



## ARRL Periodicals Archive – Search Results

### A membership benefit of ARRL and the ARRL Technical Information Service

**ARRL Members:** You may print a copy for personal use. Any other use of the information requires permission (see Copyright/Reprint Notice below).

**Need a higher quality reprint or scan?** Some of the scans contained within the periodical archive were produced with older imaging technology. If you require a higher quality reprint or scan, please contact the ARRL Technical Information Service for assistance. Photocopies are \$3 for ARRL members, \$5 for nonmembers. For members, TIS can send the photocopies immediately and include an invoice. Nonmembers must prepay. Details are available at [www.arrl.org/tis](http://www.arrl.org/tis) or email [photocopy@arrl.org](mailto:photocopy@arrl.org).

**QST on CD-ROM:** Annual CD-ROMs are available for recent publication years. For details and ordering information, visit [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst).

**Non-Members:** Get access to the ARRL Periodicals Archive when you join ARRL today at [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join). For a complete list of membership benefits, visit [www.arrl.org/benefits](http://www.arrl.org/benefits).

### Copyright/Reprint Notice

In general, all ARRL content is copyrighted. ARRL articles, pages, or documents--printed and online--are not in the public domain. Therefore, they may not be freely distributed or copied. Additionally, no part of this document may be copied, sold to third parties, or otherwise commercially exploited without the explicit prior written consent of ARRL. You cannot post this document to a Web site or otherwise distribute it to others through any electronic medium.

For permission to quote or reprint material from ARRL, send a request including the issue date, a description of the material requested, and a description of where you intend to use the reprinted material to the ARRL Editorial & Production Department: [permission@arrl.org](mailto:permission@arrl.org).

**QST Issue:** May 1958

**Title:** Hot Contest, A

**Author:** Lloyd D. Colvin, W6KG

[Click Here to Report a Problem with this File](#)



## 2009 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM

ARRL's popular journals are available on a compact, fully-searchable CD-ROM. Every word and photo published throughout 2009 is included!

- **QST** The official membership journal of ARRL
- **NCJ** National Contest Journal
- **QEX** Forum for Communications Experimenters

**SEARCH** the full text of every article by entering titles, call signs, names—almost any word. **SEE** every word, photo (including color images), drawing and table in technical and general-interest features, columns and product reviews, plus all advertisements. **PRINT** what you see, or copy it into other applications.

**System Requirements:** Microsoft Windows™ and Macintosh systems, using the industry standard Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® software. The Acrobat Reader is a free download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

### 2009 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM

ARRL Order No. 1486  
**Only \$24.95\***

\*plus shipping and handling

Additional sets available:

2008 Ed., ARRL Order No. 9406, \$24.95  
2007 Ed., ARRL Order No. 1204, \$19.95  
2006 Ed., ARRL Order No. 9841, \$19.95  
2005 Ed., ARRL Order No. 9574, \$19.95  
2004 Ed., ARRL Order No. 9396, \$19.95  
2003 Ed., ARRL Order No. 9124, \$19.95  
2002 Ed., ARRL Order No. 8802, \$19.95  
2001 Ed., ARRL Order No. 8632, \$19.95



**ARRL** The national association for **AMATEUR RADIO™**

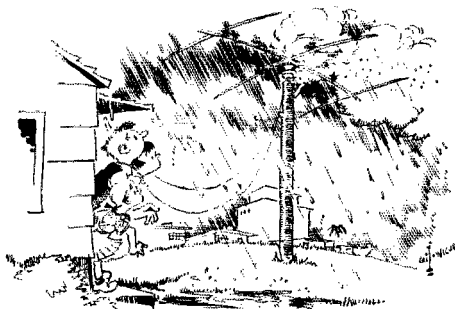
SHOP DIRECT or call for a dealer near you.  
ONLINE [WWW.ARRL.ORG/SHOP](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG/SHOP)  
ORDER TOLL-FREE 888/277-5289 (US)

## A Hot Contest

BY LLOYD D. COLVIN,\* W6KG

Colonel Colvin has operated in many ARRL DX contests. His most hectic 48 hours of contest operation are described in the following true story which took place at W6KG, Alameda, California, during the last half of the c.w. portion of the 23rd annual ARRL DX competition, March 22-23, 1958.

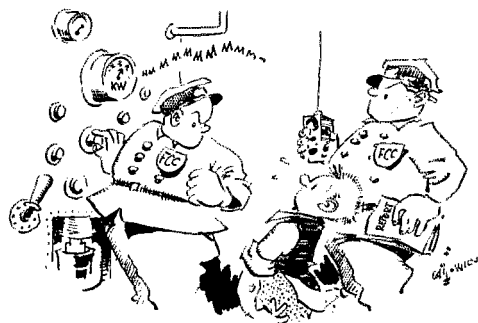
CONTEST starts at 4 P.M., PST. I check rig, all O.K. Check log, record sheets, etc. All set for big contest. At one minute past 4 P.M. PST work VK9XK. Receive RST 599 report. FB, everything O.K. Hear ZD7SA. Push rotator switch to swing beam on him. Nothing happens. Raining cats and dogs outside. Rush out in rain with no coat on. Look at beam. Seems O.K. but won't rotate. Go back in house and operate switch again. No rotation of beam. Phone my regular



lineman and antenna helper. He is in hospital and just been operated on. Phone City Electric office. After talking to several people, convince them this is real emergency. Finally talk to Superintendent of Electric Distribution. Tell him my troubles. Promise to pay linemen double time plus bonus. Pace floor until linemen arrive. They climb pole in cloudburst. I watch from ground with rain in face. One hour later tired lineman report my brand new \$350.00 antenna rotator has jammed gears. Can't be fixed. Dark outside. I pay off linemen. Say to H — with contest and try to look at television. Feel low as a worm. Keep thinking how can I get back in contest — at 11 P.M. phone another lineman. Explain situation is desperate. Can he come over, climb pole, cut rotator loose, and tie rope to beam so I can rotate from ground by pulling rope? He says it is raining. I say I know but this is terrific emergency. He comes over, climbs pole in dark with

rain coming down in sheets. He swings rope over antenna boom. Rope gets stuck. Finally gets it loose. I can pull antenna around with rope from ground but must walk through a pool of water one foot deep. Shoes already sopping wet so no bother. Pay off lineman. Swing beam by hand on ZK2AB. Smell smoke. Everything in shack O.K. Still smell smoke. Look outside. My rotator afire and burning up. In excitement had left rotator motor on with gears stuck. Fire spreads to rotator housing and cover. I get my wife and daughter out of bed. Flames getting higher and higher. Am afraid entire pole will burn down. Phone fire department. Rain has conveniently stopped for few minutes. Run to front of house for garden hose. Pull it around back of house near antenna. Attach hose to water outlet and turn on water. Hose has leak. Water sprays all over me, wife and daughter. Water will not reach flames. Fire department arrives and put out fire. Neighbors awake and wonder what the radio amateur has done now. Fire department leaves at 3 A.M. Rotator total loss. All wires and cables burned up. Go to bed for few hours. Up early. Get linemen back. Work all day cutting control cables, taking down remains of rotator, etc. Agent from fire insurance company arrives and says loss not covered by insurance policy. Back on air again by evening. Band conditions poor. Go to bed. Up early. Work a few but have to run in and out of house all the time to swing antenna. Worst storm this year. Winds and rains at all time record high. Floors of house covered with mud. Wet all over. Have missed most meals. Have not shaved, but working a few.

Early afternoon there is a knock on door. FCC representative complete with portable receiver and transmitter says he is conducting examination during contest to see if any amateurs are exceeding legal power limits. He enters



house and asks me not to operate my antenna rotator (Ha — as if I could!) and not to change any controls or output of transmitter. He explains he has assistant few blocks away with field strength meter and would I please operate my

\* Lt. Col., Signal Corps, U. S. Army. PO Box 30, Alameda, California. Ex-W6TG, FA8JD, W6ANS, W6IPF, KL7KG, JA2KG, W6KFD, K2CC, J2AHI, W2USA, K4WAB, W7YA, J2USA, W6AHI, W7KG, JA2US, W4KE, DL4ZC.

transmitter exactly as I had been doing a few minutes earlier. I comply with instructions and FCC men talk together by portable radios. They agree field strength reading at remote site has not changed. Other FCC agent then comes to house and the two of them carefully check plate voltage and current of final stage of transmitter. They announce input to final stage mathematically figures to be 1075 watts and as this exceeds legal limit I will receive a notice of violation of FCC rules. I think fast and point out to inspectors that my plate current meter also reads the screen current and will they consider the screen power at 75 watts? Inspectors talk it over and reluctantly agree to put on report that my power input is exactly 1000 watts (whew). FCC men then look at my log. In all the confusion I was

not too certain what day it was and my log showed all entries one day behind time. FCC inspectors kindly let me change date in log. They then ask to see my station license. I search through hundreds of papers in my desk. My important document file. My wallet. No license to be found. FCC inspectors inform me this will require them to issue a violation of rules notice. FCC men prepare to leave. I beg them to stay a few more minutes while I again go through all my papers. With trembling fingers I start through the pile with one inspector at each shoulder. Hurray! I find the license. Inspectors point out license is not signed. This is violation but they willing to give me pen to sign license and to forget it was not signed. FCC inspectors leave house. Contest is over. I collapse.

## Strays

K6ADA, chief announcer at KSON, San Diego, sneaks in a "CQ de K6ADA" at 10 w.p.m. before each newscast.

— — — — —

For his first 80-meter QSO, KNØLOW worked KNØOFF. (*You supply the editorial comment!*)

— — — — —

The February issue of *Popular Mechanics* mentions the 1898 Columbia Mark VIII, which was designed by the League's first president, Hiram Percy Maxim.

— K4OGY

— — — — —

Romance quickens in the spring air of Colorado. KØDTK (male, age 15) is "going steady" with KNØMOJ (female, age 14). Oh, to be young again.

— — — — —

K9EDI has an unusual antenna tuning indicator. He listens to the background noise of his intercom and tunes for the loudest buzz.

— — — — —

Going to Europe this summer? Hams visiting there are invited to attend the 4th International Hamfest sponsored by the Savez Radioamatera Jugoslavije, July 12-15, at Iledza, near Sarajevo. One of the features will be "foxhunts" on 3.5 Mc. c.w. and 144 Mc. phone, with instructions in Serbo-Croate and English. Participants in the competition must register their intentions with SRJ by June 15. Prizes in each class. Accommodations at the hamfest are very reasonable, and reservations can be made through SRJ, Box 324, Belgrade.

— — — — —

We have a note from W4YVL which reports a rather radical item. "Recently a QSO was held in which neither operator knew the other, there was no similarity in the addresses, and there was no relationship whatsoever between call signs." Whoever heard of such a thing!

C. W. Key is a member of the Bloomington ARC. He doesn't have a call as yet. — W9GHK

— — — — —

Among the members of the Aerojet Radio Amateur Club are W6QOC and K6QOC, also W6MCK and W6MKC. This could get confusing!

— — — — —

K4LCE is a Licensed Civil Engineer.

— K4LCD

— — — — —

K6JUI is entering the U. S. Naval Academy in June, and would like to correspond with any other amateurs who have received appointment to Annapolis.

— — — — —

F8OL, well-known v.h.f. experimenter on the Continent, has recently been appointed a general in the French Army Signal Corps. He has for a long time been one of the technical editors of *Radio REF*. F8OL and W1HDQ made the first France-U. S. A. 50-Mc. QSO in November, 1947.

— — — — —

Did you note the piece of Technical Correspondence on page 42 of this issue? KØASR, checking a 50-watt transmitter into a dummy load and tuned to about 7500 kc., was heard RST 589 by ARRL OO W2BLP. The dummy load consisted of a 60-watt lamp bulb and two feet of RG-8/U coax cable.

— — — — —

K6CJH, K6PJG, and K6BEP are all on the track team at the Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles.

— — — — —

During the DX contest, one of the beleaguered DX stations, in order to move the pile-up off his frequency, specified that he would "now listen up 5 kc." Immediately some eager W station began to call "UP5KC UP5KC." — K2FG