



## ***On the Cover***

Chasing DX is the primary passion of Tom Lutz, W0ZR, of Minnetonka, Minnesota. His current focus is on 160 meters, on which he'd confirmed 194 countries at press time. The 72-foot crank-up tower behind Tom in the photo is shunt-fed to serve as his 160-meter transmit antenna. He has a K9AY receiving loop to pick up incoming top-band signals. The tower also hosts several other HF antennas, including a Hy-Gain TH-11 DX for 10-20 meters\*, a 2-element Cushcraft beam for 40 and a rotatable dipole for 80 meters.

Tom's main radio is an ICOM IC-7600, but his shack consists of a mix of current and vintage gear. Prominent in his collection are a pair of Collins 75A4 receivers and a 32V3 transmitter, rigs he used when he was first licensed at age 12 back in 1957. (If you're wondering how a 12-year-old managed to start out with Collins gear, it's because Tom and his dad discovered ham radio together when they built a superhet receiver featured in *Boy's Life* magazine. They learned code together and got their Novice licenses together. Tom says he and his father maintained regular radio contacts until his father passed away.)

Over the years, Tom has managed to earn 5-Band DXCC, the ARRL's #1 Honor Roll and CQ's 5-Band Worked All Zones, which he termed his most coveted and most difficult award to earn. DXing has been a constant in Tom's ham radio career, and even survived a 15-year absence from the hobby from the mid-1960s to 1980. Another constant has been CW, which Tom calls "a long-time passion," even though he feels that today, it's "kind of becoming a lost art." (*Main cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI*)

Inset: The K6RPT-11 balloon that flew from California to the Mediterranean in mid-December. See "VHF-Plus" on page 91. (*Inset photo by KG6TBY*)

*\*This photo was taken before the TH-11 replaced Tom's Force 12 20-meter monobander at the bottom of the stack on his tower.*