

This Month in QST

Steve Ford, WB8IMY
QST Editor-in-Chief

I imagine many of you are asking yourselves, “What happened to the ‘Second Century’ editorial?” If you follow ARRL news, you may know that our Chief Executive Officer, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, has retired from the organization. Our former Chief Financial Officer, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, has become our new CEO. However, at the time this issue was going to press, Barry had his hands full in the first days of his transition. ‘Second Century’ will return to *QST* in the April issue under Barry’s byline.

2017 QST Antenna Design Competition

Early last year, we announced the *QST* Antenna Design Competition with the intention of stimulating some fresh ideas. We thought we’d receive perhaps a couple of dozen entries. To our astonishment, we received nearly 100 entries!

The competition judges spent much of last summer and fall carefully sorting through the entries, testing designs with antenna-modeling software, scrutinizing gain estimates, and much more. In the meantime, *QST* readers asked when they would finally see the winning designs in the magazine.

The answer is: Now.

In this issue, you will see three first-place winners and one second-place design. In the April and May issues, you will see more winners and some designs that earned “honorable mentions.”

We begin with a novel delta-loop antenna for 160 meters by Ted Algren, KA6W. As we enter the depths of the solar minimum, the low bands are where you’ll find the most DX action and Ted’s first-place-winning design in the “160 Meters and Lower Frequencies” category will get you on Top Band.

For 75 meters, check out the first-place winner in the “80 Through 10 Meters” category, a Moxon-style vertical Yagi antenna. The innovative design is the brainchild of Al Christman, K3LC, and Joe Johnson, K3RR.

The first-place winner in the “6 Meters and Higher Frequencies” category is a mobile antenna for 2 meters that may be unlike anything you’ve ever seen. It is a rugged antenna with a very low profile that was created by John Portune, W6NBC.

“ We thought we’d receive perhaps a couple of dozen entries. To our astonishment, we received nearly 100 entries! ”

Finally, the second-place winner in the “80 Through 10 Meters” category comes to us from Poland. The “Cat Whiskers” is a multiband loop antenna designed by Jacek Pawlowski, SP3L, that I’m sure many readers will want to try. The antenna resembles cat whiskers, which is at least in part inspired by Jacek’s cat, Cappuccino.

The Latest in Technology and Radio

Have you ever considered using a remote-controlled drone to hang wire antennas from tall trees? Some hams have done this and Michael Shanblatt, W3MAS, and Joseph Warwick, KB3ZED, will show you how. Modern drones are relatively easy to fly and the modifications these authors suggest will quickly turn a drone into an antenna-erection device.

Thanks to modern medical technology, many of us can look forward to living well into old age. (You don’t see as many items in *QST* about 100-year-old hams because, frankly, they are no longer rare.) But along with old age comes the threat posed by the scourge of Alzheimer’s disease. In this issue you’ll find a fascinating article by our news editor, Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, in which he profiles the work undertaken by Eric Knight, KB1EHE, and Alzheimer’s disease researcher Dr. Gary Arendash. By subjecting the brain to low levels of RF energy, they hope to reverse the ravages of the disease. Their invention is not a cure — at least not yet — but it is promising enough that the Food and Drug Administration has allowed human clinical trials to proceed. If it proves to be successful, imagine the pride we’ll all feel when the world learns that an Amateur Radio operator had a hand in banishing this disease.

QST Changes

When we debuted changes to *QST* in the January issue, we weren’t quite sure what to expect. The nature of change aversion being what it is, we anticipated that a few brickbats would come flying our way.

To our astonishment, the response was overwhelmingly positive. In my nearly 3 decades on the *QST* team, I’ve never seen anything quite like it. There are many people behind the scenes who do much of the heavy work in bringing *QST* to you every month — people who you will probably never meet. I’ve shared the flood of positive messages with them and I can tell you that they are highly gratified. I want to thank everyone who took the time to convey how much you’ve enjoyed the changes. The *QST* staff greatly appreciated it.