

QRT

April 2002

Official Publication of
The Group

Ham Radio... as we see it

QRT *features*

• **144 Transatlantic 2002**

Did it really happen that way?

• **Dark Fiber**

Are our national links doomed?

• **Automatic Scoring**

(Or: what the contest robot REALLY thinks!)

• **Performance enhancing drugs:**

The IOC takes a stand on doping in contests

• **Is the Mag North Pole leaving Canada ?**

Propagation & fertility may be affected- a CNN report!

• **Look what you missed on e-Bay:**

How much is that laddie in the window?

Going on a tropical Dxpedition? Then you'll love our
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(next year)

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A P R I L



what are You doing after getting off the air?

The QRT Manifesto

You deserve a ham magazine that doesn't stop being relevant when you kill the big switch. A magazine you don't have to hide under the mattress when the XYL comes up the stairs, and won't bore the rest of the family to tears if they happen to pick it up. A ham magazine that makes you think. A Journal full of fun and satire, fantasy and fact. In short: *A rag that's worth the money you shell out for it.*

So is this it? (Nah!) Well, OK- you tell us. DOES THIS NICE BRIGHT WHITE (expensive) PAPER MAKE A MAGAZINE ANY MORE WORTH WHILE??? It would be great if I could get glossy covers, have members and officers to make regular submissions, but who's holding their breath? Shouldn't that be a standard you hold other members, especially officers, to? How about yourself? Hmmm...

SO...What do you do when you're off the air? There's something for everyone in here. Do you build? Do you chase skirts or do you wear a kilt? Toss the old Caber around? Do you play Pinochle? Slam back a few Cokes each day? Do you brew beer or wine in your closet? Hey... what's that growing in the basement under those purplae flourescent lights? Ahhh... never mind. ... de abcley

The Rochester VHF Group

* Club memorial call: W2UTH *

Club website @ <http://vhfgoup.rochesterny.org>

Officers:

Chairman: K2AXX Mark Hoffman (585) 243-5606 k2axx@arrl.net
Vice Chairman: W2DYY Russ Schroder w2dyy@rochester.rr.com
Secretary: N2JMH Jim Howard (585) 637-4554 n2jmh@arrl.net
Treasurer: N2IM Charles Barkowski, (585) 225-8406 n2im@juno.com
Director (Even year): KB2VGH Jeff Luce (585) 424-8406 kb2vgh@amsat.org
Director (Odd year): K2DH Dave Hallidy (585) 728-9517 k2dh@frontiernet.net
Past Chairman: NS9E Tim Stoffel (775) 972-9470 lionlamb@servtech.com

Appointees:

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Awards manager: N2JMH Jim Howard (above)
Club memorial Call Trustee: N2WK Wayne King N2WK@arrl.net
Banquet Chairman: WA2ZNC Len Gessin (585) 229-5470 wa2znc@juno.com
Picnic Chairman: AA2WV Scott Ballou
Journal Editor: VE3IEY Tom Richmond (613) 634-1855 tantonr@kingston.net
Journal Publishing: N2KXS & W02P (585) 582-2074 jstonehill@att.net
Membership Manager, Subscription Services: N2KXS (above)
Internet Webmaster: Yahoo Groups
Mailing list Majordomo in charge:
Advertizing: VE3IEY (above)

"There is only *one* mailing list [you'll ever need...]"

RVHFG_general@yahoogroups.com

It is set up to broadcast to all RVHFG members

APRIL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: JOINT BANQUET WITH RDXA!

The combined RVHFG / RDXA annual Awards banquet is scheduled for Saturday April 20, 2002 at the Burgundy Basin Inn, Bushnells Basin, NY. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Cost is \$20 per person, includes dinner, etc. there will be a cash bar. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Send mail requests with payment checks made out to me at: [Paul Meyers, N2OPW, 15 Bardney Circle, Fairport NY 14450](mailto:PaulMeyers,N2OPW,15BardneyCircle,FairportNY14450) and I will deliver the tickets to you by return mail.

10th annual VHF + weak signal banquet again this year at the Dayton Hamvention.

For details go to,
wa8wzg@wa8wzg.com

"DAYTON 2002 Banquet"

Thanks 73's Tom Whitted WA8WZG 50Mhz - 47Ghz. From EN81om
<http://www.wa8w>

Statistica Insignificata

a monthly compendium of stuff that doesn't really matter.

- 15% Number of hams who operate once per week
- 22% Number of hams who drive blue cars
- 29% Number of hams who think CW is as dead as Latin
- 47% Number of hams who, instead, think CW = Greek
- 50% Number of hams that got to have Kaya now!
- 69% Number of league members over 69
- 72% Number of hams who think SSB stops at 29.9 MHz
- 86% Number of hams who will be appaled at this issue
- 99 44/100% Pure



LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!!!!!

Mysterious hams that no one ever seems
to have heard on the air claim

ATLANTIC CROSSING ON 144 MHZ!!!

THIS IS THE NEWS as received by your editor. It has NOT been corroborated. It starts below:

“Friends, this is no hoax ! Received following email a couple of minutes ago, plus an exciting phone-call from Alex, N2PIG himself, confirming the contents of his mail. ... de WA5JCI

“This is Alex, N2PIG. Three weeks ago, I went to eastern Newfoundland, CANADA, to establish a high power 2M & 70cm Station, with the intent of working my XYL, Debra, VA3PIG, in Europe. The next week, my XYL and I traveled to western IRELAND, where we established a similar station, mindful of the 26dBW-at-Antenna limit. Last week I returned to my Newfoundland portable, leaving my XYL, in IRELAND, at IO41vs. On Saturday night, 16 March, 2002, I “flipped the switches” on, at the Canadian Station.

In the last five days, Debra & I have been communicating across the Atlantic Ocean, at an approximate Great Circle Distance of 1890 miles/3000 kilometers, on 2 Meters, using WSJT!!! St. Patrick’s Day, Sunday, we managed an exchange of Call Signs. On Tuesday, yesterday, we completed an full exchange, in less than four hours! Today, in the early morning, we exchanged the salutations: “God Bless America”, from Newfoundland, and a partial “Greetings from Ireland”.

Full details of the event will be available in a Web-Site, we are soon to construct... It was a few years in dreaming, planning, and training for this DXpedition, and still Mr. Murphy accompanied us. However, we were well prepared for him, and he was most co-operative, in the end.

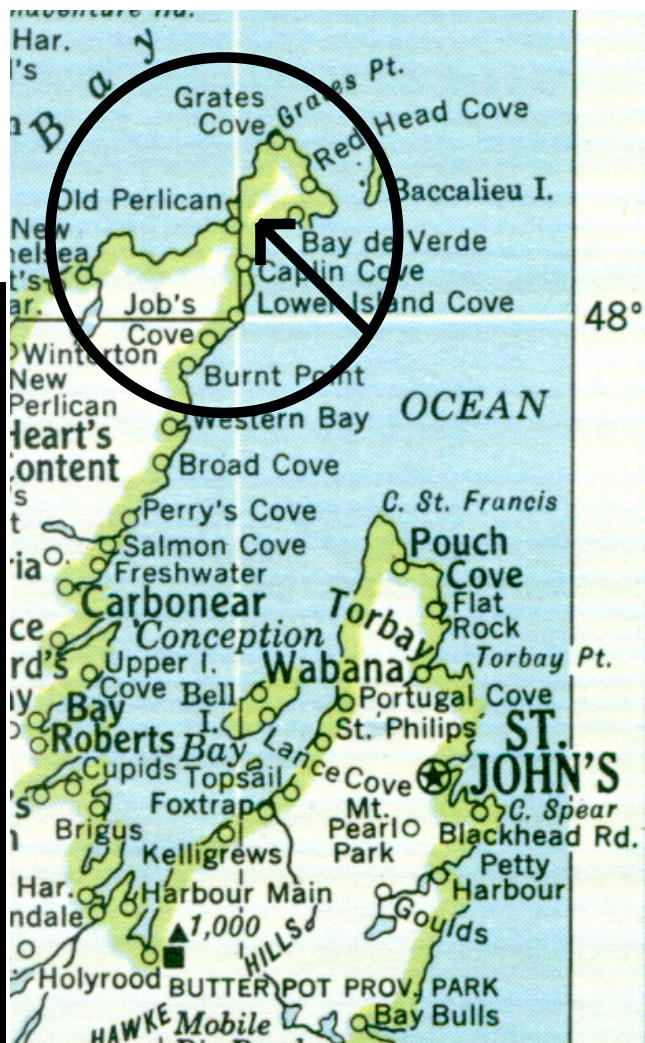
Best Luck & Great DX!!! Alex, P/VO1/N2PIG
Old Perlican, Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland, CANADA.
dufkewych211@msn.com

CAUTIONARY NOTE: This QSO is unconfirmed. The parties involved have multiple addresses and licenses in two countries. N2PIG’s FCC DB address is 10 miles east of the N2PA multi-op. He is also licensed as VE3PIG in the Toronto area, and I have no reports of anyone on VHF working him there. The XYL, VA3PIG is the same... No one in either RVHFG or OVHFA has claimed to know these people so far. Shelby Ennis, W8WN, who is THE major promoter of computer aided MS techniques like WSJT, has NEVER HEARD of these guys.

If they have been practicing and planning for YEARS, even if their plans were being kept hush-hush, why wouldn’t anyone in local VHF+ circles know these people? How do you develop VHF operating skills without working anyone on VHF? Inquiring minds want to know!

I want to join in the revelry... I really do. So show me.
Tom, VE3IEY

(for a related story, go to page 5)



League Lines:

A significant milestone was reached in February of 2002. The average age of League members surpassed 65 years of age. Edward (Bud) Zulsdorf a member of the headquarters staff made the announcement at the Newington Senior Center. "We have always been the oldest Amateur radio organization in America, and this proves it." He said.

He went on to announce several proposed rule changes to commemorate this event:

The official designation will be changed to American Radio Retired Persons League or **ARRPL**. A new 3-year renewal rate of \$149 now to be known as **Life Membership**. Current annual membership will be increased to \$62 per year and will include membership in **AARP**. A new program to lift zoning ordinances and restrictive covenants against towers for nursing homes will be implemented.

The name of the official publication will be changed to **QRT**. And in a space saving move instead of listing the names and calls of members who have passed on the magazine will list the names and calls of those who have not. It will now be published in a **large type edition only**.

A new license class to be known as the "**Codger Class**". Requirements will include a written exam including the old Tube questions. A minimum age of 60. And a 30wpm code requirement to keep out the kids, lids, and space cadets. Anyone who meets the minimum age requirement and currently holds an Extra class license will be great-grandfathered in.

The January 1st Straight Key Night contest will be hearby known as the Silent Key Night contest. With the following rules changes:

- Exchange; Call and SSN
- Contacts will be worth points equal to your age.
- If the exchange is incorrect because of poor hearing it counts anyway.
- If you send the wrong exchange because of Alzhiemer's it counts anyway.
- Bonus scoring, add 1000 points to your score if you actually die during the contest period.
- Rover category, roving must be done from a Rascal motorized cart or similar vehicle.

"Ham education... for a babe-magnet like me?"

Know-How is Still the Best Aphrodisiac.

There is no such thing as a "Born Ham"!

Hamming techniques must be learned. Even if you are a good Ham, you can benefit from **The Better Hamming Video Series**. It is for normal adults who want to enhance their hamming pleasure. Watch it with someone you love. **The Better Hamming Video Series** is America's best selling Ham-Ed videotape series. It visually demonstrates how everyone can enjoy better hamming.

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April 2002 **QRT**



3



GN37I m



The incredibly true story of a Brendan Trophy attempt that never was.

Now it's time to tell the tale.

... de abciey

Well, now the Atlantic has theoretically been crossed on 144 MHz. It's amazing, how close RVHFG members came to doing just that. But, of course, you never heard about that, did you?

On the day after the March 2000 membership meeting of the RVHFG, inspiration struck. Why not cross the Atlantic on 144? A core group of Rochester VHF hams concurred-previous attempts by others had been lack-luster and "not serious"

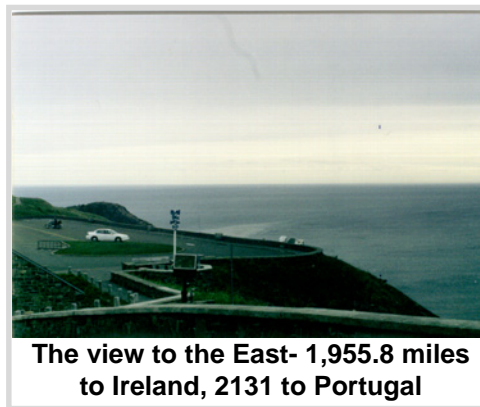
A) Definition of *serious*: A dedicated operation with manned stations on each side of the pond, each running No less than FULL legal limit power and high gain arrays of yagis, situated at the minimum distance, with the most experienced ops and the most advanced gear possible given current technology, running the best modes with full audio taping of the entire attempt.

B) Definition of *not serious*: a couple hundred watts, one or two antennas, intermittent and uncoordinated operation, operators unskilled in VHF weak sig work, no specific station to work on the other side.

Unfortunately, B (not serious) described EVERY SINGLE attempt... We figured that, when the first pioneers were trying for the first amateur EME QSO, do you think they went about it with method B or method A?

A listserver was set up in April 2000. The committee, comprised exclusively of RVHFG BOD members and appointees, fund-raised to send one person to check out the terrain and meet the locals in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada (who had been trying with no success for several summers using method B above). Ten donors each put up \$66 US to cover the expenses: K2AXX, NS9E, K2DH, N2OPW, WO2P, N2KXS, KB2VGH, VE3IEY, N2JMH, K2OS. The discussion of the Brendan attempt was specifically left out of BOD meeting minutes, (as it was not yet an official RVHFG project at that time) so these people never got the credit they deserved. The week after June contest 2000, the trip was made.

St John's, the capital of Newfoundland, Canada: GN37Im. An outpost in the ocean, the easternmost land in North America (the

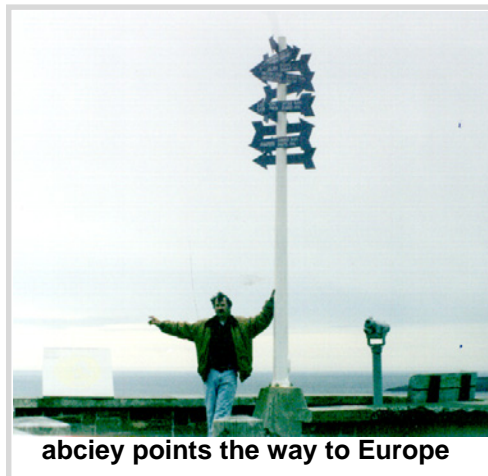


The view to the East- 1,955.8 miles to Ireland, 2131 to Portugal

US eastern seaboard is nearly 1000 miles farther west, and the PEP power output levels allowed in the US are not the 2250w allowed in Canada). What we have for local Amateurs there is a bunch of very independent minded, determined hams who battle the elements and the federal government on a regular basis to keep a ham station in Cabot Tower on Signal Hill operating each summer. These guys are keeping the site alive with real radio, at the exact spot where Marconi made the first transatlantic radio reception. However, they are not VHF hams. After all, other than maybe AU or some great openings, there is no one on VHF weak sig to work from there- it is too far away. Nobody wastes money on gear they can't talk to anyone on, and this is the case in St. John's. *And who can blame them?*

There was much talk about someone who might have had some gear on acting as a beacon (a KW north of the city with an antenna pointed East), but it has been years and no one ever claimed to have heard it (immediately sounds like an urban legend to the

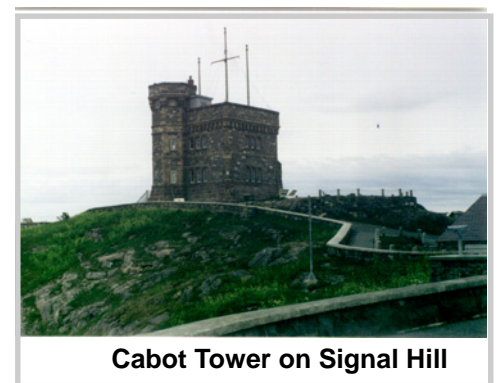
author). The hilltop site is RF dirty for VHF with commercial 2-way, pager and a ham repeater in the main building. There is little open space for serious antennas (90% of the area at the top of the hill is paved for parking). Tourists roam the site at will. The winds are phenomenal off the Atlantic at the cliff top overlooking the sea 550 feet below.



abciey points the way to Europe

There are few other sites on New-foundland's east coast because most population centers are at sea-level, and are generally somewhat inland on "Fjords" (best word to describe them). 300-600 ft hills run the coastline between the main roads and the sea- there are few clear shots to Ireland or Portugal. The roads honestly just don't go anywhere they don't have to, and nobody lives on hilltops overlooking the ocean- they all live at sea-level.

GPS readings confirmed a few spots during the trip: near Ferryland, NF (south of St Johns) is one of the better ones, but it is not right on the coast, and is 200ft lower than Signal Hill. Another is at Aquaforte, NF but it was lower still, and there is no electrical power at the site.



Cabot Tower on Signal Hill

April 2002 QRT





The view down Signal Hill to the Atlantic, 550 feet straight below.

In the end, the problems were many. But having done a visit to NF, we can boil the problems down to two areas:

A) **Cost in travel, cost in time off from work.** Each person would be putting US \$3000 plus up for group and personal expenses, flying to the site & operating for a week. Then there was the gear transport- two trucks, trailers, etc that would need to be driven there from Rochester- an additional three to four days each way with rough roads and transit via ferry for several hours.

B) Even more important, however, was a **lack of a serious (see A above) partner on the European side:** a group who was just as committed, who had the drive and determination and VHF+ experience, who were technically proficient, who we could trust (through personal experience or reputation) to do everything possible to make that QSO, who we would work doubly hard with because we'd be too embarrassed to let them down.

The point of the Brendan trophy is to show the advancement of the radio art 144 MHz. You can't pull a signal out of the ether that isn't there (there are questions as to whether Marconi actually did hear anything that day 100+ years ago) .

You need **Real Power** on 144.

You need **Real Antennas**.

You need **Location, Location, Location**.

You need **VHF Operating Experience** .

You need **Commitment on BOTH ENDS** of the circuit.

...And you need **Real Money** to cover the expenses of doing it.

Marconi had all those things. The folks on the first EME QSO had them. The guys who did the 47GHz EME QSO last year had it too. Sad to say- **there is not currently one group in Europe or North America who is committed enough to go all the way** (see defini-

tion of **Serious, A**).

The only way that the committee could see an attempt being viable was to have two groups from North America (or two groups from Europe) who develop a plan together, share expenses, build identical gear, and then set up on both sides of the Atlantic to work each other. **An uncoordinated or low power attempt, irregardless of mode, is the technological equivalent of trying to run EME using an HT on both ends with rubber duckies.**

Currently, the locals on either end of the path (despite their drive and good intentions) just do not have everything it takes by this measure (**Serious, A**)... but evidently no one else does either. Until we deal with these realities, we as VHF+ amateurs are doomed to failure in the pursuit of the Brendan Trophy.

The committee was dissolved and the listserver shut down in November 2000. Can we keep a secret? Obviously it has been one for nearly three years (I suppose the statute of limitations is just about up on this sort of thing). As a feasibility study that showed infeasibility, release of the information served no useful purpose.

So why is this being written now? Well, \$660 is an awful lot of money to get nothing out of it except a warm fuzzy feeling and a hole in your wallet. That bothers me, and I'm short of material for this issue anyway. So now I tell the tale, hoping that someone will learn something from this little escapade, and someday, a group will get serious (**A**). Basically, it paid for this article- probably the most expensive one you'll ever see in these pages.

In essence, we finally figured it out: **Marconi was right all along.**



TEACHING MATH

- Teaching Math in 1952: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price. **What is his profit?**
- Teaching Math in 1962: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price, or \$80. **What is his profit?**
- Teaching Math in 1972: A logger exchanges a set "L" of lumber for a set "M" of money. The cardinality of set "M" is 100. Each element is worth one dollar. Make 100 dots representing the elements of the set "M." The set "C," the cost of production contains 20 fewer points than set "M." Represent the set "C" as a subset of set "M" and answer the following question: **What is the cardinality of the set "P" of profits?**
- Teaching Math in 1982: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: **Underline the number 20.**
- Teaching Math in 1992: By cutting down beautiful forest trees, the logger makes \$20. **What do you think of this way of making a living?** Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the forest birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down the trees? **There are no wrong answers.**
- Teaching Math in 2002: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$120. **How does Arthur Andersen determine that his profit margin is \$60?**



How Accurate Is Your Station Clock?



Russ Schroeder,
W2DYY, Vice Chairman RVHFG

If your station is like mine, you have several clocks available to tell you the correct time. This is particularly important if you are trying to run a timed schedule with another station. The main difficulty with most clocks is being able to set them accurately to within several seconds. The "best" clock I have been using is battery powered and will maintain about a minute a month accuracy. If you forget to reset it, the time indicated is based on initial setting accuracy and accumulated error.

Last fall, my XYL demanded a list of Christmas ideas. While scanning a large stack of pre-holiday catalogs, I ran across an ad for a "Radio Controlled Clock". The ad stated the clock was self-setting, battery powered and the time was referenced to the National Bureau of Standard. This almost sounded to good to be true. Based on stories of owners of the original Heathkit "Most Accurate Clock", I held my breath and added the clock to the list.

I received the clock on Christmas Day, which was spent in Tampa, Florida with the kids. The instructions called for the installation of a single 1.5 volt AA cell and to place the clock in a window, preferably facing Colorado. Immediately the clock started searching for the time signal as indicated by the hour hand advancing four hours at one-hour intervals. The clock was forgotten about for the next several hours due to other activities happening at the time. Several hours later, I glanced at the clock and the clock had reset itself and was now indicating the correct time, at least according to the other clocks in the place. Later that week, the clock was packed up with the battery still

installed, and transported back to Rochester. After two days packed in the trunk of the car, the time was still correct when we arrived home.

So, what is this "Radio Controlled Clock" that I received? Basically, from the outside, it is a digitally controlled, analog readout clock approximately 11 inches in diameter with wood frame and large dial for ease of reading. Internally, there is a receiver tuned to 60 kHz WWVB at Boulder, Colorado. The receiver receives the digital time signal from WWVB, decodes it to the correct time and displays the time via a digital stepper motor to the hands on the front dial. The receiver updates the displayed time seven times a day to maintain accuracy. The shift to "Daylight Savings" time occurs automatically since WWVB sets a bit in the digital code it transmits and the clock automatically follows the change. The receiver has several pushbuttons to allow the display to cover Eastern Time, Central Time, Mountain Time and Pacific Time. The receiver also has the ability to disable the daylight saving feature for Arizona and parts of Indiana that do not follow the practice (per the clock manual).

My impressions so far: After having the clock for over two months, I have never seen the indicated time deviate from WWV. When WWV indicated the exact minute tone, the clock also indicated the same exact time. The manual supplied with the clock warns "select a location to place your RC clock where it will be at least six feet from a TV, computer, air conditioner or other household electrical appliances. Optimal location is near a window. Windows facing Colorado providing the best signal" Battery life is indicated as one year minimum, depending on the strength of the received signal and level of interference. Low battery is indicated by the second hand stepping two-second steps instead of the normal one-second steps. With a limited review time, I would say the clock appears to live up to the advertisement. It is definitely reassuring to glance at the clock and know the indicated time is correct. A definite plus following a power outage where every clock reads some weird time.

Since I added the clock to my Christmas wish list, I have seen the clocks advertised in many different places including ebay. Prices generally run \$20 to \$50, since there are more the one clock style. I am pleased with mine, however, YMMV.

Russ W2DYY

SUMOCOM



The instant translation system that allows you to talk to **anyone in any language** you might encounter on the air! Break those pileups! Work rare DX in their native tongue! Increase your chances of getting A QSL for DXCC Honor roll status! Once fine tuning to match your voice characteristics is completed, you can go right on the air with **SUMOCOM. Only \$19.95**

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http://www.somocom_on.basho.com.

SUMOCOM is another fine ham radio product brought to you by **BASHO Electronics**: see us on NASDAQ: SUMOCO.

(Due to liability concerns, neither **SUMOCOM** or **SUMOCOM Plus** are recommended for use to converse with actual Sumo Wrestlers. In addition, licensing restrictions prevent us from warranting our **Klingon** or **Vulcan** translations.)

Q: What do you call a fly with no wings? A walk. SIGNS you've grown up:

--- When you keep more food than beer in the fridge.

--- You don't drink at home to save money before going to a bar.

--- You hear your favorite song, and it's on an elevator.

Quote from a 10 year old: "If I was a politician, I'd want gun control."



April 2002 **QRT**

Another leaked story from the ARRL Contest Desk: Consider the source!

To: Jim Haynie, W5JBP [w5jbp@arrl.org]

From: Dan Henderson, N1ND [n1nd@arrl.org]

Subject: Re: Contest Results – slow, but getting better

Jim,

I'm not sure if I explained this properly before or not. We don't NEED to worry about printing results in QST anymore. Once we're done with the last few updates to the contest robot. We can replace the contest result pages with more quality articles, Important League information, and critical Technical Information.

HAW! I knew that'd last line would get you laughing! More quality articles. Heh heh, I slay me!

Anyhow, as you know, people need to submit a file (yeah, that damn Cabrillo) to us, which is then recorded by the Robot. The file is then processed, recalculated, and recorded in the final tally. That's great, one would think. The real problem is that our MEMBERS aren't accurate enough. They think it's ok to send the log days, or even WEEKS after the contest! How can I be expected to get the results out, when it takes me MONTHS to craft the leading article for each one? These testers are a real pain in the ass, tell you what. If we're going to continue offering contests as part of our business, we need to do something to get something back out of it!

What we're trying to implement are a few new tweaks to the contest robot, and additions to the contest rules, which should help solve some of these issues. As I mentioned before, this is what I'm looking to get help with:

1) I'd like to develop Online logging, automatic scoring – MANDATORY for participation in ARRL contests. Not unlike an Internet Service Provider, testers the world over would dial into our service, login, and use the logging package we provide online. That way, there would be ultimate consistency in our results, as they would be ready at the end of the contest. Well, except I'd have to write a quick blurb about it... that's the least of the concerns, naturally!

What would this take? Lots more money. We'd need a large server, capable of having thousands of active connections at once, all entering data. Yep – it's a technical challenge, and is only one part of the equation to getting contest results out faster.

As an added bonus, by us making the ARRL Contest Robot the SOLE source of contest logging – we'd free up even MORE ad space. When CT, Writelog, NA, SuperDuper (what a name....that's SO stupid!) and the like disappear, we can fill those slots with other advertisers! Now THAT'S cool.

2) The Contest software we'd be running would need to be accurate, up-to-date, provide limitless statistics to the operator... in other words needs to be more than any of us could HOPE to provide! So, I vote we make it a simple word processor with a pretty front page and spaces to enter your contacts. As one enters a QSO, we'd just randomly post that it's a dupe (from a list of testers that have annoyed us over time...) and tell them to move on. The rate numbers would be cumulative, for all the connected users.

As part of our service, we could add some neat features for those wishing to pay the programming costs! For instance, W3LPL could pay an extra \$100 per contest to make SURE that the robot disqualifies KC1XX for excessive dupes. Hell, we could make the robot say ALL QSOs are dupes. Even better, we wouldn't EVER tell them a running score. We'd be able to say you have to wait until the contest is OVER to know how you did! With that, we'd have control over it – to make it seem much more equal to all. Why, how can KC1XX, K9NS and W3LPL ALWAYS win the multi/multi contests? That's not FAIR! For \$500, we could let

Hiram: The contest Robot
with more than a heart
leaguetest.com

Now with Automatic Scoring!

Let us show you our vision of contesting's future!

Jim-
Our advertizing company has whipped this up
for the Contest Robot PR campaign to show
hams what we really think about them!
-Dan

someone else walk away with top honors!

For VHF contests, I've seen websites that can "predict" band openings. Since we know NOTHING about VHF and above, wouldn't it be neat if we were to add some additional DX to these logs to make the FCC think we're REALLY ahead of the curve? Like, letting a guy in Toledo think he worked someone in Guyana on their HT? Man, this would be a REAL boost to the morale. Same rules would apply as in the other services, naturally. Like that K2AXX jerk, who is ALWAYS losing to K1TEO. All it takes is your Visa and a dream to watch your score TRIPLE! I can see it now, "K2AXX Squeaks by perennial winner K1TEO...." That'd be a great headline!

Jim, I'm hoping you'd be able to go along with these recommendations. CQ is kicking our pasty-white asses in the contest environment. I mean, guys are getting certificates in under a YEAR from them. How can I be expected to compete against THAT? C'mon. We've got to do something about it. These recommendations are simple, and would only tally up to just under a million bucks to do. Hell, K4JA spent that in a YEAR on his station – he'd be more than happy to pony up a few bucks to beat K1EA. I think this would be the salvation of the ARRL.

Dan, N1ND

(axx/iey) April 2002 QRT



Are Fiber Optic Communications Doomed ? Will Amateur Radio be ready ?

Dr. N.J. Krajkowski, PhD

This is not a normal subject for a Club Newsletter but I felt this preliminary information should be shared with the Amateur Radio community as soon as possible because of its implications on the future of digital communications. I'm sharing this in hopes that the ranks of Amateur Radio operators, once aware of this potential for a sudden failure of the worldwide Fiber Optic Networks, will take the steps necessary to be prepared to meet the challenges that they will face when radio is left as the only means of communication.

The use of Fiber Optic cable has become a mainstay of the technological age in providing high speed "broadband" communications. We take for granted the Fiber Optic cables which circle the world and provide us with an instantaneous communications medium for voice, data and video.

I've been involved with Fiber Optic communications for over twenty five years and have watched it progress from the first systems which operated at an "amazing" 90 megabits per second and had a maximum capability of transporting only 1344 voice circuits to the current state of the art systems which transport data at the rate of 1.4 Terabits per second, the equivalent of 18 million voice circuits, over a single strand of Fiber. I'm currently involved in the testing and certification of state of the art Fiber Optic systems before they are introduced into the commercial digital network.

The other day a distinguished colleague of mine, here at the "Labs" Research & Development Center, excitedly showed me a recently published paper in a Journal from the Fellowship for the Advanced Research of Coherent Emissions which discussed the discovery of a complex characteristic of Fiber Optics which could in time result in a change of the fiber composition from a transparent medium for coherent laser light emissions into a form that could actually impede the transmission of light waves.

I pointed out that this isn't exactly surprising news as I remember a case in the 80s when one of the first fiber optic cables installed in the Chicago area developed a condition where its attenuation gradually increased with time and deteriorated to the point that it had to be replaced a few years after it was installed. That case was attributed to a manufacturing defect which involved a defective batch of cladding material that had gradually flaked off the outer surface of the fiber strands.

My colleague assured me the information presented in this paper was not that simple a matter of cause and effect and could have dire consequences on Fiber Optic communications as we know it. He had to run off to a meeting but he left me a copy of the paper and suggested I review it to fully understand the implications of this discovery. I must admit the contents of the paper by Dr. I. M. VonGuessin, a professor of Crystalline Physics at California University (SanClemente), were very profound but I quickly realized the data, formulas and charts contained in the report were far more complex than I could handle.

Fortunately that evening I happened to catch my colleague in his office as he was packing up for the day. I asked him if he could summarize the gist of the paper for me, considering he has a Doctorate in Quantum Physics. I was shocked when he said; " To put it simply: In time all fiber optic cables will experience a change in composition from glass to a form resembling their basic original structure: SAND!" This change could occur suddenly and is virtually impossible to predict." Unfortunately he said he couldn't stay to continue our discussion as he had to leave for a dinner engagement but promised he would keep me informed of additional information as it became available.

I will pass on any information I obtain from the Foundation for the Advanced Research of Coherent Emissions (F.A.R.C.E.) via this newsletter if it ever becomes available. I'll also be sure to let you know if Dr. VonGuessin's theory ever becomes reality.

Enter a team or just come to watch:
The RVHFG's WELLI BOOT TOSS!
Proceeds to benefit the ARRL
Hospice program.
Bring your own rubbers!

Children and other Hazards of Ham Radio



Ev Tupis, W2EV

It was 4:00 in the morning, and she rolled out of bed, complaining about a backache. For crying out loud, I had just spent the last several hours shouting into a microphone, trying to work some meteor scatter during the 1999 Leonids. I was exhausted and more interested in getting some rest before the sun peeked over the horizon than I was listening to her whine about a sore back. The cat needed feeding, so down stairs she hobbled, big ol' belly and all. Each step accompanied by a huff.

Off I drifted to that wonderful world of marmalade skies, DX pileups that only I can crack through and a bottomless beer tap. I was just starting the second round with my friends in the underwater nightclub (yes, it's very cool to be able to breathe underwater without scuba gear - you should try it tonight) when the earthquake hit. Over the loud-speakers in the club I heard my wife's voice, "Honey, don't panic", followed by an earthquake that shook the bottles behind the bar. Then again her voice, much louder this time, "HONEY! WAKE UP...don't panic."

"Huh?" I said, opening my eyes only to realize that the drink that I thought was dripping down my chin, wasn't really one. "What's wrong?"

"It's time to go", she said.

"Huh?" I mumbled.

"My water broke"

<count to yourself... one-mississippi, two-mississippi, three-mississippi>

/irrational panic mode on/

Jumping out of bed, I promptly put my trousers on

my head, grabbed my keys and headed for the car, only half realizing that she wasn't due for another two months, so there was no "overnight bag" waiting. For crying out loud, the previous night was our first Lamaze class. The rest of the morning and day was more of a blur than the vision of a drunken sailor (there's that alcohol/water thing again).

Enter: Ethan Josef and Spencer Stephan, my Leonids Kids.

It's been two years since that eventful day. I've learned much about life since then. I've dreamed of lazy summer days, tossing a baseball, chasing butterflies and discussing the finer points of proper tower maintenance procedures. What I've experienced are some of the most unimaginable joys of parenthood such as midnight feedings, endless mind-numbing replays of Barney tunes and more hot liquid and gas venting than an overcharged backup battery. I wouldn't change a thing.

An hour into the January VHF Sweepstakes, two pairs of feet entered the ham shack. Giggling and holding an old computer mouse to their mouths, "see koo see koo see koo" they said. Chuckling, I decided it was time for a break. Scooting onto my lap, their little hands immediately went for the mic and the VFO knob. Thinking quickly, I QSY'd waaaaay up the band and let them play. "See koo see koo" each said into the microphone, amazed that their voice made the power meter needle dance with each vocal inflection.

This moment of joy ended all too quickly, when a voice from the speaker broke through, right on my "waaaaay too high frequency" and said, "QRZed? Who's calling?" That's when I realized that I wasn't willing to change my entry category to multiop quite yet. Ignoring the caller, I quickly swooped my Leonids Kids off to the floor to play with the alligator clips, electrical tape fragments and solder droppings while I returned to the contest at hand.

It wasn't long before the gentle melodic rhythm of the VHF Contest, combined with an afternoon without a nap, started to take its toll on the li'l guys. Off they drifted to their happy place (ok...with more than a little help from mom). Surely they were engulfed by visions of climbing the Mt. Albion masonry tower; Ethan holding the GPS and Spencer assuring that Daddy has a fresh set of batteries for the 10-Gig setup handy and safely secured.

It's just a matter of time before they're on the roof or climbing the tower, then a couple of more years before they can do it with a productive goal in mind. In the mean time, I'm off to find Barney software that teaches CW and contesting skills.

RVHFG March 2002 Meeting

Minutes

DE: N2JMH

The meeting started at 7:30 pm with Mark k2axx talking about the need for nominations for board members coming up and he also reported that 6 meters continues to be open with some Brazilian stations being worked lately. Continued with go around with everyone introducing him or her and giving reports on their activity.

Old Business: The Secretaries reports were accepted as printed in the journal and the treasurer's report was accepted as read by Paul, n2opw and seconded by Paul, k2db.

Irv, af2k was in attendance with Rochester Hamfest tickets for sale for the upcoming hamfest on May 31st, June 1st and 2nd.

Banquet tickets for the combined RVHFG and RDXA banquet being held on April 20th are available from Paul, n2opw and Irv, af2k.

New Business: Mark, k2axx with the following nominations, opened nominations for officers for the upcoming club calendar year. Charlie, n2im for Treasurer and Paul, n2opw for odd year director. No other nominations were presented at this time.

We are in need of photos for the upcoming hamfest to display in our booth. They can be forwarded electronically to Charlie, n2im@juno.com or to the club PO box. Please do not expect originals to be returned.

MDS will be at the upcoming Science Fair with a presentation, more info can be had from Mark, k2axx.

Tom, n1mu and Jeff, w2fu have a new logging program out called roverlog, it is available at www.2ub.org

Mark k2axx motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:15 with Charlie, n2im accepting and Paul, n2opw seconding.

Weak Signal or no signal

Todd N2WWK

I'm sure all of you have had an experience or two when you hear the other station rattling off your call and then K. You reply and hear the same station calling again, and again. First thought, I can't believe he can't hear me. Well if he or she could they would probably answer you. But this is a contest and you have no time to be playing around with connectors and jumpers. You know your gear works because you tested with K2JDOE in the driveway last night. (at 100ft apart) Now you are 20 miles apart.

Then you bag it and give up, We'll work em when were closer to them. This may have been a new grid. This situation makes me get a queasy sick feeling and you can't take a pill for it either. This feeling or sickness seems to last the duration of the contest, and may re occur for several RVHFG journals later.

So here is a few simple things Jim and I have learned in the very recent past.

First off, never assume your target station is really on frequency. Or that you are correct on your frequency, one good pothole and a rover might be ?kc off. So Tune Around. Don't sit and listen where they should be.. Work that vfo till the grease is warm, and try again.

It payed off for us in the N2JMH/R rookie outing from FN14 thanks to K2AXX who was up till 3:am at W2UTH and willing to try for the 3d time on 1296. Wow 3 times and 3 hours we made a Q. That's way back when we sat in beanbag chairs. Simple thing 1; Don't give up, and try later, conditions change rapidly.

A very helpful tool is the DEM Weak Signal Source. Very easy to build the kit and it is weak. Works well to check receive on 2304 to 10g.

Ok y'all with me so far?? That was the receive thing, How about the rest of your system?? 1/3 transmitter and 1/3 antenna, well 1/3 is also the feedline/coax. Or Transportation as its called in my industry. (CATV) The path from a generated rf signal to the antenna or radiator. Or from antenna to receiver.



N2JMH sez: "In order to run a little more stealth in future contests, we have decided to add some camouflaging to the Blue Whale. I might get a ticket for over width as well as over length next time."

Here is where you can gain enough to be, or , not to be a weak signal. All cable types come with a spec sheet and recommended connectors. There is loss and frequency charts available on line. Make sure you know the length to the foot and frequency you will be using. One foot makes a huge difference at 10ghz.

There is also a cut off frequency for some types of coax. If you are near or approaching this cutoff there may be excess loss and or swr problems. ie ; 5.7g will work with 7/8 hardline but 1/2 " has less loss. Don't be shy, ask other hams what they use and how it works. I thought bigger was better and we ran(past) 7/8" in the rover on 5.7g and have a nice 30 foot attenuator.

Once you choose the coax it's time for connectors. If your lucky enough to buy them new you will have the manufactures instructions included. If not , ask for some help, once you see it done its simple.

There is a few tricks in this department also. First don't forget about the little rubber O ring or gasket. If you have used connectors this may be missing. It's very important. Certain weather changes can cause a vacuum to build up in your coax, if it is raining and there is no gasket, you're done!

When preparing the hardline, manufacturers recommend using a hacksaw type blade to cut the copper outer conductor. I have used a dremmel tool for this. With the 1/2 inch thin cutoff wheel.

I've made 100s of them this way and it works great. Just wear eye protection, hot copper in the eye and you will need a logger in the next test!!

Also using a dremmel tool, do not score the center conductor. Just one touch and you have to start over, it'll cut half way through in an instant. The center conductor must be clean and free of gashes or knife scrapes. And try to have a nice round cut at the tip, no burs, a clean 90deg cut. All this is due to (Skin Effect) your signal, tx and rx only uses the very outer skin of the center conductor to travel to its destination. Any scrapes or gashes will make RF take a different path. Remember this also when your making small jumpers rg58 or 9913, your razor/utility tool may be robbing you of that much needed Q. Stay away, said the conductor!!!

Once all of your connectors and cable is made up, you should try to test it before the contest. I know this is easier said then done, but one bad jumper can make you get that sick feeling again. It's very nice if you have access to someone with a power meter and do a real power measurement at the antenna, Then compare that to your transmitter output, simple math or a mw to dbm chart will get you close. If there's a big discrepancy in your loss measurement, you will see it here.

Water, as you all know can cause many problems, besides the corrosion, attenuation and bad swr. Jim and I had several feedlines go bad due to minute water droplets on "N" connectors unprotected, and some cable vacuum water damage. One of these problems was very hard to identify, we had a great swr and almost no signal to the antenna. Don't rely on swr meters alone. Water can act as a perfect 50ohm load.

Spend some time on the small details and it will last you many contests. And ask for help if you need it. I'm not an expert at any thing but you will hear my signal in a contest, or N2JMH/r signal, At all costs. Most of the fun I have is building the station and keeping it working on the road, "Rumble strip Jim" as the main driver shakes the equipment to no end. No such thing as an intermittent problem in Jims rover. That's unacceptable!!!!!!

Shy be not! Please ask!

The Best of Both Worlds

... de K1DS

When there are two technologies that can be melded together to go a step further, there has been a ham there to take advantage. In this case, new developments in **LASER communications**, combined with the frequency-shift encoding of the **WSJT program** is able to produce light communications across hundreds of kilometers. Laser diodes in the form of light pens, are widely available, and purchased in stores or on the internet for under \$5. The quality of the diode and the frequency stability of the light-wave, is however, usually proportional to the price paid. Additionally, the optics supplied to make a focal beam are often rather limited, unless you again go upscale in cost. Simple experimenting is probably best with the \$10-\$20 variety.

The key to the laser modulation is pulse timing. In previous articles

relating to laser communications, authors have used the 555 IC, and provided a square wave pulse of about 800 Hertz for simple audio, providing an MCW (A2) mode, easily demodulated with a photocell and audio amplifier. In this application, one must take the modulated output from the PC's audio, and through a simple audio network, modulate the laser. The resultant speed and demodulation with a similarly equipped receiver enables unique opportunities in long distance laser QSOs.

The current laser communications distance record for amateurs is 281 Km. Typical laser penlights with 555 modulation have often communicated easily over 5-10 Km paths. FM modulation at RF frequencies, coupled with scope sights have yielded paths in the 20-40 Km range. Once you have a capable transmitter and receiver, use of the WSJT encoding routines can yield opportunities that involve equal or greater distances, depending on the reflective media. Several laser experimenters have shown over-the-horizon communications using cloud scatter. With the dense cloud layers typically at 8-10,000 feet (approx 3Km) and using a 30-45 degree geometry, the typical distances of these contacts has ranged from 10-20 Km.

Extending these distances requires a higher reflector, and the opportunity exists for **airplane scatter**, with proper aiming and short burst communications. The best opportunities arise in the typical 28,000-35,000' flight paths across the US and in typical eastern and western coastal routes, where the airplane density would be high. Understandably, with the typical passenger jet moving at 600 mph, the brief window of opportunity is somewhat similar to that of the meteors that the WSJT program was designed for.

The greatest hazard is the aiming of lasers at commercial aircraft, and surely in this current state of terrorism alert, **it is possible that a skyward pointing laser pulse might be misinterpreted as a targeting and marking signal**. Prior to heavenly-ward communication attempts, registration with the Military Incoming Signal Strength Logistics Element (M.I.S.S.L.E.) is essential, to avoid any response from the Command Reaction Affairs Zulu-Yankee (C.R.A.Z.Y.) Tracking Center. Further technical specifications may be found at the following website:
<http://www.firstofapril.com>

**RVHFG BOD
member
investigated by
IOC for use of
banned
performance-
enhancing
substances.**



The following statement, "Dietary Faux-Pas," was read into the record by the accused in time for the April, 2002 issue of the RVHFG Journal.

*(Just to set the record straight,
above he shows us a fashion faux-pas)*

... de KB2VGH

"We all know you've got a lot on your plate during a contest, but what's really on your plate? Your dinner plate that is. I'm willing to bet that you've been consuming foods that have effects unknown to you. Why should you subject yourself to the mercy of your last meal when that coveted Gavel is on the line.

For example did you know that consuming milk on an empty stomach can send the level of riboflavin in your blood thru the roof? What does that mean to you and me? Well that tall glass of lactose could give you the worst hunger pangs known to man or worse yet put you to sleep. Now that's hardly the kind of distractions you need to deal with during that big FAQ2EH pileup.

Or worse yet how many of you have had a beer during a lull in activity? You wouldn't do that again if you knew that it causes turrets syndrome. This gives new meaning to the phrase "Hey Fu(% A\$\$ get me a beer!" in the Cult Contest movie 'The Boondock Saints'.

But don't worry not all foods have a negative effect. Drinking prune juice mixed with chocolate syrup will give you the energy reserves to make it through the nite. Or better yet try french onion soup with rye bread and Vermont Swiss cheese on top instead of mozzarella for more sensitive hearing.

For that extra 'special' edge on the your competitor I suggest picking up a bottle of 'Hairy Wildebeast' at GNC or your local health center. I won't tell you what it does but it's worth every penny. I guarantee that you will win your division and your XYL won't complain either.

I've put these tips and thousands more in my new Book: "Dietary Faux Pas for the Serious contender." I even touched on the use of questionable substances such as the Super CW effect in Heroin and the use of pheromones in uWave operating. Look for it wherever PCP and THC are sold!"

(more details next month!)

"Come on Down!"

The Rochester DX Association invites one and all to participate with us in our 2002 Field Day operation. Whether you are a newcomer, oldtimer, VHF operator, or unlicensed and just interested in Ham Radio, at this year's Field Day event we have a station for you to operate. With the help of an RDXA member and experienced HF operator, we'll get you on the air and making contacts.

As stipulated by the ARRL, this year's Field Day emergency preparedness exercise will feature a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The goal of the GOTA station is to provide the opportunity for as many people as possible to operate an amateur station and make contacts with other Field Day participants. Additionally, this year's rules have expanded Field Day to include ALL of the Americas. For the first time, long-haul DX contacts will be an integral part of the event.

The RDXA Field Day site is in Webster Park campground just South of Lake Ontario. Field Day runs for 24 hours beginning Saturday, 22 June at 14:00 local time (2:00 PM). Webster Park Campground is located on the South side of Lake Road, East of the intersection of Holt Road and Lake Road. Take Holt Road North from Route 104 to Lake Road; turn left at Lake. Go East about a mile and then turn South (left) off of Lake into Webster Park Campground. Drive past the camping area (on the left), where the road will change from paved to gravel. Continue straight to the next open field and you will find the RDXA Field Day operation in full swing.

Experience the thrill and excitement of HF operating. Make contacts across the country and around the world. Join the friendly and experienced hams of RDXA--firstplace winners in the 2001 Field Day event--and Get on the Air in Field Day 2002!

Regards, Mike - N1OKL, President, RDXA

DEMI listserver

"There are 130 members subscribed - which is good, but I am not feeling like the list is reaching critical mass. I guess I would like to ask for YOUR input as to what, if anything, you think I should do about this.

So - I guess the message is "use it... or lose it". If you know other people who could be on this list, you might encourage them to join. Have them send a message to demo-request@kkn.net with **subscribe** in the text."

73 Tree N6TR

tree@kkn.net

ARRL NEWS RELEASE

March 1, 2002

ARRL Contest Branch Announcing the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

The ARRL is pleased to announce the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet - to be published every other week by the ARRL! It's intended to be a useful source of timely information for both the active and casual contesters. The Rate Sheet will include information about events during the following two-week period and time-sensitive news items.

The first issue will be published March 13. ARRL Members may subscribe to the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet by going to the Member Data Page at: <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html?modify=1> Note: you must be logged in to the site to access this page. Scroll down to the section

"Which of the following would you like to receive automatically via email from ARRL?" Check the box for "ARRL Contest Rate Sheet (Bi-Weekly Contest Newsletter)" and you're all set.

We're going to start with a simple format. To keep the newsletter light and tight, we'll rely heavily on summaries and links to web pages that make available more extensive information. Additions and changes will be made over time, as the best use of the newsletter format becomes clearer.

In the meantime, suggestions for content and organization are welcome! Please send your ideas to rate-sheet@arrl.org

73, Ward N0AX

"Clarissa" wrote

in message:

news:2ccb5427.0203061035.50ba7c94@posting.google.com..

"One of my sons is reluctant to produce any good school work, and has turned into a frightful headache for the family's, despite being very intelligent and creative, and a good reader too.

I've tried other alternatives, with psychologists, and psychopedagoges, even private teachers, but nothing seems to work.

Please, has anyone a suggestion to make?
Clarissa B."

>>REPLY: Maybe you could swap him for a new Yaesu.

ATLANTIC DIVISION AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

Annually the Atlantic Division recognizes those Amateurs who have gone the extra mile for their fellow hams and the Amateur Radio Service in general. This recognition takes the form of special recognition at the banquet of the Atlantic Division Convention in Rochester, NY (this year the convention will be held May 31, June 1 & 2).

Who would you recommend as the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year? Who has made significant contributions to Amateur Radio science and deserves recognition for Technical Achievement?

I invite you to check the Atlantic Division website for full details on the awards program. The site is: www.atldiv.org

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN
Director, ARRL Atlantic Division

JANTEST LOGS ARE DONE!!!

Gang,

The contest logs are finished finally, if you need to know anything about them, then ask. I may reply or I may not.

As a club we did good, actually proud of the score we put in with as few of log submitting members as we have. Not sure if we got the "rats" or what category they submitted in but we did beat "news" if there web page is all telling.

Thanks for your effort! Jim n2jmh

For Sale

Dem. transverters,
all are 144mhz If @ 1w. in,
---2304 mhz 8w out,
---3456mhz 10w out, with preamps.
----Siemens TWT shared both bands. In enclosure. (Part of WA2MOP's rover)
Power supply and relays.
-----5760 Transverter. Cal. microwave signal source, Dem. mixer. preamp and relays. 10 watt amp with power supplies.

k2an@wycol.com

April 2002 QRT



North Magnetic Pole could be leaving Canada

As reported by CNN, 20MAR2002

The North Magnetic Pole could soon abandon Canada, migrate north of Alaska and eventually wind up in Russia, according to a Canadian scientist. The magnetic pole, which has steadily drifted for decades, has picked up its pace in recent years and could exit Canadian territory as soon as 2004, said Larry Newitt of the Geological Survey of Canada.

If the pole follows its present course, it will pass north of Alaska and arrive in Siberia in a half century, but Newitt cautioned that such predictions could prove wrong. "Although it has been moving north or northwest for a hundred years, it is not going to continue in that direction forever. Its speed has increased considerably during the past

25 years, and it could just as easily decrease a few years from now," the geophysicist said. The erratic pole can jump around considerably each day, but migrates on average about 10 kilometers to 40 kilometers each year. Friend of navigators for centuries, beckoning compass needles from virtually every point on the planet, the North Magnetic Pole is distinct from the North Terrestrial Pole, the fixed point that marks the axis of the turning planet. The magnetic pole is currently 966 kilometers (600 miles) from the geographic one.

Because the magnetic pole lies in the Arctic Ocean, scientists attempting to pinpoint its precise location must visit during a brief window in the spring. "We always do this kind of work in May. We need frozen conditions so that we can land an airplane anywhere on ice or snow, but not so cold that it is impossible to work outdoors," Newitt said. The North Magnetic Pole historically is re-surveyed about once every decade. But Newitt and colleagues, who last studied the site in 2001, might attempt another trek in 2003 to investigate further its accelerated migration.

The pole is a short plane ride away from Resolute Bay, home to 200 hardy souls in one of Canada's most northerly settlements, where a popular T-shirt boasts: "Resolute is not the end of the world, but you can see it from here." Despite its remote location, tourists occasionally visit the town to experience North Pole adventures, searching for everything from polar bears to Santa Claus to an even more elusive target. During a 1984 survey, Newitt and col-

leagues were approached by a newlywed couple with a strange request. "When they heard we were going to the pole they asked if they could hitch a ride. When asked why they wanted to go there, they replied that they wanted to conceive their child there," Newitt said.

The honeymooners did not make the trip, but other couples, also believing that the location nurtures fertility, have chartered small planes to the forbidden spot, set up tents on the ice and conducted their business. Nothing about the magnetic field at the pole would have a significant effect on humans, Newitt said. But ever the scientist, he added: "It would be interesting to track the children of these polar trysts for the next couple of decades."

***"RESOLUTE
IS NOT THE
END OF
THE
WORLD...
BUT YOU
CAN SEE IT
FROM
HERE"***

The above information is good news for the guys who will be active (on the radio) during Cycle 27.

By that time the geomagnetic latitude of both Toronto & Rochester will be much lower and we will likely then be closer to the geomagnetic equator.

This will not be so great for the guys out west though!... I don't know about you guys, but I'm just gonna wait and see on this one... :-) Dana, VE3DSS

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED ON e-BAY!

RAMSEY ELECTRONICS AUCTIONS OFF PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS!

suggest THIS to your boss!

APPRAISE OUR INTERN!

Pentium Class

Item # 2009242473

Computers: Desktop PCs: Intel-Pentium IV

Currently US \$33.01

First bid US \$0.29 (approx. C \$0.46)

Quantity 1

of bids 23

Auction has ended.

Location Hopewell - the Hub of New York State

Country/Region USA/Rochester

Started 11-Mar-02 16:30:58 EST

Ended 18-Mar-02 16:30:58 EST

Shipping Seller pays for shipping.

Description : INTERN APPRAISAL FORM TO
THE HIGHEST BIDDER!



We are an electronics manufacturing company in Upstate NY. We employ a bunch of people here, and one of our favorite times is LRT (Laddie Review Time). You see, we typically have openings for college interns to develop their skills out in the real

world. Many times, our experiences with these interns (or laddies!) is, um, interesting to say the least!

Well, today our current laddie just handed me his school appraisal form!

"Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY.

I Computing Sciences Internship CSC250 Computer Information Systems Internship Intern Appraisal Form"

Well, normally, we post it on the bulletin board here, and take bids from all the employees he had to work with over the year. This way, we made a few bucks, and the winning employee gets to fill it out and REALLY tell him what it's been like working with him! Well, considering Laddie into this IT thing, and it's "Computing Sciences" I figured this procedure should follow that technology. And what better way than to auction it off on e-Bay!

Yes, the winning bidder gets to help appraise and rate our laddie for his college intern duties here at Ramsey! **Bid for this once in a lifetime chance to really screw with his life, his education, and his future!**

Fire Company Brew



Former firefighter helps launch beer to benefit fallen comrades

FEB 12, 2002 - Retired New York City firefighter P.J. Schrantz has refinanced his house to fund the initial production of Fire Company Brew, a beer he hopes will both pay tribute to firefighters who died on Sept. 11 and benefit charities helping their survivors.

"This is not a novelty beer," said Schrantz, who lives in New Jersey. The beer's tagline is, "Taste the Pride." Matt Brewing Co. of Utica, N.Y., will brew the American amber lager. The bottled product should be available this spring. Proceeds from sale of the beer will benefit a variety of charities, some of which Schrantz has helped organize. He said an Internet web site, www.firecompanybrew.com, will track where the money is spent.

"This money, as soon as it comes in, it goes right back out," he told Lee Graves of the

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch. "I want people to ask me, 'Where is the money?' because I want to ask other people the same question." Five firefighters who Schrantz, 38, worked with at Engine 201 in Sunset Park, were among those who died at the

World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Although he retired two years before with a medical disability, Schrantz joined many other volunteers in Manhattan, arriving on the afternoon of the 11th. "It looked like the Blitzkrieg, like the pictures of when they bombed London," he said. "It was something. There was no power. Marines and Army guys with M16s were standing on the corner. The planes overhead, the (fighter) jets - it was eerie." For four days, he pitched in, sleeping on the streets, putting his life at risk like thousands of other workers. He left only to take his 5-year-old son, who has leukemia, to Philadelphia for chemotherapy.

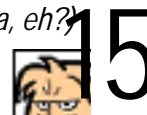
After getting the idea to produce a contract brew, Schrantz contacted FX Matt Brewing, which has been a family business since 1888. Nick Matt, the president, was impressed. "If anyone else had come to me with this idea, I would've thought it too commercial or opportunistic," he said. "Phil is personally involved in what happened. He was part of it."

Tossing the Caber for fun and Profit



(Now THERE'S something VHF
hams can do when not erecting
towers for the contest!
Who needs Viagra, eh?)

April 2002 QRT



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Think where it will take you.

QRT

America's National Ham Radio Magazine

OK, so someone claims to have crossed the Atlantic on 144 MHz.

But is it real?

Did they really do it, or is the joke on us?

As Cuba Gooding Jr said: "Show me the Money!"

(*Well*, one thing's for sure...the news sure messed up the production schedule for the April issue- How rude!!! :^)

The details are on Page Three.

Are you sitting down?
This *IS* the April issue, after all.

The VHF Journal
Official publication of
The Rochester VHF Group
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Rochester, NY 14692
USA