What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

AX-81S Active HF Antenna

The AX-81S antenna is a compact active HF monopole (3.8-ft) antenna, designed to stand up to harsh outdoor conditions, particularly marine environments. The principal elements will resist corrosion and fracturing. The BNC-type coaxial connector inside the mounting base is well-protected from the elements.

The antenna is designed for the frequency range of 2 to 30 MHz, but good reception is possible down to 300 kHz and as high as 50 MHz.

While it has been designed primarily as a marine antenna, the AX-81S can be useful anywhere good HF reception and reliability are required, and where space is at premium. It is especially compatible with the WiNRADiO ***G33EM*** marine receivers and ***G303/G313*** range of HF receivers.

The antenna may be erected on a 1" diameter mast using standard #14 thread or may be mounted using an optional rail or deck mounting base. 12vdc power must be supplied to the antenna via the coax. WiNRADiO recommends using a low noise power supply together with a Bias "T" power injector, both available from WiNRADiO or Grove Enterprises (WR's distributor in the USA). If used with the WiNRADiO ***G33EM*** receiver, no external power supply is needed.

The WiNRADiO AX081S is $189.95 from Grove Enterprises (800-438-8155; **www.grove-ent.com)**

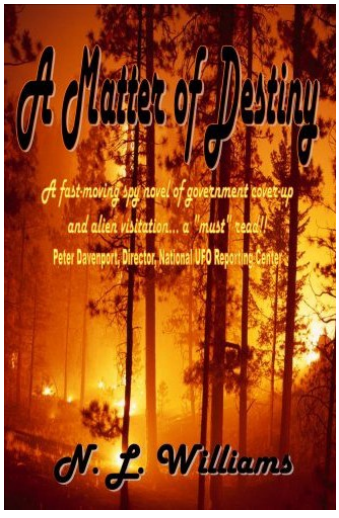
A Matter of Destiny

"Destin pushed through the throngs of people packed against him and groaned. In these crowds, George Eisenhardt would be impossible to find. He'd already blown fifteen minutes, searching the masses of people jammed on the main convention floor of the Orlando, Florida Hamfest, an amateur radio convention...."

If you're looking for some great summer reading, something that catches your imagination, involves communications, and keeps you entertained, *A Matter of Destiny* by N.L. Williams fills the bill! This 210-page paperback volume is perfect for a long weekend at the beach – or better yet, at a cabin in the mountains. The scene for this thriller is set right in *Monitoring Times'* back yard – the author even hand-delivered our review copy.

It seems "Fontana Labs" near the TVA's Fontana Dam is working on a government "black" project, unbeknownst to many of the scientists working there. And someone will stop at nothing to make sure the secret doesn't leak out. In the process of investigating the murder of his best friend, Destin finds friends in other hams and good-hearted people. Gradually, they realize more is at stake than justice for murder – it could mean the survival of the world.

The very real geography and the convincing personalities that populate the book more than make up for any shortcomings in manuscript errors. The heroism of ordinary people like you and me quickly draws you into the story.



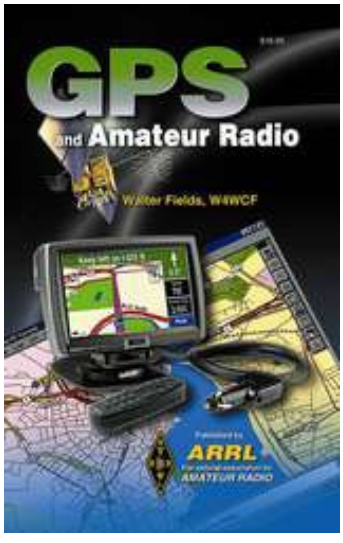
NL Williams also knows her subject matter. Always near aircraft, Williams participated in the Civil Air Patrol and the Air Force, and her husband is a career Air Force man. Both she and her husband are avid ham radio enthusiasts. Her favorite frequency is the 442.550 band owned by Charles Satterfield in Tellico Plains, Tennessee. She also enjoys checking into several group HF nets, especially the RV Service Net.

A Matter of Destiny is available from booksellers such as **Amazon.com**, or you can purchase directly from the author. Mail a check for $14.95 to N. L. Williams, P. O. Box 1477, Robbinsville, NC 28771. To read a chapter from the book, visit her website at **nlwilliamswriter.com**

GPS and Amateur Radio

Global Positioning System (GPS) devices have become commonplace in consumer electronics. GPS units and GPS technology are used in our cars, on our boats, in cell phones, in our personal computers and PDAs. GPS has improved the way we navigate, communicate, and move about the planet.

GPS and Amateur Radio by Walter Fields, W4WCF, explores GPS: its history and how it works, what to look for in a GPS receiver, and navigating with a GPS receiver. He also examines ways in which Amateur Radio operators have made use of GPS technology for communication and recreation.



A popular ham radio application is in the Automatic Position Reporting System, or APRS. By connecting inexpensive GPS receivers to their radio gear, hams transmit their positions and other information, which is then displayed on maps at the receiving stations. The result is an effective method of direction finding for public service activities such as search-and-rescue – and for fun!

GPS and Amateur Radio is available for $18.95 from the publisher ARRL (225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1494; 1-888-277-5289; **www.arrl.org)**

The Secret Wireless War

Possibly the most important United Kingdom wireless traffic in World War II was handled by a unit formed in 1938 by Brigadier Richard Gambier-Parry as part of the communications division of Britain's Secret Intelligence Services ("SIS"). *The Secret Wireless War, The Story of MI6 Communications 1939-1945* by Geoffrey Pidgeon tells of its formation and includes diary entries by one of the founding fathers of this group.

First published by UPSO Limited in East Sussex, England in 2003, the *Secret Wireless War* offers a history of the SIS, its growing use of wireless in the 1930s, its involvement in the dissemination by wireless of Enigma intelligence, and a whole range of secret uses of wireless as part of the successful prosecution of the war. Any shortwave radio listener with an interest in secret communications will find the book very interesting. Shortwave radio communications and the ability to intercept and use enemy information were of paramount importance during World War II.

The *Secret Wireless War* recounts the personal tales of those who were part of this most secret of units, and documents events that helped to win the war: secret agents abroad, wireless operators handling "Ultra" and agent's

traffic, wireless engineers, interceptors, and administrators; the story of Churchill's personal wireless operator; a fleet of more than 70 Packard motor cars and converted Dodge ambulances used as mobile wireless stations; and hams listening to the Abwehr (German secret service) and the Gestapo. This is an extraordinary story that includes hams among those patriots that undoubtedly helped the Allied war effort.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I provides background information about the SIS and the early days of Barnes Station X. Part II describes Whaddon Village, Bletchley Park, the Special Communications Units, Black Propaganda, Mobile Construction and Clandestine Wireless activities. Finally, Part III provides individual stories of the men and woman involved in the Secret Wireless War from 1939 through 1945, including that of the author and his parents.

If you have ever wondered about secret communications activities during the war, this book will reveal the secrets of the professionals responsible for this effort. The *Secret Wireless War* covers a broad range of special topics through individual personal stories of many of the people involved in MI6 Communications. This makes the book highly personalized and generates a sense of being there as these young lads lived the experience. A large array of pictures showing the equipment utilized by these people in conducting their secret communications efforts is almost like strolling through a radio museum. Especially interesting are the transmitters, receivers, aerials, and installations in automotive vehicles.

It's amazing how many of these youthful *volunteers* made it into MI6 as wireless operators. In the late 1930s, wireless radio was still relatively new and its uses were constantly being expanded. If you could operate using Morse code, you were extremely valuable for communications purposes. Therefore, instead of being assigned regular army or navy duties, these highly skilled individuals wound up in the employ of MI6 where their wireless communications skills were extremely valuable.

The *Secret Wireless War, The Story of MI6 Communications 1939-1945* by Geoffrey Pidgeon is 416 pages of fascinating reading and contains 194 black and white illustrations mainly from the war years including many pictures of secret agent's wireless sets. Although the technical side of matters is essential, it was not allowed to dominate the book, making it very easy for the non-technical reader. It is printed on high-quality paper in an oversized hardback size, 12" x 8.5". It is available from Universal Radio, Inc., 6830 American Parkway, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 (orders at 800-431-3939; information at 614-866-4267) or check out their website (**www.universal-radio.com**), for US$54.95 plus shipping.

– *Reviewed by Richard A. D'Angelo*

Coming (soon?) from GRE

In late-breaking news, GRE America announced at the recent Dayton Hamvention that they will be releasing six new scanners under their own label. Previously, GRE has manufactured products for sale by Radio Shack.

The new units will be:

GRE PSR-100/200/300/400 Analog units
GRE PSR-500/600 Digital units

Some of these no doubt will be equivalent to existing Radio Shack models, but hobbyists are eagerly awaiting specifications on the new digital models.

Most significant is the implication that GRE will be marketing their own products instead of being restricted to selling through Radio Shack outlets.

The first of the GRE-labeled products is not expected until fall of 2007 at the earliest. But stay tuned: anything can happen, since this development was not anticipated, either!