed all over the world, only this one at Grimeton is left. The great part of Grimeton is that almost everything that was built in the 1920s is still there. Besides the transmitter, visitors can find well-preserved buildings, six giant towers comprising the antenna, and the little "radio village" which was formed around the station's location at Grimeton.

"Basement Dwellers" eagerly await this annual test transmission on ultra long-wave. Costas Krallis, SVX XV, received the test transmission this year at his location in Athens, Greece, with a good signal at 0930 to 0954. His setup consists of an ICOM IC-706 with a homemade VLF converter and a Diamond ham vertical for 40/20/15/10 meters. The transceiver was in CW mode with a 500-Hz crystal filter. Hopefully, next year I'll be able to give readers advance notice. If you make it to Sweden, the station is open for tours. For further information write: Radio Station Grimeton, Telia Mobile, P1 318, S-430 16 Rollstorp, Sweden. Or on the Internet check their Webpage at: <http://www.telemuseum.se/grimeton/grimeen.html>.

On September 30, 1998, the USS Independence (CV-62) was decommissioned at Bremerton, Washington. She was the last of the Forrestal-class conventional carriers. So scratch callsign NNQN and MARS callsign NNNOCOE off your lists. On the plus side, coastal mine hunter ship USS Raven (MHC-61) was commissioned September 5 by the U.S. Navy. Raven is the 11th ship of the 12 Osprey-class coastal mine hunters, which are named for birds of prey. Osprey class ships are the world's largest mine hunters to be constructed entirely of fiberglass and designed to survive the shock of underwater explosions. Raven joins the Atlantic Fleet and will be homeported in Ingleside, Texas.

Canada's newest warship, HMCS Saskatoon, left Halifax in August bound for her new home in Esquimalt, B.C., via the Panama Canal. HMCS Saskatoon was...
Richard LaCroix took these photos of the MACS Trenton HF sites. The receive site seen here contains a large curtain array antenna, several log periodic antennas, and dipole antennas — not all visible in this picture.

MACS Trenton transmit site is located on the shores of Lake Ontario. MACS stations are typically located some distance away from the receive site.

Both Dave Wright, Texas, and Albert Hussein, Florida, have noted NOJ, USCG CommSta Kodiak, Alaska, up on 9302.7 kHz in G-TOR 100 baud 200 shift, calling various cutters. It’s a rare mode, especially outside amateur radio circles.

John Doe, UK, has noted FUG, French Navy, La Regine, running 75 baud 7.5-bit Baudot test tapes on 8453.0 kHz and 17180 kHz in 850 Hz shift. These 8 and 17 meg frequencies were, until recently, used by HWN, Houilles. In fact, of HWW’s five original frequencies, only two are still HWW (at 150 baud), two are now FUG at 75 baud (8453 and 17180); and one (4295) is FUE at 75 baud. Here is the roundup of what John logged: FUE. Brest. 2789, 4295; FUG 8453 17180; missing 6867.5, 12741; FUI. Noumea 8646 16957.8 (moved from 16957.6), missing 4271, 22461; FUM Papeete 8625 12664.5, missing 6462, 16959, 22463; FUO, Toulon, 2608.4, missing 4273, 6385, 12664.5, 17137; FUV Djibouti 8568 13042.5 16904.9 22447, missing 4313; FUX Le Port 8475.5 12691 16915, missing 4334, 6397; 6WW Dakar 12857 16951.5; missing 4304, 8536; HWN 6348, 12729.9 and 15969.4 with 50-baud encryption. John notes this station can only be identified during its time signal from 0850 to 0859 UTC. It’s too soon to tell if the change is permanent or not.

Reader Mail

Dan Greenall in Ontario, Canada, has been hearing a new (at least to folks in North America) maritime marker on 8725.0 USB: Beethoven’s 9th Symphony “Ode to Joy” is repeated. In trying to track this marker down, we sent the call out over the WUN Club’s listserver. Costas Krallis in Greece, Fabrizio Magrone in Italy, Alex Welliner and Robin Harwood, both in Australia, all became involved. They soon began logging the marker on other maritime frequencies. Eventually, it was noted on 6513, 8725, 8797, 13161, and 17341. Only one station has those frequencies in common: HL.S. Seoul Radio, South Korea. The marker was completely IDed within 32 hours!

Dan also suggests the use of the ITU’s worldwide HF field-strength measurement campaign to test propagation. So far, regular transmissions are being provided by Australia and Norway. The transmitter in Norway is operated by the Norwegian Telecommunications Authority and Telenor Broadcasting. It is radio beacon LN2A at Sveio, Norway, which operates 24 hours a day using suppressed carrier SSB using the following schedule and frequencies: 14395 kHz each hour at: H+00/20/40; 20945 kHz at H+04/24/44; 5470 kHz at H+08/28/48; 7870 kHz at H+12/32/52; and 10407 kHz at H+16/36/56 for four minutes at each scheduled time. The Norwegian Telecommunications Authority and Telenor Broadcasting are pleased to acknowledge reception reports of LN2A with a QSL card. The address is: Norwegian Telecommunications Authority (Att. AYO/TF), P.O. Box 447 Sentrum, N-0109 Oslo, Norway.

Radio Beacon VL1IPS is operated by the Australian IPS Radio and Space
Services, in conjunction with the Australian Department of Defense (Royal Australian Navy). VL8IPS is located at Humpty Dum Dum Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, and also operates 24 hours a day. The mode and format are the same as LN2A with this schedule: 5470 kHz at H+00/00/40; 7870 kHz at H+04/24/44; 10407 kHz at H+08/28/48; 14395 kHz at H+12/32/52; and 20945 kHz at H+16/36/56. The address for the VL8IPS beacon is Attn: Beacon Support, IPS Radio and Space, PO Box 1386 Haymarket, NSW 1240 Australia. E-mail: <beacon@ips.gov.au> or visit their Website at <http://www.ips.gov.au/beacon/> or read about the ITU project at their Website location: <http://www.itu.int/brsg/sg3/hf-campaign/index.html>

Speaking of the WUN Club, they have had to once again move their listserver. They are now on <qth.net>. WUN is an Internet-only listserver club. There are no dues. Just send an E-mail to: <major-domo@qth.net> and in the body type: subscribe WUN. There is a number of non-club listserver on <qth.net> also, more on those next month.

Alan Gale, UK, sends his monthly informative European SAR report. The highlight for Alan was hearing a SAR Op which involved a Royal Navy ship whose callsign wasn't included in any of his lists. From reading accounts of the rescue, he later confirmed it was HMS Ocean, the new UK Helicopter Carrier, which is currently undergoing trials off the southwest of England. Details of the ship are: HMS Ocean (L-12), callsign GCOU. Practical Identifier heard during the SAR was Zero November Charlie (ONC). This particular operation involved the use of six different frequencies and kept Alan up until after 0400 (local!). I've been there before Alan - it! The very next day there was yet another Atlantic SAR Op, this time to medevac a crewman from the UK submarine HMS Superb, which was also heard on HF with the callsign GQIK and the ident 16F.

Alan Gale also forwarded this news about a special broadcast. The Dutch maritime station PCH, Scheveningen Radio, founded December 19, 1904 is going to close service on December 31, 1998 at 1500 UTC. On the anniversary date of December 19, 1998, the personnel of the station will give a farewell party on the air. The Dutch government has agreed to use the coast station frequencies to make contact with radio amateurs in their bands primarily for radio operators past and present to say goodbye.

Any licensed amateur station is invited to join the party and make a QSO on one of the last days of PCH. The schedule is: December 19 at 1700 UTC to December 20 at 0700 UTC. CW on one of the following frequencies, depending on propagation conditions using the callsign Scheveningen radio, PCH (+/- for QRM): 3525 kHz; 7025 kHz; 14050 kHz; 18085 kHz; December 19 0800 UTC to...
December 20th at 0800 UTC. There will also be stations on the air with callsign PÅ6PCH: SSB on 144.315 MHz; SSB on 3670 kHz and on the HF bands the club station of the Radio Club Kennenerland, PI4RCK, will be on air with the PCH callsign PÅ6PCH. For every amateur station making QSO with one of the farewell party stations there is a special QSL card available. I assume this will be from the Kennenerland Radio Club, PI4RCK, but we'll try and get an exact address for SWLs and publish it in our next column.

Bob Roebig, who maintains the schedule for: The Counting Station numbers broadcast for the "Spooks" Internet mailing list, sent a copy of the most recent schedule for that station. See "The Counting Stations Schedule." Thanks Bob.

UTE Logging's SSB/CW/DIGITAL

24: Umid ASCII at 0306, could not deciphier all. (BF)
206: G.S. Galveston, TX at 0253. (BF)
245: ILT. Albuquerque, NM at 0250. (BF)
269: A.D. Denver, CO at 0249. (BF)
275: GUJ, Guaynabo, OK at 0239. (BF)
281: UVA. Uvalde, TX at 0237. (BF)
290: AOP, Rock Springs, WY at 0236. (BF)
329: TAD. Trinidad, CO at 0238. (BF)
344: GNC. Seminole, TX at 0233. (BF)
359: SDR. Snyder, TX at 0232. (BF)
371: TVY. Tooele, UT at 0232. (BF)
394: ENZ. Nogales, AZ at 0244. (BF)
407: CO. Colorado Springs, CO at 0255. (BF)
414: SKX. Taos, NM at 0302. (BF)
415: HIM. Bonham, TX at 0300. (BF)
420: EF. McKinney, TX at 0303. (BF)
1869: G2KZ. Humber Radio at 2133 in USB tcf and list and nav wngs. (HOOD)
2396: Kinloss Rescue. G at 0240 in rcheck w/Rescue Mike Uniform. (AG)
2524: Australian SAR net at 0716 in USB w/KY. Sydney Police, wkg Southern Comfort, a 35-foot motor cruiser which had taken water when a wave broke over it, w/B North of Broughton Is (NSW). The WESTPAC rescue helicopter on scene on Ch. 16 VHF. At 0803 Valiant, NSW police launch, adv Southern Comfort that they would be w/him shortly at 0815 Valiant arrives saying "you lead the way, mate." (SD)
2608.4: FUO. Toufon, F in 75850 RTTY test tape "VVV de FUO." (JD)
2693: CUL. Lisbon Radio at 0006 in USB w/tcf list after ann on 2182. (HOOD)
2789: FUE. Brest, F in 75850 RTTY test tape "AA de FUE." (JD)
2825: M/T (Motor Tanker) Irving Arctic at 0230 in USB w/kg CCG w/K on Montmorency (buoy tender) re light on Sable Island is malfunctioning. (RK)
3016: Rescue 12 (RAF Nimrod) at 2302 in USB w/kg Shanwick. (AG)
3025: Cuban MIR spok at 1020 in CW w/5CGs also on 3926 same time. (AWH)
3092.5: Umid str rpgng "QCT" over and over in CW at 1832. (TY)
3149: Kinloss Rescue. G, at 2346 in USB w/kg Rescue 12 re tone still audible on this freq, adv to go back to 4484 and would get another freq up. Zero November Charlie (HMS Ocean) at 2357 in rcheck w/Kinloss. QRN was heard from a numbers' station on 3150 w/YL repeating "Papa Charlie Delta" then Group 114 and 5L (Mossad)? (AG) See next leg — Ed.)
3388: Cuban YL SS F5 msg in AM heard at 0100. (TS)
3698: Cuban V2Atencion spok at 1110, OM/SS w/5F. (AWH)
3942: Rescue 12 at 0009 in USB w/rdk ck w/Kinloss. 0NC at 0101 w/kg Kinloss re Sitrep. Rescue 139 now has casualty on board. (AG)
4014: Stations RJC. XRU, YPA, and ONU at 2130 in USB w/chat, possible MARS net. (RP)
(Yes. Navy or NAVMARCORSMS net, the "NNO" part of c/s are often dropped during inf trf. — Ed.)
4016: Cuban CW cut # str at 0301. (TS)
4178: FNKL. Louis Evard heard at 0647 in ARQ w/msg via HEB logins 98311 with EVIRD. (HOOD)
4211: GKE. Portside Radio, G at 0709 in ARQ msg to GKYF. M/V Baltic Eider (a 13866 dwt ro-ro). (HOOD)
4295: FUE. Brest, F in 75850 RTTY test tape "AA de FUE." (JD)
4360: SYNN. Mossad, Israel, hrd in USB at 1628/6370. (TY)
4363: WOM. ATandT Miami FL at 2305 in USB w/automated High-Seas wx broadcas for Florida and Caribbean. (RP)
4372: Z5. X6C. others in net heard at 2345 in USB. (RK)
4383: WOM. ATandT Maritime Services FL at 1101 in USB w/computerized voice sending traffic list. (SD)
3949.4: POXTRO TANGO. USN Link-11 Coordination NCS at 0015 in USB w/hotel NOVEMBER. TANGO, other SLCS w/Link-11 coord tcf. (Ed.)
4416: WHITE PEAK 403 (NCS) in USB w/other White Peak stations (13, 71, 401, 439, 801) from 2235 to 2300 w/comms ckses. admin msgs and arranging weekend mission schedules. Referencel were Middle East, Adirondack and Headcap, Northeast Region Civil Air Patrol Net. (RP)
4426: VIT. Townsville Radio, AUS heard at 0830 in USB w/radio cks. (LI)
4483: Dept of Conservation, Hokitika, New Zealand at 0705 in USB w/2 OSNs talking about bats, goats, deer. adv would use HF rather than their FM radios for further comms. (SD)
4484: Kinloss Rescue at 2135 in USB w/kg Rescue 12 re Rescue 193's ETA on scene 2335, to recover casualty and RTB 0NC for re-fuel. Warship Albany in area conducting FM comms w/vessel Litteran. Kinloss at 2343 adv call on 3149 for rcheck re QRN. QRN was from a Russian BC station on 4485. (AG)
4487: Dept of Conservation, Hokitika, New Zealand at 0705 in USB w/2 OSNs talking about bats, goats, deer. adv would use HF rather than their FM radios for further comms. (SD)
5038: FDY. French AF, Orleans, F at 1415 in RTTY 50/400 test tape. (JD)
5176: Backwards Music Station (XM) at 2003 in USB. (SD)
5260: Cuban CW at 1305, 1 stn audible wkg cross-band, doesn't sound like usual 5258 net. (AWH)
5335: ZERO ALPHIA, New Zealand Army stn at 0830 in USB w/radio cks. (IJ)
5405: MJ12. Tokyo Metro at 1219 in FAX 120/576 w/chart. (DW)
5431.5: PTX in CW at 0044 w/5L msgs //5779.5. (SD)
5450: Royal Navy Yeovilton heard at 0108 in USB w/wx broadcast. (RP) North Korean/YL n/sr in hrds at AM in 1600. (TY)
5574: San Francisco (CEP—1 MWARA) at 0257 in USB w/kg United 60 Heavy who had declared an emer on 13354 at 0249 due to loss of one engine, flt bound Honolulu/SFO and was 432 miles out. Thanks for the phone call Walter! (Ed)
5601: Eira Volmer. Argentina at 0515 in USB, OM/SS w/tcf and list. (SD)
5629: KPA2. Mossad, Israel, hrd in USB at 1615 //6745. (TY)
5643: Qantas 7 at 0744 in USB w/kg Brisbane, adv he has data-link and req selcal check. (SD)
5680: Swallow 72 (Wexford helo) at 1614 in rcheck w/Kinloss Rescue. G, Culdrose Ops. Royal Navy, G at 2130 w/kg Rescue 193. Zero November Charlie (ONC) at 2134 clg Culdrose Ops. no reply, then called GCOU, this is the new Royal Navy helicopter carrier HMS Ocean! St. Anthony Radio, CAN clg C-GBBX at 2151. Churchill Radio, CAN at 2214 w/kg CW in FF. "Russian Man" numbers station w/no weekly "624 Noll" broadcast at 1800, off at 1804. Yarmouth Coast Guard, UK at 1041 w/test count. Rescue 11 (RAF Nimrod)
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The Counting Stations Schedule

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816: UFZ, Vladivostok Radio monitored at 1042 in RTTY 50/170 w/3SC tfc re Russian financial crisis and tfc to ships. Down w/"NIL DE UFZ KH..." At 1051 into call for UDYB: MV Sodnzhersovo 10,700 DWT Reefer (former UPYO), to answer on 8383.5. QRT at 1059. (DW)
860: SPE51, Szczecin radio, Poland at 0311 w/CW marker. (MS)
8662: TAH, Istanbul Radio, Turkey, w/CQ mkr in CW at 1920. (TY)
8690: 6VA5, Dakar Radio at 2130 w/CW nav wng in FF. (HOOD)
8698: 7TF, Boufarik radio, Algeria at 0328 w/CW marker. (MS)
8737: Automated voice at 0026 in USB w/msg in FF, SS and EE "This is Cyprus Radio". (RP)
8867: Pacific-910 heard at 0550 in USB w/CW marker. (MS)
8894: Gao Aero, Mali at 1644 in USB w/CW marker. (MS)
8903: LAC-5074, Lockheed, heard at 2134 in USB w/CW marker. (MS)
USB wkg Libreville, Reg: 5N-TNO POT-9232, Polet Aviakompania at 2109 wkg Kisangani, reporting FL270, Reg: RA-82075 (AN-124). (IB)

10066: Ankara Aeradio, Turkey, wkg various a/c in USB at 1500.(TY)

10204: SOFTCOOL at 0024 in USB on Z190 w/NIGHTWATCH101. Later switched to Z175. (9016). (RP)

10215: HZNAG. Jejedi Meteo monitored at 0116 in RTTY 100/800 w/various types of wx tic. (DW)

10352: Abnormal Mosaic transmission hrd. VL82, Mossad, Israel, rptng callsign over and over for more than 120 mins in AM at 1845 // 12747. (TY)

10426: High Pitched Polynat (XPH) at 0610 in AM. tonal numbers sn w/null msg. (SD)

10493: SWORDMAKER 01, Fi in USB wkg WNY912 at 21:15. (AWH) I caught them at 1742 checking in w/WNY914, adv they were a USAF reserve unit in Tampa — Ed.)

10586: CFH, Halifax Military, CAN in RTTY 75/850 w/WX at 2057. (TS)

10648: YHF, Mossad, Israel, hrd in AM at 1600 // 5820/7918.(TY)

10710.5: FDY, FAF Orleans, France at 0435 in RTTY 50/425 w/RYRY. TEST, VOYEZ LE BRICK GEANT QUE JEXAMINE PRES DU GRAND WHARLF 1234567890 QVETY. (IJ)

10780: At 1523 DRAGNET WHISKEY w/pp via CAPE RADIO. DRAGNET WHISKEY was briefing w/ROYC 61 re controlling an air/air battle. BLUE Air would use 335.950, RED Air would use 388.950, w/light lead being PINTO 21. Passed misc. modes and codes. DRAGNET WHISKEY would coordinate the CRYSTAL (?) MOA w/Houston Center on 295.70. ROCKY 61 passed coord for “Laredo,” 27-28 7N99-25.0W, and that ROCKY 61 would be airborne at 1400 local and in the area by about 1415. (TT)

10929: Russian Man (S7) at 0540 in AM, numbers sn w/call-up 549. (SD)

11015: VLN. School of Distant Education. Cairns, QLD Australia at 2200 in USB OM re any inward/outward msgs and assembly coming up short, they went through the list of active freqs 5300, 5865, 6799, and 7357. (IJ)

11030: AXM34, Melbourne Meeted at 1231 in FAX 120/576 w/plain text. (DW)

11107: YL/EE in AM at 01/22 w/5F grps. Signed down w/662 562 138 138 0000. At 0200 came back on clg 398 and repeated earlier msg. (TS)

11175: At 0145 “3604” wkg Andrews w/pp to Wright-Patterson CP. Switched to 3992, “3606” adv ETA 0445. At 0348 REACH 1189 wkg Ascension w/pp to KX68 Ops. Cape Canaveral. Unable to connect but req pp to Patrick AFB to relay to KX68. 1189 adv ETA 0545 to Cape. 15K pounds on board. 12 pax. (DG)SLATE 42 at 1735 wkg GHOST WALK-ER (NS Whidbey Island, WA) re ETA and cargo to off-load. (RK) NATO 11 (probable AWACS) at 1402 in USB w/Andrews w/pp to comm number in Germany. 11 has German accent, ID’s as Boeing 707 and reports departure from Tinker AFB at 1318, ETA at ETNG of 22:15. TEAL 02 at 0145 in USB w/Ascension w/pp/Weather Channel, interview on conditions inside Hurricane Bonnie. Later, at 0249, pp w/Dr. Sheeiz, Hurricane Center, Miami. (RP) At 0425, KEIKO 01 w/pp to Reykjavik Metro via Hickam Global. 01 wfx forecast for BIVM, then a 1030Z forecast for Keflavik. C-17A 96-0006, transporting Orca whale from Oregon to Iceland. At 0832 AAEE, USAV Gen. Brecon B. Somervell (LSV-3) w/pp to AAC2, Ft. Eustis, VA via Elmendorf. passed a standard STIREP to “Charlie 2,” and ETA Ford Island, Hawaii. (TT) WARSHIP 47, probably USS Ticonderoga (CG-47) at 1926 clg “mainail,” Andrews answers, is not hrd. (Ed.) All in USB.

11181: RAIN 96 at 0115 in USB wkg STEEL JAW (?) w/ANDVT connns. (RK)STEEL JAW is an E-2C of VAW-122, NAS Norfolk, VA. (Ed)

11205: Halifax Military heard at 1753 in USB w/2 Echo Delta and switching to 9010. (RP)

11232: SIUCK 97 (E-3B) in USB w/pp w/Sentry 3 reporting return to Tinker AFB due to 12 consoles being down. (RP) “Trenton Military” at 2109 wkg “Canforce 270” w/WX for Jacksonville, FL. (TS) Both in USB.

11255: KINGFISH BRAVO (Christ-church) and Auckland Aeradio, New Zealand at 0515 in USB w/radios. First time heard the KINGFISH BRAVO callsign in conjuction w/U.S. DEEPFREEZE OPs. (IJ)

11271: HNMS ENDEAVOUR at 0938 in USB clg AirForce Darwin advising RESCUE 251 ops normal and in contact w/survivor of Solo Spirit. (SD)

11300: UKS-2708, Avialux at 2053 wkg Nairobi, IL-76 reg UR-UCC.
UAF-312. Dubai Air Wing at 2100 wkg M/F. Res. to LTF-112E, Air Liberté, at 0632 wkg/11244 LWA-101. 1156 fwt. at 2114 wkg Khatoum. All in USB. (IB)

11480: Mexican Navy (presumed) heard at 1530 in USW w/7CS wkg RE, OM/SS, CW on freq also. (AWH)

11494: SERVICE CENTER. U.S. Customs back-up DAICC, Oklahoma City, OK, at 0233 in USW w/kg unid a/c passing ETA. (Ed.)

11511: Russia, unid REK4 monitored at 0415 w/FSK Morse "VVV RFUC DE REK4 QSA?" repeated, 500 Hz shift, very weak. (AWH)

Same. (DW)

12301: Stockholm LDOC w/kg a/c on USW (this freq not in any of my books). Mentioned 1342 and 17916 for later use. (JD)

12438: PPS1, M/F Belatrix at 2143 in CW w/cw TG to Rio via unid stn. (HOOD)

12482.5: EALZ, M/V Nenfar Uno at 0921 in ARQ w/msg via PCH, login 08874 NENU (5861 dwt gen cargo vsl). (HOOD)

12561.5: UAUD. BATM. Marshal Krylov at 0724 in RTTY 50/170 admin to Murmansk from Kem Zonin via UIW. (HOOD)

12669: LOR. Argentine Navy, Puerto Belgrano monitored at 0046 in RTTY 75/170 w/ss/tc. (DW)

12747: VLB2. Mossad, Israel, hrd in AM at 1645/14750. (TY)

12857: 6WW. French Navy. Dakar, SEN in RTTY 75/850 at 2142 w/"VOYEZ LE BRÉNÉE". (RP)

12886.5: WLO. Mobile Rlo in CW at 2147 w/telegrams to ships. (TS)

12965: US05. Izmir Radio at 0646 in CW w/tfc to ENDW: TKH Petya Kovalenko (ex w/telegrams to ships. (TS)

13200: Elmondorf w/Skyking msg and authenticator to 0238 in USW. (RP)

13206: Rescue 11 heard at 1046 in USW w/kg Klinos Rescue, is searching for Tori Murden, missing U.S. lone female Atlantic rower, adv intended to vector the vsl "Independent Spirit" touator at 0238 in USB. (HOOD)

13339: Aeromexico LDOC monitored at 0111 in USW Y/LSS w/kg unid a/c w/airfield conditions. (DW)

13366: Morse numbers stn (M12) at 0630 in USW w/call-up 957 957 957 000. (SD)

13525: GYU. Royal Navy Gibraltar in two-channel Piccolo-6 at 0830 w/cest tape on Ch 1 "de GYU," didn't give callsign of stn being used. (JD)

13553: EZI. Mossad, Israel, hrd in USB at 1530 //1565. (TY)

13560: BMB, Taipei Metro at 1525 in CW w/"CQ de BMB freq 3641/59998/81175360 kHz," w/x in EE, also heard on 8117 but couldn't hear 8 or 8 MHz. (JD)

13665: 6LVU3, Dakar Metro. Senegal at 2155 in RTTY 50/850 w/850 synp. (TS)

13900: BMB, Taipei Metro at 0756 in FAX 120/576 w/moderate fading. (DW) Same at 1500 and 1900, active daily. (JD)

13953: P6Z. MFA Paris at 1541 in FCA-192/2357 broken signal. One msg header w/internal c/s: P3S (Unid). (BF)

13700: At 1247 MUH-5 (NCS) in USB indocking MUH-5A. MUH-5B, MUH-5C, and MUH-5D req they all switch to Fottot-120 (channel) immediately. Military-style verbage, and Australian accents. (TT)

13746: 1380. St Croix, at 2126 in USW w/Hurricane Georges amateur Health and Welfare net.usual good assortment of complete idiots among various hurricane ttc nets. disrupting ttc. (AWH)

13820: RTG77 monitored at 0945 in CW w/"RTG77 181 = DDDDD..." and 5G's including Cyrillic letters. (LJ)

13837: GXQ. Royal Navy Forest Moor heard at 1400 in Piccolo-6 two channels wkg MKD/14852. (JD)

13840: OLI5Z. unid Czech Embassy stn monitored at 0500 in CW w/VEVY/DE OLZ55 then into PSK data. (IJ)

137450: JPA. INTERPOL. Tokyo monitored at 0050 in ARQ w/weak but readable signal. References to Moscow, and msg to a majority of the large cities throughout the world app meant for relay. (DW) (Rarely logged traffic of the large cities throughout the world app)

14001: OLI5Z. unid Czech Embassy stn monitored at 0500 in CW w/VEVY/DE OLZ55 then into PSK data. (IJ)

14750: VLB2. Mossad, Israel, hrd in USB at 1445/14750/1710. (TY)

14761.5: NNNOMRQ in ARQ at 2220 passing MARSgrams to unid stn. (TS)

14817.5: JPA. INTERPOL. Tokyo monitored at 0050 in ARQ w/weak but readable signal. References to Moscow, and msg to a majority of the large cities throughout the world app meant for relay. (DW) (Rarely logged traffic of the large cities throughout the world app)

14852: MKD. RAF Akrotiri monitored at 1400 in Piccolo-6 two channels wkg GXQ/14356. Don't pay too much attention to the "RN" and "RAF" as all British HF military circuits for many years op by "Defence Communications Network" and carry traffic for any military user. (JD)

14931: 8BY. French Intelligence, Saint Assise, France, sending "VB BY followed by JFG's separated by a slant bar" in CW at 1554 //12747//17170. (TY)

15016: CATBIRD (Aircraft of Commander. Pacific) heard at 1700 in ARQ-E 184.5/400, ttc for Lebanon on ckt 2177. (SD)

15046.5: "P6Z," MFA Paris at 1610 w/kg "Y1L" (or "Y1L") in 92 nd FEE-C. (JD)

15046.5: "P6Z," MFA Paris at 1610 w/kg "Y1L" (or "Y1L") in 92 nd FEE-C. (JD)

15205: 8BY, France monitored at 1557 w/kg "L" on channel 2177. (HD)

20381: 9VG, Singapore Radio at 1328 w/ARQ msg to P3FA5: M/V Nirvana from Brave Maritime Co, Athens. (HOOD)

17994: Unid Japanese Military monitored at 0845 in USW. WX in EEJ to a unid unit. Poss part of the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force net. (IJ)

18012: Station ZKK, RNZAF Auckland New Zealand monitored at 2255 in USW w/l"s listening, out." (II)

18018: ARCHITECT at 1830 in USW w/airfield color states. (RP)

18032.7: CPLP. Cuba monitored at 1920 to 2007 on in RTTY 50/500 EE press re cigar production. (AWH)

18214: FF Vavieres. F monitored at 1225 in ARQ-E 184-5/400, ttc for Lebanon on ckt XXL. (AWH)

18391.5: MFA. Jakarta Indonesia at 0330 in RTTY 50/400 w/SLO's. (IJ)

18888: UDGD, TK Marshal Grochok at 1259 in ARQ msg to Kelvin Hughes, UK from Km Makyshin via UFN. (HOOD)

18940: BDF. Shanghai Metro. China at 0800 in FAX 120/576 w/WX Map. (IJ)

19201: Mexican Navy, XBBG clg XCBF on CW 1356. (AWH)

19731.5: PCW1. MFA. The Hague at 1710 in CW/ARQ marker. (JD)

19884: Cherry Ripe (E4) at 0100 in USW. numbers stn w/msg 41061 //21866. (SD)

20556.5: "P6Z," MFA Paris at 1610 w/kg "Y1L" (or "Y1L") in 92 nd FEE-C. (JD)

20946: 8BY, France monitored at 1557 w/kg "L" on channel 2177. (HD)

22381: 9VG. Singapore Radio at 1328 w/ARQ msg to P3FA5: M/V Nirvana from Brave Maritime Co, Athens. (HOOD)

22391.5: HPP. Intermar Radio, Panama, at 2220 in ARQ w/segalas and callsigns. (DW)

This month's contributors: (AG) Alan Gale, UK; (AWH) Albert W. Hussein, FL; (BF) Bill Farley, NM; (DG) Dan Gillespie, MI; (DW) David C. Wright, TX; (HOOD) Robin Hood, UK; (IJ) Ian Baxter, UK; (JD) Ian Julian. New Zealand; (JO) John Doe, UK; (MS) Mike Scott, NJ; (RK) Rich Klingman, NY; (RP) Ron Perron, MD; (SD) Simon Denneen, Australia; (TS) Tom Sevart, KS; (TT) Tim Tyler, MI; (TY) Takashi Yamaguchi, Japan; and (Ed.) ye editor in Ohio. Thanks to all.
Tuning In (from page 4)
the ’90s, non-electronic verbal stalkers. Or in simple language, snoops. It probably does.

I’ll admit it, I only listen to these discourteous loudmouths because I can’t turn them off. It’s not up to me to put earplugs in my ears, is it? I know, gentlemen don’t read each others’ mail (or E-mail), do they? Truthfully, I don’t. I hope you don’t either. It really doesn’t matter to me what you’re doing on the phone, with whom, or with your mail. But if you hand me a copy of a letter you got from, oh, let’s say, the President, or Uncle Newt, I’d be tempted to read it. In public places what choice do we have? Believe me, I try real hard not to listen. Short of humming the National Anthem really loud or putting my fingers in my ears, it’s mighty difficult not to “tune in.” Cell users know this too. So maybe the Japanese have the right idea. Of course, you know the device from Medic, Inc. in Japan won’t see the light of day here in the U.S., but I’d be a millionaire overnight if it did. Right away I’d always have one in my pocket—like that pocket sound amplifier my uncle once got from a TV ad.

“Apparently the not-so-cheap devices have a range of about 20 feet or so, are the size of a pack of cigarettes, and can even be hung on the wall.”

But perhaps the best idea to fix the inadvertent eavesdropping problem comes from a young waitress who was quoted in the article suggesting a special seating area for people who don’t want to be bothered by cell phone calls. I wish I had thought of that idea! Don’t tell anyone, because if that ever happens, Uncle Sam will have to commission a special study to determine the effects of all that RF bombarding the cell phone users in a sealed room, separate of other folks. I’m all for a quick study, but not after-the-fact. Now’s the time—and perhaps with the help of the American Psychological Association—to figure out why otherwise normal people want us to hear their private conversations. While we’re at it, as long as we taxpayers wouldn’t have to foot the bill, it might be a good idea for our elected representatives to undergo a few minutes of intense Q&A with the head docs before, and after, each legislative session, and publish the results for everyone to see.

Pirate’s Den (from page 47)

Lounge Lizard Radio, heard on 6955 USB at 1318 with an anniversary program. (Silvi, OH)

W1LS, on 6955 USB at 0022 with program dedicated to PJ Sparxx. Also heard at 2202. (Silvi, OH) 6955v AM at 2225 with uncopied mailing address, various station interval signals. Off at 2232. (Taylor, PA)

Radio Barnyard, heard on 6955 USB at 0248 with pirate “Captain Cow Patty “broadcasting from high atop a heifer cow.” Off at 0306 with no address given. (Taylor, PA)

WACK Radio (not WRCK radio), “Wack-it Radio” 6955USB at 0123. Gave 1-888-959-8177 toll-free number. Variety of music, offer of QSL bumper sticker, various skits. Off at 0307. Also heard at 0347 with hilarious skits and rap/rock. (Taylor, PA) 0119 to past 0140. (Silvi, OH)

Free Hope Experience, on 6955 USB at 0317 with various rock numbers and non-rock oldies. Blue Ridge Summit address, noting to include three postage stamps. Heard again at 0514 with Grateful Dead and others. Major Spook was host. UFO excerpt. Gave call as “Foxtrot Hotel XX-ray.” (Taylor, PA)

Radio Caliente, heard on 6955 USB at 0133. (Silvi, OH)

WSRR, heard on 6955 USB at 1510. (Silvi, OH)

Diana Is Dead Radio, on 6955 USB at 2103 with long tape of Elton John’s “England’s Rose” and more. (Silvi, OH)


Recycling (or Cycling) Radio Net, heard on 6955 USB at 0249 with talk. (Silvi, OH)

Blind Faith Radio, on 6955 USB at 1635: “Raise a Little Hell,” “Louie, Louie,” others. (Silvi, OH)

Radio USA, heard on 6950 at 0011. (Silvi, OH)

Voice of Laryngitis, heard on 6955 at 2314 mentioning the QE2. Also 6956 at 1230 sign-off. Also at 1718. (Silvi, OH)

A grrreat set of logs, folks! Let’s keep this train rollin.’ Hey, station operators—send me a sample QSL and I’ll try to include it in a future “Den” column. See you next month!
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Laundry Tubs, Punk Rock, And Burning Tongues

Today’s lesson is about why it’s usually not a good idea to put electricity through various parts of your body. Before I get into the lesson, which I’m sure will benefit all of you, I’d like to thank loyal reader (now E-mail friend) Mike Cathcart of Branson, Missouri for allowing me to share a bit of his family tree. Mike E-mailed me about a recent Cathcart of Branson, Missouri for allowing me to share a bit of his family tree. Mike E-mailed me about a recent column, including radios, guitars, and chromatic harmonicas—all of which can pass current through one’s body parts.

All my early experiences with putting electricity through my body involved radios. There were no transistor radios then. Radios glowed because they had tubes, and tubes, of course, wanted household current to heat their filaments. Taking those radios apart exposed the metal chassis, which was always “hot” with respect to a damp basement floor. You already know that I always worked in the basement in my socks (Mom: “I’ll never get them clean!”), and set the radios either on the edge of the laundry tub or the top of my mom’s washing machine—something that I believe the devil made me do. I would later be shocked by telephone wires, guitar amplifiers, and lamps (all in the basement), and once when I played my electric guitar and sang to the Clearasil crowd at a High School Prom. The prom was most memorable because I passed 110-volts through my upper lip during the second line of What’d I Say. Being a member of the “coarser” sex, I let fly with a phrase about a conse-cret by-product through the offending microphone, which caused the band to stop playing and the crowd to stop dancing, and every face to turn slack-jawed toward me and stare as I held my lip. Ogirnir and the Night People never let me sing again.

My faithful companion Dave (the brains of our twosome) tells of his years at a television station where all the new videographers were hounded a portable camera/recorder and a battery belt and told to “check the batteries” before leaving for a shoot. When the newbies asked how, they were always told. “Touch the terminals across your tongue—the same way you do with a 9-volt radio battery.” Naturally, the batteries were always fully charged, and all but one of the newbies swore never to do that again. The one who repeated the test reported seeing “lots of pretty colors,” and is presently in a rehab program at the Edison Home for Troubled Experimenters.

Dave’s other story is so typical of the day-to-day trou-ble shooting problems we face—a seemingly simple problem which usually requires a meeting of our entire engineering department to solve, and then only after each of us calls everyone else a moron. Such was the case of the wireless microphone.

Dave was the production engineer during a remote “shoot,” and the “talent” (the talking head) reported that the battery was going dead in his mike. Dave took the mike, touched the 9-volt battery across his tongue, and felt virtually no tingle. “Yup, it’s dead,” Dave said, as he went to the field kit for a fresh battery. There were none. There was no place for miles to buy one, but Dave remembered a 9-volt battery rattling about on the con-sole of his car for a few weeks. “It’s probably no good,” he thought, “but I might as well try it before we make an hour’s trip to get one.”

“Aagh!” he said, pulling his tongue away and trying to wipe off the residual current. “Well that one’s good!” he said, then snapped the battery into place.

“Here—try it now,” he said, and handed the mike to the talent. It didn’t work. “Whaddya mean?” Dave said, taking the mike again, opening it, and testing the battery across his tongue. “Aagh! Battery’s fine. Make sure the switches are in the right positions—one in ‘power,’ the other in ‘on.’”

The talent took the mike and tried again. Nothing. At this point, someone found another wireless mike in their car and the shoot went ahead. Dave took the bad mike back to the television station with him that afternoon.

“Know what it was?” Dave asked me while he related the story. “Acid,” I said. “Yup.” Dave and I had both been through so many absurd problems that when we hear hoofbeats, we now think first of zebras. The battery had begun to leak, and the “sting” that Dave thought he was getting from a fully charged battery was some really evil acid burning his tongue. “Felt just like current to me,” he said.

I have saved the best for last. No prom scenes, no remote TV shoots—this one is just the way John Wayne would play it. Let’s let Mike tell it:

Back in 1860, Robert William Cathcart, of indirect but certain relation to my family, was in service as a U.S. Army telegraph operator stationed at Fort Sumter when the Confederates launched the first attack of the Civil War.

The telegraph office was hit almost immediately and the lines that carried current to the sounder lay sparking in the rubble—alongside the remains of the sounder. Robert knew he had to get the incoming “intelligence” to the fort commander.

They did a fine job of destroying it—including the walls and roof, but they missed Robert and his dauntless spirit. With Cathcart tenacity, he untangled rubber and wires, and eventually found the pair that carried the incoming signals. He found pen and paper, held the two wires in his mouth, and felt the Continental Morse code burn his tongue. He got the latest incoming intelligence to the fort commander as if nothing had happened; sending his reply by touching two wires together was considerably less painful. Commended? Yes. And thereafter highly regarded by Union officers—but no Purple Heart for the burns in his tongue. Thanks to Union Soldier Robert William Cathcart for yet another example of living better—electrically.

Because there may be some normal Cathcarts who Mike’s not aware of, I’ve left out such phrases as “lunacy,” and “craziness,” but I still thank him for a great story. Catch Mike at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson, Missouri. He’ll be the musician with the scanner hooked to his belt.

Got something interesting to tell about communications? E-mail me at <wprice@mnsinc.com>, or snail-mail c/o Popular Communications at 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801.

Editor’s Note: Here’s an idea. It’s really Bill’s idea, but it makes me feel good to claim it as my own. If your “story” or idea is used in Bill’s “Loose Connection” column, we’ll give you a one-year free gift subscription to Pop’Comm, or if you’re a current subscriber, we’ll extend your sub by one year. Not a bad deal for having a true funny story (or even making up something that we at Pop’Comm can be duped into believing is real)!
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