



**Official Issue of QRM  
Provided by Don WN3USA  
Lake Wales Repeater Association  
Lake Wales Florida QRM August 2010**

---

If you received this newsletter consider it a Welcome from the Lake Wales Repeater Association, If you do not desire to receive the QRM, just let me know and I'll remove your e-mail address. But we hope to see u at a meeting, or hear you on the Lake Wales Repeater! [wn3usa@yahoo.com](mailto:wn3usa@yahoo.com)

---

We would like to see YOU at our club meetings! Just passing thru Lake Wales, visiting, etc. We would like to see and meet you! You may use the LWRA Repeater anyway!

---

### Build Something

Don't be afraid of electronics, remember that in earlier days of Amateur Radio, home brewing one's own equipment was the norm – if you bought everything from a store you were called "an appliance operator" and pitied for your lack of project home brewing ability. So try building something, even if it is only a wire antenna or other basic project, and you will enjoy the feeling of satisfaction and pride that a "store bought" will never bring. Simply "owning" stuff can never replace "building" and experimenting. THIS is what Ham Radio is really all about!

---

The Last Tribes of Radio Shacks-This article from Wired Magazine talks about a dying breed, the tinkerer or experimenter and the increasingly more difficult search to find electronics parts suppliers.

Andy Cohen waves his arm at the electrical miscellany hanging around him, showing off his tubular lugs and a box labeled "81-piece terminal assortment". Cohen is holding court at the back of the RadioShack store he owns in Sebastopol, California. To his left, a tattooed kid fishes through a metal chest of drawers labeled "fast-acting/slow-blow 3ag-type". Another cabinet is labeled "capacitors: electrolytic, radial (pcb-mount) leads, axial (in-line) leads". Behind him, a spinning rack is hung with baggies containing dozens of different brass and gold solderless connectors. They're the little widgets you think of when you think of RadioShack — the sort of electronic parts the company once had a near monopoly on but that are increasingly hard to find there. Cohen gets much of his supply direct from China. "Where are you going to find all these different kinds of solder? A selection of five soldering irons? All these connectors?" Cohen says. "Other RadioShacks, they hide this stuff or don't buy enough of it anymore. We go out of our way to show you these things."

Cohen is 54, with a gruff voice and the intense, deep-set eyes of an older Joaquin Phoenix. As a kid, he built computers, yammered on ham radios, and took special trips to the electronics shops in Lower Manhattan with his dad. He also pored over the RadioShack catalog the day it arrived, studying up on what was then cutting-edge technology — reel-to-reel tape decks, fax machines — and the pages and pages of arcane electronic components.

Cohen bought this store in 2003 after 25 years as a project manager at companies like Hughes Aircraft and Hewlett-Packard. Housed in a strip mall between a pet supply shop and a dry cleaner, it is not among RadioShack's 4,470 corporate-owned stores but one of about 1,400 franchised dealerships. In exchange for using the RadioShack name, Cohen is required to buy a certain amount of his inventory from the company. Otherwise, he has a lot of leeway. And he has used it to fashion his shop into something like the eccentric, mad-scientist RadioShacks he grew up with. But he knows that he's largely on his own in this, fighting a battle for the soul of the company that's pretty much been decided everywhere else.

Recently, RadioShack has been forcefully rebranding itself, trying to shed its image as a temple of transistors, parts, and cables. Polished executives have parachuted in from the boardrooms of Safeway, Kmart, and Coca-Cola to turn the iconic American retailer around after years of underperformance and uncertainty. (In 2007, *The Onion* summed up the brand's decline with the satiric headline "Even CEO Can't Figure Out How Radioshack Still in Business.")

The plan? The new bosses want to turn RadioShack into a hipper, more mainstream place for "mobility" — which is what they insist on calling the cell phone market. (In an interview, RadioShack's marketing chief used the word mobility an average of once every 105 seconds.) Selling phones is central to the new RadioShack. And so far, it seems to be working. Per-store sales are up, and corporate profits jumped 26 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Wall Street seems to like the strategy. After Apple finally deigned to let the chain sell iPhones late last year, the same Morgan Stanley analyst who in 2008 had described RadioShack as "a decaying business model" lauded its "growing relevancy as a wireless destination." And in early March, the company's stock price was pumped up by unsubstantiated rumors that it might be taken over by an investment firm. If nothing else, the gossip could suggest that RadioShack has whipped itself back into respectable-enough shape to be a plausible investment target.

But a small subculture of RadioShack nostalgics, including many former employees, have watched all this unfold with sorrow — if not a feeling of betrayal, then at least loss. The last nails are being hammered into the coffin of the little electronics hobby shop they once loved. And the cell phone seems to be an apt symbol for the superficiality and ordinariness they feel are taking its place.

"You walk into a regular RadioShack and it's become like a neurosis," Cohen says. "Sir, can I sell you a cell phone today? How old is your cell phone? What about your family, do they have cell phones?"

The story of RadioShack's evolution over the past half century turns out to be the story of America's changing relationship with technology. The RadioShacks of old catered to customers who could diagnose a busted TV on their basement workbench. They might be messing around with some project on a Saturday afternoon, find that they were missing a part, and hustle out to the nearest RadioShack for some of the very gear Cohen still stocks.

But his shop is a lone outpost; in a single generation, the American who built, repaired, and tinkered with technology has evolved into an entirely new species: the American who prefers to slip that technology out of his pocket and show off its killer apps. Once, we were makers. Now most of us are users.

From-Wired-Magazine-May-2010

---

Worked All States Award from the ARRL

The Worked All States award is earned by submitting confirmations from all 50 U.S States. The cost of this award is \$10 for the certificate, or \$15 for the certificate and pin. Aside from the basic certificate for any combination of bands/modes, specialty certificates are issued for a variety of different bands and modes such as Satellite, 160-meters, SSTV, Digital, Phone, and each VHF band. Available endorsements, for a \$7.50 charge, include CW, Novice, QRP, EME, and any single bands. The Digital and Phone awards are available for the various modes. They will be dated, but not numbered. Cards are checked by a volunteer ARRL HF Awards Manager affiliated with ARRL Special Service Clubs (although QSL cards can be checked at HQ, absent an awards manager). To encourage increased activity and station improvement throughout the bands, the 5-Band WAS certificate, at a cost of \$10.00 for the certificate or \$15.00 for the certificate and pin, is available for working all states on 5 amateur bands (5,10, 18 and 24 MHz excluded). Cards for 5BWAS can be checked by your local HF Awards Manager or at ARRL HQ.

Worked All States is supported by Logbook of The World. Please see the LoTW pages for more information.

[www.arrl.org/was](http://www.arrl.org/was)

---

From Dorshaine

You know you're a Floridian if....

Socks are only for bowling.

You never use an umbrella because the rain will be over in five minutes.

A good parking place has nothing to do with distance from the store, but everything to do with shade.

Your winter coat is made of denim.

You can tell the difference between fire ant bites and mosquito bites.

You're younger than thirty but some of your friends are over 65.

Anything under 70 degrees is chilly.

You've driven through Yeehaw Junction.

You know that no other grocery store can compare to Publix.

Every other house in your neighborhood had blue roofs in 2004-2005.

You know that anything under a Category 3 just isn't worth waking up for.

You dread love bug season.

You are on a first name basis with the Hurricane list. They aren't Hurricane Charley or Hurricane Frances. You know them as Andrew, Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne & Wilma...Irene...Cheryl...Rita Mary..Alison

You think a six-foot alligator is actually pretty average.

'Down South' means Key West

Flip-flops are everyday wear. Shoes are for business meetings and church, but you HAVE worn flip flops to church before.

You have a drawer full of bathing suits, and one sweatshirt.

You get annoyed at the tourists who feed seagulls.

A mountain is any hill 100 feet above sea level.

You know the four seasons really are: Hurricane season, love bug season, tourist season and summer.

You've hosted a hurricane party.

You can pronounce Okeechobee, Kissimmee, Withlacoochee, Thonotosassa and Micanopy.

You understand why it's better to have a friend with a boat, than have a boat yourself.

You were 25 when you first met someone who couldn't swim.

You've worn shorts and used the A/C on Christmas and New Years.  
You recognize Miami-Dade as ' Northern Cuba '

---

It's getting near Fall, but it doesn't feel that way, that means it's getting into the Florida Hamfest Season:

I have never attended the Fort Pierce Hamfest, a bit too far away for me!

Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 08/14/2010

Start Date: 08/14/2010

End Date: 08/14/2010

Location: Indian River State College

3209 Virginia Avenue

Fort Pierce, FL

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/w4akh/>

Sponsor: Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 107.2) & Backup 444.800 (PL 107.2)

Public Contact: Pete Amar , KD4SPW

1046 Trinidad Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Phone: 772-465-5204 or Joe Lenar

Email: [kd4spw@aol.com](mailto:kd4spw@aol.com)

Too far to go How about one in Tampa! Not the largest, but I went to their last Hamfest, perhaps 20-25 sellers, no major vendors, Picked up a MFJ-941C Tuner for \$2.00, and it worked.

TARCFest XXIV: Saturday, August 21, 2010



TARCFest XXIV, "Florida's Friendliest Tailgate" is coming soon! The date for the twenty fourth Tampa Amateur Radio Club Tailgate is Saturday, August 21, 2010. Set up for tailgaters begins at 7:00am and trading opens up at 8:00am to the buyers. The tailgate runs usually until about 1:00pm or until the last lie is told or last boatanchor sold. Talk In will be on the 147.105 repeater (PL 146.2). All are welcome.

This will be our twenty fourth tailgate and each one has been fun and exciting. Each TARCFest continues to get bigger with record numbers of sellers and buyers. This August the traders will once again gather under the shade trees at the clubhouse to wheel and deal.

Admission will be \$2 per person with children 12 and under free. Those who wish to set up for tailgating will be charged an additional \$3. Plenty of spaces will be available in the tailgate area for sellers. And of course, free parking for the buyers. There are a limited number of spaces inside with indoor tables at \$15.00 in advance. For table reservations or for further information, please contact:

Bill Bode, N4WEB

14302 Capitol Drive

Tampa, FL 33613

Phone: 813-382-9262

Fax: 813-878-7954

Email: [tarcfest@hamclub.org](mailto:tarcfest@hamclub.org)

For a map and driving directions, see below or [click here](#).

We look forward to the same big crowds we had last TARCfest and, as always, hamburgers, hot dogs, specialty sandwiches and liquid refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

Come for the fun, come for the deals. Come to TARCfest!

Directions: From I-4 Take the Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, AROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-275 take the Sligh Avenue exit east to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, AROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-75 take I-4 west to Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, AROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

---

C Q D

The Story of the First Sea Rescue by Radio as Told by Jack Binns Who Became a Radio Hero in the Old Days when Radio Was Wireless and a Ten-Inch Spark Coil and a Magnetic Detector Was the Ultimate in Apparatus

<http://earlyradiohistory.us/CQD.htm>

'SOS,' 'CQD' and the History of Maritime Distress Calls"

<http://www.telegraph-office.com/pages/arc2-2.html>

---

Now here's a Sea Story via Dorshaine WN4USA, I thought I've heard them all!

There's an old sea story about a ship's Captain who inspected his sailors in the Radio Shack, and afterward told the first mate that his Sparks Operators smelled bad.

The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally.

The first mate responded, "Aye, aye sir, I'll see to it immediately!"

The first mate went straight to the sailors berth deck and announced, "The Captain thinks you guys smell bad and wants you to change your underwear." He continued, "Sparks Smith, you change with Sparks Jones, Sparks McCarthy, you change with Sparks Witkowski, and Sparks Brown, you change with Sparks Schultz."

The Moral of the Story: Someone may come along and promise "CHANGE" but don't count things smelling any better.

---