

Transitions

Welcome to a new year and a new decade. Traditionally, a new year is a time to reflect on the year that has just ended and to look forward to what might be different in the year that is just beginning. It is a time of transition, and not always as simple as changing to a new calendar (speaking of which, I hope you all have your new CQ calendar on your shack wall!).

For most of us hams, the year just ended was a tough one, both in terms of the economy and the sunspot cycle, which are sharing the unfortunate feature of being much slower to recover than any of us would like. On the other hand, there were some encouraging signs on both fronts, and both promise to continue slowly improving in 2011 (see this month's "Propagation" column on page 98 for non-economic predictions).

We are in the process of a transition here at CQ, as well. While your editor is the "face" of this magazine to its readers and writers, and the general ham community, the advertising manager is the "face" of the magazine to the people who work in the ham radio industry. He or she is the person they hear from every month to make sure their company will be getting its message out to our readers, with whom they work on crafting the details of an ad, and whom they see at hamfests (usually along with me).

Since I joined CQ nearly 20 years ago, either Arnie Sposato, N2IQO, or Don Allen, W9CW, has occupied at least one chair in the advertising department here at CQ Communications. When I started, Arnie was ad manager for CQ and Don was ad manager for *Popular Communications* and *Communications Quarterly*. Over the years, each of them has left the company and later returned, and eventually ended up swapping hats, with Don in charge of advertising for CQ and CQ VHF, and Arnie running the show at *PopComm*. But one or the other has always been here, willing to share decades of knowledge of the amateur industry and the people who work in it.

Therefore, it was quite a shock to the system last fall, when over the course of two weeks, both Arnie and Don informed publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, that they planned to retire by the end of the year.

After a rocky start to looking for replacements (including one textbook case of how not to get hired), the stars finally came into alignment, a few flares popped off the sun, and we are extremely pleased to welcome a very well-known face in the ham radio hobby and industry—Chip Margelli, K7JA—to be our new "face" to the industry, as Director of Advertising Sales and Marketing for CQ Communications. Chip will be taking over the ad sales duties on CQ, CQ VHF, and *PopComm*, as well as coordinating marketing efforts for all of our products.

Some of you may know Chip as a DXer, DX-peditioner, and contester extraordinaire, as the "public face" of Yaesu for nearly 30 years, or more recently, as VP of Marketing for Heil Sound. Chip brings with him a tremendous depth of knowledge of the inner workings of the amateur radio industry, which will be of great value as he helps both current and prospective advertisers communicate most effectively with our readers. We all look forward to working with Chip as a colleague.

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Still, it's going to be quite strange for quite a while, not to be picking up the phone and calling Don or Arnie about this company or that product, and having a new roommate at hamfest hotels. Don and Arnie, it has been an honor and a privilege—and a pleasure—to work with both of you, and we will miss you greatly here in the "hallowed halls of Hicksville."

Additional Goodbyes

Speaking of hamfest hotels, one of my most lasting memories of Dayton is the year that I roomed with then-WPX Award Manager Norm Koch, WN5N. Norm was proudly from the southwest, and that year he brought along some jars of homebrew spicy salsa to give to certain staff members. We stored them in our hotel room until it was time to hand them out. Complication: When we came back from the show on Friday, we were greeted by a huge and unpleasant mess. It seems that one of his salsa jars, all by itself, had *exploded* while we were at Hara Arena. The cleanup was interesting, the housekeeper got an extra tip, and for some reason, everyone politely declined Norm's offer of a jar of homemade salsa! I am recounting this story because Norm became a Silent Key in November after several years of declining health. Because of that experience, though, thinking of Norm always brings a smile to my face. What better way to be remembered?

Also leaving us in November was John Champa, K8OCL, the High-Speed Multimedia (HSMM) editor for CQ VHF magazine, after a battle with cancer. I did not know John well, nor did anything of his ever blow up in my hotel room. But the few times that I did meet him, I was always impressed by his depth of knowledge about very complex technical topics as well as his ability to discuss them in plain English with folks like me who could only begin to scratch the surface. I was also impressed by his common-sense, no-nonsense approach to dealing with issues. His expertise and insight will be missed by the entire amateur community as we lose a leader at the leading edge of amateur radio technology.

Scaling Back

Finally, since this is January, and many of us make New Year's resolutions to promptly ignore, here is one to try to help more of us stick around on the planet a little longer (and you can credit/blame my wife for this one): How about if we collectively resolve to each lose about 30 pounds in 2011? Now some of you out there are skinny as rails, but we all know that the vast majority of us are not. Thirty pounds sounds like a lot (it sure does to me), but it works out to an average of 2¹/₂ pounds a month, a goal that many of us can achieve simply by walking more and eating less. One approach my wife and I have taken is to either share a meal when we eat out, or immediately put half of each serving aside to take home and eat the following day. It is, pardon the pun, a "no-lose" resolution. Even if you simply manage to maintain your current weight, you'll be no worse off at the end of the year than you are right now. And every pound that you do manage to lose will pay off in both short- and long-term dividends. While we're on the topic, get regular colonoscopies as well. They can save your life.

On that happy note, may your health, wealth, and DX totals all improve in the new year! 73, W2VU