

**Popular
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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

SEPTEMBER 1982

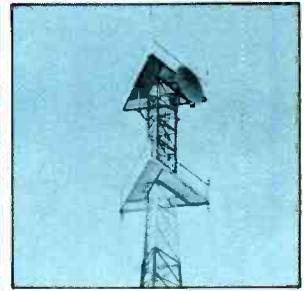
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by Harry Caul

Hear Them Chase Drug Smugglers

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by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor

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by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL

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Well, everybody says to do it. But is it common sense or maybe just another "old wives' tale?"

by Bill Cheek

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by Col. W.R. Martin, KNV7AE, USAF Ret.

Low Band Scanner Antennas That Produce

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by Alex McChord, KWA7HX

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OCTOBER 1982

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Make Way For Those New DX Countries! 14

Some countries exist for only a few months, or consist of a single room or building. Many countries are around but nobody knows about them. A few are getting ready to announce their existence. It could make a DXer crazy!

by Tom Kneitel, K2AES

Selecting "Underground Radio" Frequencies 20

Undercover & underground communications stations have their favorite hidden frequencies. Here's the inside story, and loads of info on those frequencies and how you can monitor them via communications receiver or scanner.

by Harry Caul

The Top Ten Toughest DX Targets 24

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by Gerry L. Dexter

The (Almost) Instant VHF / UHF Antenna 34

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by Tony Earll, KNY2AE

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by Anson MacFarland, KVA4EX

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The Capri EA-14 Electronic Antenna

by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL

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by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL

The Ohio Sheriff's Codes & Signals 75

Here's the code used by most of the Sheriffs in Ohio—it's different from the one used by the Ohio State Police. Hang on to it for reference.

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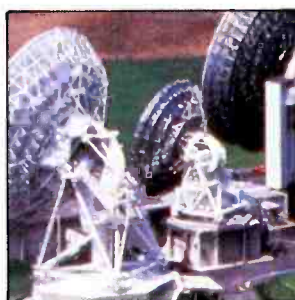
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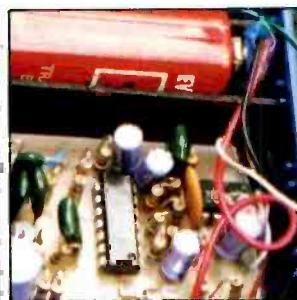
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NOVEMBER 1982

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FEATURES

The Satellite TV Revolution

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Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's the darndest thing you've ever seen! An electronic gizmo looking like a beachball and it's transmitting the latest movies, major sporting events, and "private" performances. Here's how to tune your TV to these terrific trinkets.

by Mark Long, WA4LXC, & Jeff Keating, WB4KDH

Insider's Guide To Secret Spy Lingo

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DXing The Soviets

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by Gerry L. Dexter

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by Tony Earl, KNY2AE

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by Stu Wingate, KFL4KV

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by Hank Sullivan, KTX5MT

Equipment Grounding For Performance

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You may not realize it (yet), but scanners and shortwave receivers actually offer improved performance after they're grounded. Here's why.

by Bill Cheek

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DECEMBER 1982

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JANUARY 1983**VOL. 1, NO. 5****8****31****38****FEATURES****Jamming: The Electronic Iron Curtain 8**The history, techniques, effectiveness, and current status of deliberate jamming of radio signals.
*by Tom Kneitel, K2AES***Ten Ways To Have More Fun With Your Scanner 14**OK, so maybe you know 2 or 3 of them—but it's those other 7 or 8 that are going to make all the difference in the world to you.
*by KCA6LX***Survival Communications: Unpowered Receivers 18**Unlike an unpowered car, this type of receiver is of real value. What's more, you can build one without expertise. Doesn't even need batteries!
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Frequencies as well as many of the codes, buzz words, and ID's used by those who are part of this efficient operation.

New Consumer's Radio Service 36

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DX'ing The Dominion 42Canada offers the serious DX'er some rather unique low power DX challenges. Here's how you can meet the challenge.
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*by N.C. Oldenburg, KFL4RH***POP'COMM Scans The Burns Security Services 50**An inside look at the communications network used by a leading security company that provides a multitude of services.
*by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL***Scanning Georgia Troopers 60**Everything will be peachy if you use our handy guide to the frequencies and codes used by the Georgia State Troopers.
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Some recently published books we think our readers will find useful.

Leaves From A DX'ers Scrapbook 70

Here's an assortment of rare old QSL cards as collected by a veteran DX'er.

*This month's cover: Survivalists Ira M. Weiner and Charles Koemm get set for a communications drill. Photographed by Larry Mulvehill with the kind cooperation of Adventure World Sport & Survival Systems, Poughkeepsie, NY.***DEPARTMENTS**

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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

FEBRUARY 1983**VOL. 1, NO. 6**

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FEATURES**Get In On Uncle Sam's High Tech Electronics 8**A \$25,000 receiver for less than \$500? Yup! And folks are gobbling them up fast! Learn about how, why, and where hobbyists, hams, survivalists, and mercenary forces are buying military surplus equipment as fast as it becomes available. *by Tom Kneitel, K2AES***The Amazing Goat Gland Radio Station 19**The "quack" who parlayed a back room radio station into a \$10-million goldmine and brought out the troops. *by Tom Kneitel, K2AES***DX'ing The Last Frontier 26**American & Soviet satellites offer far-out listening for anybody with a scanner or communications receiver. *by Harry Helms, KR2H***Monitoring The Army's Satellite TV Network 28**Here's how you can tune in on the U.S. Army via WESTAR III. *by Rick Sonntag***The Licensing Dilemma 32**Survivalists are faced with a peculiar problem—whether to license their communications systems and obey the law, or defy the law and operate their systems without licenses as a matter of convenience. *by R.L. Slattery***Going GMRS 38**Greatly underutilized FM communications service offers many interesting applications, including survivalist uses. *by Gordon West, WB6NOA***Year 'Round Sports Monitoring 44**Get behind the scenes at America's favorite sporting events via your scanner! *by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL***Can You Monitor These Mini-Broadcasters? 49**Little known DX challenge pits your skills against existing 10-watt mini-broadcast stations. Give it a try! *by "Smoki" Whitfield***POP'COMM's 24-Hour English Language Shortwave Listing 54**Our listing makes it a cinch to tune in English Language broadcasts from around the world at any hour of the day or night. *by Gerry L. Dexter*

This month's cover: Photographer Larry Mulvihill took this photo in the warehouse of Leed's Radio Co., Inc. in New York City. Leed's employee Jaime Cuevas displays some of the interesting military surplus electronics equipment now available to the public, as noted in our story on page 8 in this issue.

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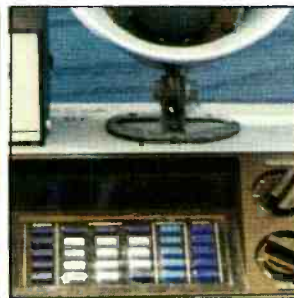
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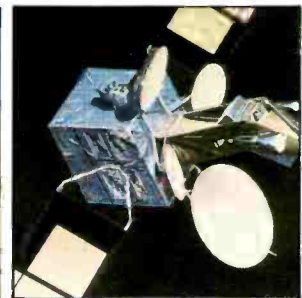
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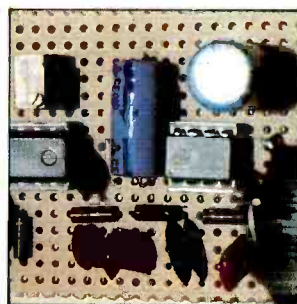
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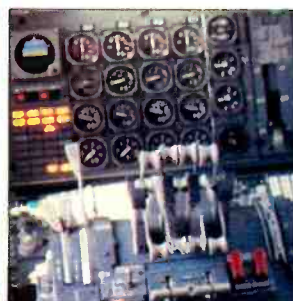
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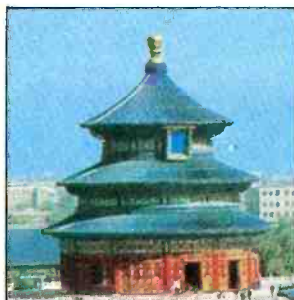
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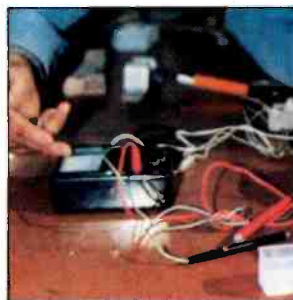
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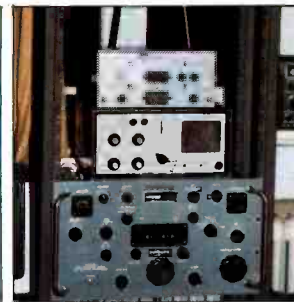
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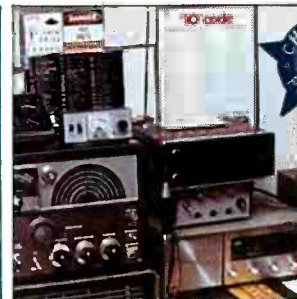
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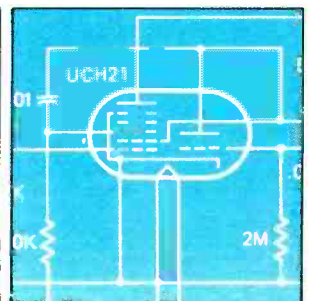
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This month's cover: Border Patrol Agent Tom Moss talks with agent on the ground by HT radio as he flies over on routine patrol outside Miami, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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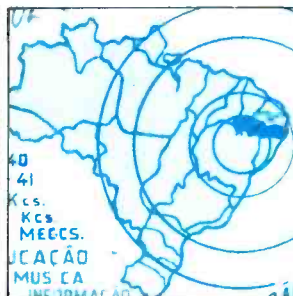
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*This month's cover: Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI. Posed by models.***DEPARTMENTS**

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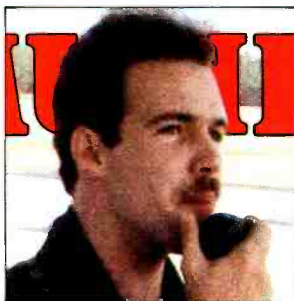
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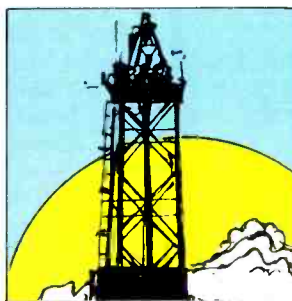
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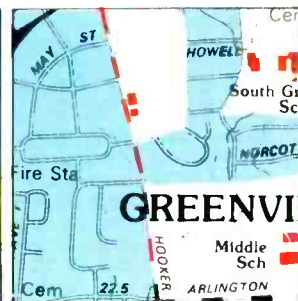
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Here's how you can become active on this no-license two-way hobby band. With a relatively small investment of time and money, you can be on the air in short order. *by Michael Mideke, WB6EER***The Outlaw Callbook**

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The Nazi U-boat base and radio station off of the Florida coast. One of WWII's most baffling mysteries now solved, complete with rare photos of the radio shack. *by Harry Cooper***Central American Shortwave Survey**

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Central America is one of the world's hot spots today. You can tune in on what's happening before it turns up on TV or in your newspaper! *by Gerry L. Dexter***High Seas Communications**

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A listing of the long-range communications stations used around the world to communicate with ships at sea. *by Harry Helms, KR2H***Locating Satellites**

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A handy computer program, included here in full, allows you to pinpoint the exact location of those high-flying TV "birds." *by Jeffrey Keating, WB4KDH**This month's cover: Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPL. Transceiver shown is the Model 10H/WP by International Telecommunications Systems Florida, Inc., Miami, Florida. This is a 15 watt (PEP) SSB transceiver operating in the 2 to 20 MHz band.***DEPARTMENTS**

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Here's how the agency's communications are arranged.

by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL

This month's cover: Photo by Larry Mulbehill, WB2ZPI, taken at U.S. Coast Guard Miami (Florida) Radio Station.

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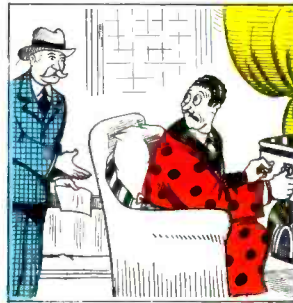
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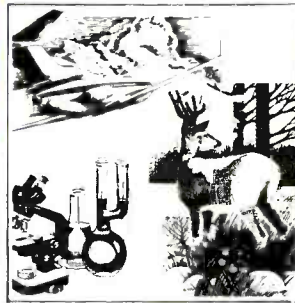
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FEATURES**One Lung Broadcasting: A Look Back**

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There may never be another station like WTTT, the greatest broken-down broadcaster of the fabulous 1950's. Who else but POP'COMM's intrepid editor could have had anything to do with it?

by Tom Kneitel, K2AES

VOLMET Update: What's New With The World's Weather?

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Monitoring these quasi-broadcasters and tuning in on some nations you probably haven't yet heard.

by Paul Vogt, KNY2VM

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This month's cover: The VOLMET broadcast station heard on shortwave as "New York" is located at Long Island MacArthur Airport in Islip, New York and operated by the Federal Aviation Administration. This is how it looks. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZP1.

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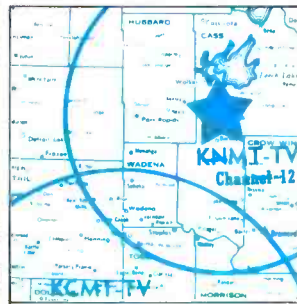
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This month's cover: Unlicensed radio networks rule the seas. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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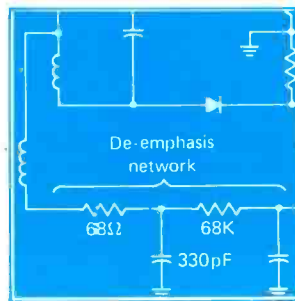
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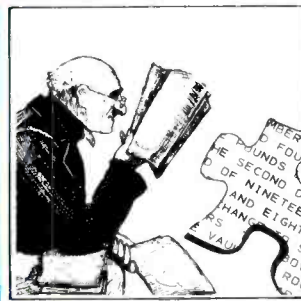
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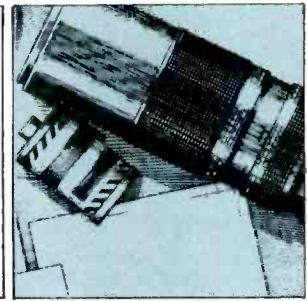
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Exact time—one of life's greatest free gifts! Tune it in! *by Bill Tanaka, KAZ7KG*

This month's cover: 1st Lt. David Jones, CAP, is Communications Officer for his Georgia Wing ground search and rescue (SAR) team. Every CAP SAR team has at least one Communications Officer to ensure radio communications are maintained between field units and mission coordination staffs. Photo by SSgt. Rand McNatt, USAF.

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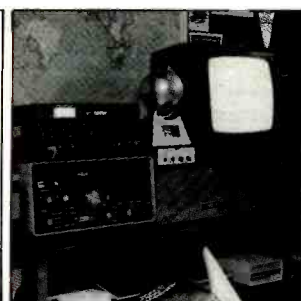
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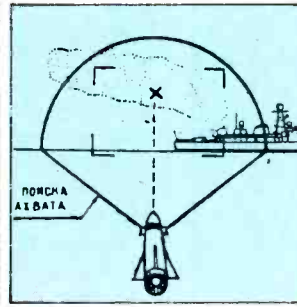
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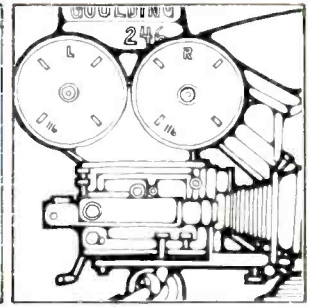
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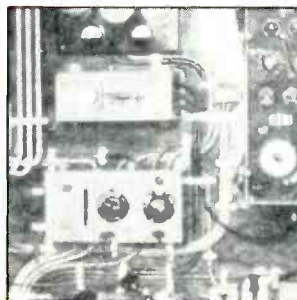
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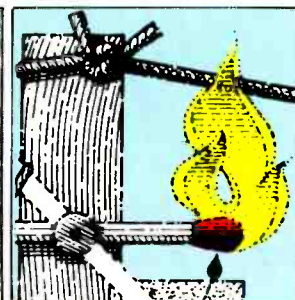
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FEATURES**Shortwave From The Persian Gulf War 8**Have you heard? Half of the battle there is via broadcasting! Here's the latest information on the stations and frequencies conducting the war of words. *by Gerry L. Dexter***Radio Aboard Germany's Flying Miracle of 1929 14**It was the world's largest aircraft and it had the world's most complete airborne communications system! *by Tom Kneitel, K2AES***POP'COMM Visits "Radio Krypton" 18**This British shortwave pirate broadcaster has been on the air for five years. Even though you may not have heard this station, you'll enjoy finding out its innermost secrets. *by Austen Fox***Africa A to Z 20**A roundup of shortwave broadcasts from the Dark Continent. Newly emerging countries have a lot to say about themselves—here's how to hear it. *by Gerry L. Dexter***"RADIOTAP" 26**Computer software for the DX listener. *by Jim Grubbs, K9EI***Books You'll Like 28**

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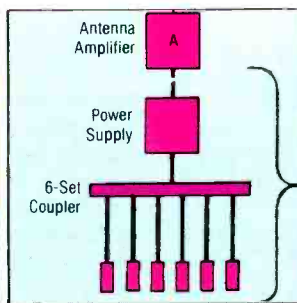
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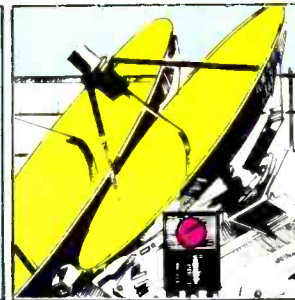
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by Harry Caul, K1L9XL

Torn Fabric: Radio In Lebanon

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This month's cover: Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI. Special thanks to the Middletown, New York Police Department.

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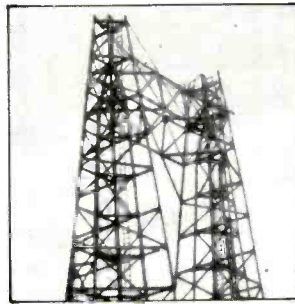
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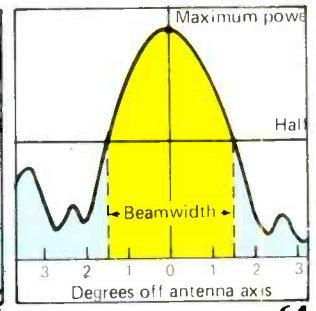
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This month's cover: Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI. Taken atop Mt. Beacon in New York.

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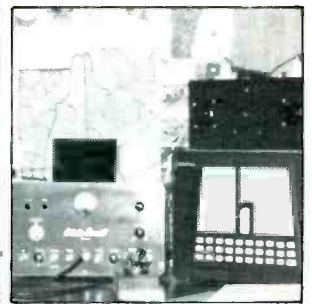
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This month's cover: Communications between field units and a command post require some ingenuity. Maybe a mobile command post is the answer. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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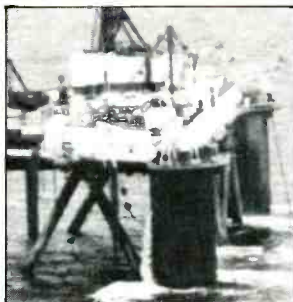
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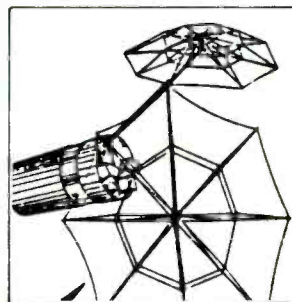
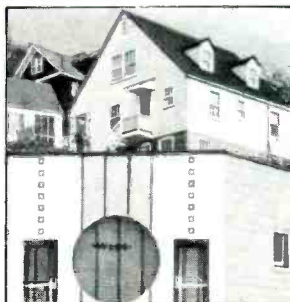
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by R.L. Slattery

This month’s cover: Counterr Group instructors J. Keith Idema, Raymond Carney, and William Aylward during a drug interdiction operation course in Poughkeepsie, New York. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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by Robert M. Dyquette

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We recommend *The Guide To Military Installations* and *The Hidden Signals On Satellite TV*. Two new and exciting books that you'll want to add to your library.

This month's cover: Transmitter engineer Wallace Turzyn at WCC 20 kW transmitters located in South Chatham, Massachusetts.
Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI

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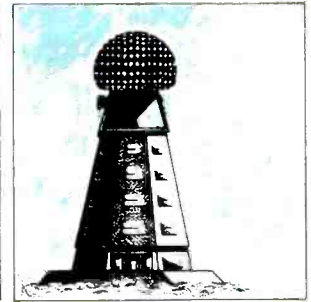
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Schemes for encrypting messages based on a mathematical puzzle known as the "Knapsack Problem" turn out to be less secure than cryptologists had hoped. *by Ivans Peterson***Yesteryear Radio**

26

The flight of the China Clipper. A most dramatic denizen of the 1930's airwaves as well as airways. *by Don Jensen***Tesla, A Bizarre Genius**

32

Tesla shaped the country's course through radio, power transmission, and other inventions. Here's a summary of some of his achievements. *by William J. Broad***Books You'll Like**

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May we recommend *The License Place Book* and *The Complete Shortwave Listener's Handbook (2nd Edition)* for your enjoyment.**Scanning South Dakota**

35

VHF low-band is the way to go in South Dakota. *by Rick Maslau***A Real Gas!**

62

Eavesdropping on toxic gas sites around the U.S. Our cover story! Better save the information in this story in case an ill wind blows you no good! *by R. L. Slattery**This month's cover: Toxic gases are being manufactured and stored throughout the nation. Being able to monitor the communications at these facilities could be a definite advantage. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army)***DEPARTMENTS**

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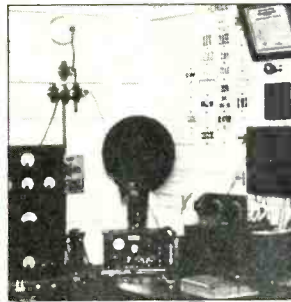
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FEATURES**Radio In Central China**

8

From deep within the ancient empire of the dragon, an American SWL/ham provides a first-hand report on the status of radio: Broadcasting and reception. Did you know that foreigners aren't allowed to purchase program schedules? *by Dave Coia, KA8RUL*

A Picture Is Worth . . .

12

Views of early radio—most especially a bizarre 1920's radio station in Iowa dedicated to "Mom." Also, how a famous Nova Scotia broadcaster looked 50 years ago, plus other assorted ancient radio delights. *by Alice Brannigan*

Number Transmission Survey Report

16

Probing deeper into the mystery. This time it's Remington sub types. *by Robert M. Dyquetta*

Equipment Review: The Nitelogger

25

An automatic tape recorder activator for your scanner lets you keep your fingers on the pulse of the action, whether you're at work or asleep (or both). *by Tony Earll, KNY2AE*

This is MARS . . .

26

The U.S. Army's Military Affiliate Radio System offers worldwide communications. Here's a peek at its inner workings—a list of some of its frequencies. *by Robert L. Warren and Al Hinton*

Here's Station NDXE

32

The odd callsign hasn't yet been given the green light but it's a new station in Dixie with new sounds. *by Gerry L. Dexter*

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35

Shortwave Frequency Directory; Cryptanalysis; the CIA's Clandestine Operations Manual for Central America.

Site Selection For Communications

49

This month we look at some of the many considerations you'll have to think about before you string out your antenna wire. *by R.L. Slattery*

This month's cover: A U.S. Army MARS operator handles messages. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army.

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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

JUNE 1985

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This international police organization, with a complex communications network, is much more (and less) than you think it is!
by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor

Father Murgas: Radio's Forgotten Genius 16

Somehow, the contributions to early wireless by Rev. Joseph Murgas have gotten lost in the shuffle. He may well deserve more credit than Marconi.
by Alice Brannigan

Exploring The Unknown 20

Unshackle yourself from broadcast and two-way voice communication DX. There's lots more to hear, like SITOR, RTTY, TOR/FEC!
by E. R. Howard, KNJ2MX

Wireless Security Is Coming Of Age 24

Do you know about the new burglar alarms that use radio frequencies? Try these in your scanner! You may also wish to get one for safety purposes.
by David Gottlieb

Vietnam Voices 32

More than a decade after the war, this troubled nation is still to be heard.
by Gerry L. Dexter

Do You Remember When? 36

Try these on your memory! A radio station that looked like an overgrown radio receiver and a broadcast station that was part ham give us an eerie look at early broadcasting.
by Alice Brannigan

Books You'll Like 38

We recommend: Northwestern Ohio and Southeastern Michigan Scanner Frequency Directory; The Big Brother Book of Lists; Intelligence and Cryptanalytic Activities Of The British Navy; and The Down To Earth Guide To Satellite TV.

Uncle Sam's Communications For The Modern Battlefield 40

What you should know about SINCGARS!
by Major Carl E. Schell, U.S. Army

Eavesdropping On Paramedic Communications 56

Here are the frequencies to scan for monitoring medical emergencies.
by R. L. Slattery

This month's cover: Paramedics Pat Osetek and Joel Orr (of Mobile Life Support Services, Inc., Newburgh, New York) offer aid to "victim" Ezio Galati in a practice drill. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.

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Voices from one of the world's headline makers.

by Gerry L. Dexter

War Of The Words

12

1985 isn't the first time Ethiopia has asked for global aid and sympathy. It happened 50 years ago and set off repercussions in broadcasting and communications that are still echoing!

by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor

Selected English Language Broadcasts: Summer 1985

16

What to monitor when the heat is on!

by Gerry L. Dexter

Flashback!

18

Let's look back into radio's early days. Would you believe, the world's first broadcaster?

by Alice Brannigan

Books You'll Like

22

Some books of interest: Understanding Telephone Electronics; The Pilot's Radio Communications Handbook; The DXer's Directory; My Inventions—Nikola Tesla; Solving Cipher Secrets.

POP'COMM Visits A Jamming Station

24

An inside look at TACJAM.

by Sp4 Leslie Messina, U.S. Army

Outlaw Networks Invade The Ham Bands!

28

The FCC asks for help in getting a grip on an outbreak of ham band piracy.

by Harry Caul, KIL9XL

Aircraft Emergency: Hear It!

32

Skyjacking? Mechanical problems? These are the frequencies on which you'll hear them talked about.

by Jonathan Fuerst, KIN9GJ

It's No Accident

45

Monitoring those highway mishaps, and all that goes with them.

by R.L. Slattery

This month's cover: Police officer John Parrella, Jr., of the Middletown, New York police department comes into contact with an accident and sets into motion a chain of communication events. Photo by Larry Mulvehill. WP2ZPI.

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FEATURES**Power Politics By Broadcasting**

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International broadcasting is often used as a propaganda weapon. Here's the inside story of the ins and outs, terrors and triumphs of this facet of shortwave broadcasting.

by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor

Soviet "Mind-Control" Radio

16

Secret KGB experiments add a new dimension to microwaves. The Soviets are pretty tricky—what are they up to now?

by Harry Caul, K1L9XL

The Cellular Product Parade

18

Many new CMT innovations are on the way! Cellular mobile phones are now as handy and convenient as a walkie-talkie. Put one in your car, boat, or coat pocket and be in contact with the world.

Radio Scrapbook

20

A gentle look into history.

by Alice Brannigan

Monitoring Coast Guard Broadcasts

23

Here's your chance to add to your DX'ploits!

by Jan Mayjac, KLA5ES

Starting A New Page

26

Radio paging is the poor man's cellular telephone.

by Bill Hargraves, KCA6WR

Scanner Frequency Roster

28

Here are some frequencies to enter in your records and punch up on your scanner: Pan American airlines and United Parcel Service.

Books You'll Like

32

We highly recommend: *Radio Operator's License Q&A Manual*; *You Can Afford A Car Telephone: Your Complete Guide To The Cellular Telephone*; *U.S. Navy SEAL Combat Manual*.**A Challenge For Beacon Hunters**

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Can you find the LOWFERS?

by Ken Cornell

*This month's cover: Cellular mobile telephones travel the world, as shown by Luis Velez. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.***DEPARTMENTS**

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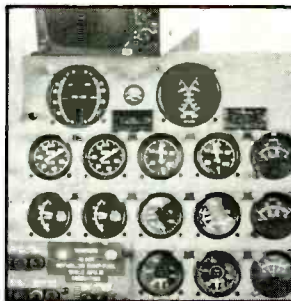
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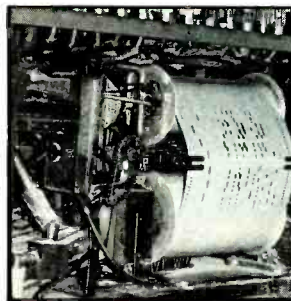
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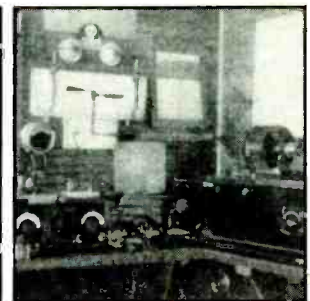
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FEATURES**Goodyear Airship Operations**

10

Scanning lighter-than-aircraft, those silver giants of the skies. Here's where to listen.

by Robert Zamalin, WA6VIP

KTNT — "Know The Naked Truth"

13

Controversy, calliopes, and cancer cures were the stuff of which KTNT was made. It was a 1920's broadcaster to remember.

by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor

POP'COMM Visits A One-Room Broadcaster

16

Mom-and-Pop FM station fills the airwaves with music and news, and right from the front room of the owner's home.

by Edward A. Gargan

Radio Long-Ago

18

Leafing through the pages of history, we visit everything from a classical musical pioneer to a youthful bootlegger.

by Alice Brannigan

Test Report: Yaesu FRG-8800 Receiver

21

Here's the inside story on Yaesu's exciting new entry in the communications receiver sweepstakes.

by Rainer Lichte

"HUFF-DUFF"

24

Build your own high frequency direction finding antenna: simple, useful, and effective at any monitoring station. It's similar to the ones used by the FCC.

by William Orr, W6SAI

Books You'll Like

28

We recommend: *Better Shortwave Reception*; *The Interference Handbook*; *How To Avoid Electronic Eavesdropping And Privacy Invasion*.**Voices From The Pearl Of The Orient**

32

The Philippines—Land of contrast! Broadcasting there is "something else."

by J. T. Pogue

Scanning A Skyjacking

40

Plans and preparations to monitor something that is (unfortunately) a way of life.

by Bob Parker

This month's cover: One of the blimps in the Goodyear fleet shown in Pompano Beach, Florida. The inset shows Jim Maloney at the controls. Photo: by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.

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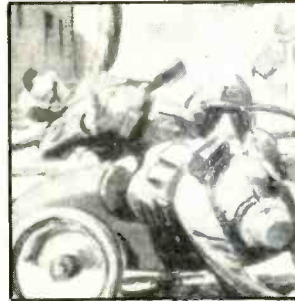
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FEATURES

Big City = Big System

8

An inside look at New York City Police Department communications; 50+ busy police frequencies. We've even provided you with a reasonably complete list of the frequencies in use plus some extras you will like. *by Harold Ort, Jr.*

Radio Secrets Of The French Underground

17

During the WWII Nazi occupation of France, radio sustained morale and aided the Resistance fighters! *by Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Editor*

Computerized DXing

20

Low-cost computer controlled communications. The marriage of a computer and a communications receiver doesn't require a shotgun. It's actually quite an easy task and you may find that the results will greatly enhance your listening enjoyment. *by Russ Kroeker, N7HGE*

User Report: The New SONY AIR-8 Scanner

24

A 40-channel programmable hand-held scanner covering the exciting VHF aero band, plus 150 to 2195 kHz, 144 to 174 MHz and FM broadcast. *by Rod McMichael, KNM7DX*

Radio: Then And Now

26

A look into history and some of the long-lost stations you forgot. Our Alice checks out an early station in Alaska, a few mystery stations, and lots more. *by Alice Brannigan*

Selected English Language Broadcasts

32

Fall 1985: The opening of an all new DX season! Get with it! *by Gerry L. Dexter*

Books You'll Like

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We recommend: *Haruteq (The Ontario Scanner Directory)*; *New I.D. In America*; *The American Black Chamber*.

This month's cover: In Miami, Eastern Airline's Mitchell Segermeister exchanges some communications with his dispatcher. Check out the user report on the new SONY AIR-8 hand-held programmable VHF aero band scanner in this issue. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.

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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

NOVEMBER 1985

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- This month's cover: Counterr group instructors J. Keith Idema, Charles Conger, Ray Carney, and William Aylward during a hostage rescue operation. Photographed with the cooperation of Counterr Group Police Academy, Poughkeepsie, New York. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.*

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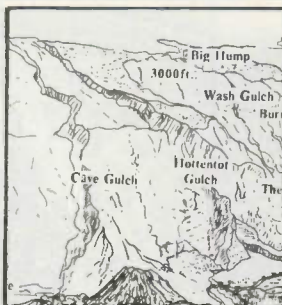
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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

DECEMBER 1985

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Monitoring communications services between 5 kHz and 100 kHz is esoteric, exciting, and a ball game with its own unique rules!

by Walter B. Logan, III, KFL4LF

Fabled Tristan

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Everyone's most wanted DX catch is on one of the world's most remote islands—population: 325 souls! If you can't visit Tristan, tune it in. If you haven't yet tuned it in—we'll tell you how!

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Inside The CIA's Secret Radio Paradise: Part II

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by R.L. Slattery

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by Alice Brannigan

Look, Up In The Sky!

67

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This month's cover: Stan Mitchell, Engineer at Southstar, Davie, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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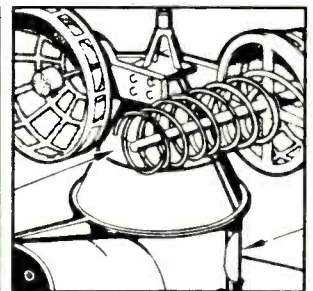
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Monitoring The Cruise Ships

8

Take an armchair winter vacation, courtesy of your shortwave receiver. It's less expensive (and maybe safer) than the real thing! Frequencies, callsigns, and whatever.

by Don Schimmel

Scanning The "Nowhere Band"

10

Has anybody ever taken the trouble to scan the 138 to 150 MHz "Federal Band"? Okay, so it has a 4 MHz "hole" in its middle—but so what?

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by Gerry L. Dexter

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by Alice Brannigan

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by Donald E. Dickerson, N9CUE/WPE9JEF

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by R. L. Slattery

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How to get the most from your back-up battery systems. Also, recharging your NiCad.

by Gordon West, WB6NOA

This month's cover: Trooper Robert L. Miller of the Florida Highway Patrol on radar traffic duty. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI

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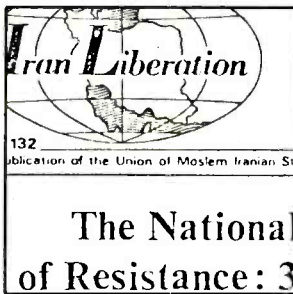
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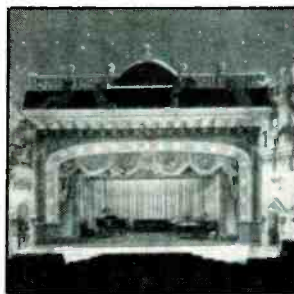
FEBRUARY 1986

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Timely news for SCAN members. *by Robert A. Hanson*

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Disneyland and Walt Disney World—two favorites! Enjoy them all the more with your scanner at hand! Here are their hard-to-find frequencies. *by Rick Maslau, KNY2GL*

20 + Countries On A Table Radio 12
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This month's cover: Jim Gaines, Security Host at Walt Disney World, Florida. Disney's amusement and recreation parks, one in Florida and one in California, rely heavily on two-way radio. See story on page 10. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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MARCH 1986

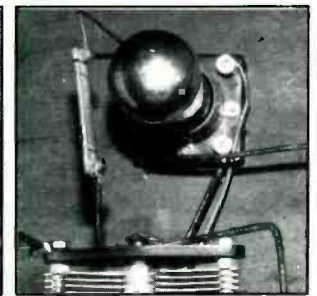
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RTTY 'Round The Clock 18

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A One-Tube DX Dynamo! 36

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by Ed Noll, W3FQJ

This month's cover: Part of the antenna farm on Mount Beacon, north of New York City. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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APRIL 1986

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by Gerry L. Dexter

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Broadcasting's Greatest EKKO 20

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Spring '86—where to tune; what to hear.

by Gerry L. Dexter

This month's cover: Jim Allbright of the Dade County Police Aviation division flies high over the city of Miami in the police helicopter. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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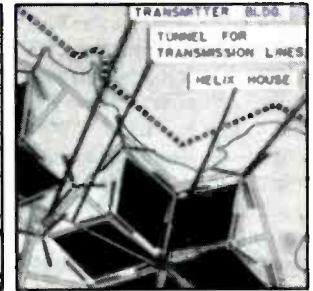
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*This month's cover: Radio tracking and other communications are prevalent in America's national wildlife refuges. See story on page 16. Photo by Gerry Atwell. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.***DEPARTMENTS**

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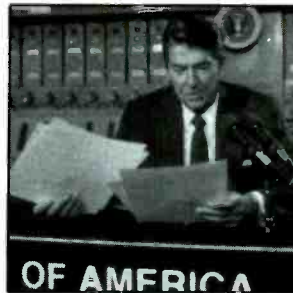
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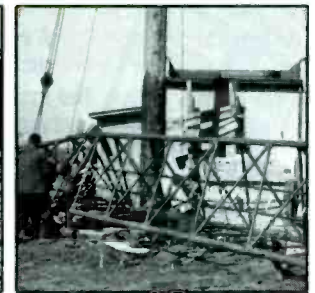
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These mystery stations are here to stay, including the one that blew its cover! *by William Orr, W6SAI**This month's cover: The Kachina MP-25 has earned a worldwide reputation for combat communications. It's also available to the general public. Read about it in this issue.***DEPARTMENTS**

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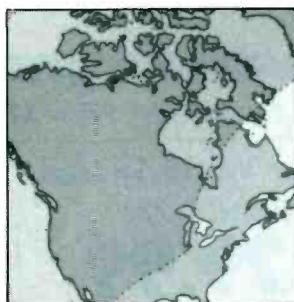
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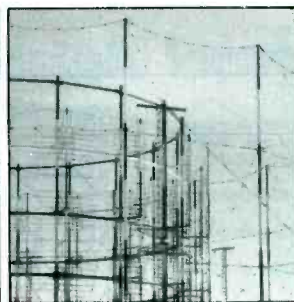
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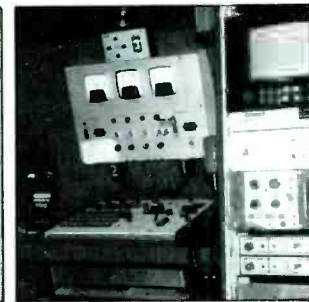
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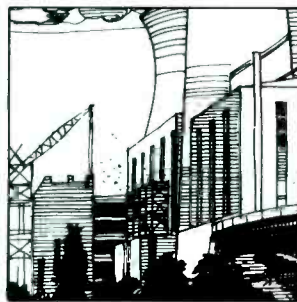
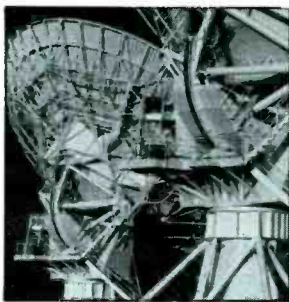
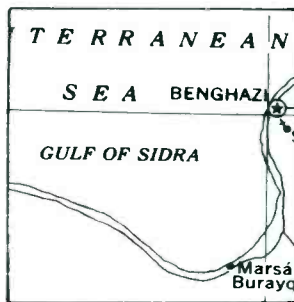
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We've got some beauties this month.

This month's cover: The 82-foot diameter reflectors of the most powerful radio telescope on earth, the Very Large Array, captures radio waves and sends them through a feed to any of several receivers. Photo by Ken McCormack.

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This month's cover: Doug Sharp operating a general coverage 1.30 MHz, 1000 watt transceiver used at the Emergency Management Communications office for New York State in Poughkeepsie, NY. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

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SCAN Magazine

DECEMBER 1986

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This month's cover: Robert David, engineer for F.A.A., working on the Huguenot V.O.R. in Orange County, New York. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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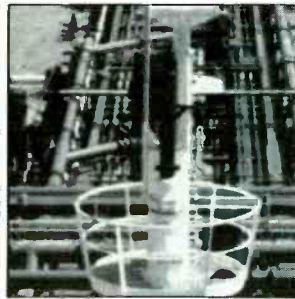
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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

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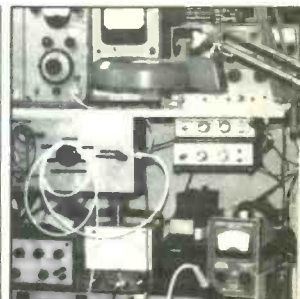
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This month's cover: Park Ranger Donald Burquist who is with the National Park Service at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site at Hyde Park, New York. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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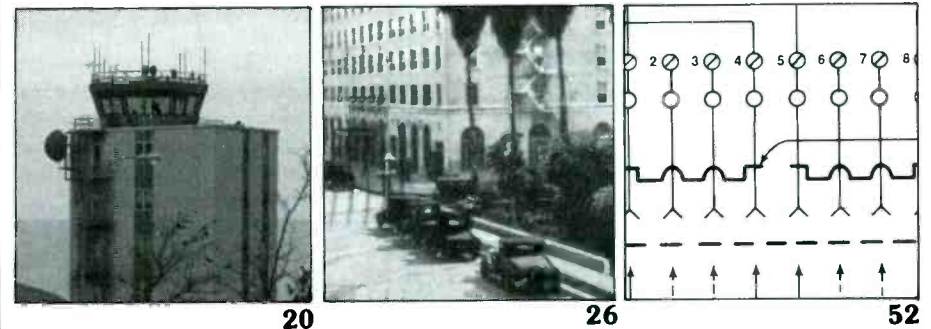
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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 1987

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This month's cover: Martin Happes, electronics technician for the F.A.A., checks in with base from a remote site on Long Island, New York. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI

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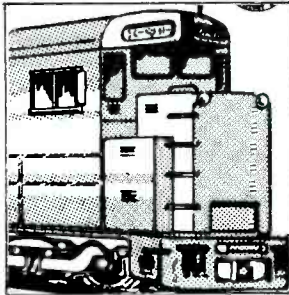
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ISSCAN Magazine

APRIL 1987

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This month's cover: Railroad man uses radio to talk to the "yard" at the Conrail yards north of New York City. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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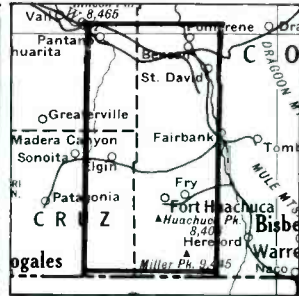
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MAY 1987

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THE MONITORING MAGAZINE

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

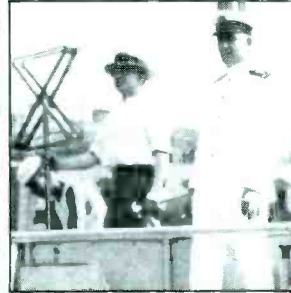
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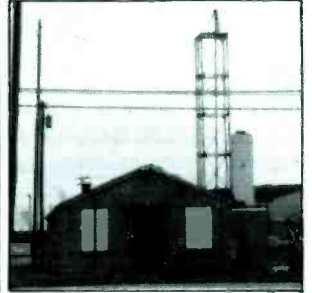
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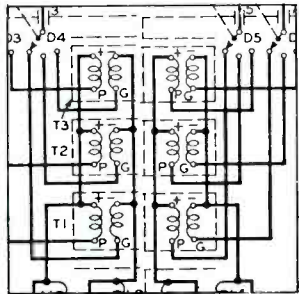
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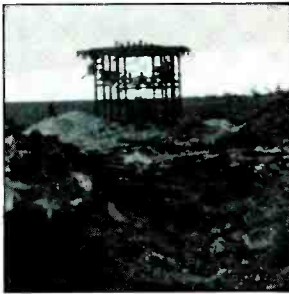
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This month's cover: The Voyager before landing at Edwards Air Force Base on its 'round-the-world trip. Photo ©Mark Greenberg/Visions 1986.

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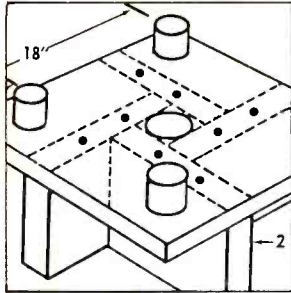
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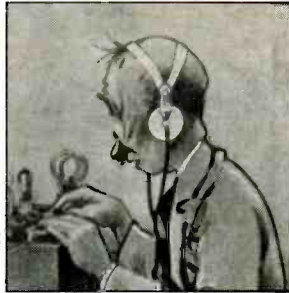
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This month's cover: A view of radio station and antenna LR-9 (Radio America) at 1200 kHz in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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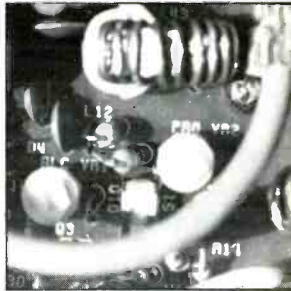
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This month's cover: The short-lived broadcasting "pirate" ship, and crew, of Radio Newyork International. Photo by Dick Kraus/Newsday.

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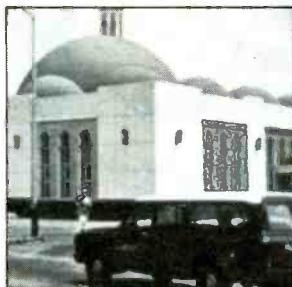
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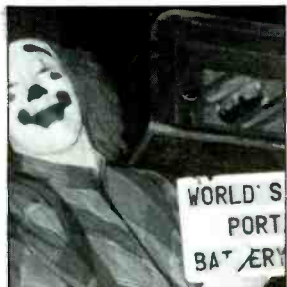
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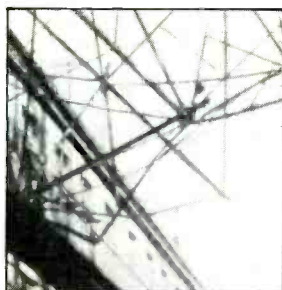
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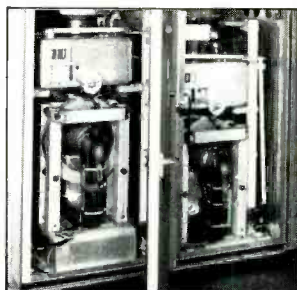
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This month's cover: TV Station transmitting tower, Miami, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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THE MONITORING MAGAZINE

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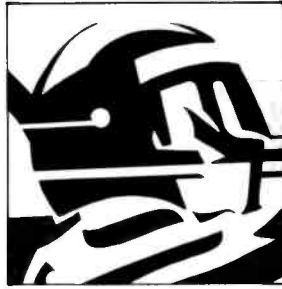
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This month's cover: Using Radio Communications At The Miami Grand Prix. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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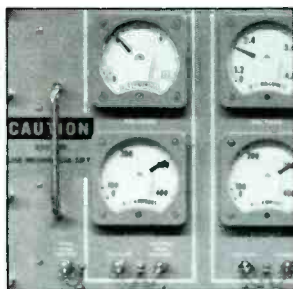
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This month's cover: Television transmitter towers for Adelaide Australia located on Mt. Lofty. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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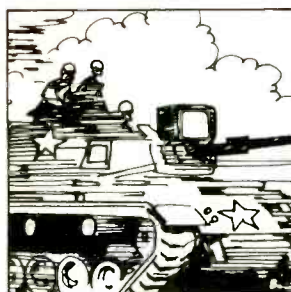
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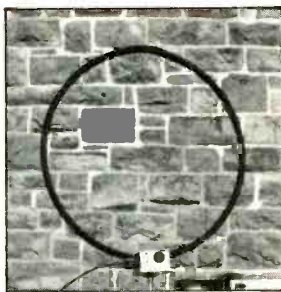
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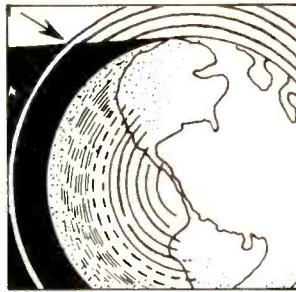
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Interesting views of communications caught by the camera lens.

This month's cover: For 25 years mysterious numbers have been heard on the shortwave bands, presumably giving spy instructions. Read about it in this issue. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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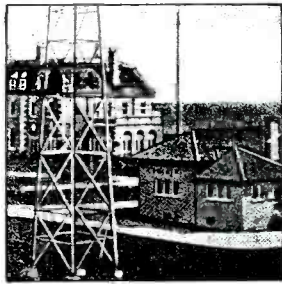
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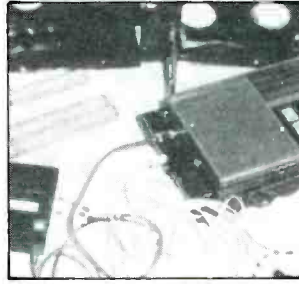


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Federal Action Against Jet

LACONIA — A federal grand jury will be asked to return an indictment against a 28-year-old Weirs Beach man who authorities believe staged an elaborate hoax about a crash-landed private jet aircraft last Friday night.

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This month's cover: A look inside the FCC-NYC. Photo by Harold Ort.

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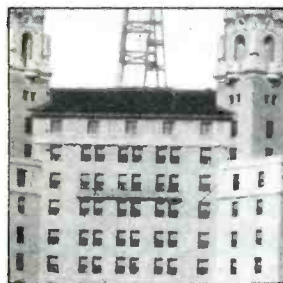
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JULY 1988

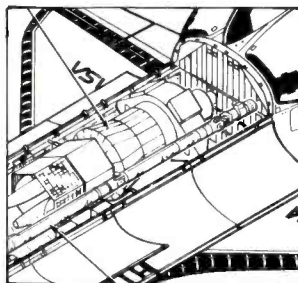
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This month's cover: Florida State Trooper, Herb Price, of Key Largo who is also KB4ULN, stands in front of his car with a police HT and a ham HT.

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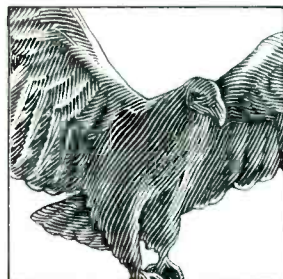
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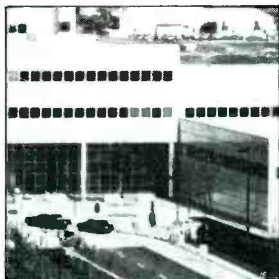
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This month's cover: A look at super station WYFR. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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SEPTEMBER 1988

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This month's cover: U.S. customs service drug interdiction helicopter (coke buster) sits on a street in Key Largo, FL while agents search a local house. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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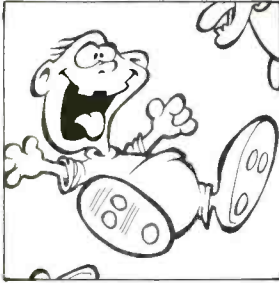
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Maybe you could win?

This month's cover: Is this a "spy numbers" site? Photo by Havana Moon.

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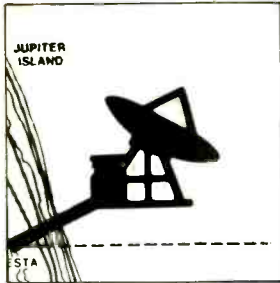
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This month's cover: F.A.A. site on San Pedro hill in greater Los Angeles, Calif. area. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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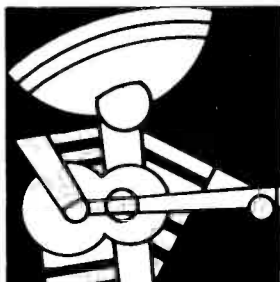
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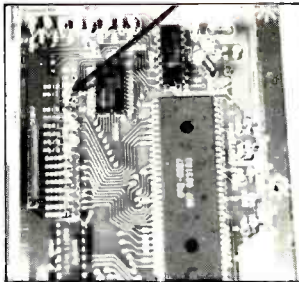
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This month's cover: The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's National Broadcasting Service stations 5AN and 5CL serve Adelaide (South Australia) from these formidable facilities in Pimpala. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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SCAN Magazine

JANUARY 1989

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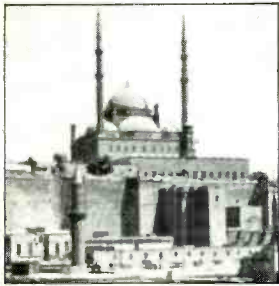
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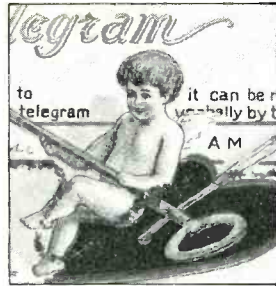
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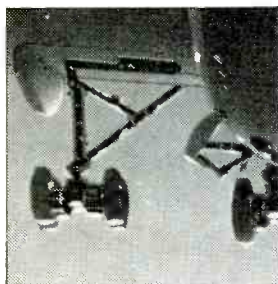
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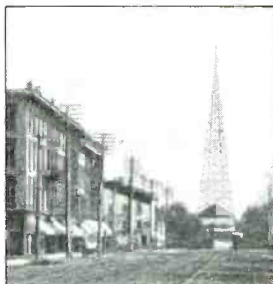
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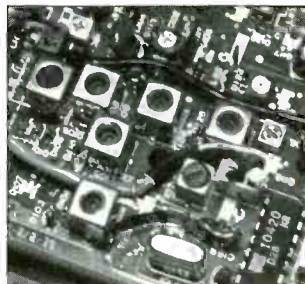
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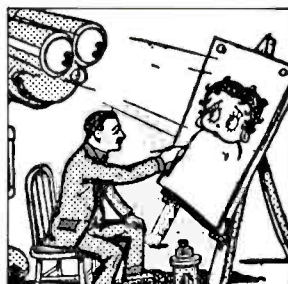
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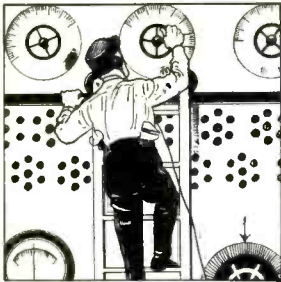
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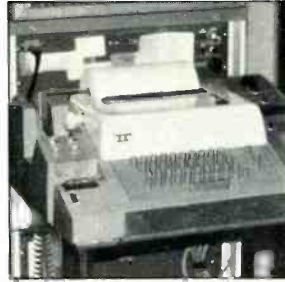
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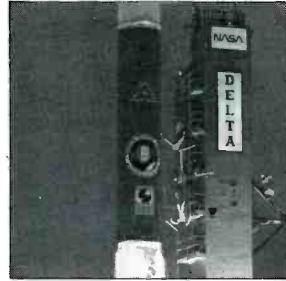
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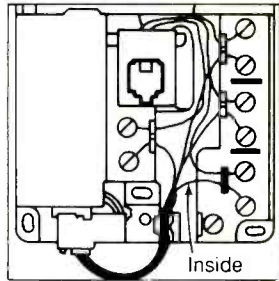
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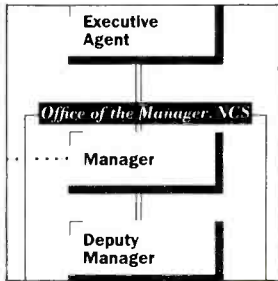
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This month's cover: Transmitter facility, regional communications activity — national communications system. West of Miami, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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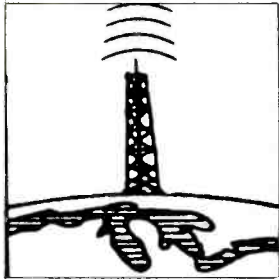
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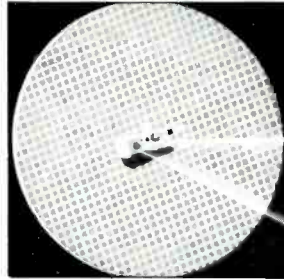
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This month's cover: Airline passenger uses GTE airphone.
Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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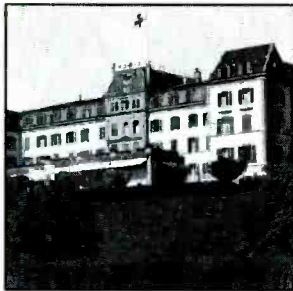
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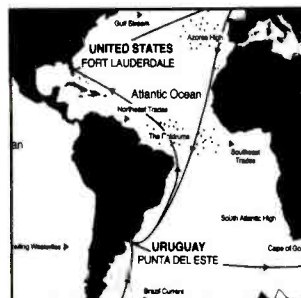
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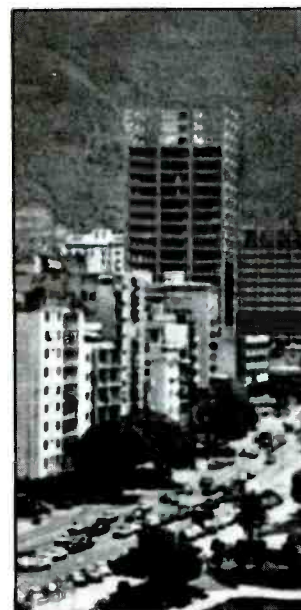
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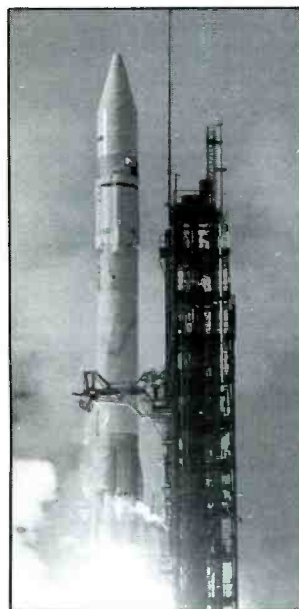
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This month's cover: Helicopter Pilot Harold Shamblin talks with offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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This month's cover: White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, MP Rex Scism mans road block during rocket launch. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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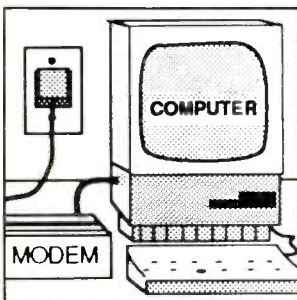
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This month's cover: Members of the U.S. Coast Guard and customs service man radar consoles at "C3" drug interdiction center in Miami. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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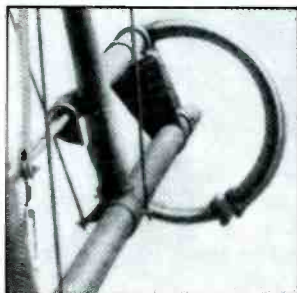


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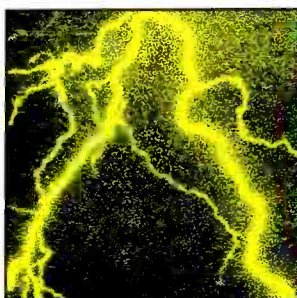
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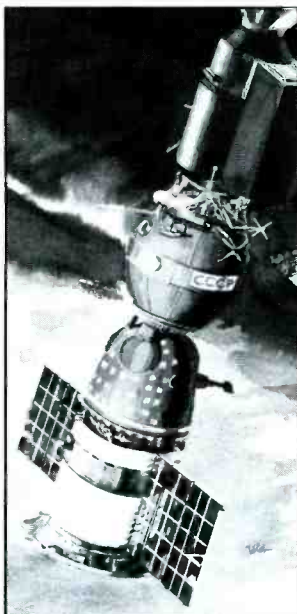
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This month's cover: Matthew Deutch, Electrical Engineer at WWV, checks out time code generator. Photo By Larry Mulvehill.

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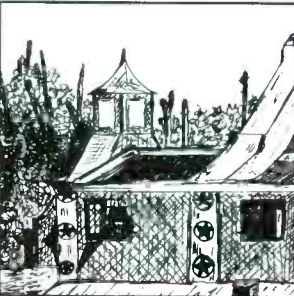
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This month's cover: An OMNI Air Craft Beacon in Wyoming. Photo By Larry Mulvehill.

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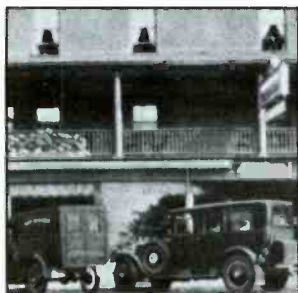
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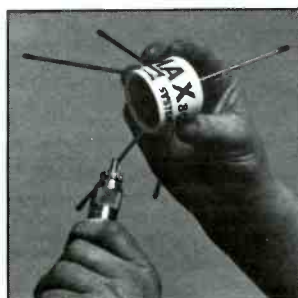
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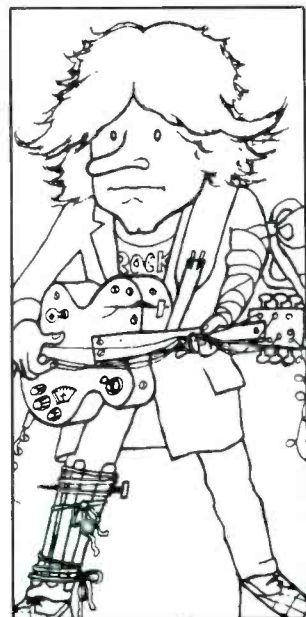
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This month's cover: USA--California: California Highway Patrolman Ronald Walker patrolling on a CHiP motorcycle. Photo By Larry Mulvehill.

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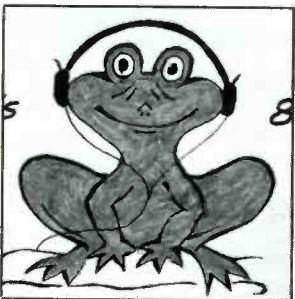
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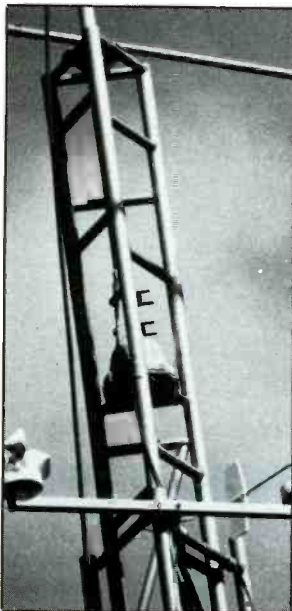
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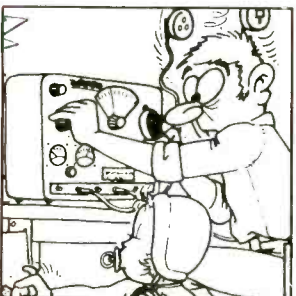
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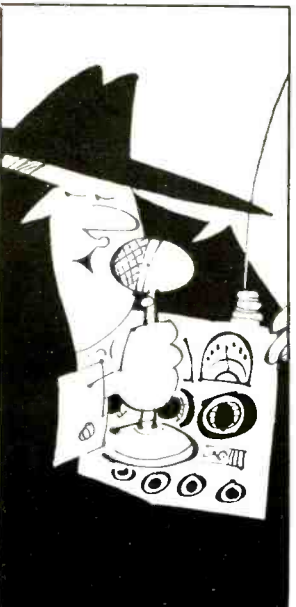
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This month's cover: USA—Emergency Fire Rescue helicopter is guided in by fireman. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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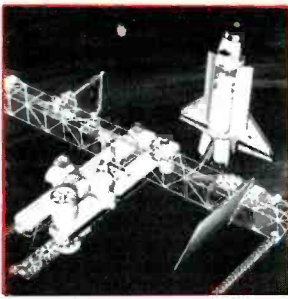
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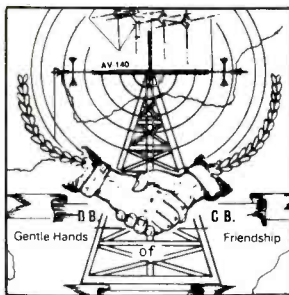
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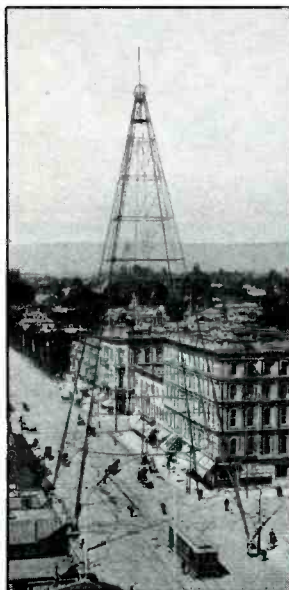
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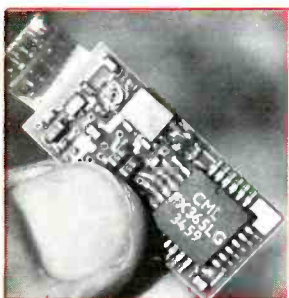
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This month's cover: USA—Los Alamos, NM. Donald Winston, Director, at Emergency Operations Center, Los Alamos National Labs. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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This month's cover: USA — Officer Guy Riedinger of the Beacon, NY police department running the radar unit. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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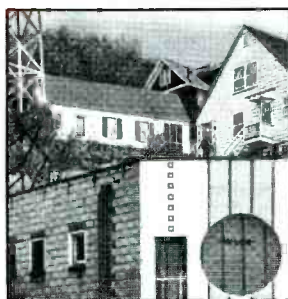
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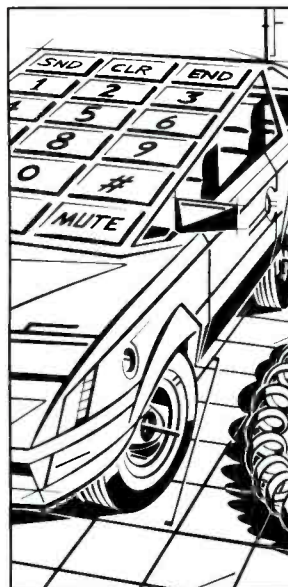
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This month's cover: As natural on the job-site as it is in a luxury car, the cellular phone has become a necessity to hundreds of thousands of people. *Photo by Larry Mulvehill.*

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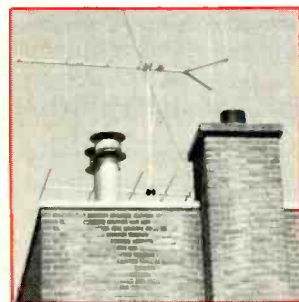
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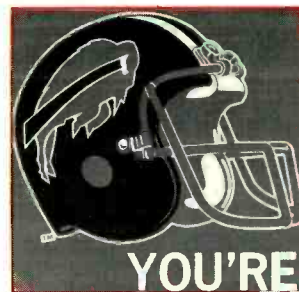
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This month's cover: USA—Cheyenne Mountain, CO: Craig Franklin, GTE Technician, checks out air phone site on top of mountain. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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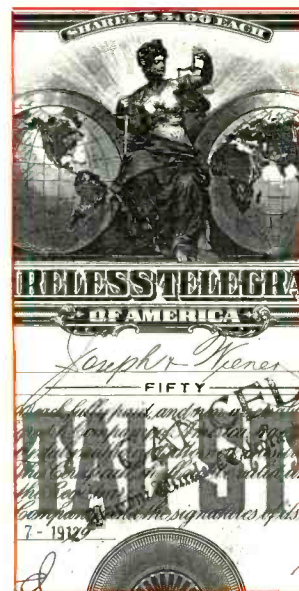
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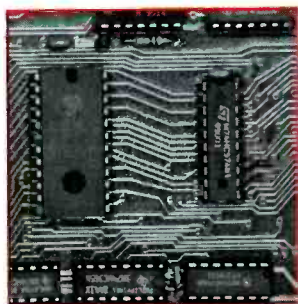


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This month's cover: A boon to eavesdroppers, cordless phones are about as private as conversing in an elevator. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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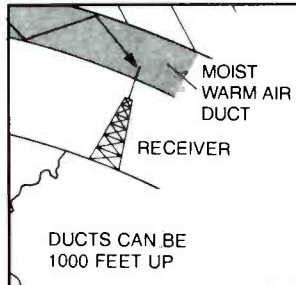
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This month's cover: Radio officer D. S. McGouldrick checks the HF antenna system on the cruise ship Crown Monarch while in port at Key West, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

Kuwait C.B. Club

DESERT DX-ERS

Unit No DD.2
Club Frequency 27-980LSB

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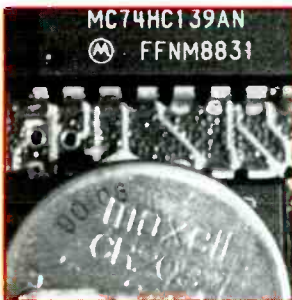
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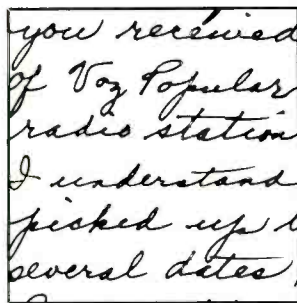
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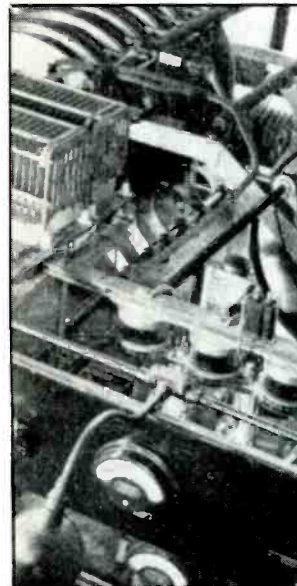
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This month's cover: Members of the Key Largo, FL EMT and fire rescue units work to extract victim from car during training. The SW skip season is back again, and worldwide emergency situations like this can be tuned in starting now. Read about it on page 9. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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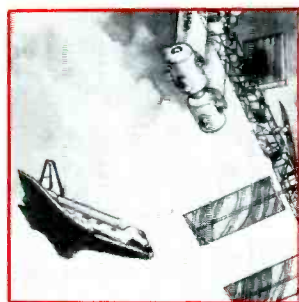
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This month's cover: California, USA: Antenna tower used for radio communications around the San Francisco Bay area. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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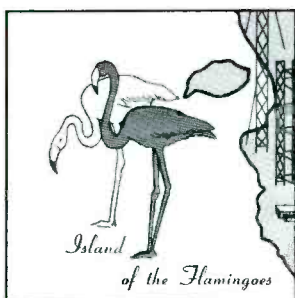
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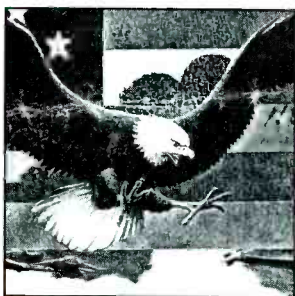
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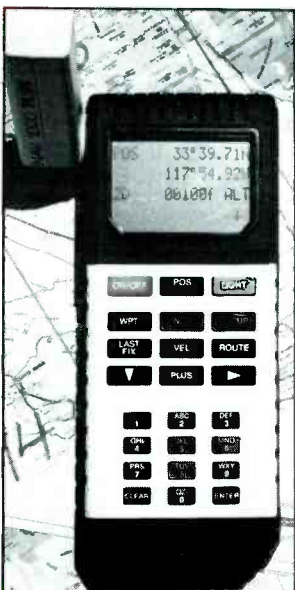
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This month's cover: U.S. Coast Guard vessel on station in New York Harbor. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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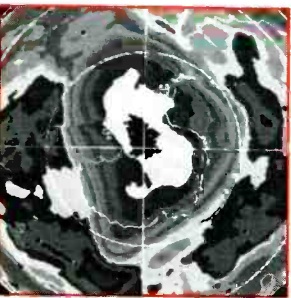
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This month's cover: Transmitter engineer Everett Lawson at the base of Nashville, TN WSM 150-ton antenna. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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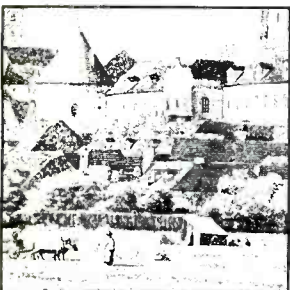
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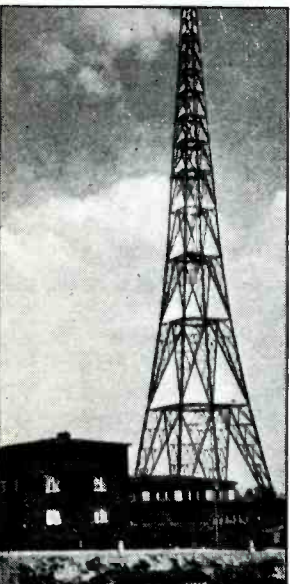
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This month's cover: USA—Microwave towers for telephones in the outback of New Mexico. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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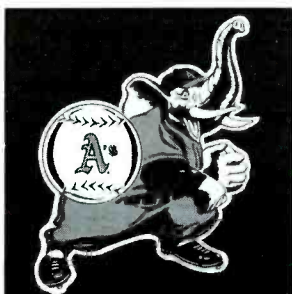
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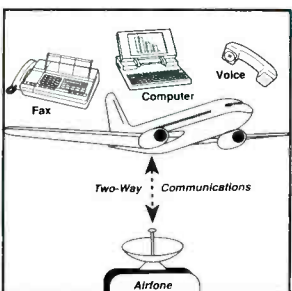
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This month's cover: Joseph Brashier, National Program Director of SW radio station WWCR in Nashville, TN, does on the air programming. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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This month's cover: USA, Florida: Police divers repel from helicopters at scene of an accident. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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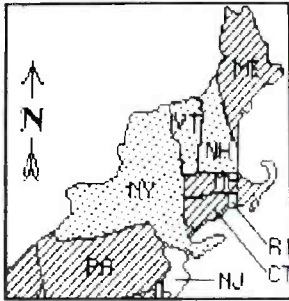
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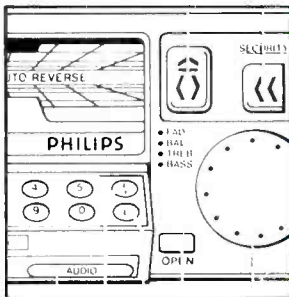
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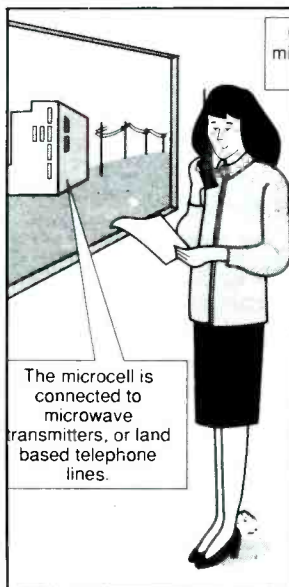
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This month's cover: Australia: Cellular phone transmitter site at Wai-kerie, South Australia bringing cellular service to remote areas of South Australia. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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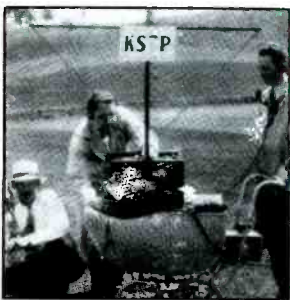
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This month's cover: FM Radio Station WKTK in Gainesville, FL. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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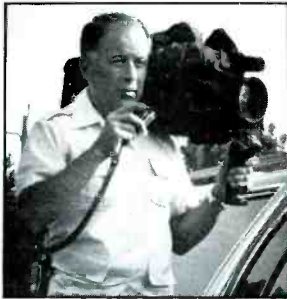
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This month's cover: Galveston, TX-USA: VHF radio is the main type of radio used to communicate while fishing. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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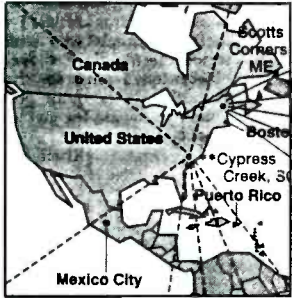
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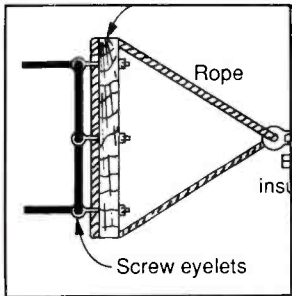
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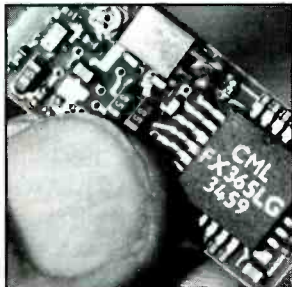
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This month's cover: Control room at WSHB shortwave station of the World Service of the Christian Science Monitor. Transmitter is at Cypress Creek, SC. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.



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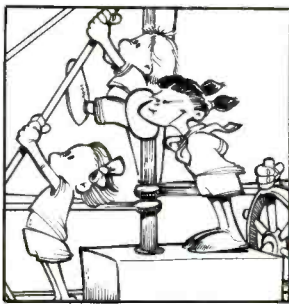
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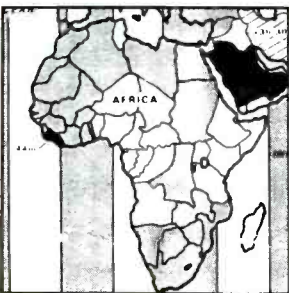
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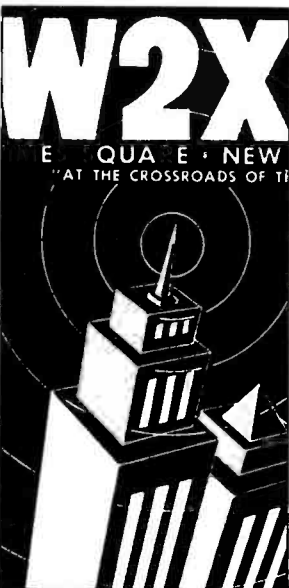
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This month's cover: FCC engineer Dave Davenport listens at the equipment console at the FCC monitoring station in Belfast, Maine. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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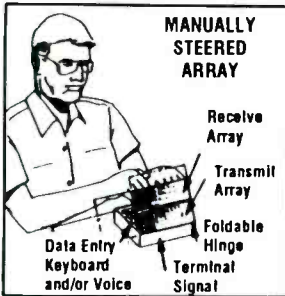
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This month's cover: USA, Haiku Valley, Oahu, Hawaii: US Coast Guard Omega Site. Aid to navigation on 3 to 13 kHz. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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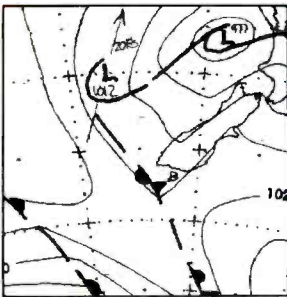
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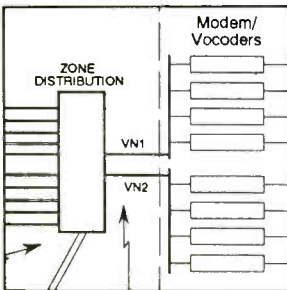
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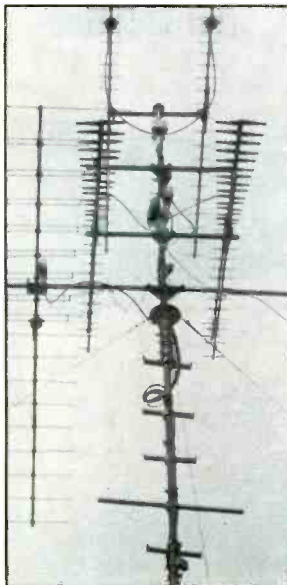
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This month's cover: USA, New York State police and medical personnel at accident scene. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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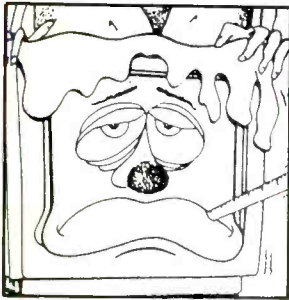
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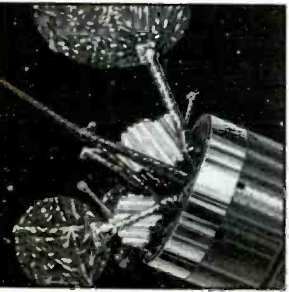
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This month's cover: USA: Mall Security at the Crystal Run Galleria Mall, Middletown, NY. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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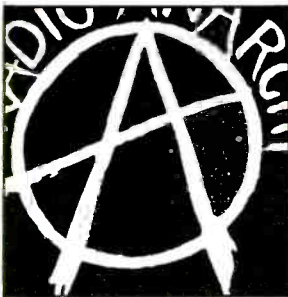
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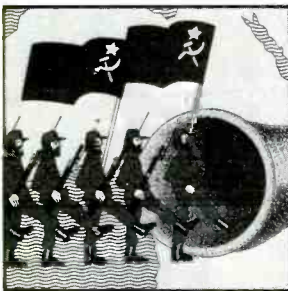
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This month's cover: Dave Vrablic, system engineer for "Airpage the Beeper People," adjusts a transmitter located on Mt. Rafinesque at Troy, NY, USA. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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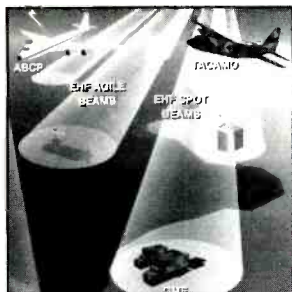
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This month's cover: USA: Ft. Collins, CO. Electrical engineer Matthew Deutch of WWV checks out 15 MHz antenna. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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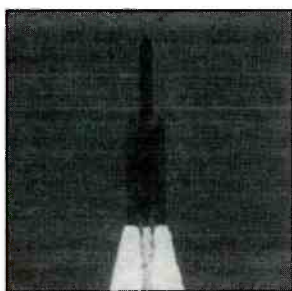
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This month's cover: Hiker takes a fix with a Sony Global Positioning System receiver at Bull Hill in Coldspring, NY. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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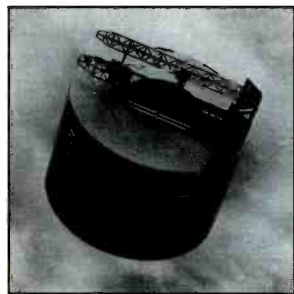
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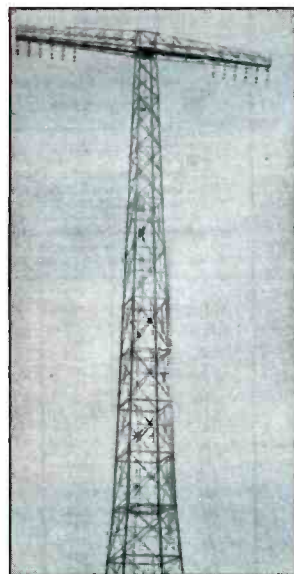
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This month's cover: USA-Security personnel keep a look out at a battery of TV monitors. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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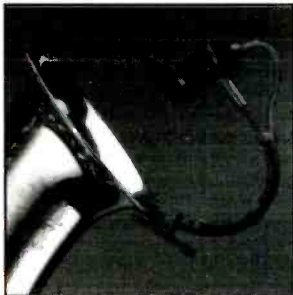
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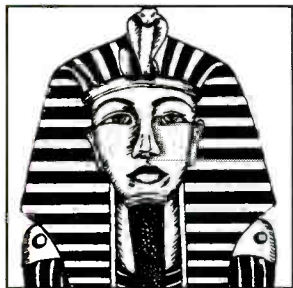
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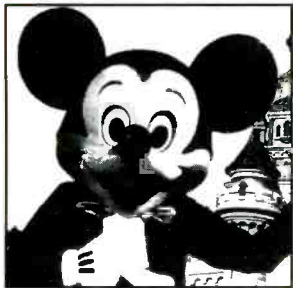
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This month's cover: On stage is Scotti Hill of the rock group Skid Row. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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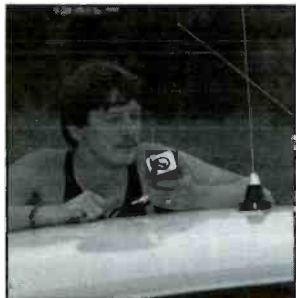
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This month's cover: *Trans World Radio, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles: Antenna system for TWR 800 kHz, 500 kW station on Bonaire, NA. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.*

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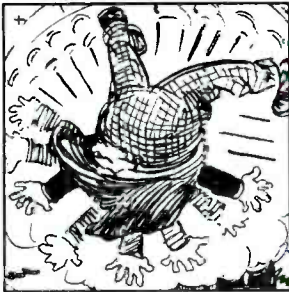
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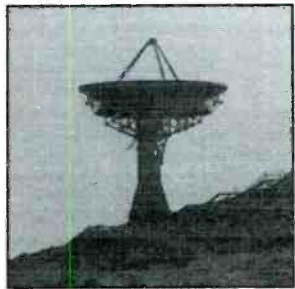
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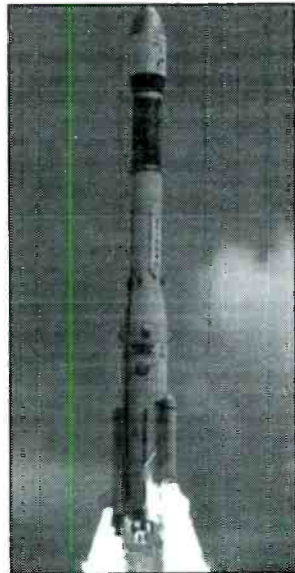
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This month' cover: USA: Reno, Nevada at dusk. Tune in to the casino radio frequency. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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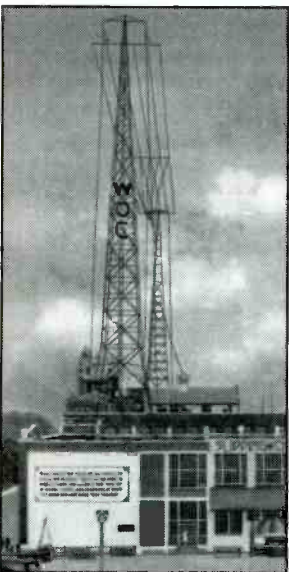
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This month's cover: USA: The 140 foot radio telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, WV. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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This month's cover: Steve Faris mans the desk at the operations coordination center for fire protection in southern California in Riverside, California. Photo by Larry Mulvehill.

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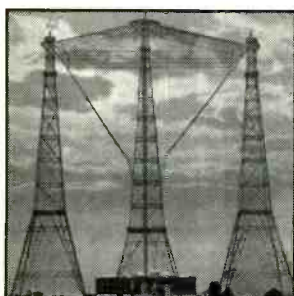
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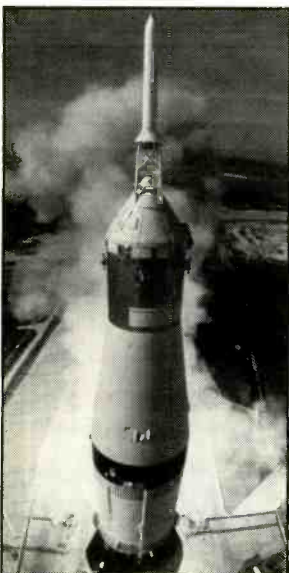
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This month's cover: George Maglaras, Meteorologist at the National Weather Service, reads the forecast over WXL-34, Albany, NY and WXL-37, Ulster Co., NY. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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This month's cover: An operator uses the MAGNaphone MX-2020P to place a phone call via Inmarsat satellite from remote areas of the world. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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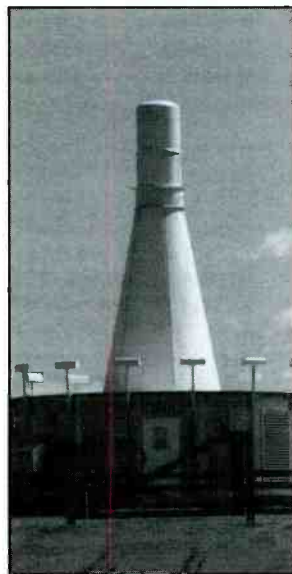
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This month's cover: Passengers traveling through Dallas International Airport experience special security attention. The security checkpoints monitor and maintain passenger safety. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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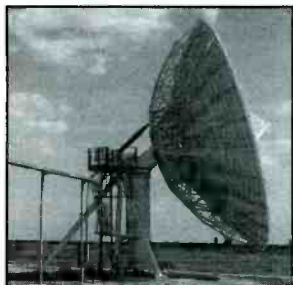
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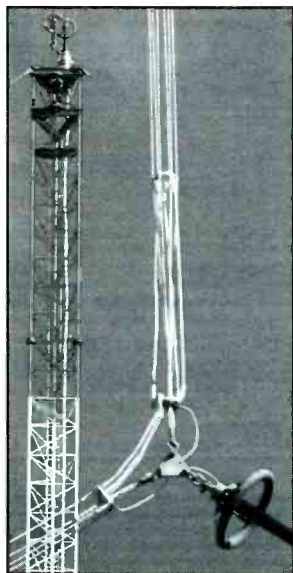
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This month's cover: A 50 kW transmitter and associated gear that broadcasts shortwave station KCBI is located in a corn field along US highway 380, 11 miles east of Denton, Texas and 35 miles north of Dallas. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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This month's cover: This young man enjoys the luxury of having a personal conversation via cordless telephone. What he may not realize is that almost every scanner in receiving range is hearing his conversation. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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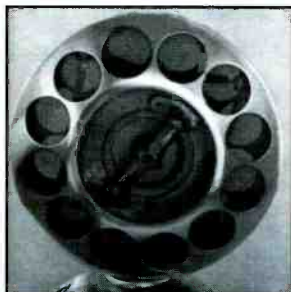
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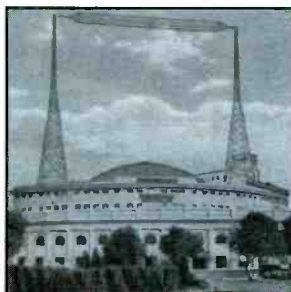
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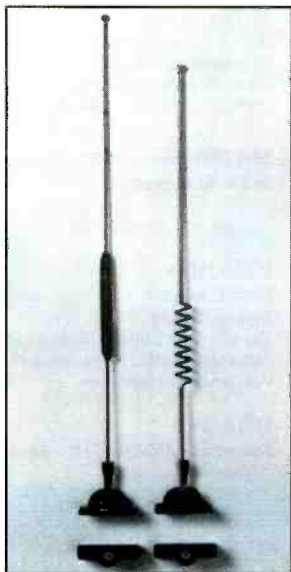
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This month's cover: It is easy to "reach out and touch someone" with the help of AT&T's satellite operations management center in Hawley, PA. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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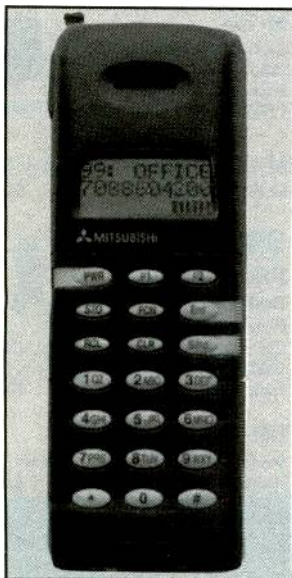
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This month's cover: Cellular sites, such as this one in Finchville, NY, assist in all levels of personal communications services. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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THE MONITORING MAGAZINE

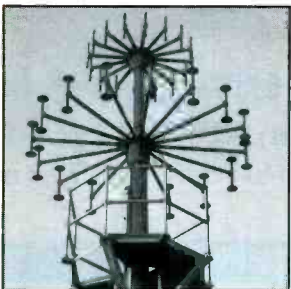
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This month's cover: Wireless cable in Illinois uses microwaves to supply the rural area of Bloomington with television, via this tower. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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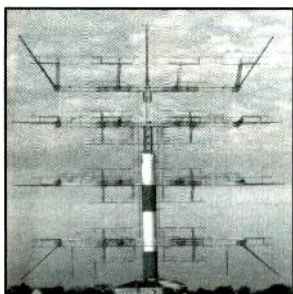
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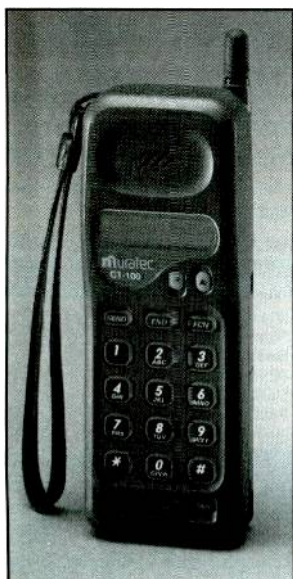
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This month's cover: Air traffic control specialists are hard at work in New Jersey's Newark Airport control tower. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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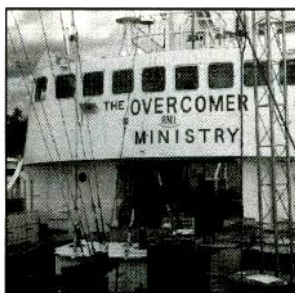
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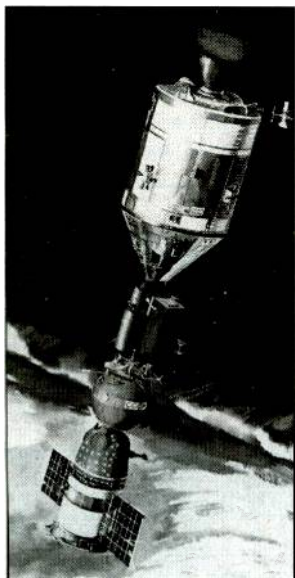
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This month's cover: The air-sea rescue unit of the U.S. Coast Guard group prepares for a mission in Cape May, NJ. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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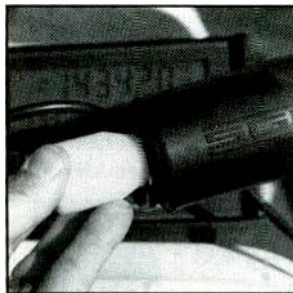
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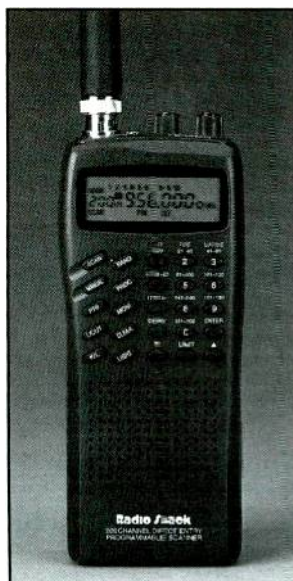
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This month's cover: A young woman displays the communications device of the 1990's—the radio pager, otherwise known simply as “the beeper.” Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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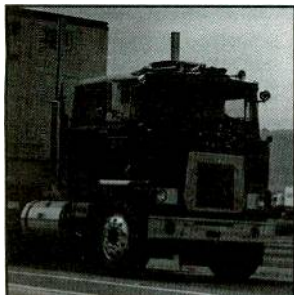
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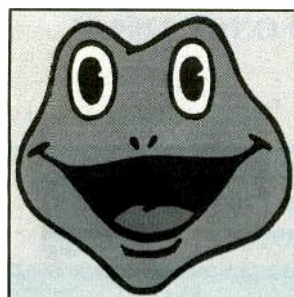
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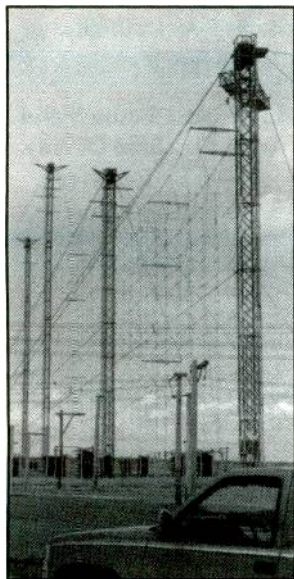
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This month's cover: Just one of the many "Big Rigs" traveling America's Interstate Highways. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.	

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By POP'COMM Staff

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This month's cover: Air Force Security Police Officer Fredrick Morris is one of many servicemen using military communications. Officer Morris stands guard accompanied by a C-130 aircraft at Wright Patterson AFB, in Dayton, Ohio. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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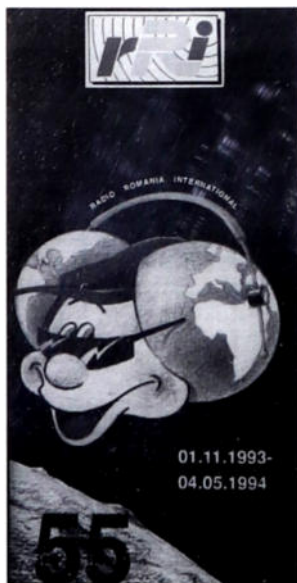
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This month's cover: Atlanta, Georgia Police Officer A. E. Foster checks into headquarters using one of the many public safety frequencies available. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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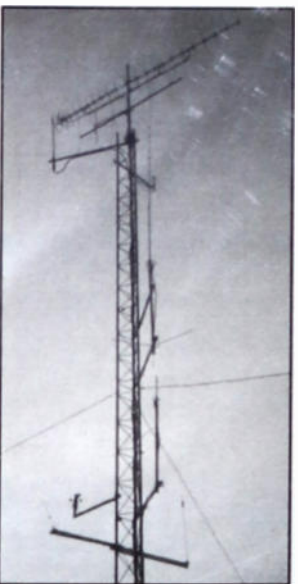
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This month's cover: New York State Police Helicopter Pilot John Ludwig circles over a toll plaza on the New York State Thruway at Harriman, NY. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

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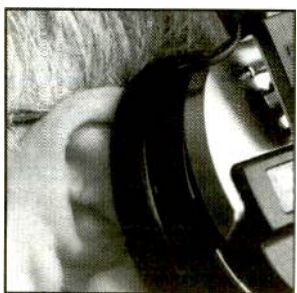
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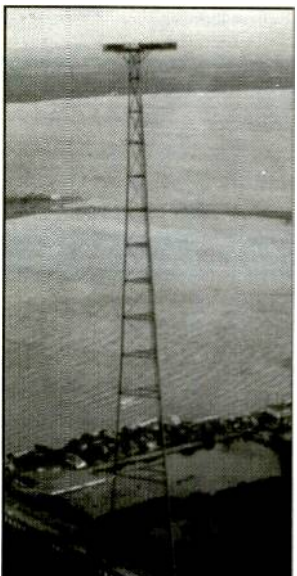
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This month's cover: Satellite ground station at NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI

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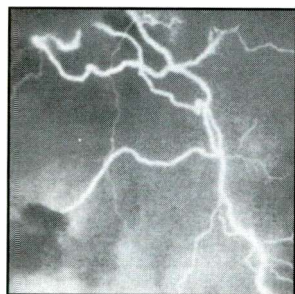
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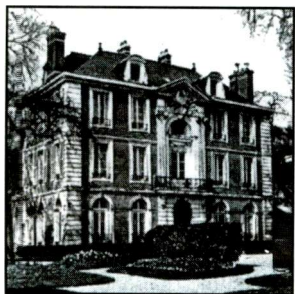
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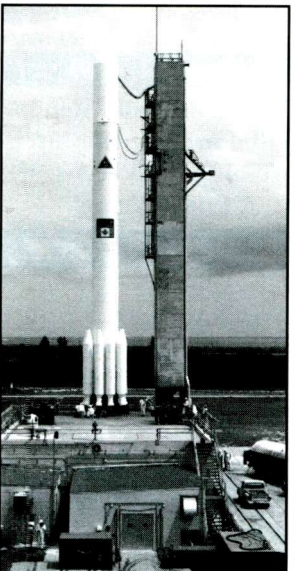
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This month's cover: Zap! There is no escape from the intriguing pops and crashes of sferics caused by lightning! The storm featured occurred recently in Colorado. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.

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This month's cover: This 50kW station is located in Dallas Texas, at 1080 kHz—just one of America's many AM broadcast stations. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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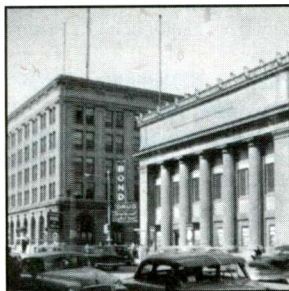
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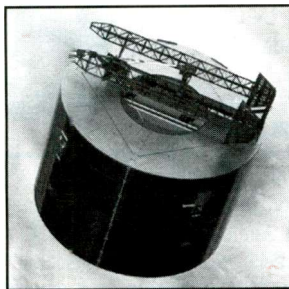
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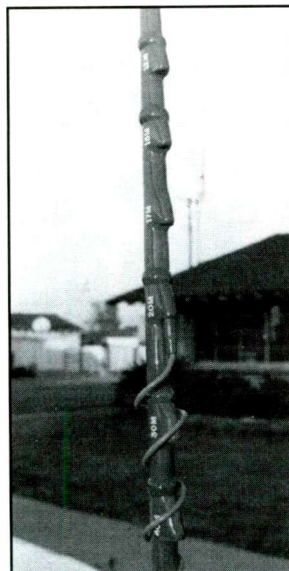
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This month's cover: Leon Cheatom, Director of Natural Resources, Silver Springs, FL, communicates with headquarters by handheld. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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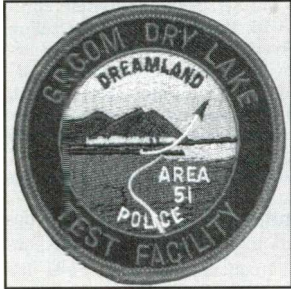
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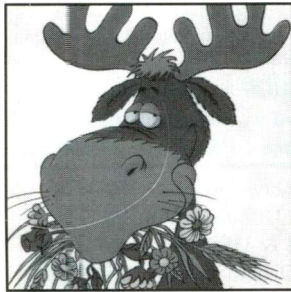
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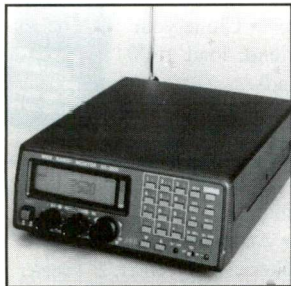
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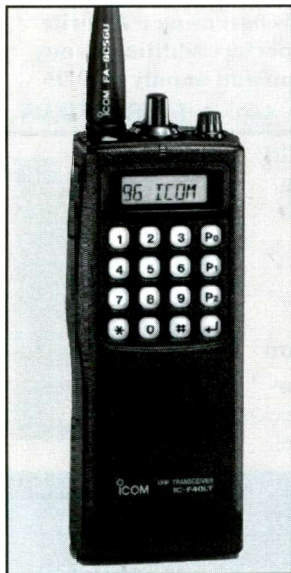
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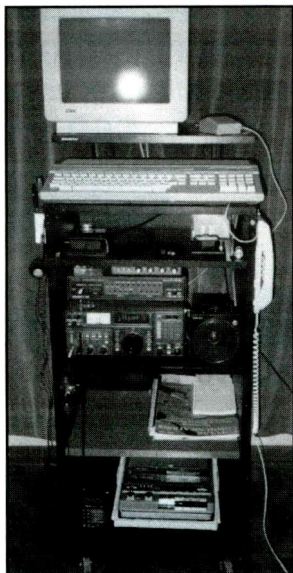
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This month's cover: Officers Douglas Bergquist and Michael McGinness, of the New Jersey State Police Marine division, on patrol off Point Pleasant, NJ. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.



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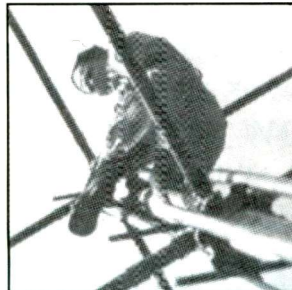
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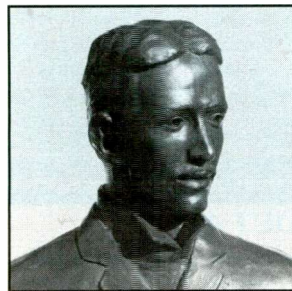
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This month's cover: With cellular phone fraud on the rise, action is being taken to curb the crime. Pictured are members of Bell Atlantic's Mobile Fraud unit monitoring system at Bedminster, NJ. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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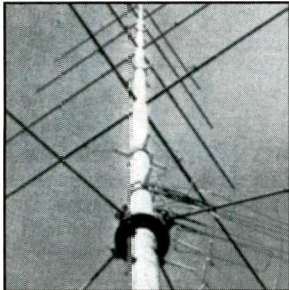
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This month's cover: Two-way radio at work—security guard Albert Schickner stands by on call at the Raritan Bay Medical Center, in Perth Amboy, NJ. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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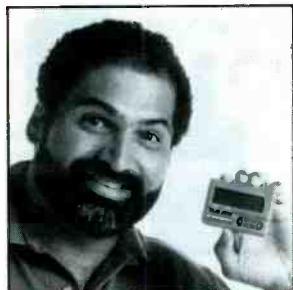
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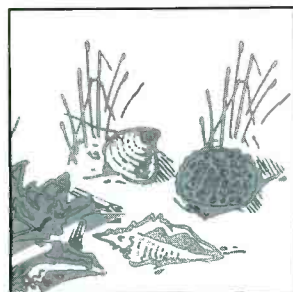
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This month's cover: Beepers are becoming the communications tool of the 1990s. This young woman uses her beeper to keep in touch with the office, her family, and friends, even when she's on the go! Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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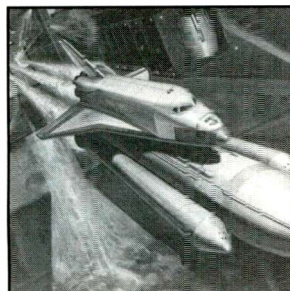
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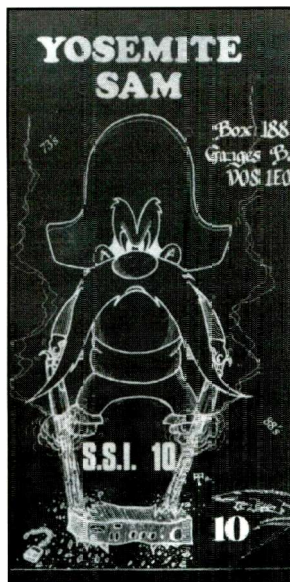
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This month's cover: Motorists can get a lot of information from low-power AM broadcast stations along the nation's highways. This cellular tower helps with phone calls along the busy Garden State Parkway in Hazlet, N.J. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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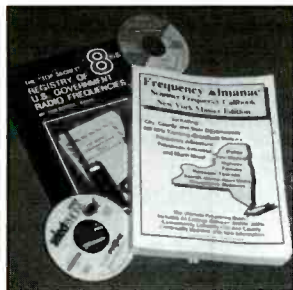
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This month's cover: Public Safety Officer Randy Roddy of the U.S. Tennessee Valley Authority talks with headquarters on federal frequencies from the Norris Dam site at Norris, Tenn. The dam is the first in the TVA sites built in 1933-1935. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WP2ZPI.

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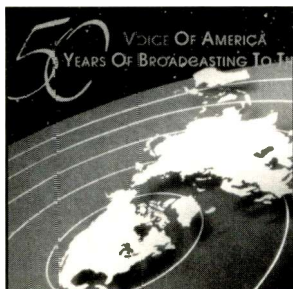
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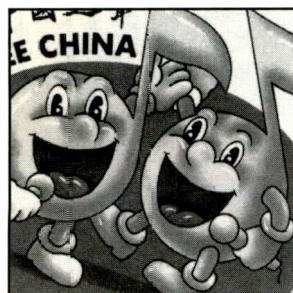
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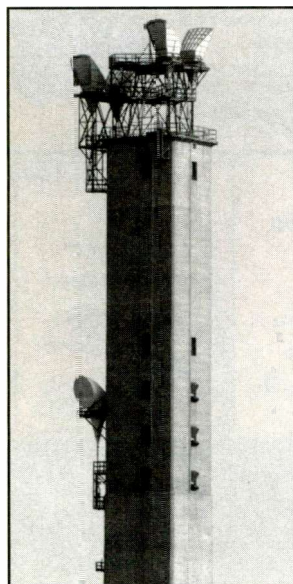
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This month's cover: An engineer checks the 800-kHz transmitter at Trans World Radio in Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. In addition to the mediumwave powerhouse station, TWR also operates several shortwave transmitters from the site. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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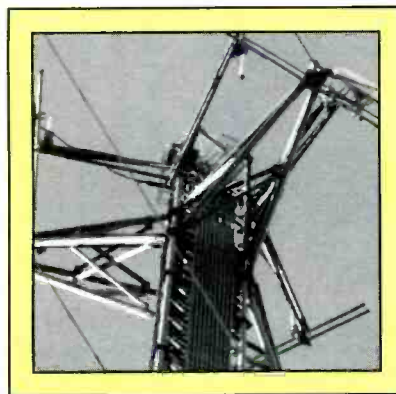
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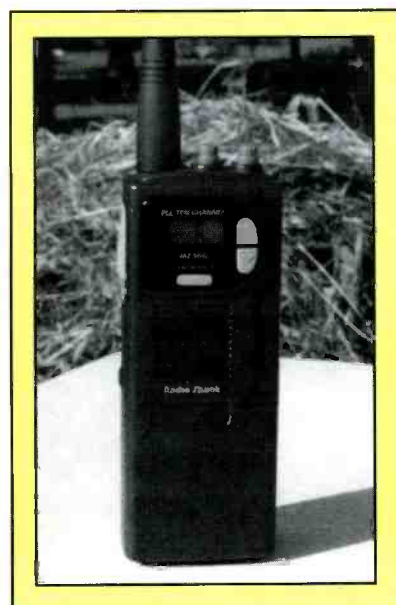
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This month's cover: Officer John S. Nichole of the Houston (Texas) Police Department's mounted unit uses a belt-mounted radio and speaker-microphone to maintain contact with dispatchers while on patrol in the nation's fourth largest city. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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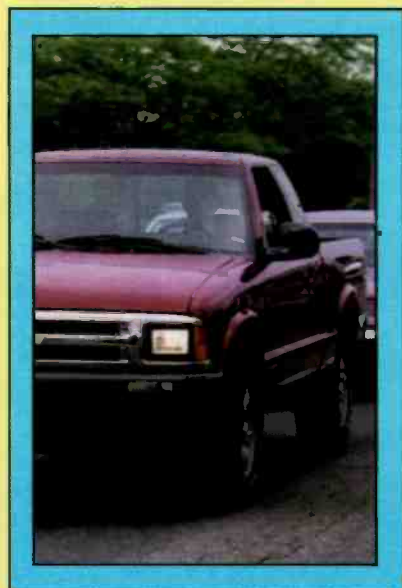
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This month's cover: The command post for North American Aerospace Defense, or NORAD, is buried under 1,800 feet of solid granite in hollowed-out Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs, Colo. NORAD aircraft can be monitored on the UHF military aviation band from 225-400 MHz. Photo by Larry Muluehill, WB2ZPI.

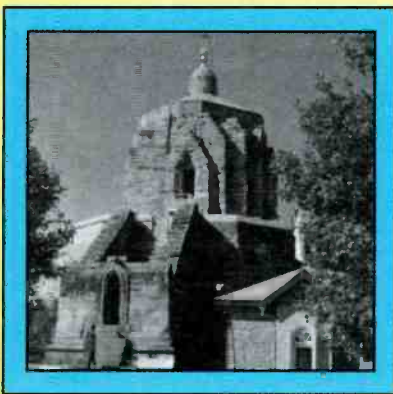
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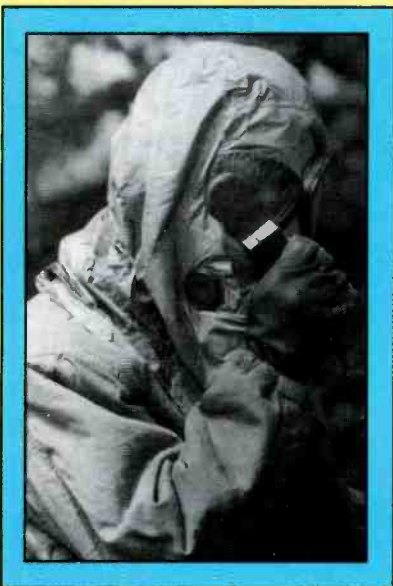
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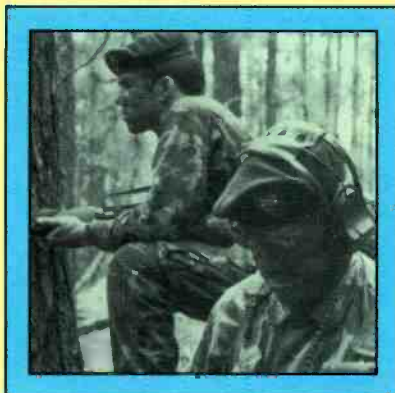
This month's cover: A U.S. Army Special Forces A-Team during a jungle training operation utilizes ANPRC-77 secure communications equipment to report back recon intelligence. Photographed with cooperation of Counter Group Police Academy, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Photograph by Larry Muluehl, WB2ZPI

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This month's cover: Members of the emergency room staff at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. talk with incoming ambulance on radio while looking at EEG sent by radio.
 Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI

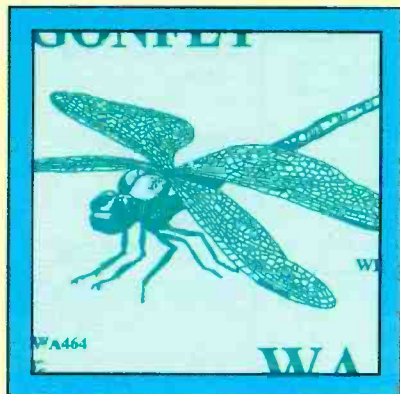


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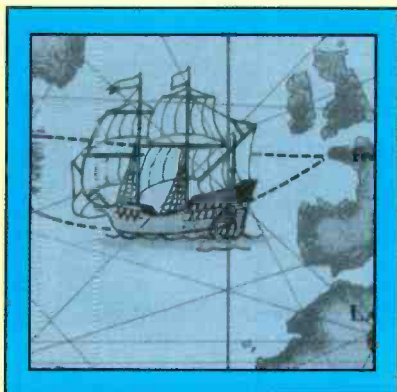
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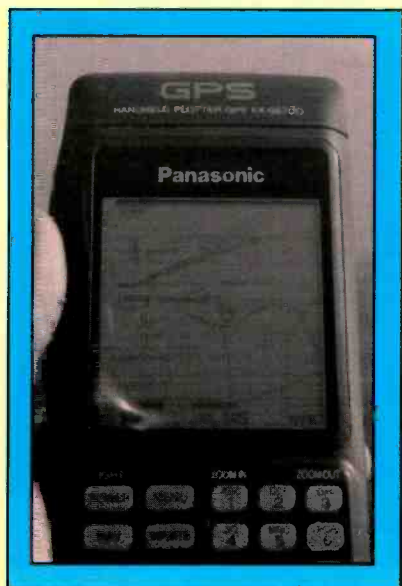
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This month's cover: The transmitter site of WCIX, Channel 6, in Miami, Fla., shows the effects of Hurricane Andrew a few years ago after its 1,840-foot antenna was destroyed in the storm. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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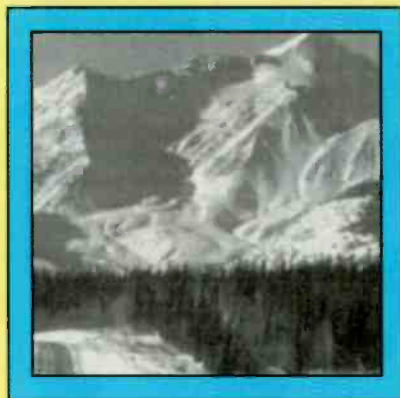
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This month’s cover: A paramedic works at the Costa Mesa Speedway in Costa Mesa, Calif. Tune in racing teams, medical crews and the media with your scanner at trackside! Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

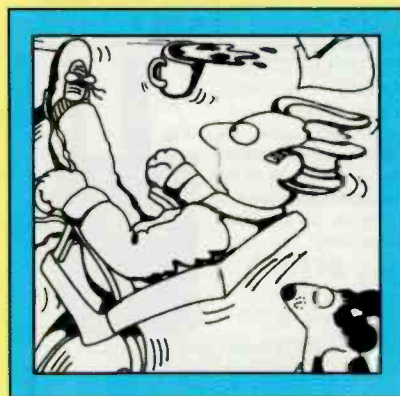
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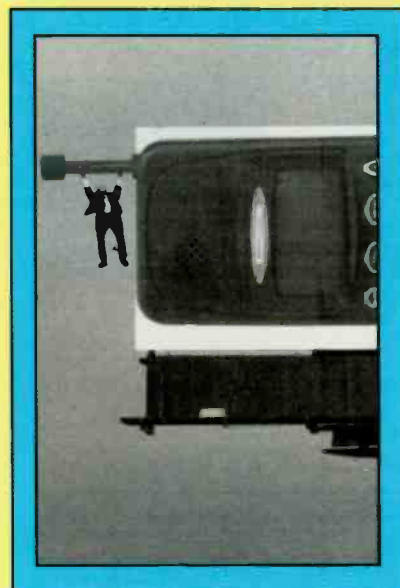
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FEATURES

Olympic Proportions 8

Atlanta Games will make largest use of radios ever.

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP, Editor

Rally To The Arctic Circle 15

CB, ham and business radios used by winning team.

Books You'll Like 20

Radio's First 75 Years, CB Modification Secrets and Monitor America.

By R.L. Slattery

A Visit to Radio's Past 24

Visiting historic days of yesteryear.

By Alice Brannigan

✓Checked Out 48

The AOR AR8000 handheld radio receiver.

By W.W. Smith

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This month's cover: Arnold Davis and William Suggs deploy a MASCOT (Motorola Advanced Systems Communications Trailers) transportable trunked radio unit at the 1996 Summer Olympics Games in Atlanta, Ga. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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FEATURES

Try HF SITOR Monitoring: It's Easy! 8

Thanks to more advanced digital technologies, this RTTY mode is less complex.
By Tom Kneitel, K2AES, Senior Editor

America's German Espionage Station 15

Sneak a peek at our nation's first high-tech intrigue case.
By Alice Brannigan

Selected English Language Broadcasts: Summer 1996 23

A representative listing helping you tune in to worldwide English programs.
By Gerry L. Dexter

Books You'll Like 26

Same Time...Same Station, Broadcast News, Internet Yellow Pages, Emergency Scanning.
By R.L. Slattery

✓ Checked Out 30

The Dressler active receiving antennas.
By W.W. Smith

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This month's cover: High above Los Angeles, Calif., the Mount Wilson transmitter site is home for antennas for TV and broadcast stations, as well numerous two-way radio, paging and microwave stations. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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FEATURES

Where Do Police Hide? 8

Know where to tune in exciting law agency surveillance.

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP, Editor

Checked Out 15

Magellan GPS 2000 Satellite Navigator.

By W.W. Smith

Radio of Yesteryear 20

Ponder some ticklish questions.

By Alice Brannigan

Books You'll Like 28

Nighttime Antenna Pattern Book, Shortwave Listening On The Road, Spook Book II and Ultimate Spy Book.

By R.L. Slattery

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This month's cover: Members of the Long Branch, N.J., Police Department's SWAT team perform a drug bust exercise. You can tune in exciting surveillance communications. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.



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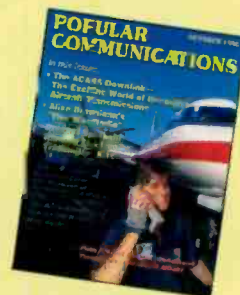
OCTOBER 1996

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ON THE COVER: Gina Knight directs an American Eagle aircraft to take off position at the Key West International Airport, FL. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.



FEATURES

The Pirate Radio Explosion

The past year has seen a virtual "gold rush" of pirate stations to the airwaves. Find out the causes of the explosion.

By Pat Murphy

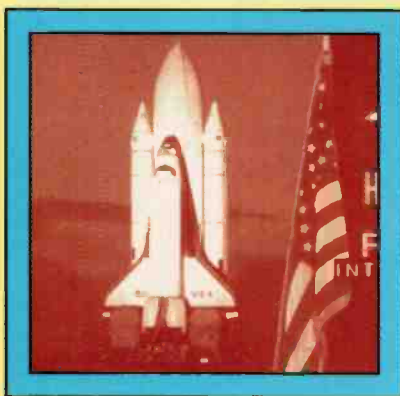
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This Was Radio

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the oldest continuously operated religious broadcaster in the U.S.

By Alice Brannigan

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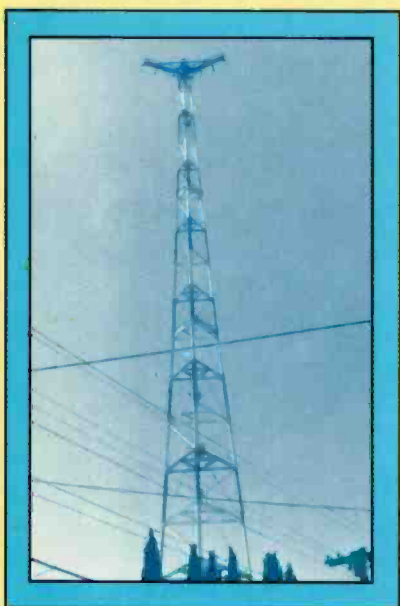
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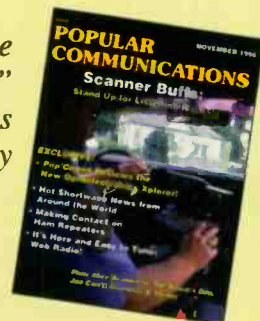
NOVEMBER 1996

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page 36

ON THE COVER: A Houston, Texas police officer, Wendell Chance, uses a computer "CAD" system in his car. This computer system replaces voice radio. Houston, TX Police Dept. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.



FEATURES

Finding Broadcasting's True Roots

Alice Brannigan explains where today's pioneer stations really began!

By Alice Brannigan

8

Class D CB: The Service That Technology Forgot

Unchanged for years, it's time to transform CB before we see a revival of the "channel wars." Here's one possibility.

By Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

12

Radio News

An exclusive product review of the new Optoelectronics Xplorer.

By Ed Griffin

16

Product Spotlight

Find out what PerCon Corporation's new CD-ROM Databases can do for you!

By W. W. Smith

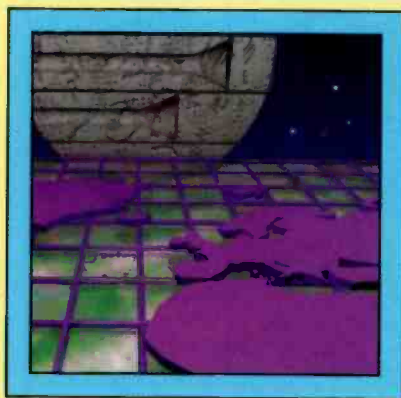
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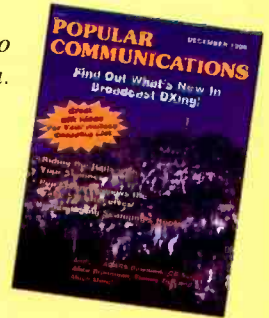
DECEMBER 1996

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ON THE COVER: Television and commercial radio site on Slide Mountain, located west of Reno, Nevada. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.)



FEATURES

One of The World's First Broadcast Stations

8

Today, WHA is Wisconsin's oldest continuously licensed AM broadcaster. Travel back in time with Alice to learn more about how they got their start.

By Alice Brannigan

Radio Resources

20

Here's how to get on track with exciting railroad communications.

By Bill Mauldin

Product Spotlight

24

Get the information you need on the Drake SW1 AM Shortwave Receiver.

By W.W. Smith

The Listening Post

50

Anguilla on shortwave? SW news, plus frequencies, your logs and more!

By Gerry Dexter

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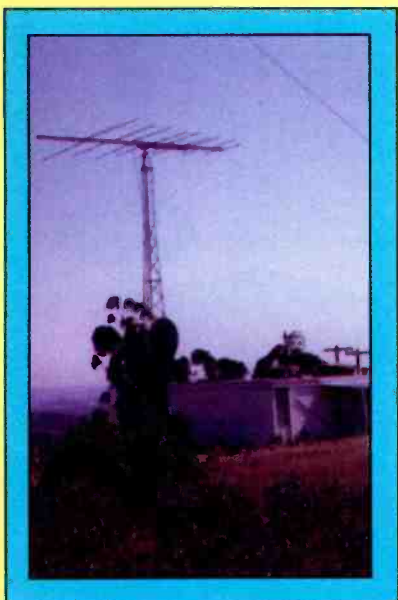
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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

JANUARY 1997

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5



page 10

ON THE COVER: Tune in to some interesting comms this winter. Listen for snow plows and road crews. Find out more about where to listen in Chuck Gysi's feature "Caught in a Snowstorm . . . In Your Shack!" on page 16.



FEATURES

Citizens Band Radio—Heading for 2001

10

Ken offers some insight about what might be happening in CB radio as we leap forward into the next century.

By Ken Collier, KO6UX/SOCAL 2775

Caught in a Snowstorm . . . In Your Shack!

16

This winter, from street maintenance to auto emergencies, you can tune in to some of the excitement outside from the warmth of your shack.

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP

The Old CB Shack

21

Learn what it takes to resuscitate an old Polycomm II . . . and stay tuned . . . as Don teaches you how to bring new life to yesterday's rigs in a new bi-monthly column.

By Don Patrick



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FEBRUARY 1997

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page 8

ON THE COVER: Fire and emergency medical personnel at a preparedness drill at Stewart Airport, Newburgh, NY. More and more public safety agencies, cities and counties are switching to the new trunked 800 MHz band. Find out more about trunked systems . . . check out "Scanning The Globe" on page 30. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).



FEATURES

Reporting on Chicagoland Traffic

8

As drivers, we spend most of our time trying to locate traffic jams in order to avoid them. Find out how motorists in the Chicagoland area cope with accidents and incidents on the roads.

By Bill Simpson

Tuned In On Yesterday

16

Alice takes us on a journey through the years to explore the history of Pennsylvania's radio station, WKAP.

By Alice Brannigan

Product Spotlight

33

Check out this head-to-head review of the AOR AR-5000 and the ICOM IC-R8500 and find out what they offer and how they fare against each other.

By J.T. Ward



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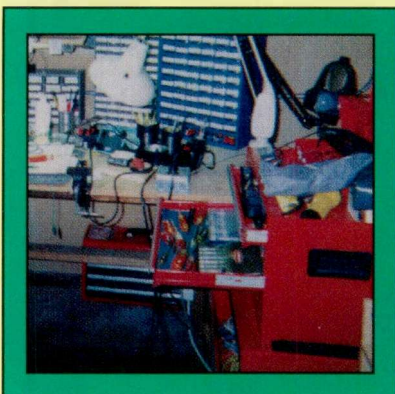
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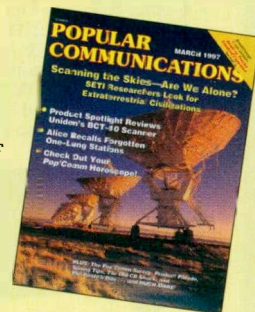
MARCH 1997

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 7



page 18

ON THE COVER: *If an extraterrestrial signal is ever detected by SETI researchers, this Very Large Array in Socorro, New Mexico, along with the Hubble Space Telescope, may be called upon to produce detailed images of the region of space where the radio signal was discovered. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)*



FEATURES

The Galactic Gamble

Find out how many of the top scientific minds are answering the profound question: Are we alone in the universe?

By Michael Mechanic

8

Forgotten One-Lung Stations

Join Alice once again as she recalls the days when bigger didn't always mean better for broadcast stations.

By Alice Brannigan

14

Product Spotlight

Steve Adams reviews Uniden's BearTracker BCT-10 scanner. Find out how it rates and what it can offer you!

By Steven Adams

58

The Loose Connection

Bill Price takes an amusing look at our horoscopes for the coming year. See how scanners, CBs, etc. figure into *your* future!

By Bill Price

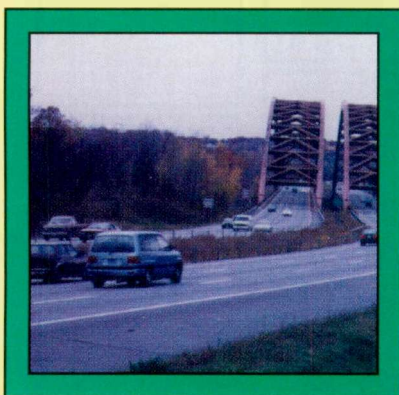
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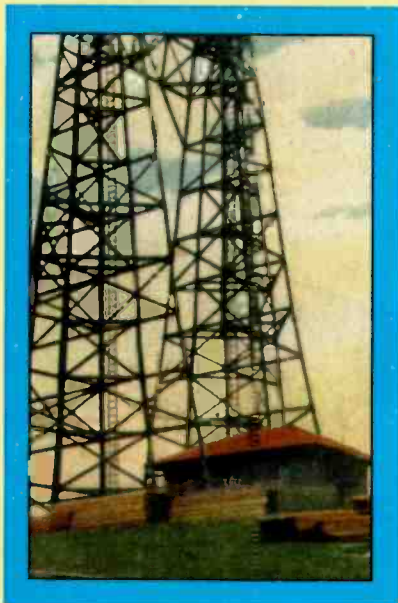
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page 15

ON THE COVER: Radio station WEVD, 1050 AM stereo with towers located in the Meadowlands, NJ. News about stations like WEVD can be found every month in Tim Kridel's column "Broadcast DXing." See his column this month on page 54.



FEATURES

Scientists Discover Evidence of RF Geo-Electromagnetic Emissions Preceding Earthquakes

8

In the past two or three decades, a different form of naturally-generated radio signals has been detected. They may form the basis for a prediction system to guard against earthquakes, tornadoes, etc.

By Amnias Lueter, Ph.D

Radio's Overlooked Genius

15

Is it possible that Joseph Murgas could have been more of a wireless pioneer than Marconi even though most of us have never heard of him?

By Alice Brannigan

Broadcast DXing—Satellite Digital Audio

54

Satellite-delivered digital audio takes a step closer to reality, WRVA continues its goal to be the best, and East End radio stations change hands. Keep up-to-date with the fast-paced world of Broadcast DXing with the help of Tim Kridel.

By Tim Kridel

Product Spotlight

60

Looking for a shortwave receiver? Find out if the Lowe SRX100 is right for you!

By Peter J. Bertini

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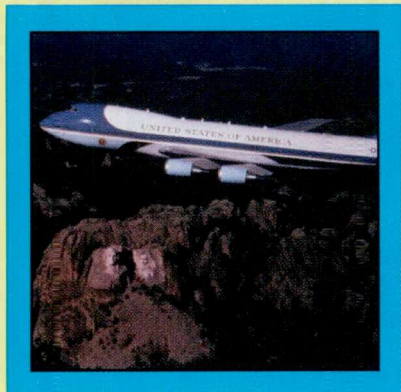
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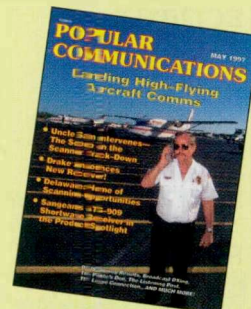
MAY 1997

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9



page 20

ON THE COVER: Key West, FL International Airport's Fire Chief, Steve Stoddard uses his radio to stay in touch with the base from the flight line. Take off with Bill Mauldin on a fascinating tour of aviation radio on page 20. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).



FEATURES

Inside The "Elephant's Head"—A Visit To Radio Thailand 8
A country steeped in tradition modernizes its international voice. Find out what changes have already taken place, and what's in store for the future of Radio Thailand.

By Don Johnson

Radio in the First State 14
Delaware offers a wide range of scanning opportunities including public safety, business, agricultural and military action. Chuck Mankin tells you what you should hear and where to tune.

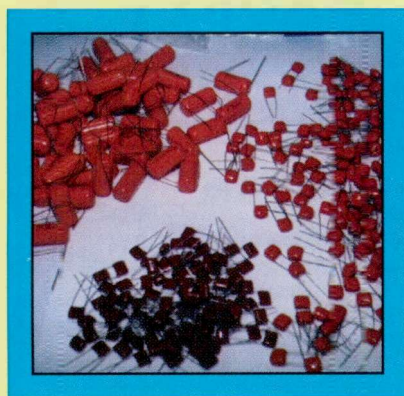
By Chuck Mankin

Radio Remembered 18
Follow KNOE's frequency "hopscotch" from the 1940's through today.

By Alice Brannigan

Product Spotlight 36
Sangean's ATS-909 portable shortwave receiver earns kudos for it's many features. Find out what it offers and how it worked for us.

By Nancy Barry



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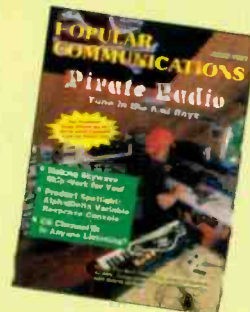
JUNE 1997

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page 8

ON THE COVER: A rare look at the inside of a pirate radio station. This particular station is located in Belfast, New York. To get more information on tuning in those elusive pirate stations, take a look at Pat Murphy's feature "Murphy's Law of Pirate Listening" on page 12. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



FEATURES

Making Skywave Skip Work for YOU!

8

When June 15 hits, stand by for incredible skywaves. See how far away you can pick up a station's location. Stand by for some exciting skywave Sporadic-E communications!

By Gordon West

Murphy's Law of Pirate Listening

12

Tuning in the "Bad Boys" of the bands requires a lot of patience and a few handy tips from someone who knows where to find 'em. Pat Murphy teaches you what it takes to catch a pirate.

By Pat Murphy

It Was America's Southernmost Broadcaster

16

WQAM—On the Move. Alice takes you on a trip through the history books of Miami radio station WQAM. Find out how they've changed through the years.

By Alice Brannigan

Product Spotlight

48

Alpha Delta's new VRC Variable Response Console fills a much-needed void in the communications speaker market. Get the scoop on this new product and see if it's for you.

By Ryan Gant

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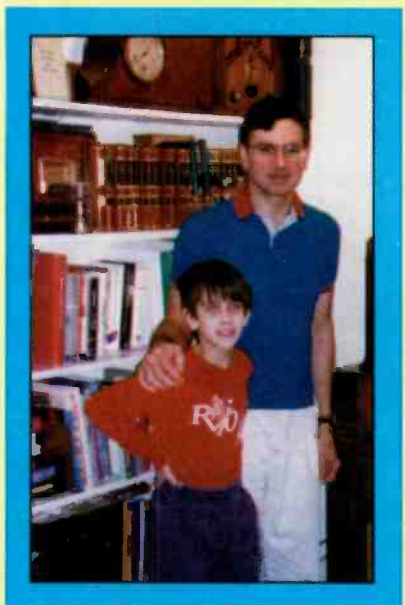
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JULY 1997

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page 20

ON THE COVER: A New Jersey shopper uses her new Family Radio Service radio to call her husband from the mall. For more information on this new service, check out Gordon West's feature "Family Radio Service on the Air!" on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)



FEATURES

Family Radio Service on the Air!

8

This new radio service is causing a lot of excitement for a lot of people. With no test, no license and plenty of fun—find out what the stir is all about!

By Gordon West

The FM Station The World Forgot

12

In 1945 the FCC claimed that FM was the "preferred" mode of broadcasting! Join Alice as she takes a look back at AM and FM radio stations around the time of World War II.

By Alice Brannigan

Radio Resources

16

Public safety pros and scanner users—you *can* cure intermod interference. Gordon West offers his cures for this communications plague.

By Gordon West

Product Spotlight

30

The BC235XLT "Trunk Tracker" is the first handheld scanner on the market able to follow or "track" the conversations on Motorola 800 MHz trunked radio systems. Now find out what it does *and* how it does it.

By J. T. Ward

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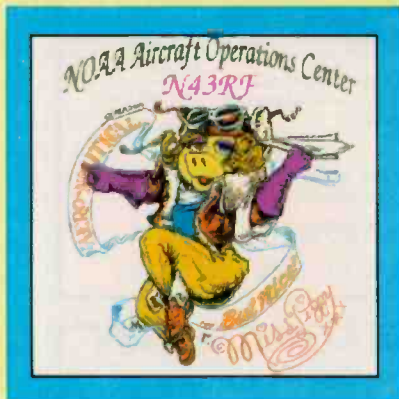


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POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

AUGUST 1997

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page 20

ON THE COVER: An aero radio tech checks the antennas on a NOAA aircraft at the McDill Air Force Base hangar in Tampa, Florida. Check out "RD" Baker's feature "Riders on the Storm" on page 20 for the latest frequencies and newest internet sites for storm tracking. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).



FEATURES

NOAA Aviation Operations

8

Flying into the heart of a storm to gather data is an experience filled with danger and excitement. Learn first-hand what it's like to be a part of the NOAA research team.

By J.T. Ward

Midwest Severe Weather Spotting

12

It's important to be prepared in the event of a storm—that includes knowing the frequencies to tune to in your area. If you live in the Plains States, you'll need the information and frequencies listed here.

By Keith Brewster, NØIAW

Radio Active Storm Chaser Warren Faidley

18

Follow along with a "one-of-a-kind" storm chaser and see how he relies on radio to both track storms and stay safe.

By Jock Elliott

Riders on the Storm

20

When disaster strikes and Mother Nature lashes out, knowing where to hear the action is key to any radio enthusiast. Catch these FEMA and USCG frequencies and catch a wild ride on a storm.

By Richard "RD" Baker

Texas: When Outlaw Broadcasters Rode The Range

30

Alice redefines the Lone Star State as a wild frontier of outlaw broadcast stations.

By Alice Brannigan

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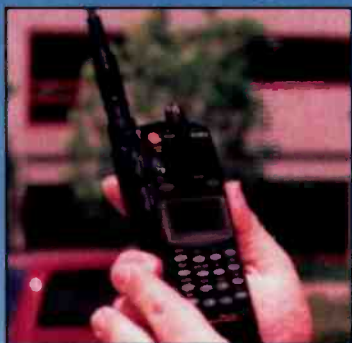
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ON THE COVER: The 320 ft. towers of KOMA radio in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The station broadcasts on 1520 kHz and runs 50 kW. Find out how to successfully QSL stations in "QSLing TV and FM Stations" by Frank Aden on page 10. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



FEATURES

Hook Your Stereo to an Antenna and Try FM DXing! 8

Learn how you can tune in long distance FM stations without spending a fortune on expensive equipment. It really *is* easy!

By Bruce F. Elving, Ph.D.

QSLing TV and FM Stations 10

Brush up on the "art" of QSLing TV and FM stations. Find out what special techniques it takes to get stations to verify your reports.

By Frank Aden

TrunkTracker Talk 16

Our scanning expert, J.T. Ward answers all your questions on the Uniden Bearcat 235XLT TrunkTracker scanner.

By J.T. Ward

Hollywood's Rolling Radio Station 18

During the roaring '20s, Warner Brothers had a great idea. Alice tells all!

By Alice Brannigan

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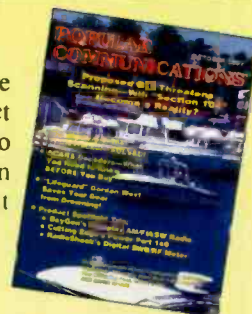


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ON THE COVER: A Sarasota, Florida Police Marine Patrol checks out local waterways. Always protect your gear from water, but remember that it doesn't have to be curtains for your radio if it falls overboard. Read Gordon West's "Radio Resources" column on page 22 to find out how to revive a drenched radio. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)



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TrunkTracker Talk

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Now all the questions you've ever had about the TrunkTracker scanner are answered!

By J.T. Ward

Markey Files New Bill To Restrict Scanners

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Two portions of a proposed bill stand to threaten the scanning hobby as we know it. An informed hobbyist is the best defense. Check out what "Section 104" could do to your hobby.

By J.T. Ward

Communications Privacy Wars, 1930s Style

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Communications privacy is no new issue. Elaborate efforts to tune out monitors were even in effect 60 years ago!

By Alice Brannigan

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ON THE COVER: A field engineer uses a Magellan Systems Satellite Phone to talk with his office from a remote site. Check out Gordon West's "Radio Resources" column on page 44 for more information on using satellite phone systems. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).



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- Introduction to LF and VLF Radio Monitoring** 8
Take a walk "downstairs" to an often-overlooked group of frequencies that can provide interesting monitoring targets for both the beginner and the experienced listener.
By Joseph Cooper, VE3FMQ
- World's First Major Shortwave Broadcaster** 16
Alice explores a few innovative radio stations that got their start around 1927.
By Alice Brannigan
- NEW COLUMN!—"ScanTech"** 24
Join Ken Reiss as he divulges his scanning tips, techniques and modifications. This month he gets started with "Working with Trunked Systems."
By Ken Reiss

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Police and Scanners: An Interesting Mix in Western Kentucky 8

Scanners provide officers with a wealth of information that might not be broadcast over police radio. Here's one officer's story of scanning and keeping one step ahead.

By Officer Stefan Jagoe

Special Pop'Comm Update 14

Tauzin agrees to fix broken 2369. Finally! Hard work and perseverance pay off—Representative Tauzin has now admitted that the bill is flawed and will begin working toward fixing it.

By J.T. Ward

Personal Broadcasters: Those Were The Days 16

Back in the 1920s, virtually anyone who was intrigued by new radio technology could get a license and put a station on the air. Many people did just that. Alice takes you back to the days of informal, ham-owned stations.

By Alice Brannigan

CB Scene: Christmas Presents 54

Our CB "Santa" gets the season rolling with his list of things to be thankful for and his suggestions for a successful CB New Year!

By Jock Elliott



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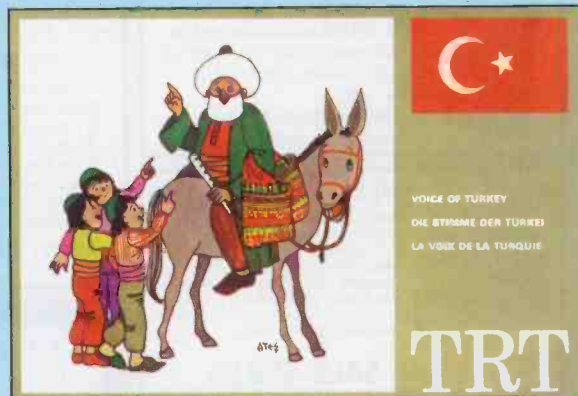
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The Loose Connection: A (Really Bad) History of Cats in Communication84

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ON THE COVER: Mounted Officer, Angie Bevier, of the Boise, Idaho Police Department, on duty in a park located across from the state capitol. To learn more about police and communications, read "Police and Scanners: An Interesting Mix in Western Kentucky" by Officer Stefan Jagoe on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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FEATURES

Volunteer Public Safety in Action: Jersey Coastal Emergency Services (JCES) 8

From hazardous spills and weather emergencies to train derailments, JCES is there to assist.

By Brian Flaherty and Ken Nieglos

H.R. 2369 and The ARRL: ARRL Proposal Modifies Bill in Two Key Areas . . . 12

The ARRL has proposed a few language modifications to Rep. Tauzin's H.R. 2369 that should help minimize the bill's impact on the radio hobby.

By J.T. Ward

Broadcasters Touched by Fate: Five Stations That Became Curious Footnotes to History 14

The attack on Pearl Harbor is a major historical event that affected many. Alice tells of five radio stations that are curious footnotes to that story.

By Alice Brannigan

ScanTech: Selecting a New Radio 46

Buying a new scanner can often be a nerve-wracking experience. There are options to be considered and choices to be made. Ken Reiss offers some insight on making heads or tails out of what's available and what's important.

By Ken Reiss



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ON THE COVER: *Andre Spitzer and John Lasher keep tabs on the weather at the Harrison Weather Center near Newark, New Jersey a division of the Jersey Coastal Emergency Services. Read about this volunteer public safety organization on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)*

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Spy Numbers Stations—Have YOU Heard Them? 8

New Spy Numbers Stations and formats continue to pop up periodically. Take a look at several that may be easily heard by the North American listener.

By Chris Smolinski

Congress Blinks, Scanner Bill Amended 12

In an ever-changing political arena, J.T. Ward keeps us posted on H.R. 2369, a bill that could mean trouble for the future of scanning and shortwave utility monitoring.

By J.T. Ward

Balloons Around the World on High Frequency 14

Right now is the time to hear high-flying balloons! Gordon tells you how to tune into them on both aeronautical VHF and high-frequency single sideband.

By Gordon West, WB6NOA

The Rise and Fall of a Legend 16

New York's WEAF was once a great station, but it went dark . . . Before that time, though, there were a number of famous radio personalities connected with this station. Read on for an exciting trip through time.

By Alice Brannigan



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ON THE COVER: Dan Turner at the control of radio station WJDM on its newly assigned frequency of 1660 kHz in the X-Band, broadcasting from Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, N.J. For more X-Band news and other up-to-the-minute BCB loggings, check out the "Broadcast DXing" column on page 58. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 1998

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 7

FEATURES

Setting Up a Successful Broadcast Band Monitoring Station 8

It's easy, inexpensive, and one of the most rewarding aspects of our monitoring hobby. Here's how to hear distant stations on the broadcast band without spending a bundle.

By Joseph Cooper, VE3FMQ

Small Voices for Freedom Were Heard 14

At the height of the Cold War, a network of underground broadcasters drove the Soviets crazy! Alice takes you back to 1963 when Radio Prague went dark and Free Czech Radio began.

By Alice Brannigan

Searching: Finding Elusive Feds and Traffic Reporters 34

Tired of waiting for traffic reports on your all-news station? Plug Chuck's frequencies into your scanner for first-hand traffic helicopter reports. And if the feds are in town, here's where to tune.

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP



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ON THE COVER: New York City's WABC-TV news copter flying high over the Big Apple. Hearing traffic reporters on your scanner is easy if you know where to tune. Be sure to check out Chuck's "Scanning the Globe" column on page 34. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

APRIL 1998

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FEATURES

Tuning Up Your Broadcast Band Monitoring Station 8

Building an inexpensive passive loop antenna and turntable will help you pull in those distant stations.

By Joseph Cooper, VE3FMQ

TV Or Not TV? That Is The Question 16

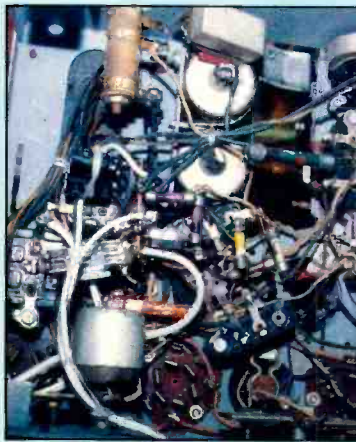
Digging up television's pre-history reveals some startling facts from the '20s and '30s.

By Alice Brannigan

Live Radio On Your Computer 54

With a few minutes of work and "Real Audio," you'll hear radio from Africa to England.

By Edward Griffin



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ON THE COVER: *The transmitter site of WADO, 1290 kHz in the New Jersey Meadowlands, west of New York City. If you want to pull in those distant AM BCB stations, build Joe Cooper's loop antenna and turntable on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)*

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

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FEATURES

Hidden Antennas 8

Out of sight, but not out of luck.

By Ken Reiss

Historic KDYL: Utah's "On the Air, Goes Everywhere" 14

It had eight frequencies, and as many call letter changes.

By Alice Brannigan

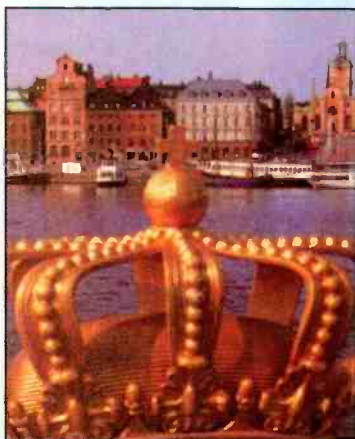
Cruising On CB Channel 9 48

If you do it right, the nationwide emergency channel can be used on the highway.

By Ed Barnat



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ON THE COVER: These CB-equipped campers on the road in Idaho can use CB Channel 9 for traveler's assistance as well as emergencies. Read this month's "CB Scene" on page 48. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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American Pop Radio's Invasion Of England 8

It's smooth sailing for Radio London.

By Peter Hunn

Radio Privacy Bill Passes 12

The impact on scanning is questionable.

By J.T. Ward

The Call Letter Connection 14

What's behind those call letters? Either more or less than you thought.

By Alice Brannigan

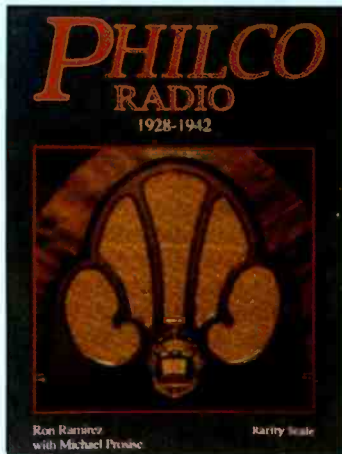
Monitoring Space Shuttle Launches 70

Complete with a list of confirmed frequencies, it's your guide to hearing shuttle comms and more.

By RD Baker



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ON THE COVER: The space shuttle Columbia blasts off from Cape Canaveral. Richard "RD" Baker's "Communications Confidential" column gives you the inside scoop on hearing shuttle comms on page 70. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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JULY 1998

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Here Comes Low Power FM Broadcasting 8

Microbroadcasting could be around the corner. Will you own an LPFM station?

By J. Rodger Skinner, Jr.

The Mystery Station On "Island X" 13

Two secret anti-Castro stations of the '60s.

By Alice Brannigan

The 11th Annual Shortwave Listener's WinterFest! 16

A report on the annual gathering of radio enthusiasts in Kulpsville.

By Ken Reiss



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ON THE COVER: Here's on-air personality, Robin Shannon of public radio station WBJB-FM 90.5 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey. The FCC is considering petitions which would permit low power FM broadcasting that could put you on the air legally. Read about the fascinating possibilities in "Here Comes Low Power FM Broadcasting" on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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Maximize your chances of snagging that rare one.
By Gerry L. Dexter

The Voice Of Rainbow Park 14

The saga of a Depression-born Missouri station, plus old-time TV revisited.
By Alice Brannigan

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When it comes to scanning, are you ready for anything?
By Chuck Gysi

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Catching the comms of the activist organization.
By Richard "RD" Baker



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ON THE COVER: Will you be prepared when an emergency strikes? That's when seldom-used public safety and other VHF/UHF frequencies spring to life, like those in the emergency room at Mercy Community Hospital, Port Jervis, New York. Check out Chuck Gysi's "Scanning The Globe" on page 32 for emergency scanning tips. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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SEPTEMBER 1998

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Monitoring Our Military On Your Scanner 8

With a modest investment, you'll be busy for hours.

By J. T. Ward

WTAG Picked Its Own Frequency!

These early newspaper-owned stations were really shifty.

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By Alice Brannigan



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ON THE COVER: Here's the tower of radio station WKLG, 102.1 FM, "Star 102," Key Largo, FL. Warm weather months are prime time for FM and TV DXing. Beat the heat — try your hand at DXing using E-skip and tropo. Check out this month's "Broadcast DXing" column on page 63. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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ON THE COVER: Police Chief John Pollinger of Middletown Township, New Jersey, and Police Dispatcher Skip Trudo check out the new 35-foot field communication unit. Are you equipped to hear your nearby public safety agencies? Be sure to read Ken Reiss' "ScanTech" column on page 44 for a special look at the new equipment and resources available to help you get the most from your monitoring. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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ON THE COVER: This 1,390-foot tower in California supplies TV, FM, and public service for San Francisco. The FM broadcast band from 88 to 108 MHz is an ideal listening post for meteor scatter signals. To find out more, check out this month's "Radio Resources" column on page 24. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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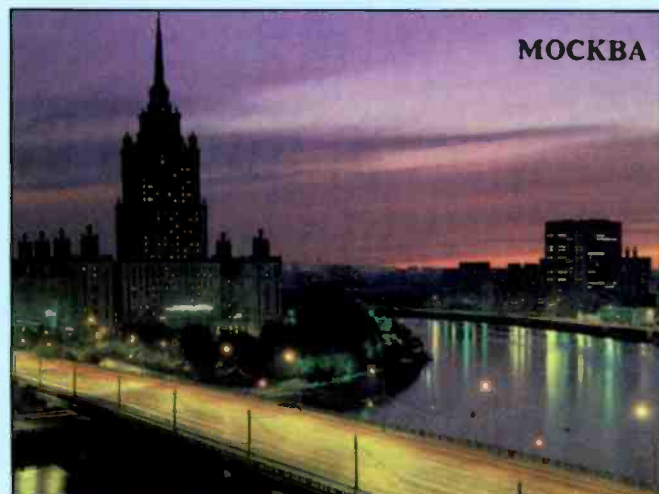
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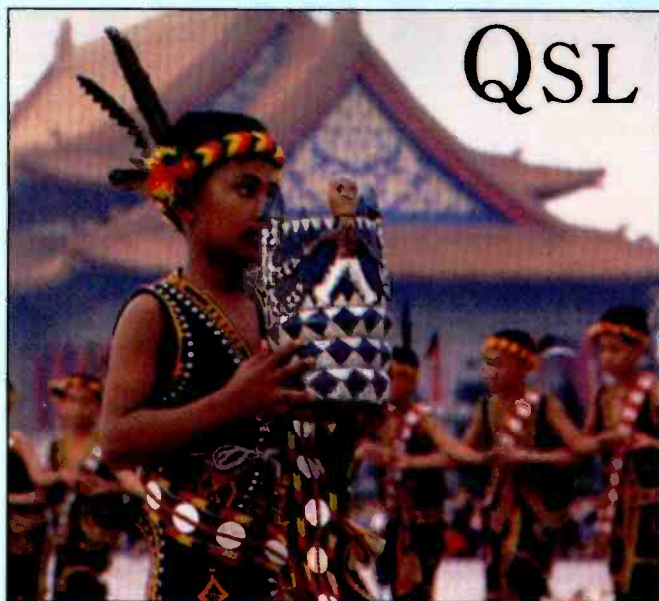
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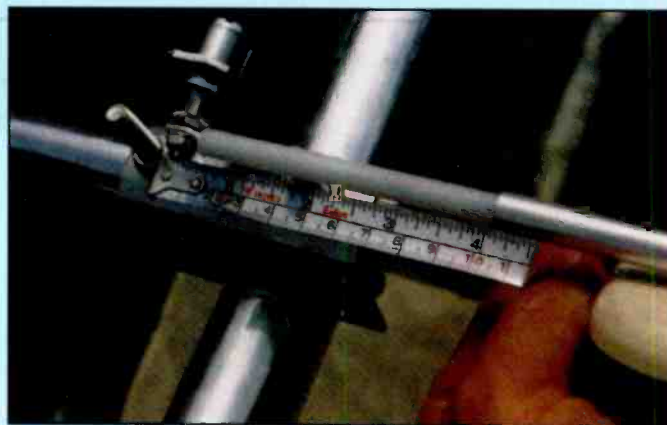
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ON THE COVER: Here's a look at Hillsborough County Sheriff's Radio Dispatch Center in Tampa. If your city or state police have gone to a trunked system, be sure to read Ken Reiss' "ScanTech" this month on page 24. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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By Ed Decker, Jr.

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Its 40-year career included piracy, intrigue, and naval and commercial traffic!
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From Albania to Zanzibar, your international shortwave broadcast loggings round out "The Listening Post." By Gerry L. Dexter



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ON THE COVER: A look at the telephone cell site on Castro Peak, Malibu in Southern California. While the ECPA makes it illegal to listen in on cellular calls in the U.S., our sources in New Zealand tell us that in that country you can listen, but can't use or rebroadcast any transmission without permission. This month Ed Decker, Jr. has rounded up some great frequencies and information on the "City of Sails" on page 10. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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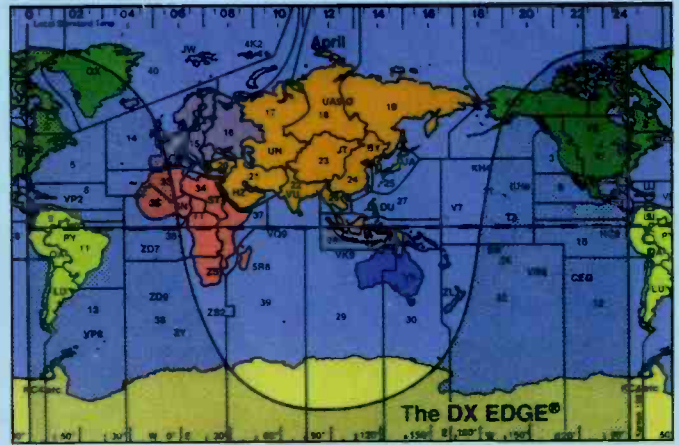
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ON THE COVER: AT&T high-seas SSB stations are going off the air on February 28. This resort boat captain can use a powerful competing shore station — WLO, Mobile, Alabama. For details, see page 16. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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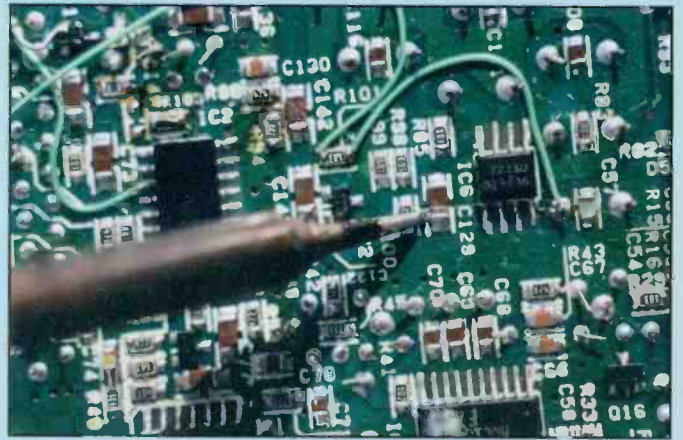
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without the need for anti-monitoring legislation.
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ON THE COVER: Whether you're monitoring on-scene low-power comms, like these firefighters from the Pocatello Fire Co. of the Town of Wallkill, New York, or wide-coverage public safety dispatch operations, you can probably use a good tone reader. Learn why and get the facts about tones from Mr. Scanner, Ken Reiss on page 31. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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By Ed Decker, Jr.

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Built from the remains of a failed predecessor, WCCO became a classic.

By Alice Brannigan



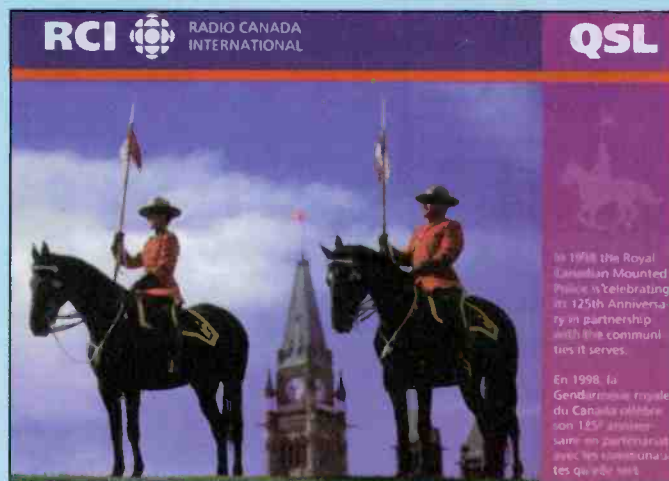
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ON THE COVER: *The Montauk Light House, at the tip of New York's Long Island, is a must-see if you're visiting the Big Apple this summer. Bring your camera and plenty of film, but most important — bring your scanner and Ed Decker's "Monitoring Long Island" article, beginning on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)*

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It's a unique station, and a rare catch.

By Gerry L. Dexter

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A seed blew in from the Windy City, took root, and blossomed in Topeka!

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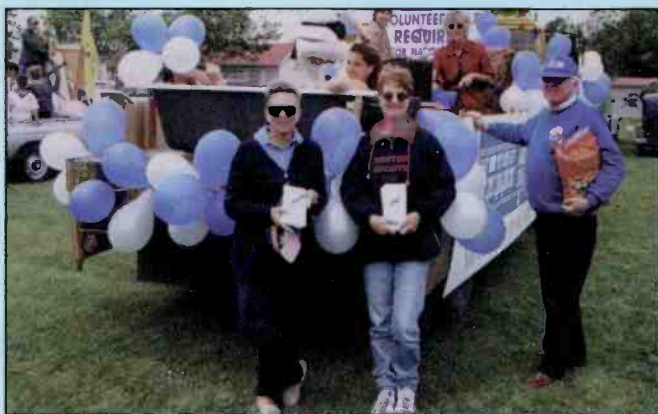
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By The National Weather Service



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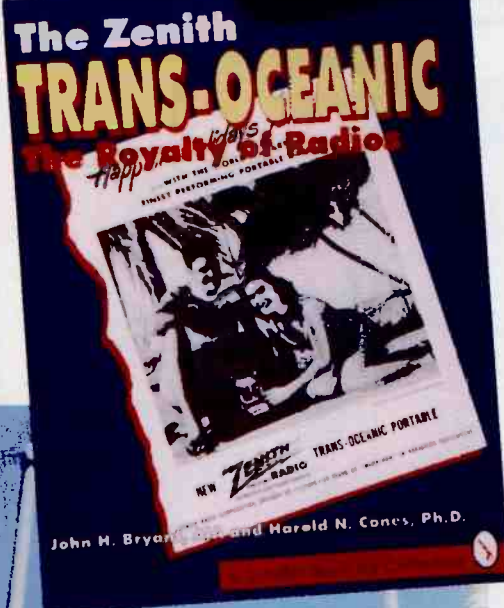
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Harness the energy! It's free and it's yours for a few hours work. With the Millennium just around the corner, now's the time to get prepared. Check out "Solar Power For Your Radios — It's Easier Than You Think" on page 8 to learn how to be ready.

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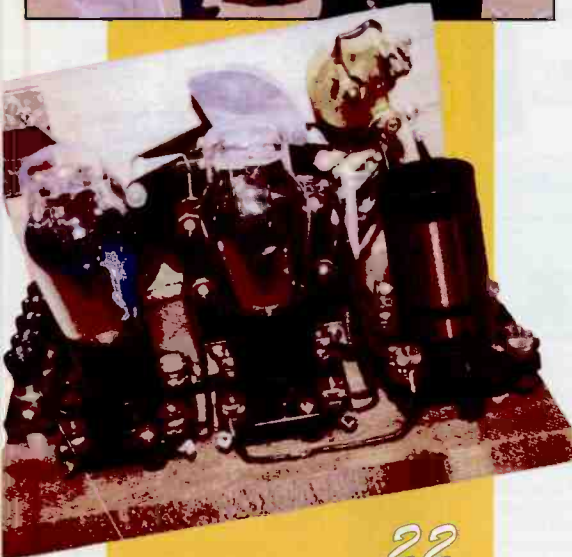
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Cities and towns across America are testing their radio systems — repeater and simplex — in preparation for Y2K. Be sure to check out Gordon West's article "Scanning for Y2K Problems" on page 8 to learn more about the unusual comms you're hearing as the clock counts down to January 1.

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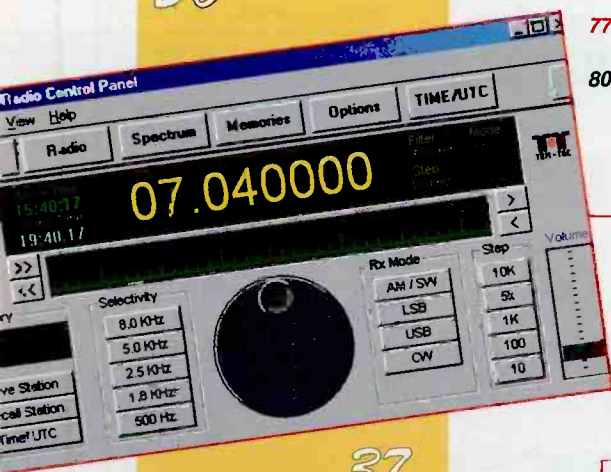
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On The Cover

American Red Cross volunteers, like these members of the Oceanport, New Jersey Volunteer First Aid Squad, are available to their community on a moment's notice. You don't have to be a licensed radio operator to assist during a real-life callout. Read Gordon West's "Real Calls With The Red Cross" on page 33 to learn how you can help your community in times of need. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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On The Cover

This Princeton, New Jersey police officer uses the latest communications technology — his cruiser's computer/radio terminal. What's the future of scanning? Will new generation scanners allow us to continue monitoring the airwaves? Columnist Ken Reiss has been busy looking into his crystal ball. Read this month's "Scan Tech" column on page 26 for details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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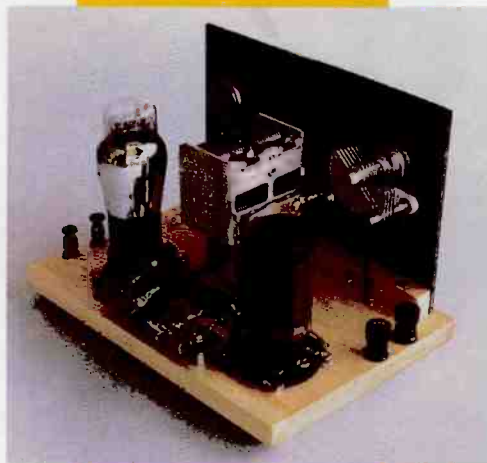
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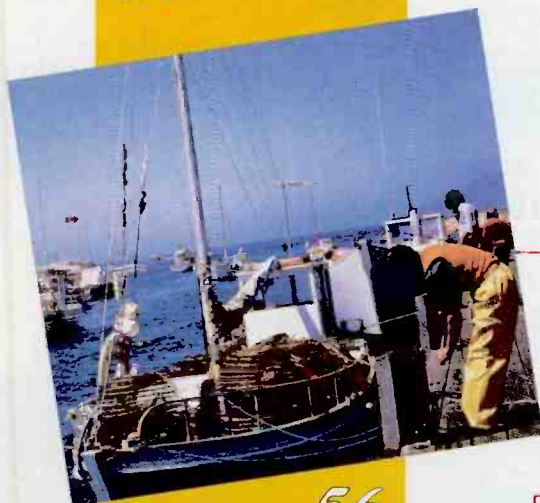
On The Cover

A U.S. Air Force F-15E Eagle flies above snow-covered mountains over Northern Iraq during a routine patrol in support of Operation Northern Watch. Coalition enforcement of the no-fly zone keeps Saddam in check. Gerry Dexter's five-page article, "Millennium? Don't Celebrate Here," beginning on page 8, gives you frequencies and times so YOU can hear more than 50 shortwave stations from countries in turmoil. (DOD Photo by Captain Patricia Lang, U.S. Air Force and inset photo of B-52H Stratofortress pilot over Kosovo by Senior Airman Greg L. Davis, U.S. Air Force)

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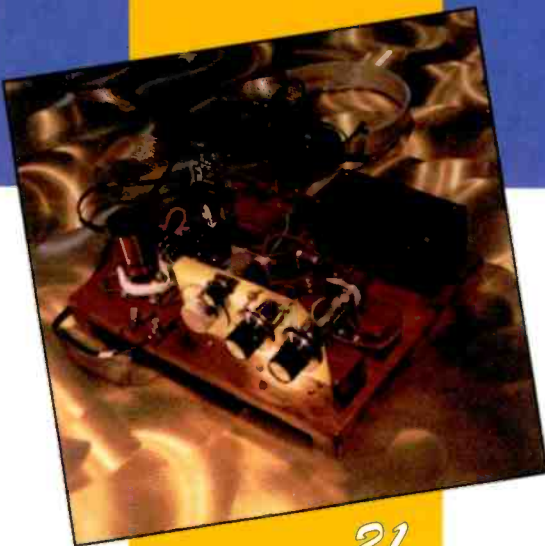
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William G. Stewart II (left) and Walter L. Stewart of the Superstition REACT, Inc. Team C320 in Mesa, Arizona, practice a search in the desert. Emergency responders, when using CB Channel 9, sometimes inadvertently respond to calls from more than 150-miles away. Because of the FCC's 150-mile CB rule, these and other "skip" contacts are considered a violation of Part 95, CB rule 13. *Pop'Comm* columnist, Alan Dixon has petitioned the FCC to eliminate this useless rule. For details, be sure to read "The Washington Beat" on page 75. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

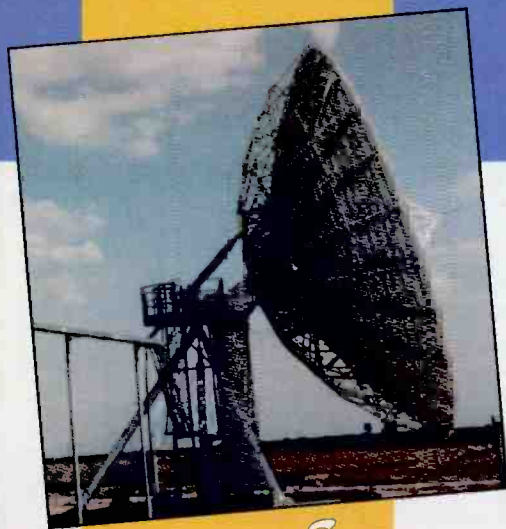
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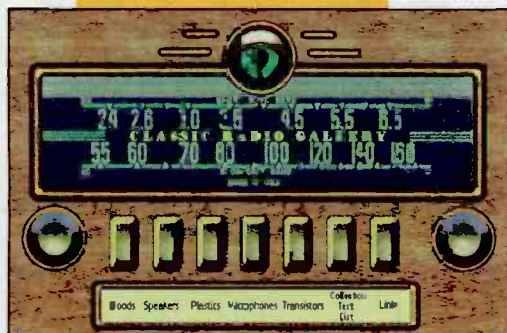
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On The Cover

Macon Dail, Jr., WB4TMQ, Electronic Maintenance Supervisor at the Voice of America's Greenville, North Carolina transmitting site "A" works at the master control. Gerry Dexter's article, "Monitoring Uncle Sam's International Voices" on page 8 includes times and frequencies for all of the International Broadcasting Bureau's (IBB) worldwide stations. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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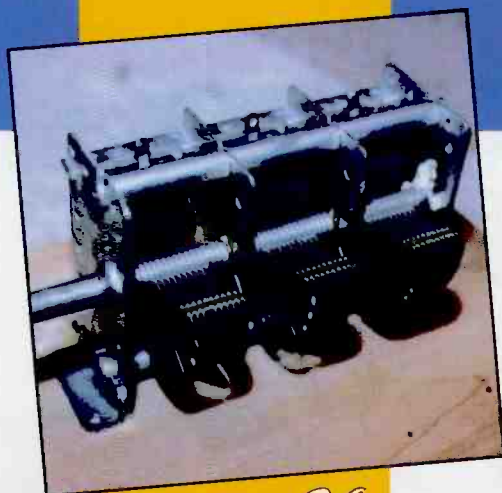
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On The Cover

Aircraft Commander Captain Kevin E. Schiller pre-flights his KC-135 tanker aircraft at MacDill AFB. You can hear the U.S. Air Force ALE network and much more by decoding Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) transmissions. This month's "Communications Confidential" column by "RD" Baker and Mike Fink explains how on page 70. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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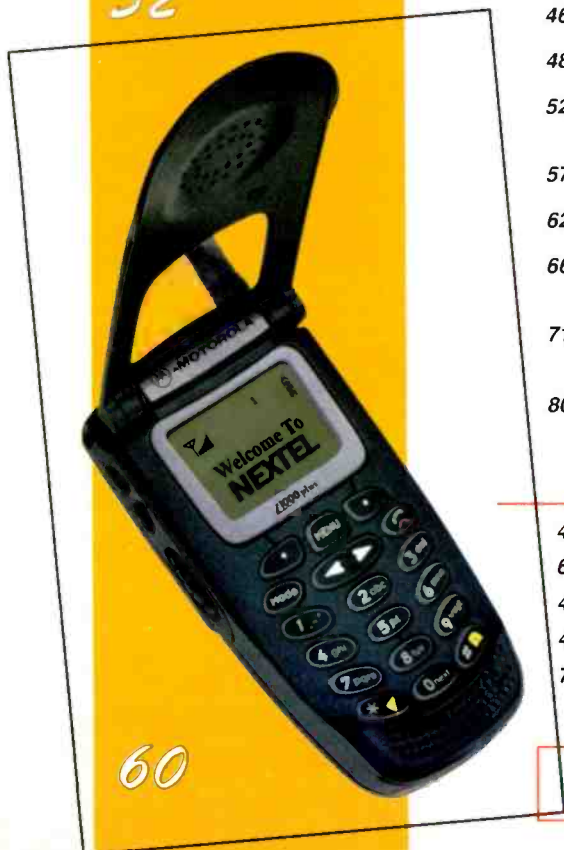
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On The Cover

A C-141 Starlifter approaches the refueling boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker. You can hear aviators make the connection and much more if you know where to tune. Check out this month's "In The Cockpit: Getting Started In Aviation Scanning" by Ken Reiss for tips and techniques on this fascinating aspect of radio monitoring on page 8. (Photo by Senior Airman Jerry Morrison, U.S. Air Force).

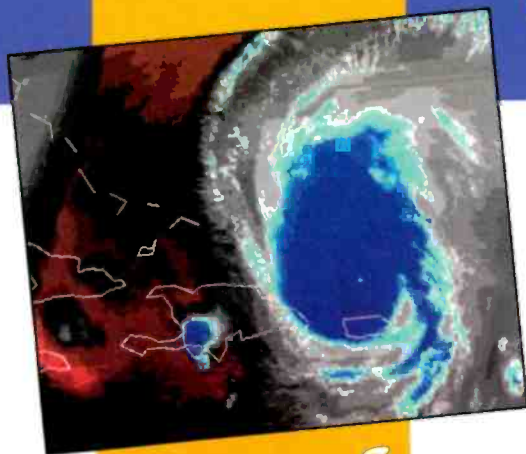
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Each year hundreds of people die needlessly from lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes and flash floods. But with advance warnings and your radios, you and your family can be safe. Read Peter Law's article "Weather Alert! You CAN Be Ready" on page 8 for details. (Photo courtesy NOAA. Inset photo courtesy of the National Hurricane Center by Julio Ripoll, WD4JR)

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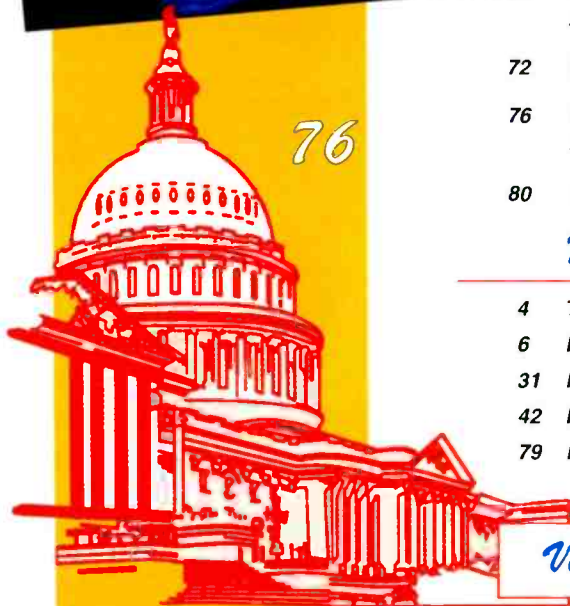
This U.S. Army Ranger from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment uses his radio at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia in a training exercise. How far Washington is willing to go with helping the Colombian army fight insurgency and the illegal drug business there is anyone's guess. But in the meantime, Colombia remains a hot radio target. Gerry Dexter's "Catching The Colombians" feature on page 8 gives you the scoop on Colombian shortwave stations YOU can hear! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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What's the frequency, Ken? Karen Thompson and Arthur Proctor of the Anaheim, California Police Department at the Department's 911 board certainly know the Anaheim public safety frequencies, but what about frequencies in your monitoring area? Beginning this month in Ken Reiss' "Scan Tech" column, he'll give YOU a frequency to monitor. Let him know what you hear, and you could win a three-month subscription extension. This month he also reviews the super-hot ARC-8200 software package for AOR's AR-8200 handheld scanner on page 55. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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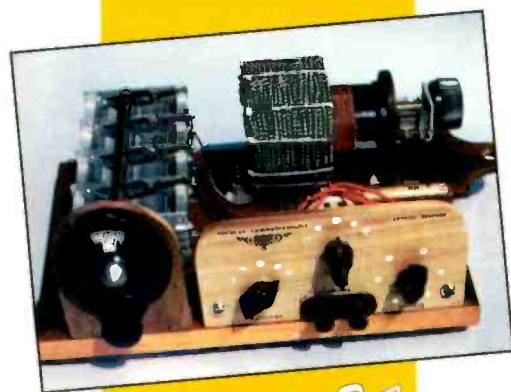
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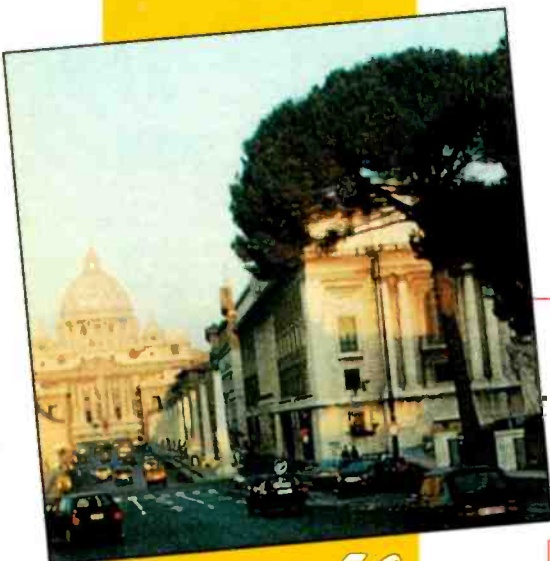
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The beautiful Eiffel Tower is not only a transmitting site for Radio France, but in the past it was used for two-way radio and even transmitted CW! Read this month's Alice Brannigan's "Radio's Original Tower Of Power" on page 16 to learn more. (Photo courtesy of the French Government Tourist Office)

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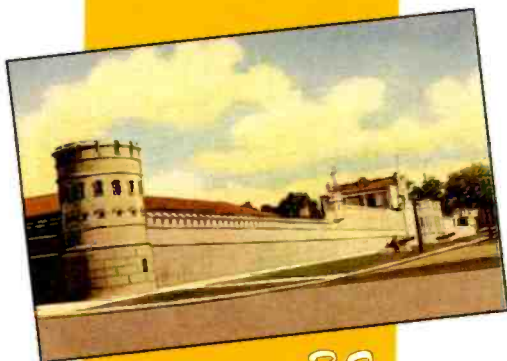
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Michigan's lopsided anti-scanner law is getting plenty of folks fired up. The sign is gone now, but unfortunately the law still stands. Get the latest on this and other radio-related news in this month's "Washington Beat" on page 62. (Photo by Mark A. Bajek)

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2-WAY RADIO TROUBLESHOOTING



by Al Cook (K2MPE)
<http://www.ckradio.com/>

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A look at one of WMAQ's 15 work stations where stories were produced, edited and recorded. This month's Broadcast DXing by Bruce Conti highlights WMAQ: We Must Ask Questions. (Photo by Andy Pearce).

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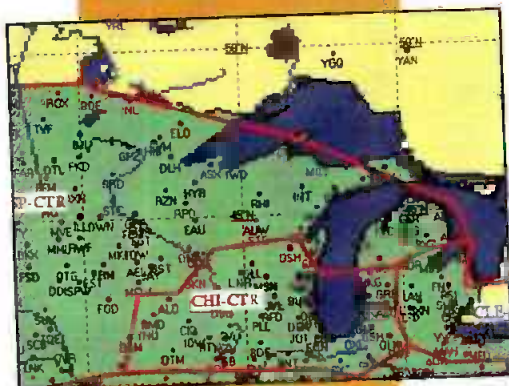
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Jesse Kovak checks out a vehicle at Eatontown, New Jersey's Monmouth Mall. Scanning your mall is a snap with the frequencies and tips in this month's ScanTech column on page 52. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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Catrina Cletta, air traffic control specialist at the Key West International Airport, Florida talks with aircraft. Every month, Bill Hoefler's "Plane Sense" column covers a multiple of aircraft communications topics. This month Bill's topic is the Civil Air Patrol. Check out "Plane Sense" on page 23. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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Family owned station WILM, 1450, Wilmington, Delaware's annual DX test is just around the corner. For details check out page 77, and for more great winter DX news read Broadcast DXing on page 20. Photo of Allan Loudell, Program Manager, courtesy of Caroline Large at WILM Newsradio.

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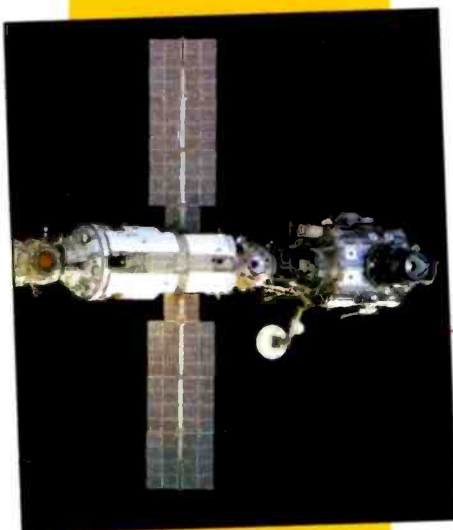
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On The Cover

A view of downtown Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), a bustling cultural and business center of nearly four million people. Writer Bob Padula recently visited Vietnam, providing us an exclusive look at radio from this Southeast Asian country. Bob's article "Broadcasting From Vietnam—A New Millennium" begins on page 6. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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Recently declassified documents from 1961 show the U.S. deeply involved in a psywar directed at Cuba with Radio Swan as the main propaganda voice. Read Jon Elliston's article on page 6 for exclusive details of this covert operation and radio's role in the Bay of Pigs invasion that put the world on the brink of war. (Photo courtesy John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, Boston, MA)

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Coast to Coast AM with....



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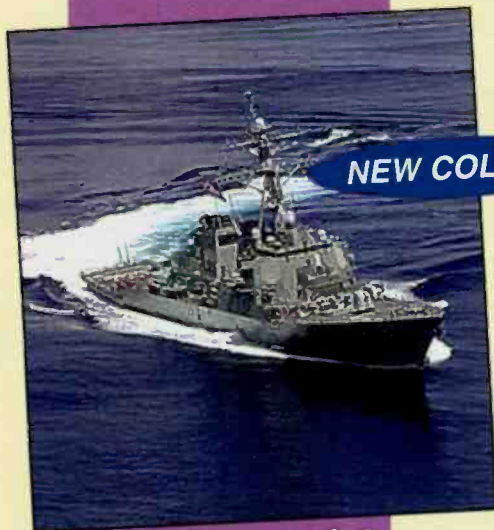
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Coast-to-Coast host Art Bell returns to the airwaves. For details read Bruce Conti's Broadcast DXing column on page 44. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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Named *Rudolf Egelhofer* when it was part of the East German Navy, this Soviet-built Tarantul I class missile corvette was acquired from the Federal German Navy in 1991. There's plenty of German Navy action on shortwave if you know where to listen. Check out this month's Utility Radio Review on page 63 for details. (Photo courtesy DVIC Still Media)

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Today you've got to expect the unexpected, and program your scanners accordingly. Just as the Sarasota County, Florida sheriff SWAT Team practices, you should have special scanner banks programmed for major events, and practice monitoring these banks in case disaster strikes. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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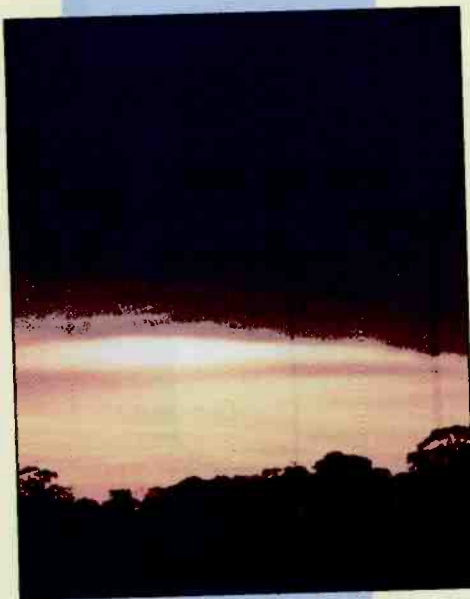
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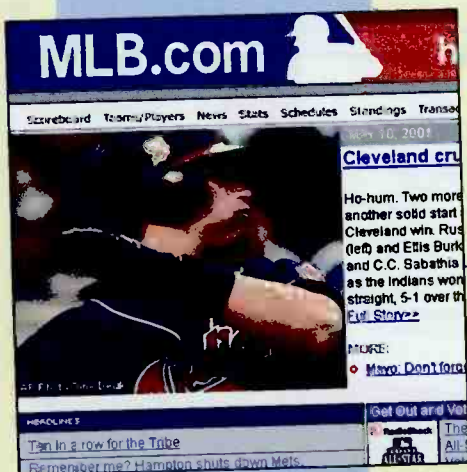
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Don't let utility companies hold you hostage with power outages this summer. Build our portable solar powered system and Say NO To Blackouts! Check out the article and photos on page 8 for complete details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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Chances are good that your local police dispatch center resembles the Long Branch, NJ radio room. But do you have what it takes to hear them? Check out this month's Overheard column by Ken Reiss on page 30 for answers to your most commonly asked scanner questions. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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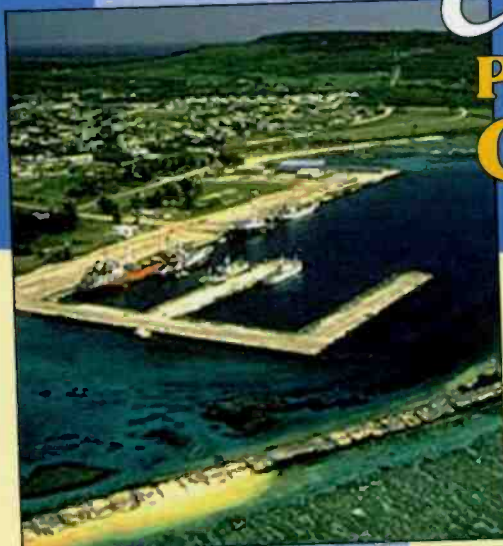
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PICO SEARCH powered by hosting **free!**

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 The Free Search Engine for searching your own web site.
 A hosted Search Engine for your web site created on-line
 in minutes!
 The best method for helping your website's visitors find what
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SIGN UP NOW FREE! Search Enable Your Web Site Now!
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Chris Justice, C. Crane's chief engineer, is working on a radio he helped design. This month, in Bruce Conti's Broadcast Technology column on page 52, read all about IF filters and Kiwa Electronic's new filter upgrade kit for the C. Crane CCRadio (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)

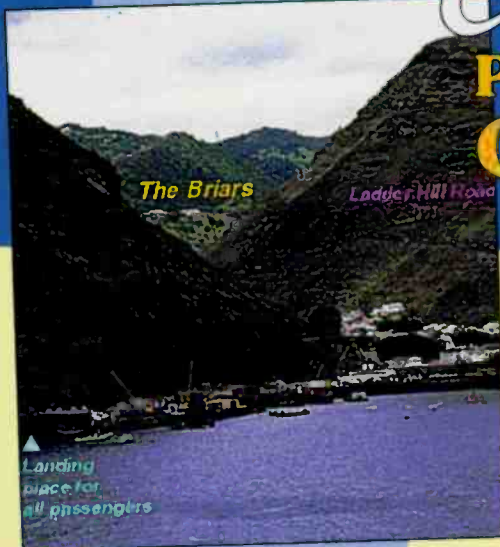
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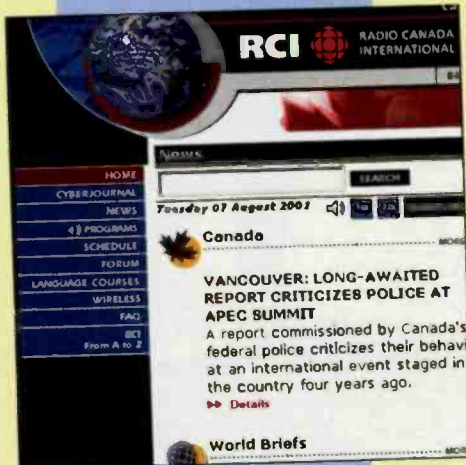
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Air Force SSgt. Buffie Verhaggen's explosive sniffing dog, Calvin, checks out vehicles entering MacDill AFB, Florida. If you're ready to sniff out more scanner action and need some help, read Ken Reiss' Overheard column on page 14. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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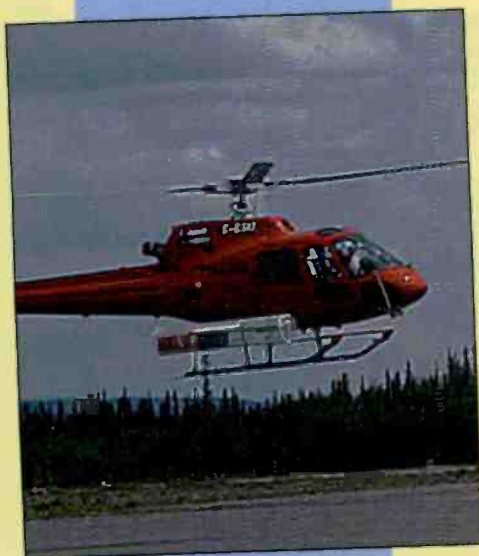
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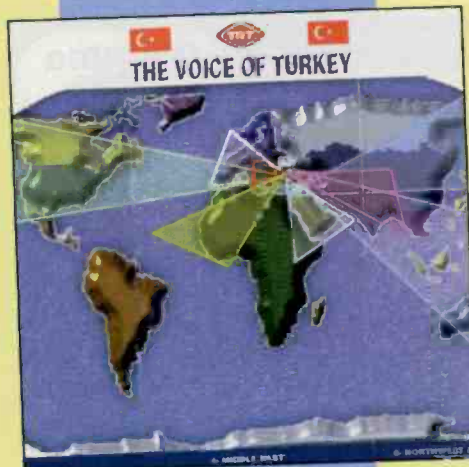
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Flying over lower Manhattan's destruction on September 11, 2001—the day that changed everything. Check Keith Stein's article on page 16 and Gerry's Middle East broadcast listing on page 59. Photo courtesy Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

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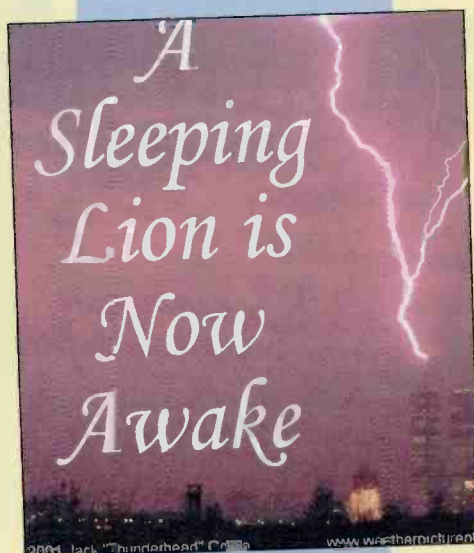
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A National Guard soldier on duty at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport in Florida. At work or home, it pays to know what's going on in your hometown and the world. Be sure to read Ken Reiss' "Overheard" column this month on page 32 to learn what you need to know before "Buying That First Radio." (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

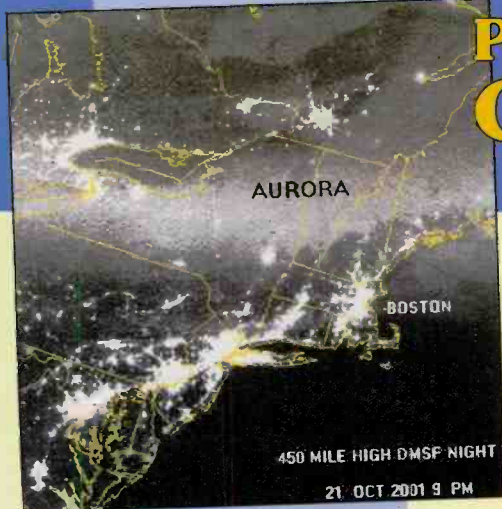
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Hearing Sergeant Chris Kielich of the Anaheim, California Police Department, or your local public safety pros is a snap if your scanner is up to the task. Get the inside scoop on scanner specs in this month's "Overheard" column by Ken Reiss on page 26. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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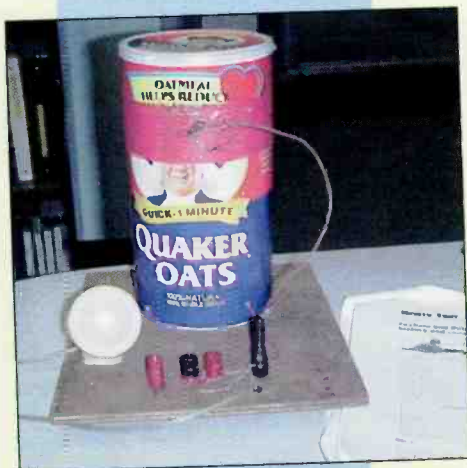
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An Air Force crew member "tweaks" the signal during broadcast on a recent training mission aboard an EC-130 "Commando Solo II" aircraft. The Commando Solo is flown by the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Frequencies and details are on page 38. Photo by Master Sgt. David Hawkins, USAF.

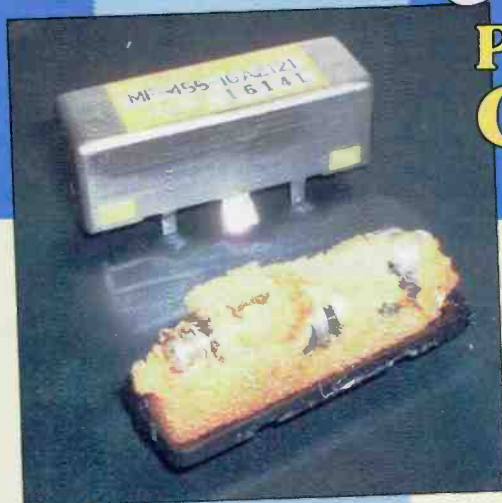
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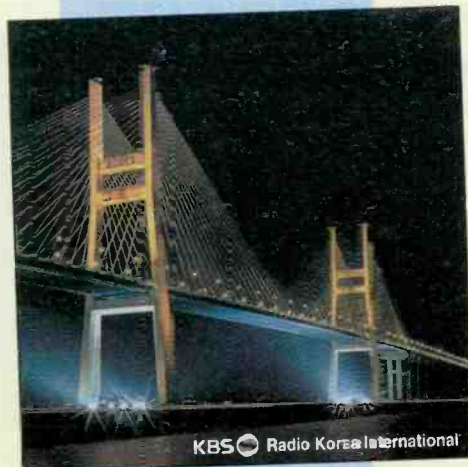
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The war on terrorism continues around the clock—in Afghanistan and at home. This downed service member at Moody AFB, Georgia practices enemy evasion techniques while calling on the radio for help. Check out "Monitoring Operation Enduring Freedom" on page 12, and Utility Radio Review loggings beginning on page 64 for comms you can hear. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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When Montana District II State Police Commander, Bob Hammel, or your local trooper grabs the mike, your monitoring post needs to be in top shape! Read this month's Overheard column by Ken Reiss to learn how yours can be top-notch and ready in an emergency. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

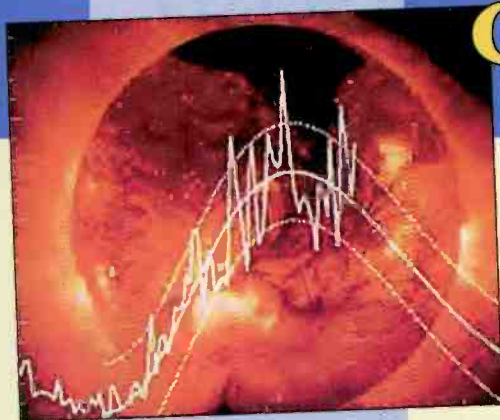
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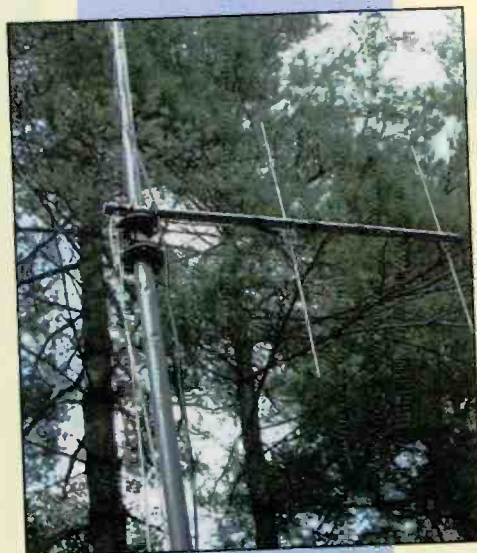
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A firefighter from the Sarasota Florida Fire Department works in sweltering summer heat but are you missing lots of hot scanner action because you're not properly equipped with CTCSS or DCS tone squelch. If you're hearing too many signals on one frequency, you should read Ken Reiss' "Overheard" column this month on page 36. The scanner topic is sub-audible tones. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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Have they gone digital? There *is* hope on the radio horizon if your city converts to this new mode. Be sure to read Ken Reiss' "Overheard" column on page 75 for details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill).

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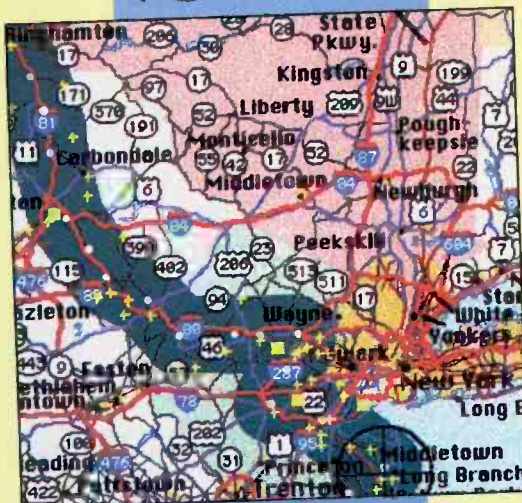
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You don't need expensive radios or fancy antennas to hear Jupiter on your shortwave receiver. Check out Tom Henchy's article on page 8 for details. (Photo courtesy Space and Spaceflight.)

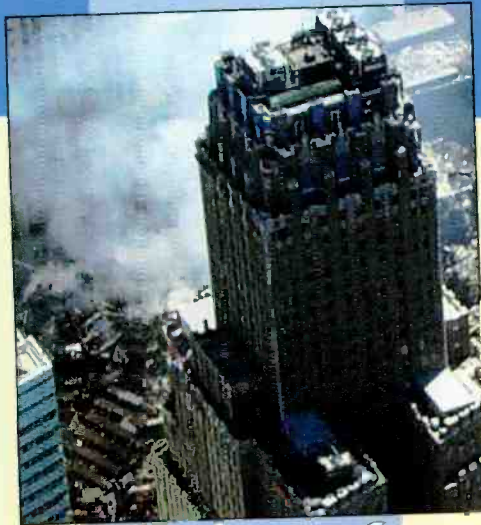
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Preparing for the worst case scenario, these soldiers from Ft. Stewart, GA practice coordinating live fire at the Artillery Fire Control Center. Similarly, our Nation's radio operators put their skills to work on that fateful September day last year. Read Bart Lee's exclusive report from Ground Zero on page 6. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)

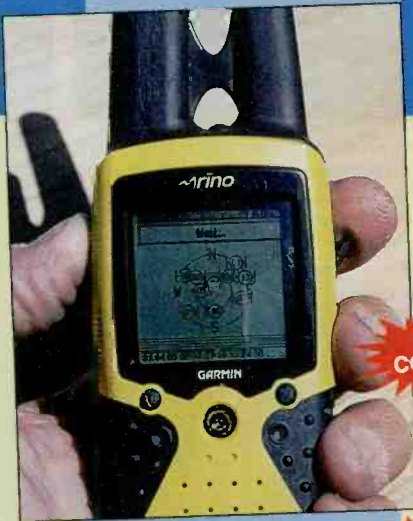
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Twenty years of PopComm's covers all the way back to Issue No.1, September 1982. We begin our next 20 years with two new columns and tons of your monitoring logs!

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The War on Terrorism continues. You can hear tons of military, diplomatic, and aircraft communications if you know where to listen. Check out Joe Cooper's "Utility Radio Review" column on page 60—it's your radio roadmap to adventure! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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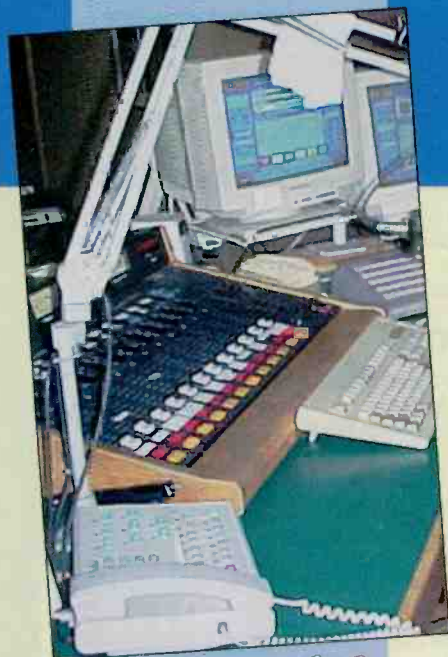
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Every month "Utility Radio Review" columnist Joe Cooper compiles dozens of your military, aircraft, Coast Guard, and government loggings so you're prepared with the frequencies and information when world powers move from words to action. The Long Distance Operational Control Facilities frequencies used by aircraft, civilian, and military—also offer a multitude of monitoring excitement you won't find anywhere except on shortwave! This month, Joe's "Utility Radio Review" is on page 74. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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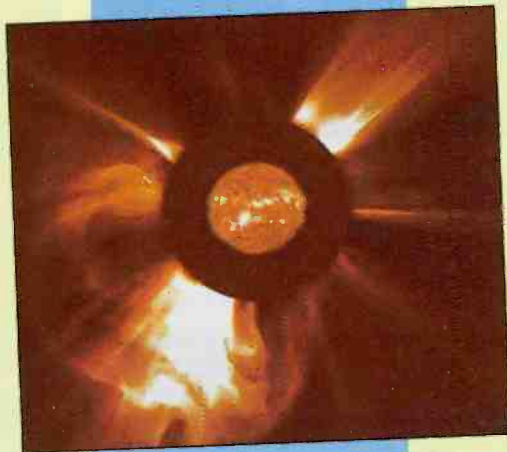
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Here's a look at the 41st Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, practicing extracting a downed flight crew behind "enemy lines." Do YOU have tons of military frequencies? We bet you do! Managing those frequencies and stations can be quite a task, but with your trusty PC and some time, it's super easy. Be sure to check out Joe Cooper's Frequency Database And Logging column on page 66 for details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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On The Cover

You can bet that Richard Kowalski of Grand Junction, Colorado is on top of all the latest foreign broadcast news, including the ever-tense situation in Korea. You too can hear the latest from both sides in this decades-old struggle with Gerry Dexter's article on page 8, "Keeping Tabs On Korea." It includes the complete broadcast schedule of both the North and South as well as the latest clandestine station information! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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If you take part in disaster response drills like this joint Manatee and Sarasota County Florida exercise, be sure to read this month's Homeland Security column on page 22. You'll learn about the personal radio services that can put you on the cutting edge in your community during an emergency. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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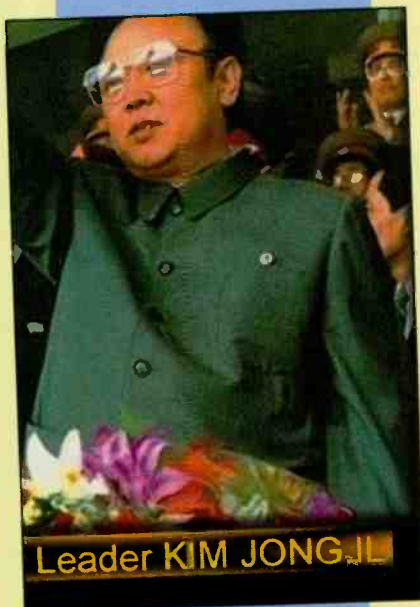
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Thunderbirds 3, 1 and 2 performing a Line Abreast Loop maneuver, as seen from inside the cockpit of Thunderbird 4. See them live at an airshow near you – and hear the action with Gary Palamara's article, "Airwaves And Afterburners" beginning on page 6. (Photo Courtesy USAF)

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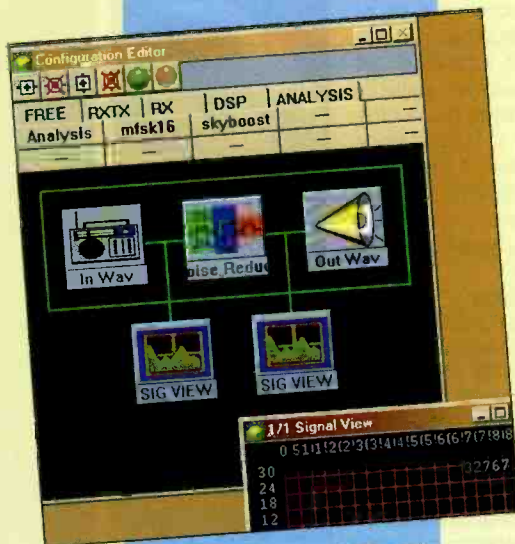
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Engineers Colleen Dunne and Jeffrey Ross at SIRIUS's Satellite Control Room. Will SIRIUS and XM weather the start-up storm? Get the inside story on satellite radio in this month's Radio Resources column beginning on page 14. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill.)

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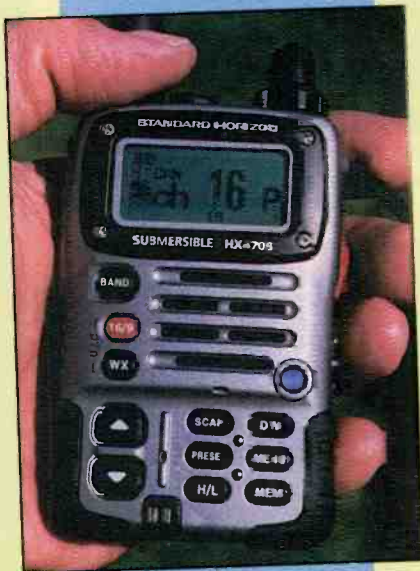
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Whether you're listening to military operations of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Combat Air Patrols (CAP) over America's cities, or stateside training like the rescue of this airman at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, we've got you covered. Check out this month's Clandestine Communiqué for Commando Solo Broadcast information, InfoCentral for confirmed CAP frequencies, and the Global Information Guide for news on the British Forces Broadcasting Service. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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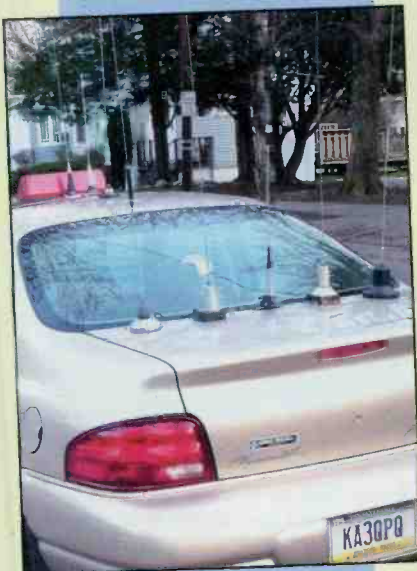
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Traveling this summer? If your plans include air travel and bringing a scanner or handheld radio along, before you pack be sure to read Laura Quarantiello's article, "Traveling With Your Scanner In A Post-9/11 World" beginning on page 6. Next month, she'll have Part II: Your Scanner On Trains, Cruise Ships, and Highways. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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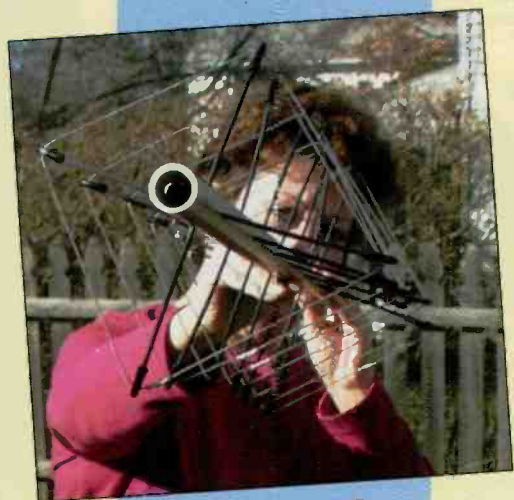
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On The Cover: Whether your cruise takes you past this gigantic TV tower in Shanghai, China, or you're cruising down the highway or riding the rails this summer, there's plenty to think about if you plan on taking your radios along. Get the latest travel information in Laura Quarantiello's article, "Traveling With Your Scanner In A Post 9/11 World, Part II—Trains, Cruise Ships and Highways" on page 6, and Ken Reiss' "Overheard" column on page 14. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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On The Cover: You won't have any trouble hearing a mega-broadcaster like the Far East Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC) from this transmitter site on Saipan on most radios, even with a modest antenna. But how much antenna is just right for your particular listening? Be sure to read Phil Karras' article on page 8, "Sometimes The Best Antenna Is Not The Best Antenna" and find out what you can do to get just the right amount of signal without overloading your receiver. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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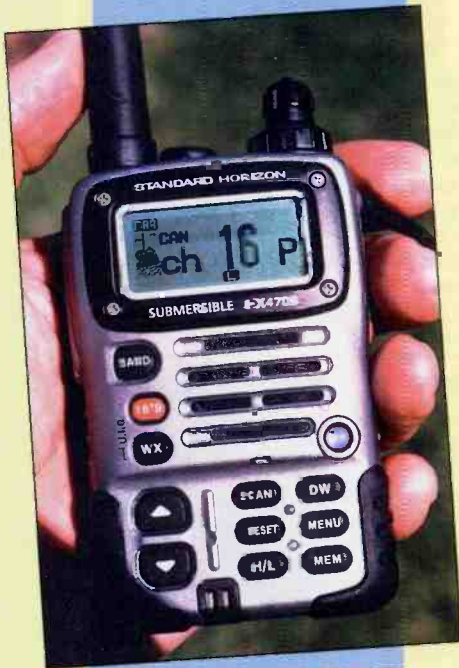
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On The Cover

Staff Sgt. Joseph Joslin, a security forces member from Sembach Air Base, Germany, calls in information on a suspicious car while providing security in northern Iraq. Our own Airman in Iraq, *Pop'Comm* reader Steve Conway, a member of the Michigan Air National Guard, reports on his radio experiences from this war-torn country on page 8. (US Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed).

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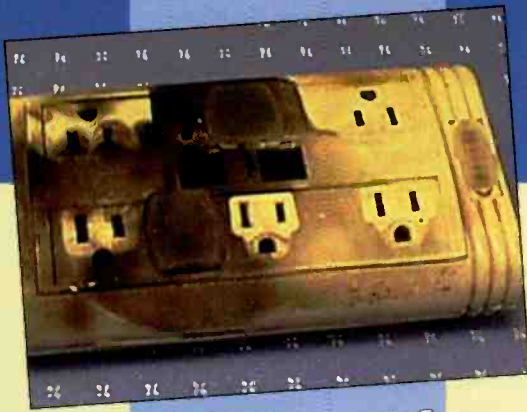
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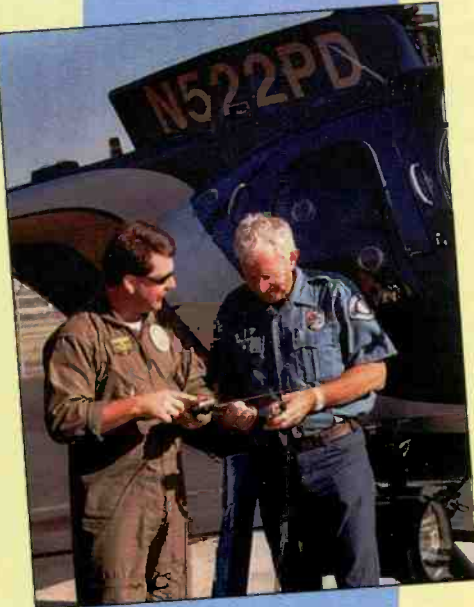
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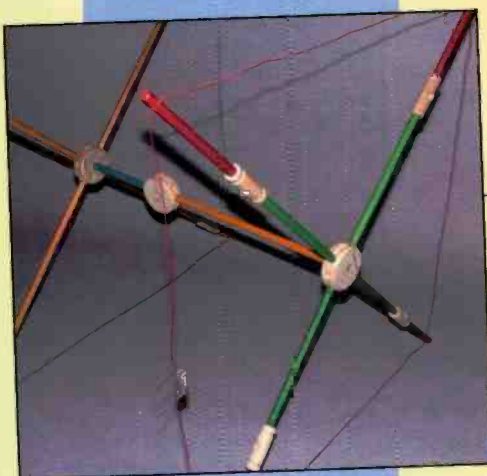
On The Cover

Tracking the "war"—and perhaps stealth aircraft at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, CA. This month's "Utility Communications Digest" takes you inside the super-secret world of black-project aircraft programs. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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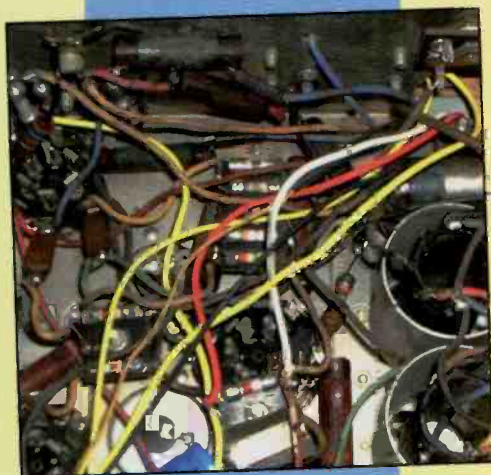
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On The Cover

It's a bird, it's a plane—well it's a B-2 Spirit and it's definitely fast and super-secret—and you can hear it! Just turn to this month's "Utility Communications Digest" by Steve Douglass, titled, "Let's Talk Tech, And Close Encounter At Roswell" beginning on page 55. (Photo Courtesy Master Sergeant Michael Nixon, USAF)

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On The Cover

While the recent Southern California fires tested thousands of firefighters and public safety personnel, this widespread emergency also brought American Radio Relay League (ARRL) trained emergency communicators together on the front line and beyond. The ARRL's new Level 1 emergency communications course is your ticket to being prepared when disaster strikes. Be sure to read Gordon West's "Radio Resources" column this month on page 10 for details on how you can help your community, (Photo by Ron Eggers, KA6RWK)

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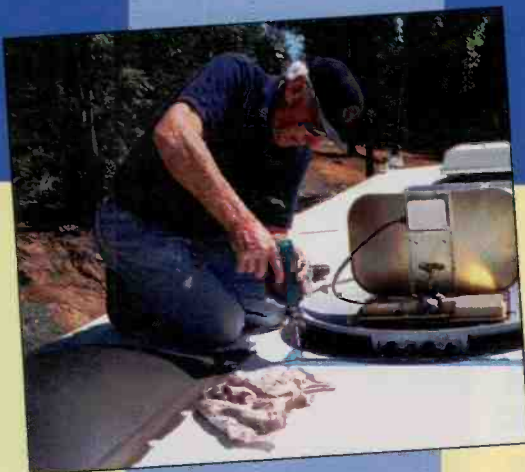
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On The Cover

This view of the rising Earth – so small in the vastness of space – some 240,000 miles away, greeted the Apollo 8 astronauts as they came from behind the Moon after the lunar orbit insertion burn. Thirty-five years later there's serious talk about returning to the Moon – and perhaps going beyond with manned space flight. Tune in, and be part of your planet's and children's future with this month's Utility Communications Digest by Steve Douglass beginning on page 70. (Photo Courtesy NASA)

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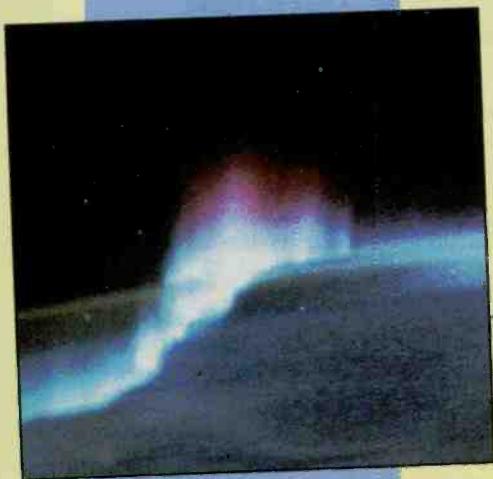
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On The Cover

Chances are you won't have too much trouble hearing Radio Free Asia's super-power station on Saipan in the Marianas. But, imagine reducing that power to a mere 1 kW and you're listening in Massachusetts. An easy target for West Coasters turns into a near-nightmare for listeners in many other parts of the country. If you're wondering what you can do, there are answers beginning on page 6 with Gerry Dexter's article, "How Come I Can't Hear That?" (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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On The Cover

Maj. Beau Rogers displays an American flag from his Dutch F-16 while refueling over Afghanistan. This month's *Utility Communications Digest* by Steve Douglass features more than 60 reader-submitted loggings, including several interplane frequencies to help you hear our Nation's military and our allies fight the war on terror. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Allen Heritage)

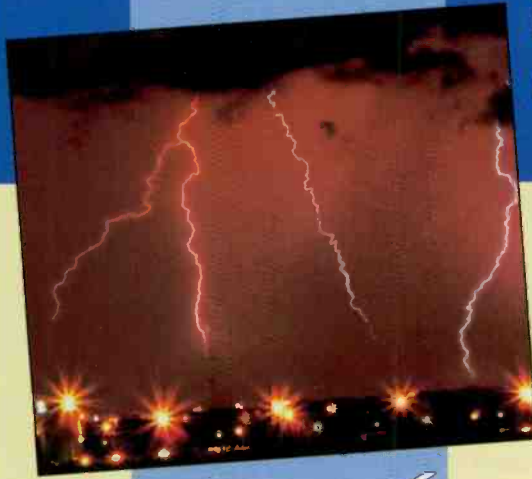
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The advertisement in the newspaper reads: "Wanted civic minded people to risk their lives and property for no pay and little recognition. As a trained storm spotter you will encounter the most dangerous and yet beautiful weather that Mother Nature can create. The rewards are few but you'll have the satisfaction of saving the lives and property of your fellow citizens and get the chance to experience the overwhelming power of weather in a most intimate way." With an advertisement reading like that, *Popular Communications* columnist Steve Douglass couldn't resist and joined the ranks of the Amarillo Emergency Service Storm Spotter Auxiliary. Do you have the right stuff to be a storm spotter? If so, check out "Into the Storm" on page 6. (Photo by Steve Douglass)

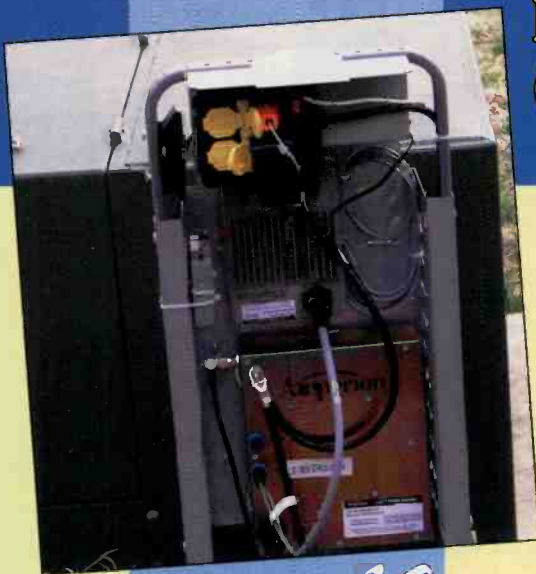
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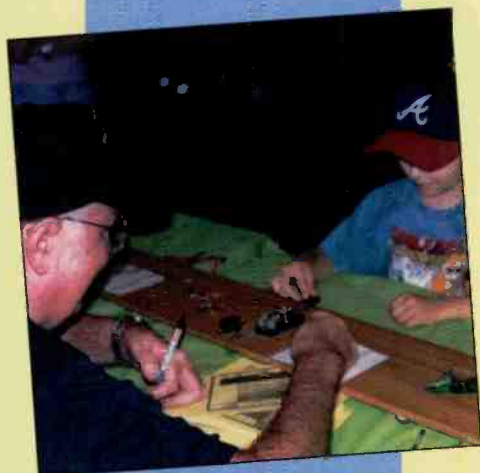
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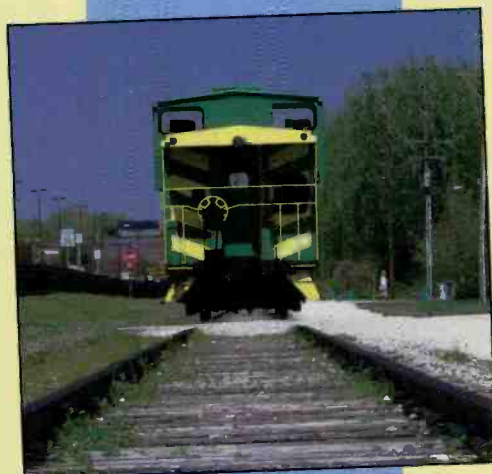
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President George W. Bush departs from the South Lawn of the White House in Marine One en route to Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth, NH. Noted aviation enthusiast and *Pop'Comm* columnist, Steve Douglass, had a close encounter with Marine One near Crawford, Texas. Get the details beginning on page 6 in his article, "A Close Encounter Of The Dubya Kind." (White House photo by Eric Draper)

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Artist's rendering of the super-secret Lockheed Martin CHARC stealth attack boat that may soon be prowling the nighttime waters off the coast of California. For more details and how you might relate comms, them be sure to check out tips on Steve Douglass' article "Stealth On The High Seas" on page 6. (Illustration by Steve Douglass)



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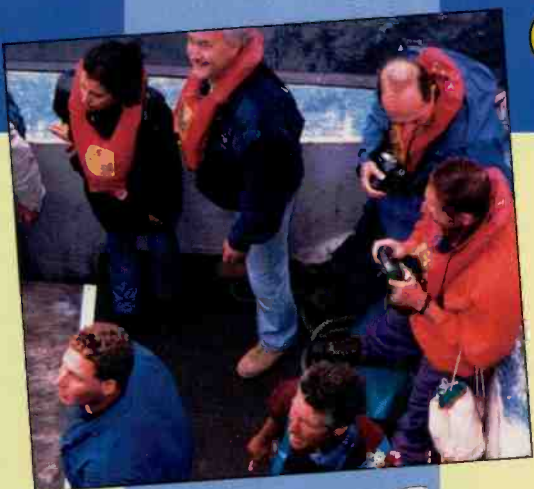
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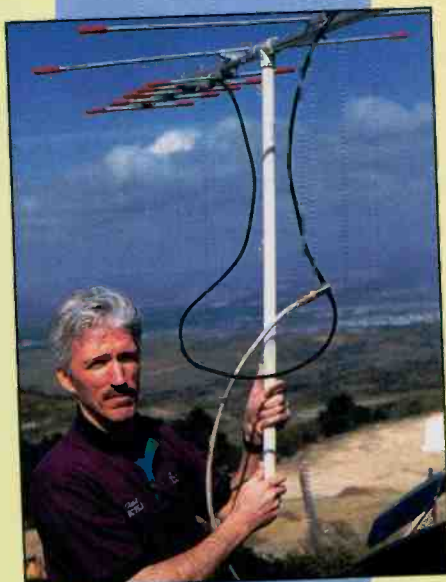
On The Cover

People have seen UFOs for decades, but now we've finally identified a few. The military's high-flying cigar- and V-shaped airships are reconnaissance and communications platforms—some bigger than a baseball diamond! They can hear battlefield sounds and eavesdrop on military and civilian communications from an altitude of over 100,000 feet, but can you hear them? Be sure to read Steve Douglass' article, "Are UFOs The Ultimate Sky Spies?" beginning on page 12 for the answer. Cover illustration by Steve Douglass.

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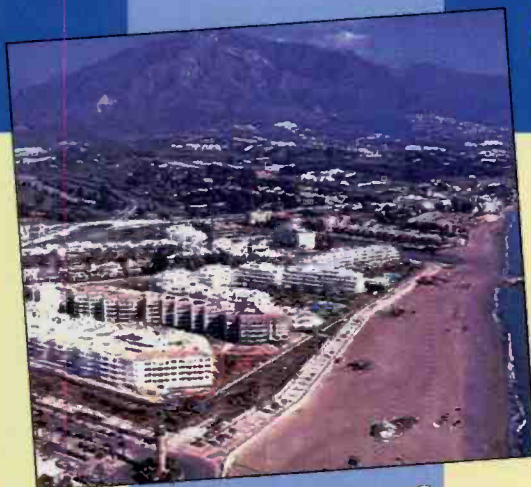
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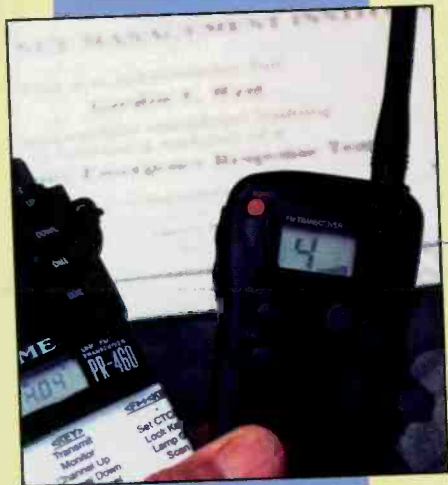
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On The Cover

Scanner enthusiasts and hams alike were treated to outstanding long-distance signals this summer. Despite the decline of Solar Cycle 23 there will still be periods of strong solar activity. Be sure to read Tomas Hood's "The Propagation Corner" on page 20 for the latest solar forecasts to learn how you can get the most out of the radio hobby. (Photo courtesy SOTTO)

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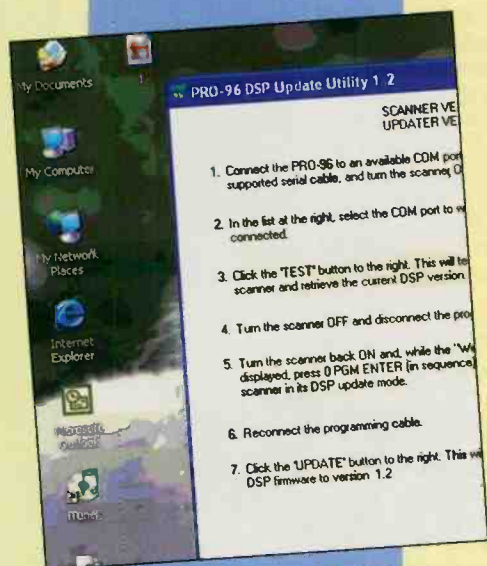
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On The Cover

A soldier from the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California, radios battalion headquarters while on a desert training mission. If you have a computer connected to the Internet, all you need to hear distant signals from our troops on the ground and in the air, foreign broadcasters, and even public safety pros in distant states is this issue of *Pop'Comm*. Check out Jim Southwick's article on page 18, "How To Listen To The World—With *Someone Else's* Radio." Armed with this information along with Joe Cooper's ongoing series titled, "Network Control Of Your Radio," you'll be running your own User-Controlled Online Tuner in no time! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZBI.)

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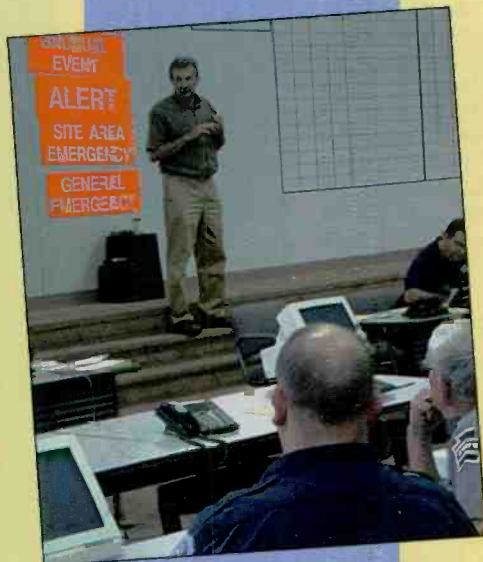
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On The Cover

Here's a look at the ultra-high, 200-plus-meter antenna that radiates station JYJ time signals from Japan to around the world. Join Steven Herman for a special tour inside that country's high-tech radio laboratory in his article "Keeping Time In Japan," beginning on page 10. (Photo courtesy the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology – NICT)



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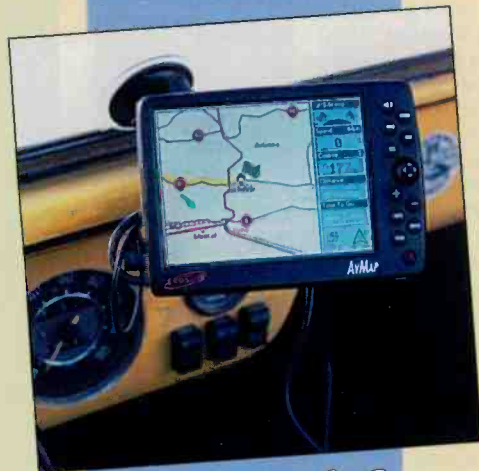
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On The Cover

Pop'Comm writer Alan Dixon, N3HOE, installs the Kenwood IBOC high-definition radio receiver in his SUV. You, too, can be ready when digital broadcast radio comes to your area. Be sure to read his exclusive article on the Kenwood receiver and control head beginning on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



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On The Cover

The Three Mile Island Unit 1 cooling towers loom over Goldsboro in Pennsylvania's York County, ever-present reminders of the 850 megawatts of electricity constantly pumped into the region's power grid—enough to power 500,000 homes. Plants such as this one conduct emergency drills in conjunction with local emergency communicators to ensure the public's safety in the event of a disaster. Be sure to read this month's Homeland Security column by Rich Arland about how Luzerne County (PA) ARES EmComm volunteers train and drill in order to be prepared if the worst happens. (Photo by Jason Plotkin, York Daily Record)

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On The Cover

Air Force Master Sgt. Theron Jones monitors the progress of a 67-vehicle convoy along the main supply route in Iraq.

Jones is the 3rd Platoon Commander from the 2632nd Air Expeditionary Force Transportation Company and is responsible for providing security to military and civilian convoys as they transport supplies to multiple Forward Operating Bases throughout Iraq.

You've heard news reports that many of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan aren't equipped with adequate vehicle armor, but many troops also lack basic radio communications in their convoys. This month, beginning on page 8, read how one soldier got the radios he needed from the folks back home in "The Power of One Voice."

(Photo by Tech Sgt. Scott Reed, U.S. Air Force)

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On The Cover

Here's Senior Airmen Roque Aapoon and Michael Vaughn making adjustments to a microwave antenna in Thailand. They're part of an 18,000 service member force working with international militaries and non-governmental organizations to aid the affected people of Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia following the devastating earthquake and tsunamis. To hear long-distance utility comms you need a good receiver and a guide. Every month, columnist Steve Douglass takes us on a fascinating journey into military and even "Black Project" monitoring. This month he has special inside news about the shortwave receivers, and dozens of great loggings that will help keep you on top of the Utility monitoring action beginning on page 64. Remember, as Steve says, "The more you know about the military, the more you'll get out of your MILCOM monitoring." (Photo by Tech Sgt. John M. Foster)

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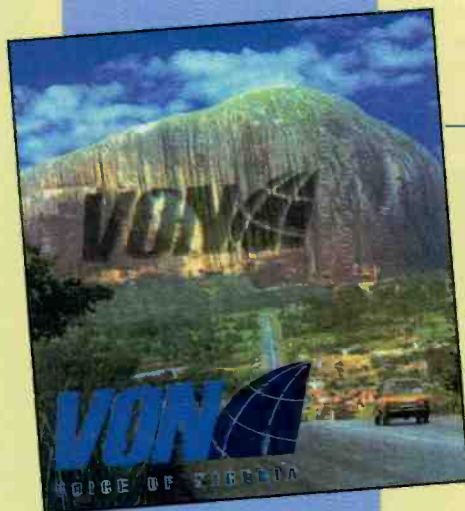
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On The Cover

Aimee Dio rocks the WHTG, 106.3 and WBBO, 98.5 airwaves in New Jersey. Gone are the turntables, cart machines and relics of the past; replaced with high-tech computer-controlled systems giving on-air personalities much more flexibility with what goes on the air, and when. Be sure to read this month's "Tuning In" by G.T. Tyson, and *Broadcast Technology* by Dave Schmidt for a special look inside a former station, and the new face of radio broadcasting, thanks to modern technology. (Photo by Harold Ort, N2RLL, Editor)



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On The Cover

Ron Lawrence, of Charlotte, North Carolina with just a few of his 400-plus radios. To say Ron "collects" radios is an understatement; his house is a museum of collectables. Read his story—and drool over the photos—beginning on page 8 in the article appropriately titled, "Ron's Radio Heaven." (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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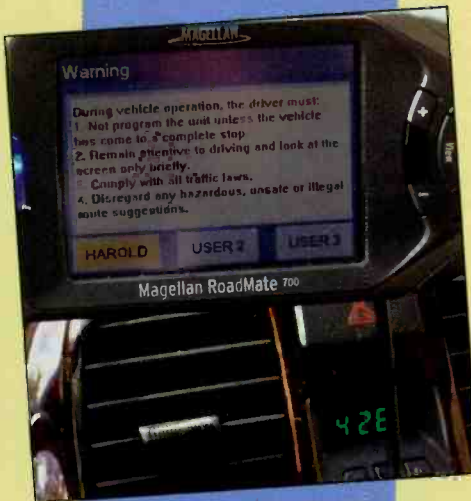
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On The Cover

A hearty "welcome back" to writer Jock Elliott, our new "On-The-Go Radio" columnist! His first column strikes a nerve with the question: "Is It Safe (To Use That Mobile Rig)?" Don't get caught on the road without his painless solution to protecting yourself—and your radios—from over-zealous cops! Read the new "On-The-Go Radio" column beginning on page 44—and be safe! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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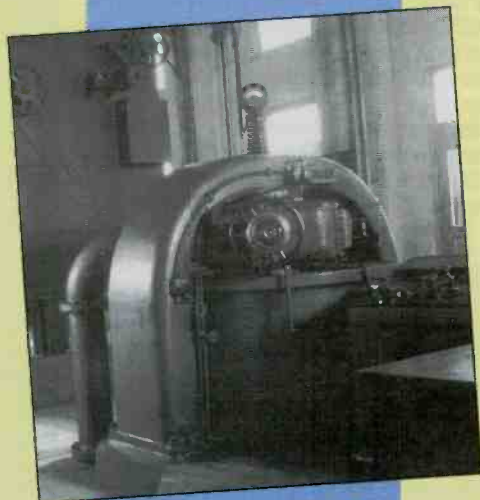
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You certainly can't take all these radios on the road this summer, BUT you *can* maximize your summer vacation monitoring by following Ken Reiss' easy steps for packing your scanner and accessories. Check out this month's ScanTech on page 56 to learn what's important and how to enjoy your summer radio vacation! (Photo by Steve Douglass)

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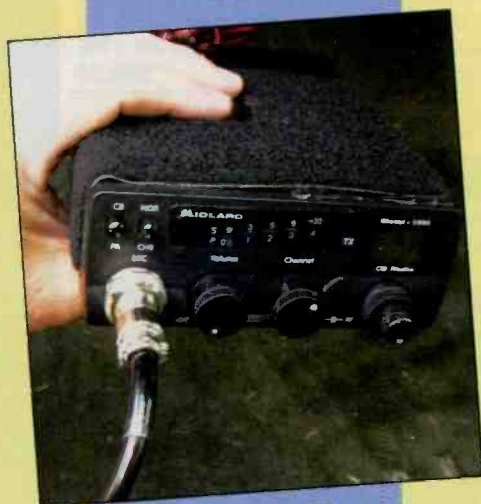
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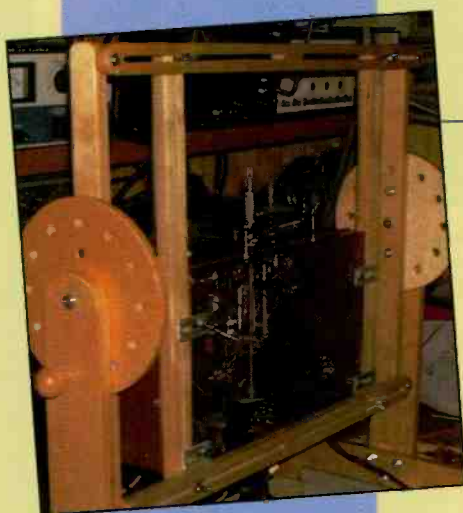
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Bad Guys beware—the Osprey, loaded with troops and weapons, is one bird that's on your tail! Colonel Craig Olson, USAF V-22 Joint Program Manager says the Osprey is, "Twice as fast, three times the payload capacity, and six times the range of the aircraft it's replacing; the V-22 is not just evolutionary, it's revolutionary." Our "Utility Communications Digest" columnist, Steve Douglass, a resident of Amarillo, Texas—where the Osprey is built and tested—has an exclusive look inside the Osprey's nest, complete with monitoring tips and frequencies, beginning on page 8. (Photo by Steve Douglass)

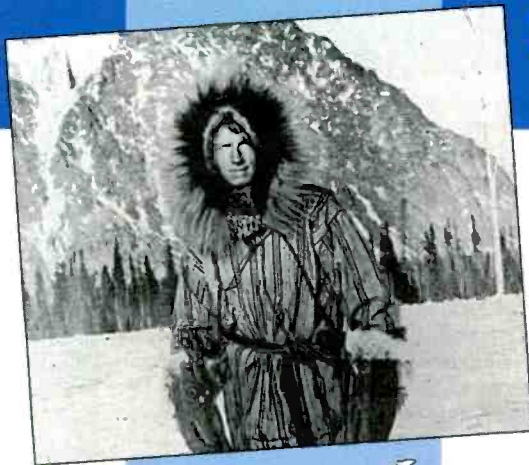
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Kent Olson, KA0LDG, of Fargo, North Dakota, at the controls of an F-16A Air Defense Fighter from the 119th Fighter Wing North Dakota Air National Guard prepares for mid-air refueling over central North Dakota. Remember, you don't need to live near a military base to hear military comms on VHF, UHF, and even HF. This month, we present a new column dealing exclusively with these communications; how to hear them, how to decipher what you're hearing and much more. Check out Allan Stern's "Military Radio Monitoring" column on page 22. (Photo by Lisa Bares-Olson)



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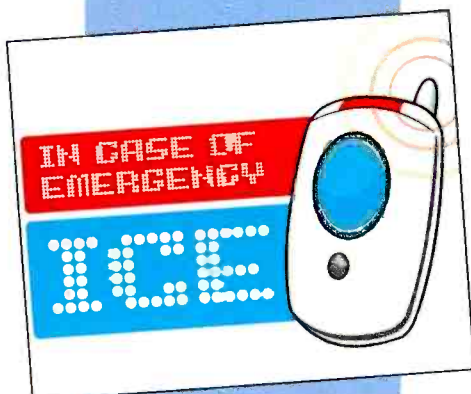
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The Space Shuttle *Discovery* and its seven-member crew launched into space on July 26, 2005, beginning the Return To Flight STS-114 mission. The Shuttle program is scheduled to continue in March 2006, and there's still plenty of Shuttle related communications you can hear—best of all you don't have to live near the Cape! Be sure to read Allan Stern's Military Radio Monitoring column thismonth on page 14, "The Space Shuttle: Are You Ready For STS-121?" (Photo courtesy NASA)

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On The Cover

Gotcha! Lieutenant Darren McConnell of the Red Bank, NJ Police Department takes aim, but will he really snag you with that gun? Wherever you travel this holiday season, drive safely, and bring along this issue of *Pop'Comm* with Alan Dixon's article, "Radar-Based Hazard, Alerting And The Evolving Telematics Scene," beginning on page 8. As Alan said, "Before you buy a radar detector, you've got to read this!" (Photo by Harold Ort, N2RLL)

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Do you hear what Bruce hears? You can, and it's easier than you think. For example, the AR8600 MKIIB multimode mobile/base receiver that covers 100 kHz to 3 GHz (cellular frequencies blocked) could be set up anywhere in the world—and you can remotely tune it to hear stations that would otherwise be out of reach. For details on how you can "Go On A DXpedition Without Leaving Home," check out Bruce Conti's "Broadcast Technology" column beginning on page 20. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

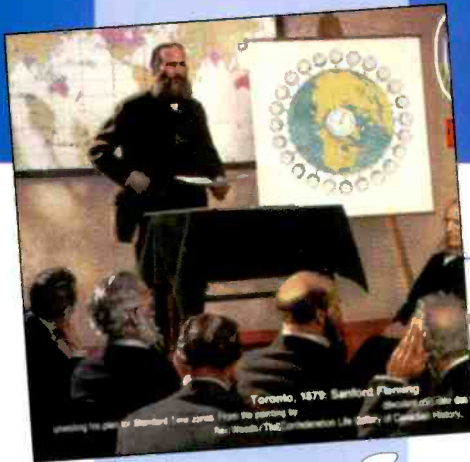
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On The Cover

Community broadcasters like Kristen (Billi) Hall and Patti Brainard, at the controls of WSLR 96.5 in Sarasota, Florida, are part of a "local" radio revolution sweeping across America. In this month's Broadcast Technology column by Bruce Conti, beginning on page 28, you'll get the latest LPFM (Low-Power FM) news as well as the complete station list! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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Hold your breath, grab that scanner and get ready to see all six Blue Angels, performing an Inverted Bomb Burst maneuver. This precision maneuver and many more are on tap at an airshow near you. To get you ready for this year's excitement, writer Gary Palamara presents an exclusive look at the Navy's Blue Angels beginning on page 8. (Photo by Gary Palamara)

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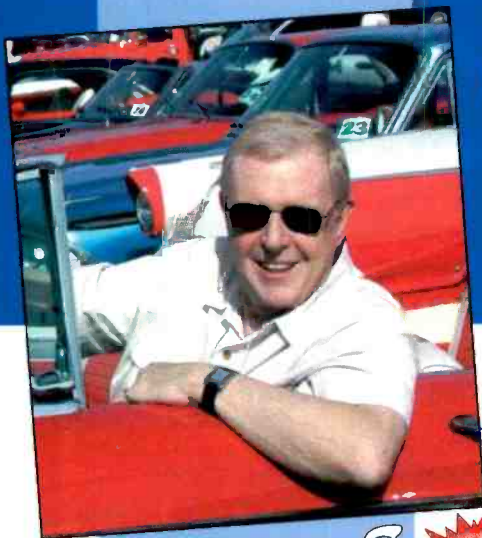
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As the war of words heats up between Iran and the U.S., our forces, like the crew of this KC-135 Stratotanker from the 91st Air Refueling Squadron at MacDill AFB, Florida, remain on high alert in the Middle East. This month, writer Steve Douglass provides a special report titled, "Monitoring On The Edge Of A Nuclear Confrontation" beginning on page 19. Also, be sure to check out Tom Swisher's new bimonthly "Military Radio Monitoring" column beginning on page 16. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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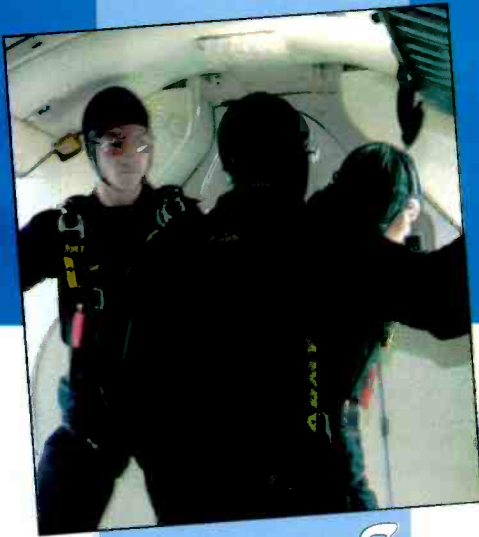
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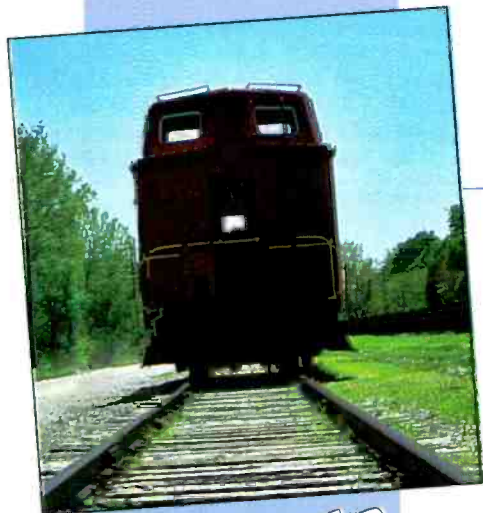
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Even though the Boston Acoustics Receptor Radio HD is reportedly flying off the shelves, there's a lot you need to know about HD Radio. Get the inside story on AM and FM digital radio in the USA in this month's Broadcast Technology column by Bruce Conti, titled, "Here Right Now: Free AM And FM Digital Radio," beginning on page 24. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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TV stations such as Sarasota, Florida's WWSB channel 7—and standard FM broadcast stations—can often be captured hundreds of miles beyond their target area. How? It's easy, if you know when to listen. Be sure to check out Bruce Conti's Broadcast Technology column this month beginning on page 12, titled "FM/TV DXing: What Can You Get?" for complete details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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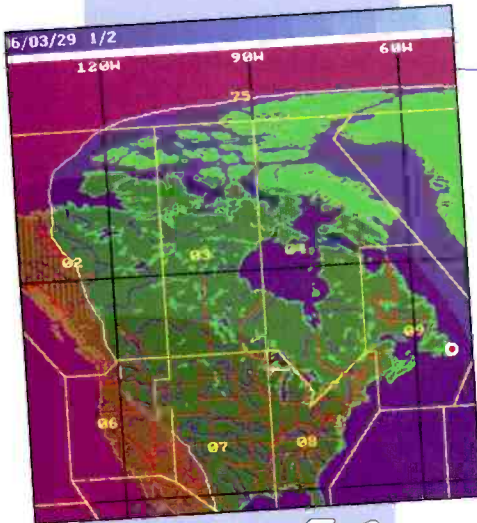
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Here's George Goble, KB9TBN of West Lafayette, IN in his Hummer with his scanner—and other radios—ready to hit the road. You probably don't have this much room in your vehicle, so we've put together 12 great mobile radio installation tips to help you maximize your mobile installation. Be sure to check out the article, "Miles Of Smiles," beginning on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.)

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Ken Hanscom, Senior Manager of the RadioShack store at Westfield Shoppingtown in Sarasota, FL, shows Melissa Zanetti the PRO-96 digital scanner. If you're in the market for a scanner, be sure to read Ken Reiss's ScanTech this month beginning on page 11; his topic—*Buying A Handheld Scanner*. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.)

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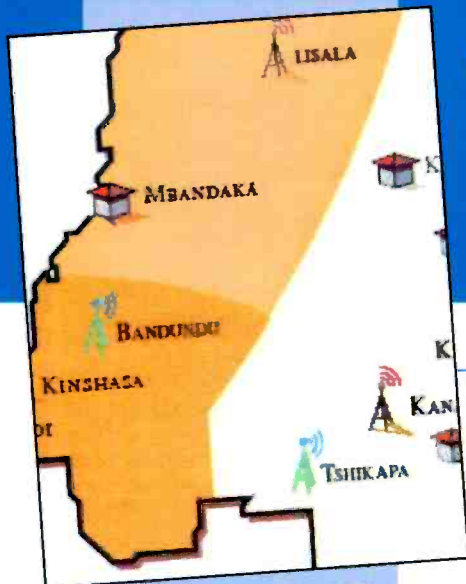
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Can you hear all nineteen "Failed States" in the special feature by Gerry Dexter that begins on page 8? It's a challenge for your receiver—and your patience! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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On The Cover

If you’re like most CB radio enthusiasts, you long for the days when getting a meter, antenna, or mobile mic was as easy as walking down to your favorite electronic retailer.

Although times have changed and those CB accessories aren’t down the street any longer, they are closer than you think. Be sure to read Alan Dixon’s article on page 8, “CB Radio Accessories: Where To Buy Them,” and then have fun with all your new radio goodies! (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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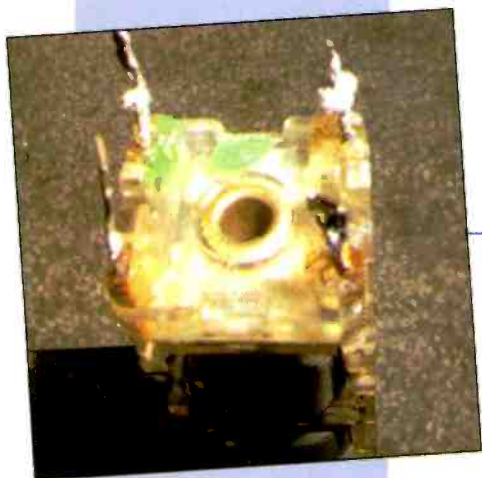
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Ed Claar, Transmitter Engineer/RF Specialist at the Fort Meyers Broadcasting Company, Fort Meyers, Florida checks the new Harris 60kw transmitter. WINK-TV, and 1583 other stations are "delivering in digital" as the National Association of Broadcasters say, in 211 markets nationwide. What does DTV mean for you and millions of other consumers? Be sure to read our special yer-end report on page 8, "Digital TV Update: What's In Store For You" for details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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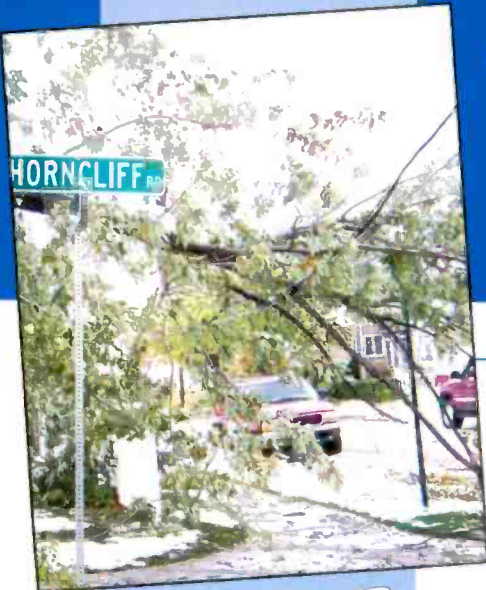
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On The Cover

Calling all Mediumwave DXers! US broadcast band stations now conduct what's known as the 'Inventory DX Test' that's a lot different from DX tests of yesteryear. How and when it's done will surprise you! Be sure to read BruceConti's Broadcast Technology column beginning on page 14 for details. Also, especially for mediumwave enthusiasts, is a special Propagation Corner column this month by Tomas Hood with a complete, in-depth look at MW DXing and how you can become an active mediumwave explorer. The Propagation Corner begins on page 20. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)

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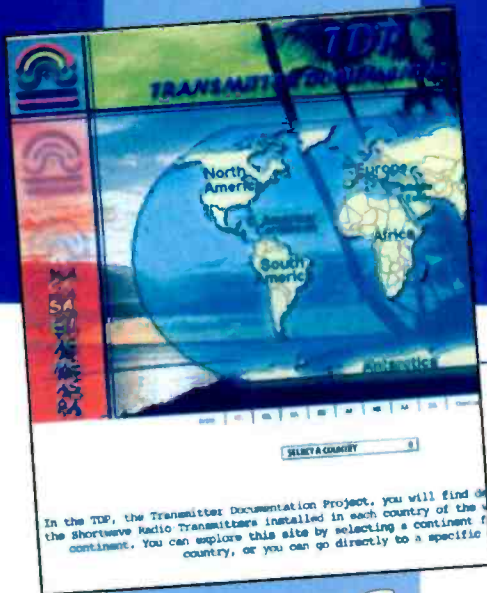
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Mark Johnson at the WDEV, Waterbury, Vermont, mic doing—what else?—"The Mark Johnson Show." It's local and it's live. AM radio—hometown AM radio—is alive and well at WDEV. With many stations across the country all sounding alike, with syndicated programming and running without an announcer in the building, WDEV prides itself on doing it the right way, as it has for 75 years. Read Shannon Huniwell's article on page 24 for details. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill)



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USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) participates in an exercise on the high seas. Monitoring military and federal government trunked systems can be challenging, but with the help of this month's "Military Radio Monitoring" column on page 54, you're on your way to enjoying a fascinating aspect of our hobby! (Navy Photo, Courtesy DefenseLink)

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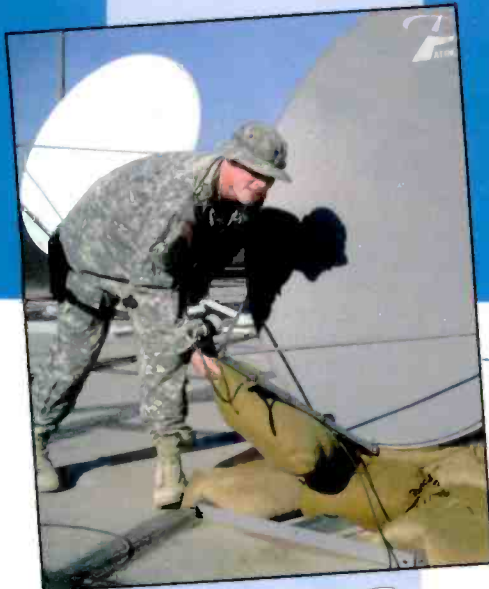
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With thousands of troops in Iraq—llkely for the long-haul—AFN is there with news, entertainment and to offer some relief from the 24/7 business of soldiering in the 21st Century. Competing with troops' iPods isn't easy, but they do it—in a challenging environment. Read all about it in our special feature this month, "Jocks And Awe—AFN-Iraq Coming to You Live Form Baghdad," beginning on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



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This KC-135 stratotanker from MacDill AFB, Florida, performs a routine mid-air refueling. Perhaps it's routine in peacetime, but today isn't quite routine. How portable and on-the-go-ready is your radio shack? Will you be able to monitor even these basic, routine comms, or talk across town or around the world in an emergency if you're powerless? This month we show you a unique portable power station that could work for you. Check out "Power + Radio = Your Ticket To Radio Fun" on page 8. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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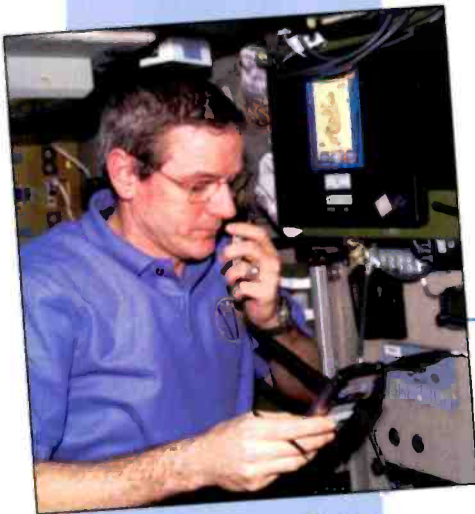
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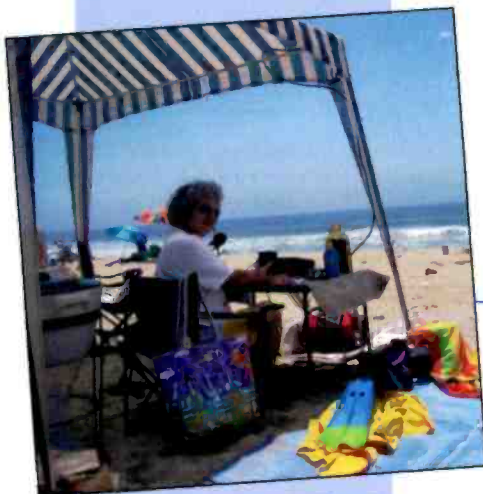
From the premiere facility for conception, development, and testing of weapons systems for military aviation arose a deadly bird of prey. The F/A-22 Raptor, seen here, was developed at Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and is the replacement for the F-15 Eagle air-superiority fighter. See "Military Radio Monitoring," starting on page 10, for how to listen in on WPAFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kevin Robertson)



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Some are drawn by nostalgia, some by the awesome power of steel at momentum, but the number of those who call themselves railfans is about 175,000, according to one estimate. On this month's cover, one such fan monitors a CSX train near the famed Folkston Funnel, Folkston, Georgia.

See "The Hotspots Of Railfanning," starting on page 10, for more on this popular pastime. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



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Scenes from a ravaged city: Still standing. N.O.P.D. UHF antennas loom in the background over a flooded New Orleans. Superimposed in the foreground, a house near the breached 17th Street Canal levee. The house was literally pushed off its slab after taking on more than 11 feet of water. See our cover story by Roberto Dabdoub, KB5AVY, "Listening to the Echoes of Katrina," beginning on page 10. (Photo by Roberto Dabdoub, KB5AVY)

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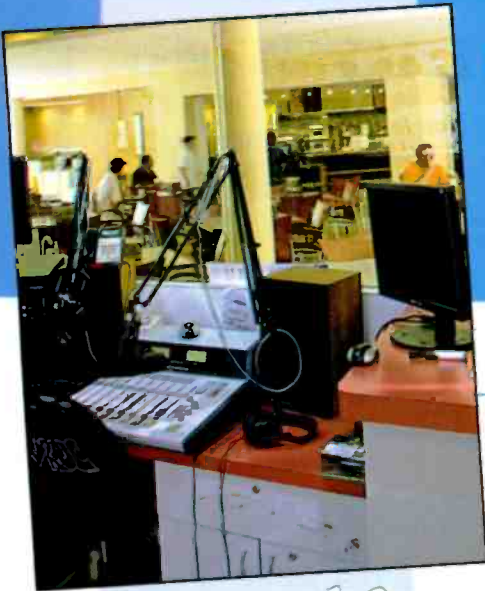
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On The Cover

Since students at Union College, Schenectady, New York, made what was likely the nation's first scheduled radio broadcast in 1920, college radio has been making waves of one sort or another. Eighty-seven years after that event, the voices emanating from campuses remain among the freshest you'll hear anywhere on the dial. One of those voices belongs to Brooke Cross, DJ and underwriting sales director of WUTK, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. See "The Spirit Of Radio Thrives On Campus," beginning on page 10 for some higher learning. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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On The Cover

Popular Communications is a quarter of a century old, and we turn our gaze both forward and back. In the foreground of this month's cover is what greeted readers of our premier issue; in the background is a technical marriage made in heaven: AvMap's G5 GPS and Kenwood's TM-D710A. Just add a weather station for the ultimate storm chasing mobile system.

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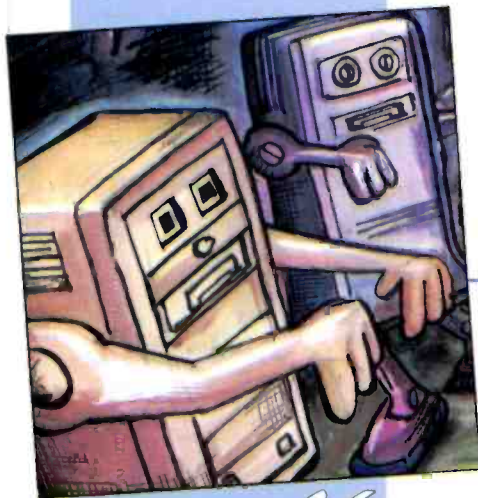
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On The Cover

Advances in communications technology don't occur at the speed of sound—it just seems like it. This month *Pop'Comm* examines where we've been and where we're going, with a spotlight on developments in digital frequency-hopping spread-spectrum (FHSS). See "Digital Two-Way Radio Technology Reaches Consumer Market," starting on page 10, for a glimpse into the future. (Cover by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

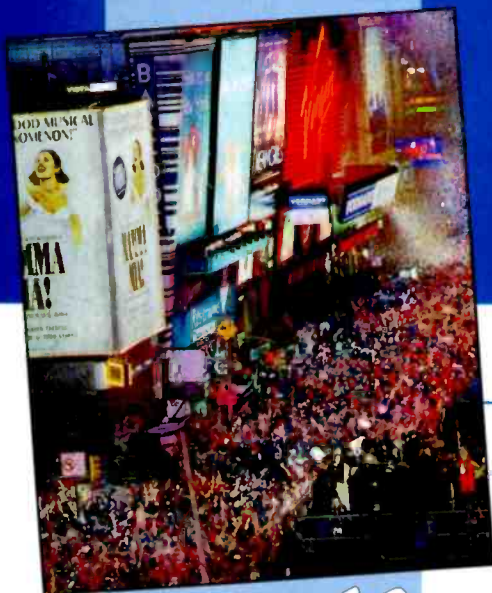
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Scanning is never hotter than when it's cold outside—at least in New York City. Whether you're one of the more than eight million inhabitants, or one of the Holiday Season's visitors (who *double* that number!), you'll want to read our cover story, "Scanning Heats Up For The Holidays In New York City," starting on page 10, for tips on how to snag the excitement. (Cover, Rockefeller Center, by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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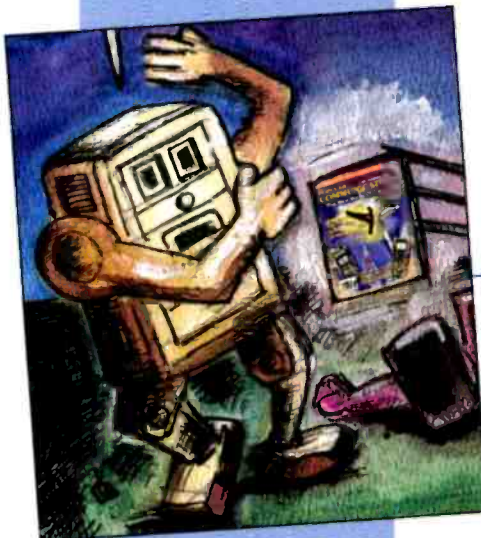
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Since 1973 Bhutan Broadcasting Service has beamed its shortwave signal to the people of this awesomely beautiful Himalayan land. That signal, at 6.035 MHz, got louder in 2007 with a new 100-kW Thompson TSW 2100D analog/DRM transmitter. Pictured here, still proudly displayed in the broadcaster's headquarters in the capital of Thimpu, is BBS's first transmitter, with inset of a promotional poster that also graces the studio. See "Bhutan Broadcasting Service—Voices From The Roof Of The World," starting on page 10. (Cover Photos by Steven L. Herman)

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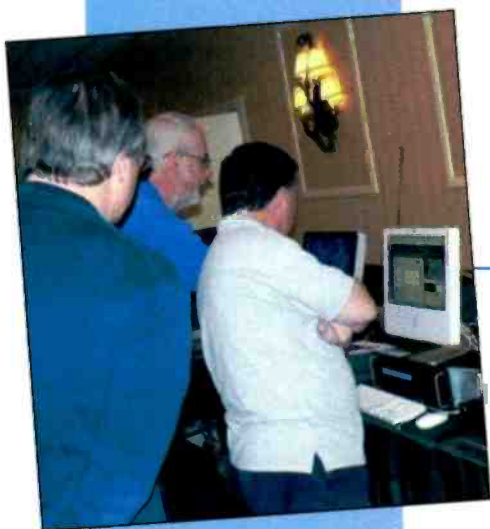
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Wildly popular throughout the country, NASCAR holds a truly special place in the hearts of radio hobbyists—scanner monitors aren't just welcome, they're ardently courted. Check out our cover story "NASCAR—Hot Cars, Hotter Scanning," starting on page 10, for tips on catching the action. Then find a race near you and bring (beg, borrow, buy, or rent) a scanner and see for yourself why it's one of America's favorite pastimes. (Cover photos of the Ford Championship Weekend 2007, Homestead Miami Speedway, by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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The USAF Thunderbirds soar in tight formation during a performance at the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends in Columbus, Ohio, in September 2007. The team was invited to this once-in-a-lifetime air show to celebrate the Air Force's 60th anniversary. See "On With The (Air) Show!" beginning on page 10 for tips and schedules so you, too, can catch the high-flying excitement. (Cover photo by Andrew Bershaw)

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On The Cover

Putting "steel in the sky" is just a dream for many, if not most, hobbyists—but it doesn't have to be that way. Our cover story, "Antenna Support Structures For The Common Man—How To Build A Tower With Only \$500" by Ken J. Meyer, K9KJM, starting on page 12, shows that with the right combination of time, money, and skill, the sky's the limit. (Cover by the author)

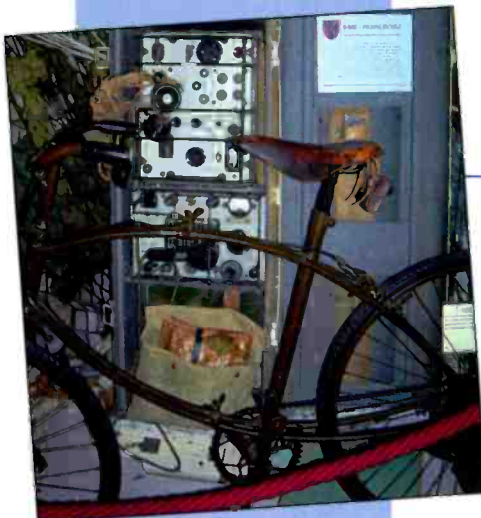
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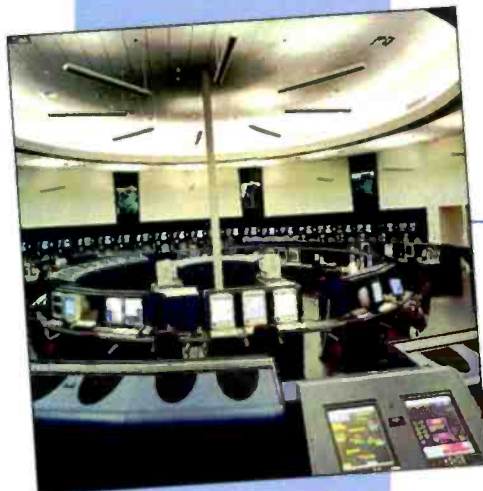
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On The Cover

With the events of the past decade, securing our borders, especially the porous southern one, has taken on a new urgency. While communications are moving toward encryption, there's still plenty of action for the radio hobbyist to seek out. See "Monitoring Activity Along The U.S./Mexican Border," beginning on page 10, for more. (Cover photo by LTC Doug Mayne; pictured BG Gordon Toney, Washington Army National Guard, on right, with an unidentified Border Patrol agent)

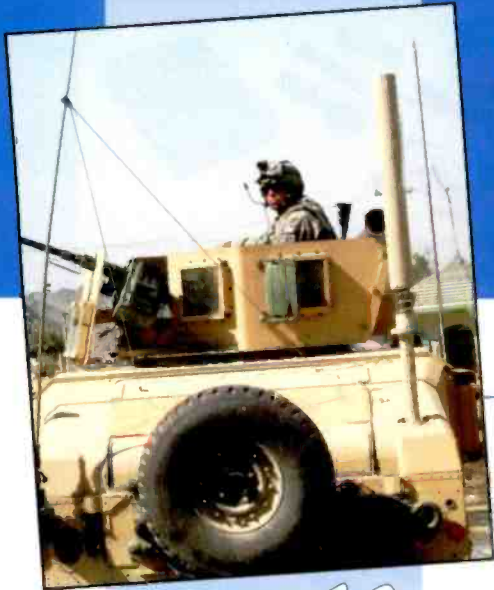
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On The Cover

Pop'Comm's "Global Information Guide" columnist, Gerry Dexter, kicks off "World Watch," a new semi-regular feature focusing on listening in on the world's hot spots. This month he monitors a deeply troubled—and troubling—region in "Evening In Pakistan," starting on page 10. Dexter himself graces this month's cover, shown in his nicely equipped monitoring shack in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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On The Cover

A tremendous amount of training goes into being ready to save lives at a moment's notice. Here Mountain Wave members Steve Hewlett (near front of vehicle), Sara Joy Brown (middle), and Mike Fulk (near back of vehicle) prepare to deploy communication and interoperability equipment for a training exercise at Multnomah Falls in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge. Learn more about the important work this non-profit volunteer organization does in "Life-Support—Mountain Wave Emergency Communications," by Roy Stevenson, starting on page 10. (Photo by Mountain Wave Command Officer Russell Gubele)

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On The Cover

Pirate stations run the gamut from the barest of bare bones setups to full-fledged studios. And, yes, they have their favorite equipment, too. See "Making Radio—Pirate Style," by Andrew Yoder, starting on page 12, for a look at the gear outfitting the pirate's lair. (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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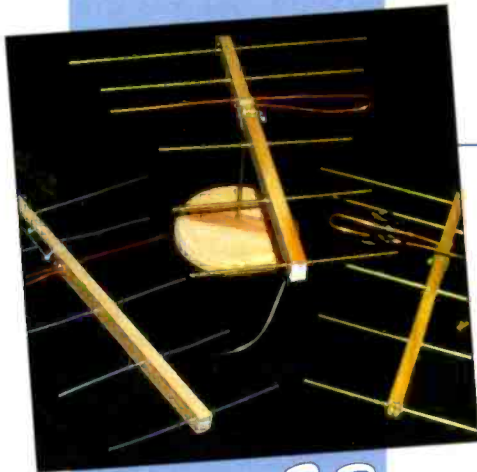
On The Cover

Like it or not, ready or not, the digital TV transition is coming. While we may not be able to help you like it, we do help you get ready for it in this issue. See "Countdown To Digital Television," starting on page 10, for Don Rotolo's helpful guide and "The Antenna Room," starting on page 23, for an easy antenna design to grab those digital signals coming your way.

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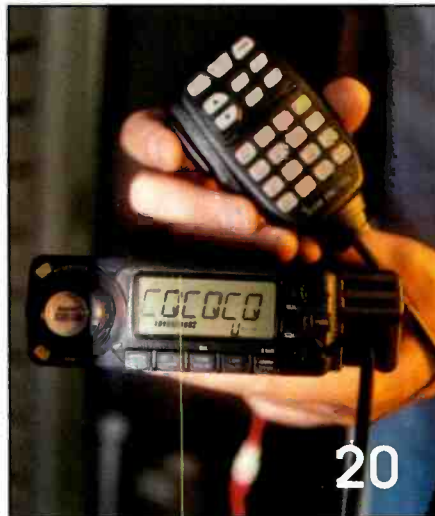
On The Cover

The dawn of Advanced Mobile Phone Service about a quarter of a century ago began a revolution in personal telecommunications, and today, by some estimates, 84 percent of the U.S. population subscribes to cellular services. Those services are rapidly going all-digital with the FCC's nod to wireless service providers' retiring their existing analog cellular networks. See "Watching The Analog Sunset," starting on page 10, for more on the waning days of an era. (Cover by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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ON THE COVER

It's not a question of if, but when, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), the international standard for shortwave broadcasting, will be adopted. While the industry is taking its time catching up, a little effort on your part will unveil the amazing audio quality it offers. See "Digital Radio Mondiale—The Cutting Edge Of Digital Radio," by Don Rotolo, N2IRZ, beginning on page 16, for more. (Cover photo of the Thomson HP-RCA rotatable curtain antenna, specifically optimized for DRM, courtesy Thomson Broadcast & Multimedia)

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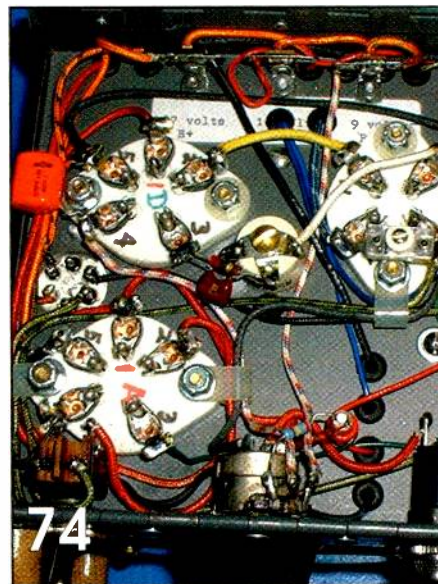
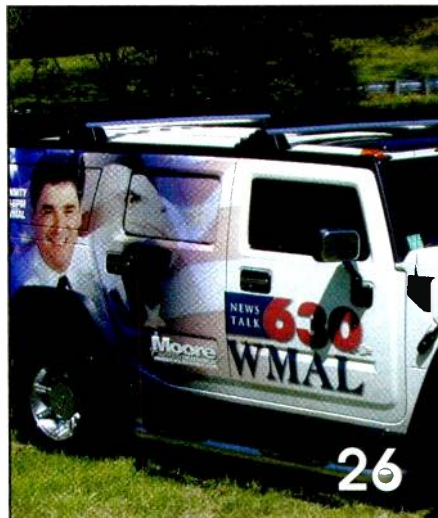


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ON THE COVER

Participants in the 55th Presidential Inaugural Parade make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue as thousands of spectators watch. More than 5,000 men and women in uniform provide military ceremonial support to the Presidential Inauguration, a tradition dating back to George Washington's 1789 Inauguration. Find out where and how to listen in on the historic 56th Presidential Inauguration in this issue's feature articles by Alan Henney and Bill Price. (U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Mark O'Donald)

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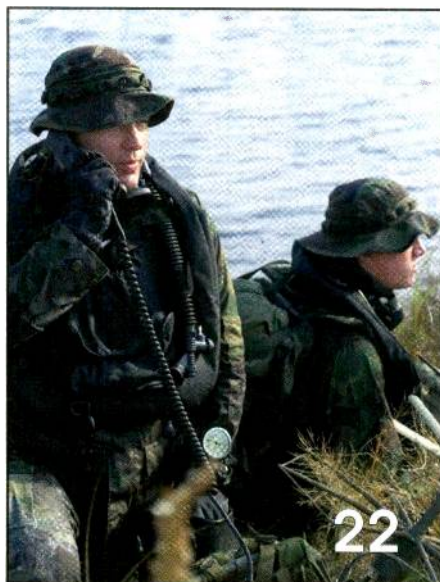
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In the second installment of our multi-part series on pirate radio stations, *Pop'Comm* looks at the elements of sound favored by some of broadcasting's famous rogues. See "Making Radio—Pirate Style, Part 2: Audio And Production" by Andrew Yoder, starting on page 12. (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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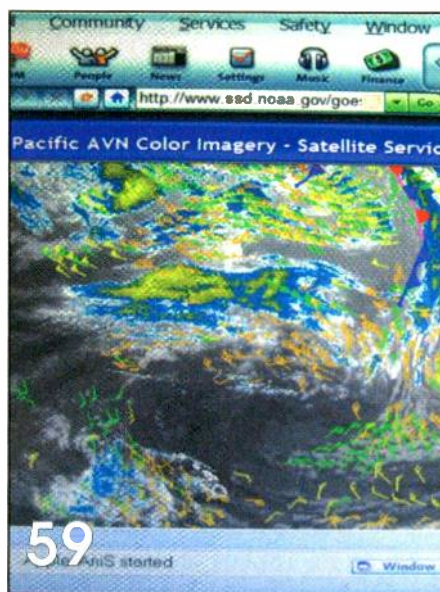
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ON THE COVER

How do you satisfy your need for speed? By monitoring the SeALs, of course. In this case, we mean high-velocity, big-thrill events on sea, air, and land. Join Tom Swisher, WA8PYR, for a look at what to monitor and where for boat racing, air shows, and NASCAR in his cover story, starting on page 12. (Cover photo: The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly in formation over California. U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Matthew Smith; left inset: Ford Championship Weekend 2007, Homestead Miami Speedway, by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI; right inset: drag boat in action, 2007 SLDBA Creve Coeur Classic, by Anthony W. Jenning)

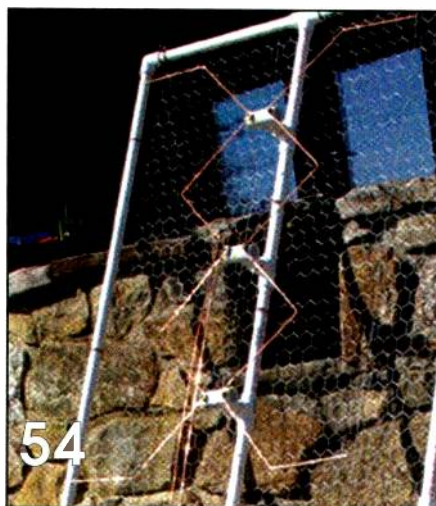
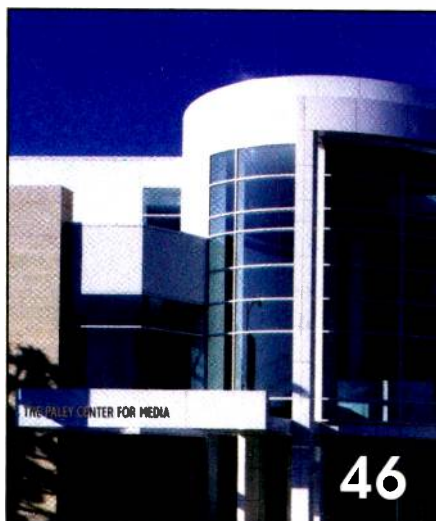
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ON THE COVER

QSL cards are among the most prized possessions of many radio hobbyists. And for those who love them, it's nice to know that countless are lovingly preserved in five fabulous collections. See "Treasure Troves Of Radio's Past" by Dr. Adrian M. Peterson, starting on page 10, for more. (Cover QSLs from the Adrian M. Peterson Collection. From top left: QSL card verifying reception of pulse tones heard in 1957 from Sputnik; Radiodiffusion du Senegal indicating transmitter location at Dakar; 1955 card from a painting depicting IS used for years by Swiss Radio International; oldest known humor card, postmarked in 1902; Radiodiffusion du Mali indicating transmitter location at Bamako; Australian station VK2ME, launched before World War II; ERF's unusual circular card)

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ON THE COVER

Lightning and other causes of huge power surges are a big concern to anyone with an investment in sensitive electronic equipment. And depending on where they live and the time of year, some hobbyists live in dread of that distant rumble. In this issue, *Pop'Comm* shows you how to protect your shack—affordably—against Mother Nature's high-voltage light show. See "Lightning Protection: Taming Thor's Thunder—On A Budget," starting on page 14, and "The Antenna Room" column, starting on page 57 for more. (Cover by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

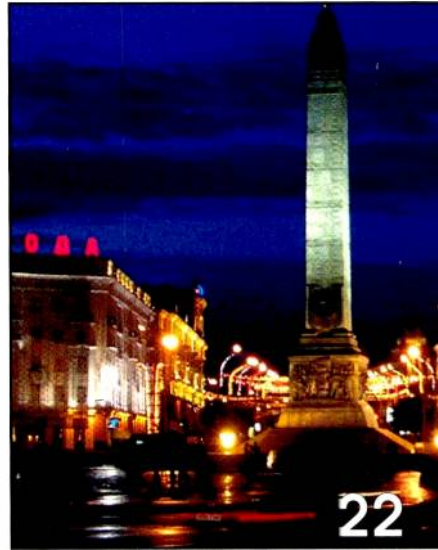
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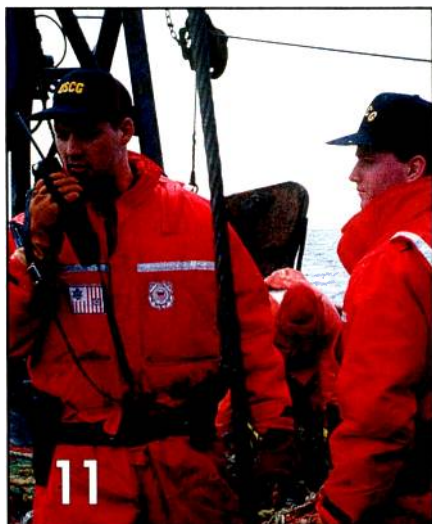
ON THE COVER

Even something as seductively dangerous—in most minds at least—as surveillance or spying isn't all glamour. There's a lot of hard slogging that goes on behind the cloak-and-dagger scenes. The same goes for the radios used in the intelligence gathering efforts. Our cover feature this month tells the story of one dogged slogger whose innovations helped spur the U.S. superiority in VHF and UHF surveillance radios. Then virtually disappeared...

See "The Father Of Modern Spy Radios—Allen S. Clarke," by Terry O'Laughlin, starting on page 14. (Cover photo of a print used to assemble Clarke 167-A tuners, private collection; inset of Allen S. Clarke from photo archives of Communications Electronics, Inc. Both used with permission)

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ON THE COVER

When the weather heats up so does the radio traffic on the nation's busy waterways, making for lots of great tuning action. See "Summertime And The Listening's Easy: Monitoring Maritime Transmissions" by Gordon West, WB6NOA, starting on page 11, for a boatload of tips and frequencies for listening in on all the commotion. (Cover photo of E-5/BM2 Shawn Fitchko on HT radio near the SunShine Sky Bridge Bridge at the head of Tampa Bay. Fitchko is stationed at the Coast Guard Station, St. Petersburg, Florida; photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.)

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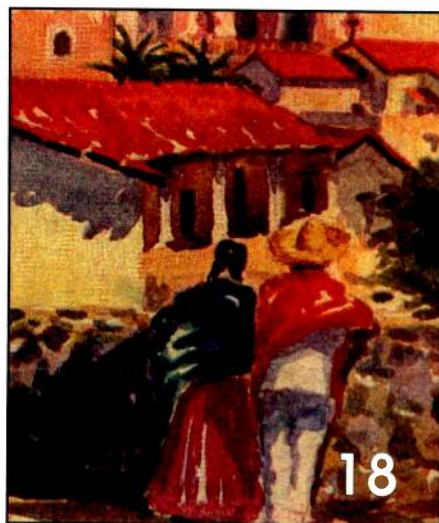
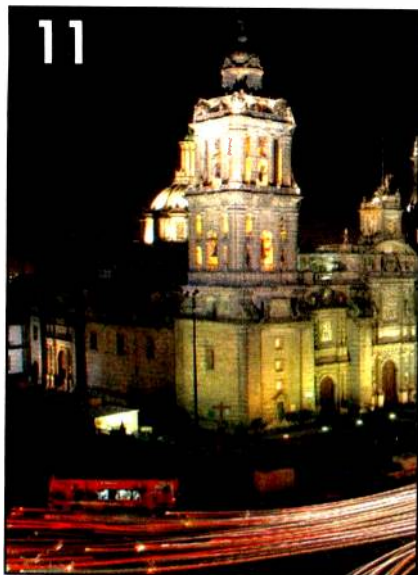
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ON THE COVER

Mexico seems to be made up of equal parts of physical beauty, cultural depth, and turmoil—though it's the tumultuous component that has captured recent headlines. This issue focuses on our neighbor to the south and how to listen to its voices in these troubled times. (Cover photo is of a multi-purpose tower with TV and FM broadcast, two-way radio, and microwave communications antennas and was taken by Araceli Herrera in the state of Oaxaca during the civil unrest of 2006 when radio and TV stations were taken over by protesters, leading to a government crackdown and fatalities. The English translation of the sign is "All these facilities are paid for with the people's tax money and were used by and for the government and the industrialists. Now the people must take them back.")

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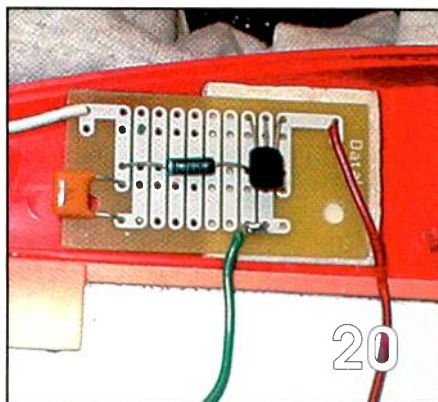
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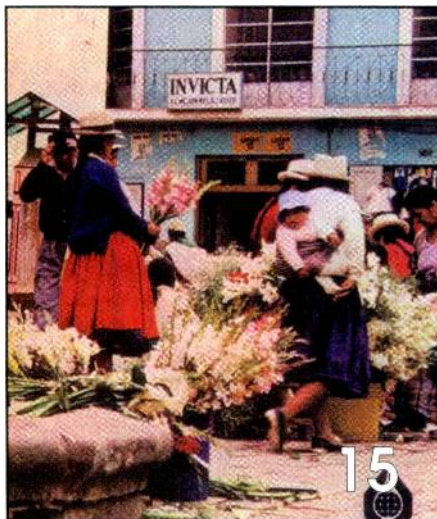
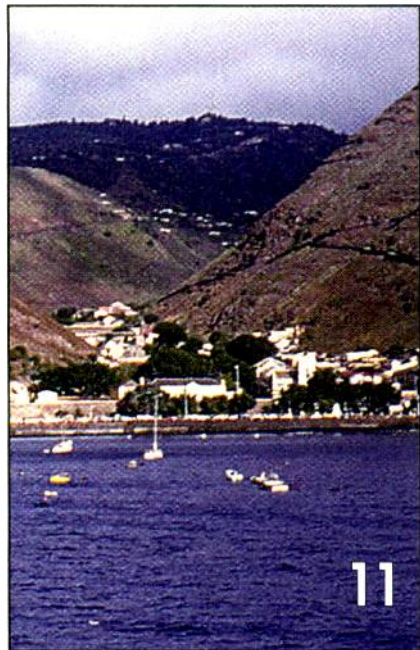
It's always been desirable for radio enthusiasts to have alternate sources of power for when AC is out or otherwise unavailable—and for emergency communications it's critical. Luckily, these days the choices make it easier than ever to go "lean, green, and reliable." See "Power Up, Off The Grid" by Gordon West, WB6NOA, and "A Solar Charger For Emergency Radios" by Gregory Majewski for more. (On the cover is Len Carlson, K4IWL, of Sarasota, Florida, at his solar-powered QRP rig; photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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Fall is an exciting time for radio hobbyists. With its promise of improved propagation, popular contests, and rare opportunities like Radio St. Helena Day and far-flung ham DXpeditions, this season is a great time to spread wide your radio wings to travel our world. Check out this month's feature articles and featured columns for some DX challenges and tips on how to meet them. (Cover: normal Mercator projection, via Wiki Commons; insets: Radio St. Helena QSL; Bill Anderson, Jr., WB4TJH, constructs an antenna, photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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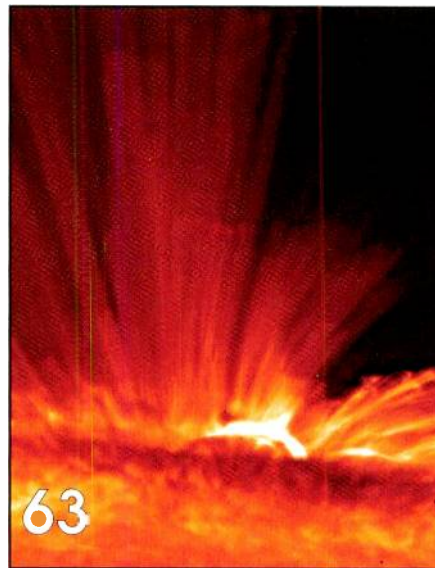


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Innovators in the field of radio-controlled robotics are creating powerful new tools to stand in for human responders in dangerous situation-like search and rescue, including the first known use of S&R robots: the aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster of 9/11. See "Robots, Radios, And Rescue," by Don Rotolo, N2IRZ, starting on page 20, for more. (Cover Photo: A "bucket brigade" at the site of the World Trade Center clears debris to search for survivors after the 9/11 attacks, U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Watson; Inset: Mesa Robotics' Matilda II Search and Rescue Robot, courtesy Mesa Robotics)

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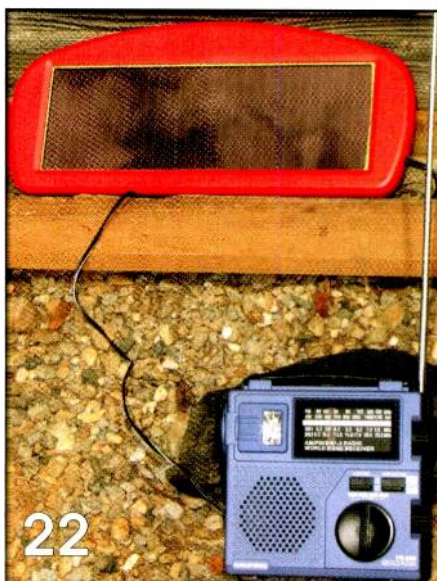
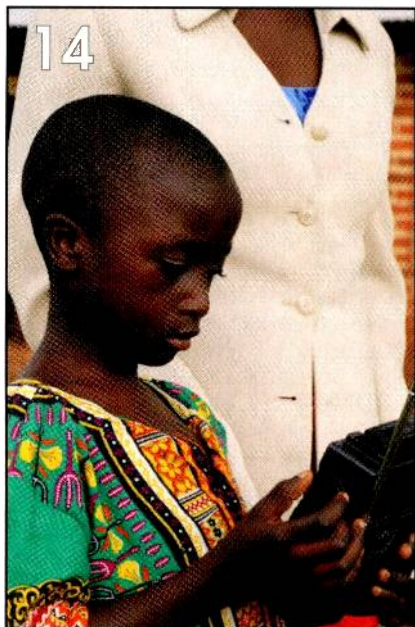
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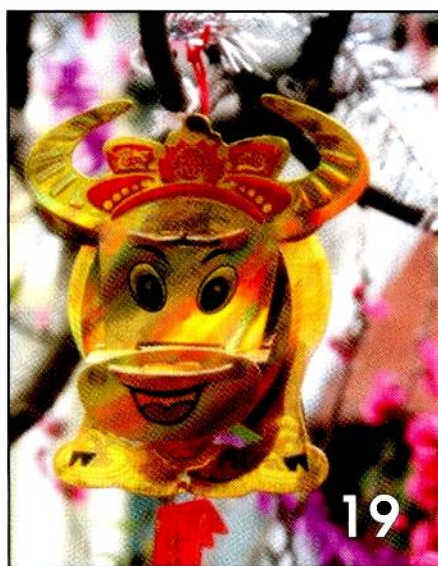
Don't believe all the gloomy talk: Shortwave radio still connects people to—and from—the farthest reaches of the globe as no other medium can. The non-profit organization *Ears To Our World (ETOW)* is dedicated to making that connection work for the betterment of children in some of the poorest and most remote regions of the world by putting shortwave radios in schools. Read "Listen And Learn—Shortwave Radio Outreach Helps Teach Children," starting on page 14, to see how an idea, a mission, and a simple radio can combine to improve lives. (Cover: photo by Thomas Witherspoon, ETOW; Cover inset: teacher and students at the Bigodi Parent's Primary Progressive School in Uganda listen to a shortwave radio donated by ETOW, photo courtesy of The Empower Campaign)

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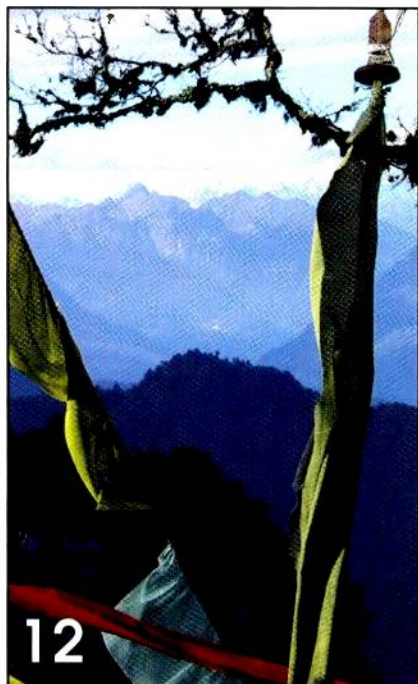
When the temperature drops outside, the scanning action heats up indoors. Stay warm, dry, and informed in your radio shack as you listen to your favorite frequencies and maybe discover some new ones a little farther afield. For some monitoring suggestions, check out "Winter Weather Woes? Stay Home And Turn On The Scanner!" by Mitch Gill, NA7US, starting on page 12. (Cover by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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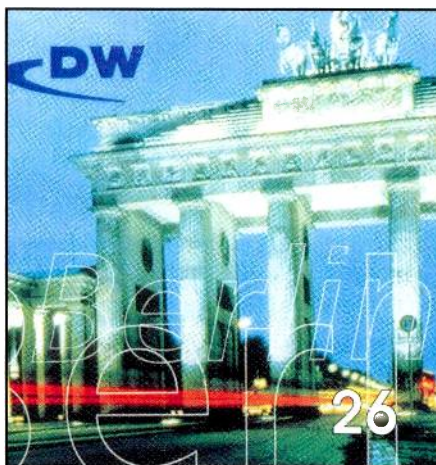


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ON THE COVER

For many of us, a huge part of the obsession with shortwave radio is the sheer difficulty involved in snagging the near-impossible. If you're game for the ultimate test of your monitoring abilities, take up Gerry Dexter's dare, outlined in "X-DX: Extreme DX For The Shortwave Masochist In You," starting on page 12. Climber taking the final few steps onto the 20,305-foot summit of Imja Tse <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imja_Tse> (*Island Peak*) in Nepal. (Cover photo via Creative Commons; cover design by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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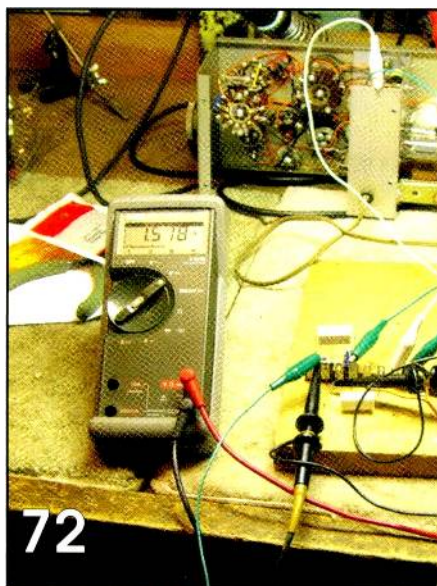
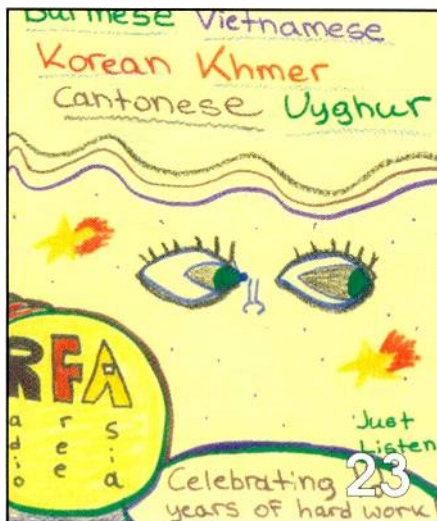
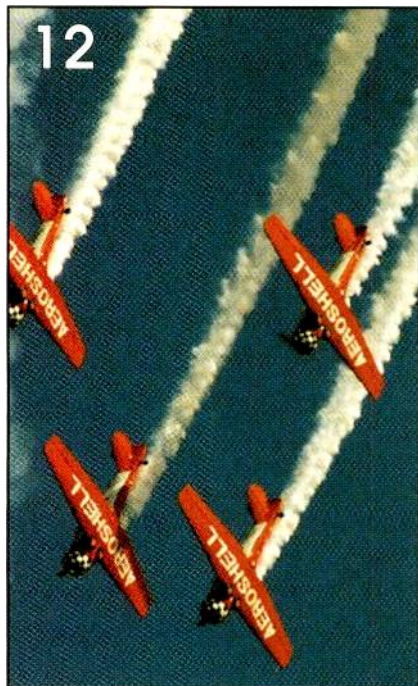
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ON THE COVER

Scanner? Check. Sunscreen? Check. Excitement? You better believe it! Aviation demos are heading your way. See "Air Show Season Takes Off," starting on page 12, and make your plans accordingly. Cover photo shows pilots (from top) Sean D. Tucker, Ed Hamill, and Mike Goulian flying in a unique formation during EAA AirVenture (www.airventure.org) at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, one of the world's largest aviation gatherings and attracting 500,000 people and 10,000 airplanes each summer. (EAA photo by Craig Vander Kolk)

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ON THE COVER

It takes an eagle eye (or maybe that of a federal agent) to spot them, but pirate antennas are out there—somewhere—maybe even hiding in plain sight. See the final installment of Andrew Yoder's look at pirate radio equipment, "Making Radio—Pirate Style, Part 3: Antennas," starting on page 10, for favorite antenna techniques of radio's renegades. (Cover design by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI; photo credit: Malene Thyssen, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Malene>)

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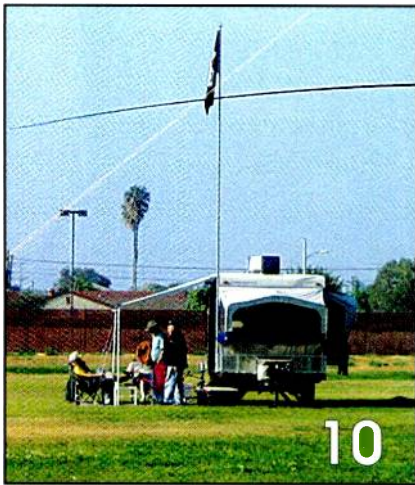
For the landlubber and seadog alike, there's an ocean of interesting radio traffic out there, if you know where to listen. See "Easy Long-Distance Monitoring Of Maritime Mobile Voice Channels," by Gordon West, WB6NOA, starting on page 10, for how to tune marine comms. (Cover photo: officers of the New Jersey State Police Marine Division on patrol off Point Pleasant, New Jersey, by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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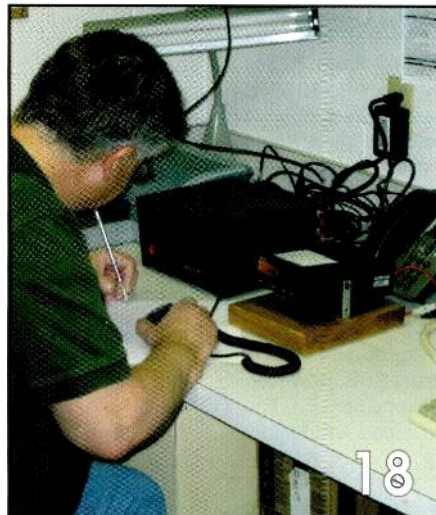


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ON THE COVER

As author Chip Margelli, K7JA, says in his cover feature "Getting Ready For Amateur Radio Field Day," this annual operating event represents many things. It's a chance to prepare, publicize, and to "propagate," and by that we mean to spread the hobby, to cultivate the next generation. For more ideas on this, see also "Gordon West's Radio Ways," starting on page 79. (Pictured on cover are Jason Wilborn, KG4BMH, and his daughter Kaylee at Field Day 2009 in Allons, Tennessee; photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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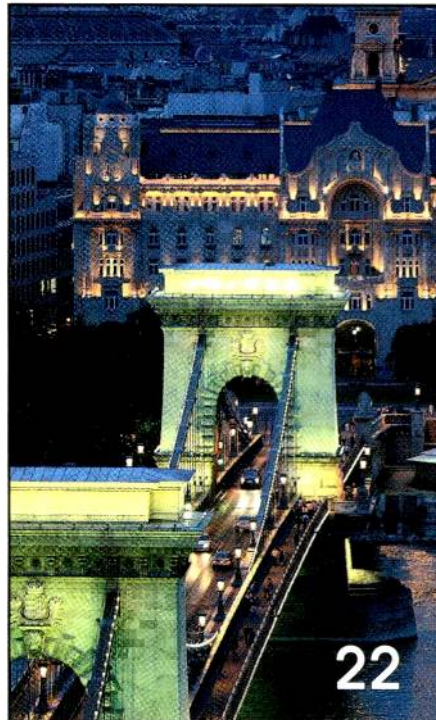


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ON THE COVER

With the warmer weather and longer days upon us, it's time to get outside and enjoy your favorite pastimes—with your favorite scanner programmed for action. Tune in on the excitement in baseball, NASCAR, the PGA, horse racing, and more; see "Summertime Fun...Radio Style," by Ed Muro, K2EPM, starting on page 10, for where to listen to the sounds of summer.

(Photo: by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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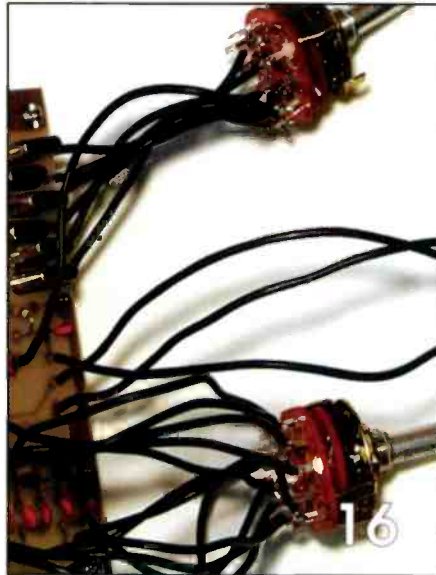
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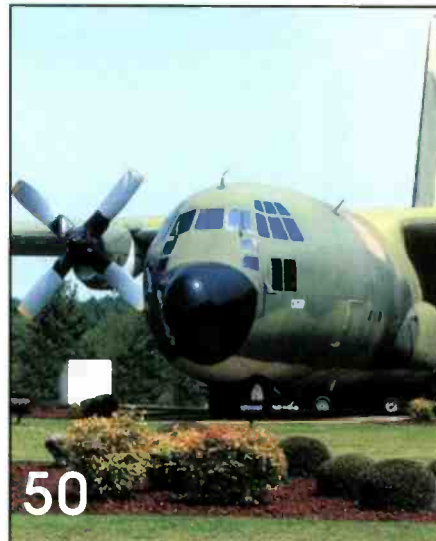


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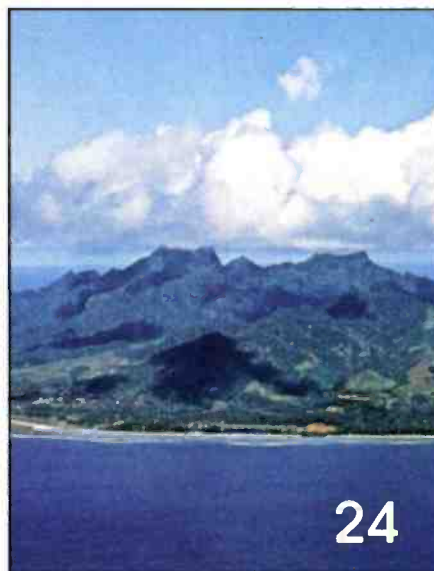
The only thing hobbyists love as much as new gear is a well-preserved specimen of vintage radio. Finding just such a treasure—a classic Cobra 135 CB rig—inspired Jeffrey Reed's celebration of his favorite operating mode: single sideband CB. See his feature starting on page 10. (Cover from the *Pop'Comm* archives: William G. Stewart II (in vehicle) and Walter L. Stewart of the Superstition REACT, Inc. Team C320 in Mesa, Arizona, were photographed in 1998 during a practice search in the desert; photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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ON THE COVER

Gas from the damaged Deepwater Horizon wellhead is burned by the drillship *Discoverer Enterprise* May 16, 2010, in a process known as flaring. Gas and oil from the wellhead are brought to the surface via a tube that was placed inside the damaged pipe. See "Crisis In The Gulf: Monitoring The Oil Spill Response," starting on page 10 for suggested frequencies to monitor within the affected area. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Kelley)

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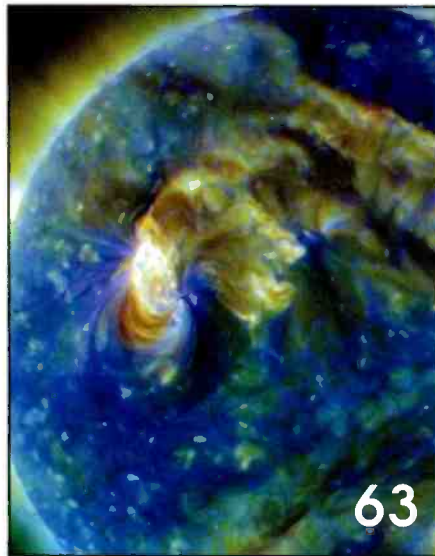
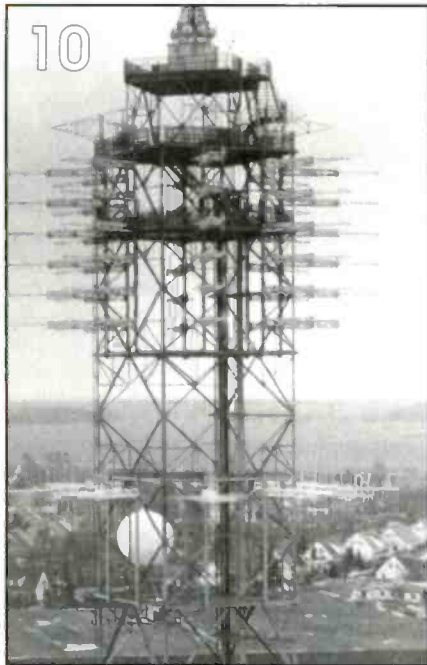
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ON THE COVER

From the early days of broadcast radio, a number of AM stations beamed strong signals on certain frequencies, known as "clear channels," to provide reliable coverage, especially at night, to underserved regions. Longtime DXer Karl D. Forth revisits these powerhouses from the past (and present) in his feature "Silent Nights And Distant Signals: AM Clear Channels, Then And Now," starting on page 10. (Cover photo of clear channel station XEPRS tower along the U.S-Mexico border by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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ON THE COVER

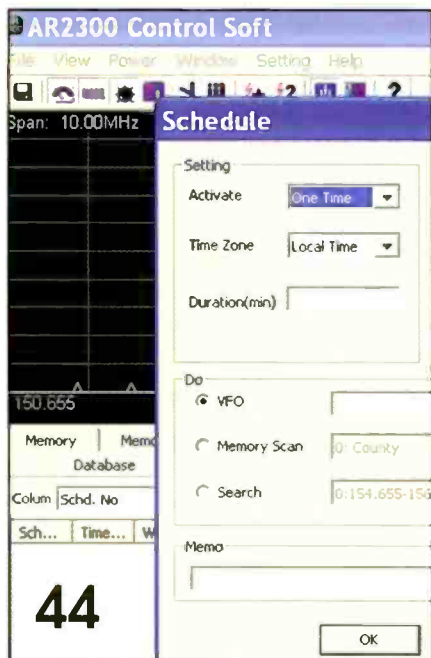
Since its development, radio has played a pivotal role in international conflicts, of both the hot and cold varieties. As we celebrate Veteran's Day this month, *Pop'Comm* also pays homage to some of the rigs of war, starting with "Hot Radios In The Cold War" by Terry O'Laughlin, beginning on page 10. (Cover photo: the *USNS Observation Island*, one of two Missile Range Instrumentation Ships within the Military Sealift Command's Special Mission Ships Program)

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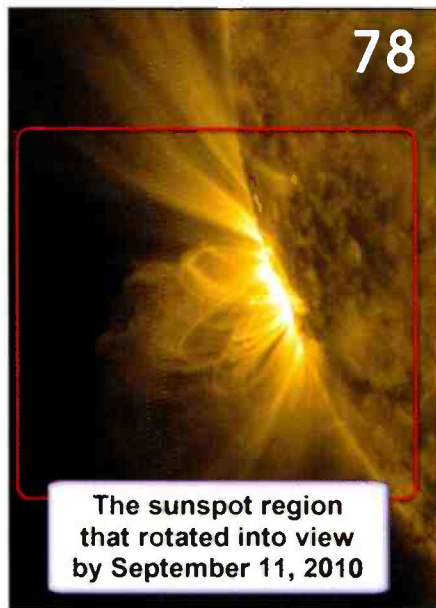
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The sunspot region that rotated into view by September 11, 2010

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ON THE COVER

Whew! What a year for hobbyists. 2010 brought so many exciting and breakthrough products that we're still a little out of breath. Plus other great recent releases—as well as the teeming used market—means there's a ton of mouth-watering gear to sort through. To help you do just that, this month's features provide a starting point (and beautiful cover images). (Cover design by Liz Ryan)

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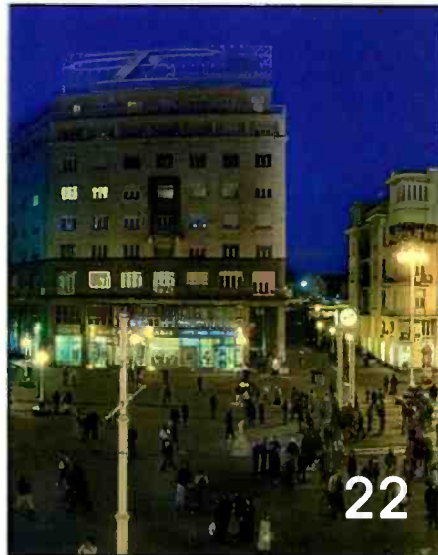


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Restoring The Royalty Of Radios: The Zenith 8G005 Trans-Oceanic Challenge—Part I
by Peter J. Bertini



ON THE COVER

Baby, it's cold outside—so don't go out! Stay in your shack and escape winter's woes with great listening destinations that will warm your soul. For your travel guides see "A Shortwave Journey To Brazil," by Gerry Dexter, beginning on page 10, and "The Voice Of Croatia—Echoing From The Land Of 1,000 Islands," by Eric Bryan, starting on page 22. (Cover Images: Background photo, Union Square, New York City; top inset: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; bottom inset: Korcula, Croatia. All images via Wiki Commons. Cover Design: Liz Ryan)

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ON THE COVER

Decades of strife have plagued the Korean Peninsula, which teetered on a knife edge at press time. Its future also uncertain, Free North Korea Radio, staffed by defectors from North Korea, broadcasts its message of democracy from Seoul to its repressed neighbor. See "DX Target: Free North Korea Radio" starting on page 10. (Cover image: USAF airmen at defensive position across from a North Korean watchtower on the DMZ circa 1995, from *Airman Magazine*, by MSGT Rose Reynolds, via Wikimedia Commons; Inset: Kim Seong Min, founder of Free North Korea Radio, in the studio).

COLUMNS

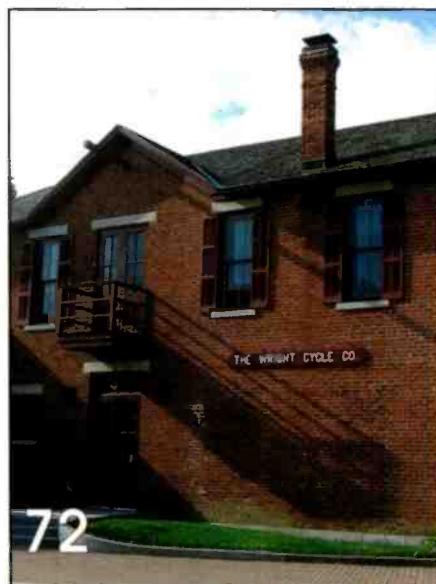
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ON THE COVER

Nearly anywhere you go, there's comms action all around you—and it's in listening range, if you bring along your scanner. See "Tips And Targets For Successful Event And Venue Scanning," by Chuck Gysi, N2DUP, starting on page 10, for ideas on where and how to look for it. (Cover photo: Amusement park in The Mall of America by Jeremy Noble, via Wikipedia Commons; Inset of woman in shopping mall using radio by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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Overnight, Over Salt Lake, And Then Throughout North America
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- 20 **In Depth: WiNRADiO's G31DDC**
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ON THE COVER

The Computer Electronics Show, held annually in Las Vegas in January, is the launchpad from which a dizzying array of gadgets—from trite to transformational—take off. It's both fascinating and overwhelming, but our own Gordon West, WB6NOA, braved the convention crush to bring you his report, "Ear Candy For The Masses—CES Unveils New Technology For Radios," starting on page 10. With the warmer weather signaling the hamfest season entering full swing, see also Gordo's column, starting on page 69, and Kirk Kleinschmidt, NTØZ's "Ham Discoveries," starting on page 74, for how to get the most out of these fun events. (Cover image: The 2011 Computer Electronics Show, courtesy CEA/International CES)

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Dress Up Your DX With A Bowtie: A New Configuration Of Broadband Loop Antenna
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Having Fun With Digital Voice (D-Star)
by Dan Srebnick, K2DLS



ON THE COVER

There's no radio like ham radio. And with easier licensing and terrific bargains on gear, there's never been a better time to get started—or to get back involved. Bob Witte, KØNR, tells you how in "First Steps In Amateur Radio," starting on page 12. (Cover Image: Eric Owen, KD4MZM, a member of the Sarasota Amateur Radio Association, pitches in with antenna maintenance atop Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Sarasota, Florida. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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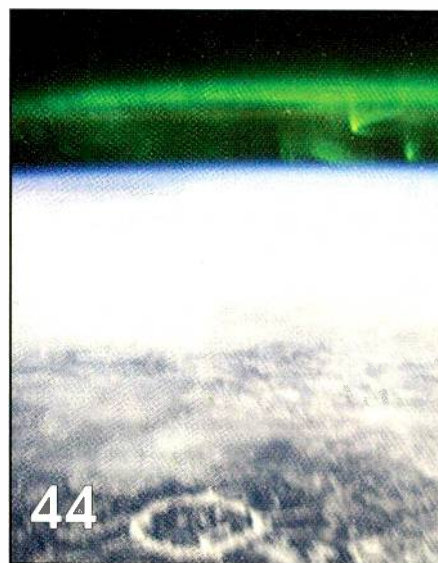


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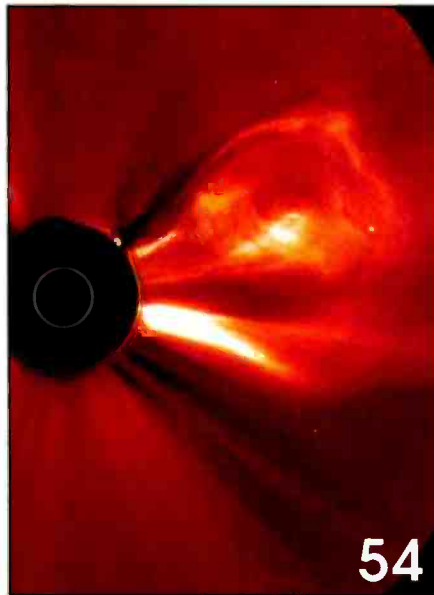
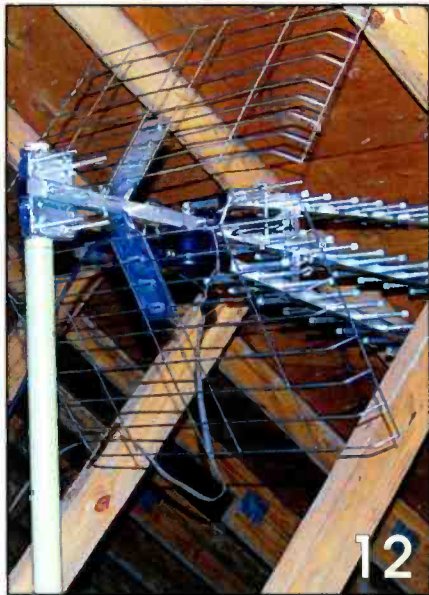
The U.S. Coast Guard's massive Rescue 21 mariner monitoring system provides a communications safety net for boaters along nearly 37,000 miles of U.S. coastline – and provides scanning opportunities galore. Pictured: U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmers from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City train off the coast of New Jersey. (USCG photograph by PAC Tom Sperduto)

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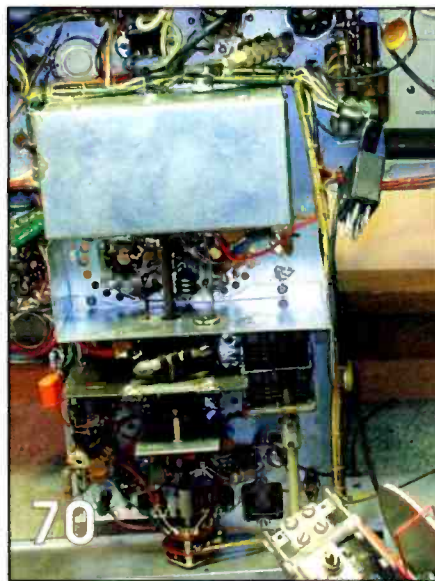


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ON THE COVER

The fun of TV DXing has taken on a whole new look with the transition from analog to digital television. Here's a simple do-it-yourself DTV antenna from Richard Fisher, K16SN, to get you into the station-logging game. It's simple, inexpensive and fun to build. ALSO. don't miss a charged-up Gordon West, WB6NOA's, primer on big battery maintenance. You want tips on getting long life out of those heavy duty cells? He's got 'em. (Photographs courtesy of K16SN and WB6NOA)

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So Differently
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- 66 Testing 1, 2, 3: The New AvMap Geosat 6 With Kenwoods**
by *Gordon West, WB6NOA*



ON THE COVER

Jerry Parker was known in the 1960s as "Harry Carry" on Citizen Band radio in Southern California. Here he holds a Realistic TRC-88 walkie-talkie sold by Radio Shack *back in the day*. The one-watt, three-channel transceiver is of the vintage captured in the collection of Jeffrey Reed, a writer and CB history enthusiast who has assembled a gallery of classic walkie-talkies from the genre's heyday. It's featured in this month's *Pop'Comm* beginning on Page 12. Parker, of Paso Robles, California, would later become WV6HXR after getting his Novice amateur radio license. He can be heard on the ham bands today as WA6OWR. (Courtesy of K16SN)

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ON THE COVER

Coming face-to-face with the final amplifier tubes in the UHF transmitter at WMVT in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dave Schank, KA9WXN, is definitely feeling the power. WMVT is part of Milwaukee Public Television. Story on page 54. (Cover photography by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

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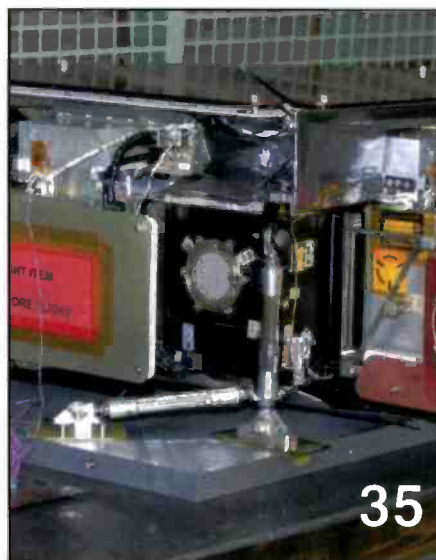


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- 78 Shannon's Broadcast Classics**
The Colorful Girl in CBS' Hotel Room
by Shannon Huiwell



ON THE COVER

Today's high-tech tactical satellite radios — like this one used in Iraq — are a far cry from vintage military field units like the one depicted in a display at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. It is home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Intelligence Museum, the Fort Huachuca Museum, and an adjacent Annex — also a museum. You'll get a tour in this month's *Pop'Comm*, beginning on page 12. The "soldier" in the smaller photo is a signals officer operating an ANPPS-5 ground surveillance radar used for detecting enemy movements. (Courtesy of U.S. Air Force and Roy Stevenson)

COLUMNS

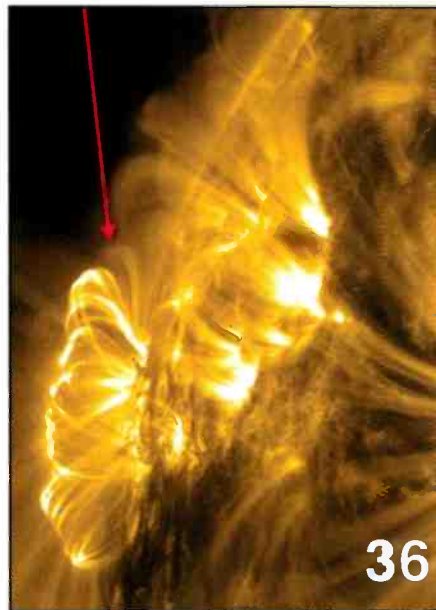
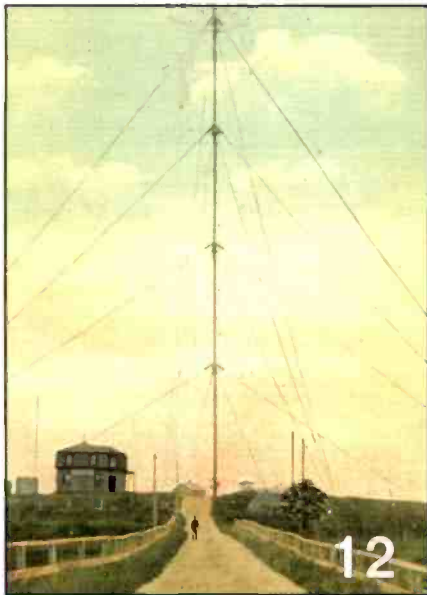
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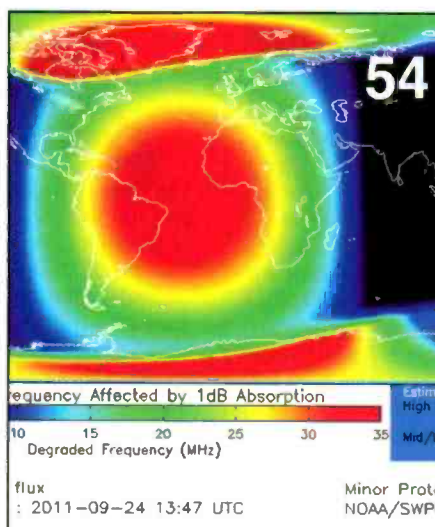
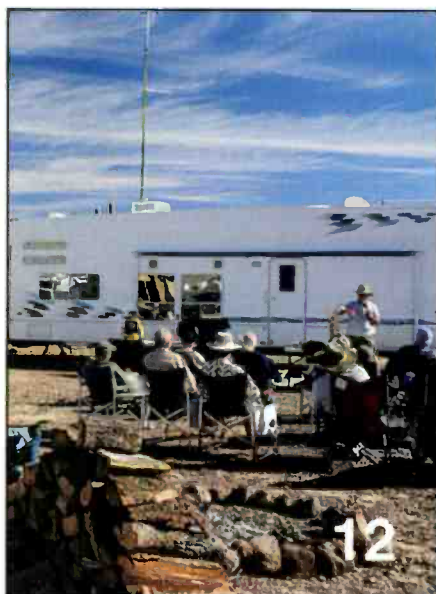
Pop'Comm artist-cartoonist Jason Togyer, KB3CNM, used ink and gouache — "a kind of thick watercolor," he says — to create this wonderful depiction of Reginald Fessenden's historic first-ever AM voice broadcast, December 24, 1906. Fessenden's remarkable story is told by *Pop'Comm* writer R.B. Sturtevant, AD7IL, who conducted painstaking research in developing his piece, beginning on page 12. Sadly, when Fessenden died in 1932, he was largely a forgotten man. In the spirit of the holidays, we'd like to change that.

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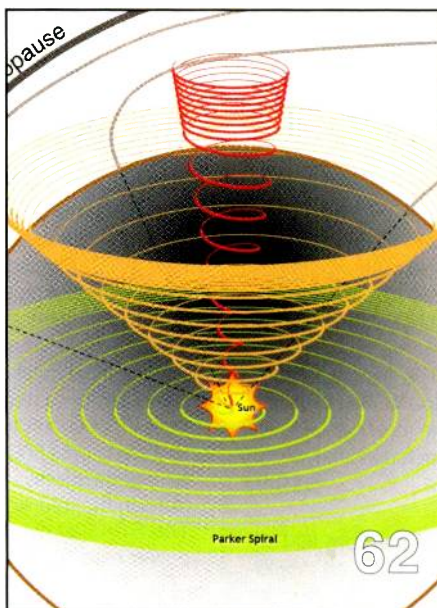
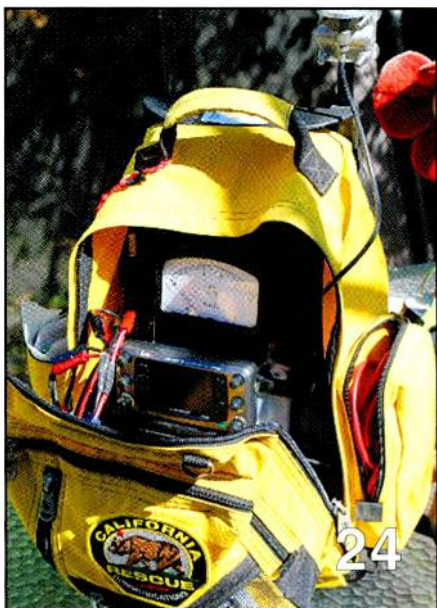
A period photograph from the National Archives provides the backdrop for this month's *Pop'Comm* cover as a father and son do some shortwave listening by the light of a kerosene lamp, circa 1940s. The inset picture is of Tom Kneitel, WPE2AB, *Pop'Comm* founding editor, whose inspiration helped fuel the launch this month of the *Pop'Comm* Monitoring Station program. A prototype of the new program's Certificate of Registration adds a splash of aqua-blue to this month's black and white motif. (Illustrations courtesy of the National Archives, the Tom Kneitel Family and Katie Fisher.)

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- 72 **Shannon's Broadcast Classics**
The Defunct Radio Stations' Valentine's Puzzle
by Shannon Huniwell, WPC2HUN



ON THE COVER

An array of SWL confirmation cards on a backdrop of Africa gives a clue to the rich listening environment this area of the world can provide — if you know where and when to listen. *Pop'Comm* Shortwave Broadcast expert Gerry Dexter takes us on a safari that provides listening opportunities as vast as the continent itself — both via radio and, in many cases, via live Internet streaming audio. He even challenges you to go after stations he has listed in "Your Africa Station and Country Check Off List." See page 22. (Cover design by Liz Ryan. Satellite image of Africa courtesy of NASA via Zonu.com. SWL cards provided by Gerry Dexter)

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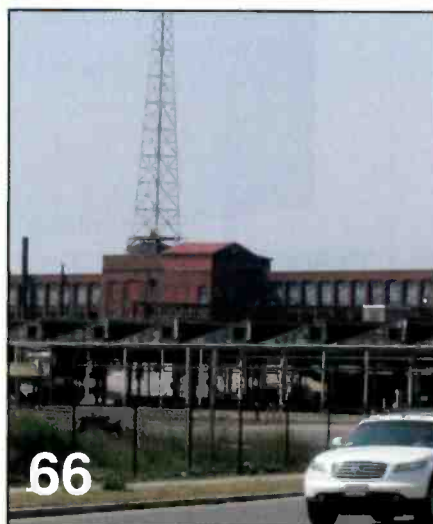
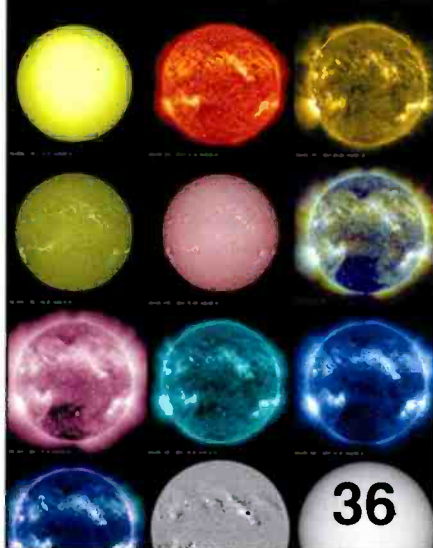
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Radio Rescue: The Surprise was On Him
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The Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) Late
Click on an image for full-sized view



ON THE COVER

Manfred Mornhinweg got the surprise of a lifetime when he found out the radio a friend was giving him was a classic 1934 Atwater Kent 206-X receiver — the focus of this month's Wireless Connection. In Part I of a two-part series, Mornhinweg describes what it took to bring the set back to store-window quality, much as it might have looked in the shop of J. Fred Huber Radio in Washington, DC from years gone by. (Photograph of J. Fred Huber Radio shop window courtesy of Library of Congress; Atwater Kent inset picture from Manfred Mornhinweg.)

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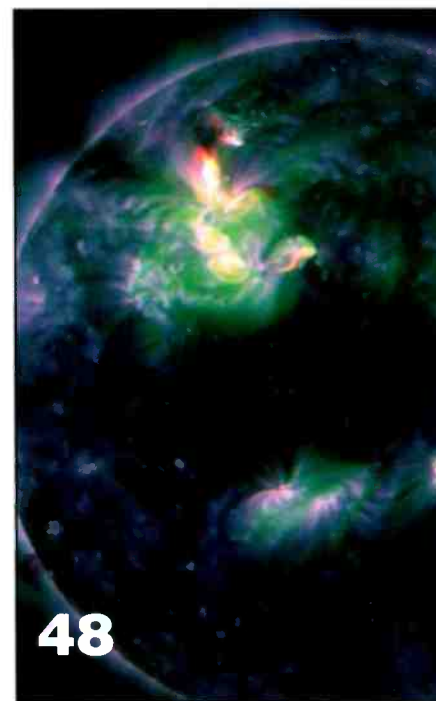


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by R.B. Sturtevant, KPC7RBS/AD7IL

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Pop'Comm's Gordon West, WPC6NOA/WB6NOA, up to his elbows in wireless, logged a whole lot of miles at the 2012 Consumer Electronics Show in January. What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas — not this time! Check out Gordo's rundown on everything from the latest innovations in scanners and short-wave radios to station accessories that deserve the communication's community's attention. Page 12

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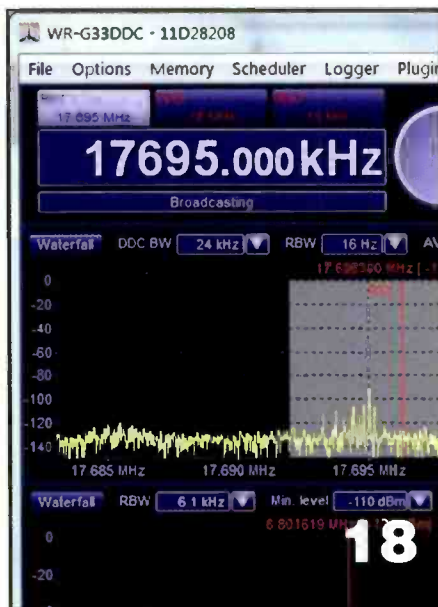
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ON THE COVER

This month, *Broadcast Technology's* Bruce A. Conti, WPC1CAT, focuses on receiving antennas in the first in a series of articles defining the modern AM broadcast band DXer, page 46. From a transmitting antenna perspective, photographer Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI, captured this blue-sky backdropped view of WADO-WPAT antennas at their facilities south of Paterson, New Jersey. At 1280 AM, WADO is a Spanish news-talk station, while WPAT, 930 AM, bills itself "Multicultural Radio."

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ON THE COVER

Put on your thinking cap and settle in for a tutorial on one of the most important aspects of Sun activity. When it comes to understanding radio propagation, you won't want to miss Tomas Hood, WPC7USA's, *Sunspots 101*. ALSO: The remarkable AOR AR5001D receiver is reviewed by Pop'Comm's WPCØKR. If it's June, there's magic in the air(waves) on 6 meters, NTØZ reminds us. And, Shannon Huniwell solves The Mystery of the TV Bed and Breakfast. (Cover photography courtesy of NASA, AOR Communications, YouTube and WPC2HUN.)

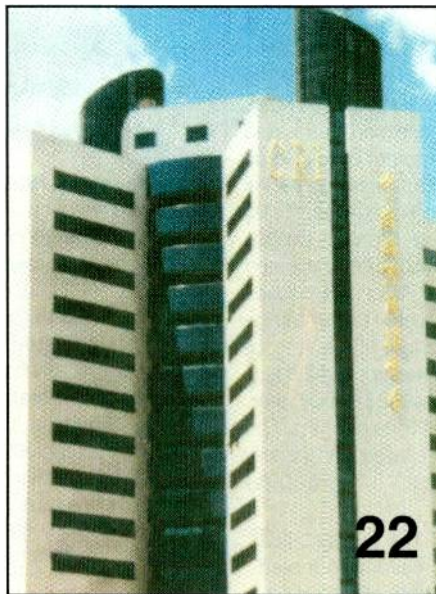
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ON THE COVER

With a stunning view of the Oregon coast, Gary DeBock positions his Tecsun PL-380 *ultralight* radio near a ferrite sleeve antenna in the hope of catching some trans-Pacific broadcast band DX. *Broadcast Technology* columnist Bruce A. Conti, WPC1CAT, this month focuses on the growing *ultralights* movement — where the radios are small, but the results can be *ginormous*. Turn to page 54 (*Photography courtesy of Gary DeBock.*)

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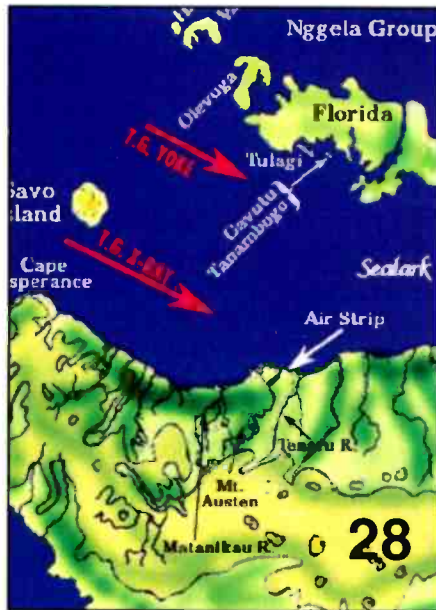


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ON THE COVER

A beautiful sunset is the backdrop for our August cover, highlighting when the Sun goes down, broadcast band DX comes alive. Details in Bruce Conti, WPC1CAT's, ongoing series: Defining the Modern AM Broadcast Band DXer: "Follow the Sun!" ALSO: *Pop'Comm* celebrates the return of "Aviation: Plane Sense," keeping scanners abreast of news from that fascinating part of the spectrum. In "Wireless Connection," build a Voltage Probe Antenna for SWLing in tight places. (Cover images courtesy of Shutterstock, KPC6PC. YouTube, Peter Hunn. Cover design by Liz Ryan.)

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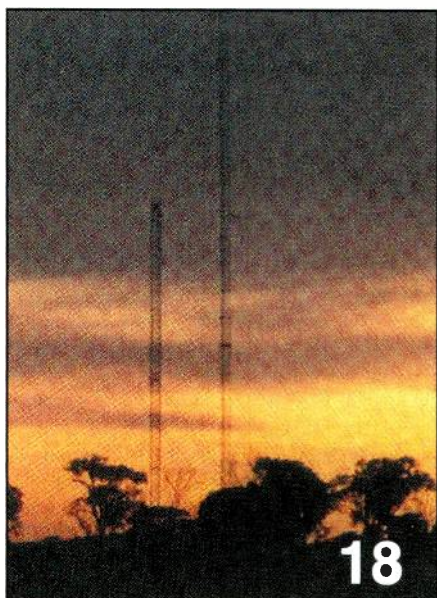
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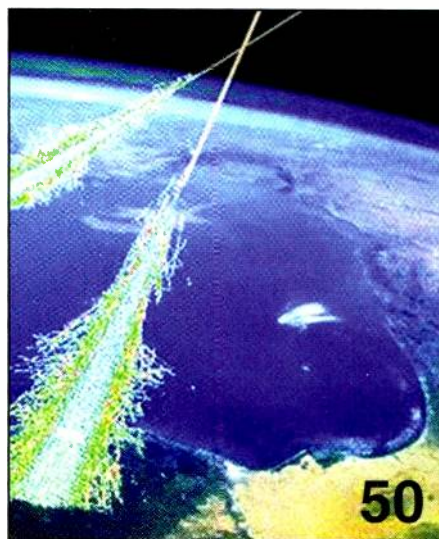
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ON THE COVER

Popular Communications founding Editor, the late Tom Kneitel, ex-K2AES/WPC4A, left an indelible mark on the magazine from 1982 to 1995—under his name and several others. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Pop'Comm*, read about this most talented and unusual of editor/writers and how he, and CQ Communications Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA/WPC2A, beginning in September 1982 set the foundation for the magazine you have in your hands today. Our story, beginning on page 12, kicks off a yearlong look back at *Pop'Comm* and how it has changed over the last 30 years. (Cover design by *Pop'Comm* Art Director Liz Ryan)

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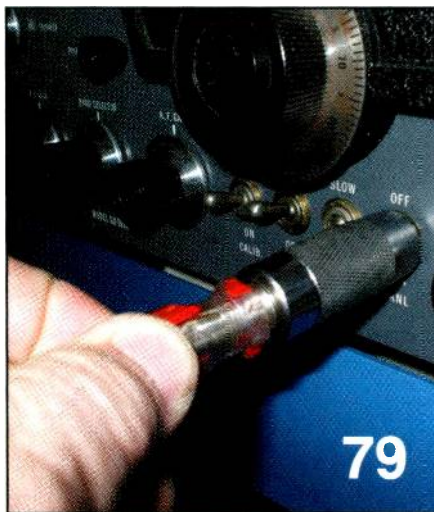
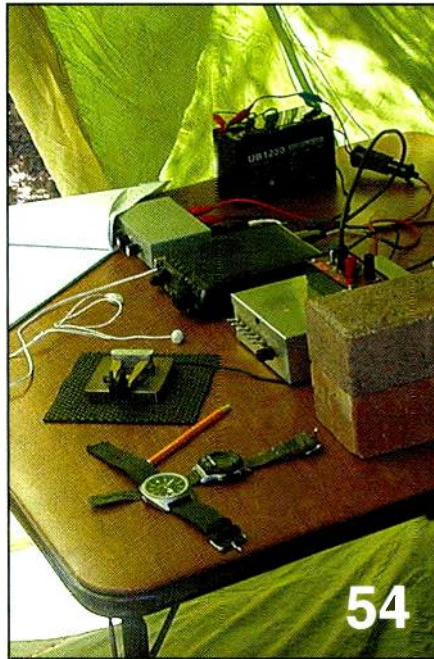


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ON THE COVER

With Machu Picchu as the backdrop, photographs from the Cusco Region of Peru, South America, set the scene for what shortwave listeners are in for if they choose to take on Gerry Dexter, WPC9GLD's, *Peruvian Pursuits*. "Peru, Latin America's third largest country — about the size of Alaska," Dexter writes, "stands primed and ready to provide endless frustration to any shortwave DXer who dares mess with it." But the rewards for snagging such challenging radio DX will be well worth the effort.

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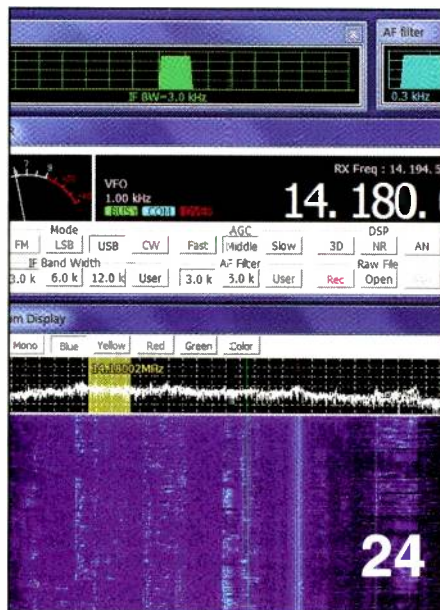
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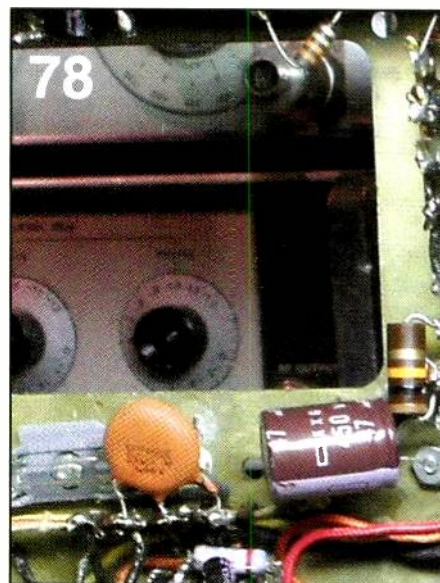
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ON THE COVER

Shannon Huniwell, WPC1HUN, this month begins a new decade of AM-FM-TV memories with *Shannon's Broadcast Classics*. Since her inaugural column in 2002, Shannon's nostalgic touch with radio history has become a reader favorite. We're as thrilled to have her presence in *Popular Communications* as you are. This month, catch Shannon's 10th anniversary musings on page 72. (Photography courtesy of Shutterstock)

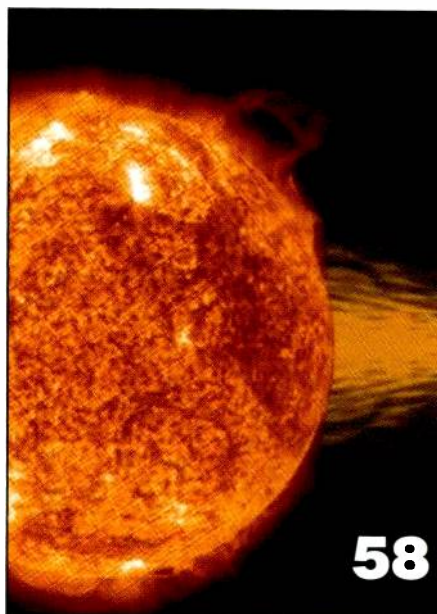
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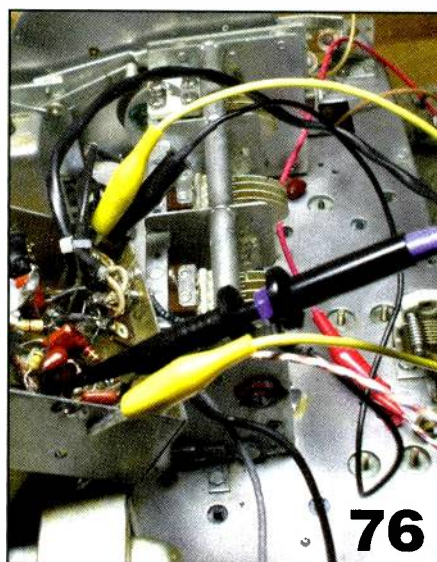
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ON THE COVER

Jolly ol' Kris Kringle, your friends and relatives are puzzled about what to give you this holiday season. You're stumped, as well, about what to wrap for your communications hobbyist buddies. Whether you're buying for others or dropping hints for yourself, Bruce A. Conti, WPC1CAT; and Gordon West, WPC6NOA, have a dozen radio-related gift ideas that might be just what you're looking for. See pages 11 and 16. Season's greetings! (Cover design by Liz Ryan, Pop'Comm Art Director. Cover image courtesy of Shutterstock)

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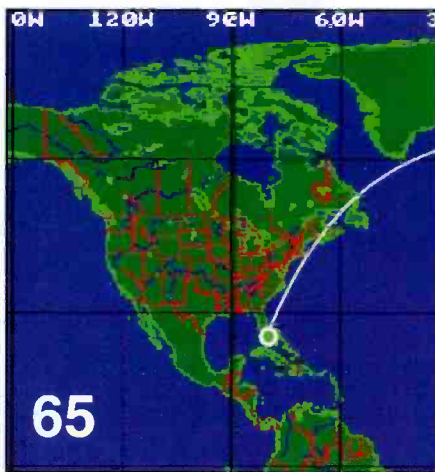


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ON THE COVER

At this month's 2013 Quartzfest hobby communications gathering in Arizona, a wide range of radio activities are jammed into 10 days of fun in a very quiet RF environment. With antenna building and testing, direction-finding foxhunts, SWling, scanner monitoring, and practically non-stop seminars, there's always something to do. (Photograph courtesy of WPC6NOA. Cover design by Pop'Comm Art Director Liz Ryan)

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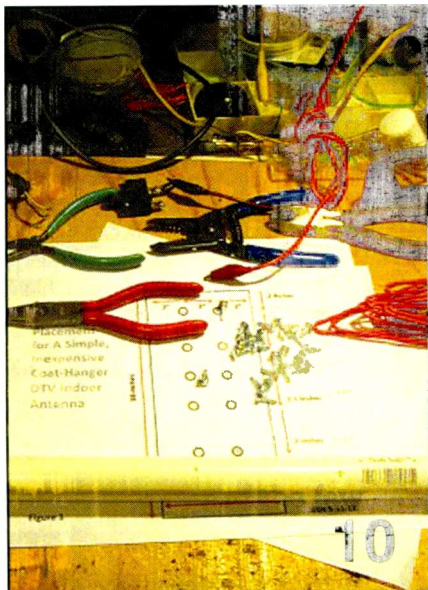
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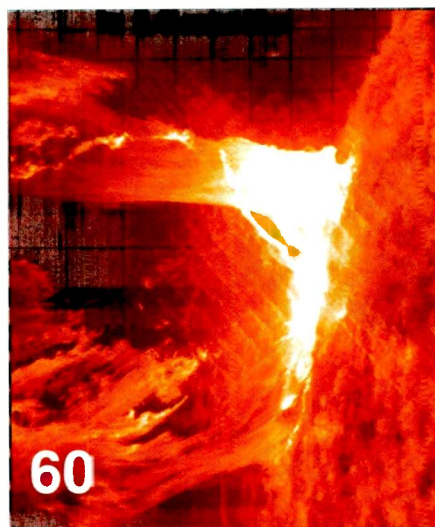
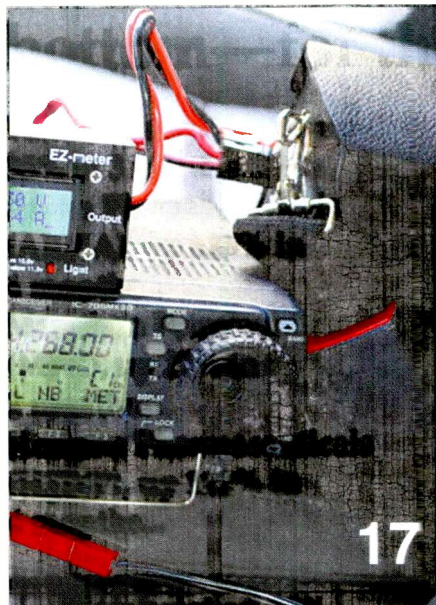


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ON THE COVER

Mike Coletta, KPCØUFO, of Pueblo, Colorado, has a most unusual monitoring passion: tracking orbiting objects via the U.S. Air Force Space Fence. Coletta was prominently featured in a segment of the Discovery Channel program *America's Most Secret Structures*. The gear and homemade antennas he uses are detailed in this edition's *PopComm Monitor of the Month*, as well as a profile of this avid scanner with such high expectations. Turn to page 56 (Cover design by *PopComm* Art Director, Liz Ryan. Photography courtesy of KPCØUFO)

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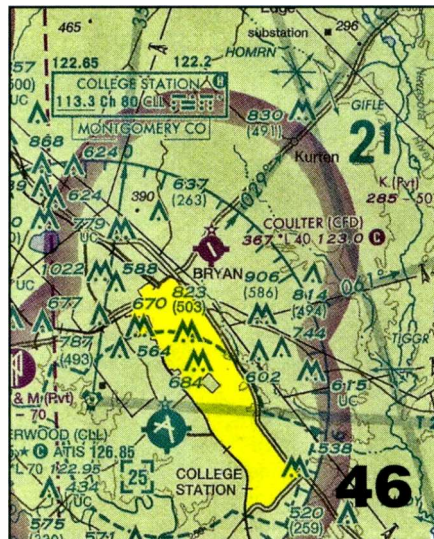
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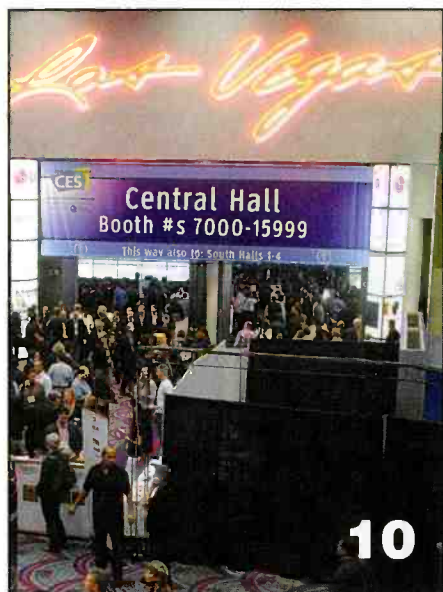
A photograph of this beautiful collection of shortwave QSL cards — dating back decades — was sent to *Pop'Comm* by Mike Hayes, whose Popular Electronics Short-Wave Monitor station identification sign appears atop the pile — WPE6EWY. From his listening post in Downey, California, Mike amassed a treasure trove of colorful confirmations from stations around the world, including Radio South Africa, American Forces' Far East Network, Radio Japan, HCJB, Italia Radio, Deutsche Welle, and Radio Australia — just scratching the surface. (Cover design by *Pop'Comm* Art Director Liz Ryan. Photography courtesy of Mike Hayes)

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ON THE COVER

Radio Canada International's worldwide shortwave voice went silent on December 1, 2012. An epidemic? "True, shortwave radio is not a comprehensive replacement for the Internet any more than it is for mobile phone service," writes Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL, host of *The SWLing Post*, <<http://swling.com/blog>>. "It lacks the peer-to-peer connectivity of either medium. But it is interactive and accessible." Page 46. (Photography by Thomas Witherspoon. Cover Design by Liz Ryan, Pop'Comm Art Director)

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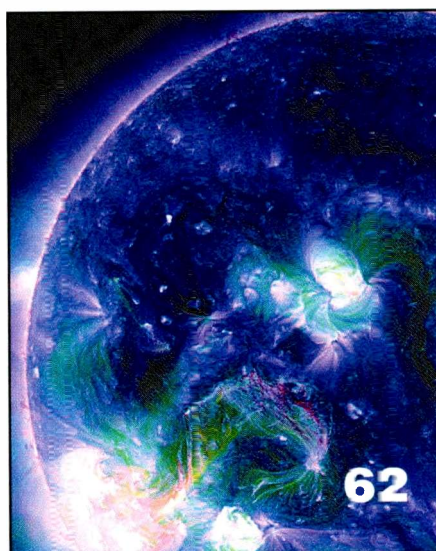
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ON THE COVER

With a photograph of a retro single-tube regenerative receiver as its backdrop, the solid state Hendricks QRP Kits "Scout" SWL regen is front and center, covering 3.3 to 10+ MHz in two tuning stages. It's sure to "take you back" to the old days of radio — or introduce you to regens for the first time. The kit is easy to build and lots of fun to play with — especially if you're a dial-twisting fan. (Photography by English WP via Wikimedia Commons, and KPC6PC. Cover design by Liz Ryan, Pop'Comm Art Director.)

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by Shannon Huniwell, WPC2HUN



ON THE COVER

You can bet the radio operators aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln got an earful of static when this lightning bolt flashed on the horizon. Propagation expert Tomas Hood, WPC7USA, this month explains the science behind the interference — even when lightning isn't visible. ALSO: Gordon West, WPC6NOA, shines light on an exciting part of the radio spectrum for both hams and scanner listeners: Welcome to X-band! Meanwhile, Richard Fisher, KPC6PC, shows how you can build a simple wave trap to knock out receiver interference from local AM broadcast stations. (Photography courtesy of the U.S. Navy, WPC6NOA, and KPC6PC)

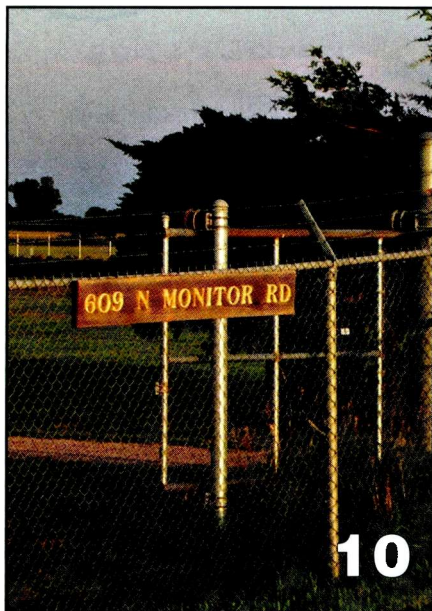
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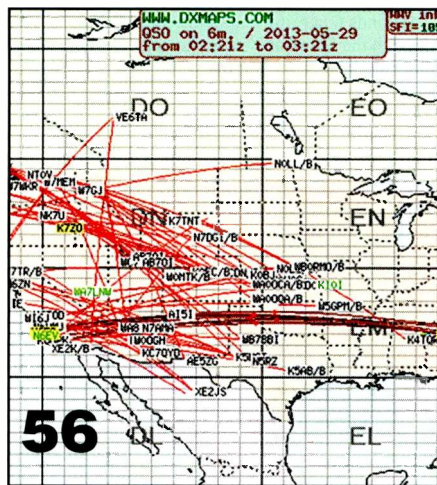


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ON THE COVER

RF Noise can invade your listening post from a whole army of devices. From printers and toasters to fax machines and TVs, they create enough interference to ruin your monitoring fun. This month, Gordon West, WPC6NOA, declares war on noise and gives you his strategies for hunting it down and stamping it out. See page 17. ALSO: Propagation expert Tomas Hood, WPC7USA, reminds us that this is the time of year for Sporadic-E, which is a gateway to FM broadcast band DXing. See his column on page 56. Then turn to page 63 for plans to build a simple FM antenna to do some DXing of your own. *Plane Sense's* Bill Hoefler, KPC4KGC, suggests some smartphone apps that will make your aviation monitoring all the more interesting! (Photography courtesy of Shutterstock and KPC6PC)

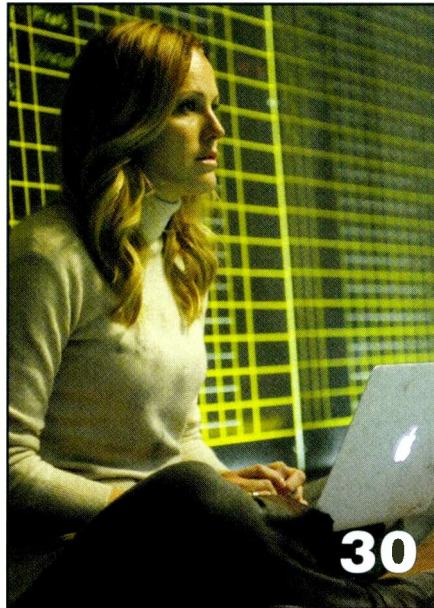
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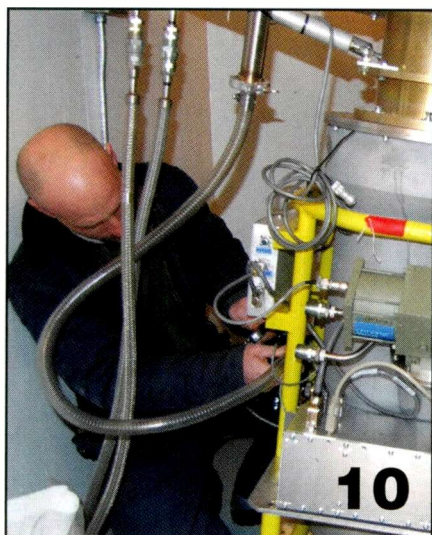


ON THE COVER

Weathered, neglected, and almost forgotten, the National Security Agency's sprawling listening post atop Teufelsberg — a manmade pile of rubble in Berlin, Germany — is but a shadow of its self from the early 1960s. Some communications historians, including *Pop'Comm's* R.B. Sturtevant, WPC7RBS, point to the opening of this spy station as the place and time where the Cold War "got serious." With NSA in the headlines today, R.B. takes us back 40 years to an agency with the same mission as today's, but in a vastly different setting, page 10. (Cover photography by Jochen Jansen via Wikimedia Commons)

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ON THE COVER

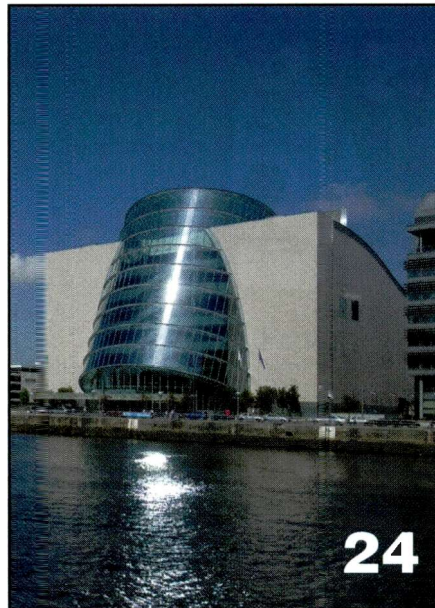
Since 1977, Paul Harden, NA5N, has designed, built, and tested microwave up- and down-converters at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro, New Mexico — and knows its Very Large Array (VLA) antennas inside and out. This month, he takes readers on a journey to the *inner space* of these giant dish antennas — featured in the 1997 movie hit "Contact," starring Jodie Foster, "W9GFO." How are VLAs built? How do they work? What does it take to maintain and update them? With almost 40 years of experience at NRAO, Harden fills us in, page 10. (Photography by Cap'n Refsnmat via Wikimedia Commons)

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ON THE COVER

Shortwave listeners across the United States tuned faithfully to broadcasts from Berlin and Tokyo for news of prisoners of WWII — put on the air by the enemy in an effort to demoralize American families back home. But these dedicated SWL “message relays” carefully took down the information, put it in a letter or postcard and sent it off, giving a morale boost to the GIs’ loved ones who received them. The second edition of Laura Spahr’s “World War II Radio Heroes – Letters of Compassion” tells this little-known story of SWL patriotism. See page 10. (Photography by John Fisher, KPC6JF; and Ryan Archer, KPC6KPH)

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ON THE COVER

Ol' Saint Nick is a great guy, but he's no mind reader. Time is running out for communications hobbyists to get their holiday wish list to the jolly fellow in red. Stumped? *Pop'Comm* veteran columnists Bruce A. Conti, WPC1CAT, and Gordon West, WPC6NOA, have a full bag of gift ideas — most quite inexpensive — aimed to please! See pages 10 and 14. You'll also find holiday-related stories throughout December's *Pop'Comm* in the hope they help get you in the holiday mood. From all of us at *Pop'Comm: Season's Greetings!* (Cover image courtesy of Shutterstock)

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