



Happy MT Readers/ Listeners

I am blind and have long envied comms hobbyist friends who've been reading *MT* over the years. I look forward to getting a taste of my first issue [of *MT Express*]. Many thanks for making *MT* available in an accessible format.

Ron Miller N6MSA

You sure have come a long way since my first subscription, which was a newspaper edition that goes back to the late 70s.

Paul Robertson (writing after an *MT Express* download problem was resolved)

Weird Antennas

Wearable, Stretchable Antenna. This wearable antenna is able to send a signal to satellites using the Cospas-Sarsat worldwide search and rescue satellite system. ESA - J. Makinen



www.popsci.com/gadgets/article/2011-09/fabric-antenna-sewn-life-vests-could-help-rescuers-find-lost

What basic antenna design does that look like? Resonant frequency?

hl4

<http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/news/47371> is a web article on a [nano]antenna that deals with visible light waves. No communication application that I noticed, but interesting

Clem Small

Received my *MT* today and saw you used my email about pizza pan antennas....great discussion....Seems these antennas would work in a number of interesting areas, such as composite aircraft, molded into the plastic, maybe useful in race cars for telemetry... I wonder if an array would be useful in radio astronomy or receiving sat signals.... The useful freqs cover the hydrogen line and the modern weather sats... Maybe that would make a good article for us astronomy guys....a back yard array of pizza pans.... A very long base line interferometer of pizza pans would make quite a sight.... Sounds like a joke, but enough of 'em just might work.... Less expensive than the huge dishes that we amateurs can't afford... I'd consider it an accomplishment to record the hydrogen line!

Michael Carroll

We have built antennas into aircraft structures, but not many readers are doing stuff like that. Also looking at a Radio Astronomy article, but the broad band pizza antennas are not what you want to use.

Looking for that weak Hydrogen line sig-

nal, while the antenna is picking up dozens of TV and FM stations is not the way you want to go. But it is nice to hear from a reader.

Kent Britain

Railroads

Hi Ernest,

As a rail fan and a scanner enthusiast, I always look forward to your *MT* columns on railroad radio. Your *Back to Basics* piece in the December issue was particularly appreciated, since it contained a lot of useful information that is always good to have handy.

My particular railroad radio interest is voice communications onboard AMTRAK passenger trains. Neither my wife nor I like to fly, and when we have to travel any great distance, we like to go by train. Our favorite AMTRAK train is the Southwest Chief, which we use whenever we travel back east to visit family in Ohio. I always have my scanner along on these trips, and include some of radio traffic I monitor in the trip reports that I later submit to the On Track On Line website (www.on-track-on-line.com/). On one particular trip, the scanner proved particularly useful when the "Chief" encountered some bad weather outside of Chicago.

Again, thank you for the railroad radio columns you've written over the years, and all the useful information they contain.

Eric Beheim

Vintage with a Vengeance

I read with interest Dan Farber's column in the December issue. I, too, have a copy of *Practical Radio*, which is a goldmine of information. I want to draw attention to the opening chapters with their description of the "Radio Game," boys dx-ing with home-brewed sets, in friendly competition.

What's fascinating is the similarity of the game with young hackers and programmers today; in both cases the younger generation knows far more than the older, which can only look on with wonder. I've used these sections when I've taught Internet culture; the relationship is uncanny. A new communications technology comes along, is quickly taken to by the young, and a whole world opens up, along with a generation gap.

My second comment concerns the book as a practical guide today. The description of loose couplers, variometers, and the like, has come in handy. I'm currently a resident at the New York City media center, Eyebeam, and I have a small show in their Window Gallery, which includes a group of early radios and antennas. These are coupled together (along with a loop antenna from an early RCA BP-10 portable); the signal is sent to a contemporary guitar amplifier. The result is a beautiful and clear cacophony of stations from all over New York. (The rest of the show deals with similar themes.) You can see

photographs here: www.flickr.com/photos/asondheim/sets/72157628198851569/ The book made these hookups possible!



Thank you greatly for the article! I really recommend the book to anyone interested in the history and technology of early history

Alan Sondheim

Good-Bye to Bert

It is with sadness to tell you that Lambert "Bert" Huneault of Windsor Ontario passed away today (Dec. 3) after a lengthy illness. You will recall that Bert submitted several articles to *Monitoring Times* mostly relating to either aviation or weather.

I visited Bert in the hospital just two days ago and we were both reminiscing about how we met back in 1980 as a result of an item he wrote in the old newspaper edition you had back then. I saw he was from Windsor and I called him regarding the article and we have been friends since that day.

He will certainly be missed by his family and many friends.

Paul Robertson

Bob Grove and Bert corresponded frequently. Bert wrote in one of his *MT* articles about manning a remote weather outpost in Canada as a young man, and the surreal feeling of hearing no signals at all on HF during a severe magnetic storm. I was reminded of that story when recently reading Roy Berger's novel *2012: Rabbits and the Happy Apocalypse on Shortwave Radio* (see p75 Nov *MT*) ... Fortunately for Bert, the signals returned after three days and he was not "alone" after all.

An obituary and guest book are available at the *Windsor Star* website (www.windsorstar.com). We at *MT* extend our condolences to all who knew this intelligent and generous man.

Rachel Baughn, Editor

*This column is open to your considered comments. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Monitoring Times. Your letters may be edited or shortened for clarity and length. Please mail to Letters to the Editor, 7540 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902 or email editor@monitoringtimes.com
 Happy monitoring!
 Rachel Baughn, Editor*