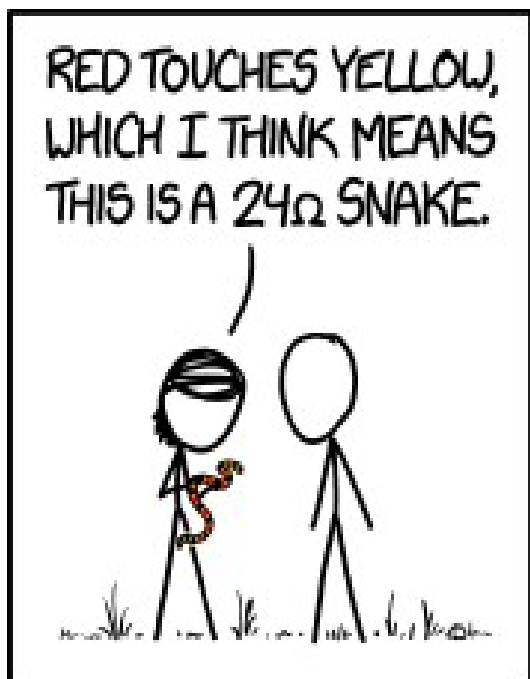


Selected Ham Radio Humor – Graphics & Text – Prepared by Daryl, N5VLZ

This file has 70 pages of assorted ham radio humor that I've obtained over the years, and it was last updated on April 12, 2025. As the late Jerry Clower noted, “if you don't intend to laugh...go home, look in the mirror, to see what everyone else has been laughing at all these years”. And, Roger Rabbit noted “If you don't have a sense of humor...you're better off dead!!”. But, you'll see that with this file, “I have too much time on my hands” (hi hi).

Some of the items are NOT suitable for over the air (such as "The Missing Q Signals")...so, check the content before you decide to use these on the air...no matter the mode. However, even an item isn't suitable for on the air use, you can use these for eyeball QSO's (hi hi). For the text entries, I ask that you give credit to either myself for providing the file, or for the individual noted in the material. Where you use something on the air, such as during a net, you can use your callsign to ID your station, per FCC rules.

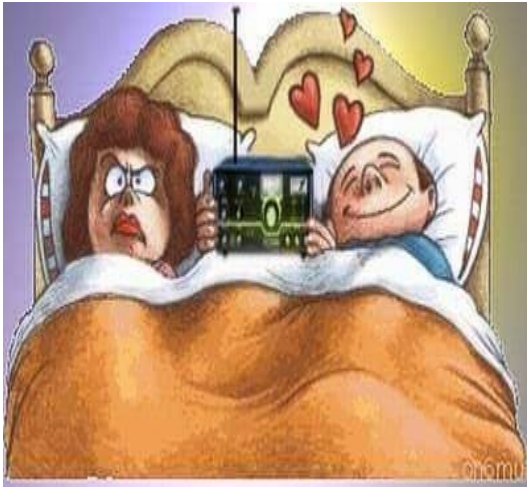
Go to <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> – and look for “My Ham Radio Bio” for more info on me. A PDF viewer is required to read the file. This URL is the same as the hyperlink on my bio on the QRZ web site.



This snake has a bite!!



A Ham At The Eye Doctor.



A Ham Married To Radio.



A Ham With An Attitude.



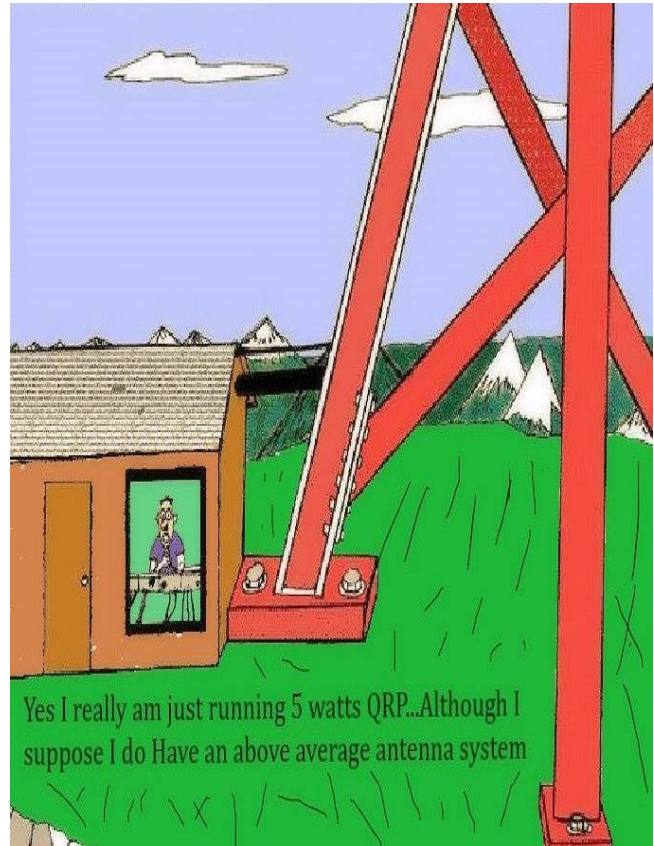
Feeling a ham's pain.



A Vertically Polarized Antenna.



Being Irresistible To Hams.



An Above Average QRP Setup.



L.E.D. Zeppelin

A Modern Electric Rock Music Band.



At the ham banquet.

At The Ham Radio Banquet.

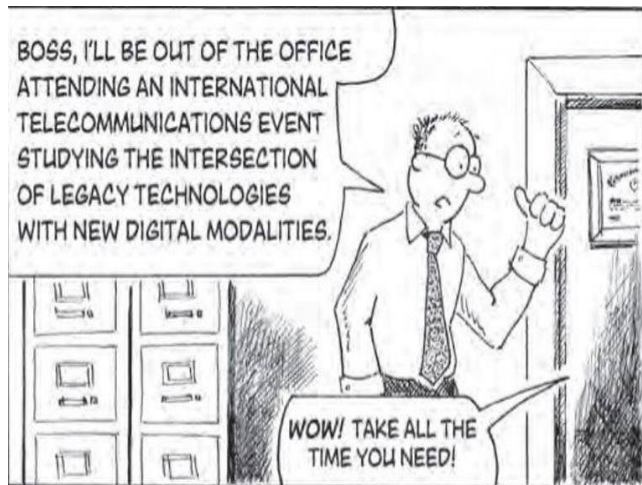
spouse: did you buy another radio today?
me:



Your 4 choices of answers.



Field Day Is Over.



© 2019 Jason Togyer W3MCK |jtogyer@gmail.com CQ Magazine



Getting Time Off For Hamvention.



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Pretending To Be At Hamvention.

Hamvention Facts

Serving Size 3 days

Amount Per Serving

Miles walked 42 Cash spent \$800

% Daily Value*

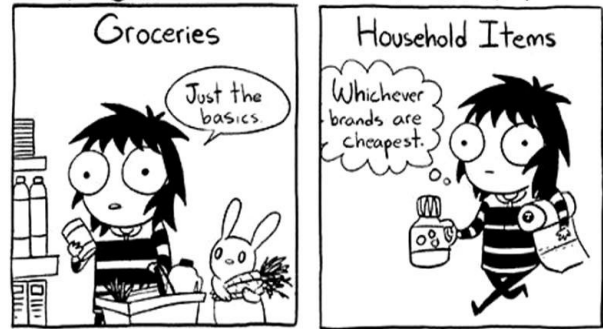
Boat anchors	99%
Collins	80%
Hallicrafters	59%
Chicken Band	0%
Useless trinkets	62%
Handheld Rigs	35%
Yaesu, Kenwood, Icom	35%
Alinco, Chinese & FRS	22%
High school band booster beer	100%
Greasy burgers 9% • Intermod	99%
Hara dogs 10% • Fun & friends	100%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a typical ham.
Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your personality and if you are a tool or not.

© www.Hamvention.com

Facts About Hamvention.

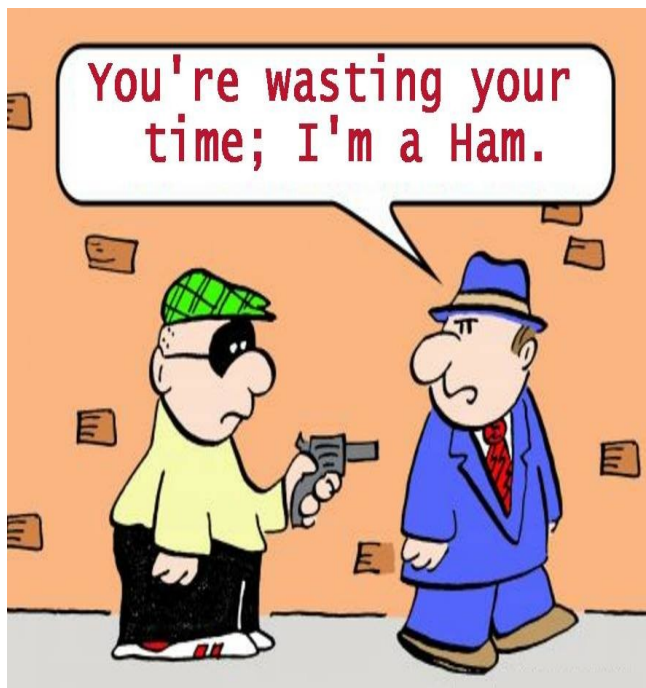
HOW I SPEND MONEY



HAM GEAR



How A Ham Spends Money.



Why Robbers Are Out Of Luck.



The Photo Says It All.



Spray Away Skip Problems.



How To Eliminate High SWR.



Ham Radio In Its Purest Form.



A Ham Shack Warning Sign.



The New Raspberry Pi Device.



Join The Resistance.

Logic gate for married radio hams

HAM	XYL	OUTPUT
WRONG	RIGHT	XYL IS RIGHT
RIGHT	RIGHT	XYL IS RIGHT
RIGHT	WRONG	XYL IS RIGHT
WRONG	WRONG	HAM IS WRONG

Logic Gate For Married Hams.



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"

Whenever the Ham Is Wrong.



The Perception.



The Reality.



Slicken Up The Interference.



The new HT Quad Band Antenna.

My greatest fear is that I'll die and my wife will sell my



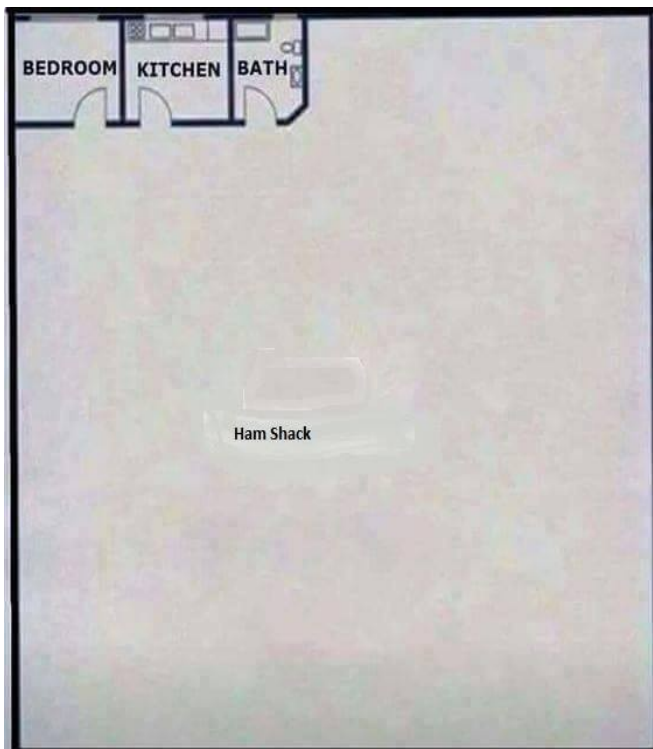
radios for what I told her I paid for them.

A Ham's Greatest Fear.



Look at you--folding laundry. Last night it was the dishes! What part of "NO, you're not buying ANOTHER RADIO!" don't you understand?

So Much For Sucking Up.



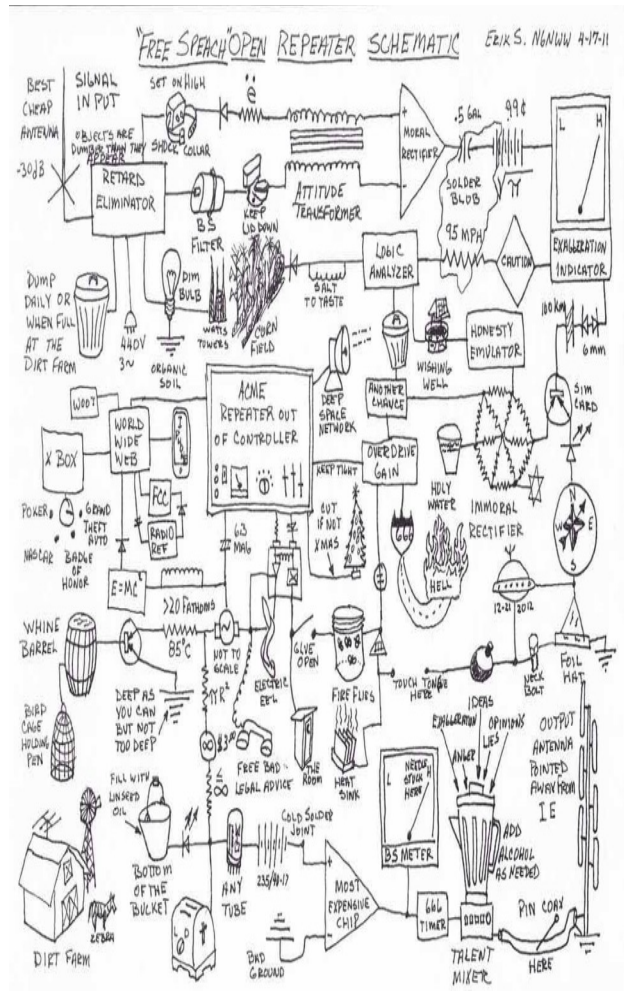
The New Shack Plan For The QTH.



The Ultimate Contesting Rig.



Why Technology Is Hard In Rigs...



...And In The Schematics.



It's A Special Month...



...Then Again, Maybe Not.



A Useful Tool For Hams.



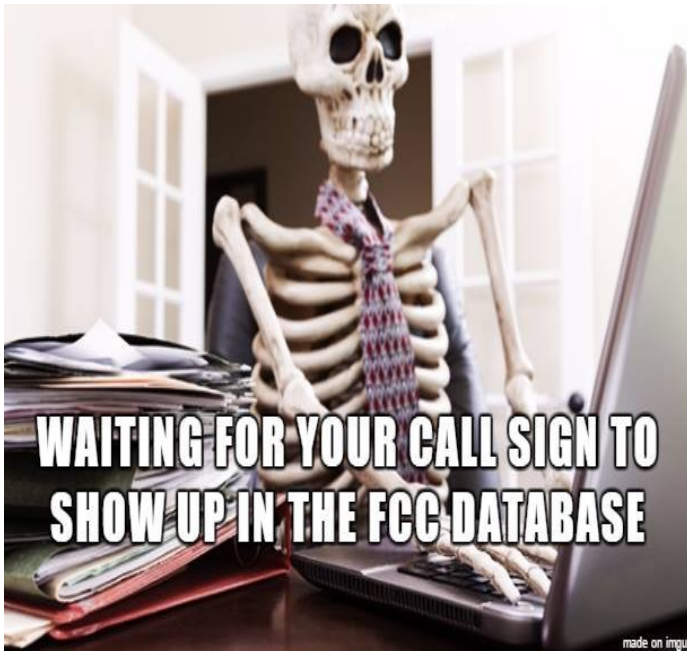
How A Ham Finds A Spouse.



Vaseline Is Optional.



**Important Info For VE Teams.
(In memory of Amy Thor, AG4HH)**



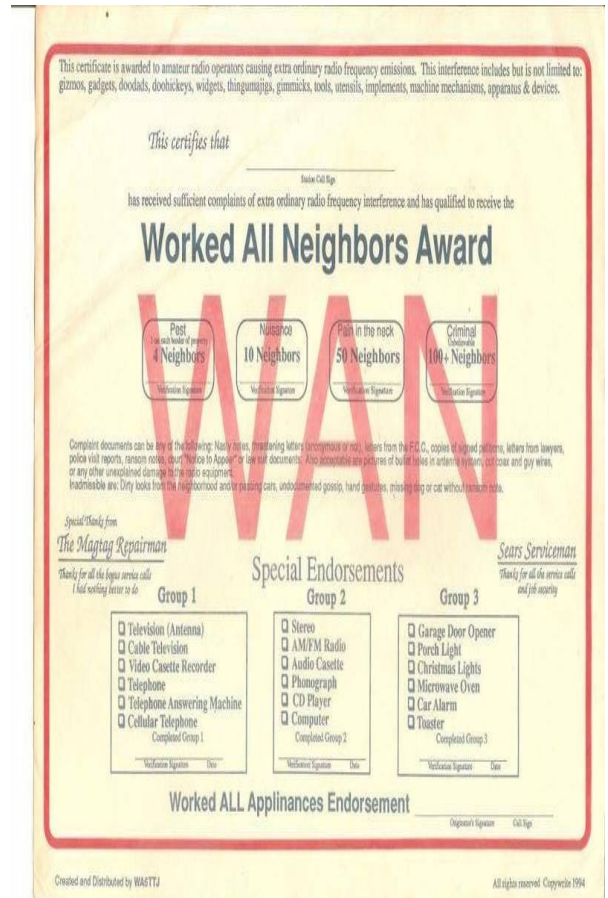
Especially in a Government Shutdown.



Why Christmas Gifts Are Delayed.



Why Hams Fail At Speed Dating.



Worked All Neighbors.

The REAL cost of Ham Radio

Used starter rig/antennas	\$800
ARRL Membership	49
Local club membership	20
Club hat/vest/memorabilia	150
House repairs from damage for antenna access hole	1800
New chair for shack	169
Amplifier	2500
Electrician bill for 220v to shack	1600
Electrician bill from amp blowing kitchen breaker	1100
New computer for logging/digi modes	1600
Money for XYL for HER HOBBY	10000
New tower and antennas	3700
New homeowners insurance because towers not allowed	3100
Legal fees from HOA	8000
HOA fines for antennas	5000
More money for XYL hobby	19500
New rural home to get away from HOA	475,000
Money for SOTA rig/antennas	2300
Medical exp. For injuries getting to SOTA site	8500
New 4x4 SUV for getting to SOTA sites	47500
New side by side for getting to last 100 feet at SOTA site	16250
New RV for POTA	31500
New rigs/antennas for POTA RV	3200
Divorce	75000
1 bedroom apartment deposit/rent	2400
Used starter rig/antennas	800

TOTAL \$ 721,538

You have been warned! Kelly_K7SU

These costs are likely higher now...and no telling what it cost to get your son or daughter into the hobby, or maybe you can try to sneak in your Christmas Tree Gifts, to get yourself new gear.

"-Dad, you need to come home"
"-Son I can't, I'm in the hospital"
"-Mom is trying to sell your ham radios
for the price you told her they cost."



Truly, a cured ham.



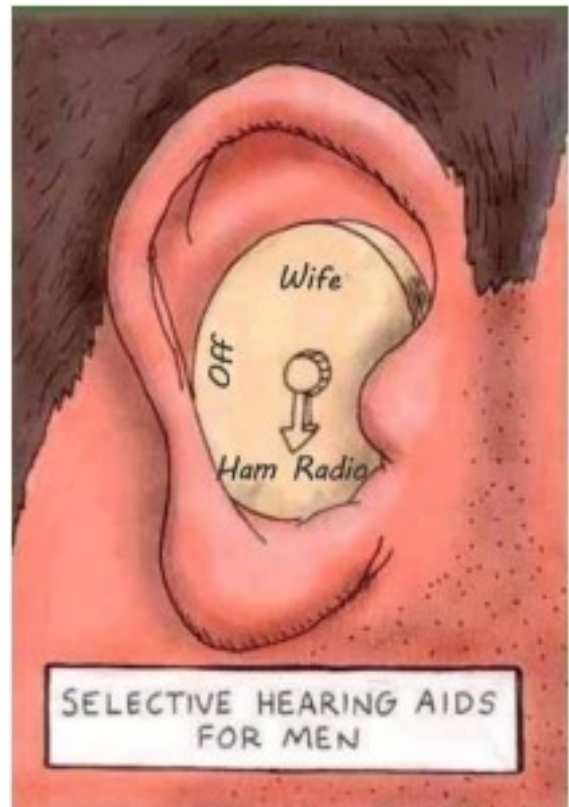
The ham had to make a choice.

He claimed he was a DXer



**..but he only operates on
FT8**

Couldn't work up her sideband??



How to tune out QRM.

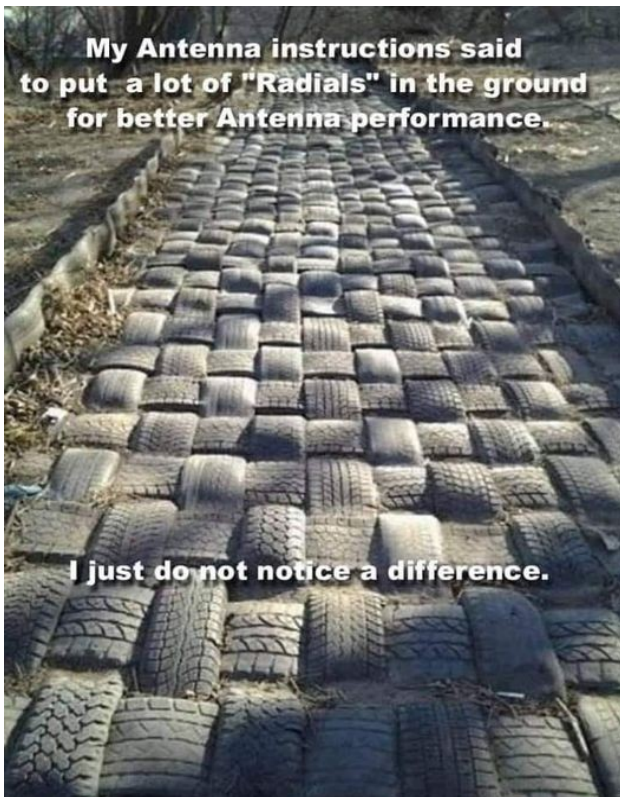
WARNING!



Doug left a Baofeng on his front seat.
Someone broke in and left three more!
Please keep your Baofeng in
the glove box, for safety's sake!

Smart Advice for Baofeng Users.

My Antenna instructions said
to put a lot of "Radials" in the ground
for better Antenna performance.



I just do not notice a difference.

Operating HF can be "tiresome".

**IF YOU GET KIDS INTERESTED IN
AMATEUR RADIO**



**THEY WILL NEVER HAVE MONEY
FOR ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**

This is why it's a holsum hobby.



Guess where HIS priorities are??!



A Ham down on his luck from too many hamfests...we've all been there!!



Never mind the QRN and QSB!!

New Store coming to the Mall later this year to specialize in Parts and Accessories for the Electronics Hobbyist & Radio Amateur from Beginner to Pro



Will they have a booth at Hamvention?



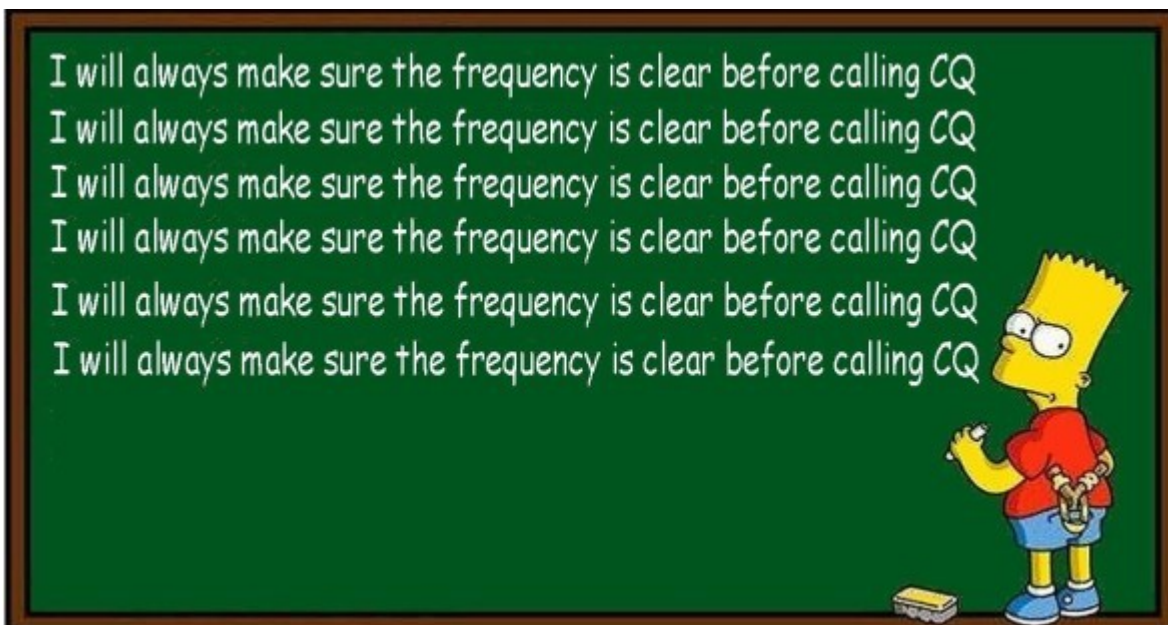
The Way It Used To Be



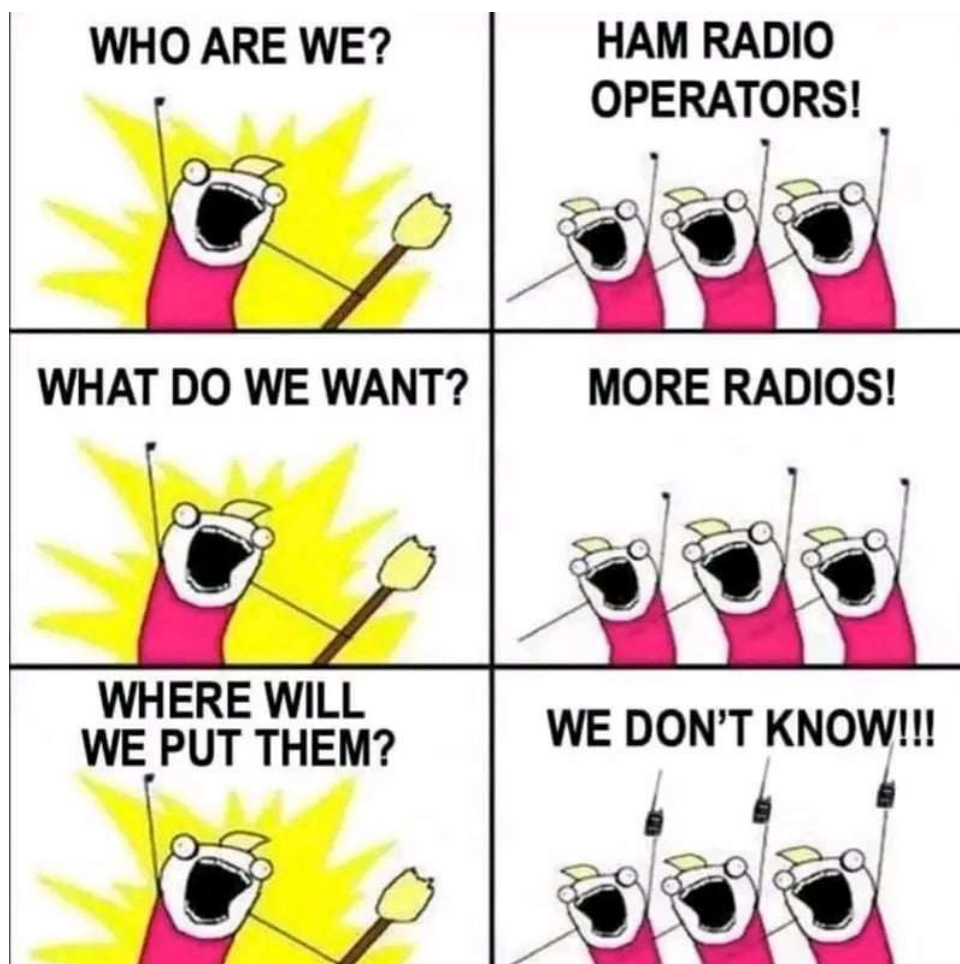
Lesson To Those New At Soldering



Looks like he's guilty and didn't want to confess!!



This needs to be done along with the Wouff Hong for certain hams.



Some hams can really relate to this.

This Valentine's day take her to somewhere special



This applies only if she's licensed as well!! Never mind the question of "Do You Ham, Take Radio, To Be Your Lawfully Wedded Spouse??"!!

Introducing the ham operator's wife pillow, for those lonely days and nights when he won't get off the radio.





**YESTERDAY I SAW AN
AD THAT SAID 'RADIO
FOR SALE, \$1, VOLUME
STUCK ON FULL'**

**I THOUGHT, 'I CAN'T
TURN THAT DOWN'**

I guess this “squelsches” him from buying any more radios!!



He likely never knew what hit him in this new version of “pile-up”!!

If your signal is “scratchy”, does that mean you’re “itching” for a new antenna setup?? (hi hi).



What every ham radio OM needs – a belt buckle. That way, they don't get caught with their pants down while operating...or for those OM's who have 8 portables on their beltm (hi hi).

**



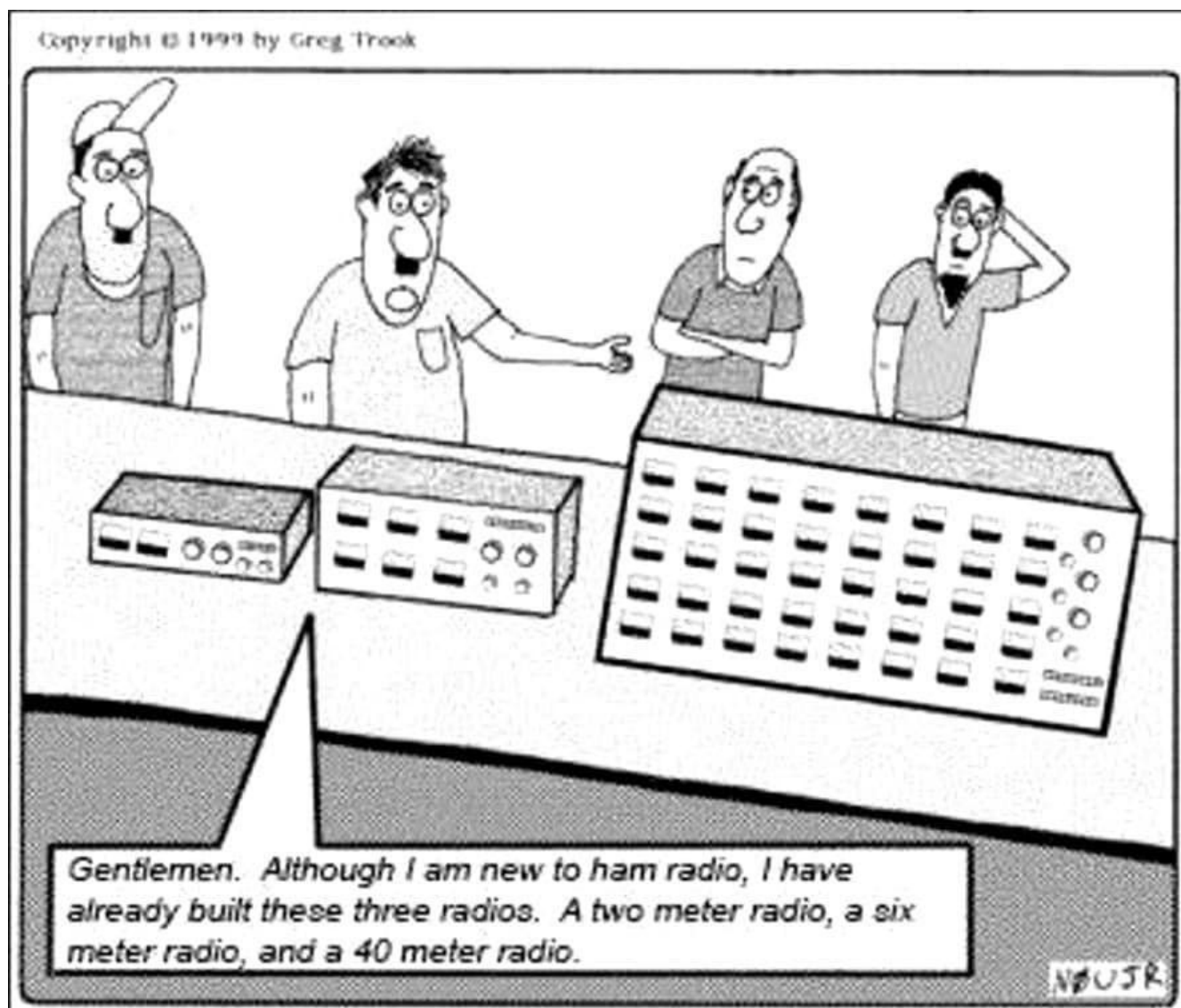
This is what's known as "snob appeal" (hi hi).

**

Q: Can ham radio make you a millionaire?

A: Yes, if you're a billionaire.

**



My ham radio girlfriend is named “Annette”, as “I do her every night”. She ’s one of a few words, letting me get the last word in, so she has a spokesperson named “Mic”.

Seen on a T-Shirt at the Huntsville, Alabama Hamfest in 2024:

“I would get more housework done, but my XYL keeps sending me to these [darn] hamfests”.

On a train trip from Arkansas to Oregon back in 1994 (I took Amtrak to and from the National Square Dance Convention ®, one of my other hobbies, that I was involved with 5 years before I got my ham radio ticket), I was in my sleeping car compartment, monitoring a repeater in Wisconsin via my HT (this was long before D-Star, DMR, Echolink, WIRES-X, Fusion, etc.), and was “reading the mail” on a QSO.

This one ham had just gotten out of the shower, and he apparently was as “naked as a jaybird”. He was ragchewing with the hams on frequency, then said “I need to get dressed, as my wife and I are going out for dinner tonight”. He then gave his callsign to sign off, and said he was clear of the repeater. One of his ham radio buddies then quipped “I’ll bet you didn’t know I had one of those Amateur Television Units that lets you see who you’re talking to!!”. I nearly fell out of the Sleeping Car compartment from laughter!! (hi hi).

A ham radio operator is met on the street corner by The Grim Reaper, who tells him “You know that DC to Daylight rig you ordered behind your wife’s back?? Well, it came to the house today, and she signed for it.

Do you want to go home and ‘face the music and her wrath’, or do you want to save yourself the trouble, and come with me now??”.

A ham radio operator had his shack down in the basement of his home. His wife never went down there, but she sternly warned him that “you can not get any new radios”.

Well, he was lucky enough to have “a candy store” (a place that sells new and used ham radio equipment and accessories, and it had an in-house rig service department), but he had to figure out how he was going to sneak in a new rig.

After some thought, he got the idea to take an empty box that one of his rigs was originally shipped in, and he told her that “the main rig has quit, so I’m going to take it in for service”. She told him “Fine...I’ll see you at dinner”. He came home later that day, and was happy as a kid on Christmas morning. He said that “they got the rig working again”...but what he DIDN’T tell her, was that there was a NEW RADIO in the box.

That worked...until she inevitably figured out what was going on.

There were 4 OM’s (old men, what male hams are referred to as), sitting at a table in a restaurant in Annapolis, Maryland...telling each other dirty jokes in Morse Code, also known as CW (for Continuous Wave).

This drop dead, gorgeous, curvaceous female walked up to them, and sternly admonished them “You boys need to watch your language. I teach CW at the Naval Academy across the street!!”, and promptly walked out!! They were as red as tomatoes from embarrassment!! (true story).

Most people don’t know that The Father Of Our Country (the United States Of America) was a ham radio operator. In fact, he was not only a ham, but he was a CW operator. We know this fact, because of the old story about the cherry tree being destroyed. When his angry father demanded to know who chopped down the tree, George responded “I didit dadah”. All he needed now was Ben (Franklin) to find something current, and he got a charge out of flying a kite in a thunderstorm.

DX MOVIES – I guess popcorn and butter are optional.

Pileup On The Orient Express

Gone With The Wind -- A Yagi Story

Dxpedition To Skull Island By K1NG/K0NG

Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid

First BL0OD

The Maltese Falklands

To Live and Let Diode -- 0073

CasaBlanker

Citizen Band

Key Largo

HamaLot -- The Old DXer is at it again

Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch

Contact - Starring AL1IEN

Zulu -- The Ultimate PileUp!!

Fifth Element -- Story about a 4 element yagi starring Bruce Willis

Custer's Last QSO -- He left the Sabers, Gatling Guns & HT's at the Fort!!!

ZULU Dawn -- Durnford didn't do well either!!

ZULU Dawn -- GrayLine Prequel

M1SH MASH -- With RF Burns

Gone With The Windom -- The Sequel

Nightmare On Elmer Street -- With JA1SON

VERTICAL!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox

Name is James, Call is B0ND -- Agent 0073

N8CPA writes: "I love the smell of generator exhaust in the morning

– It smells like Field Day! [7:00AM June 28, 1997]"

NEW HAM RADIO AWARDS: – See how many of these you can get (hi hi).

BALUN -- Bored All Listeners Under Noise

BERC -- Bought Expensive Radio Cheap (TS-950SDX at \$300.00???)

QRP -- ESP QSO With A W6

RAGD -- Raised All Garage Doors

**TACD -- Tested all Commercial Devices (Dirty Linear):
Worked the Phone, TV, All Audio Devices, Door Bells, Burglar Alarms, Paper
Shredder, Garage Doors, Cell Phones et al.**

**TAC -- Terrorized All Critters (Same Dirty Linear):
On Key up: Dogs Howl, Birds Go Goofy, Cat scurries under Couch, and all
rodents leave the premises!!!!**

TOAR – Timed Out All Reflectors (or Repeaters)

TOP -- Timed Out Propagation

TOR -- Timed Out Repeater (or Reflector)

TORA -- Timed Out Repeater (or Reflector) Again

5WAN -- Five Band Worked All Neighbors (easy one)

WAN -- Worked All Neighbors

WANA -- Worked All Neighbors Again

WAS -- Worked All Streets (and you thought it was States)

WACO -- Worked All Club Officers

WAOO -- Worked All Official Observers

The E.D. Net – from a late 2012/early 2013 PCL Net

**The N0KFQ BBS in Branson, Missouri, was online from 1980 to 2018, serving
packet stations in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and other areas, as a full
featured packet BBS, with both RF and Telnet Access. K.O. Higgs (N0KFQ)
(SK) was the Sysop...and his wife, Billie, KB0WSA (SK) was Net Control.
After her passing in October, 2016...Bob, NS2B, took over as the Net Control.
K.O. became a Silent Key 2 years after Billie's death. But, at the time of this**

net, both Billie and K.O. were still with us, and it made for a great net every week. Everything was typed at the keyboard. For info on The PCL Net, go to <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> – and look for the file on The PCL Net. Anyway, a little background information first...

The conversation that night started around my new callsign (at that time), WX1DER. I was originally licensed as N5VLZ in 1991 as a No-Code Technician. Then after my wife died in April, 2007, I used Ham Test Online™ (<https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com>) to go from Technician to General in 14 days, then from General to Amateur Extra 13 days later. It was the best money that I have ever spent in Amateur Radio – see their website for details. They offer a money back guarantee if you fail the test!!

I had changed the original N5VLZ callsign to the vanity callsign of AE5WX in June, 2009...since severe weather communications via amateur radio was what got me interested in the hobby in 1991. Then, I changed to WX1DER in December, 2012...I got it just after a Christmas Day, 2012 storm, with nearly a foot of snow to much of Arkansas. It was the first time that snow had fallen in Little Rock on Christmas Day since 1926!!

WX1DER (which was short for “Weather Wonder”) was the name of a series of weather features that I had done in college at the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock (UALR, where I'm now their amateur radio club VE Team Leader), where I majored in Radio/TV/Film (RTVF), a student from 1978 to 1983. At the time, The Weather Channel had just come on the air, and had a feature called “A Meteorological Minute”. So, I did something similar, called “A Weather Wonder” ...because “We analyze data, forecasts, and text...but, we wonder what weather will happen next”. Indeed, meteorology is an inexact science, with nearly 2 dozen forecast models that have to be analyzed several times a day by forecasters.

Note that I'm NOT a meteorologist, but instead, I'm an amateur weather enthusiast. However, I do know enough to be dangerous...and “I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night” (hi hi). In March, 2019, I changed my callsign to WX4QZ, as I got burned out on weather nets, etc. after 28 years in ham radio (nearly quitting the hobby as a result)...and the theme was now trains and railroads. But, as of Dec. 15, 2023, I returned back to my original callsign of N5VLZ (now as a vanity), especially considering I've used ham radio at 2 square dance events to save the lives of individuals.

Anyway, back to The PCL Net...

One ham, Ed, KI0HQ, wanted the vanity callsign of K0ED...but a ham in California had that callsign already. He added that “I'm married, and E.D. is not an issue”. With ham radio operators, each ham is the ONLY one in the world with that specific callsign.

As noted earlier, at the time, Net Control was Billie, KB0WSA, N0KFQ's XYL (wife). She moderated the net from their home in Branson (which I got to visit during an OzarkCon QRP Weekend in early April several years ago). It was a roundtable discussion, and it went around to each member, and all of us are typing at our computer keyboards.

Well, after I had made my comments, and Ed had made his, it was the turn of an older ham in Minnesota, Roger, KB0SON. He thought that E.D. stood for “Electronic Doofus”!!

Now, ****I can relate to that****, as electronics was NEVER my forte'; although you have to know some electronic theory with each ham radio license exam. I can tell you the colors on a resistor, thanks to Violet (hi hi), I know as little as not even an amp of electricity can kill you, and I know what a battery is on a schematic diagram...but that's about it.

As a side note, the acronym BBROYGBVW stands for “Bad Boys [Ravish] Our Young Girls, But Violet Gives Willingly”. The first letter of each of those words is the first letter in the color on the resistor.

After Roger got done, it was over to K.O., N0KFQ – all he typed was “I'm curious to see how Ed is going to explain E.D. to Roger”. At this point, I'm chuckling like crazy.

It got back to Billie, KB0WSA (Net Control), and she turned it over to Ed, KI0HQ. He typed “Billie?? Do you know Morse Code??”. She typed back “Yes, and I know a lot of other things as well”!!

I was about to urinate in my pants from laughter by now, as Ed typed in the Morse Code characters for “erectile dysfunction”...which like an enlarged prostate, is just part of a man growing old!! But, I'll bet Roger, KB0SON, was red with embarrassment!!

Several weeks after KB0WSA had become a Silent Key, I again brought up the great memory of “The E.D. Net”, and her widower, N0KFQ, noted “it was so refreshing to hear of that again...and it was exactly the way that Daryl (at that time, WX1DER) told it”!! K.O. passed away two years after Billie had become a Silent Key...both of them are sorely missed.

The Legacy of K.O. and Billie, and the PCL Net continues most every Monday at 8pm Eastern Time, on the NS2B BBS in Penfield, New York. Please see the file at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> for more info.

**

One amateur radio operator quipped that he was starting a MAPGA group; to “Make Amateur Packet Great Again”. Since packet radio is the one and only digital mode that’s “error free”, I guess you could say that it TRUMPS all the other modes (hi hi).

**

"Having a Ham As A Pet"

From the Feb. 1998 issue of "Wavelengths", the monthly newsletter of the Arkansas Radio Emergency Services Amateur Radio Club, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Wavelengths editor at that time was Fred Hunt, KK5AA. While the club is still in existence (the club callsign is N5AT, and they have a Facebook page), I don't know if the newsletter still exists or not.

INTRODUCTION:

The pet Ham is one of the most intelligent of pets, often seeming almost human. But, he can also be one of the most difficult to keep. Only a person with a great deal of patience and understanding should attempt to keep a pet Ham. The following is a short guide to some of the most important things that you should know about caring for your pet Ham.

LIVING AREA:

Your pet Ham should have a private area of his own, an entire room, if possible, where he will not be disturbed. He will spend many happy hours

alone there, with his collection of treasures (boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, plastic, etc. that he'll bring home regularly). He should be encouraged to confine his activities to this nest room, in order to protect the rest of the house from his natural tendencies toward noise, clutter, and making holes in the walls.

EXPENSES:

Raising your pet Ham can turn into an expensive hobby. But, unlike most pets, the pet Ham can be trained to work outside the home for short periods, and thus, bring in enough money to cover all of his expenses.

FEEDING:

The well behaved pet Ham will be able to eat with the family on occasion. But, he usually feels more comfortable and secure if he can take many of his meals in the privacy of his nest room. It will be your responsibility to see that your pet Ham is kept well supplied with food and drinks during the long periods of time that he will spend alone in the nest room.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Pet Hams can usually be trained to use the family bathroom facilities (at least, we hope so, anyway!).

OBEDIENCE TRAINING:

Most pet Hams can be trained to respond to a few simple commands. The easiest for him is SIT and SPEAK. Once your pet Ham has learned these commands, he will sometimes practice them on his own for hours at a time.

HEALTH CARE:

The pet Ham is especially subject to minor irritations of the lower back, and sore throat; from too much sitting and speaking. The special CW breed tends to have a tired wrist rather than sore throat...and RTTY versions may suffer from tired and hurting eyes, depending on his age and monitor. These can be relieved by sufficient rest periods when symptoms flare up.

TRAVELING:

Your pet Ham will gladly travel with you in the family car, if he is allowed to bring some of the collection from his nest room. His favorite trips will be to places where he can associate with other pet Hams from other families.

BREEDING:

If you plan to breed your pet Ham, you should do so as early as possible after you get him. As the pet Ham matures, he becomes more and more reluctant to engage in any activities not connected with his nest room collection!!

The following is from the December, 2004 issue of WorldRadio magazine; and is entitled "You've Got Big Trouble", written by Virgil Sipes, W7YEN.

Having been in Amateur Radio on and off for most of the last 50 years, I've experienced my share of troubles. I've talked with other amateurs, and it appears that my troubles are not unique. In fact, having trouble seems to be the norm. Over the years, I've discovered that problems and errors can be classified into two basic categories.

- 1) Troubles that are fixed with a little extra work, a little more mental engagement, and maybe some verbal lubrication.**
- 2) Troubles that might require more than the Gross National Product of a small country to correct.**

Some troubles are so momentous, that they belong in their own special category. One of my records to date is 213 discrete solid-state devices wiped out with one slip of a probe. I've listed some of the troubles I've experienced, some troubles I've known others to experience, and some troubles that I can envision, but never hope to encounter.

A) You're in trouble -- when you key your new kilowatt transmitter, and the room lights go out. You're in BIG trouble -- when you key your new kilowatt transmitter, and the street lights go out.

B) You're in trouble -- when you've accidentally been operating out of band, and get a letter from the FCC. You're in BIG trouble -- when you've accidentally been operating out of band, and you get a visit from the KGB.

C) You're in trouble -- when you measure the voltage to your new mobile transceiver, and it measures +8 volts. You're in BIG trouble -- when you measure the voltage to your new mobile transceiver, and it measures -8 volts.

D) You're in trouble -- when measuring your 850 volt power supply, you've set your multimeter on the 100 ohm scale. You're in BIG trouble -- when measuring your 850 volt power supply, you've set your multimeter on the 100 amp scale.

E) You're in trouble -- when you're changing the oil in your Field Day Generator, and metal fillings come out. You're in BIG trouble -- when you're changing the oil in your Field Day Generator, and nothing comes out.

F) You're in trouble -- when your rig is set to 220 VAC, and you connect it to 110 VAC. You're in BIG trouble -- when your rig is set to 110 VAC, and you connect it to 220 VAC.

G) You're in trouble -- when you use your new kilowatt transmitter, and the antenna relay is stuck in transmit. You're in BIG trouble -- when you use your new kilowatt transmitter, and the antenna relay is stuck in receive.

H) You're in trouble -- after you transmit to your favorite local repeater with your new home-brew rig, the local repeater won't shut off. You're in BIG trouble -- after you transmit to your favorite local repeater with your new home-brew rig, all local repeaters won't shut off.

I) You're in trouble -- when you make a call on 6 meters, and the neighbors complain about your interfering with their TV Channel 2. You're in BIG trouble -- when you make a call on 6 meters, and Channel 2 complains about your interfering with their TV.

J) You're in trouble -- when you pick up your handheld after it was sitting in your open convertible all night, and water runs out. You're in BIG trouble -- when you pick up your handheld after it was sitting in your open convertible all night, and there's a bubble in the display.

K) You're in trouble -- when you tighten the clamp bolts on your aluminum antenna mast, and the clamp bolts strip. You're in BIG trouble -- when you tighten the clamp bolts on your aluminum antenna mast, and the clamp bolts don't strip.

L) You're in trouble -- when you start transmitting SSB, and your RF current meter isn't moving. You're in BIG trouble -- when you stop transmitting SSB, and your RF current meter keeps moving.

M) You're in trouble -- when you operate your Morse Code Key, and the contacts spark. You're in BIG trouble -- when you operate your Morse Code Key, and the contacts weld.

N) You're in trouble -- when you discover that you've been operating below the 160 meter band. You're in BIG trouble -- when you hear that you've been nominated for the Broadcaster Of The Year Award.

O) You're in trouble -- when you rotate your beam antenna, and you hear a grinding noise. You're in BIG trouble -- when you rotate your beam antenna, and you hear a helicopter noise.

P) You're in trouble -- when you drop your new handheld in the river, and it floats away. You're in BIG trouble -- when you drop your new handheld in the river, and it doesn't float.

Q) You're in trouble -- the guy-wires on your new tower are resonant. You're in BIG trouble -- the guy-wires on your new tower have melted.

R) You're in trouble -- when your girl friend wants to get her Amateur Radio license, and she wants you to help her study. You're in BIG trouble -- when your girl friend wants to get her Amateur Radio license, and she wants your best friend to help her study.

The W7YEN corollary to Murphy's Law: you have a 50/50 chance of being right, and a 90/10 chance of being wrong.

**Rules of Radio -- Found on the internet – VE9DAN, Oyster River, NB. Rev 1.
June 1/97**

- 1) There shall be no talking by the family during a QSO.**
- 2) The XYL shall assist with antenna construction when, and only when required.**
- 3) The shack budget will take precedence over all other incidental items such as mortgages, food, echoes, etc.**
- 4) Christmas stocking stuffers for the OM must include at least two items for the shack (total value of not less than \$300). (I guess the Baofeng HT's are out of the question).**
- 5) Flea markets, hamfests, and field days over-rule family holidays.**
- 6) Furry pets are not allowed near the rig (except for testing purposes).**
- 7) TVI never occurs within the home; or if it does, it's negligible, and does not count.**
- 8) All trees around QTH shall be considered antenna supports, and not "greenery", "landscaping", or other such nonsense.**

Corollary: Any tree may be cut down, pruned, poisoned, dug up, or otherwise removed should it be in the way of wire.
- 9) The last postage stamp and envelope in the home shall be reserved for direct QSL mailings, and not for personal letters, bills, or mail orders (unless orders are for shack).**
- 10) Any number of holes may be drilled in the family car to accommodate mobile whips.**

Corollary: Coax may droop across the steering column occasionally.
- 11) Never herewith shall insurance coverage of shack items be less than triple the replacement value, notwithstanding acts of God.**

12) Burger King ® must never allow the holy whopper oven to cool. (Actually, it's the flame broiler...but it does cool off after the closing time shut down. But while in operation, temperatures have to be over 1200 degrees, and the belt set at the right speed, to cook the meat thoroughly...food poisoning is no fun).

13) Newly licensed hams must honor, praise, look up to, ask easy questions of, and purchase coffee for, all the old guys.

14) The XYL shall anticipate good band propagation conditions at all times, and whenever rare DX flows in, she shall without fail;

a) Keep log when requested;

b) Hold all phone calls - except those from other hams;

c) Call the OM's work QTH the next morning, and cover his absence with a good excuse;

d) Appear very excited;

e) Change all her plans to suit;

f) Provide steaming coffee at 45 minute intervals;

g) Cancel all household chores, and in particular, cancel vacuuming.

15) All materials owned by the work QTH can, and will be used for ham projects.

16) These rules may be modified at any time, without notice, to continuously be in the OM's best interest.

17) The most recent licensee must bear the brunt of our collective teasing until the next new licensee fills his humiliated shoes.

18) All members of all radio clubs must support, in unsurpassed vigor and cooperation, whatever the resident "contest man" suggests.

19) Whence OM bears unrelentless fright of tower height, others must climb said structure unfailingly upon request.

20) Refer longstanding rule #15. Verily, if you cannot convince work QTH to donate items for thine shack, thou shalt quit said despicable workplace without notice. Simply QRT-eth hastily-eth.

21) New rule added by Rich, WB2MBM, August 11/97 via pactor:

I'd like to add a rule to the list... "Coax cables may be routed to achieve the lowest loss, regardless of whether they cause doors, windows, etc., to be blocked or otherwise not to function. And if the house appears to be trapped in a sort of rubber "spider's web," that's a plus rather than a minus."

Originally seen at local area ham radio club meeting in the early 1990's as a handout...folks were snapping these up like they were money (hi hi):

This is an Amateur Radio Station. It's licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. I had to learn Morse Code, and a lot of electronic theory to be able to operate it legally.

In this station, it is possible to transmit and receive signals from all over the world...dealing with emergency and routine traffic, creating international goodwill and diplomacy.

I did a lot to do a lot; so don't give me any static about how messy this place is.

A wallsign for ham radio operators, from Chris Stanford

Here is something funny I found on the Internet. I thought that you'd like to have a copy of it to print out and post in your shack.

-----CUT HERE-----

NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS _____ BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC. BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here, as it creates marital conflicts.

2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We would have suggested that you call Western Union; but alas, they don't do telegrams anymore.

3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.

4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.

5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in the Ubangiland.

6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.

7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones, computers, or stereo systems. Any such interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.

8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training, and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Federal Government. So, it's not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness, when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

FURTHERMORE...

IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- 1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.**
- 2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.**
- 3) Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.**
- 4) It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.**

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. -- I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

Thank you for your cooperation

-----CUT HERE-----

The Missing Q signals

Note: Some of these are a bit "salty" in language...so they're not suitable for on the air use. However, they are great for a laugh, and an eyeball QSO, especially at a hamfest...as "dirty old hams need love, too" (hi hi).

Credit for this goes to:

Lenny, K5OVC...Ken, W8OB...Don, W6ZO...John, W2AGN...Fred, K6DGW...Thom, K3HRN...Jim, W7RY...Brian, W0NW...Fred, K5QLF, Jeffrey, WA6FWI, and Daryl, N5VLZ.

Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that may agree would be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q

signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

QAS - I am speaking out of my @\$\$

QAS? - Are you speaking out of your @\$\$?

QBA - My antenna is BIG!

QBA? - How big is your antenna?

QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QBS - It's getting deep in here.

QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?

Alternate suggested by Ken Cubilo, W8OB

QBS - Clean the bird \$h!+ off your antenna so you can hear me

QBS? - Should I clean the bird \$h!+ off my antenna so I can hear you

(As a side note, one of the “CB Radio 12 codes” (different than the regular “10 codes” notes “Can’t receive you; a bird [pooped] on my antenna!)).

And, you need to wash that off your vehicle, as it will do damage to the paint.

Suggestions made for spark gap transmitter on QRP-L mailing list

QCP - I am using Cat Power (From Rotary Cat Power Wheel)

QCP? - Are you using Cat Power?

QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)

QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?

QDR - D@mn Right the frequency is busy!} In response to QRL

QDR? - Do you have a Receiver?} In response to QRL

Contributed by Don Melcher, W6ZO

QET - Phone home.

QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?

QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.
QEW? - Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?

Contributed by John L Sielke, W2AGN
QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.
QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?

Contributed by Daryl Stout, N5VLZ
QHD – I have to finish my honey-do's before I can play radio.
QHD? – Are you having to finish honey-do's?

QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QKB? - How many knobs does your radio have?
QKB n - My radio has "n" knobs.

Contributed by Fred, K6DGW
QKN? - How many of them do you know how to use?
QKN n - I think I know how to use "n" of them.

Contributed by Jeffrey, WA6FWI
QKS? - How many knobs and switches does your rig have, and how many do you understand?
QKS nn n – My rig has ## knobs and switches, but I only understand # of them.

Contributed by Fred, K6DGW
QLF - I am sending with my left foot.
QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?

QLK - I am sending with my left foot and keyboard.
QLK? - Are you sending with your left foot and keyboard?

Contributed by Thom LaCosta, K3HRN
QNO - I am sending through a non-standard orifice.
QNO? - Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?

Contributed by Thom LaCosta, K3HRN

QOF Yes, I am an Old F@rt.

QOF? Are you an old F@rt?

Contributed by Jim, W7RY

QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.

QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?

QPM - Your signal is purr modulated.

QPM? - Is my signal purr modulated?

QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.

QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?

QRG - You are transmitting in or near the (wavelength or frequency) amateur band.

QRG? - Am I transmitting in or near an amateur band, and if so which one?

QRW - Means Qrp - Really Weak

QRW? - Qrp, you are Really Weak?

Contributed by W0RW

QWC? - Who cares?

QWC - I don't care.

Courtesy of Fred Bonavita, K5QLF

QWC - I have to go to the bathroom.

QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?

QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.

QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

From Avery Finn, K0HLA...

I've been looking for the new HT just out. You know the one. It's the all band, all mode, self contained battery, and antenna, 1000 watt shirt pocket

size, selling for \$25.50 -- what a deal!! It's manufactured by the new Amateur Radio Company A.P. Ril F. Ool. Pierre Pullinmyleg is an authorized agent.

**

From The Ether Net BBS, Little Rock, Arkansas, Bill Shryock, N5HQ, Sysop (the BBS is long since QRT):

Ten Commandments For Technicians:

- 1. Beware the lightning that lurketh in the undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most un-technicianlike manner.**
- 2. Cause thou the switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thus tagged, that thy days in this Earthly vale of tears be long.**
- 3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou toil are grounded and thusly tagged, lest they lift thee unto radio heaven.**
- 4. Tarry thou not amongst those fools that engageth in intentional shocks, for they are surely non-believers, and are not longeth for this world.**
- 5. Take care that thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of a high voltage circuit, lest thou incinerate both thyself and thy meter.**
- 6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this incurreth the wrath of thy supervisor and bringeth the fury of the safety inspector upon thy head and about thy shoulders.**
- 7. Toil not thou on energized equipment, for if thou so doest, thy fellow workers will surely buy beers for thy widow and console her otherwise.**
- 8. Service thou equipment not alone, for electrical cooking is a slothful process and thou might sizzle in thine own juices for hours upon a hot circuit before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery.**
- 9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commenceth to glow in the dark liketh a lightning bug, and thy spouse hath no further use for thee except for thy wages.**

10. Causeth thou to be tagged all modifications made by thee upon equipment, lest thy successor teareth out his hair and goeth slowly mad in his attempt to decide what manner of creature madeth a nest in the wiring of such equipment.

The Triple Play:

The Ham Radio Wedding, The Honeymoon And More, And Ham For The Holidays

**Written By Daryl Stout, Webmaster, Cabot Nightflyers Net
Updated June 6, 2024**

Please email me at wx1der@gmail.com with questions, comments, corrections (especially in Part 3), etc.

*** Overview ***

This file is a combination of 3 presentations in one.

The first one was "The Ham Radio Wedding", which united Ham and Radio in Holy Telephony, originally done on Valentine's Day Weekend, 2012.

Nine months later (for obvious reasons), we had, from a trusted group of Official Observers (hi hi), "The Honeymoon And More"...which detailed the honeymoon, and the harmonics early years. The last one, planned for July, 2013, along the line of a "Christmas in July" theme, we have "Ham For The Holidays". Based on the melody of "The 12 Days Of Christmas", it was modified for "The 12 Days Of Hamming", detailing 12 items in the ham radio hobby.

Unfortunately, due to equipment failure and other issues, the combination "Triple Play" for the Cabot Nightflyers Net, didn't occur. With a lack of recordings, plus changing of my callsign, the removal of a YouTube video of a wedding at a ham radio club, and changes in the issuance of a paper copy of

ham radio licenses (among other things), the script has been redone into one file.

If these are done on the air, you will need to give pauses to reset the repeaters, Echolink Nodes, etc., and identify your station, per the amateur radio rules for your country. Also, I ask that yours truly, Daryl Stout, be given credit for the material...but no other "compensation" is required.

I have made the file available for all to download and use, to bring a little humor into ones day, as there's so little to laugh at in the world today. You may wish to edit the "personal comments" that I have made...and for the net name...but keeping the comments may add a bit of "extra flavor" to the presentation. This is especially true for those who are Volunteer Examiners, who have had similar experiences at license exam sessions that I have noted in "Ham For The Holidays".

Those who are not ham radio operators may not understand all the punny humor; but those who are hams, will likely bust out laughing. So, before doing these on the air, you might want to advise people to make a quick restroom trip, not be eating or drinking, or pull off to the side of the road. Otherwise, they may have a mess on their hands...or worse, wreck their vehicle.

Besides the 3 segments, there are 4 digital mode sound files...CW, PSK31, RTTY, and Packet. And, there are also short Third party traffic segments, all these as part of "The Ham Radio Wedding". The Third Party Traffic is courtesy of fellow computer bulletin board system operator, the late Tim Cornett, who was not a licensed ham radio operator (Tim passed away several years ago).

You can create your own audio file with the words done by Tim Cornett, and you can find audio samples of the modes of CW, PSK31, RTTY, and Packet, via your favorite search engine. While the audio files may not actually be what is noted in the script, it shows what those modes sound like.

Note that since The Cabot Nightlyers Net went on hiatus several years ago, and I was doing the website...until the net returns (that is up to the original Net Control station, Steve Tune, KC5FWE)...that website will remain inactive

as a result. As of late August, 2023, there is no word on when the net may resume, if it ever does.

**

*** Introduction ***

While ham radio is a hobby, some of us joke as if it is an obsession!! So, with credit and glory to The Lord Jesus Christ for the inspiration; and with extensive research in the "creative juices department", I've figured out what a "ham radio wedding" ...plus a "ham radio honeymoon", and "Ham For The Holidays" might be like. Please note that these are just "fun skits", done "tongue in cheek", as it were. The skits noted are NOT actual weddings, honeymoons, or holiday events; although the "Ham For The Holidays" segment comes close.

This is because, in real life, a bona fide wedding ceremony requires an Ordained Minister, Justice Of The Peace, etc. to officiate the ceremony...and, the couple has to have a marriage license, among other things. I know that myself, having been originally married in 2003, but I've been a widower since 2007.

As an aside, when my bride to be and I went to get our marriage license, the county clerk made a mistake, entering her birth year as 1658, instead of 1958. I quipped "she sure looks good for 344 years of age", and she added "Well, I do sell Avon"!!

Amidst the raucous laughter...the blushing, embarrassed clerk had to tear up the license she was typing (apparently, they weren't yet doing it with a computer), and start over. People in the Pulaski County Courthouse in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas...including both city, county, and state law enforcement officers, had to enter the County Clerks office to ask "what is going on in there??", for all the laughter!! The embarrassed clerk lamented "You don't want to know!!", which brought another round of raucous laughter (hi hi).

While there is a "ham radio license" noted in the skit, it's rather bizarre to consider the context that someone would actually marry a piece of electronic equipment!! Besides, think of all the issues surrounding "consummation of

the relationship" ...and that will be covered in "The Honeymoon And More" (hi hi).

As noted, the humor has quite a bit of ham radio puns, also known as "a play on words" ...and the beauty of the pun is in the groan of the recipient!! An example of a pun is that "The idea of a ham radio traders net might have gotten started when a pig was sold by a farmer to a Country Pawn Shop, and the transaction became known as the first Ham Hock". Please don't throw the tomatoes at me...I'd rather have them in a salad...as H.A.M. stands for "Have Another Meal", "Haven't Any Money", "Haven't Any Memory", and "Have A Mess". But, a cluttered shack is a sign of genius...and you don't call us "late for dinner" (hi hi).

These skits were designed for a little levity, and a little bit of fun...as there is so little in the world to laugh at nowadays. There are several in central Arkansas, including yours truly, who fondly remember the "fertilizer nets", done by the late J.M. Jolly, W5ZXS (SK)...and I think he would've done something like this on that net.

And now, the Cabot Nightflyers Net is proud to present tonight's training presentations...starting with "The Ham Radio Wedding" ...enjoy.

*** The Ham Radio Wedding - Uniting Ham And Radio In Holy Telephony ***

With "pun" in mind, we are privileged to welcome you to the marriage ceremony of "ham" and "radio". After a short engagement...because concerning Radio, Ham could not resistor...wanting to inductor into being a part of his family, and start a new one. So, they've decided to do more than just "shack up".

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today for this special net for the joyous occasion to join ham and radio in Holy Telephony. Ham has just passed his amateur radio license exams, so he will be Third Party Traffic, as he waits on his callsign from the FCC, which will be available to him after "The Honeymoon And More"...which we'll cover later.

The general format of this RF, or Real Fine, ceremony, will be participatory in nature...and for the bride and groom, it is a big deal...and the atmosphere is rather electric, to say the least.

If anyone here feels that ham and radio should not be united in Marriage of HolyTelephony, let them key up now, or never pound their brass. However, you likely will be subjected to the wrath of the Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and Ugerumph by both families if you object (hi hi).

Does the father of the bride, KenWood, give his consent for this special occasion??

[Sound of "Yes, I do", 20 wpm CW]

Do you ham, take radio, to be your lawfully wedded spouse?? To love, honor, and cherish?? In DXCC and WAS?? In QRM and QRN?? With Rohn 25 and G5RV?? With coaxial cable and various connectors?? With logbooks and manuals?? With Solder and Testing Equipment?? Respecting The Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and Ugerumph, Your License, and Privileges. Forsaking all others, as long as you both shall transmit and receive, during your relationship, until Silent Key, do you part??

[Sound of male voice "QSL. I Certainly Do." (Tim Cornett)]

Do you radio, take ham, to be your lawfully wedded spouse?? To love, honor, and cherish?? In DXCC and WAS?? In QRM and QRN?? With Rohn 25 and G5RV?? With coaxial cable and various connectors?? With logbooks and manuals?? With Solder and Testing Equipment?? Respecting The Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and Ugerumph, Your License, and Privileges. Forsaking all others, as long as you both shall transmit and receive, during your relationship, until Silent Key, do you part??

[Sound of PSK31]

In lieu of a prayer and Bible reading, I feel that The Amateur's Code, written in 1928, by the late Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, is appropriate for this ceremony. As such, I would expect that both of you, "ham" and "radio", would follow these traits, as you both transmit and receive throughout your relationship.

You are to be:

CONSIDERATE: Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL: Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally, and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE: With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY: With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED: Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC: With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Please stand by while I get the special marriage connectors.

With these specially prepared BNC, SMA, and PL259 connectors, along with LED lights...each of you are to present them to each other, and either say or transmit "With This Connector, I thee, LED".

These special combination connectors and LED's...light emitting diodes...will show that you will light up with excitement each time you transmit throughout your relationship.

[Sound of male voice "With This Connector, I Thee, LED"]. (Tim Cornett)

[Sound Of RTTY]

In as much as both of you have hereby promised your devotion, and lifelong commitment to each other; before Net Control, and all these witnesses on the

net...by the power that has been invested in me, by the Cabot Nightflyers Net, as Webmaster, I now pronounce you "ham" and "radio".

You may now kiss the mic.

[Sound of packet burst]

[MaleVoice "My bride just told me to packet. The honeymoon will be at Dayton Hamvention in May...and we will have music of The Ham Band at the reception."] (Tim Cornett)

At net time, few details were available on the reception, but we assume it was excellent. As for the food that was served, we understand everyone got a charge out of an electrically delicious salad concoction that was prepared, known as Ohm Slaw. And, let's definitely not forget the delightfully D-Layer rich dessert of P Times I Equals E.

We have no word on the wedding cake that was served...the removal of the garter...the bridal bouquet...what everyone was wearing...how many guests were in attendance, who got the garter and bouquet, etc. However, we understand the wedding gifts consisted of several nice electronic, and ornamental, items and accessories for the ham radio shack, among other things...which were much appreciated by the bride and groom.

*** The Honeymoon And More ***

And now, by special arrangement, from (dare we say it??!!) a trusted group of Official Observers and Virtual Monitors, the Cabot Nightflyers Net is proud to present "The Honeymoon And More".

The first night together, they said that their love for each other was more solid than a soldered coaxial connector, and that it'd withstand the test of time, more surely than gasfield hardline.

After all, they wanted to zero beat their frequencies, to only pull each others signal out of the pileup, as when the band opened up, they would be each

others first and only contact. Their devotion to each other was to be more powerful than all of their combined signals.

And, they wanted to be sure that they resonated together, as they planned to be together, to not go on separate beam headings; with only being silent keys, would they part.

After all, concerning Radio, Ham could not resistor...wanting to inductor into being a part of his family, and start a new one. And, that's why they decided to get married, and do more than just "shack up".

And so, in the honeymoon suite...after turning down the lights, and putting on some soft JT-65 music, ham and radio assumed positions of horizontal and vertical polarization, as they got to intimately know each other.

He would run his hands over the dials and knobs, caressing them, pushing the buttons, turning the knobs, trying to find the contacts that felt so good...to ensure that they did it with frequency...mainly because he wanted to work up her sideband.

But, they took care not to spread out the wide assortment of wedding gifts...especially the many Morse Code keyers...on where they would sleep, because they didn't want to become infested with bed bugs. Otherwise, that would be a real pain in the brass.

And, even though it would involve CW Continuous Writing, they did want to spend time filling out the numerous QSL Thank You Cards to all who had attended the wedding ceremony. They would then be sorted out on the DX Bureau there in the Honeymoon Suite, right next to the Amateur Television setup, where they planned to watch special ham radio videos and DVD's that evening.

Another thing that attracted Ham to Radio, was the out of band receive capabilities. This way, they could listen to non-ham radio communications, when they wanted to just "relax", or when band conditions were lousy. It turns out that both of them were ardent golfing fans. Radio had 18 holes for her ventilation slots, and that made it possible for them to keep cool during fore play. But, they were not caddy in their relationship.

During anger or otherwise...they pledged not to beat each other with the antennas from their vehicle, as they realized that was the quickest way to come down with "van aerial disease". But, considering the atmosphere, I doubt either was served a "Notice Of Violation"; and all newly married couples are entitled to some privacy.

But, to celebrate their joyous union in Holy Telephony, they planned to work the station from the Newfane DX Association out of Ransomville, New York...with the callsign of N2SEX...November Two Sierra Echo Ex-Ray. We understand this is one of the best CW stations that one can work, especially during Field Day. But, for the honeymoon setting, I guess it could be said that CW stood for "Continuous Whoopee" (hi hi).

Unfortunately, we understand that the time after the honeymoon apparently wasn't all bliss. As for cravings, it wasn't for pickles and ice cream, as you might think. Ham had to give up eating food, and having 807's around Radio. This was because he invariably would share the food with her, and the particles would drop into the ventilation slots, causing Radio to become rather distorted in her speaking...and quite ill at times. That usually led to morning sickness, which was a common occurrence...but not what you would think.

It always happened between midnight and midday...but was more so concentrated between just shortly after midnight and just before sunrise. Every time just as the overnight, juicy, elusive, high priority DX, or prized Dxpediton contact was about to be made and logged, the bands would fail...or Ham would bump Radio with excitement, and go off of frequency, losing the contact. Even worse, he'd hit the power switch, and Radio would give him the Silent Treatment in anger. Both were subject to band and mood changes at the discretion of the propagationist relatives, which they felt were trying to hurt their relationship.

Radio was also jealous of the 807's, because of their tubular nature; but also because Ham had his drink mugs propped up with Beverage Antennas. Radio threatened to short out the relationship if one of those got poured on her, because she got too hot, with the excitors.

Exams, and RF safety evaluations, had to be constantly conducted, due to expansion of each others capabilities, and radio was constantly being poked,

probed, and prodded with antenna analyzers, ammeters, watt meters, and other such devices.

While waiting for the harmonics to be born, there were some tense moments. Radio would groan "DX, DX, DX!! That's all you ever think about!! You probably don't even remember the wedding night!!". Ham replied "Not so, my dear. That was Feb. 12, 2012, when you helped me work X-RayTango One, The Charlie Romeo Zero, The Alpha Charlie Six, and the rare DXpeditions". Radio had to admit that Ham was right.

After the birth of the harmonics, which was amazingly on a clear frequency, in room 5-9-9, the harmonics were wrapped in dipoles, to protect the fragile antennas and knobs. Connectors had to be used to hold the dipoles in place, otherwise the harmonics would be naturally exposed.

While they had an extended warranty, they had to be sure that the harmonics were properly immunized, and to protect the family from infection by parasitic elements. After all, the RF cough and sneeze noise splatter was considered both messy, and unsanitary.

No word on the intensity or length of the labor process, how many harmonics there were, their genders, names, or birth weights. That was unavailable at net time, due to HIPPA regulations...in this case, Harmonic Information Personal Protection Agreement.

As time passed, the harmonics would be instructed...digitally first...then in voice. It turned out that Aunt Enna, with her son, Ray Dee Oh, and his XYL, Olivia, would become trusted babysitters. Olivia was also very attractive, and a cat lover...which made her purr-RTTY.

Ham and Radio were always having to packet...that is, the case with all the supplies for the harmonics, whenever they went somewhere. They also had to be sure that they didn't watch too much slow scan TV...as it was bad for their displays. However, they learned to speak the frequencies, by number, and name, rather quickly.

Also, they would have to give the harmonics a QSO party, as the harmonics aged a year. Many contacts were made, from many modes, with QSL cards of birthday wishes. Everyone seemed to have a Field Day with these parties.

Entertainment was provided by the digital ensembles of RTTY, JT-65, CW, PSK31, Packet, and other Open Band Groups. With such a large crowd, the events were usually outdoors, with participants having to use logs to sit on. As the event usually went on into the evening hours, illumination of the activities was brought by several satel lights, which had a wide coverage area. But, caution had to be used with the evidence of certain outdoor insects, so everyone was given a timely tick talk.

While the harmonics did learn early on how to be submersible in bathing, care had to be taken with the dispensing of AC and DC brand juice, so the parents and harmonics wouldn't float away, or be too emotionally charged afterwards. Steps were also taken to prevent overheating, due to extensive transmissions.

Cooking for all of their meals was done in a Digi-Pan, so the family was well nourished, to say the least. No word on the exact cuisine, but they did avoid eating ham. And, that was not because of kosher reasons, but they didn't want to be thought of as cannibalistic. And, no word on if any of the family had any digestive tract issues to deal with. But, with rapidly changing technology, the gaseous tubes of their ancestors were removed via electric surgery long ago. To keep the family comfortable, all wore telegraphy outfits, the Mores Coat brand. This also kept the harmonics keyed in to their parents commands, and their parents were keyed into what the harmonics were doing.

This also kept the family from getting bugs, and becoming ill. The harmonics were also taught, as their parents were, to constantly greet their friends, with a CW continuous wave. At night, the shack bedrooms were illuminated by a soft satel light, with soft JT-65 music helping everyone rest easier.

Next, the harmonics would learn at 5, 13, and 20 words per QSO. Then, they would be graded through 5 levels of education, Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. They had to learn good operating habits, and to avoid being lids...as there were already enough for their AC and DC brand juice glasses. They also had to listen to Radio, so she wouldn't have to repeater self on what she said.

For the sake of privacy, there was no word on the amount of needing changing of the dipoles, and switching to regular outfits. However, as noted earlier, they preferred to go natural...especially on outdoor events. Rumor has

it they did learn to QRP rather quickly...probably from all the AC and DC brand juice that they had been consuming over the years, to keep from overheating.

As time passed, the family got bonded and grounded to each other. Thoughts turned to as the harmonics got older, it'd be time to get their licenses, so they too, could enjoy what their parents had. Every 10 years, ham, radio, and the harmonics would go in to have their licenses renewed, even though they wouldn't have to be re-examined in such great detail, as they were initially.

Unfortunately, medical and other issues would show up every so often, and they had to go to the HRO or Gigaparts clinics for treatment. And, wouldn't you know it, there was a long wait before they were seen by the staff. However, the care at the facilities was excellent, as those who worked at the facilities were very knowledgeable about their work, and they were back at their QTH's in record time. Thankfully, the need for major surgical procedures was extremely rare.

No word on the need or extent of prescriptions, except for those to various amateur radio publications (such as QST and CQ), clubs and organizations (such as the American Radio Relay League and Courage Kenny Handi-Hams), or nets (such as the National Traffic System Nets). The Ham Radio Equipment Insurance sure made paying the medical bills a lot easier.

However, they each had to constantly review Part 97, to be sure they were in the spirit of amateur radio. But, when harmonic violations did occur, the Official Observers were diligent in letting their parents know of them...and the continuous whipping CW paddles were definitely in use on the harmonics backsides.

It's rumored that the battery fanny packs were removed before the discipline was administered with the Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and Ugerumph. And, while the harmonics may have felt that the discipline stung like 10 50 hertz, their parents knew that the warnings before discipline were always the SAME, and they made sure that the harmonics wouldn't become tone deaf. And it seemed like the most likely time for the discipline was to be needed was between 11am and 12 Noon on Wednesdays.

But, the discipline was not rough enough to the point of making their signals bleed. And, the noise level of the harmonics in response to the discipline was not known; and it's none of our business.

The more serious violations required the harmonics to go to court in west, wearing their Mores Coat outfits. This was because the pink slips were too skimpy for the sake of decency for the females...not to mention they especially looked even worse on the males!! One also had to be careful not to rile E. Hollingsworth, the Enforcement Judge. He had a reputation of sending scofflaws to Hellschriber as punishment. No word on how long they had to be there, or if the Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and Ugerumph were in use by the bandwidth demons on the miscreants.

In time, it was time for the harmonics to date and marry...and for them to follow in the footsteps of their parents. Once they reached 25 years of age, they were able to become part of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

And so, with ham and radio saying seven three (best wishes) to their harmonics, and eighty eight (love and kisses) to each other...that is a look at the lives of ham and radio, and their harmonics.

Ham For The Holidays - The 12 Days Of Hamming

And now...with a Christmas In July theme...never mind longing for cooler weather in summer (especially in August in Arkansas), the Cabot Nightflyers Net is proud to present "Ham For The Holidays".

Using the melody of the song "The 12 Days Of Christmas", I've created a new tune, as it were... "The 12 Days Of Hamming". Instead of more ham radio pun humor, it's now a gift giving scene, with Radio providing gifts for Ham, and the harmonics...and I'm sure that some may be glad that the majority of the dry humor is over...at least for now (hi hi).

However, while metrically correct in what will be noted...since any singing on the airwaves is defined as music...no matter how badly one sings...and since music is prohibited on the amateur radio frequencies, as per FCC rules, I obviously can not sing these lyrics on the air, or with this recording. That even

means not even tenor solo...which is ten or eleven miles away, and so low that no one can hear it (hi hi).

Anyway, each of these are different items that are experienced in the hobby, and it's by no means an all inclusive list...because there is just too much in amateur radio to just cover 12 categories.

For each one listed, though...I have included an explanation (some brief, and some detailed) of each one. This could be for the ham radio operator who has, or wants everything (hi hi).

On the 1st day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

A license, callsign, from the FCC.

This is obviously needed for one getting on the air in the first place.

Today, the Technician Class license is the entry level license into amateur radio. Morse Code is no longer required for a ham radio license...but you can still learn and use the original digital mode, CW...and many amateur radio operators do just that. But, you no longer have to prove that you know Morse Code at the license exam session. There are several options for studying for a ham radio license exam...which are multiple choice, and can be with, or without schematic diagrams.

If you pass an exam, congratulations. Unlike years ago, when you had to have the paper copy of your license "in hand" before you transmitted for the first time...you now can get on the air as soon as your callsign appears in the FCC ULS database, which can be anywhere from 5 days to 2 weeks or more after the exam session.

Some exam teams can now upload the session data to the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) electronically, and if the session is held on a Sunday through Thursday, the VEC can have the data to the FCC within 24 hours. If the session is either on a Friday or a weekend, the VEC will have the data by Monday (if it's a US holiday, it will be to the VEC, then the FCC on Tuesday).

If it has been more than two weeks since your exam, and you still have not received an email from the FCC on your license/callsign, you can call the Exam Team Leader (Liaison), who can contact the VEC, to find out what the delay is, and get back to you.

Note that if the FCC Electronic Batch Filing System goes down, there is a delay on processing new, renewed, or upgraded licenses, or callsign changes (sequential or vanity). One will have to exercise “extra patience” until the problem is fixed. While the VEC has the data, they can’t transmit it to the FCC, until the Electronic Batch Filing System is back online. Once it is, though, data is in there within 24 hours. And, if there’s a “government shutdown”, no license processing is done until the government re-opens.

For what you'll need to bring to an exam session to take the exam, go to <https://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session> – failure to follow this checklist may mean that you can’t take the exam(s).

As a note, cheating in any form, is NOT tolerated...and you could forever lose your chance to get an amateur radio license...never mind the examiners could lose their licenses and accreditation FOR LIFE, if they certify passing a ham radio license exam fraudulently. If you have studied well, you should have no problem in passing the exam(s).

Also, at an exam session, one must answer whether or not they have been convicted of a felony in state or federal court. A "YES" answer is NOT an "automatic disqualification", but it all depends upon the circumstances that surround the conviction -- <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-qualification-question> has further details on this.

As of April 19, 2022, there is now a \$35 fee that must be paid to the FCC, within 10 days of the exam, for a new or renewed ham radio license, or for a Vanity Callsign Request. There is NO FEE for a LICENSE UPGRADE or for a Sequential Callsign Request. For more information on the \$35 fee, go to <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee> -- that \$35 fee is payable direct to the FCC, and NOT to the VE Team. Once the fee is paid, the FCC will send you a link to download your license. You must pay the fee within 10 days, or the request is dismissed. Then, you’ll have to restart the process, and possibly pay another \$35 fee.

Note that depending on the VEC, an exam fee may be charged. For exams with ARRL/VEC, as of 2025, it's \$15, per exam element...basically, that gets you “a seat at the exam session”. If you pass one exam, you can take the next exam in line for free; but if you fail an exam, you can re-take the failed exam element again, with a different set of questions, for another exam fee. Check with the VEC group for the current exam fee.

As a side note, at one session I did several years ago, this one ham had failed his General Class exam more than once (he ran a small store with ham radio items). Each time he brought the test book and answer sheet to us, he had another \$15 for the exam fee. When I asked him “What is your wife going to say about this??”, he growled “This is a business expense...shut up!!”. All the examiners roared with laughter (hi hi).

Note that you're the ONLY one in the world with that specific callsign.

As of Feb. 17, 2015, the FCC is NO LONGER ISSUING PAPER LICENSES to amateur radio operators. But, one can logon to the FCC ULS website on the internet at <https://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home> using their Federal Registration Number and password, and either print an "official copy" for ones shack (and ones wallet), or an "unofficial reference copy", to show at a future license exam session, if you decide to upgrade your license, so you can get proper credit, and not have to take that exam again.

For more information on how to obtain a copy of your amateur radio license, go to <https://www.arrl.org/obtain-license-copy>

You won't have a choice in the first callsign that you get...but you can apply for a new sequential callsign, or choose your own vanity callsign. The format of the callsign is limited by both the current license class that you hold, and if such a callsign is available. Details on the vanity callsigns can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs>

Again, as of April 19, 2022, there is a \$35 fee for each vanity callsign request made...and, there is an 18 to 21 day waiting period (sometimes longer) once you apply for the vanity callsign, and to when it is issued. Once the new vanity callsign is issued, your former callsign is no longer valid for use on the air. Again, <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee> has more info on the \$35 fee.

So, before you apply for a vanity callsign, be sure that you want to CHANGE your current callsign. Note that once you're issued your first callsign by the FCC, it will NOT change, UNLESS you request such.

Unfortunately, not every amateur radio operator has passed a license exam on the first try...and for some, it takes a large amount of tries to pass their exam. However, it must be stressed that there is NO DISGRACE IN FAILING an exam. But, once you do pass the exam (even if just barely), as far as anyone else is concerned...once you have your callsign, you made a perfect score on the test(s) the first time...and it's no one else's business on what your score was, how many times it took you to pass the exam, etc.

Examinees who are disabled in some way, or who may have reading/learning disabilities, or other issues...can request special exam accommodations at the exam session. However, they must contact the Exam Session Leader as far in advance of the exam session as possible, so that proper arrangements can be made...such as large print exam books, or reading of the exams to them, with the examinee telling the examiner which answers to mark on the answer sheet, or even giving a test at the examinees home. Medical documentation may be required, if the disability is not obvious.

As noted, the VE Team can "make a house call" to the residence or even the hospital room of the examinee, if serious medical issues are present, where it would be too stressful on the examinee to travel, or be at a session with other examinees. However, the examinee will have to still provide photo ID, the exam fee, and other items, that are noted at <https://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

On the 2nd day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

Two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

Starting with the Technician Class license, the other two licenses available are General...the one that most ham radio operators hold, and the Amateur Extra Class license. While Novice and Advanced Class operators are still around, no new licenses for these are being issued...but holders of these licenses may renew them at the appropriate time.

Also, once you have your license and callsign, if you pass a higher license class exam at a test session, you can use your new privileges immediately, with special suffix identifiers, when you are on the upgraded bands...until your upgrade shows up in the FCC ULS. Once the upgrade shows up in the FCC ULS, you no longer have to use the special suffix identifiers. There is NO FEE for a license upgrade, or a change in your sequential callsign...but there is a \$35 fee if you want to apply for a vanity callsign, as noted earlier.

General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licensees can also apply to become Volunteer Examiners (VE's), who give and grade the exams...as long as their license is valid and unexpired, it has never been suspended or revoked, and they are at least 18 years of age. Once they've passed the accreditation process by the particular Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), they can serve at any license session done by that VEC, providing the Test Session Liaison OK's them to serve. The VE's license class determines which exams they can give, and grade.

With ARRL/VEC, the accreditation process involves the prospective VE downloading (or purchasing from The ARRL Store), the ARRL VE Manual. They are to fill out the application, plus the 40 question open book, un-timed exam – it's the easiest "open book test" you'll ever take in your life, as you fill it out at your leisure.

Once completed, they mail or fax the completed application, plus a copy of their General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class license, to ARRL/VEC, for processing. Four to six weeks later, they will get a nice certificate, suitable for framing, plus a laminated VE Badge (so it can't be altered), and noting which license class they are...as it determines what exam(s) they can give and grade.

As a side note, being a Volunteer Examiner is the most rewarding thing that I've ever done in amateur radio...because you are giving back to the hobby, and getting new hams licensed. If you remember how thrilled you were when you got your first license, you can imagine how thrilled the Volunteer Examiners are, when you do pass the exam.

On the 3rd day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

Three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

The "main bands" in ham radio are now HF (which has 160, 80, 75, 60, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters)...VHF (6, 2, and 1.25 meters), UHF (70, 33, and 23 centimeters), and SHF (everything above that). There are other bands as well; but these are the main ones, on frequency charts of various license class privileges.

Many Ham Radio Transceivers, whether base station, handi-talkie, or mobile, are transmitting in just a single band. However, others now can have the transmitting capabilities via dual band, triband, or even quad-band. And, the way that technology is advancing, in the not too distant future, more transmitting bands in a radio may be covered.

Some radios even have "out of band receive", where you can listen to such things as aircraft, local restaurant crew communication channels, railroads, NOAA Weather Radio, regular broadcast stations, and more.

On the 4th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

G5RV's, J-Poles, Yagi's and Magmounts, are among the many types of antennas available to work the various bands. Some are very small and simple to build, set up, and work with; while others are on huge towers of stations that literally "work the world" with amateur radio.

On the 5th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

One of the most prized awards in amateur radio...and one of the most difficult to obtain...it's gained by making contacts in at least 100 different countries around the world, on 5 different amateur radio bands, using the desired mode...voice or digital.

This doesn't apply to "internet radio"; see the file "Operating Internet Radio" at <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> for more information. However, for those who have to operate "internet radio", a special award may be set up by various organizations. I understand that the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) is looking at the possibility of this, as many members are older hams who have to operate where RF gear and antennas are either severely restricted, or prohibited altogether (HomeOwners Associations (HOA's), Covenants, Creeds, and Restrictions (CC&R's)), or they're in either an assisted living or medical facility; where RFI could mean that medical devices could malfunction, causing someone's death. While "internet radio" is not "true ham radio", one can still be involved in the hobby, and their license "isn't just a sheet of paper". One's health can change in the blink of an eye, and you can go from operating RF to "internet radio" in a very short period of time.

On the 6th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, call sign from the FCC.

Called "the magic band", the area just above HF, and at the low end of the VHF spectrum...when tropospheric ducting occurs, inducing skip; one can literally work coast to coast, or even across the ocean, on 6 meters. Technician Class licensees and above have full access to this band. In some areas where foggy conditions are present, tropospheric ducting can enhance the "skip".

On the 7th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

There are literally nets on every night of the week, on various bands and modes.

They can be on HF, VHF, UHF, SHF, EHF, AllStar, DMR, DMR+, D-Star, D-Rats, M17, P25, TGIF, WIRES-X, Fusion, VoIP (Echolink, HamSphere, CQ100, etc.), or other modes...and they can be phone or digital.

The nets can be for formal written traffic, traders nets (where ham radio operators can list ham radio equipment that they want to buy, sell, or trade)...on a special topic (such as trains, weather, pun humor, cooking, ham radio technology, RV's and camping, or even Bible Study)...or a general ragchew or roundtable net...the format of each is determined by Net Control.

With very few exceptions, all nets are DIRECTED, and all stations will contact Net Control before attempting to contact another station on the net. Plus, all stations checking into the net are required to follow the instructions of Net Control, as well as the protocol and format of the net. Stations failing to do risk being muted or blocked from the net.

On D-Star or other digital modes, the callsign of the transmitting station is automatically sent when they key up...whether to speak, or for what's known as a "quick key checkin to a net" ...done either into a D-Star repeater, or a D-Star Reflector, if these are connected into an internet gateway. Basically, there is "no way to hide ones identity" on D-Star...whether one is transmitting via:

1) Their computer with a DV Dongle, a DVAP, a ThumbDV, or a DV MegaStick 30...all which connect to the computer's USB port. There is also the SharkRF OpenSpot 4 Pro, and the SharkRF M1KE, which work with one's cellphone or their computer, with no rig required...but it works off the Wi-Fi network.

2) Their rig, which also may have a cable connected to the computer, if they are running a certain software for the particular mode.

D-Star is affectionately known as "Echolink On Steroids", and I personally use it more than Echolink for nets during the week. Several nets also meet on D-Rats during the net, on various Ratreflectors, where they can chat, exchange files and messages in real time, and find other hams with the Maps Feature.

There are several files in my D-Rats Shared Folder on getting started with D-Rats, mostly in PDF format...and other files are in the D-Star Users Group on groups.io (Yahoo Groups is no more, due to security issues). You can also get these from <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> – look for the file named “Mode Overview”...it’s over 100 pages, due to all the information, and you’ll need a PDF viewer to read the file.

On the 8th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

8 the Hamfest Start Time, 7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

Most hamfests are just half day events for a few hours...usually on Saturday; although some can be as much as 3 days, such as Hamvention™, held in mid-May each year in Ohio. Venues of where all of the activities are held, the availability of license exam sessions, the number of forums, dealers, and flea market vendors, etc.; plus costs for transportation, lodging and meals in the area, event admission, prize tickets, prizes offered, and tables for vendors, among other things, vary by event. In short, the bigger the event, the higher the cost. This includes costs for eating, plus overnight lodging, if the hamfest is a multi-day event.

In most cases, the start time for these events is 8am local time. And, for many, that means an "early wake up call" ...so, they can make the long drive, to get there when the hamfest opens, to either get good deals at the flea market, or from dealers; or taking part in a forum, a license exam session, and more. Some events may start on a Friday afternoon, and then continue for much of the day on Saturday, with some continuing on a Sunday.

With these hamfests, you must be a licensed amateur radio operator to win the radio prizes. Everyone must be present to win any of the prizes

awarded...the exception is the grand prize, awarded at the end of the hamfest...when the crowd then usually "parts like the Red Sea" (hi hi).

On the 9th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

9 modes on digital, 8 the Hamfest Start Time, 7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, call sign from the FCC.

Operating digital is the beauty of ham radio, as you can go farther on that mode than with voice, although many hams refer to voice as "phone". Nine such modes are CW (also known as Morse Code), Packet, APRS, PSK31, radioteletype (also known as RTTY (pronounced "ritty")...there are at least 2 big RTTY contests each year), JT65, Amateur Television, MT63, and Amtor (Amateur Teleprinting Over Radio).

There are many more modes in the hobby...digital and otherwise...but for now, this will have to do. And, the digital modes can be used on the "digital portions" of nearly all amateur radio bands available to your license class. In short, digital modes are not just for HF.

As a side note, when I was still able to have an HF setup and indoor antennas at my residence; one day, on 20 meters, using an indoor antenna, with just 15 watts of power, inside my apartment with the windows closed, I worked a station in Utah, 1000 miles away, on JT-65!! Plus, I was seeing other stations on the other side of the world!! Various software programs, freeware and shareware, are available, for these digital modes.

For those who don't want to "talk" on ham radio, digital is the mode for you!! Depending on the mode of operation, and the software used... your computer will do the logging, and identify your station for you. You just type in what you want to say. For many new hams, "mic fright" is a very real issue.

Awhile back, I heard of 2 amateur radio operators in the Hawaiian Islands, who could not get a decent voice QSO. So, they went up into the digital portion of the 70 centimeter band, fired up their computers, software, and went to PSK31 mode. They reportedly "never had such a good QSO". Note

that while PSK31 isn't "error free", as packet radio is, you can still get a good idea as to the conversation, with what is being typed. You can have around 10 QSO's in a narrow bandwidth space on PSK31.

On the 10th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

10 Different Wouff Hongs, 9 modes on digital, 8 the Hamfest Start Time, 7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, call sign from the FCC.

Founded by T.O.M. ("The Old Man", W1AW, Hiram Percy Maxim himself), The Royal Order Of The Wouff Hong is a "secret society", with the "device" to be used as a mode of discipline and correction on "lids" (amateur radio operators with poor on the air operating habits). No explanation or details are known on how the discipline, or the mode of discipline, is to be administered to the miscreant amateur radio operator – however, I understand that “Vaseline is optional” (hi hi). A photo of the Wouff Hong, Rettysnitch, and the Ugerumph, is noted earlier in this document.

You must be a paid up ARRL member...either for the current year, or an ARRL Life Member...to participate; and the initiation ceremony is done only at ARRL Division or National Conventions.

There are no dues, no officers, and no politics in The Royal Order Of The Wouff Hong. And, there's nothing degrading or vulgar during the ceremony. You will do a lot of laughing...plus, all of the participants get a very nice certificate afterwards. I personally have gone through it twice, and look forward to doing so again.

As for the laughter; for both the Wouff Hong Ceremony, as was for this net...you better "have an empty bladder", as it were, before the ceremony starts. While that wasn't my problem, I laughed until I hurt, and thought I was going to cry...never mind possibly urinate in my pants!! (hi hi).

On the 11th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

11 New Harmonics, 10 Different Wouff Hongs, 9 modes on digital, 8 the Hamfest Start Time, 7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

While not all amateur radio operators will get married, and then have a family...especially a large one...and the total of harmonics may be more like one or two, instead of eleven; the bottom line is that we need to get new blood into the hobby...to replace those who are leaving the hobby by either letting their licenses lapse...or they die (becoming Silent Keys).

I've personally been at license exam sessions, as a VE Session Liaison, as well as an administering VE, where the entire family (father, mother, and their children) have all gotten their Technician Class license in the same day...talk about spreading the happiness around of the new licensees!! It was truly a joy to sign the CSCE's of the newly licensed family of hams!! We joked that "they'll be fighting over the radio" (hi hi).

Basically, the youth of today are the amateur radio operators of tomorrow. In short, if we don't replace these operators that are no longer in the hobby, attrition will kill ham radio...no pun intended.

On the 12th day of Hamming, my radio gave to me:

12 Hours at Field Day, 11 New Harmonics, 10 Different Wouff Hongs, 9 modes on Digital, 8 the Hamfest Start Time, 7 Nights Of Net Logs, 6 Meter Clean Sweep, 5 Band DXCC. Four sets of antennas, three different radios, two license upgrades, and a license, callsign from the FCC.

Always held on the 4th full weekend of June each year, ARRL Field Day is a chance for ham radio operators to set up portable operations in a wide variety of locations, running on emergency power for 24 hours, and to show the public, that truly..."when all else fails, ham radio is there".

A similar event, known as Winter Field Day, is held during the latter part of January...usually the last full weekend of the month. Further details are available at <https://www.winterfieldday.com> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/winterfieldday/>

The following story is true...and while I've done nets since I was first licensed in 1991, and done exams since late 2007, this item is "my legacy" in the hobby (hi hi).

Several years ago, before I had cataract surgery, my visual acuity had gone to 20/2000, and I had been severely nearsighted since elementary school...not to mention having worn glasses for over 40 years. So, I was "legally blind"...and even at 35, I was unable to drive at night. Dr. Mike McFarland, of McFarland Eye Center in central Arkansas (who first pioneered the "no stitch cataract surgery") lamented "you're too young to not be able to drive at night".

The surgery restored my visual acuity to 20/20...with astigmatism evident at times...even though I use 2.00 power reading glasses at the computer, or with my Android smartphone.

But, as of June, 2022..."dry corneas" and "suspect glaucoma" resulted in blurred vision without warning while driving; so I no longer drive, or have a car. While I use eye drops several times a day, apparently there isn't much that can be done. Along with having "floaters" (nothing can be done about them), this has greatly reduced the amount of time that I can spend at the computer, for doing ham radio traffic nets or otherwise.

Anyway, at a central Arkansas hamfest several years ago, I was both Talk-In Chairman, and Packet Chairman...having a VHF Packet Station set up as a demo. I had recruited 3 blind ham radio operators to help...Sam, N5SRB (SK), Tracy, KC5EIQ (SK), and Tim, K5TEL. Both N5SRB and KC5EIQ are Silent Keys now, and K5TEL moved to Pennsylvania awhile back to be with family...but, I occasionally talk to him via D-Star.

While I had to escort the blind ham radio operators to and from the restroom (nature tends to call at the most inopportune time), then had to get their food for them from the concessions area...their being at the Talk-In Station table

allowed me the chance to explore the hamfest for eyeball QSO's, gear, etc., without being at the table for the entire event.

But, the running joke was that "Talk-In was being run by 4 blind hams (who can't see or drive); and they're giving us directions to the hamfest!!" (hi hi). As a side note, many of these blind hams can program a handie talkie (HT) like no one I've ever seen!! That was more the case with older rigs...I'm not sure about the newer ones, with all the new features.

The kicker was that the event was a Friday night and Saturday day event, and was held at the former Little Rock Expo Center and The Outlet Mall, at Exit 126 (County Line Road/Alexander Exit) off of Interstate 30 in southwest Little Rock (it's now the south campus and Culinary Institute of Pulaski Technical College, now also part of the University Of Arkansas System).

The overhead lighting in the parking lot was not working, and they had just blacktopped (paved) the parking lot, but had not yet striped it. With my night vision not the best (I didn't realize it was due to a combination of cataracts and nearsightedness), I groaned "I'm lost. I can't find my way out of this parking lot!!" – that proved to be my big mistake (hi hi).

One of the blind hams asked me for the mic, keyed up the wide area coverage repeater, and announced "This is a Talk-Out Net, for the Talk-In Station; who can't find his way out of the hamfest parking lot!!". I grabbed the mic, and said in sarcasm "I want to use your seeing eye dog", and he replied in kind "You can't...he's tied to the front bumper right now"!! (hi hi).

I was red with embarrassment, and the other hams were laughing wildly. Yet, several years after this incident...in having to put my Mom first in area hospitals, then to a nursing home prior to her death in August, 2019...I'd get LOST in the hospital parking decks (their directional signage isn't the best).

At the last hamfest that was held in Little Rock in 2016...I had overseen the VE Testing (license exams). Afterwards, I walked over to where all of these blind hams were gathered, and trying to disguise my voice (yeah, right!!), I asked one of them "Excuse me, sir?? Can you help me get out of this hamfest parking lot??!!". Then, one of the blind hams screamed "Daryl!! You rascal!". Everyone within earshot knew EXACTLY the significance of that, and all of us busted out in raucous laughter (hi hi). To this day, I get asked if I need help

getting out of parking lots (hamfest and otherwise), and hospital parking decks!! But, if you can't laugh at yourself, you have got a lot of problems.

And to finish things off on a bizarre note...especially since there's so little in the world to laugh it...here's a bit of a suggestive and punny joke (maybe Ham and Radio did this as well on their wedding night (hi hi)).

Now, what this couple did (noted in the joke below) is NOT my idea of a good time. However, what a couple (married before The Good Lord and their peers) does in the privacy of their bedroom (hopefully, with no Official Observers or Virtual Monitors around), is strictly their business. If both are consenting to such, more power to them...never mind "all knobs to the right"...as "she's perfectly adjusted, so he doesn't need to touch the knobs" (hi hi).

One evening, this OM and his XYL were looking for "new ways to get frisky", in making love. As a side note, I don't know if I'd classify this as CW for "Continuous Whoopee" or not (hi hi).

Anyway, he enters the bedroom, and she is "in the mood", and says to her OM "Beat Me!! Whip Me!!". Basically, "she wants sex big time".

Well, he didn't have anything handy in the QTH...so, he then went out to the garage, and removed the mobile magmount antennas from their vehicles. As a side note, it appears that the antennas had "quick disconnects" – for what basically amounted to "a quickie" (hi hi).

Anyway, they proceeded to get butt naked, then to thrash and beat the living daylights out each other with the antennas (never mind "zero beating their frequencies" to work "up her sideband" (hi hi)).

After several minutes, they're red from the beatings all over each other, and drenched in sweat...but they're happy. (I wonder what adult beverages they drank beforehand; because I didn't think you'd do this if you were sober!!).

Well, a few days later, they have to go to the Emergency Room, from the severe pain and stinging from the “kinky beatings”. Once there, the doctor has them both strip butt naked...and he asks them (likely condescendingly) “Did you get this from having sex??”. They tearfully confess that they did. The doctor says “I thought so. That’s the worst case of van-aerial disease that I’ve ever seen”!!

As a side note, when I was talking to my mother-in-law several years ago, when I got to the punchline, she started laughing wildly...but my wife groaned “Oh, No!!” at the dry pun humor. I’ve told this joke to other amateur radio operators, and the reaction was the same!!

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I hope that you enjoyed this file..and even some adult humor with it. Yet, there is so little to laugh at in the world nowadays.

In tribute to the “blind ham trio” of Tracy, KC5EIQ (SK), Sam, N5SRB (SK), and Tim, K5TEL, they and I were fans of the group Hudson and Landy, which did a skit years ago, called “The Prospector”. After an instance of dry pun humor (as there is so much of in this file), one of us would utter “Heh Eh”. Then, all of us, in unison, would say “Boy, I couldn’t live like that!!”, then we’d bust out laughing!!

You can view that video on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi1DTMP8-nc>

If you have items you’d like to add, please contact me wx1der@gmail.com, n5vlz@arrl.net, n5vlz@duck.com, or yhfnetmanager@qcwa.org

To all who provided material for this file, there are so many of them, that if I try to mention everyone, I’m going to leave someone out. So, let’s just consider this a hearty “THANK YOU!!” for your contributions.

Remember...“dirty old hams need love, too”. And, about ham radio programs on the shack computer – they call it software, because they can’t keep it up!! (hi hi).

Very 73, from Daryl, N5VLZ, Little Rock, Arkansas