

Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

May 2015

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Many of you know that even though my background is Electronic Engineering, I spent most of my career in my own business as a producer of audio and video products. After 36 years in the same location in downtown, Barrington, Illinois, I decided, for a number of reasons to close up my operation there and move a downsized version of the business to home. Increased overhead, decline in sales of CD and DVD products and potential sale of the building I lease my space in, led to these decisions.

Right now, I am in the middle of the move, which is involving a good deal of remodeling at home and thus the column will be short this month. I need to complete the move by the middle of May, and I am guessing it will take a few weeks after that to have operations back to normal, at least as normal as they will be in condensing a 1800 sq. foot operation down to about 500 sq. feet.

My major loss will be the soundproof studio and space for a Grand Piano. The audio and video editing will compress nicely as they now all exist inside a computer rather than in racks of equipment. There is lots of equipment to get rid of. Old computers and monitors have little value as does non-working audio and video equipment. I might take some of the items to a hamfest, but unfortunately, most will go to a recycler. If anyone has use for this stuff and you can pick it up, send me an email.

I'm looking forward to getting moved and expect to have significantly more time to devote to my own projects and maybe producing a couple of Natural Radio videos. That project has been on the back burner for a while. Also on my wish list is a home based whistler receiver. I've played with a couple of hum reducing schemes over the years with little success, but hope to re-visit that in the coming months.

Geomagnetic activity has picked up in the last month or so as we move to the waning edge of Solar Cycle 24. Historically, this is when the largest storms occur so keep your eyes on the NOAA website, and if you haven't been out to your favorite quiet site lately, now may be the time.

I often wonder if the Natural Radio listening hobby is in a growth or declining mode. Just looking at the statistics on my own sites, I find that the VLF_group on Yahoo Groups has slowly grown over the years and now has about 1650 members. Traffic at NaturalRadioLab.com has been growing at about 15% or 20% per year and March of 2015 had the largest number of unique visitors in the history of the site. So, at least from this small, unofficial poll, it looks like interest in Natural Radio is strong and slowly building. This is good, as the field of Space Weather becomes more and more important.

Please note my new mailing address at the top of this column. I've also decided to discontinue my fax number. Now to go and pack a few more boxes...