

## Homebrew Challenge Results are In!

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The Homebrew Challenge was a contest announced in *QST* for August 2006 and updated in October 2006. Entrants were required to submit a home constructed voice and CW, 5 W minimum output radio by August 1, 2007. The radio had to be reproducible from no more than \$50 of new parts.

In October 2006, by popular demand, we offered a second category to the competition, allowing the use of a PC as part of the control, display or processing function as well as using it to program a microprocessor.

We are pleased that we had four entries that passed the documentation and price confirmation check. They also went through an ARRL Laboratory evaluation to make sure that they met all the ARRL and FCC technical requirements before being subjected to a thorough operational evaluation by ARRL staffers.

We have two winners to announce,

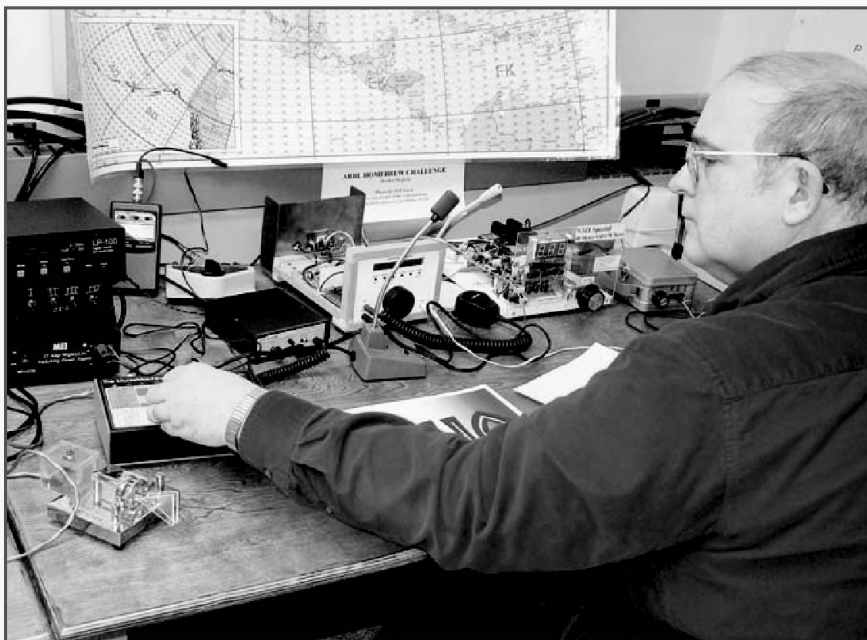
one in each category. The PC supported winner was Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, who gathered the most points in the evaluation by our judges and is the author of this article describing his radio. In a way his radio could be considered a contender for the other award as well, since he has agreed to provide his firmware onto builders' processors at no cost if they don't have the requisite programming capabilities. The winner with a radio totally without use of a PC is Steve Weber, KD1JV, who came in close behind in overall scoring by the judges. His radio will be described in a subsequent article.

In addition to the winners above, entries were received from Dave Criebe, NM0S, and Doug Pongrance, N3ZI. We enjoyed exploring and operating each radio. Each had its strong points and unique features, making selection difficult. Each judge spent many hours operating, comparing and scoring the radios based on their technical profi-

ciency as well as operating features and reports from distant stations.

We thank the judges for contributing their time to this effort. They were W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI; Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X; *QEX* Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and me. All the judges, with the exception of me, had considerable experience operating low power (QRP) radios in contests and other venues. Ed Hare has served as a judge for various QRP equipment contests (ARCI) and noted these entries stood well in comparison to many he has judged previously.

We also thank ARRL Lab Engineer Michael Tracy, KC1SX, for fitting in HBC testing between product review evaluations and his other responsibilities, as well as for helping set up the operational evaluation suite in the newly renovated W1HQ/W1INF Headquarters Operators Club station.



**Figure A — Judge Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, operating one of the four Homebrew Challenge Contest radios at W1HQ. Left to right are the radios of KD1JV, WA2EUJ, N3ZI and NMØS.**