



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS, INC.

Headquarters Highlights: Spring 2003



Some readers maintain that our approach to telling you what has been going on at headquarters is too sterile and dull. With this issue we are changing our approach. For example, we have two headquarters sites. The first and most widely known is the Medway site. Because I work in Olympia (thus covering both coasts) my office can be con-

sidered a satellite headquarters site. Things have not been well at my site. I recently returned from a meeting with our accreditation agent, ICAC. I confirmed that we would have to begin preparations for resubmitting our program definition for audit to maintain our accreditation. That was expected.

What was not expected, was that one of our two cats got sick while I was gone. I don't mean a "gag on a hairball" sick I mean really sick. She had stuff coming out both ends onto the dining room rug. My wife took her to the vet, concerned that she may have to be put down (a solution I heartily endorsed). The vet said it looked like a bug, did some tests and gave my wife two medicines to clear up the cat's problem. The cat was to get two pills twice a day for eight days.

If you have never had to medicate a cat, let me tell you it is not good. The vet, anticipating problems, offered my wife an eight-inch long pill insertion tool to help. The tool consisted of a soft cup to hold the pill on one end and a plunger on the other. I was to place the pill in a soft cup, approach the cat, slide the insertion tool in her mouth and then push a plunger on the other end, thus depositing the pill in the cat's throat. Good in theory – bad in practice. Nobody told the cat how well this was supposed to work.

My wife told me to medicate the cat and to take the carpet to the cleaners, then she promptly left on a one-week trip to play with our grandkids. I immediately tossed the tool in favor of an old, proven technique of coating the pill in butter, pushing the cat's jaw open at the back, inserting the pill and then closing her jaw (which she offered to do around my finger more than once), and holding her head up while she swallowed.

That technique worked well. She has begun to get better. I can tell she is on the mend because she is becoming paranoid of me sneaking up on her. When I approach, she is gone like a shot. Another way is that she finally asked to go outside – at 3:30 in the morning.

NARTE's PO Box is Closing!

We have the most clever office staff. When NARTE moved to Medway, we rented a post office box until we could find a permanent home. I think we became permanent when we bought the building we are in. Even so, we just never thought about dropping the post office box. Twice every day, in spite of rain, snow, sleet or hail we trudged to the post office to get mail. Someone noticed that a post office guy comes right by our office everyday. He gave mail to the operations on both sides of us. Then a light went on. We could drop the PO box and recover a lot of time wasted in the running back and forth. You will be seeing our 167 Village Street on everything from now on. Of course the post office will deliver if you send to the post office box – but why bother. Send it direct. There is a guy just waiting to bring it on over.

Calling All E-mails

Yes, the NARTE News is going electronic. This is the year that the long-awaited electronic NARTE News will go on line. The NARTE e-news will be hot on the heels of our nifty new web site. In order to notify you the instant the News is published on line, we'll need your e-mail address. Please provide us your e-mail address by fax, snail mail, via the NARTE web site, or by calling us or even dropping by Headquarters in person (we especially like the last two options). If you have already provided us with your e-mail address, THANK YOU. Please be assured that your e-mail address will remain confidential, for NARTE use only.

NARTE in Turkey at the IEEE EMCS International Symposium

NARTE is still on track to participate in the IEEE International EMC Symposium in Istanbul, Turkey May 12 through 16. You may remember that the site was moved from Israel to Turkey to avoid problems. In light of the current situation, that wisdom may be questioned. However, NARTE is committed and will be there. We will run a workshop on passing the NARTE examination and proctor an examination.

New Larger Return Envelopes Are In The Mail

It is a small matter of business—TOO SMALL!! In surveying our members, we have had many helpful suggestions come our way. Our most mentioned suggestion or complaint, however you toss the coin, has been that our current return envelope is too small for regular size paper! Well NARTE members, we have heard you and we are taking action! We have increased the size of our return envelopes and window envelopes. The larger return envelopes, featuring our street address, are on their way. NARTE Headquarters would like to thank you all for your patience in this matter.

New NARTE Web is Coming This Spring

Engineers can be really dull. For example, once we solve a problem like developing a web site, we are content to leave it. Thankfully we have artistic talent on staff who not only get bored with the same old stuff but energetically want to change to a newer, more interesting format. NARTE has engaged KMX

Continued next page . . .

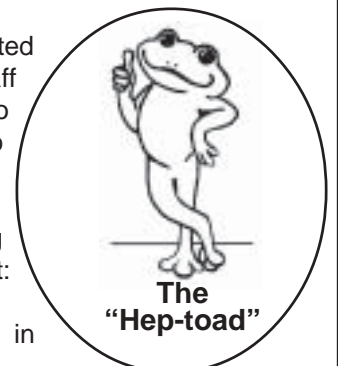
SPRING HEPTODE AWARD

The "Heptode Award" is granted by NARTE Headquarters staff to properly recognize those who lighten their burden or who otherwise represent NARTE in an outstanding manner.

Congratulations to the Spring 2003 Heptode Award recipient:

Ron Wade

for outstanding participation in the NARTE FCC Program.



The
"Hep-toad"

Headquarters Highlights *continued . . .*

Corporation to help revamp and revitalize our web site. The new site will have easier navigation, more features, including a member-only password-protected area, as well as:

a) On-line Membership Directory—a database of members including member name, city, state, certification expiration date, discipline, and areas of interest. This database will be searchable by field or by a character string.

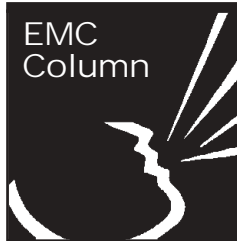
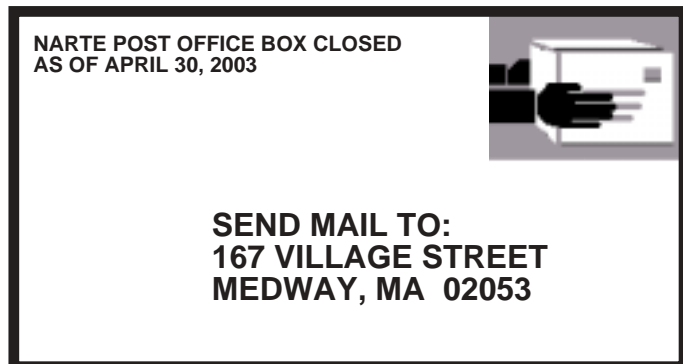
b) Personal information update—members will be able to change/update their own contact information and control how this information is shared with others.

c) Resume Postings—members will be able to post their resumes on-line and maintain their own consultant listing.

d) Bulletin boards—to facilitate the exchange of information.

There are a lot more things going on that I should pass along but I have to get a carpet to the cleaners. ☹

Russ



EMC Post Cards—From the Wireless Side

by David A. Case, NCE

If you have not heard the great news, NARTE has been officially recognized to exist. Just like in the Miracle on 34th Street where the U.S. Post Office recognized the old gentleman as Santa Claus and forwarded to him mail addressed to "Santa Claus," the U.S. Post Office now has recognized NARTE and will deliver mail to us at our Headquarters location in Medway, Massachusetts.

For those NARTE engineers who live in Texas, you will be required to use a new designation NCEEIT (NARTE Certified Engineer Except in Texas).

On February 27, the official terrorist alert code was lowered from orange to yellow. However, it is my understanding that the code has been raised to "Red Ultra Alert" on the 8th floor of the FCC building (where the commissioners reside) after the recent FCC vote on the contentious issues regarding telephone company access and sharing of broadband and voice services!

All kidding aside – it has been an interesting and busy several months.

• On January 31, the U.S. Radio LAN industry and DoD reached a compromise on acceptable Dynamic Frequency Shift (DFS) levels that will allow Radio LAN to operate in the 5250-5350 and 5470-5725 MHz band while protecting radar. This agreement was quickly incorporated into the U.S. position papers for CITEL (Inter-America Telecommunications Commission) and the World Radio communications Conference. The DFS level is part of the recently approved CITEL Inter-American Proposal.

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on some conflicting data about its design details as presented in a comment on Belrose's website entry: "But for our model the antenna is inductive for all frequencies greater than the fundamental resonant frequency response of the antenna system. One must conclude therefore that the Poldhu spark-transmitter system radiated efficiently only on the fundamental oscillation frequency of the tuned antenna system – about 850 kHz."

Since none of us were there and the record is ambiguous, we will never know if Marconi and Kemp actually heard the click of the "S" transmitted from Poldhu. However, I think based on the descriptions I have read, that perhaps it was not static crashes as proposed by Mr. Kimberlin - if what was heard was a rhythmic series of three clicks at a constant interval as described in other articles. Rather, perhaps it was the early (but unrecognized) demonstration of short wave sky wave propagation from the harmonics of the Poldhu transmitter. Food for thought.

Donald Lee Garlock, Jr.
Fairfax, VA

Comments, Don? (Ed.)

Looking For EMC Horror Stories

Ladies and Gentlemen of the EMC Community: I am searching the internet for good examples of EMC related incidents and/or accidents. Have you got any good tips on where to look?

Robert Edlund, Kockums Submarine Systems
IEEE-member EMC-Swedish Chapter
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Based on the above agreement between the U.S. Government and industry, the FCC is preparing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on opening up the 5470-5725 MHz band for Radio LAN devices. It is almost 110% likely that Radio LAN devices operating in this band will be required to operate under the requirements as proposed in the U.S. World Radio Conference proposal, including mandatory use of DFS.

• The FCC released a Notice Of Intent (NOI) addressing adoption of possible receiver specifications on March 13. This action is a part of the actions being addressed by the Spectrum Policy Task Force Report.

• The comment periods for both NOIs addressing rural broadband access and opening up additional unlicensed spectrum below 900 MHz and in the 3650 – 3700 MHz band have come and gone. These actions resulted partly from the Spectrum Policy Task Force Report.

• The State Department has started the preparation meetings to form the official U.S. delegation for the upcoming World Radio Communications Conference to be held from June 9 – July 5 in Geneva, Switzerland.

• Hong Kong has just adopted 5GHz requirements for Radio LAN. This information can be accessed via the Office Telecommunication Authority web site at www.ofta.hk

• Canada has released an update to RSS-210 Rev 5. This is Amendment 1 and removes the requirement for processing gain measurements for Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum devices.

Please send comments, thoughts, or opinions to me at davecase@cisco.com ☹