Morse Challenge Initial Results, and QEX Changes

The use of a Morse paddle to input text to a personal computer in Morse code seemed like a promising solution to the age-related and disabilities-related keyboard handicap. Our Morse Input Design Challenge to the amateur radio community was inspired by a letter from Dave “Doc” Evison, W7DE, who was experiencing age-related difficulties with typing skills. He’s not alone. Doc reasoned that the amateur radio community is overflowing with exceptional people who are skilled technically, resourceful, and compassionate. As a result we opened the Challenge with an announcement and rules in the May / June 2019 issue of QEX, and in QST, The Challenge ended on December 1, 2019, and the response has been gratifying. While all of the entries are still under review, we can announce that the earliest complete entry was received from Joseph M. Haas, KEØFF. Joe will receive a free one-year QEX subscription (or extension of his subscription). Other winners will be announced in the next issue of QEX, and you can expect articles describing the entries to appear soon.

We begin the new year by noting changes in QEX. The QEX style was recently changed to increase the readability of the text. The changes were in response to a reader’s request — we hope you agree that this is a significant improvement. We solicit your comments and suggestions. There are further improvements and enhancements planned for QEX later in 2020.

In This Issue

Gerald T. Whitney, KG2BK, in a Technical Note determines matching components with his T-network calculator.

John L. Stensby, N5DF, in a Technical Note calculates coax loss directly from impedance measurements.

James A. Koehler, VE5FP, home-builds an inexpensive vector impedance analyzer that is based on a 32-bit single-board processor sub-system and operates up to 600 MHz.

Michael D. Lewis, K7MDL, provides life-extending support for multiple transverters.

Dr. George R. Steber, WB9LVI, relates his experiences with the recently available tiny NanoVNA.

Scott H. Cowling, WA2DFI, revives his “Hands on SRD” column with an introduction to the TangerineSDR.

Writing for QEX

Keep the full-length QEX articles flowing in, or share a Technical Note of several hundred words in length plus a figure or two. Let us know that your submission is intended as a Note. QEX is edited by Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT, (ksiwiak@arrl.org) and is published bimonthly. QEX is a forum for the free exchange of ideas among communications experimenters. The content is driven by you, the reader and prospective author. The subscription rate (6 issues per year) in the United States is $29. First Class delivery in the US is available at an annual rate of $40. For international subscribers, including those in Canada and Mexico, QEX can be delivered by airmail for $35 annually. Subscribe today at www.arrl.org/qex.

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Very best regards,

Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT