

World NEWS & EVENTS



CQ to Realign Publications, Launch Digital Supplement

12/24/2013

CQ Communications Inc has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement

to its flagship magazine, CQ Amateur Radio.

“The hobby radio market is changing,” said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, “and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby.”

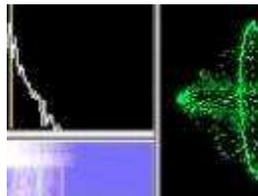
Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, said Ross, content from the magazine’s three sister publications — Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online — will be incorporated into CQ’s digital edition as a supplement to be called CQ Plus. The print editions of Popular Communications and CQ VHF will be phased out, and WorldRadio Online will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online subscribers will be converted to CQ subscribers and receive CQ Plus at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine’s website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, will be editor of CQ Plus.

“Our primary audience is ham radio operators, but very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs,” Ross said. “Most of us started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DXers, CBers or scanning enthusiasts. Many continue to be involved in many different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to Amateur Radio.” Ross said consolidating four specialized publications into one will keep “multidimensional readers” informed on all aspects of the radio hobby, at the same time exposing non-hams “to all the excitement and opportunities that Amateur Radio has to offer.”

The expanded material will be an integral part of the digital edition of CQ and will be included as part of a standard digital subscription. Each month’s digital edition will continue beyond where the print edition ends, offering supplemental material on all aspects of hobby radio communication and selected columns carried over from the other magazines. The added digital content will make full use of the multimedia opportunities presented by digital publications.

A preview of the February issue’s table of contents is available on the CQ website.



New ARRL Single-Operator Unlimited Contest Category Effective with RTTY Roundup

12/24/2013

Responding to many requests, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee this year accepted the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation to add the Single-Operator Unlimited category to the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, ARRL 160 Meter Contest, RTTY Roundup, and the IARU HF Championship.

“This particular issue has been a long time coming,” said CAC Chairman Al Dewey, K0AD.

The new category permits the use of spotting information within the Single-Operator class. The RTTY Roundup January 4-5, 2014, will be the first event to which this new category applies. In the past, using spotting information placed a station in the Multioperator category. Per the revised rules, “Single-Operator Unlimited: The use of spotting assistance or automated, multi-channel decoders is permitted.”

Family saved by ham radio and Good Samaritan after car accident

On a cold, bitter night earlier this month, the actions of a Good Samaritan and a ham radio probably saved the lives of a family.

“Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service in which licensed Amateur Radio operators (hams) operate communications equipment,” ham operator Amanda Alden said. “There are about 750,000 licensed operators in the U.S.”

It began at about 7 p.m. Dec. 6 when Cody Fowler and his wife, Tina, and their two sons, Jacob and Timmy, were on their way home from Pueblo.

“They were on their last leg of their journey, about four to six miles south of (U.S.) 50 on Copper Gulch Road, when Cody noticed the vehicle behind them was no longer (in sight),” said Alden in a press release.

Because of the bitter cold temperatures and the icy roads, Cody turned around and drove back down the road, where he discovered that a red SUV had slid off into a ditch. The five people in the car had climbed back onto the road.

“Cody could tell there were possibly serious injuries,” Alden said.

But no one in the car had a cell phone because the Fowler family had just purchased new ones in Pueblo. None of them were charged or activated and they could not call 911. At that point, Cody grabbed his son’s ham radio and got through to others on the line, telling them he had ran across an accident and needed someone to call 911.

That’s when Alden stepped in. Known with the sign call KIDDN, she notified dispatch. With her cell phone in one hand and the ham

radio in the other, she kept in touch with both sides to alert them of what was going on.

"Cody said when he got there, it was about 1 below. When he left, it was 10 below (zero)," Alden said. "He was in his shrubs from work in Pueblo. He put on the blizzard suit to stay warm, but he didn't have any gloves so he was kind of suffering to stay warm."

In the Fowler vehicle, there was only one spot available for the family in the wrecked vehicle, so they took turns sitting in the Fowler vehicle to get warm. The family consisted of three teenagers, an adult male and an adult female.

During the course of the evening, two vehicles stopped to help, then 40 minutes later, Colorado State Patrol arrived on scene, followed by Deer Mountain Fire & Rescue and Fremont County Sheriff, Alden said.

It could have been another 30 minutes before someone might have arrived on scene.

"The victims would have had to endure extreme temperatures waiting for emergency services to arrive," Cody said in the release.

Two of the family members were taken to the hospital and the Fowlers took one of them home.

With all the modern technology available in the world today, things might have turned out differently if the Fowlers had not owned a ham radio.

Although people try to compare to CBs, it's more technical than that, she said. The operators have to take tests and are issued a call sign by the Federal Communications Commission to operate on radio frequencies known as "Amateur Bands." The bands are reserved by FCC for use by ham radio operations, said Alden, who has helped with other emergencies, including the Waldo Canyon fire and Royal Gorge fire.

"But (I've) never (been involved) in a critical time frame such as a car accident," she said.

Summits on the Air revitalised by involvement from "Down Under"

December 15, 2013

The Summits on the Air award scheme, which has been going since 2002 when it was started in the UK, has become the most interesting part of the Amateur Radio hobby in Australia as more and more Australian States get qualified as associations in the scheme. The monthly magazine of the national association, the WIA, has featured many articles over the last six months, with one edition having no less than three separate articles on SOTA in it.

The idea of operating portable with low power has always appealed in Australia. The structure of SOTA ensuring that home stations are available whenever a portable station activates from a mountain top, means that doing so outside of the normal contest and holiday times now makes sense. There is a real community feeling between the "activators" (those who climb the summits) and the "chasers" (the home stations) and in many cases activators are also chasers and vice versa.

For some time on the SOTA UK web reflector requests have been made for VK stations to be active on summits at times when European stations are active, either as chasers or themselves out on

European summits. With the clock changes in both hemispheres this has now become possible and a few planned activations have been made in the early evening (until dark) hours in Australia and the early dawn hours in Europe. As always safety has to be born in mind and coming back down a mountain in the dark can be dangerous so there are limitations how long an Australian station can keep operating unless he is camping out overnight on the summit.

The biggest of these planned multiple activations so far occurred on December 7th. thanks to the efforts of Andrew VK1NAM organising the event. There were Australian summits active in 4 of the 5 classified associations. Many, many contacts were made between the Australian activators and the European chasers as well as a handful of Summit to Summit contacts where SOTA activators in Europe had gone out to the top of local hills to contact the Australian activators.

There were even a couple of US chasers who managed to work some of the Australian activators however the time difference made a summit-to-summit with the US impossible.

It appears that early morning Summit to Summit contacts between the European activators have also taken place during the event, so perhaps this VK-EU action has also started so additional early morning SOTA activity within Europe.

There is still one major hurdle to get over though. The majority of Australian activators run SSB while the majority of European ones run CW. These planned activations have shown however that 5 watts to a dipole can get reliably around the world, EVEN on SSB.

Main thanks to Ed VK2JI - SOTA manager Hunter Region, VK2 association for this story.

Latvian Special Prefix

December 15, 2013

In honor of the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Latvia in November and December 2013, members of the Latvian Contest Club will use the special prefix YL95.

Expect YL95AIW, YL95AJA, YL95CI, YL95CW, YL95DQ, YL95DW, YL95GQT, YL95GY, YL95KF, YL95KL and YL95UI to be on the bands.

For QSL info, follow the operators' instructions, but in most of cases use LoTW, eQSL, by the Bureau or direct to their home callsign is OK.

December is Ham Radio YOTA month!

December 15, 2013

After the success of the summer event to bring young amateur radio operators on the air, many stations are coming online throughout the month of December with YOTA suffixes in there callsign.

The idea for this is to break the ice for some youngsters and take the microphone in the hand. As seen over the years the YOTA-group is growing fast and every week more youngsters are asking to participate.

At least 17 stations from 14 countries with young HAM's will be active. We would be happy if you try to work one or more of the following call signs:

EA7URA/YOTA
EI0YOTA
ES5YOTA
ES9YOTA
LY5YOTA
OH2YOTA
OK2YOTA
OM9YOTA
OM13YOTA
ON4YOTA
PA6YOTA
S513YOTA
SN0YOTA
SH9YOTA
YO0YOTA
YL13YOTA
YL2013YOTA

A special Youngsters On The Air Award is available - <http://www.ham-yota.eu/?p=381>

VHF Communications magazine closes

December 15, 2013

VHF Communications magazine is closing after 45 years of continuous publication

VHF Communications was the foremost construction oriented publication for Radio Amateurs and Professional RF Communications Engineers. The magazine especially covered VHF, UHF and Microwave communication was published from 1969 to 2013. The last magazine published was issue 4/2013

By the end of 2013 the number of subscribers was not sufficient to support the magazine. Also the supply of articles had become difficult because a lot of good articles are published direct to the Internet.

VHF Communications - <http://www.vhfcomm.co.uk/>

BUY, SELL, or SWAP

NFLARC

- Original 29 repeater "Johnson"
 - Arcom controller for sale
 - Batteries for sale
 - 30.00 each set (2)
 - Motorola repeater 200.00
- **Ken Proctor**
 - HF radio for sale 200.00
 - Kenwood 620, Hybrid (tubes/trans)
 - w/ electro voice desk mic (50.00)
 - Manual

Weekly Information Net

Net meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM local time

- The Linked Repeaters at
 - Corsicana - 2M (145.290 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Corsicana - 440 (442.925 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Buffalo - 2M (147.280 + with a tone of 146.2)
 - Franklin - 2M (146.960 - with a tone of 85.4)
 - Hillsboro - 2M (146.780 - with a tone of 123.0)
 - Fairfield * 2M (145.110 * with a tone of 146.2)
 - Lindale * 2M (145.600 simplex with a tone of 146.2)
 - Mexia * 2M (145.39 - with a tone of 146.2)
 - Echolink * KD5OXM-L
- We can be Monitored via
 - <http://nflarc.org/radio.html>
 - <http://www.radioreference.com>
 - (Central Texas Amateur Repeaters)

Net Control Schedule

- December
 - 4 Doug
 - 11 Michael
 - 18 Rebekah / Nathain
 - 25 Doug / Michael
- January
 - 1 Michael / Doug
 - 8 Wil / Rebekah
 - 15 Rebekah / Wil

If you would like to learn or practice being net control, contact us here <http://nflarc.org/email.html>

OTHER AREA NETS

- **HF**
 - 10 mtrs Tues 8:00p 28.437 + or – W5DXS net
 - 40 mtrs M-Sat 10:00-noon 1:00-2:00p Sat 10:00a-noon 7.290
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 6:30p SW Traffic Net 3.873
 - 80 mtrs 24/7 8:00p-9:00 Gulf Coast Hurricane Net 3.935
- **2 MTRS**
 - Mon-
 - 7:00p 146.82 and Waco area 146.660 linked Temple ARC
 - 8:00p 145.150 Hotarc Bakers Dozen Training net (WX Net)
 - Tue-
 - 7:00p -147.180 BCARC net
 - 7:30p 147.180 Pink HAMster net
 - 8:30p- 147.24 (97.4 tone) Slo-scan Emergency Preparedness Net
 - 10:00p 147.360 PL Tone 110.9 Tarlton Area ARC
 - Weds.
 - 9:00p- 146.78 Quad County net (access Hill County repeater)
 - Thurs.
 - 7:00p 146.78 LWARS Net
 - 8:00p 147.14 Central Texas ARC Net (WX Net)
 - Sunday
 - 7:30p 444.00 tone 136.5 and 145.45 tone 88.5 Johnson County ARC (Cleburne)

LINKS

- Miklor Information Site
 - HT Software, Drivers and Guides
 - <http://miklor.com/>

CONTEST CALENDAR

- **December**
 - ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 22
 - CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 26
 - DARC Christmas Contest 0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
 - NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 27
 - RAC Winter Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 28
 - World Wide Iron Ham Contest 1200Z, Dec 28 to 1159Z, Dec 29
 - Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 28 to 1500Z, Dec 29
 - Original QRP Contest 1500Z, Dec 28 to 1500Z, Dec 29
 - RAEM Contest 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 29
- **January**
 - AGB New Year Snowball Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
 - QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 1
 - SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
 - AGCW Happy New Year Contest 0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
 - AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jan 1 (432)

- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 3
- NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 3
- PODXS 070 Club PSKFest 0000Z-2400Z, Jan 4
- WW PMC Contest 1200Z, Jan 4 to 1200Z, Jan 5
- QRP ARCI Pet Rock Sprint 1500Z-1800Z, Jan 4
- ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 4 to 2400Z, Jan 5
- EUCW 160m Contest 2000Z-2300Z, Jan 4 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 5
- Kid's Day Contest 1800Z-2359Z, Jan 5
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 8
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 10
- NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 10
- MI QRP January CW Contest 1200Z, Jan 11 to 2359Z, Jan 12
- North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 11 to 0559Z, Jan 12
- NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW 0630Z-0830Z, Jan 12
- NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB 0900Z-1100Z, Jan 12
- DARC 10-Meter Contest 0900Z-1059Z, Jan 12
- Midwinter Contest 1000Z-1400Z, Jan 12
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 15
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 17
- NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 17
- LZ Open Contest 0000Z-0400Z, Jan 18
- Hungarian DX Contest 1200Z, Jan 18 to 1200Z, Jan 19
- North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 18 to 0559Z, Jan 19
- ARRL January VHF Contest 1900Z, Jan 18 to 0359Z, Jan 20
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 22
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 24
- NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 24
- CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 26
- REF Contest, CW 0600Z, Jan 25 to 1800Z, Jan 26
- BARTG RTTY Sprint 1200Z, Jan 25 to 1200Z, Jan 26
- UBA DX Contest, SSB 1300Z, Jan 25 to 1300Z, Jan 26
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 29
- QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 31
- NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 31

SILENT KEYS



WD5JOT Alvin J. Murra #1 - went silent key March 3, 2011

- W5GXE Byford Cook #3 - went silent key
- W5JZF Gene Hellums #8 - went silent key
- KA5BOG George Bulen #9 - went silent key
- W5IUH Bob Myers #19 - went silent key
- KA5NEU Bob Corley #30 - went silent key Sunday 4-14-13
- WA5CLX JIMMY Carter #42 - went silent key
- W5SDU John Miller #48 - went silent key
- K5YMJ Glenn Turner #49 - went silent key
- WY5E Lucky Snider #56 - went silent key
- N5MYG Charles Kilgore #73 - went silent key
- AA5EN Margy Snider #81 - went silent key
- N5MOR Dan Moffett #82 - went silent key
- W5ZMI BOB RAY #100 - went silent key
- N5VO Morris Kirby #122 - went silent key Saturday, March 9th, 2013
- KC5MJX Pattie Rue McCarter #127 - passed away Aug. 4, 2011
- W5DRL dewey lafoy #144 - passed away today 10-12-2012

Austin Amateur Radio Supply Owner Johnny Paul, WA5BGO, SK



12/24/2013

The owner of Austin Amateur Radio Supply, John E. "Johnny" Paul, WA5BGO, of Austin, Texas, died December 10. He was 74. Paul was the proprietor of Austin Amateur Radio for 45 years. First licensed in 1960, Paul was a past president of the Austin Amateur Radio Club and was an avid photographer of nature and landscapes. Services were December 16. Survivors include his wife Grace and a son and daughter.

FYI

- Club Dues are due every May
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