

What's NEW

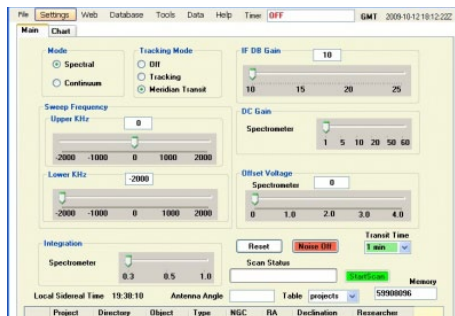
Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Larry Van Horn, New Products Editor

SpectraCyber Elite Software

A new software package has been released for radio astronomy enthusiasts. SpectraCyber Elite[®] was developed exclusively for Radio Astronomy Supplies, LLC, by Ralph Boyd of the HighIQ Software group, for use with the SpectraCyber I/II[™] Spectral and Continuum Radio Telescope.

The software is compatible with Windows XP/Vista running under Windows Net3.5 and Windows Compact SQL Server Express. It operates in a standard Windows state-of-the-art environment within a user friendly interface. The Windows Compact SQL Server is used to keep records on the statistics of the data set scans, while the actual data is stored in readable ASCII files to support user access.



Some new features include the new Project Mode research methodology where all files are stored under a common directory for the specific RF stellar source under study. The SQL database contains the astronomical data for the RF sources and is upgradeable by the user.

The main menu contains hot links to astronomical catalogs on the web. A new tracking timer mode has been added to support collecting data over preset time periods, including a continuous 24 hour/seven day diurnal mode.

Data is stored in both a RAW and XML format. The data even includes the GMT and Sidereal time that each signal value was acquired. The new internal Sidereal Time clock runs in real time synchronized to GMT and displays the local right ascension at the observer's local meridian in real time on the computer screen. There is even a new Sidereal Time calculator available to determine the most opportune time to observe a meridian transit of a specific stellar RF source at a future date and time.

Since the software now runs in XP/Vista (there is no support for pre-XP versions), one of the most exciting features is the ability to run the program remotely over the local LAN or Internet. Using web-based tools such as – **Go To My PC.com** or **LogMeIn.com** (a free Internet service), it is possible to log onto a remote PC that is running the SpectraCyber Elite software to execute a Doppler scan of a specific RF object. Of course the antenna must be pointing in the proper direction at the time. Just imagine being on a business trip and

still being able to access your SpectraCyber system remotely via your cell phone or laptop!

You can get more details on this new powerful radio astronomy software package on the Radio Astronomy Supplies LLC website at radioastronomy-supplies.com.

Remote Operating for Amateur Radio

By Steve Ford, WB8IMY

The ARRL has released a new book, *Remote Operating for Amateur Radio*, which guides you through the process of establishing your own Internet-controlled station. You'll learn the basics of how the Internet works, how home networks operate, and how to interconnect amateur radio hardware and software for remote Internet control. You'll find station diagrams, software tips and much more.

This book also addresses the legal aspects of remote station control, as well as the unique issues of remote operating as it applies to activities such as DXing and contesting. With more than 100 pages of solid, practical advice, *Remote Operating for Amateur Radio* is a guide to getting back on the air with the station of your dreams – even if you live in an apartment!

Contents includes: The Case for Internet Remote Control; Networks and the Need for Speed; Bringing the Internet Home; Hardware Integration; The Audio Challenge; The Listening Post; and Building a Complete Remote Station.

This new ARRL book lists for \$22.95.

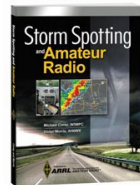


Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio

By Michael Corey, W5MPC and Victor Morris, AH6WX

SKYWARN[®], a program of sponsored by the National Weather Service, includes thousands of volunteer storm spotters who are on the first line of defense against severe weather. Amateur radio operators bring a lot to the storm spotting table, such as an established communications system that can remain operational during an emergency. Ham radio also has a pool of volunteers willing to be trained in storm spotting, a history of public service, and technology that no other organized group has.

Now amateur radio operators have a new reference publication to aid in storm spotting. *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio* is a resource for the amateur radio operator who volunteers as a trained storm spotter. This book includes information on resources, training, equipment, safety, storm spotter activation procedures, reportable weather criteria, developing a local storm spotter manual, and the experiences of storm spotters from around the



country. It also provides some meteorological information about severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes, hail, floods, damaging wind, and winter weather.

A comprehensive index is included with weather-related web sites and a state-by-state listing of SKYWARN web sites.

This new ARRL book lists for \$22.95.

The ARRL RFI Book, 3rd Edition

If you are like most hams, radio frequency interference (RFI) has caused you grief on more than one occasion during years of amateur radio operations. If you are like me, you're probably not anxious to repeat any of your experiences trying to combat RFI generated during your ham radio operations. It is a problem that has been us for more than nine decades.

The best defense to combat RFI is to recognize the problem and treat the cause of the interference at the source. This requires a certain level of expertise that many of us do not have. But thanks to the ARRL, we have a reference publication to help us eliminate RFI problems during our ham radio operations.

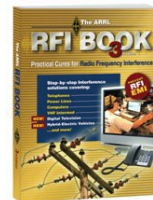
ARRL's team of experts have compiled the best advice available on every type of radio frequency interference (RFI). From automotive to television, from computers to DVD players, from audio equipment to telephones, you'll find a step-by-step process for eliminating problematic interference in one convenient book. *The ARRL RFI Book* also includes resources for troubleshooting new technologies such as digital cable TV and satellite systems, over-the-air TV signals, and hybrid and all-electric automobiles.

Some of the material covered in the 19 chapters of this book include: EMC Fundamentals, RFI Troubleshooting Techniques, Radio Direction Finding, Antenna Connected Televisions, Cable television Interference, DVD Devices and VCRs, Telephone RFI, Stereos and other Audio Equipment, How to resolve a power line noise complaint, External Rectification – "The Rusty Bolt Effect," "Intermod" – A Modern Urban Problem, Automobiles, Computers, and much more.

This new ARRL book lists for \$29.95.

The ARRL Field Day Handbook for Radio Amateurs

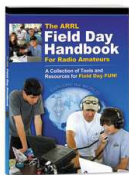
ARRL Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event in amateur radio. It draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves each year, bringing new and experienced ham radio operators together. Field Day is a radio operating activity, educational event, and public demonstration all rolled-up in fun! By setting up in parking



lots, parks, malls, emergency centers, and at home, hams develop skills to better serve the amateur radio service and their communities.

The ARRL Field Day Handbook is the ultimate guide for Field Day enthusiasts! This book features content from *QST* magazine and other ARRL publications, and includes everything you need to participate in this annual. The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide, ARRL/RAC Section Abbreviations, ARRL/RAC Map, Morse Code Character Set, Antenna Projects from the Pages of *QST*, Tips for Field Day Power, Public Relations, Amateur Satellites, HF Digital Communications, and your Field Day Log.

This new ARRL book lists for \$19.95.



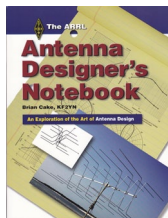
Antenna Designer's Notebook

By Brian Cake KF2YN

For antenna experimenters looking for the highest gain at HF, VHF and UHF, the new *Antenna Designer's Notebook* by Brian Cake KF2YN is a must.

Its 200 pages are devoted to approaches to several antenna designs: Yagis, verticals, monopoles, large and small HF loops, and a treatment of dipoles as well. A CD of the book is included for quick and easy computer reference.

Published by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), *Notebook* is considerably differ-



ent from the League's ARRL *Antenna Book*; its approach is an experimental/evolutional design of a wide variety of models.

Nearly half of the book is spent on improving the Yagi; they are lengthened and arrayed, and there's quite an interesting treatise on the boxkite variant.

This volume is not a recipe book; it's a solid, theoretical and empirical approach to antenna design of lesser-known approaches. As such, it's not a tutorial for the newcomer to ham radio, but rather a technical engineering perspective on antenna design.

The work is lavishly illustrated with graphs and pattern charts, and while most anyone can understand the text – and can certainly build antennas from the contents – those readers who are interested in the math won't be disappointed!

The *Antenna Designer Notebook* is available for \$34.95 plus shipping from the ARRL.

You can order all the ARRL books mentioned above via snail mail to 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494 or visit their website at www.arrl.org.

2010 Pirate Radio Annual

By Andrew Yoder

Anyone who has dabbled in shortwave listening, knows there is an underground component that borders on the quirky, if not bizarre side of the hobby.

Andrew Yoder, a pirate radio aficionado, has recently released his new *2010 Pirate Radio Annual*, a 126 page book focusing on the pirate side of the shortwave hobby. Whether you're a newbie

or the seasoned hardcore pirate listener, this excellent edition will no doubt grace many radio listening posts (including mine).

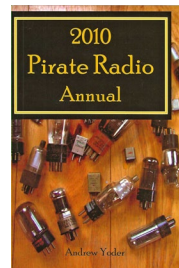
So, what is the great mystery when it comes to tuning in pirates? It may surprise the beginner that it involves just listening! Andrew takes you through the pirate mine field explaining that listeners are no longer limited to their receiver, but now have access to the bizarre via the Internet. Additional information includes pirate web sites, QSLing pirates, mail drops and QSL tips to get you started.

"Classifying The Stations" includes an explanation of the various classifications of pirate stations and a 97 page section of stations active in 2009, with detailed station information, and their active status during the year. Email and postal maildrop addresses are included, plus QSL card reproductions for each station to keep you up to date on QSLing.

A CD, which is included, features actual recordings of 75 different pirate stations, a monitoring plus for those new to pirate chasing.

If you're a seasoned pirate fan or have considered delving into the sometimes bizarre, *2010 Pirate Radio Annual* is an excellent guide to assist your listening. The *2010 PRA* is available for \$15.00 plus shipping (\$2.00 to US, \$4.00 to Canada, or \$9.00 to the rest of the world) from Cabinet Communications, P.O. Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

Reviewed by Gayle Van Horn, W4GVH

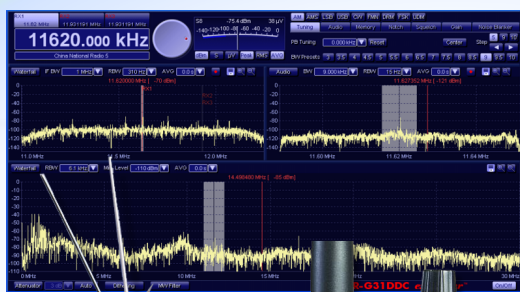


2011 Buyer's Guide

COMING SOON IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

Radio enthusiasts are on the leading edge of today's technology and *MT* readers want to know what's new and what's best. That's why they look to *MT*'s team of seasoned writers to give them the inside track on shortwave radios, amateur transceivers, two-way portables, scanners, antennas and everything else related to monitoring the electromagnetic spectrum. Now, in a special 16 page insert to the **November, 2010** issue of *Monitoring Times*, readers will have a concise guide to the best products available that they can refer to all year long.

All subscribers (print and *MT Express*) will receive the Buyer's Guide **FREE**. Single issues may be ordered for \$5 including first class mailing (order GUIDE2011).



Subscribe TODAY and get the Buyer's Guide FREE!

