

DXer

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B



Andrew Destroys W1YL/W1CW Home

Ellen and Bob White, W1YL and W1CW
c/o James White
5605 East 127th Avenue
Tampa, FL 33717

Dear Ferne and Rubin:

It's been a rough few weeks for all Homestead/South Dade County Florida residents, and we were no exception. We weathered the storm at home, expecting what had been predicted—some high winds and a storm surge. Our home is well elevated so we felt secure from rising water.

Winds in excess of 164 MPH bore directly down on us and, in a few hours, changed our lives. We survived, but it may take a long time to recover emotionally.

The destruction was incomprehensible. Our new screened porch blew away. Our two-car garage blew away. All three towers and all the wire antennas blew down. Three sheds blew away, ruining tons of "good stuff." The solar water heater blew away. The roof over my computerized office was wrecked, and an enormous quantity of wind-driven water entered. What was left of the roof was more like a sieve. Every tree was stripped of limbs and either down or broken in two. One tree pierced the windshield of Bob's van.

Every power pole and line went down, leaving lines, transformers, and insulators covering the roads. Trees fell everywhere, making access to the main roads impossible.

Without power, we couldn't pump water from the well and we lacked refrigeration, air conditioning, phones, even water for sanitation. I remain amazed that more people didn't lose their lives.

For a week we hung in there, hoping our home was retrievable. But that was self-delusion. It soon became clear that power and phones might not be restored for months. During the second week we were lucky to find that our indoor radio gear, entertainment electronics, and some basic furniture were salvageable. K1ZX came down from Tampa twice on weekends—a long drive—with ice and food. He attempted to fix the roof leaks too.

On his second trip, he brought his wife and daughter and two trucks—to help us pack up and to get us out. The emotional toll was apparent. It was time.

After a midweek anxiety attack, I had a courtesy ride in a MASH ambulance to a local hospital. Apparently anxiety simulates early heart problems but, thankfully, a night of close monitoring in a cool hospital room proved beneficial. I just needed the brief respite.

Bob and I are both lucky to normally have low blood pressure. It served us well during this stressful time.

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Coming Soon:

- Livermore Swap Meet: 1st Sunday of month, 7 A.M. to noon. Contact N7TVE.
- Winterfest '93: January 16 at Monterey Peninsula College Armory, 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. Ham demonstrations and flea market. Contact Doug McKinney, KC3RL at 408/663-6117.
- International DX Convention, April 16–18 at the Visalia Holiday Inn. Contact K6ITL.

November Meeting

George, WA6O, will give a presentation at the Nov. 13 club meeting at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto. Attitude adjustment begins at 6, the meeting at 7.

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B

Club Officers:

President: Bob Artigo, KN6J
 Vice President: George Allan, WA6O
 Secretary: Garry Shapiro, NI6T
 Treasurer: Melissa Thomas, AA6TD
 Director: Dewey Churchill, KG6AM
 Director: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q
 Director: Bill Fontes, W6TEX

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 2520 Heather Lane
 San Bruno, CA 94066
 (or via DXPSN)

Membership Data: John Cronin Jr., K6LLK

Club Repeater, W6TI/R, (147.36+)

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Comm. Chairman: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q

Club simplex: 147.54 (suggested)

Thurs. Net QTR: 8 p.m. local time.

Net Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q

DX News: Dave Pugach, KI6WF

Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ

Contest News: Rich Hudgins, WX6M

Westlink: Craig Smith, N6ITW

Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU
 933 Robin Lane
 Campbell, CA, 95008
 408-374-0372

QSL Information: Mac McHenry, W6BSY

W6TI DX Bulletins:

W6TI Station Trustee Bob Vallio, W6RGG, transmits DX information at 2:00 zulu every Monday (Sunday evening local time) on both 7.016 and 14.002 MHz.

Club address: Box 608
 Menlo Park, CA
 94026-0608

The DXer is published Monthly by the Northern California DX Club and sent to all club members.

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General Meeting

Bob, KN6J, presided over the October 9 meeting at Harry's Hoffbrau in Palo Alto. The minutes were submitted by Stan, K6MA (standing in for Garry, NI6T).

- John Gregan, AP/WA2WYR, just off the plane from Karachi, was a visitor. He had stopped by to see his QSL manager, KK6TX, on his way to Washington, D.C.
- Tom, N6BT, presented a program on his use of Yagi Stress (YS) to develop strong, lightweight beams and how this led him to start his new antenna manufacturing company, Force 12. His antennas feature riveted element construction, quick assembly, pre-mounted element-to-boom plates, and no vibration in the wind. His "neighborhood friendly" antennas will include yagis, stacks, and WARC and 80/40-meter dipoles.
- Knock, K6ITL, gave a Visalia '93 report. He said the theme will be "The Changing World of DX" and that the patch contest is still open. (Send your patch designs to Steve, W6MKM.) Knock said the program isn't all "locked in" yet, but initial publications are being printed. He also mentioned plans for a Friday night barbecue.
- Summer Marathon winners were announced by Dick, WB6WKM, as follows:
 - Overall: WG6P (222 mixed)
 - CW: N6EA (154)
 - SSB: WA6AHF (174)
 - Mixed: WG6P (222)

In the special categories (W = working stiff, R = retired):

CW(W): W6FAH
 CW(R): N6EA
 SSB(W): WB6WKM
 SSB(R): WA6AHF
 Mixed(W): WG6P
 Mixed(R): W6KQK

- John, AP/WA2WYR, gave a slide presentation on his operations in Pakistan. He was the first foreigner to operate there. With FT727, SB200, and homebrew quad (later, a Cushcraft A3) he "operated a lot because American Embassy personnel must keep a low profile."—in other words, stay out of sight. Two other American hams plan to replace him in Karachi.
- W6CF reported on DXAC activities and the DJ6SI controversy.
- Craig, N6ITW, announced this year's Christmas party (see page 4).
- There were second readings for Arvid E. Hamer, WA6UUT; Robert Sohl, WA6BYA; and Eric Aubery, N6WFK. All three were voted into membership.
- There were no first readings.

Roster Changes

Change:

Doug Beck, K6ZX
 Box 1107
 Merlin, OR 97532

Robert Sohl, WA6BYA
 1101 Martin Road
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 H: 408/423-2907
 W: 408/423-0908

New Members:

Arvid E. Hamer, WA6UUT
 991 Echo Drive
 Los Altos, CA 94024
 H: 415/941-3229

Eric Aubery, N6WFK
 308 Sequoia,
 Redwood City, CA 94061
 H: 415/327-9848
 W: 415/323-3111

Treasurer's Report

September 1 through September, 1992


Checking Account Activity:

August 31 EOM Balance	\$6810.67
Receipts	1236.00
Sub-total	8046.67
Expenditures	<u>< 771.87 ></u>
September 30 EOM Balance	\$7274.80

Savings Account Activity:

Life Membership Fund-	
Eureka Bank 9/30/92	\$10,202.42
C.D. Eureka Bank 7/31/92	\$14,997.79
Repeater Fund 6/30/92	\$ 1,270.36

AA6YD Feature Story Makes QST

Look on page 70 of the October '92 QST and you'll see a story by our own Joe Mastroianna, AA6YD, titled "The Future of Ham Radio." The story reads well and makes a good point. Read it and be sure to congratulate Joe the next time you see him or hear him on the club repeater. 

Positive Thinking

I was going to buy a copy of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, and then I thought: What the hell good would that do?

—Ronnie Shakes

Two Canadian National Clubs Become One

The Canadian Radio Relay League and the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation will soon become one. Members of Canada's two national radio clubs have voted to unite under the new name Radio Amateurs of Canada. The first RAC executive meeting was held October 3, 1992.

YU Postal Codes

Mail to the former Yugoslavia should now indicate the recipient's independent sovereign state, one of the following: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro, or Serbia.

The address should also contain the new postal code numbers given in U.S. Postal Bulletin 21821, 8-6-92, pp36-7. Ask your local post office for a copy.

Ineligible

It is inaccurate to say I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency. This makes me forever ineligible for any public office.

—H.L. Mencken

Spectrum Protection Bill Dies as Congress Adjourns

The 102nd Congress adjourned without passing the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Bill. On the positive side, 535 members of Congress were introduced to Amateur Radio in presentations made to them by ARRL, and most were receptive.

A majority in the House, 219 representatives, became co-sponsors. On the Senate side, the bill had 35 co-sponsors.

Amateurs did a super job of becoming active in the political process. We demonstrated we could wield clout, and that never goes unnoticed in Washington.

The legislation will be reintroduced in the 103rd Congress and I'm sure the League will call on you again to write letters.

DXCC Conversion Project On-Target

Since the project to convert DXCC records to computer database format began October 1, 1991, ARRL staff workers have entered 2.8 million country credits, close to the 3 million estimated for the project's first year.

from the October and November ARRL Pacific Division Update, published by ARRL Pacific Division Director Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD. You can write Chuck at 1658 W. Mesa Ave., Fresno, CA 93711-1944, call him at 209/431-2038, or communicate via N6ZGY on packet.


Relative TVI

by Bill Schmall, WD6AFC

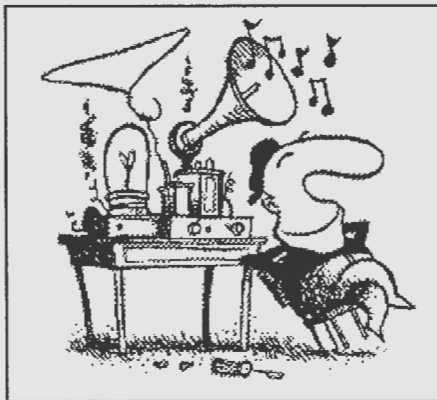
Television interference is hell, especially when it's your mother who's complaining.

I set the VCR to videotape a movie for my mother while she went golfing.

Next Saturday evening, our family settled in with popcorn and beer to watch that movie. Everything was fine until, just when the plot thickened, we heard, "AFC ... AFC." Then, "This is WD6AFC. You're five and 9. Thanks and 73."

My mother and my wife weren't amused. Only time I ever TVI'ed myself, too. 

Remembering Radio



by William J. Barney—Oak Park, N.Y.

Robert P. Hey's article (May AARP Bulletin), *Radio Days*, brought back

happy memories of my radio adventures in the 1920s and '30s.

First I put together crystal sets. Then I got into tubes and batteries, and finally constructed a super-heterodyne set with loudspeaker.

I wonder if anyone remembers the night in 1925 (I believe) when every radio station in the country went off the air so long-distance buffs might tune in overseas broadcasts? On my little one-tube set of the time, I picked up a station in England playing "Roses in Picardy." What a thrill.

from the July/August 1992 American Association of Retired Persons 'Bulletin'—sent in by Ray, K6FD



Northern California DX Club Christmas Dinner Party

When: December 11th (Second Friday)
Where: The Bold Knight - Sunnyvale
Time: Cocktails start at 6:30 (0230 Gmt) * No Host
Dinner starts at 7:30 (0330 Gmt)

Hot and Cold Hors' D' Oeuvres



Entrees
Roast Prime Rib
Chicken Kiev
Filet of Salmon
(Choice of one)



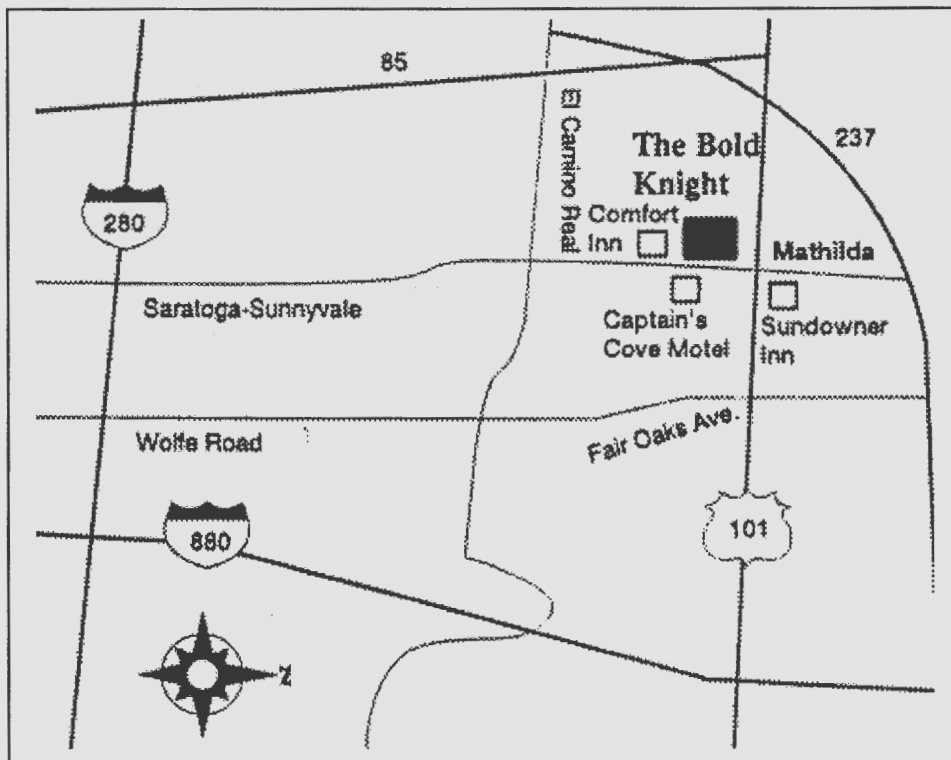
Desert
Surprise!
Complimentary Wine with Dinner

A Special Treat: The Christmas Island DXpedition T32
Video and slide presentation which is
sure to leave you spellbound!!!
\$ 1000.00 in fabulous "Door Prizes"!!!



Send your check for \$25 made out to :NCDXC
By November 30th to: Craig Smith / Prism Sales
21760 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, Ca. 95014

***** Indicate your entree choice on your check *****



Why Are We Called Hams?

by Gord, VE7TGR

Ever wonder why radio amateurs are called hams? Here's the story. Albert Hymen, Bob Almy, and Peggie Murray were members of the Harvard Radio Club in 1908. They set up and operated one of the first non-commercial wireless stations.

In the early days of radio, there were no regulations. Radio pioneers used whatever callsigns they wanted. At first, the Harvard group signed HYMAN/ALMY/MURRAY, but they soon tired of tapping out that long sequence so they shortened it to HYALMU, using just the first two letters of each name. Then, in 1909, someone confused their station with a Mexican ship, the Myalmo. After that, they used just the first letters of their three names, HAM.

Sometimes they interfered with commercial stations and the interference came to the attention of Congressional committees, which considered severely limiting amateur activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the resulting Wireless Regulations Bill as the subject of his thesis at Harvard.

Albert's professor insisted he send a copy to Senator David Walsh, which he did. The senator was so impressed he asked Hyman to appear before his Senate committee. On the stand, Hyman described the little station, HAM, the three friends had built. He almost cried as he told the crowded committee room the license fees and other requirements in the bill would force the station off the air.

That started the debate, pitting the little HAM station and others like it against commercial station interests. The HAM station became a symbol of the little guy fighting the greed of powerful corporations. When the bill was debated on the Senate floor, every speaker talked about the poor little HAM station. The resulting publicity forever identified amateur radio with the word ham.

You'll find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

from the September '92 Delaware-Lehigh Valley 'W3OK Corral'—W3PYF Editor

Winter Antenna Work

by Harry Westervelt, NA2K

In northern climes we face all kinds of inclement weather during the winter. Ice and water buildup cause antenna system failures. Such problems usually occur at the worst time, but the antenna is critical to staying on the air, so we must be ready to make repairs when they are needed. But antenna repair in cold weather can be hazardous to anyone not prepared.

I've noticed as I've grown older that easy summer tasks seem monumental in winter. Bulky clothing, gloves, short daylight hours, and general discomfort make jobs less attractive. Also, Mother Nature and Murphy sometimes conspire to complicate matters—with ice, water and corrosion.

Proper planning is essential for you and the work team. You may think you can do a job alone, but before you proceed consider asking a friend to help. Winter work goes slowly and extra hands will help get a job done before nightfall.

Working outdoors in winter, you fatigue quickly because your body's core burns energy just to keep warm, so get enough rest beforehand.

Hat and gloves and warm boots shouldn't be overlooked. In all seasons, a properly constructed climbing belt is a must for safety, as are hard-hats for the ground crew.

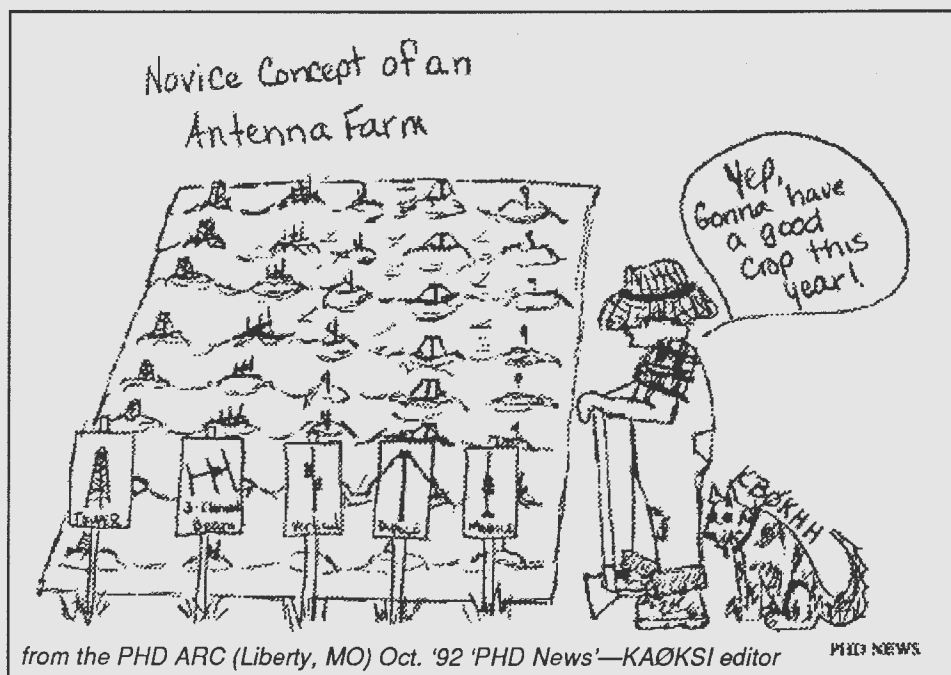
Take breaks and go indoors to warm up. Consume a warm cup of Jello for energy, rather than coffee.

Be sure to allow enough time to complete your project. If it is complicated or involved, perhaps you should plan to devote the entire weekend to it.

Advanced planning should include getting all the needed hardware and having the right tools.

Tools often become unmanageable through work gloves so plan to work slowly and bring parts indoors for repair when that is practical.

from the Feb. '92 issue of 'NJDXA Newsletter,' the paper of the North Jersey DX Assoc.



Clean Air Petition

by Burt Hicks, WB6MQV

For years, on-the-air operations have continued to degrade on the Amateur bands. Originally, most poor operating was limited to VHF repeaters in major cities and to a few nets on HF.

But now there seems no safe haven for normal, civilized hams. Twenty meters has reached unbelievable levels of foul language, jamming, music, catcalls, channel cops, and arrogant broadcasters.

Ten meters, right in the Novice portion, has some of the worst obscene language short of the Los Angeles "Animal Farm" repeater on 147.435.

These selfish operators—who believe they have the right to transmit filth and everyone else better get the heck out of the way—are ruining the hobby for most others and chasing prospective new hams away.

For some time, the ARRL and its Amateur Auxiliary have been assisting the FCC in gathering data to try to control the situation; and yes, they have had some success. But we are losing the battle.

Only the FCC has the authority to act decisively. Short of becoming vigilantes, there is little the rest of us can do to stop this

madness. But we can band together and pressure the FCC to pay attention to our concerns.

The Ham Radio Business Council selected me as its first president. The Council feels the situation is becoming intolerable and that it will adversely affect the current recruitment efforts designed to rejuvenate Amateur Radio. And this is badly needed, given the average age of American hams—55 years.

I began circulating petitions at the Dayton Hamvention this year—petitions calling on the FCC to move decisively to enforce the existing radio laws and clean up our bands. But before Dayton, I called Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. I described the problem, the petition, and asked if he would be willing to sign it. He said, "Put me down. I'm with you all the way." So I flew to Arizona to meet him. Barry happily became the first to sign.

The petition has also received the support of the leaders of the Amateur Radio industry, whose executives recognize the threat and understand that we must have a return to civility if the hobby is to survive.

continued on page 11

Amateur Morse Examiner

by Brian Faulkner (Station Manager of Land's End Radio, GLD, in England)

Shortly after I became Portpatrick (Scotland) Radio GPK station manager, a test application form arrived through the post (the way the Amateur test was paid for at that time). I had just been promoted, but with no training in how to conduct the test, I had been dreading this moment.

In an old filing cabinet, I found a dog-eared copy of the Amateur Morse Test, several sheets of test papers, and the forms to fill in after each test session.

When the examinee arrived, I don't know who was more nervous, he or I. But between us we managed and he went away happy. The experience also showed the need for a more accurate way of calculating 12 WPM than glancing at my watch.

Scared Stiff

I'm still amazed at the variety of people who came to take those tests. Some I remember well, like the famous cellist who was off work with cellist's wrist (similar to tennis elbow) and the old fellow who rang me to see if he could come on short notice.

An Englishman living in Indonesia, who was on holiday, he wanted a British callsign. After the test he gave me his business card and told me to call any time I was in Jakarta.

There was the owner of a sweet factory, teachers, schoolboys, doctors, AA men, and the unemployed. They all had one thing in common—they were scared stiff. My wife never understood why. "It's only a hobby," she'd say.

Most should have passed the test without problems; they knew the material and the code. But at the test desk, with blank paper and Morse key, they became gibbering wrecks. I tried many things to help them relax. Sometimes I showed them around the station. Some I took outdoors for fresh air. Some needed coffee—or something stronger. One or two got nauseous. Somehow, I coaxed or cajoled most to at least take the test.

Once they reached the stage of sitting down, I tried to lull them into a false sense of security. On the pretext of giving us both some practice, I suggested the examinee might jot down what I sent. I would send the whole test and say, "How was that?" Invariably they had gotten it all and, when I suggested we might as well call it quits and consider that practice the actual exam, their sighs of relief and facial expressions were a joy to behold.

It did backfire occasionally. Once, I watched a fellow out of the corner of my eye. He wasn't writing anything down. When I stopped and asked how he was getting on, he said, "No trouble at all." It turned out he had been a seagoing radio officer. He was reading in his head.

A few couldn't pass in a month of Sundays. You could spot them the minute they started sending. But no amount of pleading could stop them from asking for "just one more go."

No Spaces

One fellow had no trouble receiving my Morse, except that he left no spaces between words; his paper was one long line of letters. Yet he made no mistakes. He told me he had taught himself using a tutor giving random letters, and had never copied plain language text!

For his next bombshell, he said no one had ever listened to his sending. This, I must admit, was blatantly obvious when he tried his hand at the key.

It turned out he lived in a remote area and had no contact with Amateurs. I was able to give him some addresses and a few months later he passed the test.

Once a husband and wife took the test at the same time. Both were in good spirits, but the wife passed and the husband failed. I was glad I wasn't in their car going home! The husband came back a month later, but failed again.

An unusual episode began when a man of 96 arrived with a young lad. After the boy had taken the test, I chatted with the old fellow and learned he had been a radio

officer before and during World War I. He said he had been shipwrecked three times and had later worked for the Post Office. When I showed him photographs of equipment from around 1921, his eyes lit up. He told me he had used the type of gear pictured and he described what each part did.

I occasionally got a "try-on" merchant, someone who couldn't or wouldn't learn Morse but thought if he pleaded illness or a disability, would get special treatment. One joker told me he was dying, but I found out he had never been sick a day in his life.

Chindit Memories

There were some who really were ill but had stuck at it for months and finally felt able to take the test. In exceptional circumstances, we could go to the person's home. I made a 160-mile round trip once to test an elderly gent who rewarded me with stories of his days in the Far East with the Chindits. When I told him he had passed, he burst into tears.

Another time I went to test a man who was ill. He was cheerful enough and passed the test, but he died just two weeks later. His wife told me the only thing that had kept him going was his determination to become a ham. Once he achieved his goal, he quickly went downhill.

Only a Joke

There were funny moments, like the time I tested a terrified driving test examiner. He told me he would feel a lot more sympathy for his "victims" from then on.

A colleague with a dry wit was once asked by an examinee how much the fee was. "Ten pounds if you fail, twenty for a pass," he said, and £5 notes came flying out of pockets. That joke took some explaining.

People traveling long distances used to take the test at a coast station rather than go to a ship inspection office whose tests were given only on certain days. Some said we were more friendly and our tests less nerve-racking.

continued on page 10

Dear Elmer

by Elmer Quirk, ex-W7VJT, -WB6ZHH

Dear Elmer:

Every time I call a DXpedition station, others come on frequency and shout or send "UP-UP." Or they comment on my ancestry. Why? I always tune accurately.

—Zero-Beat in Cincinnati

Dear Zero:

Here are some possible reasons:

1. They want you to go to heaven—now. Be glad they don't yell "DOWN."
2. You aren't running enough power. If you are "barefoot," turn on your linear and "UP" your power.
3. The *other* thing happening on frequency is a yacht race. The coach, on shore, wants his team to steer "up"—more into the wind. If so, ignore them; DXing is more important than yacht racing, unless you're in the race.
4. They hope to confuse you into going away so they can hear: *a.* the DX station, or *b.* the yacht-team's coach. But the frequencies are there for all to enjoy, aren't they? No worries.
5. The DX station is operating "split." No, I don't mean assuming an unnatural posture (even if he's a phone man). Operating split is transmitting on *one* frequency and listening on *another*. If you suspect this, try it yourself. Set one VFO to receive on the DX station's frequency and tune the transmit VFO "UP"—to a higher frequency.

The trick is to find the guy the DX is working, by listening on the transmit VFO (Use the TF-button). If you can find a pattern, you can call on the frequency where the DX will listen next.

It's not easy. Some call on the DX frequency, and many send all the time—seldom listening, and then at the wrong time. To find the stations the DX works, "ya gotta have rhythm." Send or say your call just once, then listen.

If you don't "have rhythm," or if you suffer abuse badly, give up DXing and become editor of your club's newsletter. On second thought, take up fishing—solo fishing.

Dear Elmer:

I worked a guy the other day who said his antenna is a beam. When I said mine is a quad, he said he had considered a quad, but heard beams are better, so he put up a 3-element triband yagi beam. Who's confused, him or me?

—Quad from Quincy

Dear Bamboo-zled (Fiber-glassed?):

Beam, my bass! (see above) Any antenna more directive than a dipole is a beam—that's beam as in flashlight beam. Your yagi certainly *is* a beam, just one of many kinds of beams. The boob you worked subscribes to the perversion that *beam* and *yagi* are synonyms. He and others of his persuasion seem to think the word *beam* refers to the *structure* of an antenna, an idea that smells of 27 MHz origins.

So when a ham says his antenna is a beam, it's a safe bet he's missing some dits. Next time you meet someone like that, tell him it's time for your tower-climbing exercises and pull the big switch.

And if you and that guy cross wavelengths again, tell him about your clandestine receiving antenna—the phase-locked loop. If he buys that, don't bother explaining that your quad is a beam. You might feel better if you tell him your quad is the equal of any tribander a ninny like him would buy but—uh—first make sure he is located at least 500 miles away.



Hamcall

by Tom Palko, WB5ASD

Having just purchased the new Hamcall CD ROM from Buckmaster Publishing, I feel a plug is in order.

This latest version is easier to use and contains more calls than ever—over 820,000. It also has more ham-related software than before. The new release adds Canadian calls and updates U.S. calls. The CD also contains a new program, ICALL.EXE, that allows all-call lookup. Another new inclusion, HAM.EXE, performs faster searches than the older search program. They have even added a "TSR" called LOOKUP that puts a pop-up menu on the screen when you're running other software.

What? You don't have a CD ROM yet? Then you can access most of the new CD ROM's offerings via the Silver Dollar BBS. Just type HAMCALL when you're in the MAIN or either HAM conference and you'll be prompted through DoorWay to the ICALL program.

To log in to the American Silver Dollar BBS, set your modem to its fastest data rate, 8 bits, no parity, one stop-bit, then call 318/443-0271 and follow the prompts.

from the July '92 'The Brass Key'—WG5W Editor

A Back-Country Lifesaver

by George Hinds, N8CIX

Hikers, mountain bikers, and skiers who roam the back country are awakening to the value of Amateur Radio as a way of getting help in life-threatening situations.

No other form of personal communications has the range of an Amateur Radio handheld aided by a repeater.

When the FCC created a code-free class of Amateur Radio license in 1991, it opened hamming to those for who perceived Morse code as a barrier. Thousands, ranging in age from 8 to 80, are now joining the ranks of Amateur Radio.

Search and rescue teams increasingly depend on hams, as Amateur Radio

continues to prove its value during field tests and during real emergency operations.

The Civil Air Patrol now encourages its members to become hams so they can use Amateur repeaters during their searches for down airplanes.

Surely the time is right for you to encourage your family members and friends to become hams. It is smart in terms of personal safety for those who venture into the back country, but it applies to those driving the freeways too.

Having help as close as that little microphone is reassuring.

from the August '92 Pikes Peak RAA 'Ø-Beat'—NKØP Editor

How to Be a Lid

A.J. Massa, W5VSR, and
Dave Barton, AF6S

[based on W5VSR's original, which ran in the September 1978 Ham Radio Horizons.]

Lid (lid), n.[Amateur Radio colloq.] a poor operator.

Today Amateur Radio faces an alarming number of new operators filling the airwaves. Many learned just enough of Amateur Radio to pass the test, including little, if anything, on operating.

If you fall into that group, treasure your lid status, and assuming you hate to do anything half-way, here's some material that will help you become an accomplished, full-fledged super-lid.

The most popular liddism is "QRZ the frequency." Its main advantage is that its meaning is unclear. The ARRL defines "QRZ?" as a CW abbreviation for "who is calling me?" On phone it must mean something else; I can't imagine a frequency calling anyone. I have heard a W5 confirm his Chief Lid status by uttering, "QRZ the channel." After a long silence, a voice responded, "This is the channel speaking. I wasn't calling you."

You need not stay on phone to prove yourself a lid; you can do it just as well on CW.

Those phone QRZs are real winners. Use them and you'll chase all the experienced operators off the frequency and out of their gourds—a goal lids seem to savor.

Using any Q-signal on phone is liddish. Devised for CW, the Q-signals are a shorthand for that mode. They're useless on phone, because you can say what you mean faster and more clearly in straight English. That's why they make such perfect liddisms.

Sometimes you hear a Lid-First Class complaining about "Q-R-Mary," "Q-R-Nancy," or "Q-S-Baker," when any normal person would just say. "There's heavy

interference," "The band is noisy," or "Your signal is fading."

You need not stay on phone to prove yourself a lid; you can do it just as well on CW. The ARRL defines Q-signals as complete phrases. For instance, QTH means "My location is." CW lids send, "My QTH is" ("My my location is is"). I've even heard, "Who is QRZing me?" and "There's QSB on your signal." These super-redundancies beggar the civilized mind and *you* can do them too. It just takes practice.

My next example is a bit common but, hey, what's being a lid all about? Again borrowing from CW, phone lids say HI, or even HI-HI, when they think something is funny—usually something *they* said. Presumably they do it to make sure you know it's funny. Come to think of it, that may be the only clue you'll get.

Give your callsign phonetically, even on VHF or when conditions are perfect—another common liddism. Do it after you have established contact, to be sure the other person already knows your call. Phonetic callsigns allow you to occupy maximum air-time with minimum exchange of information or intelligence—a subclass many liddisms fall into.

To use even more air-time, give the callsigns of everyone in a roundtable at the beginning and end of every transmission, no matter how short. And don't forget to say, "for ID" after your callsign.

Standard phonetics aren't liddish in difficult conditions, of course, but that's when true lids resort to "cute" phonetics. Refusing to use the ARRL ones makes it difficult for the other guy—worse than not using phonetics at all. You can practice the nadir of this liddism class by braying cute phonetics at a DX operator whose first language isn't English.

Speaking of DX, I hear "CQ Dog X-ray" all the time. Some jazz it impressively, as in "CQ Dog X-ray, beaming Asia." This tells the world you don't fool around with mere wire antennas. But if you think saying an incantation such as "beaming Asia" will

improve your antenna's directivity, you're going beyond mere liddism into the twilight zone—or maybe just the realm of impressive ignorance. Of course, a real lid wouldn't aim his beam at the DX, anyway. He'd aim it at the DXers in his own country.

The all-time number one DX liddism is listening in the foreign part of the band while transmitting in the U.S. portion, without first listening to see whether your transmit frequency is clear. You can cause normal people to bite nails this way.

A true lid never gives his or her real name. Saying "Handle's The Beaver" is far liddier than plain old "My name is Doug." Also, punctuate all your remarks with "by golly" and give signal reports as "You're wall-to-wall and tree-top tall!"

Give your callsign phonetically, even on VHF or when conditions are perfect.

All SSB lids love speech processors and most daisy-chain two, turn both gains wide, open, and bellow "CQ Dog X-ray" for five minutes without ever listening. This is an effective way to display your progress toward Super Lid class. It won't work to raise DX, of course, since no one will be able to understand your callsign.

Here's another liddism for roundtables. Say, "Break" or "Break-break" or even "Breaker-breaker" on frequency. You'll remove all doubt concerning what band you learned your operating on. To augment the effect, give no callsigns—yours or theirs, never listen beforehand, and, tune up on frequency before you even say your first "Break." After all, aren't the bands there for all to enjoy?

Here are some quickies: Say "Go," "Come back," "Come on back," or "C'mon, good buddy" instead of "Over." Remember, a lid always has to say something at the end of every transmission. And don't neglect The Broderick Crawford ("10-4"). "That's a big 10-4" shows real class.

If you practice these tips, you can become a serious lid. Master them and you'll graduate to Lid, Extra Class.

The FCC no longer requires hams to indicate portable operation. When they

changed that rule, they eliminated some fine liddisms, such as "This is Whiskey Five Very Strong Radio Port Five." (I typed this on my port typewriter!)

Did you ever hear someone who sounded like he was operating from a dungeon? You can get this effect by turning your mike gain way up and placing the mike two feet from your face (Disk jockeys do it to sound "cool"). Listeners will hear your kids five rooms away, cars going by on your street, and cats doing as cats will on the roof at night. But make sure those sounds aren't more interesting than what you are saying (which might be difficult).

Of course, a super-lid wouldn't stop with his mike gain fully clockwise, nooo siree. He'd get a "power mike." Everyone knows transmitters never have enough mike gain.

No list of liddisms can ever be complete. After the ones I've described grow stale, your creative juices may flow. You could be the inventor of new ones. Remember, any significant redundancy other than in bad propagation conditions is liddish, the sillier the better. And almost anything heard on 27 meters qualifies.

Every mode and every ham activity presents opportunities to display your liddish accomplishments and to invent new liddisms. But don't worry; that old

DXing offers spectacular lidding.

standby—calling CQ forever and never listening, works on any mode, any time, on any frequency. Meteor burst mode, for instance, just begs for long CQs!

Ordinary DXing offers spectacular lidding. You can thrill thousands by calling on frequency when a rare DX is operating "split." You can ask for QSL information or "What's his call?" You can holler "Up-up" or cuss on frequency. Cussing is another whole class of lidding and it's gaining in popularity—fast.

I'm sure you understand the concept now, if you didn't before. Remember, the possibilities are endless. The bands are chock full of great new lidding ideas, so just lis ... ah, oops. I'm sooo sorry! I slipped badly there. Real lids never listen. Listening is a dangerous thing. Do it much and you'll lose your touch!



A Real Dome Antenna

by Gary Hartley, K4HTV

Everett Lowman, K4EPD, upgraded to a "talking license" in 1955 and ran straight into a problem we still have today—antenna restrictions. Everett's father, pastor of the Boone United Methodist Church, wouldn't let him put up antennas because the parsonage was only 26 feet from the church.

Everett shared his problem with his ham friends. One of us suggested the copper-sheeted dome on the church might make a good antenna. We all agreed to help Everett give it a try.

Working only when the pastor was out of town and at night, we taped the feed coax to a telephone cable between the parsonage and the church, connected the coax shield to the downspouts for a ground, and soldered the coax center conductor directly to the dome's copper sheeting.

Knowing the pastor would be busy then, we began testing the "antenna" during a wedding. The dome didn't want to load on 20 meters, but we kept trying things and, as the wedding party made its way slowly up the aisle, the old PA system announced, "This will never work!"

The volume was down so no one could tell where that voice had come from.

On 15 meters, the dome loaded well. Everett wanted to call CQ, but one of us thought it too risky. Meanwhile the pastor was asking, "Do you, James, take this woman, Diana, to be your lawful wedded wife?" Before the groom could answer, the PA system boomed, "You better not." Then the pastor recognized his son's voice saying, "CQ CQ."

The pastor held up his hand. "Please wait just a minute," he said and raced out of the church, into the parsonage, up the stairs, and into Everett's bedroom, shouting, "Stop that! Stop that right now!"

Everett did get a stay of execution, but only to go next door and apologize. All three of us caught "hail Columbia" later. We also suffered a one-month confiscation of our microphones. And Everett and the rest of us have wondered ever since whether we could have made contacts using that dome as an antenna.

from the October '92 Watauga (NC) Amateur Radio Club 'Watauga Wavelength'—KC4WCK Editor

HEARD ON THE PARTY LINE by Charley Vorderberg, W0CCT

If the meek shall inherit the earth, whom are we hams to talk to?

In our hamshack, we have a place for everything, but it's always someplace else.

Some enjoy letting the chat out of the bag—slight-of-tongue artists ... with a keen sense of rumor ... who burn their sandals at both ends ... and are experts at hintimation.

"Opened by mistake" could be a letter, a package, a door, or ... a mouth.

Some hams have a gift of gab. That's great ... if they know when to wrap it up.

At last, we have a rare book, a 1982 ARRL Handbook. What makes it so rare? It was returned by the person we loaned it to in '82.

Too often on 75 meters, a word to the wise is enough to start an argument.

Some in our club change their ways when they see the light. Others just feel the heat. In the same club, there are three types of hair: unparted, parted, and departed.

Wisdom, in an eyeball QSO, is shutting your mouth before someone shuts your eye.

Ben Franklin may have discovered electricity, but the bloke who invented the electric meter made all the money.

SHORT SHORTS:

The Jr. op likes school, when it's closed.

One XYL said, "My OM's out of ardor!"

A friend in need is a friend indeed—especially if he'll let us break in.

Watch it, OM, Easy Street may be a blind alley.

Bizarre Antenna

by Mick Lindley, KB4UPI

We who run HF mobile are well aware our antennas are bizarre—that is, odd in manner or appearance—a perfect description of an HF mobile antenna, whether a Hamstick wound on a fiberglass rod, an Outbacker with taps for each band, or a Hustler like mine.

Mounted on my pickup's back bumper, the top of my antenna's mast has one of those adapters that let you put on as many as five resonators. Other than a ham, only a porcupine could love it.

My wife no longer mentions it too often, but when we go out county hunting, she does

watch the looks we get. On a two-lane road, the other drivers get only a glance, but on four-lane roads they check us out thoroughly.

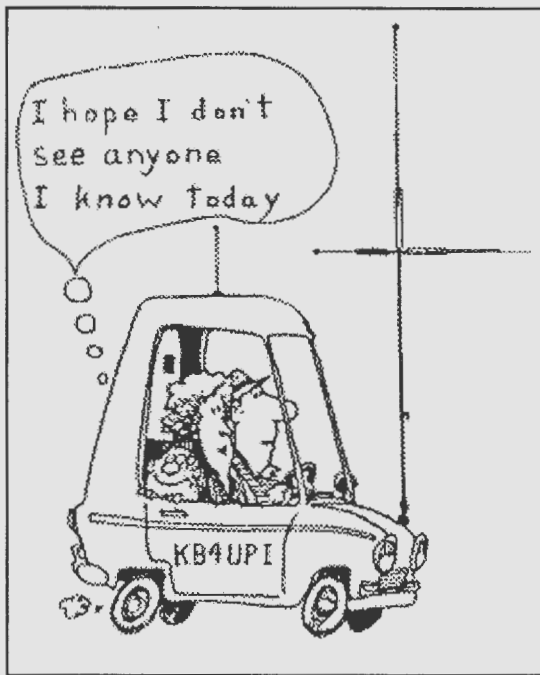
Imagine being a non-ham and approaching from behind. At first you might think it's one of those bathroom hangers for female unmentionables. In any case, you might wonder what kind of peckerwood would put a thing like that on his car.

As you pull parallel, your neck might stretch a bit as you look closer. The other occupants of your car will be looking too. It didn't bother me until I realized these people were staring at *me*.

One day I decided to give 'em a dose of their own. I stared back, grinning from ear to ear. Try it some time. Their heads will all turn away, as if you were the farthest thing from their mind, and their car will accelerate away. Maybe they're trying to escape before I zap them into some other space-time dimension.

My wife long ago accepted my madness, but not my daughters. I remember Lisa, as she slid into the seat beside me, saying, "I hope I don't see anyone I know today." She was only ten then. A few years later, both daughters refused to ride in the truck unless I took the antenna off first.

from the September '92 Birmingham ARC 'The Birmingham'—KB4UPI Editor



Amateur Morse Examiner

continued from page 6

All Doctors

Nine medical doctors once came over from Northern Ireland on a day trip. My office was intended to take one examinee at a time, but I managed three at a go; one had the luxury of a spare desk, one leaned on the window sill, and the other perched his paper on his knee. They all passed, and left immediately to catch the next ferry so they wouldn't be late for duty that afternoon.

Unfortunately, testing is time-consuming and the fee didn't cover the cost. When British Telecom eventually lost out to the RSGB, who now administer Amateur tests, I wasn't surprised.

from the Easter '92 'Morsum Magnificat,' published by G3GSR, 9 Wetherby Close, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8JB, England. U.S. Subscriptions are \$18 (cash only).

By the Pound

by Missy Stone, KB5DBX

Ever wonder whether you're getting a good deal on what you buy? Well, I've done the leg-work. Here's how much you might pay for one pound of a variety of products:

Product	Approx. \$/lb.
Concrete mix	.03
Horse feed	.12
Sugar, refined	.42
Orange juice, canned	.42
House, typical	.52
Apple, McIntosh (the fruit)	.89
Tissue, Charmin	.99
Penny, Lincoln	1.79
QST Magazine	4.41
Car, Pontiac Grand Am	4.82
Weed eater, McCulloch	8.90
Aspirin, generic	14.50
Amplifier, SB-1000	16.67
Nutmeg, whole	18.66
Paint brush, medium priced	20.00
Oven-cooking bag	32.00
Work gloves, leather	40.00
Kool-Aid, sugar-free	42.72
Eye shadow, Max Factor	419.00
Stamps, U.S. 29¢ 1st class	1,600.00
Mascara, Estee Lauder	1,846.00

I sincerely hope this helps you. It helped me make my deadline, hi-hi.

from the June '92 Temple (TX) ARC 'TARC Bulletin'—WA5EQQ Editor

Battery Powers Honda CRX

The California Air Resources Board has just tested the Cocconi electric vehicle prototype Honda CRX powered by a lead-acid battery. The car averaged 51 MPH on California highways for a distance of 131 miles and accelerated from zero to 60 in 7.8 seconds.

The significance of CARB's results is that they exceed those claimed for GM's Impact, the electric car that company first announced in 1981, but hasn't delivered yet.

from the 6/29/92 Autoweek (reprinted in the 8-9/92 Current Events, the newsletter of the Electric Auto Assn. (408/371-5969)

PAARA Machine to Install PL

by Rich Stiebel, W6APZ

The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association repeater on 145.23 (-) will have subaudible tone access (PL) beginning the first week in December. The PL tone frequency will be 100 Hz. PAARA will continue to welcome all hams to share in the use of the machine.

Most recently built two-meter radios have built-in PL and the manuals show how to program it. For radios without built-in PL, several companies sell tiny add-on boards in the \$30 range.

The 145.23 machine has transmitted a 100-Hz PL tone for some time. Those with tone-coded squelch receivers have used it to monitor the repeater in the presence of cable television interference.

Teenage Ham Net

by Rich Stiebel, W6APZ

If you are a teenage ham, you are invited to check into the teenage net on the 145.23 (-) Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association repeater on Thursday evenings between 8 and 9. Virginia, KC6WPJ, who is usually net control, will welcome you.

both the above stories are from the Palo Alto ARA's October '92 'PAARA Graphs'—W6APC Editor

Attracting YLs

The Amateur Radio club at St. Andrews School in Jackson, Mississippi has broadened its efforts to attract female students. To that end, it has relocated the club station from last year's site—the boys' restroom.

from the October '92 'Magnolia Report'—N5JXP Publisher and K5QNE Editor

Clean Air Petition from page 5

To add your support, write a signed note supporting the Clean Air initiative to:

Petition
Ham Radio Business Council
Box 5832
St. Louis, MO 63134

from Westlink, April 23, '92—WB6MQV Publisher

Rumblings & Retorts

All three of the following were reprinted from the October 1992 Magnolia Report, published by Jim Waitress, N5JXP, and edited by Hank Downey, K5QNE.

"Fred Maia is entitled to his opinion ... I think nearly any reasonable person would agree that, in the short term, we're having to devote more resources to the program than we would be comfortable committing for the long haul.

On the other hand, DXCC is by far the most significant awards program in all of amateur radio and is increasing in popularity. ... There's no question but that it merits continued support."

—Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President

"Sue-ers belong in the sewer ... The righteousness of their claims are irrelevant. I've come to the conclusion that homosexuality is ungodly. In God's scheme, homosexuality seems on par with any other birth defect."

—'73 Magazine' publisher Wayne Green, W2NSD, in refusing to run an ad for The Lambda Amateur Radio Club, a gay and lesbian group which previously sued ARRL over its refusal to print a Lambda ad in 'QST.'

"Green's bigoted comments have destroyed any credibility he had (and) ... given much new credibility to his many critics. Our days of doing as we're told by bigots are over."

—Lambda ARC President Jim Kelly, KK3K

Hurricane Andrew

continued from page 1

The first Sunday in September we all made the long drive to Tampa, and on Labor Day we stored our remaining possessions. At least for a few weeks, we have a safe haven with our son Jamie, who has literally rescued us from hell. When we recover emotionally and physically, we plan to make the Tampa area our new home. It's particularly appealing, given the resident tower climber!

We must go back to Homestead again, when I'm up to it, to retrieve more possessions and to complete our business with insurance companies, banks, etc.

Amidst all the heartache was having to put our beloved Siamese cat to sleep. The awful upset became too much for ancient little Jao Ling and we wished to spare her further trauma.

My brother and niece, who both resided in Naranja Lakes, also lost their homes, and have since relocated in Broward County. Thus our last remaining family members have left the Homestead area.

Please forgive this form letter. We're overcome with calls and notes from the ham community worldwide. We wish to write you all and tell you how truly fortunate we are, compared with thousands of South Florida residents so brutally affected by Andrew (In truth, it wasn't a hurricane, but referred to locally as a 50-mile wide tornado). You've seen the horrendous pictures, but they can't compare with the actuality.

Your kindness, your support, and your caring have truly helped us weather the storm. The help we got from family, neighbors, and a contingent of Mormons from Georgia helped us survive.

Sincere 161—W1YL/W1CW

p.s.: Rubin, you can keep the earthquakes and, come to think of it, the hurricanes too! Great of you old friends to remember us. A hug to Ferné.



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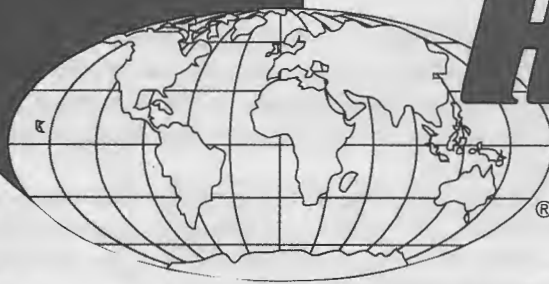
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