



QRO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

January 2011

Dealing with Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Affecting Your Amateur Radio Equipment or Televisions

Advice, solutions, and assistance from Southern California Edison

Brian Thorson of Southern California Edison will speak on radio and television interference (RTVI) at PVARC's January 19th general meeting, 7:30 pm, at Fred Hesse Community Park.

Brian's presentation will include a short section on interference theory and how SCE customers can access Edison's RTVI locating service. An effective approach to dealing with interference from neighbors' equipment will also be addressed.

Although the face of electromagnetic interference (EMI) has changed for television after broadcasters migrated to digital transmission, for Amateur Radio and other wireless communications, the sources, modes and remedies for interference are much the same. Southern California Edison's service to its customers with RTVI concerns also remains the same.



Brian Thorson, AF6NA
SCE EMF Specialist /
RF Safety Lead

About this month's speaker: *In his twentieth year with Southern California Edison (SCE), Brian Thorson manages a corporation-wide radio frequency (RF) safety program, and has worked in Corporate Safety, Public Affairs, Transmission and Distribution, and Telecommunications areas in a variety of technical and professional roles. Currently, Brian is an Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Specialist. He consults with Edison customers on the electric and magnetic fields associated with electric appliances, products and power lines. Brian speaks frequently to community service groups, real estate offices and SCE customer groups on a variety of technical topics. Several times a year, he teaches the SCE Customer EMF Workshop.*

Prior to joining Edison in 1991, Brian spent several years as an Electro-Magnetic Compatibility Engineer (EMC) solving complex radio interference problems for high tech companies throughout Southern California. He has tested and evaluated hundreds of electronic products for compliance with North American and European EMI/RFI standards. His experience spans over 30 years in the electrical / electronics industry, including technical writing, television broadcast engineering, satellite communications and medical electronics. ■

This January 28th Would Be Professor Yagi's 125th Birthday

By Joe Pace, NZ6L
PVARC President

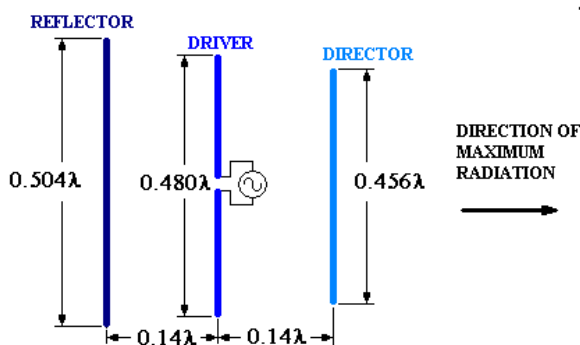
As winter's morning frost collects on the aluminum overcast above our ham shacks, it brings to mind that January is the birthday of an acclaimed Japanese electrical engineer whom together with his colleague, Shintaro Uda, developed and patented the technology and design of one of the most widely used and built-upon directional antennas in the world, the ever ubiquitous Yagi-Uda.

Hidetsugu Yagi was born on January 28, 1886 in Osaka, Japan. After graduating with a degree in engineering from the Tokyo Imperial University in 1909, Yagi continued his studies into resonant wireless transformers in Germany under the famous engineer Heinrich Barkhausen (after whom the Barkhausen oscillator is named).

Yagi's research in Germany was cut short by the outbreak of WWI, when he hurriedly departed for England and continued his studies in resonance under yet another famous figure in electrical engineering and mathematics, Sir John A. Fleming, who at this time was a consulting engineer for the Marconi Company.

Although Yagi had left behind much of his work in Germany, he did publish an article describing the theoretical basis of his embryonic work on a method for directional electric waves in the December 1917 "PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS."

Leaving England, Yagi traveled to the United States, notably to Harvard University to work together with George W. Pierce. Pierce shared Yagi's enthusiasm in the field of resonance research, and among Pierce's many accomplishments in this area he is most noted for his development of the single-stage crystal oscillator circuit.

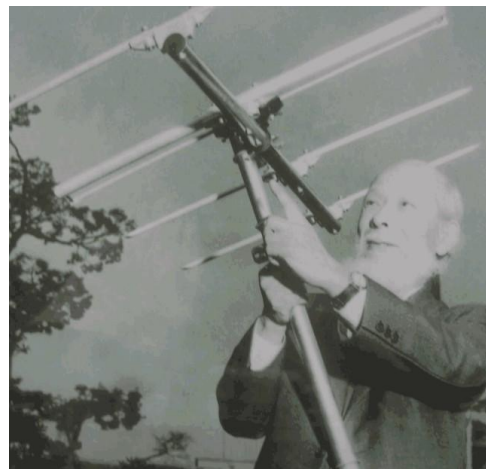


Upon returning to Japan, the now Professor Hidetsugu Yagi led a collective research program stemming from his work with Barkhausen, Fleming, and Pierce towards the development of a directional short-wave antenna design that would improve radio communication between the islands of Japan and with ships. One of Yagi's students, Shintaro Uda, became a principal contributor to this effort and led to the elegant design they were seeking.

In 1926, Yagi and Uda began publishing. Their first two papers, the "Generation of Short Wavelength Waves", and "Measuring Specific Wavelengths with Short Wavelengths," lead towards patent applications in Japan and the United States. Their US patent was issued in May 1932, and assigned to the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), which by this time was the new entity of the former Marconi Corporation of America.

Among his many later accomplishments, Yagi assisted with the rehabilitation of Japan following WWII, and in the development of television standards. Yagi was president of the Yagi Antenna Company and was awarded Japan's Order of Cultural Merit in 1956. He was decorated with the Blue Ribbon Award in 1951, with the Culture Award in 1956, and in 1976 with the Large Asahi Award of the First Class.

This January marks Hidetsugu Yagi's 125th birthday. His contributions to society will never be forgotten. ■



How Projects Grow

“It Just Grew Like Topsy”

By Jeff Wolf, K6JW

With our 2011 IOTA trip to Catalina set to go next month, I thought the following article might be of some interest to Club members.

On our February 2010 Two Harbors, Catalina IOTA DXpedition, I used one of my Yaesu FT-857Ds. The radio is wonderful enough that I actually owned three of them: one in the car, one in the shack as backup and for VHF/UHF, and one “free floating” for...whatever. I took the “whatever” radio to Two Harbors. After the trip, however, I sold that particular radio. The following will explain why.

On the Friday morning of our IOTA jaunt, I threw out the K6PV callsign on 20 meter SSB and was almost immediately inundated by an unexpectedly large pileup of US, South American, and European stations all wanting a contact with Catalina, IOTA #NA-066. The pileup was so dense that I abandoned simplex operation and went split (*i.e.*, I transmitted on one frequency and announced that I would be listening for callers over a frequency range above the transmitting frequency).

My trusty FT-857D, a wonderful radio for general use, simply couldn't handle the onslaught. The front end overloaded and, even with its installed, optional narrow SSB filter, it couldn't separate the signals very well, making it extremely difficult to pick out individual stations to work. Lest one think that this was purely a matter of operator skill, let me add that I do have some experience working pileups. For example, I have operated ARRL station W1AW, managing a very large pileup without difficulty using a Yaesu Mark-V FT-1000MP, a radio much better equipped to handle that kind of challenge. No, in this case, the problem was the FT-857D, which was never designed for this type of operation.

Realizing that I would be going on future DXpeditions, I decided to sell the FT-857D (which went very quickly, it being a very nice little

From...



Yaesu FT-857D

general use radio) and replace it with a competition grade transceiver with a receiver that could handle a “ginormous” pileup. I set a budget for this replacement of \$1200.

After surveying the possibilities, I decided to focus on either a used ICOM IC-756 PROII or a used Elecraft K2. Either would serve nicely, although having built a K3 and loving it, I was leaning toward the K2, which has the additional advantage of being much smaller and lighter than the ICOM.

Very quickly, I located a used PROII but, as luck would have it, I had a conversation with a cousin of mine living in Maryland who wanted to sell his K2. Now, the K2 is available from Elecraft only as a kit, and I quickly realized that, although I love building stuff, I could buy my cousin's used radio for about half of what it would cost me to put together a new one.

Since my cousin is a meticulous builder and an honest guy, it became a no-brainer. I bought his K2, and this was where things really started to get interesting.

Before I wrote the check, my cousin disclosed to me that there was, in fact, one little problem with the radio, namely, that the display had a habit of showing “HOT PA” on an intermittent basis. He attributed this to a bad power cable, which made no sense to me, but I figured I could fix whatever the problem was.

My cousin's description was correct: the radio did, in fact, display its opinion that the 100 watt power amplifier (“PA”) was overheating, even though it clearly was not. Of course, with the triggering of this erroneous message, the radio wouldn't transmit.

I perused the schematic diagram but, in this age of integrated circuits, I found it difficult to ascertain where the problem might be. So, I called Elecraft.

Continued on page 4 ►

“It Just Grew Like Topsy”

► *Continued from previous page*

Elecraft is a terrific company. You call, you get a real person, you get useful help. In this case, the technician told me they'd never seen this problem before in a K2, but he knew it had to be one of two things: the master control unit (IC) in the power amplifier or the thermal circuit transistor. Before I could say anything, he said, "I'll send you both parts." When I reminded him that I hadn't built the unit and it was long off warranty, he said, "No problem." About three days later, the parts arrived at no charge. Now, that's what I call support!

I dived into the radio's guts and replaced both components, which completely resolved the problem. Now, I was on the air and getting good signal reports. But...

Yes, I wanted more. Specifically, I wanted to replace the audio filter board installed by my cousin with the optional DSP board. So, about \$235 plus tax and postage more, a couple of hours of soldering, re-opening the radio for installation, and pretty soon I was up and running with DSP noise reduction and auto-notch functions. But...(Can you see where this is headed?)

In reading the manual for the DSP board, I learned that the board's functions could be much more easily accessed if I had the current firmware version. No problem, I thought. I'll just download it from Elecraft and upload it to the radio as I do for my K3. Unfortunately, however, the firmware upgrade for the K2 isn't a downloadable/uploadable file. No, Bunky, you have to buy new ICs: \$54 plus tax and postage. But...

Now, I was getting smart. I did my research and found that by installing the new firmware, I could also narrow the transmitted bandwidth and improve the keying form of the radio...if I added the CW bandwidth modification. \$20 plus tax and postage.

With the new ICs and the CW bandwidth parts in hand, I opened the radio for the third time. Fortunately, all went well (although the CW bandwidth modification was a bit tricky) and the radio, finally, is as complete as it's going to be. I think...for now...whatever...

Sometimes it's worth out-growing your budget when you out-grow your radio

Okay, let's add it up. My budget was \$1200. Here's how it finally came out. \$1200 for the radio (a very good deal, by the way) with 100 watt matching autotuner, \$235 for the DSP unit, \$54 for the firmware, \$20 for the CW bandwidth mod, and a total for shipping and insurance for the whole lot (remember, the radio came from Maryland) of \$110. That totals \$1619. So much for the budget.

Of course, when people ask me how I justify spending what I do on amateur radio, my answer is always that I don't justify it. I simply do it because I want to and, fortunately, can afford some expense. It's a hobby, after all, and no one should have to justify a hobby as long as the family is still being clothed, fed, and sheltered.

If you visited me while I worked the graveyard shift in the CW tent on Field Day, you saw my little K2 in all its glory. And the verdict? Was it worth doing? You bet it was! The radio sliced between adjacent signals beautifully and never hiccupped all night. I can't wait to wring it out on a real pileup at Two Harbors next month.

Finally, lest anyone misunderstand, let me repeat that the FT-857D is a fine radio for general operating. It's not a radio, however, for operating if you expect to be the target of a heavy pileup. If you're going to *be* the DX, you need a radio with a better front end and really good later stage IF filtering, whether analog or digital. It's the only way you'll be able to discriminate individual signals efficiently when the aether gets really thick with a barrage of call signs all aimed squarely at you. The little K2 seems up to the task. ■

...To



Elecraft K-2

26 miles across the sea, Two Harbors is the place to be.

Our 2011 “Islands on the Air” DXpedition to Santa Catalina Island
is QRV Feb. 23-27 (Wednesday through Sunday)



Santa Catalina Island is designated as IOTA NA-066.

Only 32.6% of all IOTA participants worldwide have claimed credit for working NA-066, according to IOTA's website.

Palos Verdes Peninsula

Catalina Express leaves from Long Beach

The IOTA DXpedition will operate from **Two Harbors** using SSB, CW, and RTTY.

Stay as long as you wish or the entire DXpedition. Operate HF worldwide; all radio equipment provided. Accommodations are “rustic” Forest Service cabin type (your expense).

Two Harbors

You could operate here!

Santa Catalina Island

Avalon

Map Image: ©2010 Google – Imagery ©2010 TerraMetrics

If interested or for more information contact our DXpedition leader, **Ray Day, N6HE** at 310-541-7557 or rayday@cox.net

Technician Class license holders are welcome to participate and operate on HF bands during the DXpedition under the supervision of a higher class licensee.

Please reserve your boat transportation on Catalina Express from Long Beach if you plan to participate. There is only one ship daily to Two Harbors via Avalon during the “off-season” (no service on Thursdays). Round trip fare is \$66, or \$60 for those over 55. Visit Catalina Express at: www.catalinaexpress.com/scheduleFaresTwoHarbors.php#tlb ■

See next page for photos from the 2010 DXpedition ►

► *Some scenes from last year's DXpedition to Two Harbors, Catalina Island*

Setting Up the Stations



Operating HF Worldwide



Island Views



Unlogged QSO with Mr. Buffalo



Photos by:
Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Ray Day, N6HE
Bill Leighton, KG6WVF
Joe Pace, NZ6L
Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Learn more about Catalina Island's Isthmus, site of Two Harbors, on the next page ►

History of the Isthmus

by Jeannine Pedersen, Curator

Catalina's Isthmus is so-called because it has two coves separated by approximately a half mile of land. The leeward cove is known today as *Isthmus Cove* and the windward cove as *Catalina Harbor*. For thousands of years the Isthmus was the site of a large Native Islander village and the center of their religious community. By the 1860s, smuggling and mining operations for silver, lead and zinc took place in the area. In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union Army sent soldiers to both protect the area from Confederate privateers and survey the Isthmus for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a location for a future Indian reservation. Company C of the Fourth Infantry built barracks at the Isthmus and spent a total of nine months on the Island surveying the land and maintaining their post. All interest in the Island was later abandoned, but the barracks were left behind and are in use today as headquarters for the Isthmus Yacht Club. The barracks stand as the most western Civil War site in America, and the oldest structure on the Island.



In the 1920s, Isthmus Cove was developed as a yachting destination. A small town was developed and later named Two Harbors. At this time, the Isthmus also served as the location for the filming of several motion pictures. In fact, so many movies were filmed at the Isthmus that it came to be known as the Isthmus Movie Colony. The Island was transformed into a variety of locations by Hollywood producers. The sets are gone today, but one can still stroll around the Isthmus and imagine tall ships at battle in Catalina Harbor during the filming of *Old Ironsides*, 1926 or the Tahitian village constructed on Isthmus Cove beach for the filming of *Mutiny on the Bounty*, 1935. Many of the palm trees found at the Isthmus today were originally planted as set decoration by these motion picture companies. World War II brought yet another chapter in the history of the Isthmus. The buildings and homes at Two Harbors were taken over by the United States Coast Guard who set up a sophisticated training station where new recruits received two months of extensive training in all manner of seagoing skills. Thousands of soldiers received training at the Isthmus before being shipped to points throughout the Pacific.



Today, the Isthmus is a resort village and prime yachting destination. It has one restaurant, one hotel, one general store, and a campground. The village has about 150 permanent residents and a one-room schoolhouse for students (K-5). Once the local students reach sixth grade they must take the bus into Avalon each day to attend school. Local yachtsmen have claimed Two Harbors and its surrounding coves as their summer retreat where recreation opportunities abound. One can hike on ocean-view trails; snorkel and scuba dive at nearby world-renowned sites, ocean kayak among secret coves, mountain bike along ridge roads, pleasure boat or just plain relax on a sandy beach. Transportation to Two Harbors is available from either San Pedro or Long Beach and a bus service connects Avalon and Two Harbors. A visit to the island is not complete without

a trip to the Isthmus and experience the rich history and laidback lifestyle! ■

(Reprinted by permission of the author: Jeannine L. Pedersen, Curator, Catalina Island Museum)

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club's Christmas Holiday Party, December 15, 2010

Some of the Members Attending



Photos by:
John Freeman, WW6WW
Joe Pace, NZ6L



Jeff Wolf, K6JW, humorously described 52 years in Ham Radio



Recipients of PVARC's Rhombic Award for Club Service, presented by our President, Joe Pace, NZ6L



(Left): Karen Freeman, KG6BNN, and John Freeman, WW6WW.



(Right): Ginger Clark, KG6TAU

A Few of the Door Prize Winners



Sam, KG6ZAW, won the 440 HT radio



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PALOS VERDES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Weekly Club Nets:

All members and guests are invited to check-in to our Club net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm on the K6PV repeater, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0.

Monthly No-Host Dinners:

Prior to each month's General Meeting, join club members (and often our speaker) at 5:30 pm for a No-Host dinner at the Red Onion Restaurant, 736 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

- January 19th – General Meeting
- February 16th – General Meeting
- February 23th-27th – Catalina IOTA Trip
- February 27th & March 5th – Tech Class
- March 12th – FCC Exam at Hesse Park
- March 16th – General Meeting
- March 27st – Ridgecrest 5K
- April 20st – General Meeting
- May 14th – Palos Verdes Marathon
- May 18th – General Meeting
- June 15th – General Meeting
- June 25th-26th – ARRL Field Day!
- July 20st – General Meeting
- August 13th – RHE 5K/10K Run/5K Walk
- August 19st-21nd – Lighthouse Weekend
- August 21nd – Summer Picnic at Pt. Vicente
- September 5th – Conquer the Bridge Run
- September 9th-11th – HAMCON 2011
- September 18th – Concours d'Elegance
- September 21th – General Meeting
- September 24th – RAT Beach Bike Tour
- October 19th – General Meeting
- November 16th – General Meeting
- December . . . - Holiday Dinner TBD

Whether you are “addicted” to ham radio or not, please tell your friends, neighbors, and family members about PVARC’s upcoming 2011 amateur radio license classes.

Two Amateur Radio Courses

FCC “Technician” course (entry level)

FCC “General” course (2nd level)

Each course is 2 sessions

The 2 sessions are on February 26 & March 5

Technician 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM both Saturdays

General 2:15 PM to 5:00 PM both Saturdays

FCC tests will be 10 AM to noon on March 12

The location is Hesse Park

29301 Hawthorne Blvd.

Rancho Palos Verdes

- No pre-registration required -
- No fee for either course -
- Taking the FCC Test is \$15 -

Optional Material

- Gordon West book with FCC test questions,
\$22 for Technician and \$23 for General -
- Copy of my Power Point charts,
\$18 for Technician and \$15 for General -

Students (thru grade 12) who take this course and get their license will be reimbursed up to \$50 by the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

For more information contact
Walt, K1DFO, at walt.ordway@yahoo.com

It's Time for 2011 PVARC Membership Renewals

January is our annual membership renewal period. If you have already renewed for 2011, we thank you. If not, please complete our membership form (see next page) and return it with your payment to our Post Office Box or at our general meeting on January 19th.

We have aimed to keep our annual dues of \$15 among the lowest of all ham radio clubs in the Greater L.A. area. And for another \$2 your other family members can also become PVARC members. All members, New or Renewing, must complete the membership form each year.

Have You Visited Our Club Website Lately?

Our webmaster John Freeman, WW6WW, regularly adds new material to PVARC's website at: www.palosverdes.com/pvarc. Visit our site when you have a chance.

Save the Date for ARRL's Southwest Division Convention in Torrance: Sept. 9th to 11th

We hope many PVARC members will attend the annual ARRL Southwest Division Convention, being held this year at the Torrance Marriott Hotel during September 9th through 11th.

PVARC is one of the Los Angeles-area amateur clubs co-sponsoring this event and has a small financial stake in its success. We will also need some members to man the information desk. ■

PVARC Treasurer's Report, 01-05-2011

PVARC General Fund	\$2,222.37
John Alexander Fund	\$991.00
Repeater Fund	\$1,177.86
Total Bank Balance	\$4,391.23
2010 Membership	136
2009 Membership	129

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors:

President	Joe Pace, NZ6L
Vice President	Hal Lazar, KI6SPB
Treasurer	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Secretary	Chuck McCown, K6CTM
Past President	Ginger Clark, KG6TAU
Directors:	Mel Hughes, K6SY
	Jeff Wolf, K6JW

Appointed Offices:

Interim QRO Editor	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Asst. to Editor	Paige Omoto, KI6MAH
Webmaster	John Freeman, WW6WW
Club Librarian	Bryant Winchell, W2RGG
VE Coordinator	Dave Scholler, KG6BPH
VE Liaison	Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
LAACARC Rep	Joe Locascio, K5KT
Yahoo PVARC Group Moderator	Daniel Yang, K6DPY

Contacts:

Interim QRO Editor: 310-544-2917, ai6df@arrrl.net
Webmaster: 310-541-6971, jfree@cox.net

Email us: k6pv@arrrl.net

Website: www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

Mailing Address:

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2316
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-8316

Monthly Meetings:

Third Wednesday (except August and December) at 7:30 pm at Fred Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. Visitors always welcome.

Club Repeater (Open):

K6PV, 447.120 MHz (-), PL 100.0, CTCSS

To order a Club badge:

Karen Freeman, KG6BNN, 310-541-6971

To order a Club jacket or patch:

Dave Scholler, KG6BPH, 310-373-8166

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Front page photo of Pt. Vicente Lighthouse by: Matt Orlich, WA6AJC



Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 2316
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
 www.palosverdes.com/pvarc

**NEW MEMBER &
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NEW: _____ or RENEWAL: _____ MEMBERSHIP DATE: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____

(Unless otherwise noted emails will be sent to the applying member only)

License Call: _____ License Class: _____ ARRL Member _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Member of: (DCS, ARES, PVAN, NART) _____ District _____ Unit ID # _____

Additional Household and/or Family Members (if Applicable):

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL _____ Birth Mo./Day: _____

Individual membership (\$15.00) \$ _____

Household and/or Family membership (\$17.00) \$ _____

Donation to the John Alexander Fund \$ _____

Donation to the Repeater Fund \$ _____

Other Donation to PVARC \$ _____

Cash: _____ or Check #: _____ Date _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club; Dues based on January 1st to December 31st year.
 All New and Renewal Member applications must be signed below.

Using amateur radio equipment improperly or ignoring safety practices can lead to injury or other harm. Don't try to perform amateur radio operations you might learn through PVARC or elsewhere unless you are certain they are safe for you. If something doesn't feel right, either: 1) do not do it; 2) look for another approach; or 3) ask for assistance from someone who is more experienced. PVARC wants you and your family to be safe and enjoy amateur radio to its fullest. Your signature below acknowledges that you will take responsibility for keeping safety foremost when working with amateur radio equipment or at events.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

And lastly, some lighter thoughts on amateur radio.

How to Tell If You Are Addicted to Ham Radio

By Diana Feinberg, AI6DF

The eHam.net website had an amusing 2008 discussion detailing how you will know if you are addicted to amateur radio. The originator no doubt was fascinated with comedian Jeff Foxworthy's well-tuned Southern expression, "You might be a redneck if..."

After thinking about it, here are a few of my recent thoughts outside of eHam.net's fray:

- You might be addicted to ham radio if you went to the TRW Swap Meet on Christmas Day for the gifts under your tree. (Was that YOU there last month?)
- You might be addicted to ham radio if your concept of matching components includes color coordinating your transceivers with the shack Snuggie™ blanket.
- You might be addicted to ham radio if your response to any irate person is, "Dude, your capacitance is showing."
- For YL and XYL hams: You might be addicted to ham radio if you own twice as many ham radios as handbags. (*My well-known situation.*)
- For OM hams: You might be addicted to ham radio if the fragrance you enjoy wearing is Old Solder instead of Old Spice™.

So much for my thoughts. But what was perhaps the most illuminating comment in eHam.net's 2008 discussion?

"You might be addicted to ham radio if someone tells you a couple is a perfect match and you then inquire about their VSWR."

Yes, indeed--there's always a new use for your antenna analyzer. ■

Do you think the owner of this truck might be addicted to amateur radio?

