Perspectives

Like a Science Fiction Movie – a Year On
It has been more than a year since we quoted actor Robert De Niro, "Kind of like a science fiction movie, but it's real." After more than two years we still awaken to an eerily different world, one where things are still in a fog, still unsettled and still unnatural. Words like social distancing, masks, lock-down and stay-at-home are now solidly locked into our vocabulary, joined now with Zoom, jab and vaccination. These words and phrases speak to the promise of ending the pandemic. We have all the necessary tools, if only we would follow the science.

Ham club meetings are still held online or over ham FM repeaters. By their very nature, ham radio operations are distancing events, and have been for more than a century. As such they remain "pandemic proof." Slowly the camaraderie of face-to-face interaction is returning. It's also a good time for our members to catch up on and enjoy the mental stimulation of QEX and other ARRL publications. Stay safe!

In This Issue
- James Kretzschmar, AE7AX, controls a 16x2 LCD display with a TI microcontroller.
- Andrew Anderson, WQ1S/VK3CV, uses the 30 THz band as a communications medium.
- George Steber, WB9LVI, describes his SSB receiver based on the Silicon Labs Si4732-A10 IC.
- Tom Alldread, VA7TA, describes a tweezers probe for measuring SMD components.
- Larry Lamano, WAØQZY, builds a pulse generator for making TDR measurements.

Writing for QEX
Please continue to send in full-length QEX articles, or share a Technical Note of several hundred words in length plus a figure or two. QEX is edited by Kazimierz "Kai" Siwiak, KE4PT, (kswiak@arrl.org) and is published bimonthly. QEX is a forum for the free exchange of ideas among communications experimenters. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ as a member benefit. The QEX printed edition is available at an annual subscription rate (6 issues per year) for members and non-members, see www.arrl.org/qex.

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Very kindest regards,
Kazimierz "Kai" Siwiak, KE4PT
QEX Editor