

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

October 2008

Next Club Meeting: Thurs. Oct. 2nd, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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THE PROGRAM

The program for the upcoming, Thursday, October 2 meeting of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club will provide a detailed review of the communications system that serves the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Providing this information will be C. R. "Cully" Phillips, N3HTZ, and Amateur Radio operator since 1990. He currently maintains the communications systems in District 4 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Cully does this as an employee of the contractor Transcore.

While not a part of his upcoming presentation, he also has extensive experience working on home entertainment and other radio related equipment. This activity occurred prior to his work with the Pennsylvania Turnpike radio systems.

The Turnpike is a challenge in communications design. The topography of the Commonwealth confronted the designers with reception and coverage problems far greater than those faced by Amateur Radio repeater operators.

Cully will explain how this geography helped in providing a communications scheme that permitted the reuse of frequencies with a minimum of interference. The system design has also incorporated UHF frequencies for communications within the four tunnels on the main, east-west pike and the single tunnel on the northern extension.

This experienced and well-credentialed presenter will explain how this communications scheme helps in making a trip on the Pennsylvania Turnpike a safe experience.

MARPLE NEWTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
c/o The Gauntlett Center
20 South Media Line Road at West Chester Pike
Newtown Square, Delaware County, PA 19073

For information about our club,
phone President Walt Faust at (610) 622-2200.

OFFICERS

President..... Walt Faust N3FXR
Acting Program Chair Walt Faust N3FXR
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The Dipole

Contributing EditorJim Biddle W3DCL
Desktop Publishing Tom Tenaglia K3TAT
Reproduction.....Bill Bowers N3ZAV
DistributionThe Peel'em and Seal'em Group

Meetings, Nets, and Packet BBS
Monthly Club Meetings: First non-holiday Thursday,
7:00 p.m. at the Gauntlett Center in Newtown Square,
Delaware County. Talk-in: 147.195 repeater
Daily Weather and Information Net: Every morning at 8:30
a.m. on 147.195 repeater
Club Web Page (including online version of *The Dipole*):
<http://mnarc.org>
Delaware County ARES Net: Every Wednesday at 19:30 local

Why I Like Retirement

While this is a fictitious account, it is rumored
this could indeed have some elements of truth.

And They Ask Why I Like Retirement!!!

Question: How many days in a week?
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on
the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light
bulb?
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get
everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called
Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10%
discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered
formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?
Answer: They are the only ones who have the
time.

Question: What is the common term for
someone who enjoys work and
refuses to retire?
Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out
the basement, attic or garage?
Answer: They know that as soon as they do,
one of their adult kids will want to
store stuff there or move back in.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?
Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe
retirement?
Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of
going back to school as a retiree?
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your
parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?
Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

Question: What do you do all week?
Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING..... Saturday & Sunday, I rest

Knowing For Sure

If one is sufficiently curious, it is possible to have available at 'one's finger tips,' the listing of the RF frequencies and their users. As is shown in the announcement, this curiosity comes with a price, a hefty price.

Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management (Redbook) January 2008 Edition

The following documents are provided in the Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (*.pdf). Version 6 of the Acrobat Reader includes the capability to read Acrobat documents out loud.

The printed version of the Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management, 2008 can be ordered on-line from the US Government Printing Office Bookstore.

Stock Number 903-008-00000-8
 ISBN 0-16-016464-8
 Price \$ 392.00
 International Price \$ 548.80

CHAPTER	FILE SIZE	TITLE
	24.9 MB	Entire Manual (not recommended for slow internet connections)
	0.4 MB	Cover Page & Table of Contents
	0.8 MB	Introduction, Holders Letter, Promulgation Letter and Preface
1	0.2 MB	Authority and Organization
2	0.2 MB	Telecommunication Policy
3	4.2 MB	International Matters
4		Allocations, Allotments and Plans
	0.7 MB	4.1 Frequency Allocations
	0.2 MB	U.S. Government Table of
	0.7 MB	Frequency Allocations
	0.3 MB	

		U.S. Government Table of Frequency Allocations International Footnotes
5	1.1 MB	4.2 Frequency Allotments
6	0.4 MB	Spectrum Standards
		Definitions and Particulars of Assignments
7	0.7 MB	Authorized Frequency Usage
8	1.8 MB	Procedures and Principles for the Assignment & Coordination of Frequencies
9	0.7 MB	Preparation of Applications for Frequency Assignment Action
10	0.3 MB	Procedures for the Review of Telecommunication Systems for Frequency Availability, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), and Telecommunications Service Priority for Radiocommunications (TSP-R)
11	0.1 MB	Public Access to the Federal Spectrum Management Process
A	0.2 MB	Record Notes
B	0.3 MB	Data and Procedures for Assessing Interactions Among Stations in the Space and Terrestrial Services
C	0.08 MB	Reserved for future use
D	1.2 MB	Procedure for Field Level Selection and Coordination of the Use of Radio Frequencies
E	0.1 MB	Guidance for Submission of INMARSAT Commissioning Applications
F	0.1 MB	Frequency Assignment Review Procedure
G	6.4 MB	Abbreviations
H	0.3 MB	Assignment Guide for Maritime Mobile Bands 4-26 MHz
I	0.6 MB	Procedure for Evaluating Frequency Proposals in the 162 - 174 MHz and 406.1 - 420 MHz Bands
J	0.3 MB	Guidance for Determination of Necessary Bandwidth
K	0.4 MB	Technical Standards for Federal "Non-Licensed" Devices
L	0.8 MB	Freely Associated States
M	0.1 MB	Measurement Methods
N	0.1 MB	Special Considerations for Federal Travelers Information Stations Operating on 1610 kHz
O	0.2 MB	Relocation of Federal Government Radio Systems In Accordance With the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act
	0.1 MB	Summary of Changes
	0.2 MB	Index

The United States Frequency Allocation Chart may be view and printed, as well as ordered as a printed version by visiting:
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/allochrt.html>

The United States Frequency Allocation Chart is provided in the Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (*.pdf). U.S. Frequency Allocation Chart as of October 2003 (Adobe Acrobat format) (Adobe Acrobat format). This is one, very cramped page of text in the Adobe Acrobat format
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/allochrt.pdf>

Text equivalent version of the U.S. Frequency Allocation Chart as of October 2003 (Adobe Acrobat format). Eighty-eight pages of specific data dealing the allocations of frequencies available in the United States as well as the International allocations.

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/Chp04Chart.pdf>

Background Paper on Radio Frequency Spectrum Allocations

To order the Spectrum Wall Chart from the Government Printing Office web site, specify the following: U.S. Frequency Allocation Chart as of October 2003 (stock #: 003-000-00691-3, \$9.00, \$12.60 non-US)

Address mail orders to...

U.S. Government Printing Office
 Superintendent of Documents,
 Post Office Box 371954
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15250-7954.

Place phone orders and make inquiries at: (202) 512-1800.

Place fax orders and make inquiries at: (202) 512-2104

Place fax-on-demand orders with U.S. Faxwatch at: (202) 512-1716

Remember: October Meeting

Thursday, October 2nd, 2008

The Gauntlet Center

30 Media Line Road (at intersection of PA-3)

Newtown Square, PA 19073

7:00 PM

Carl And Jerry Are Now Available

JOHN T. FRYE'S

CARL AND JERRY



FROM *POPULAR ELECTRONICS*

Any readers of the *eDipole* who were either active in Amateur Radio or interested in any one of the many facets of electronics in the 1954 – 1964 era surely had to be fans of a dynamic pair of young boys called *Carl & Jerry*. The good news is that these stories of mystery and technical adventures and solutions are not lost. They have resurfaced.

Just remembering the rough outlines of these stories can be a wonderful trip down memory lane. Thanks to the determination and hard work of Jeff Duntemann, K7JPD, Colorado Springs, Colorado these two boys have been electronically resuscitated.

With a desire to provide some meaningful background and some motivation to sample the “available for reading” texts, permission was sought from Mr. Duntemann. He very promptly answered an e-mail with the following text, “By all means! Quote whatever and as much as you want. It was a lot of fun putting it together, and a great many people in our (rough) age bracket may have taken an entirely different path in life were it not for Carl & Jerry.”

His personal ‘flame’ of our shared interest was fanned by his allied skills.

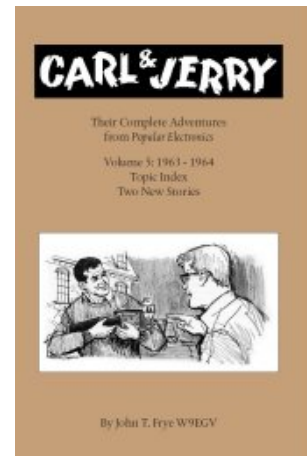
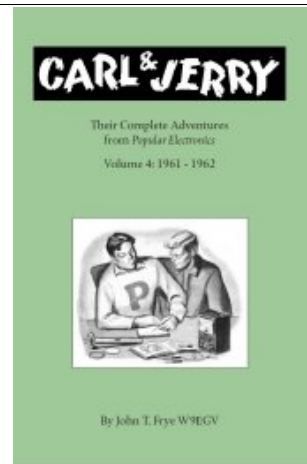
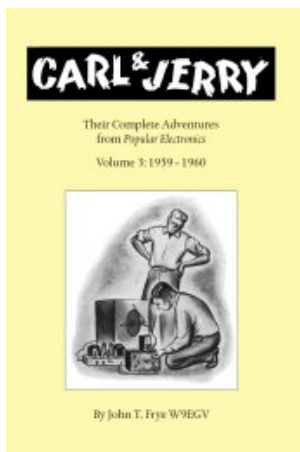
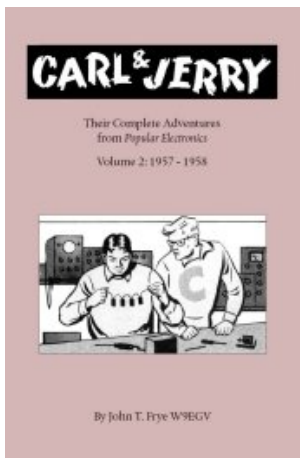
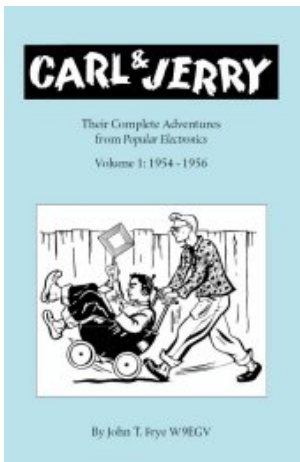
In bringing back these 119 stories that are now available in five books that are more modern in their concept and preparation than the period technology used by these two northern Indiana boys. These anthologies are printed and sold one at a time. They are done by print-on-demand technology; this means they will not be available from bookstores.

This preparation process also means that reader cannot expect them to be available “overnight.” The Lulu system used to produce these books requires between three and five days to manufacture

each book. They are printed just prior to their being shipped.

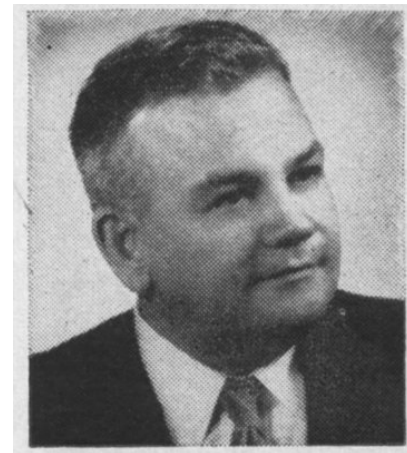
If a reader of the eDipole is interested in refreshing ‘almost-lost memories,” a trip to the URL

<http://www.copperwood.com/carlandjerry.htm#BackInPrint> will provide the steps needed to launch your own, freshly printed copy of any or all of the five editions of *Carl & Jerry*.



To learn more about the minds of the dynamic duo of the 1954 – 19654 decade, a glance at a biography of the writer, John Frye, W9EGV will provide some meaningful insight.

JOHN T. FRYE W9EGV



In his ongoing research, compiler Jeff Duntemann, K7JPD has shared the following information...

About John T. Frye himself not much is known, though I continue to search for details about his life. Most of what we know cooks down to this: He was born in Logansport, Indiana in 1910, and died there in 1985. He was a writer and a skilled service tech. And, amazingly, he spent much or all of his adult life in a wheelchair.

He wrote a couple of popular books on radio:

Basic Radio Course
(Gernsback Library #44) first published in 1951 and reprinted at least as late as 1977.

Radio Receiver Servicing,
1960.

Copies of these come up on Amazon and ABEBooks regularly, and if you collect or restore old radios they are probably worth having. *Basic Radio Course* is a nice overview of AM radio tech circa 1950, well written, and printed on a coated paper that has survived well without yellowing or getting crumbly. Interestingly, my research has not shown a copyright renewal for either *Basic Radio Course* or *Radio Receiver Servicing*, and so their copyrights have probably expired and both have now passed into the public domain.

In addition to his books on radio repair, Frye was a very prolific contributor to the electronics and amateur radio magazines. The first pieces I've seen in the literature are short humorous items (titled "Phone Phunnies") in *QST* from 1946. He began writing a column called "Mac's Service Shop" in *Radio & Television News* in April 1948, and it ran in one magazine or another (including *Electronics World*, another Ziff-Davis publication) for 28 years, until June, 1977. There are superficial resemblances between "Mac's Service Shop" and Carl and Jerry: The column is nominally fiction, in which "Mac," the owner of a radio and TV service shop, talks about both the technical and business aspects of the radio/TV service business to other people, often his sole and slightly clueless employee, Barney.

However, there is no "adventure" and the action doesn't typically move beyond the shop. For a sample of "Mac's Service Shop" in its later years, you can see scans of the August 1975 column hosted here... <http://www.brought.com/TestEquip/QuickTracer/QuickTracer.htm>

Why did Frye stop writing "Carl & Jerry"? A couple of old-timers have hinted that he had had a falling-out with the editors at *Popular Electronics* toward the end of 1964. This is suggested by the fact that he began publishing a lot of articles in PE's main competitor, *Electronics Illustrated*, early in 1965. I do not have all issues of EI from that era, but Frye appeared in the July 1964 issue with "A Basic Course in Vacuum Tubes." From 1965 into late 1967 he was in most issues of EI with a couple of multipart tutorials: "The ABCs of Radio" beginning in September 1965, and "The ABCs of Color TV" beginning in January 1967. The last issue I have in which Frye appears is September 1967—which is also when my subscription to EI expired. I have a handful of issues from 1968, and Frye does not appear in any of them.

Beyond this, facts get pretty sparse. As best we know he lived his whole life in Logansport, Indiana, from 1910 to 1985. I've heard it said that he attended Purdue University (the model for Carl and Jerry's Parvoo) but have not seen any real evidence other than the fact that Parvoo is modeled very closely on Purdue, right down to the call letters (WCCR) of the campus carrier-current radio station. We know nothing about his family, or whether he ever married. Certainly I would like to know more, and if you have any additional details, please pass them along to me so I can post them here.

In sharing how he became involved in electronics, Jeff Duntemann stated he discovered electronics in 1963, when he was eleven. He explained, "By digging around in the stuff people put out on the curb on garbage day, and dragging home dead radios and TVs for avid dissection in the garage."

He added, "And for years I pieced together radios out of chassis pickins' and Fahnestock clips, guided by books like Harry Zarchy's *Using Electronics* and Alfred Morgan's *The Boy's Second Book of Radio and Electronics*. My best friend Art, who lived across the alley, got into electronics a year or so later, but he had something even better: Stacks and stacks of old *Popular Electronics* magazines, given to him by his Uncle George, who was an electrical engineer for the phone company. We both prowled through them incessantly, looking for cool projects to build."

It was in these discarded publications that an even greater discovery was made. Our *eDipole* Contributor shared, "Every issue in the pile had a short fiction story in it about two boys named Carl and Jerry, who were as obsessed with electronics as we were, and used it to help other people, foil criminals, impress girls, and get out of jams. The boys were a little older than Art and I, but beyond that, the resemblances were striking: One was thin, one chunky. One had glasses, one did not. One was good with theory (as Art was) the other was better with tools (me.) Every story described a concept in electronics, and most of the time put it to work."

To explain a part of the lure of these stories, Mr. Duntemann added, "The stories, while often fiendishly clever, were sometimes a shade breathless but also a little wry in a way that appealed to slightly precocious twelve-year-old boys. They reminded me of the Tom Swift, Jr. books that I was also reading at about that time, only with real, basement-friendly technology instead of Swiftian half-magic super-science.

Continuing this inspiration, Jeff Duntemann shared, "As I discovered much later, there was actually greater resemblance to the older and more down-to-Earth Tom Swift Sr. books, like *Tom Swift and His House on Wheels*. (Egad! Tom Swift invented the RV!) As John Frye was most likely twelve years old toward the end of the Tom Swift, Sr. era, this isn't surprising. The language was amazingly similar, right down to the ubiquitous said-book-isms...

"Ok, let's get on with it," Carl prodded.

"Holy cow!" Jerry breathed. "That was a tornado!"

Continuing, "The characters in the stories murmured, demanded, howled, insisted,

commanded, drawled, scoffed, and did almost everything but "said." But talking about flaws in the fictional techniques misses the whole point: The stories were there to explain things, and to inspire us to emulate Carl and Jerry's curiosity and ingenuity by working with electronics ourselves.

To understand the comparison between Tom Swift and the youthful Carl and Jerry, one must have been a born pre-World War II or have been exposed to that collection of works by some from that era. Armed with the adventures of the previous science-base fiction, Jeff Duntemann continues, "As with the Tom Swift books, each story revolved around a science or technology concept. Occasionally the entire story was a dialog between the boys, one asking questions and the other lecturing. ('TV Antennas' from August 1955, and 'The Bell Bull Session' in December 1961 are good examples.) But more often than not, the boys build an interesting gadget, explaining along the way, how it worked, and then put it to use in a clever fashion. Perhaps the crispest example is 'Lie Detector Tells All' in November 1955. The boys build a lie detector (explaining the principles behind it) and test it on Jerry's parents. Mr. and Mrs. Bishop are both caught up in "little white lies" in front of one another, and then each quietly approaches the boys later on and offers them ten dollars to dismantle the machine!"

The Carl and Jerry stories embraced almost all of the old and new electronic devices during their ten-year life of published works. Included in these topics were Amateur Radio, sonar, metal detectors, Hi-fi audio, tape recorders, remote sensors, radio controlled models, and many more. As an example of the rapid use of new electronic devices, when world's first transistor radio appeared in 1955, "Carl and Jerry had one almost immediately, and used it to track a tornado. ('Tornado Hunting by Radio', May 1955.)"

Carl & Jerry, rarely tagged as 'Carl and Jerry,' was created by an author who cited experts in the real world. John Frye would often salt his stories with references to science and technology journals. For the enjoyment and encouragement of his young readers, Frye also referred from time to time to projects and articles that had recently appeared in *Popular Electronics*. Often it was common for these items and stories became a foundation for a particular story.

An example of this occurred in the February 1961 issue. Carl & Jerry's creator included in the story the use of a cover-story device called the 'Infraphone' This communications item was a walkie-talkie that encoded voice communications on a beam of infrared light. Working with police, the boys used a pair of 'Infraphones' to foil a gang of thieves who were eluding capture by monitoring police radio frequencies.

Jeff Duntemann added a comment that has been viewed as a critique when he stated, "The Carl and Jerry stories have been criticized for being a little too glib, and making electronics sound easy. One thing that not everyone remembers is that the boys occasionally taught us that not all projects work out. In "The Meller Smeller," (January 1957) the boys attempt to use an electrostatic filter to remove odors from the air. They basically attempt an electronic gas mask, and then have the bad karma to test it for the first time on a skunk. It didn't work. They buried their clothes in the backyard."

In a personal review, one shared by possibly many readers, Duntemann wrote the following: Not all of the stories are "adventures" in any sense of word. As I mentioned above, many are simple dialogs between the boys, as they build or troubleshoot some sort of device. This may have been necessary at times. 2,500 words is *not* a lot of room to move! In "Tussle with a Tachometer" (July, 1960) they build a tach for their car, from scratch, and explain how it works and how to calibrate it. There's no adventure, but once you read it you'll have a very clear sense for how automotive tachometers of that era functioned. The adventure came in a couple of issues later, in "Tick-Tach-Dough" (September 1960). The boys attach a tape recorder to their homebrew tach to test its calibration. Their car is stolen by bank robbers, who stash what they took from a bank somewhere and won't say where. Carl and Jerry play detective, and use stereo headphones to play the tach recording into one ear while listening to the real tach in the other, to retrace the vehicle's speed and acceleration in order to find the stolen cash. Brilliant—but incomprehensible if you don't know how tachometers work. Clearly, Frye had to tell the first story (how tachs work) to be able to use a hacked tachometer to solve a crime in a later story.

In a form of a professional confession, one that Jim Biddle also embraces, the champion of a

resuscitation of Carl & Jerry stated, "Something that Art and I often wondered is whether the technology tricks Frye built his stories around were feasible. We often asked one another: *Would that really work?* Many of them were no great challenge, especially in the first few years of the series. Using a solenoid-triggered camera to catch a henhouse thief (as the boys did in June, 1956) almost seemed too easy to us. Later on, as Frye hit his stride, the stories became cleverer, and the technology a lot subtler. Strapping a theremin to your back to provide a kind of audio biofeedback as you practice basketball free-throws ("Therry and the Pirates," April, 1961) would be breathtakingly brilliant—if it worked. Alas, we had no way to know short of building a theremin ourselves and trying it."

In the March 1961 issue of Popular Electronics, Frye create "A Low Blow." In this story, there was another brilliant invention -- Jerry's "infrasonic" microphone. The device resembled an aneroid barometer, consisting of a thin sheet of spring brass glued over the open end of a mayonnaise jar. The capacitance between the brass sheet and a steel plate inside the jar changed as variations in air pressure produced by extremely low frequency sound waves caused the brass sheet to flex. This change also changed the capacitance of the homemade capacitor. This change in capacitance caused a change in the frequency of an audio oscillator.

The boys placed this device in the end of a soon-to-buried collection of lengths of pipe that was to be used to supply natural gas. This was done to reduce ambient noise and this permitted the device to announce the presence of a tornado.

The device became sacrificial when the tornado separated the pipe sections and the Infrasonic microphone was destroyed. In sharing these recollections, Jeff Duntemann added, "That story made me absolutely *crazy* to build one, but I wasn't quite sure where to begin. I was only 12, just beginning to understand electronics, and too poor to afford the sort of test gear that Carl and Jerry took for granted. But I never doubted for a millisecond that the device would work, and I ached to be good enough at the craft to build things like that."

Even at its wildest, Carl and Jerry's technology remained just this side of outrageous, and while a degreed electrical engineer might quibble with the gadgetry, Art and I were still 12-year-old newbies who had no clue. What did occasionally make us

roll our eyes were the preposterous situations that Carl and Jerry found themselves in, and the remarkable coincidences that allowed them to prevail, especially when they got into trouble.

Concluding his confessions of admiration for the fictitious twins of science and social adventures, Jeff Duntemann reviewed the following:

Once, when they were trapped by a load of coal dumped into the high school coal bin, ("A Nickel's Worth," March 1958) they signaled for help by tapping into the school PA system through a cable running through the rafters in the little room they were stuck in—using a transistor audio oscillator that Carl just *happened* to have in his pocket, powered by a cell made of coins and paper moistened with spit.

This Oh Come *On* factor was a little strong at times, as was the 'Haven't We Heard This One Before?' factor. Getting stuck somewhere and signaling for help in peculiar ways (always using Morse Code) became a Carl and Jerry standard. Making a spark transmitter from a broken model airplane—kew! Doing the same thing with an outboard motor, well, sure. Escaping from underneath an overturned car by making a spark transmitter out of the ignition coil, OK. Using Morse Code smoke signals to escape from murderous bootleggers...c'mon already. Been there! Done that!

Sure, we rolled our eyes—but we kept watching the mailbox for the next issue, just the same. And with the perspective of forty years of hindsight (and having read about 100 of the stories within the past two weeks) I have to admire the way that John Frye covered virtually the entire universe of hobby electronics of his day, which was *much* narrower than ours is now. Small wonder he repeated himself a little—and I grin a little to wonder what he would be able to do if he were alive and writing today!

Professor On The Professional Radio

It was not uncommon for students to be asked, "What did you do this summer?"

This same question could also be asked of the region's 'perpetual professor,' Dr. Dennis Silage, K3DS. Philadelphia's KYW Newsradio aired the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club's repeat program presenter's answer to this question.

This summer program is a part of the Marconi Challenge, a pet project of Dr. Silage.

The screenshot shows the KYW Newsradio 1060 website interface. At the top, there's a navigation menu with 'HOME', 'NEWS', 'INFORMATION', 'PROGRAMMING', 'MULTIMEDIA', and 'OUR PARTNER'. Below the menu is a search bar and a 'powered by YAHOO! SEARCH' logo. The main content area features the article title 'Temple Prof. Hosts an Electronics Challenge for Schoolkids' by Paul Kurtz, dated Friday, 22 August 2008 1:55PM. The article text describes a Marconi challenge where middle schoolers learn about wireless communications. A photo of Dr. Dennis Silage is included, along with a quote from him about the challenge. The article concludes with a note about the sound of Morse code and a photo credit to Temple University.

Watching these young electronic students learn the basics of resistors and other components was a reward by itself. An additional reward was the interest displayed in finding out more about Amateur Radio.

New ARRL Benefits

A new service for ARRL members was announced recently--all issues of QST from the beginning to 2004 are now available online! QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio.

The project is not totally completed, but the foundation for this completion is now available. There may be some articles that are continued in pages located in another area of the issue. Not all of these stories are scanned to completion, but that will be done in the future.

The following is the ARRL announcement that shares this achieve project. It will be a great help in attempts at trying to "recollect" the facts about a project or a story that may only be partially remembered.

ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive. This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) -- provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing

to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

Readers of the eDipole are reminded that this new feature is a benefit of ARRL Membership. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership <http://arrl.org/join>.

Military Intelligence

Anyone who is a James Bond fan, as well as others interested in military and espionages, will recognize the term MI 5 and MI 6. What may be surprise to this group of readers and viewers is the reality that these two departments within the United Kingdom's Military Intelligence are joined by a lengthy collection of other departments.

Gary Bodnar, K3GZ, shared a brief history and an expanded list of the many departments within the UK's Military Intelligence.

During the World War I, the British Secret Services were divided into numbered sections named Military Intelligence, department number x, abbreviated to MIx such as MI1 for information management. As the needs for this information-gathering arm expanded, so did the list. The demands of World War II are responsible for a special collection of new department

The Branch, Department, Section, and Sub-section numbers varied through the life of the department, however examples include...

- MI1 Codes and ciphers. Later merged with other code-breaking agencies and became Government Code and Cipher School (now known as Government Communications Headquarters).

- MI2 Information on Middle and Far East, Scandinavia, USA, USSR, Central and South America.
- MI3 Information on Europe and the Baltic Provinces (plus USSR, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia after Summer 1941).
- MI4 Geographical section - maps (transferred to Military Operations in April 1940).
- MI5 Liaison with Security Service, following the transfer of Security Service to the Home Office in the 1920s.
- MI6 Liaison with Secret Intelligence Service.
- MI7 Press and propaganda (transferred to Ministry of Information in May 1940).
- MI8 Signals interception and communications security.
- MI9 Escaped British POW debriefing, escape and evasion (plus enemy POW interrogation until December 1941).
- MI10 Technical Intelligence worldwide.
- MI11 Military Security.
- MI12 Liaison with censorship organizations in Ministry of Information, military censorship.
- MI13 Not used (except in fiction).
- MI14 Germany and German-occupied territories (aerial photography until Spring 1943).
- MI15 Aerial photography (in Spring 1943 aerial photography moved to the Air Ministry and MI15 became air defense intelligence).
- MI16 Scientific Intelligence (formed 1945).
- MI17 Secretariat for Director of Military Intelligence (from April 1943).
- MI18 Not used.
- MI19 Enemy POW interrogation (formed from MI9 in December 1941).
- MI (JIS) Axis planning staff.
- MI L (R) Russian Liaison.
- MI L Attaches.

November Meeting Plans

The preliminary plans for the Thursday, November 6 meeting of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club will have at its focus, "Sharpening Your Skills." This will be a 'hands-on' training gathering. It is hoped that there can be assembled possibly four learning venues.

A sample of the topics being considered include the following...

- Soldering and de soldering
- Boards, components, etc.
- Installing end connectors onto coaxial cable
- Knots for Amateur Radio use
- IRLP Training

Suggestions and volunteers are welcomed. For more information, contact Walter Faust, N3FXR, **610-622-2200**.

Amazing Home Remedies

1. Void cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. remember to use a timer.
3. Mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
4. You have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. then you'll be afraid to cough.
5. You only need two tools in life - wd-40 and duct tape. if it doesn't move and should, use the wd-40. if it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
6. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

Super Sale Announced

For many Amateur Radio operators, the reception of DX broadcast band stations help fan the fire that became the desire to become licensed. Often, it was an AM radio station affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System. Until the exchanges between CBS and NBC television stations, there was a CBS affiliate and eventually an owned and operated station. With this transfer, the CBS radio feeds that the property of the former WCAU, were no longer aired on 1210.

Until actions that became a communication's bomb on September 22, there were few concrete foundations that CBS radio would auction its 50

radio stations. It was on that date the first-round bids were due. Both industry observers and CBS CEO Les Moonves, an occasional audio guest on the CBS Television's Late Night with David Letterman are curious of the initial outcome.

Earlier, during a Goldman Sachs conference a week before the auction actions, Moonves stated, "We don't know what the marketplace is. If we don't get the right pricing for it, we're not going to sell

It should be noted that CBS was not using an investment bank to help with the auction and is instead handling it in-house. These 50 stations are located in 12 markets. In part, these markets included Las Vegas, San Diego, Baltimore, Cleveland and others.

Who might be the bidders? They may come from the list of recipients of the literature outlining the holdings and announcing the conditions of the sales. They include Cumulus Media, Entercom Communications, Bonneville Broadcasting, Connoisseur Communications, and the Tribune Co. Also included in this group are the former radio industry executive Bobby Lawrence and former CBS Radio CEO Joel Hollander.

Historically, radio stations sell for a multiple of 12 times or more annual earnings. The current, difficult financing climate and deteriorating nature of the radio business cloud or muddle this formula.

Sources state it would be a victory if CBS can get a nine or 10 times cash flow multiple.

These same sources have also projected that they expect the initial bids to be lower than the 10 times multiple. They added this first round could result in prices that are located between seven and eight times cash flow.

This sale is not a sign that CBS is leaving the radio field. There stated strategy is to slim down its radio unit to focus on the nation's Top 20 markets.

Some observers have openly stated that CBS would be better off selling the entire radio division in one shot rather than selling some stations now and deciding the future of other at a later date.

In commenting on this sale, RBC Capital Markets' David Bank stated, "The radio business is a melting ice cube. While the cash flow is valuable, CBS would be better off selling the [whole] asset today instead of waiting a couple of years and selling the rest for less."

Contributing to this broadcast industry story was Charlie Higgins, W3CAU. Mr. Higgins worked at the former CBS, City Avenue facility in Bala.

A Different Form of Communications

In a recent communications from the American Radio Relay League, Newington reminded affiliated clubs of the unique properties of Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS). NVIS is a propagation mode that uses a high angle of radiation to provide "close-in" communications.

The suggested consideration of NVIS also provided background information about the workings of this seemingly unusual launch concept. Normally, it is desired to have radiation have just the opposite type of signal launch. Through the use of a low angle, a signal has the opportunity of skip, there is a help in distance communications.

By using a high angle of radiation, there still exists a reflection of the RF. Instead of a bounce of a signal having the desired path that it "goes over the curvature of the earth," the NVIS bounce from a signal that almost goes directly above the transmitting location. This path provides a path back to the earth that is "nearby," not far away from the transmitting area.

The result is the desired ability of having short to medium distance communications. This propagation has an application for communications having a range of approximately 500 miles. No DX; instead, expanded, almost local communications.

What frequencies will be best for this form of specialized communication format? The NVIS propagation mode works with frequencies below 10 MHz. This part of the spectrum works because these frequencies are not absorbed by the atmosphere. Lacking absorption, they are reflected back to earth.

What type of special equipment must I have? Nothing special is needed. What is needed is a change in thinking. Traditional DX communications uses antenna installations that employ antennas that are at "as high a height as possible." That process is reversed with NVIS. To create a high angle of radiation, a dipole installed at a low height is used.

Why is this form of communications valuable? Because of the range this form of communications provides, the expanded area of reliable communications in this created, no-skip footprint, ranges with HF surpass that of VHF. The result of this reliable form of regional communications is an area of coverage that is far greater than that supplied by repeaters.

How can this be used? Listening to the lyrics of a song of a past generation, “No man stands alone,” is an explanation of the needs for assistance in times of local and regional emergencies. In our locale, NVIS will provide a footprint that embraces state capitals in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. On a good day, this umbrella of RF has a good chance of providing dialog with the capitals of both Ohio and Virginia. As an added bonus, NVIS will also provide communications capabilities with Washington, DC

In a non-emergency form of communications, NVIS will also open up areas of communications that in a way “violate” the normal concepts of communications. It can become its own form of unique, expanded beyond-local-but-not-DX area rag chewing.

A Lost Opportunity

Every serious hunter has the dream of “bagging” a trophy deer. An interesting story about one New York state hunter is a great example of the saying, “So close, yet so far.” What follows is truly an example of a lost opportunity.

The hunter who will know as “Ed,” began his annual quest of “bagging his buck” by beginning his hunt at 5:30 a.m. Finding what he felt was the best location to achieve this goal, he began an exhaustive search for an illusive deer. This was not his first year of hunting.

As noontime approached our fearless hunter was both extremely tire and extremely hungry. The combination of eating a portion of the large meal he had packed and his fatigue, it was not long before he was fast asleep.

A person near the quiet lunch location saw something that was true challenge. How could he hold back from an audible laugh and still take a picture of hunter Ed protecting the remainder of his

lunch. This picture is the unexpected image of the concept of “So close, yet so far.”

This was also a lost opportunity...



Holding Them In Place

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia provides some validation to a recently received e-mail message. This missive provided background on a colloquial expression that is so freely uttered, but only rarely understood.

Wikipedia began its Brass Monkey presentation with the statement, “Brass Monkey is the name of various people and things. In several cases, the people and things were named after, or as an allusion to, the colloquial expression.”

Not the first listed explanation. This is the statement that is often uttered, but rarely understood.

Brass monkey (colloquial expression), meaning something solid and inert that can only be affected by extremes, or meaning an extreme of cold.

Brass Monkey (cocktail), an alcoholic drink

Brass Monkey (band), an English folk band

Brass Monkey (film), a 1948 film

"Brass Monkey" (song), a song on the Beastie Boys' 1986 debut album Licensed to Ill

Brass Monkeys, a UK men's underwear brand.

The recent e-mail message told the following about the saying, “Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey:

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, you thought that was just a vulgar expression, didn't you? You must send this fabulous bit of historical knowledge to at least a few uneducated friends.

Always wanting to have more than one source for added validation, a check with the Merriam-Webster Dictionary has in its definitions for "monkey" one definition that parallels this use of the work "monkey."

This definition and its etymology states, "probably of Low German origin; akin to Moneke, name of an ape, probably Romance origin, akin to the old Spanish Mona: monkey

This word joined English vocabulary in 1530

Parroting a phrase from the Chicago-based, ABC news source, Paul Harvey, "Now you know the rest of the story."

Can You Be Helped?

The following collection has come almost simultaneously. The first came from Amateur

Radio operator Gary Bodnar, K3GZ and the other source was a friend from England.

These items are all reported to have come from the famous "dark hole," we know as Tech Support. These stories help in documenting the reality that not all of the seeming ineffective information comes from Technical Support.

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Customer: Hi, this is Maureen. I can't get my diskette out.

Tech support: Have you tried pushing the Button?

Customer: Yes, sure, it's really stuck.

Tech support: That doesn't sound good; I'll make a note.

Customer: No, wait a minute... I hadn't inserted it yet... it's still on my desk... sorry....

Tech support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on to the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

Tech support: Good day. How may I help you?

Male customer: Hello... I can't print.

Tech support: Would you click on 'start' for me and.

Customer: Listen pal; don't start getting technical on me! I'm not Bill Gates.

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it...

Customer: I have problems printing in red...

Tech support: Do you have a colour printer?

Customer: Aaaah... thank you.

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me.

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: OK

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in. Is there another keyboard?

Customer: Yes, there's another one here. Ah... that one does work...

Tech support: Your password is the small letter 'a' as in apple, a capital letter V as in Victor, the number 7.

Customer: Is that 7 in capital letters?

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five stars.

Tech support: What anti-virus program do you use?

Customer: Netscape.

Tech support: That's not an anti-virus program.

Customer: Oh, sorry... Internet Explorer.

Tech support: What is your problem?

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first e-mail.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?

Customer: Hi I have a problem with my Canon printer.

Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under window, and his printer is working fine.

Tech support: Okay Colin, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter 'P' to bring up the Program Manager.

Customer: I don't have a P.

Tech support: On your keyboard, Colin.

Customer: What do you mean?

Tech support: 'P'... on your keyboard, Colin.

Customer: I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT!!

Buying a Computer

You have to be old enough to remember Abbott and Costello, and too old to have grown up with computers, to fully appreciate this. For all of us who sometimes get flustered by our computers, please read on ... If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, "Who's on first?" might evolved to something like this:

Costello of the famous comedy team of Abbott and Costello tries to purchase a computer.

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?
 COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?
 ABBOTT: Wallpaper.
 COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.
 ABBOTT: Software for Windows?
 COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?
 ABBOTT: Office.
 COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?
 ABBOTT: I just did.
 COSTELLO: You just did what?
 ABBOTT: Recommend something.
 COSTELLO: You recommended something?
 ABBOTT: Yes.
 COSTELLO: For my office?
 ABBOTT: Yes.
 COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?
 ABBOTT: Office.
 COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!
 ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.
 COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?
 ABBOTT: Word.
 COSTELLO: What word?
 ABBOTT: Word in Office.
 COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.
 ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.
 COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?
 ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue "W."
 COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue "w" if you don't start giving me some straight answers. OK, forget that. Can I watch movies on the Internet?
 ABBOTT: Yes, you want Real One.
 COSTELLO: Maybe a real one, maybe a cartoon. What I watch is none of your business. Just tell me what I need!
 ABBOTT: Real One.
 COSTELLO: If it's a long movie, I also want to watch reels 2, 3 and 4. Can I watch them?
 ABBOTT: Of course.
 COSTELLO: Great! With what?

ABBOTT: Real One.
 COSTELLO: OK, I'm at my computer and I want to watch a movie. What do I do?
 ABBOTT: You click the blue "1."
 COSTELLO: I click the blue one what?
 ABBOTT: The blue "1."
 COSTELLO: Is that different from the blue W?
 ABBOTT: The blue "1" is Real One and the blue "W" is Word.
 COSTELLO: What word?
 ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.
 COSTELLO: But there are three words in "office for windows"!
 ABBOTT: No, just one. But it's the most popular Word in the world.
 COSTELLO: It is?
 ABBOTT: Yes, but to be fair, there aren't many other Words left. It pretty much wiped out all the other Words out there.
 COSTELLO: And that word is real one?
 ABBOTT: Real One has nothing to do with Word. Real One isn't even part of Office.
 COSTELLO: STOP! Don't start that again. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?
 ABBOTT: Money.
 COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?
 ABBOTT: Money.
 COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?
 ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.
 COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?
 ABBOTT: Money.
 COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?
 ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.
 COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?
 ABBOTT: One copy.
 COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?
 ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.
 COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?
 ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

A few days later...

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?
 COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?
 ABBOTT: Click on "START" ...