

QEX

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The ARRL Experimenters' Exchange

This is the premiere issue of *QEX: The ARRL Experimenters' Exchange*. Beginning with this issue, *QEX* is a special League publication by and for Amateur Radio experimenters. It is available to both ARRL members and nonmembers at subscription rates shown on the last page of this issue.

Initially, *QEX* will be published every other month. As soon as we are assured that we can get the quality and quantity of material that we need and get the logistical handling well greased, monthly publication can begin.

It is our intent to achieve a balance in the editorial content. In one respect, we want to feature about as much original research and development as we do practical construction articles. In another, we want to keep some sort of a balance between digital electronics (computers, etc.) and the analog world of receivers and transmitters. Within the digital domain, it makes sense to include some software as well as hardware. But that doesn't mean that *each issue* will reflect that balance. Also, we may concentrate more than a fair share of space on a topic when it's hot and rolling. It seems reasonable to push the newer technology as much as possible, even at the expense of overlooking some more mature topics.

Computer program listings present a special problem. We would like to include computer programs relating to Amateur Radio and have one in this issue by Dave Meier, N4MW. Fortunately, Dave's program listing and sample were relatively short. Longer ones could completely fill an issue of *QEX*. So, we are happy to print the shorter ones, but suggest that authors of longer ones make the programs available either on diskettes or on hard copies. Of course, we'd like to have the narrative description of the program in article form for *QEX*. In case you do have a short computer listing for printing in *QEX*, please set up your printer to produce a column no more than 43 spaces wide. Use a new ribbon and print on clean, white paper.

Because *QEX* is an exchange, the names, mailing addresses and (where furnished) telephone numbers of the authors will be included with all articles and correspondence. If you are interested in an article, we're sure that the author would like to hear from you. The whole idea is to get dialog going between experimenters who are geographically separated. If you think that other *QEX* readers might benefit in some way from the dialog, please consider dropping a copy to the Editor, *QEX*. In some cases, we can print parts of the correspondence, space permitting. But, we would hope that the exchange will generate one or more good articles for *QEX* and *QST*.

You will note that we have several columns in this first issue. There is one more column that we need as soon as possible -- one called "Components" or "Devices." The column should include the latest semiconductor devices as well as passive components of interest to Amateur Radio experimenters. We have some feelers out but are open to suggestions on this and other possible columns.

What about new technology? The "Data Communications" column by Dave Borden, K8MMO will be a regular feature on packet-radio technology. We expect to carry material on amateur spread spectrum experimentation from time to time. Radio amateurs are experimenting with speech I/O, medium-scan TV, computer control of everything in the shack, error detection and error correction codes, etc., and we need to spread the word on these efforts. The trade journals are full of new developments and new products such as ICs that handle many complex functions. If you want to boggle your mind a bit, find a copy of *EDN* magazine, October 14, 1981 issue and read the series entitled, "Electronic Technology-The Next 25 Years." Perhaps you know a hermit experimenter who is doing neat things in the basement. Team up and try to get the work of the hermit experimenter into print so that the rest of us can benefit. *QEX* is particularly interested in liberating these experimental results. - W4RI