



Beginner's Classroom

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This column attempts to explain some aspect of our hobby each month. The subjects may be technical or they may concern such things as DX practices and traditions. Suggestions for topics are always welcome.

BEGINNER'S CLASSROOM FOR JULY 2011

RADIO MAGAZINES (The kind you hold and read)

I hope everyone is enjoying warm weather, some outdoor fun, and some summer leisure time to listen to the radio. Apart from all the information that can be found on the Internet, there are still a number of hard-copy publications out there for the radio listener and radio amateur. Below are some of the major commercial publications that can be found at better book and magazine stores that cater to our radio hobby.

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

Popular Communications has been around nearly thirty years, and has a wide spectrum of interest to the radio listener. There are items and/or columns on shortwave listening, scanner, amateur, AM/FM/TV, and a number of scientific articles on topics such as propagation, antenna construction and the like. Published by *CQ Communications*, this magazine is very good for those who have a number of sub-hobbies within their radio listening.

MONITORING TIMES

A bit of personal bias here: I find that **Monitoring Times** is one of the best radio listening monthly commercial magazines in the business. There are a number of loggings columns, a Beginner's column, a Programming Column (*Programming Spotlight* -- compiled by our own Fred Waterer), marine, military and much, much more. One of the sub-headings for MT given by readers is, "If it's on the radio, it's in Monitoring Times." If you get an opportunity to pick up an issue of this Grove Enterprise's publication off the shelf at your book/magazine store, I promise you won't be disappointed.

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR

The Canadian Amateur is a bi-monthly publication put out by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. In each issue there are items related to what is happening on the ham radio scene here in Canada, and news on DXpeditions, contests, construction articles and news on new/changed regulations in Canadian amateur radio. The Canadian Amateur is included with one's membership in RAC.

QST

QST is the monthly magazine published by the American Radio Relay League. This amateur radio publication is one of the longest (if not THE longest) running amateur monthly in the history of ham radio, with its first issue in December 1915. Within the magazine you will find articles on ham radio products, receiver reviews, antenna construction, contest news, news on call-letter prefix changes and updates, silent keys (amateurs who have passed away), DXpeditions -- basically anything related to the amateur radio hobby.

CQ

Along with Popular Communications, **CQ** and **CQ VHF** are published by *CQ Communications*. The full name of the magazine is CQ Radio Amateur, and the main thrust of the monthly publication is amateur contesting, technical issues, changes in FCC amateur radio rules as well as those in other countries, and many announcements of DXpeditions, antennas and amateur radio DXing in general. As mentioned, there is also CQ VHF, a quarterly amateur radio publication devoted to the ham world above 50 MHz.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

Founded in 1932, this British publication was mainly about wireless pursuits (radio) until about 25 - 20 years ago, when it became primarily an amateur radio monthly magazine. Published by PW Publishing, ***Practical Wireless*** deals with HF, VHF and UHF amateur radio topics, as well as items such as how the bands are propagating, what new gadgets are on the market for ham operators, and general information for all hams.

RADIOUSER MAGAZINE

Michael Murray used to send me copies of the old **Shortwave Magazine** from the UK, but a number of years ago, Shortwave Magazine and **Radio Active** combined into a new publication called **Radiouser Magazine**. This morphed hobby mag, published as well by PW Publishing, incorporates a classified section called Trading Post, a look at what people have been hearing in and around the British Isles, a column on past articles from *Shortwave Magazine*, and other SW and hobby-related articles.

I'm sure there are some other magazines for the radio hobbyist out there, including ones for scanning, amateur radio, AM/FM/TV DXing, and, of course, shortwave. If you have a favourite one, drop me a line and I'll mention yours in a future column.

My thanks to Mark Coady who mentioned in the June **Your Reports** column that I am retiring from high school teaching, after over 30 years in the classroom, 29 of which I have spent at Loretto College School here in Toronto. I have enjoyed my teaching career, mostly teaching mathematics, drama, computer science and religious education, but now it's time for a new chapter. Hopefully I will now have more time to devote to radio listening, and be able to spend more time with my wife. As long as there's something to listen to on the radio, I hope to be there.

Until next month,

73, keep smiling and keep listening

J O E