

LETTERS

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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

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OTA Online Resource

Thanks for your article [May *Beginners Corner*]. I live in a rural area and I am not impressed with the FCC's Broadband Plan, but that could be another email. Many thanks for the FCC site to check your address for DTV. They have changed it some since the last time I looked at it. It still showed my address or zip code without any OTA (over the air reception).

I have been watching OTA for two years now; I dropped the cable TV (at least the video service) to save money and went to an antenna. I get my NBC, CBS and ABC station and their sub-channels, but according to the FCC map, no signal is available in my area. Needless to say I don't use their site. I have found the more accurate site to find available OTA signal is www.tvfool.com

I have used TV Fool for finding signals for friends for whom I have helped set up TV antennas, and it has always been accurate.

Many thanks for your column.

Warren Lambing

More Youthful Look?

I just subscribed to *MT Express* and it has been a big advantage. I simply print out what I need (so what if it does cost a bit more?) but no more torn mags by the mail man....

I also just printed out the story about Mattie Clauson, AE7MC [May *First Person Radio*] and laminated it. It is put up for my own 9 year old daughter to read and be encouraged. Now she wants her license. And started studying for it the next day!

My sons are also studying now. My oldest for his General, my second just passed his Tech last week and is studying for HIS General, and my third is studying for his Tech..... Now their sister has joined the fray! My kids will benefit from the *MTX* also...

My only question now is that page 6 mentions an incident with one of the AmSats and that there was an article about beginners working sats in January's issue. I would like to read that issue very much and try to get my kids hooked on something to keep their interest in the hobby with other modes. I have no idea how to work sats and so could really use the primer.

Phillip N8AYE

Keith Baker just returned from the Dayton Hamvention where he noted a slightly more youthful look...

The DARA people tell me that all but a handful of inside booths were sold out this year. Over 9000 tickets were pre-sold and the flea market was "full"...a significant change from the recent past. Not surprisingly, preliminary estimates also indicate their overall revenue was up and several vendors were very pleased with their booth sales.

I was also pleasantly surprised to see a younger crowd... with significantly less "graying" than I had expected. Indeed, my conversations with the League VEC folks indicated that the average age of the 30,000 or so "newcomers" added to the licensing rolls in the USA in 2009 were in the 30-40 age bracket. Indeed, THAT is very good news for the future of the hobby.

All in all, it was a well-run show.

Keith Baker KB1SF, *MT SkySurfing columnist*

Ask Bob

Sharp-eyed reader Harrison Church of Lebanon, IL caught a typo in the May issue (Part 2 of this series). Under "Skin Effect," the last line should have read, "...its conductivity [not, 'its skin depth'] is about 1/7 that of copper, making it a poor choice at radio frequencies."

Because of its high permeability, the skin depth of iron at radio frequencies is only 1/9 that of copper, making it highly resistive to RF currents.

Bob Grove W8JHD

Window Dressing

After reading your *Beginners* article "Your Antenna is Up: Now What?" in the April issue of *Monitoring Times*, I happened to go into an RV dealership.

They had a short flat piece of RG-6 coax designed to allow a TV lead in to be fed through a closed RV window. The price at the RV dealership was \$12.99, but they are considerably cheaper on the internet.

www.shoprvparts.com/product.do?no=14521F
www.campingworld.com/shopping/item/flat-tv-cable/14649

www.summitsource.com/product_info.php?ref=1&products_id=6965

www.summitsource.com/flat-coaxial-rg6-cable-windowdoor-satellite-hdvtv-3-ghz-high-frequency-white-flexible-coax-rg6-8-f-to-f-jumper-eagle-aspen-digital-rv-camper-portable-satellite-dish-tv-antenna-coax-cable-adapter-part-8fc300lx8-p-6984.html

I thought you might be interested, since this would be an easy way to get a shortwave antenna lead in into a house without drilling any holes, etc.

Larry Durham

AWA Museum

Jeff Miller N2AWA caught an error in last month's article on museums: The address of the AWA Museum should have been 2 South Avenue, Bloomfield, NY. You can also find it at www.antiquewireless.org/museum/musmap.htm

Thanks, Jeff!

EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

Your Chance at FCC Reform

As shortwave listeners, licensed amateur operators, scanning enthusiasts and Internet users, *MT* readers have quite a stake in the future of the FCC and the rules that it makes. Now you can have your say. I had not been aware of the reformation, known as Reboot FCC, until I attended the Free Press Summit, a conference this past May in Washington, D.C. The annual event brought together hundreds of tech-savvy media writers, academics, and activists from around the country, in addition to key government officials including FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Sen. Byron Dorgan, FCC Associate Chief Bill Freedman, John Tate, Director of Policy and Strategy at the BBC, among a dozen others.

Subjects discussed included media consolidation, net neutrality, copyright protection, the FCC's Broadband Initiative, and spectrum reform. It was during a panel discussion at an afternoon breakout session that included the FCC's Freedman that I finally got the message: the FCC wants your input. During that session, the audience, which consisted of a very broad cross section of radio/TV activists, writers and academics, held Freedman's feet to the fire over specific issues regarding Low Power FM; rules governing minority participation; petition to deny and a general skepticism about the commission's sincerity regarding reform.

After answering each of the questions from the audience Freedman would ask the questioner, "Did you file a comment?" Most had not, so he implored them to do so. And now I'm asking *MT* readers to do so. Got to <http://reboot.fcc.gov> and spend some time. If you have a comment about the Broadband Initiative, low-power licensing, net neutrality, or the future of Over-the-Air TV, you can leave it right there. You can also comment on proposed systems such as the "spectrum dashboard" that will let citizens find out how spectrum is being used, who owns spectrum licenses around the country, and what spectrum is available in your county.

There is no time limit on Reboot FCC comment, but why wait? Get your friends in the chat rooms, ragchew nets and on the repeater to join you in making your ideas heard to move toward serious change at the FCC. It's the best opportunity we've had to do so in more than ten years.

Ken Reitz, *Features Editor*