

## CQ Plus – We’re Changing to Better Serve You

**H**ow did you get started in the radio hobby? Did you dive right into ham radio, or did you start out doing something with an easier learning curve, such as shortwave listening or CB? Do you still enjoy some of those other aspects of hobby radio?

I certainly didn’t start out in the deep end of the pool. I got started at about age 10, lying in bed late at night, listening to faraway AM broadcast stations in between the locals and trying to figure out where they were. This was followed by cold winter nights sitting in the family car, after I realized that the car radio was more sensitive than the old tube set in my bedroom (and had an external antenna outside the house, but I didn’t know about that stuff yet). Then came CB, shortwave listening and finally, ham radio. I still dabble in SWLing and like to listen to airplanes and local public safety folks on my scanner.

I don’t think my experience is at all uncommon. Most every ham I’ve ever met got started in a different branch of the radio hobby and worked his or her way up to the ranks of a licensed amateur. Do you still enjoy other parts of the radio hobby? I’m guessing yes. That’s why virtually every HF transceiver on the market today includes a general coverage shortwave receiver, and why virtually every VHF/UHF transceiver includes wide coverage receive and scanning capabilities. We have collectively demanded it because we don’t want to be limited by edges of the ham bands.

Very few of us are one-dimensional radio hobbyists. Yes, we may have a favorite part of the hobby, but most of us keep our fingers in other parts as well. Yet, hobby radio magazines have tended to be one-dimensional, specializing in one aspect of the hobby or another. Our focus in *CQ* has always been nearly exclusively on amateur radio, while our sister magazines have focused on other areas, either the broader listening part of the radio hobby or even narrower interests, such as contesting or VHF/UHF hamming. But no one magazine is really meeting all of your radio needs.

Well, we’re about to change that. We’re returning to the pre-1945 days of our predecessor magazine, *Radio*, and transforming *CQ* into your one-stop support center for all types of hobby radio!

### Introducing *CQ Plus*

Beginning this month, selected content from our three sister publications, *Popular Communications*, *CQ VHF* and *WorldRadio Online*, will be incorporated into *CQ*’s digital edition as a supplement to be called “*CQ Plus*.” Take a look at our expanded table of contents (appearing in the print issue as well as the digital edition) to see what new offerings we have for you this month, from an update on the state of AM broadcasting and the FCC’s efforts to “fix” it to an interview with a pirate broadcaster who regularly runs for President! The best of all four of our magazines is now combined into one—this one!

For our print readers, nothing will change. You will be getting the same *CQ* you’ve always gotten, with the same great features and columns you’ve come to expect. Digital subscribers will get both the print content and *CQ Plus* in a seamless, expanded, digital edition. Subscribers to *Pop’Comm*, *WRO* and *CQ VHF* have had their subscriptions transferred to *CQ*, with

specifics based on the type of subscription they’ve had (print or digital) and the value of the remaining issues. Questions should be directed to our circulation department at <circulation@cq-amateur-radio.com> or 1-800-853-9797.

Yes, there is also an economic component at play here. First of all—as we’ve said here before—even though ham radio is growing at a nice pace, we’re not seeing those increased licensing numbers translating into growth in radio clubs, ARRL membership or *CQ* readership. All of these are stable, but not keeping pace with growth in the number of licensees. Beyond amateur radio, the number of shortwave broadcast stations on the air is steadily shrinking, as cash-strapped governments decide they can effectively communicate with the rest of the world via the Internet and satellite, and without needing to maintain and operate expensive radio transmitter sites. Scanning options are shrinking as well, as more public safety agencies encrypt their (now mostly-digital) communications in the name of added security.

The bottom line for us is that *CQ* has been subsidizing *Pop’Comm*, *WRO* and *CQ VHF*. We can’t continue to do that. Add in the glacial pace of the overall economic recovery and this has resulted in the delivery delays of both print and digital editions that have frustrated us as much as they have frustrated all of you. We are looking forward to a bigger, better, more comprehensive, *CQ* bringing us greater stability while continuing to serve our loyal readers throughout the radio hobby. We greatly appreciate your patience and your support as we have navigated these choppy waters, and we welcome the readers of *Pop’Comm*, *WRO* and *CQ VHF* to the pages of *CQ* and *CQ-Plus*. And speaking of which...

### QRP Special

This month’s issue is our annual **QRP Special**. We’re focusing this year on the wide variety of ham radio activities that fall under the low-power umbrella, from operating QRP during lunch to using digital modes that copy signals you can’t even hear! Of course, we’ve got non-QRP articles as well, from N2IRZ’s column on how to build an inexpensive software-defined receiver to N2GA’s fascinating suggestion that we try to make contesting a spectator sport as well as a participation sport.

### A Sad Note

It is with great sadness that we pass along the news that former *CQ* Editor and *CQ* Amateur Radio Hall of Fame member Arne Trossman, W4EIP (ex-W2DTJ), became a Silent Key in November. In addition to his time at *CQ* (1960–64), Arne helped develop the Cosmophone, an early amateur SSB transceiver.

On a personal level, Arne was one of my first ham radio “Elmers” or mentors. I grew up a couple of towns away from Arne and he was my Radio Merit Badge counselor when I was a Boy Scout. I still remember going down to his basement ham shack and workbench, where he taught me to solder and helped me learn Morse code. It wasn’t until many years later that we made the connection, realizing it was his work with a kid trying to earn a merit badge that set me on the path to eventually become his successor in the *CQ* editor’s chair. 73, Tross. We’ll miss you.

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