

Reading MT on the iPad

By Gordon Bousman NW7D
(Photos courtesy Ken Reitz KS4ZR)

Having been a long-time, avid reader of *Monitoring Times*, I had always yearned for a better way to read one of my favorite magazines while traveling; I fly about 200,000 miles per year for my employer. Then, last Christmas, Santa Claus delivered both an iPhone™ and an iPad™ to me and, while the initial purpose was to enhance my productivity while working (email, document reading, etc.), I soon discovered that the iPad is also an excellent substitute for the more commonly known e-readers such as Nook™ and Kindle™ for reading books and magazines. Storage of books or magazines is the same on either platform; it's just smaller on the iPhone.



The July issue of MT on an iPad

In fact, the iPad does an excellent job of storing these books and magazines in memory, which eliminates the accumulation of piles of paper magazines and books, so it's very environmentally friendly in that respect. In years past, if I wanted to read *MT* or other magazines/books while traveling, it meant adding weight and bulk to my briefcase. Now, I only need to carry my 1.33 pound iPad plus my iPhone.

Bob Grove was one of the first publishers in the business of hobby radio to publish a magazine in electronic format and even today remains one of only a few to do so; most of the ham publications such as *QST* and *CQ* are still only available in printed editions. While I had been subscribing to *MTXpress* for several years, which I would read on my laptop computer, I now download it to my iPad and iPhone4 for convenient reading both at home and while burning up the skies traveling to such places as Mumbai, India, Tel Aviv, Israel, and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The readability of *MTXpress* on the iPad is simply awesome with vivid colors and resolution that actually exceeds that of the print version. The downloaded Adobe™ Acrobat™

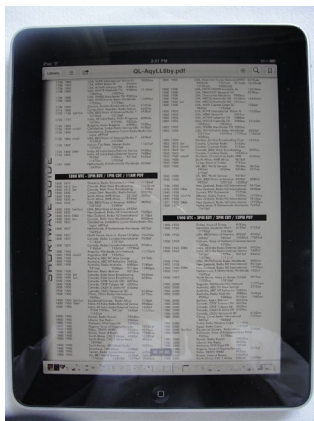
PDF file for each month's *MTXpress* edition can be saved in iBooks (an electronic bookshelf application for the iPad and iPhone) from which you can retrieve the magazine at any time.

If you find the print too small to read, no problem: You can easily magnify any page or part of a page on the iPad or iPhone with the commonly known two-finger "pinch." This works especially well on photos and graphics, something you couldn't even dream of doing with the print version.

While you can read *MTXpress* on the iPad or iPhone without being connected to the Internet, its real strength becomes apparent when you instantly link to the Internet from a reference link given in an article or the web address of an advertiser via the iPad web browser Safari. This is something that is much more laborious when using the print version, as you need to hand type the Internet URL into a computer or at the very least, cut and paste.

Not Just for Reading

I've been a ham since age 13 and, while I am active on the HF bands (mostly digital modes such as RTTY and PSK31), I also have a strong interest in utility monitoring (aviation and public safety). In my ham shack, I have two scanners which monitor local Seattle area aviation traffic – for which the enjoyment is enhanced by Boeing operating many newly built airliner test flights in the area. With the iPad, I can be anywhere in the world and still listen to Seattle area aviation traffic or any one of the 500+ global aviation monitor feeds using the LiveATC iPad and iPhone application (\$2.99 for the iPad & iPhone).



Reading MT's SW Guide on the iPad

You can listen to thousands of global scanner feeds which include public safety, railroad, marine, and ham repeater scanner feeds on the iPad and iPhone using the 5-0 Radio Police Scanner application (lite version is free; \$5.99 for Pro version with over 33,000 additional feeds and recording capabilities).

Of course, you can also listen to over 40,000 AM and FM radio stations around the globe that stream programming via the Internet, using the TuneIn Radio Pro application which is available for both the iPad and iPhone with two versions: free and Pro (\$0.99). The Pro ver-

sion adds the capability of being able to record and archive what you hear. There are quite a number of other iPad & iPhone Internet radio applications available as well.

I wish that I could tell you that it was also possible to listen to remote amateur radio Software Defined Radio (SDR) stations, but these remote receiver sites use Java™ code in their web sites to display the receiver spectrum graphic and, unfortunately, Apple does not support Java at this time.

But wait, there's more!

Several other iPad and iPhone applications that might be of interest to readers (downloadable from the iPad and iPhone Apps Store) are:

Ship Finder HD – live tracking of ships (free version available; Pro version is \$7.99).

Plane Finder HD – similar to Ship Finder with live tracking of flights (free version with Pro version available for \$7.99).

Quakes – Earthquake notifications with maps (free for iPad and iPhone).

HamSat HD – graphic display of ham satellite tracks (\$4.99 for iPad & iPhone). A related but more enhanced application, ProSatHD, graphically depicts virtually all commercial, weather, **International Space Station (ISS)**, ham, and other types of satellites (\$9.99 for iPad only).

Exam Prep – six different practice tests for various ham licenses (free for iPad & iPhone).

Ham Tool VX-3R – ITU region band plans, DXCC list, antenna calculator and some reference info for the Yaesu VX-3R (\$1.99 for iPad & iPhone).

Weather – a number of really excellent free weather applications exist for the iPad & iPhone including Intellicast.com, The Weather Channel, and AccuWeather all of which can display real-time weather radar.

73 HamLog – great for portable and mobile operators who want to keep a log, also features WWV and solar propagation reports, DX Cluster, call sign lookup (\$0.99 for the iPad).

I simply love my iPad and iPhone, and while I enjoy reading and storing *MTXpress* on my iPad, I can also enjoy some aspects of my radio hobby while I am traveling just about anywhere in the world. It's even possible to use most of the radio related applications featured above while flying on certain commercial flights that offer airborne Wi-Fi (such as Delta airlines). The iPad and iPhone are great tools for radio hobbyists, especially those who travel frequently.

The author may be reached via email at nw7d.ham@gmail.com

