300 QEX Issues and Going Strong

QEX was first published in December 1981 as the “ARRL Experimenter’s Exchange,” with Founding Editor Paul Rinaldo, W4RI. We celebrate QEX issue #300 by reprinting the entire contents of QEX issue #1. Over the years, QEX has partnered with the AMSAT Satellite Journal, and later hosted Gateway, the ARRL packet radio newsletter. The conductors of these two publications, as well as several Contributing Editors, have sustained the quality of the magazine.

Jon Bloom, KE3Z2, became Editor in 1992. His considerable expertise built QEX into one of the most respected technical publications in its field. This was a time when Amateur Radio, and radio technology in general, were undergoing rapid changes.

Zack Lau, W1VT, the award-winning ARRL Senior Laboratory Engineer, came aboard with his “RF” column, detailing advanced work across the RF spectrum. The “RF” column ran from August 1992 through January 2005.

Rudy Seviers, N6LF, took over the editorial reins in 1997. On his watch, the magazine went from monthly to bimonthly publication. The number and depth of articles increased dramatically. QEX took on a new look as well, with full-color covers and enhanced content. Rudy’s talent for soliciting top-quality articles from the leading technical authors in Amateur Radio took the magazine to a higher plateau.

Bob Schetgen, KU7G, known for his editorship of The ARRL Handbook and for his columns in QST, also began work on QEX in 1997. Bob served as Managing Editor until his sudden passing in December 2005.

In January 2000, ARRL purchased the Amateur Radio technical journal Communications Quarterly from CQ Communications and merged it with QEX, creating the combined QEX/Communications Quarterly. Published for the preceding nine years under the editorship of Terry Littlefield, KAI1STC, Communications Quarterly billed itself as the philosophical successor to ham radio magazine, which was founded by “Skip” Tenney, W1NLB, and Jim Fisk, W1HR. Littlefield was Editor of Ham Radio when CQ Communications purchased it in 1990.

Ray Mack, W5IFS, joined as Contributing Editor with the January/February 2002 issue. Ray conducts his column “Out of the Box,” about new product availability and also serves as our proofreader. With the January/February 2009 issue, Ray also began a new column, “SDR: Simplified,” presenting hands-on experiments and investigations into the world of software defined radio (SDR) and digital signal processing (DSP).


Doug Smith, KF6DX, became QEX Editor with the September/October 1998 issue. His enthusiasm and technical expertise continued to improve the magazine’s technical content.

Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, began work on QEX in late 2005 and became Managing Editor for the March/April 2006 issue. Larry became the QEX Editor with the September/October 2007.

Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT, stepped into as QEX Editor with the March/April 2016 issue. Kai also edits QST technical articles (since the July 2013 issue of QST), and serves on the ARRL RF Safety Committee.

In this Issue

We’ve increased the cover thickness to 50# stock to help it better survive the postal mail. Our QEX authors describe propagation measurements and modes, filter characteristics, and tuning an L-network. Help determine the content of future QEX issues by putting your favorite topic or innovative measurement on paper. Share it on these pages with fellow readers. Just follow the details on the www.arrl.org/qex-author-guide web page, and contact us at qex@arrl.org. We value your feedback, comments and opinions about these pages.

In this issue, we’ve recreated the entire first issue of QEX. Flavio Egano, IK3XTV, followed long term observations that suggest long path echoes might propagate with low attenuation by ionospheric ducts; Bill Kaune, W7IEQ, details the inductor losses in Pi-network; Tom C. McDermott, N5EG, describes hardware and software for ionospheric sounding; Scott Rosles, KC7CJ, re-ups an enclosure from obsolete equipment; and Robert J. Zavrel, W7SX, presents a different approach to a multi-band Yagi-Uda design.

Please continue to support QEX, and help it remain a strong technical publication. Submit articles via e-mail to qex@arrl.org or via US Mail to QEX, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

73,

Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT

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