



# Helping Hand

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*Helping Hand is a column that focuses upon questions, advice, assistance and other items of discussion that our readership requires from time to time. This 'post-it' column will allow hobbyists to inquire about various aspects of radio listening and receive answers from the readership either directly or through this column.*

## Helping Hand Column - September 2011

Autumn is coming to North America, and (hopefully) our long, humid hot spells are mainly behind us. Welcome to the September edition of Helping Hand. We have a few answers this month for Ron Hoehn, and anyone else who may be searching for EKKO stamps. We also have a few questions concerning receivers and related issues, so we'll begin with responses from Mark Coady and Harold Sellers.

Mark writes, "Joe, for your query from Ron Hoehn, this link gives a good overview: <http://www.cinderellas.info/columns/ekko/index.html>. E-Bay is a good source of stamps."

Harold also sent a few websites to explore concerning EKKO stamps: "Hi Joe: Here are a couple of links to articles about Ekko stamps:

[http://www.antiqueradio.com/gilbertcombs\\_ekko\\_6-97.html](http://www.antiqueradio.com/gilbertcombs_ekko_6-97.html)

[http://pl703.pairlitesite.com/Ekko\\_Album.html](http://pl703.pairlitesite.com/Ekko_Album.html)

I think the best place to find them is eBay. Cheers!" The second site that Harold gives shows some wonderful EKKO items. The link for the old time verifications is from <http://www.ontheshortwaves.com>. Thanks to both Mark and Harold for answers to Ron's question!

Our first question this month comes from Marcio Peixe in Brazil, who asks, "Could you tell me if there is another receiver better than Icom IC-R20 150 kHz a 3304,999 MHz. Where can I find (such receivers) in Edmonton, Calgary or Vancouver? Thank

you." I am not familiar with radio store in the western part of Canada, so if anyone knows of such as store, please let me know and I'll give the answer to Marcio.

Brad Fenner sent a general inquiry that concerns an antenna system: "I am interested in the AOR LA 390 antenna unit. Have you or anybody heard anything about this unit in terms of performance. Is this a good unit –a good buy or save my money? I'm looking for product critiques. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks VA3 VIP." Has anyone bought or tried the AOR LA 390 who can comment on this (I assume) active antenna?

We have had a few requests lately on the amateur radio front. One person asked where to find study material and an examination point for the basic qualification amateur license. I told him to go to the Radio Amateurs of Canada website at <http://www.rac.ca>. Does anyone know of a website that is devoted to study material for Canadian ham licenses? By the way, this person also wanted to have his new ham license within the week in order to operate some equipment, but I did kindly explain to him that it would take a wee bit longer to obtain amateur radio status.

Another question sent in concerned a woman donating amateur radio equipment to a museum, and I pointed her in the direction of the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario. They have a myriad of ham radios and other memorabilia from the past 90+ years of amateur operations. If

you would like to visit their museum or visit their informative website, then go to <http://www.hammondmuseumofradio.org> and see what they have collected concerning the history of amateur radio

That's all for September. Please keep those questions (and the answers!) coming.

73      J O E