

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, Ltd.

April 2019

Drumlins' Rumblins

Volume 9, Issue 4

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

KD2DNO

Happy Spring. The weather is warming and we will soon be in our busy season for activities. I'm not going to list them here but we need help for all of the spring/summer/fall activities. Please get out and help with at least ONE activity this year. We have 60+ members yet the same 10 seem to provide 95% of the work force. We need YOUR help. I know everyone is busy but our volunteer work is also important so if you can find time for just ONE activity, that would be great.

Go to www.drumlinsARC.us to see our Calendar of Events and the contact information for each event. If you have any questions, please email me at KD2DNO@gmail.com.

Remember that our Club meetings are now upstairs in the EMO. Doors will be unlocked from 7pm-8pm so please be on time.

Please sign up with Rich Hamill for the Spring Fling on May 11, \$20 per person.. If we don't get enough attendees, we may have to cancel this great socializing event. The club is partially subsidizing the meal so please join us.

Ham Fest excitement is building!! Sat April 27 at the Palmyra VFW; doors open 8am-around noon. Unfortunately we will NOT be having VE testing this year. However, we have a great lineup of vendors and a generous Grand Prize of a \$200 gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet. We appreciate their giving us a discount on this prize. We always can use some more hands to help. Set up is Friday around 4-5 pm at the VFW. with Pizza dinner.. Email Rich at tinker@rochester.rr.com if you can help on either day.

The club is also subsidizing T-Shirts for Field Days. The member cost will be \$13, Rich will be forthcoming with details.

The club is also subsidizing T-Shirts for Field Days. The member cost will be \$13, Rich will be forthcoming with details.

We are also going to attempt to spend a Sat or Sun afternoon at Walmart to demonstrate Ham radio to the public, hoping to draw interest. Keep your eyes open as to an upcoming date.

Many thanks for Russell Harris, N2IZP, Walter Dutcher W2WBD, Jeff Jensen N2MKT, Dave Taylor KB2KBY and Rich Hamil KC2TNJ for helping with the recent Tech Class we put on at the Newark Library. They completed this with a very successful testing session. Russ put a lot of effort into the organization of this tech class and testing. Russ is hoping to be able to offer VE testing at the Library every other month to replace the testing we have been doing at the Club meetings. We will announce if and when Russ is able to start doing this. He will need help at the testing sessions, so another volunteer opportunity!

Again, my final push to urge each of you to help with at least one event this year. We provide a great service to our community, but we need active members in order to keep these events going.

Enjoy the warming weather....73, Bill KD2DNO



RACES-ARES APRIL 2019

April started with an April 1st Fools Day surprise! Wow! That “Eskimo dandruff” as AB2F, Doc, has nicknamed it. Hi. While an inconvenience and bruise to winter-tired minds for most of us, K2MPE, Al, in Sodus had a shovel-able 6 inches! W2EVU, Walt, in Sodus Point always likes to send that white stuff to Al's QTH. (Hi, nice guy, Walt.) This crazy weather just keeps on going. Let's hope mother nature is kinder to us the rest of April and the old saying “April showers brings May flowers” holds truer.

Let's hope that mother nature is nice for our up and coming ARES events as well. I see KD2DNO, Bill, has already sent out an email about the 2019 Tour de Cure June 8, 2019, Saturday.

This is usually our first event of the public service part with communications. Of course you are encouraged to help if you possibly can find the time. I will admit this past year I was busier then the year before and couldn't participate in quite a few of the ARES communication events. You can only do what you can do. I know. That is okay. Obviously any time you can free up in your busy life to help is appreciated. KD2DNO is doing a nice job of informing the club of things going on for that month and upcoming events where we are needed. So pay attention to those club Google DARC emails. Also, remember, many of these events we are helping out our fellow ARES ops in Ontario and Monroe counties which is good and worth while.

March 23, Saturday a small group of us DARC members helped out with a information event on amateur radio. KD2DNO, KC2TNJ, Rich and I helped Stu, KC2KJO, at his karate studio in Newark in the Cannery Row behind McDonald's. A small bunch came out than expected but the interest of those who did attend was impressive. Take a look at the pictures showing the interested "customers" at the event.



Stu had an antenna making project. Stu has been building 6, 2. and .70 meter antennas at his home QTH for months now.. He plans to have a table at our hamfest and I am sure he would be glad to take any orders for you especially for unique antenna need. One unique idea was making a 2/440 antenna out of a floor lamp! It works well and has even some nice gain.

If I had balcony or outside deck area at my apartment QTH, it would have been perfect to get into the local repeaters with hopefully less QRM that I experience now. The lamp antenna is in the picture below.



Unfortunately I have no patio or balcony. Hi. Maybe Stu can come up with a insect screen antenna for me? Hi. (Hint, hint, Stu. Hi.)

Back in 1966 while at Ft. Meade I bought my first shortwave receiver from a fellow ASA (Army Security Agency) GI who was just about to get out of the Army, a “short timer” we called them. He had a Hammurland HQ-100 he wanted to sale for \$50. That was a lot of money back then when an E-4 (Kinda a “lesser” corporal with no stripes per say.), making \$180 a month but sending \$100 home each month automatically. I took the HQ-100 back to my cubicle in the big peon-bay of 100 guys. Oops, no antenna! Well I hooked the HQ-100's antenna lead wire to the metal screen-the whole world came alive! Radio Moscow was putting out 500,000 watts at that time sending English broadcasts to the States. It came thru like gangbusters. Hi. KB2FSB, Lloyd, was showing me his shack awhile back. On the floor sat his uncle's HQ-100 and my eyes bugged out like crazy!

It brought back many memories. My HQ-100 died before I came a ham and was thrown in the trash. I did save the dials and knobs which I still have. Some of the dumb things we do but just didn't know better.

Yours truly tried to show WSPR-X with the new F8 digital mode and my old standby digital mode Morse code. You know I complain a lot of the QRM in my QTH shack and how the electronic gods are playing with my patience. Well, at the karate studio I found some place even worse than my QTH! Hi! Luckily I brought my old Morse key and hooked it up to my IC-7000 and using the FIDigi program to see the SW coming across the screen. I thank KC2TNJ, Rich, for getting my outboard laptop microphones on so the FIDigi CW would work. Old expert NOT "Dodo Dave" couldn't do it. In this age of modernity Bill and Rich just used the WiFi and looked up the laptop model and found out how to do it. All this modern stuff is great! Me? I still think wireless Morse is a miracle. Hi. Thanks for the help guys.

Bill is planning more public events to try and get our amateur radio out there to the public. Maybe something at WalMart or Wegman's and there will be the Williamson Apple Blossom weekend coming up when the apple trees start blossoming. Rus, N2IZV, had a Tech class at the Newark Library community room several weekends. Testing for that the end of the classes, seven testers passed either their Tech test and/or upgraded tickets. This guy is always looking for new Tech ticket people to hopefully help out with RACES-ARES.

The club trailer is coming along very well. KD2DNO has already set aside May 4th, Saturday, for a club trailer work day to get some of the inside work done. N2MKT, Jeff, has gotten new tires on the trailer, painted the outside, waterproofed the roof, and getting supplies for the electrical inside, etc. Jeff has been a workhorse for the club with our trailer. God bless him and others that can be of help. Other than supervising with his intelligence parked sitting down, this kid is worthless at really helping. But for those of you with talents, if you can help, please do! I mention this date at this time as the newsletter comes out more in the middle of the month.

And, yes, don't forget the May 15th, Wednesday, workday at the EMO. This is getting our gear ready for the Ginna Drill coming up in the summer. We have to make sure everything is up to snuff. I know rigs will have to be programmed with new frequencies after the March inter-polarity exercise to see how the area counties can communicate between each other at their respective EMOs or EOCs. KD2DNO manned our Wayne EMO and found some needed changes. Thanks, Bill, for doing that.

A reminder, again, of George Bastedo's invitation to attend a Summer SKYWARN training April 30, Tuesday, 7:00PM at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Check the March "Drumlins Rumlins" for details.

So as you can read, not only "April showers bring spring flowers," but April means we come out of hibernation for RACES-ARES as well. Hi. So watch the club emails for information coming up for all that is going on. See you next month.

73 & 88, Dave KB2KBY

P.S. A good sign that spring is here: The Easter egg hunt at the Palmyra Sexton Village Park. The Lions Club spreads out 2,000 plastic eggs and divide the eager kids into groups by age/grade level. After the "go" was given this group is pictured.



It took 30 seconds to have the ground cleared of those 2,000 plastic eggs! Hi. The Easter Bunny would have proud. HAPPY SPRING!



We have several upcoming activities and need Drumlins members to help out. These events are all important so please help out wherever you can.. Thank you

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1. Sun Apr 14 at 1 pm. Trailer work day at Jeff's N2MKT. Pizza served, bring your own drinks. RSVP to this email if you haven't yet. (NOT Reply All please)
2. Sat Apr 27. 7am-1pm. Drumlins Hamfest. Also set up help on Friday around 4pm (pizza served). Contact Rich at Tinker@rochester.rr.com.
3. Sun Apr 28 at 1 pm. Trailer work day IF we get rained out on Apr 14 or we need to do more work.
4. Tue Apr 30, 7pm at EMO.. SKYWARN Contact Abby to reserve a seat at 315-946-5663 or email awahl@co.wayne.ny.us.
5. Sat May 11. Spring Fling dinner 5pm at Flaherty's in Macedon. \$20 per person. We may have to cancel if can't get more to sign up. Pay online at www.drumlinsarc.us, click on Activities, then Spring Fling and Pay, or pay at club meeting or contact Rich at Tinker@rochester.rr.com. Come enjoy some social time with your Ham friends and family's
7. Wed. May 15 at 1 pm.. Work day at the EMO. Spring Check out Radio's; wiring for new equipment. Reply to this email if you can help.... NOT Reply All.
8. NEW EVENTS: APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, Williamson
Sat May 18. 11am-5pm. at up démonstration table at the Parade downtown Williamson. Will need 3-5 people, table, cover (canopy) and a generator (no access to electricity). Reply to this email if you can help (NOT Reply All)
Sun May 18. 7am-12 noon at the Williamson Airport for the Pancake Festival. Needs are the same as on Sat except no generator needed. Reply to this email if you can help.
9. Mon May 20. Tour de Cure planning meeting 6pm Webster Recreation Center, 1350 Chiyoda, Webster. Sign up at Rochesterham.org, click on Public Service, and register for Tour de Cure... Actual event is Sat June 8 but this planning meeting is STRONGLY encouraged.. Dinner is served.

EVERY TUESDAY 7PM.DARC NET on 146.745 (pl 71.9)
repeater. Friendly rag chew and weather reporting.

EVERY SUNDAY 8:35 pm. WAREC RACES NET 146.685

EVERY SUNDAY 8pm SIARC NET 145.450

Sat Mar 23 3pm-430pm. Martial Arts Studio, Cannery Row Plaza, Newark NYHam Radio for 21st Century, especially for kids age 10 and up. Learn about antennas and Ham Radio. Contact Stu, KC2KJO via email at. Hamhobby4kids@yahoo.com.

Sat April 27. HAMFEST 8am. Palmyra VFW. Contact Rich at Tinker@rochester.rr.com

Tue April 30 at 7PM.SKYWARN Weather Training Can Abby at 315-946-5663 to register

Sat May 11. Spring Fling dinner at Flarhetys Restaurant in Macedon. For info contact Rich at Tinker@rochester.rr.com

Wed May 15. 1pm Work day at EMO

Sat June 8 Tour de Cure bike event. Contact RARA at Rochesterham.org and click on Public Service to register

Sat-Sun June 22-23.Amateur Radio Field Days. See Amateur Radio operators in action. 8am Sat-noon Sunday. Location to be announced

Tue July 23., State Ginna drill 8am. Contact Dave at kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

Sat Aug 17. Drumlins Picnic Free to all members and their family's. Palmyra VFW 4 pm. Contact Rich at Tinker@rochester.rr.com

Tue Aug 20. Federal GINNA Drill 8 am. Must have attended previous drill to participate Contact Dave at kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

Sat Aug 24. ROC the Ride for MS. Contact Rochesterham.org at select Public Service to register

Repeaters

No Repeater report this month

The following article is re-printed courtesy of ARRL.

Amateur Radio Club Contacts

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Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	wb2pyd@arrrl.net
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Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)	
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Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)	
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Antique Wireless Association (AWA)	
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Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club	
Jim Sutton, N2OPS	jim@atrym.org
Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Association	
Bill Boyd, N3DSP	n3dsp@lafireline.net

Drumlines Leaders 2019

President	Bill Tegtmeyer, KD2DNO	315-744-0434
Vice President	Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ	315-986-8589
Secretary	Nila DeLeo-Ellwanger	315-310-1717
Treasurer	Walter Dutcher II, W2WBD	585-224-5581
Program	Jay Hamill, KC2TCM	315-210-8078
RACES/ARES	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
3yr Director	Lew Ellwanger, WE2LEW	315-587-3509
2yr Director	Al Cook K2MPE	315-398-0936
1yr Director	Russell Harris W2JPT	585-738-0321
Repeater Chair	Jeff Jensen, N2MKT	315-879-1588
PIO/Membership	Lew Ellwanger, WE2LEW	315-587-3509
Newsletter	Lew Ellwanger, WE2LEW	315-587-3509
Club Trustees	Jeff Jensen, N2MKT	315-879-1588
	Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK	315-210-8078
Website	Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ	315-986-8589
	Justin Toramino, W2JPT	



OFFICIAL
SKYWARN
Storm Spotter



A US National Weather Service and Amateur Radio Volunteer Program



Club Address:
Walter Dutcher W2WDB
144 Berg Rd.
Ontario, NY 14519
Email: drumlinsarc@gmail.com



WAYNE COUNTY RACES

VHF NET

TIME-FREQUENCIES

SUNDAY EVENING 8:35PM

PRIMARY:

146.685 (PL 71.9)

WA2EMO REPEATER

Secondary

146.745 (PL 71.9)

WA2AAZ REPEATER

Voice and Digital

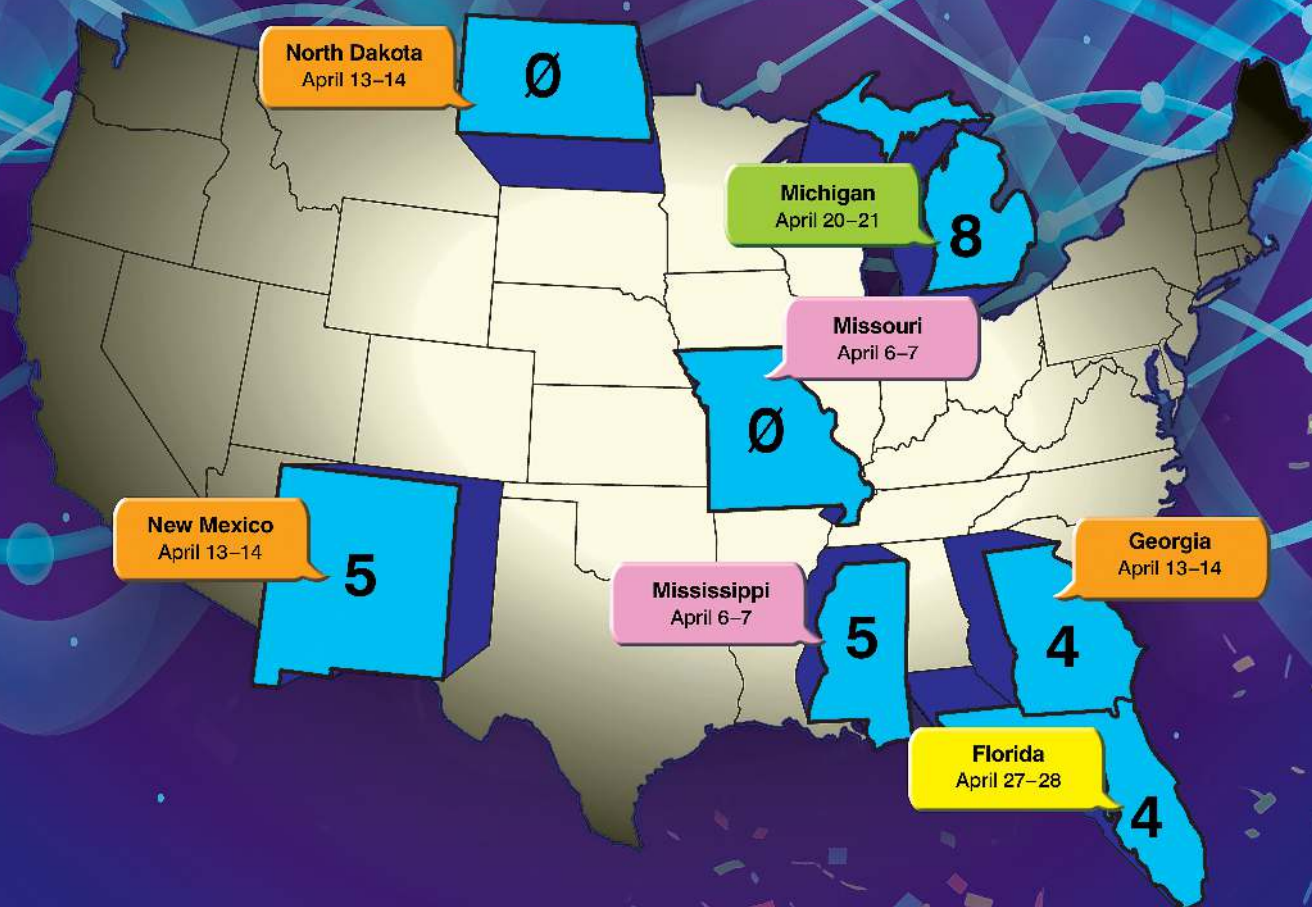
FLDIGI MT63-2KL



State and Regional QSO Parties

Something for Everybody

Whether you approach them as a contest or just some on-air fun, it's easy to get involved with these events that enliven the bands year 'round.



Hal Kennedy, N4GG

Highly appreciated by those that know about them, state and regional QSO parties are an on-air activity that many operators have yet to discover. All 50 states have one, and operators can choose how they want to participate in these events, treating them as if they are low-key parties, contests, or both. There will be a few stations going all-out, but even if you dislike contesting, QSO parties are still an activity for you.

Benefits of Participation

There are many reasons to take part in a state or regional QSO party. As a low-key operating event, its biggest draw is to have fun with it, whether you're participating to say hello to old friends, encourage newcomers, or you're looking to fill in some counties or grid squares in your logbook.

Most QSO parties also provide the benefit of having one or more rover (mobile) stations that travel through different counties, and they can be worked each time they enter a new one (see the sidebar, "Increase Your Score County by County"). Following their progress is a lot of fun, can sharpen your state geographic knowledge, and can develop new friendships. Rovers drive many hours to give operators new counties, and supporting their efforts can go a long way toward increasing your score.

No one should fear jumping in, because these events are often seen as a casual way to make contacts. There is a lot of participation by operators that only get into one on-air activity a year — the QSO party for their state. Even as a hardcore contest, I find that these events are the perfect opportunity to sharpen old skills or build new ones, all at a relaxed pace. If you are a newbie or an old-timer getting rusty, the parties provide the perfect learning atmosphere. Leisurely and hardcore participants mix very well in state QSO parties, and the high-speed all-out guys will invariably slow down for beginning operators.

Awards

If you're interested in pursuing awards, the easiest way to win them is by participating in state QSO parties. Many contacts in state QSO parties are casual because many participants aren't trying to win anything, but sometimes, operators will win something without even trying.

Every state and regional QSO party issues dozens of paper certificates for various achievements. In 2014, I won a beautiful plaque from the New England QSO Party (NEQP), which arrived as a complete surprise.



Hal Kennedy, N4GG, received the New England QSO Party plaque for his efforts in the event. [Hal Kennedy, N4GG, photo]



The plaque (on right) awarded to the W8UM operating team after winning the 2014 Michigan QSO Party. As an added bonus, the University of Michigan Amateur Radio Club and rival Michigan State University Amateur Radio Club have developed their own trophy (on left) to be held by the winner each year. [Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, photo]

State and Regional QSO Party Schedule

January	Montana	May	New England QSO Party (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), 7th Call Area QSO Party (WY, UT, OR, WA, NV, MT, ID, AZ), Arkansas, Delaware, Indiana	September	Alabama, Washington State Salmon Run, New Hampshire, Maine, Texas, Colorado, Iowa, New Jersey, Tennessee
February	Vermont, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina				
March	Idaho, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin	June	Kentucky, West Virginia	October	California, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, South Dakota
April	Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota	August	Maryland/DC, Hawaii, Ohio, Kansas		

For dates, times, and rules, check www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.html.



Hal, N4GG, enjoying a coffee break during leisurely participation in the Georgia QSO Party. [Hal Kennedy, N4GG, photo]

Increase Your Score County by County

Working counties is important! Every state QSO party is scored using a formula that includes number of QSOs \times number of counties contacted. The details vary however, so check the rules. Some QSO parties let you count a county twice on each band — once for an SSB contact and once for CW. Working as many counties as possible on as many bands and modes as possible is a time-tested way to earn a plaque for your wall. Contacting the roving mobile stations is your key to maximizing county totals.

Other awards are more extravagant and specific to the state. For instance, the California QSO Party (CQP) awards a bottle of California wine to each of the top 20 scorers from outside the state, and the NEQP flies a lobster dinner for two overnight to the out-of-state winner. Other states send handmade plaques shaped like their state, and Hawaii awards plaques shaped like surfboards. These awards are often won without much effort, but they can be very special and meaningful, offering an added incentive to join in the fun.

When you do win a plaque or award in any contest or QSO party, it would be nice to send a thank-you note to the award sponsor. Email is fine these days, but I still mail handwritten thank-you notes via the USPS. I've gotten comments about how appreciated those are, and when I sponsor plaques, the thank-you notes mean a great deal to me.

Choosing a QSO Party

There are state and regional QSO parties many weekends of the year (see the sidebar, "State and Regional QSO Party Schedule"), so you can schedule which ones you want to

participate in, and your options are abundant.

Times and days may vary, with some events running for a few hours throughout the weekend, and some taking place all day. Based on when you want to operate and the time you're willing to commit to the event, there will always be options for you. It is important to check the event's website for rules and times before operating in the QSO party.

See you in the next state or regional QSO party!

Tips on Deciphering Exchanges

For operators new to state QSO parties, it is important to understand the concept of *directed CQs*. A directed CQ is one where the CQing station is looking for a reply from a specific place. For example, in the Georgia QSO party (GQP), stations outside Georgia want to make contacts with Georgia, so they call "CQ GA" on CW, or "CQ Georgia" on SSB.

Stations inside Georgia would call "CQ GQP" on CW, or "CQ Georgia QSO Party" on SSB. In the GQP, I will sometimes call "CQ GQP de N4GG/CHER" on CW, indicating I am in Georgia, specifically in Cherokee County for those looking for my county.

When I am out of state and the QSO party is in a "4" calling area, known as the "4-land" (including Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida), I usually sign N4GG/GA to help other operators know that, while I have a "4-land" callsign, I'm not in the state they are looking for.

Nearly every logging program supports the state QSO parties and every county in the US has a four-letter abbreviation. Logging programs have the county lists built in. Keep the counties list close by to use as a cheat sheet during exchanges.

Amateur Extra Hal Kennedy, N4GG, has been licensed and on the air for 57 years. He received his BSEE from Lafayette College and an MS in management from the Sloan School at MIT. Now retired, Hal worked in the aerospace and defense industry for 30 years. Hal has won numerous awards as an active contester and DX chaser on all HF and VHF bands, and he particularly likes building and experimenting with wire antennas. Hal has written articles for *NCJ* and *QST*, and he is a contributor to both *The ARRL Handbook* and *The ARRL Antenna Book*. In 2010, Hal built "Blue Lightning," a replica 1910 rotary spark-gap transmitter that has been displayed at several hamfests. Hal can be reached at n4gg@arrl.net.

**For updates to this article,
see the QST Feedback page at
www.arrl.org/feedback.**

