



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.

Welcome to another edition of the Helping Hand column. This month we have a short column, and I would ask that you look through the past few editions of **Listening In** to see if there is any advice you could offer some of the people who have sent questions or problems that need solving.

Our main question comes from Clyde Halliday, who resides in the GTA. Clyde asks, "Hi. I am looking for someone to install a 2-meter ham radio on my tower in Toronto. If you know of anyone please let me know. Thank You! Clyde, VE3VOC." I assume Clyde is asking to install an antenna for his 2-meter transceiver, so if you are interested, let me know and I get you in touch with Clyde.

I was at a Mathematics teachers' meeting last week (yes, we do get together and throw around numbers and even letters) and had the opportunity to meet Ron Lancaster face to face for the first time. Ron is a past president of the Ontario Association of Mathematical Educators, and has been an avid MW listener throughout the years. Ron and I conversed through e-mails awhile back, mainly concerned with QSLs from MW broadcasters. Ron asked me if many MW stations still QSL. I know through the **Mediumwave Notebook** and **QSL Album** columns that occasionally people send in mentions of their prize QSLs received. However, I could not give Ron a definitive answer. Are hobbyists still receiving confirmation of AM reception from stations? If so, are they mostly in letter or card form?

I promised Ron I'd get back to him on this... anyone have a response?

While on the subject of reception reports and QSLs, just a gentle reminder that the International Reply Coupons (IRCs) will be changing soon. As of December 2009, the Beijing 2 IRCs will no longer be accepted, and the new Nairobi model IRC should be on sale in early June, although know that not all post offices and postal services carry these coupons. Good luck with all your listening, reception reports and QSLs!

That's all this month. I hope you all have a chance to rest and relax as the warmer weather approaches. Keep those questions and answers coming!

73 JOE