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# OLD RADIO

## Old Radio Magazines

My collection of magazines continues to grow. Every month I try to add at least one more to the collection. Some months are better than others, as I may find an entire box of them at a hamfest or club meeting. One of the best ways to find large quantities of magazines is when an estate is being sold off or thrown out (thrown out happens all too often). Here's one short story we can all learn from. I know I did.

A few years ago I was moved into a new office in our building. It was a larger space with no windows. Since my work involved the use of many handbooks and manuals, the office had been equipped with a large number of bookshelves along two walls; and as it turned out, the boss ordered twice as many as necessary. This provided me with some display space for my old radios.

One of my co-workers from the field stopped in one day and noticed all the radios. He asked if I collected radios, which led him to tell me about his wife's uncle who was a radio ham. This uncle had been placed into a care facility because he was very sick and not expected to recover, and his home was being sold. I was asked if I wanted the ham radios, as they were going to throw them out that weekend. I said yes and we agreed to meet on Saturday at the home.

The rest of that week, I cleared out my van and gathered some strong cardboard

boxes. I was ready. On Saturday morning I hit the road early. Arriving there I was greeted by my friend, his wife and mother-in-law. On entering the home the mother-in-law told me that she had saved me a lot of time the day before. Knowing I was coming "just for the radios," she removed piles of old books and magazines and had set them out for recycling, which was that Friday. They were all gone. It had taken her several hours to carry everything out front. I was heart-broken.

There were some nice radios and station accessories gathered, but all of the manuals and other paper items were missing. The lesson I learned that day, was to tell everyone, anyone, associated with cleaning out radio estates, not to throw anything away until I get there.

### Magazines to Look For

Anytime something new comes along, magazines about that subject come along, too. In the early days of radio, this was true. The earliest magazines covering radio were scientific or mechanic-related with articles in them about radio.

Some of the early magazines worth looking for are *Science and Invention*, *Everyday Mechanics*, *Science and Mechanics*, *Popular Science*, *The Experimenter*, *Technical World*, *Scientific American* and *Modern Electrics*. These will provide many enjoyable hours reading articles reporting on the latest experi-

ments and developments. It is fun to read the many predictions about radio (or wireless, as they called it back then) and what the future would bring. Some of these predictions have come true, and some have not—not yet.

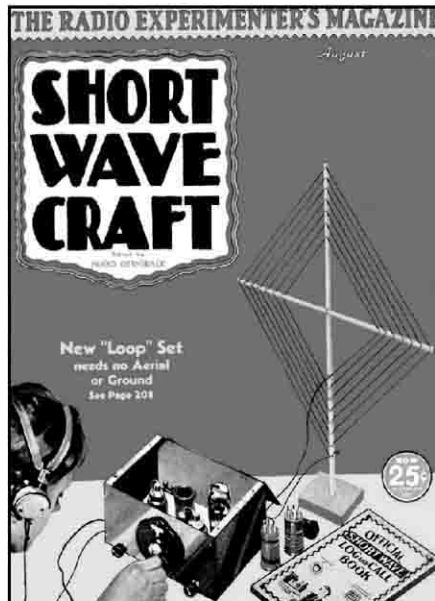
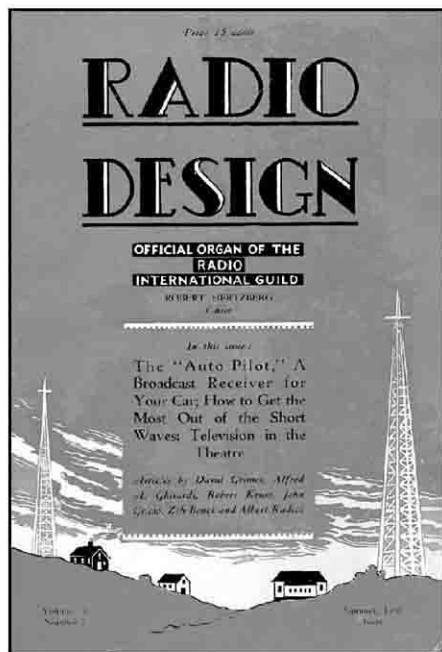
Once ham radio became popular and operators began to transmit to each other, many magazines had ham sections in them. One of my favorite magazines to collect is *Radio News* and its many versions. *Radio News* started in 1919 as *Radio Amateur News*. It had grown out of the many publications owned by Hugo Gernsback, an early radio entrepreneur who knew how to catch the attention of his readers. His magazines had the most interesting covers.

The March 1920 cover shown in this column is typical. Illustrated by his friend Howard Brown, it shows a terrier with his foot on a spark key, scaring a black cat that was nosing around the rotary spark gap. Think back to 1920. How could anyone see this on a newsstand and not buy it?

When you looked inside you would not be disappointed—it was loaded with photos of ham stations, articles on how to build the latest circuits and many pages of advertising. Much of the advertising was from Gernsback-owned companies.

Over the years *Radio News* merged with several magazines. It continued into the television era and was one of the





dominant radio magazines of the century.

Of course we all know about *QST*. Started prior to World War I, it certainly is one worth collecting. There are others.

The West Coast-based R9 ham radio magazine arrived in the 1930s, and in 1936 it merged with *Radio*. *Radio* began publication in the 1920s and changed its focus several times over the years. By the early 1930s it was a 100% ham radio magazine. It continued into the 1940s. You will find good construction articles

in every issue. *Radio* was purchased by *CQ* magazine when they started up.

Other magazines worth looking for are *Popular Radio*, *Short Wave Radio*, *All-Wave Radio*, *Radio Craft*, *Radio Broadcast*, *Radio Age*, *Radio Design*, *Short Wave Craft*, *Short Wave and TV*, *Radio and Television*, *Television*, *Modern Radio*, *Electronics*, *Popular Electronics*, *The Wireless Age*, *Citizens Radio* and *Radio Engineering*.

You can find these wonderful publications at hamfests and on the Internet.

The book dealers I mentioned in the June 2003 column also carry old radio magazines. Have fun reading.

## GATHER YE RADIO PARTS WHILE YE MAY

Fall is here, and it's time to get your antennas ready for winter operating. There are a few hamfests left this year to gather parts to rebuild your old radios and put them on the air.

Look for my hat at the hamfests, and say hello.—K2TQN **QST**

## NEW PRODUCTS

### REMOTE ANTENNA SWITCHING UNITS FROM MRHAMRADIO.COM

◇ Antenna Switchers from MrHamRadio.com allow you to switch between various combinations of antennas and radios. The design of the Antenna Switcher is such that you can install the switching units at the point where all the coax feed lines enter the shack, and then locate just the control units at your operating positions.

A range of Antenna Switchers is available, including models with six feed lines switched to three, two—of potential interest to the SO2R (single operator, two radio) contest operator—or one output. A three input to one output version is also available.

Both 2 kW versions, which have SO-239 connectors, and 5 kW versions using type-N connectors are available. Output isolation for all models is specified at greater than 50 dB, and insertion loss at 30 MHz is said to be less than 0.018 dB. The devices are intended for HF applications.

Prices range from \$199 to \$849. For more information or for on-line ordering, visit [www.MrHamRadio.com](http://www.MrHamRadio.com).

