

## Endings and Beginnings

January, as you probably know, is named for the Roman god Janus. As the patron of beginnings and endings, he is often depicted as looking backwards and forwards at the same time. This is an appropriate theme for this month, since we are not only starting a new year but a new chapter for *CQ* and for amateur radio magazines. Plus, of course, as Janus reminds us, every new beginning also represents an ending of something else.

### WorldRadio

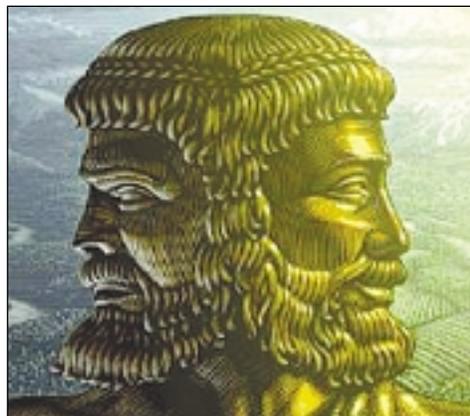
As you may have read on our website or elsewhere, we announced in November that our parent company, CQ Communications, Inc., has purchased *WorldRadio* magazine from its former publisher, Armond Noble, N6WR, who has decided to retire. Within the next couple of months, we will be converting *WorldRadio* from a print publication to an online publication. Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, will continue at its helm. So, while the print magazine that has been familiar to its readers for more than 38 years will be ending, we are looking forward to its new beginning as a fully-online magazine, right at the leading edge of the magazine publishing industry.

Our plan is to make the online version of *WorldRadio* freely available, with its subscribers receiving *CQ* magazine as well (details of *WR*-to-*CQ* conversions are on our website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadioConver.html>). Our current plan is to produce the magazine in .PDF format, making articles readily available for either reading online or for downloading and printing, whatever your preference. We will also set up an e-mail list (similar to the *CQ* e-news list) that will alert readers when the next issue is available and provide highlights of each issue's contents. This is an exciting time for us, and while there will most certainly be some technical glitches along the way—since we'll be learning the process as we go along—we are looking forward to both the challenges and opportunities that this new beginning for *WorldRadio* represents.

Of course, this month also marks the beginning of a new administration in Washington. It remains to be seen how ham-aware and ham-friendly the new President will be, or how his administration's policies play out at the FCC. Generally speaking, though, amateur radio is far enough down the priority list that it rarely even appears on the presidential radar. It only appears on the FCC commissioners' radar when we start making noise about something ... such as the Commission's apparent abandonment of amateur radio enforcement efforts after the retirement of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, last July. It is something we need to keep making noise about until there is action.

### Enforcement Follow-up

The early feedback from last month's editorial calling on the FCC to get back into the amateur radio enforcement business and to quickly name a successor to Hollingsworth has been quite interesting, and mostly positive. Some readers have pointed out that Riley's efforts resulted in very few actual license revocations, massive fines, etc., as opposed to "negotiated settlements" in which people agreed to change their behavior or stay off certain bands for a set period of time rather than facing long and drawn-out proceedings that



accompany formal enforcement actions. They saw this as evidence of ineffectiveness. We disagree. The goal here was not so much to punish people for breaking the rules as to get them to change their behavior and to once again become respectable, law-abiding members of the amateur community. In that regard, Riley was incredibly effective, since behaviors did change and the instances of "things I wouldn't want my kids to hear" on the ham bands dropped off dramatically. Unfortunately, much of that has returned in the face of the Commission's failure so far to name a successor. We remain concerned that without a public face to connect with amateur enforcement, and particularly with the complete absence of amateur enforcement actions, or even "call me to talk" letters, all the improvements we have seen in the past ten years will quickly be lost.

### Back to Janus

Before we leave Janus behind for another year, I want to mention a couple of additional endings and beginnings in the *CQ* "family." *CQ* RTTY Contest Director Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, has turned the reins of our two radioteletype competitions over to Ed Muns, W0YK. In his eight years at the helm, Glenn has guided the growth of the *CQ* WW RTTY DX Contest and the *CQ* WW WPX RTTY Contest into the world's most popular RTTY events. We thank Glenn for his service and his dedication to RTTY contesting. Ed is a championship RTTY contester himself. He's a retired computer engineer and now works full-time running the California vineyard he started in 1998. We look forward to working closely with Ed. It should be noted that Glenn's original plan was to turn the contests over to Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, who had been his co-director for the past several years, a plan that was short-circuited by Paolo's untimely passing last October. We also thank Ed for stepping in to fill the resulting void.

Finally, "Weekender" editor Phil Salas, AD5X, has decided he would like to devote more time to operating than to tinkering, especially as the new sunspot cycle starts showing some signs of life, so this month's column is his last. We would like to continue the "Weekender" column, as homebrewing is not only a ham radio tradition but an activity that takes on greater importance in a bad economy. If you, or someone you know, is an inveterate tinkerer who not only can come up with simple, useful weekend projects, but can also write about them clearly and succinctly, we'd like to hear from you.

All the best to you and yours for a happy and healthy new year from all of us here at *CQ*. 73, Rich, W2VU

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