

# VHF Adventures Coast to Coast...

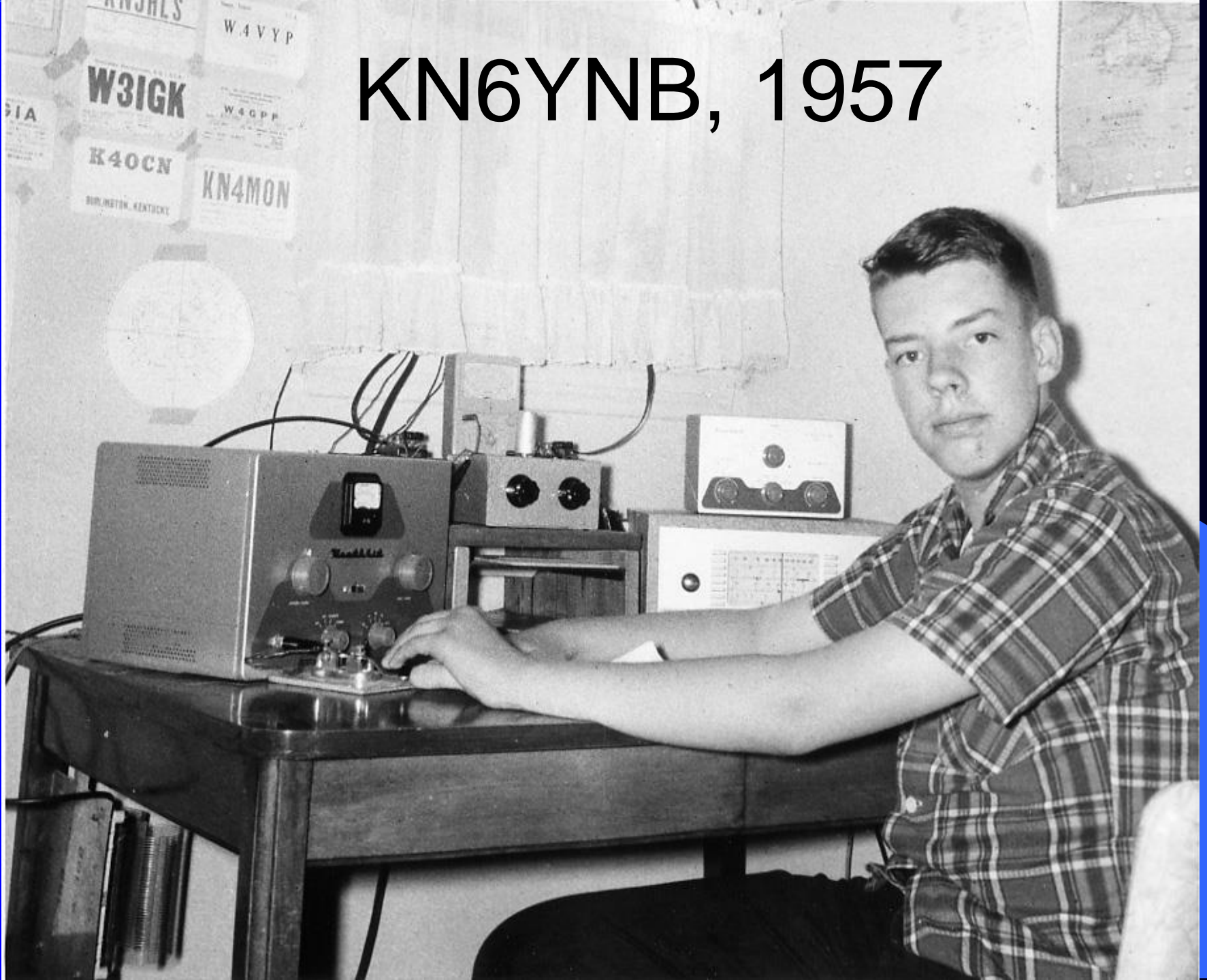
A 65-year Odyssey

by

Wayne Overbeck, N6NB

[www.n6nb.com](http://www.n6nb.com)

# KN6YNB, 1957





K6YNB's QTH, 1957



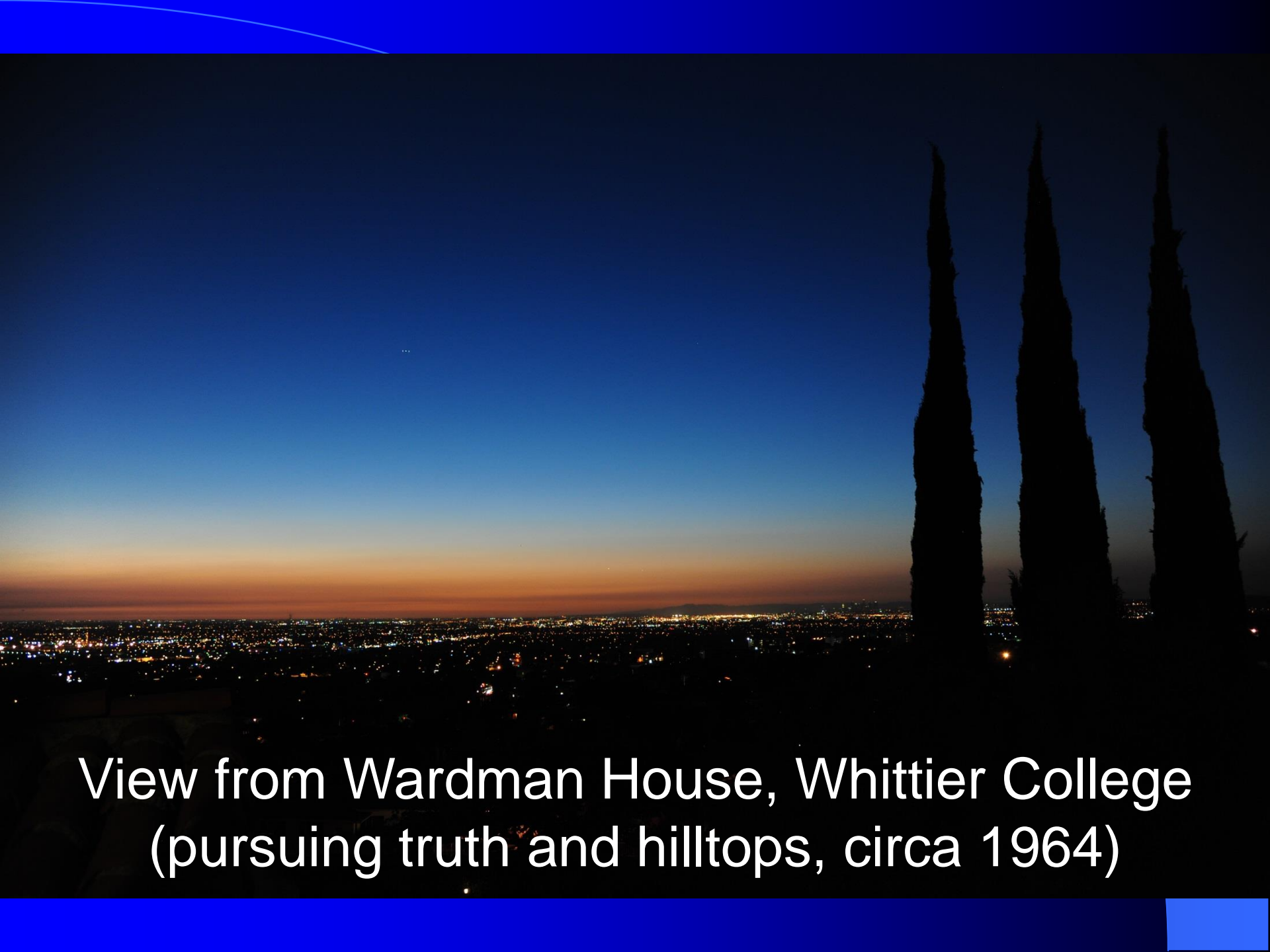


The same house, 2017



# Life's passages...

Off to college for a B.A. (1964), Master's (1965), Ph.D. (1970) and J.D. (1975)



View from Wardman House, Whittier College  
(pursuing truth and hilltops, circa 1964)



On vacation  
from teaching,  
1966: visiting  
33 states, 6  
provinces



# K6YNB on Mt. Pacifico, 1969





Antennas atop  
Mt. Pacifico (DM04),  
Elevation 7,500', for  
September VHF  
Contest, 1969



# VHF Contests, 1948-1984

- May (later June) and September “VHF QSO Parties” and January “VHF Sweepstakes” were introduced in 1948
- There were only two categories: single op and multiop (now there are 14 categories)
- Multipliers were ARRL sections until “grid squares” came along in 1980s
- “Roving” was not allowed until 1980s
- Almost all top scores were in the northeast
- Exception: E-skip made June more competitive
- Technology: vacuum tubes, AM, then SSB, FM



# In the rules until 1980s...

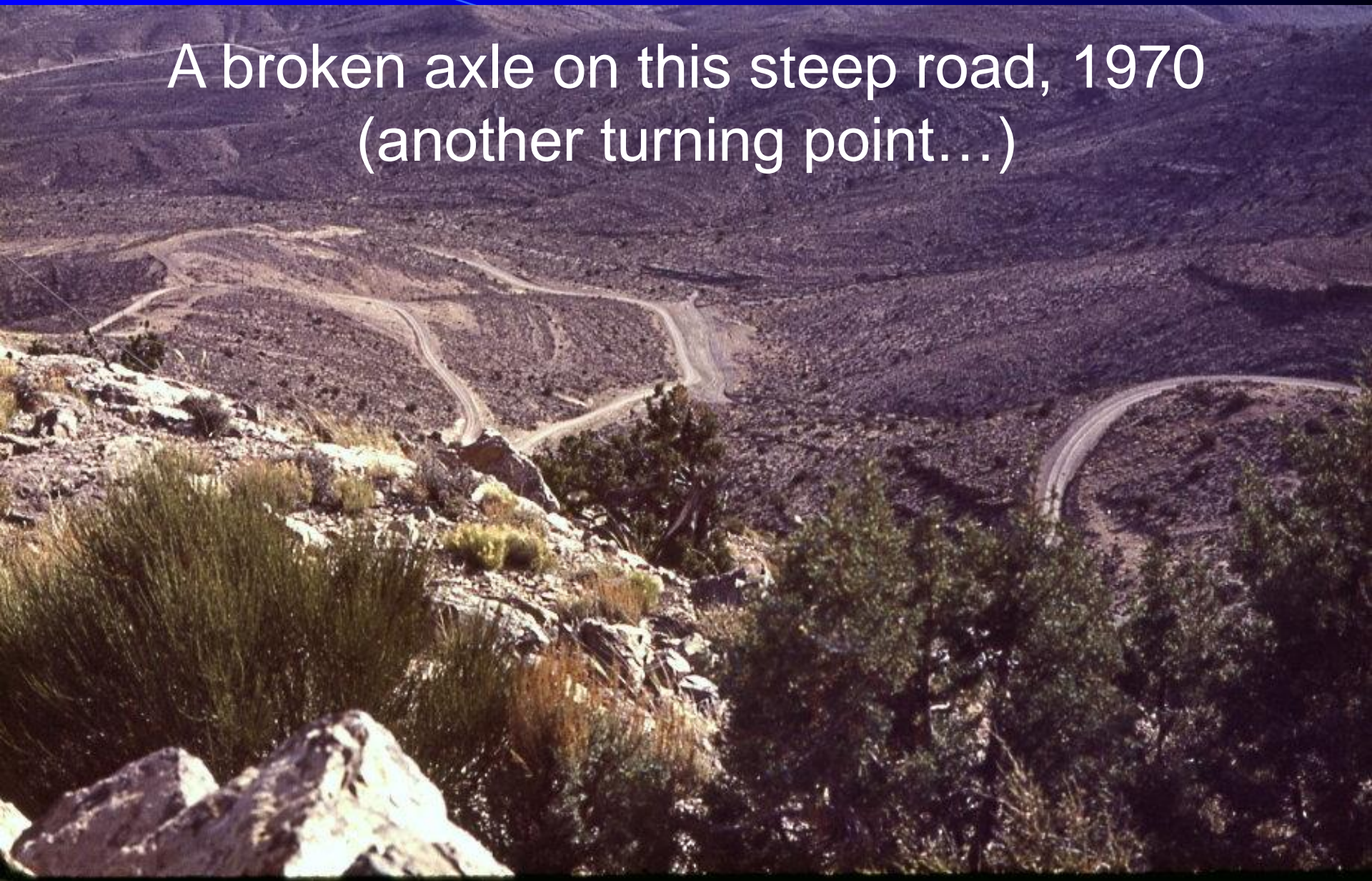
3) Fixed-, portable- or mobile-station operation *under one call*, from one location only, is permitted. A transmitter



Mt. Potosi, Nevada (DM25), 1970



A broken axle on this steep road, 1970  
(another turning point...)







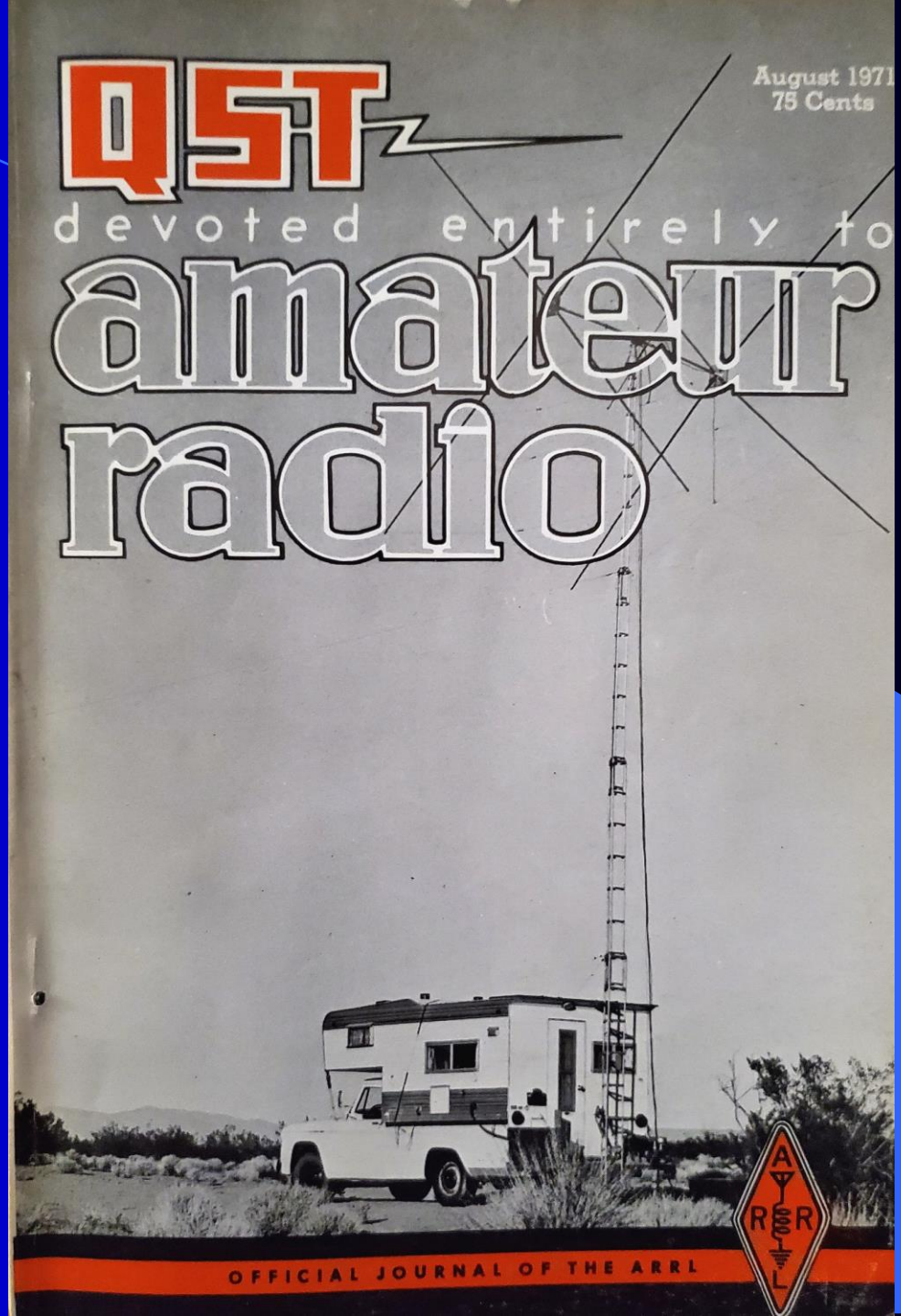
The “cabover kilowatt”, 1970

Alaska,  
1970, with  
cubical  
quad for  
20-6 mtrs.





QST cover story,  
August, 1971





A sampling of VHF operating sites used  
by K6YNB/N6NB, 1957-2022



Santiago Peak  
(DM13) with Quagi  
antennas, 1973





Utah Pass,  
Utah (DM37),  
1976



QST cover story,  
November, 1977

# QST

devoted entirely to Amateur Radio

November 1977 \$1.50



Looking for new horizons?  
Try the vhf frontiers!

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# Portable moonbounce

Alaska, 1976





U.S. Coast Guard Base, Ketchikan (CO45)

16 3-element quads







Array under  
construction





A rotating hub

# Did this thing work?

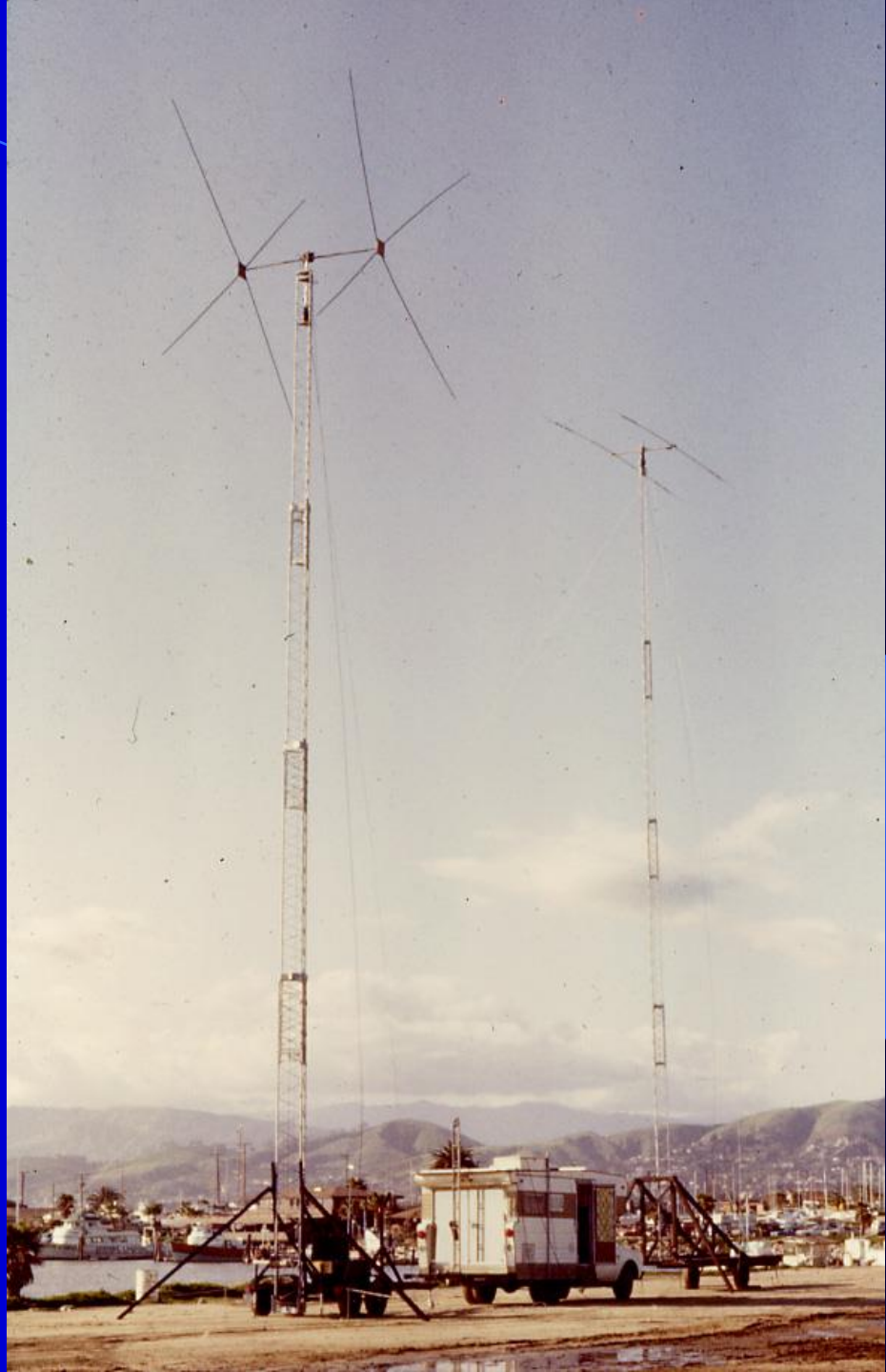
Well, yes. It gave K0MQS state #50 for the first-ever Worked All States Award on two meters.



Home-built tower trailers, 1978



A side-by-side  
test of cubical  
quads versus  
Yagi antennas,  
1978



# Ham Radio magazine cover story, May, 1982





EME in 1978  
on the Utah-  
Nevada border  
(with 20-meter  
liaison)





# Mobile moonbounce in two states





UTAH  
STATE LINE







Another mobile moonbounce setup



Utah-Nevada border--again



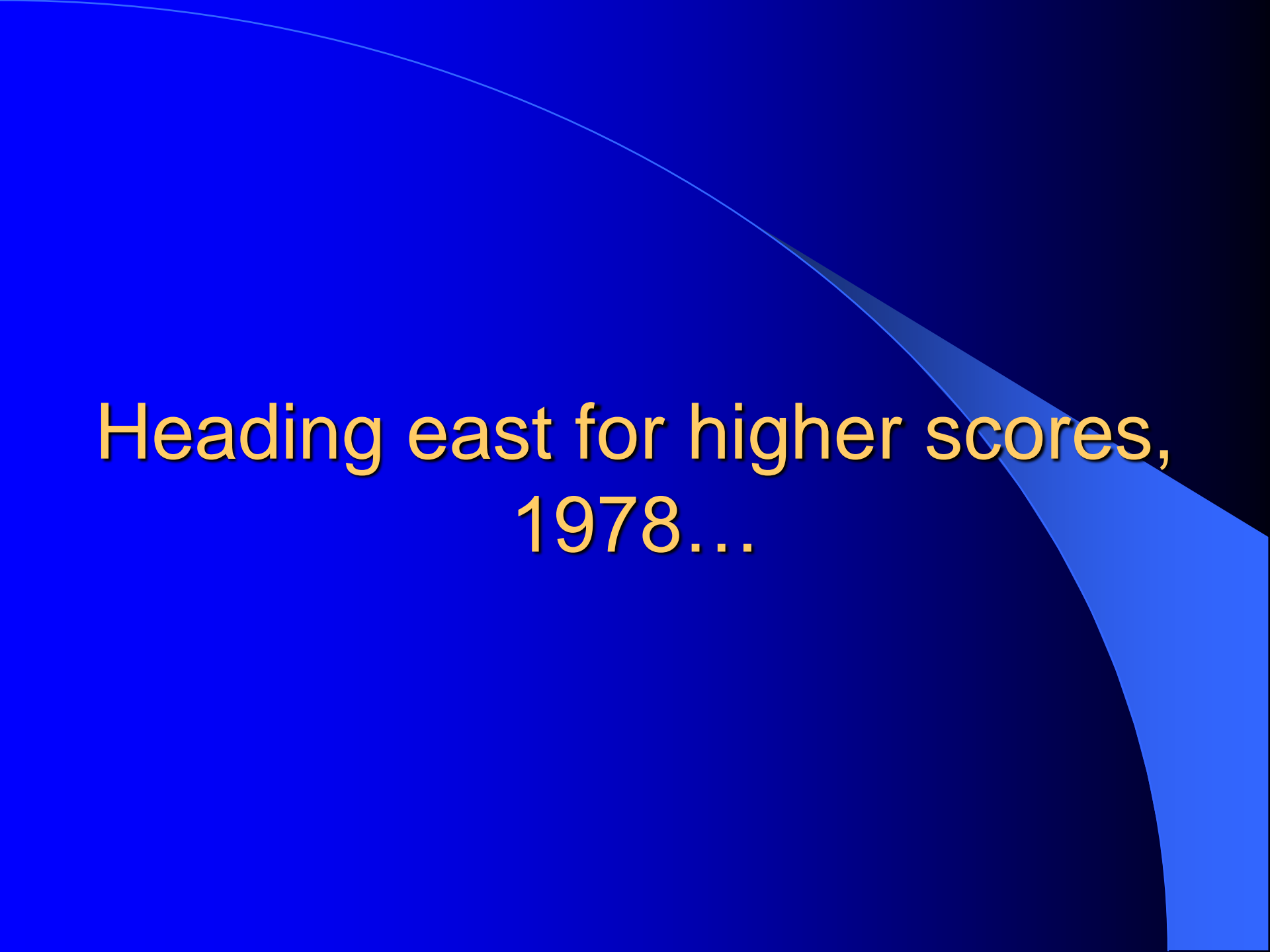
Mt. Pinos, CA  
with a VW,  
June, 1977  
(a national  
record score)



Mt. Pinos, CA  
September,  
1977 (#1 single  
op, but not a  
record)







Heading east for higher scores,  
1978...







Mt. Equinox, VT (FN33), 1978



Rentacar portable,  
1978







Let's do this right (1979)















Mt. Equinox, VT, 1979



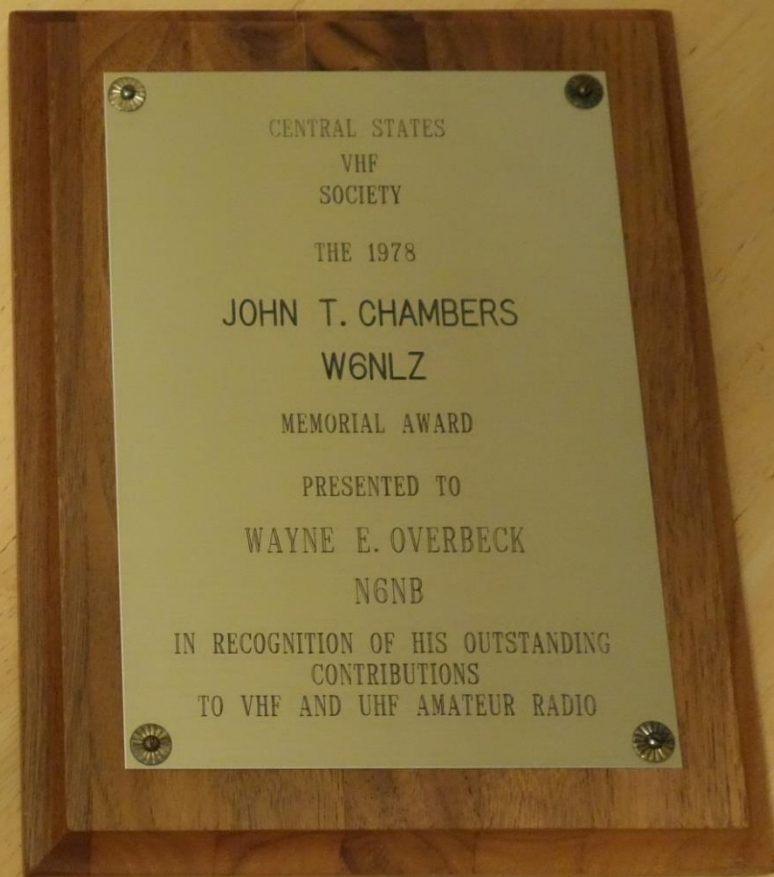




September, 1979  
Mt. Equinox, VT  
(a national record  
pre-grid squares  
that was never  
broken )





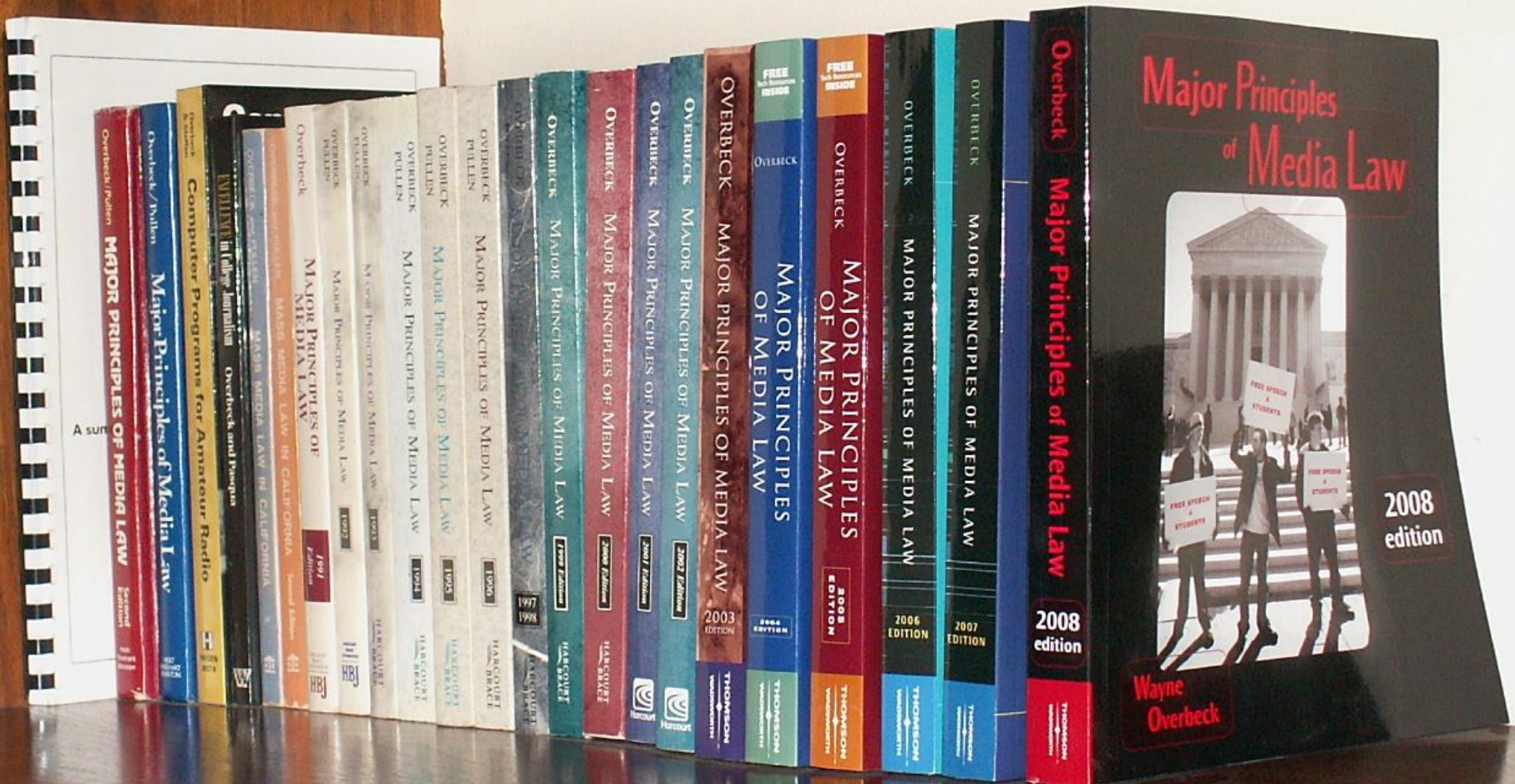


Central States and Dayton awards, 1978-80



Um, now what?





Writing law textbooks...



Attending ARRL board meetings (1984-92)



Building a cabin  
and a contest  
station on a  
6,800' mountain



Back on the  
road: 6,500  
miles for a  
January VHF  
contest, 2003





# On Sheep Hill (FN20)















Astoria, Oregon (CN86), 2003





N6NB/R in DM15, September, 2003





# Jetmore, Kansas (EM08), June, 2004



# Eight rovers in one place, 2009







June, 2010: 10 rover stations, 15 operators





W6TAI with N6NB's rover









Some of the gavels won by SCCC





Tower trailers again...

2012





Cape Cod, MA (FN51),  
October, 2012





Bensalem, PA  
(FN20),  
October, 2012







Center, Texas (EM22), January, 2013





Newport Beach, CA (DM13), June, 2013



Madera, CA (CM96),  
January, 2014/2015



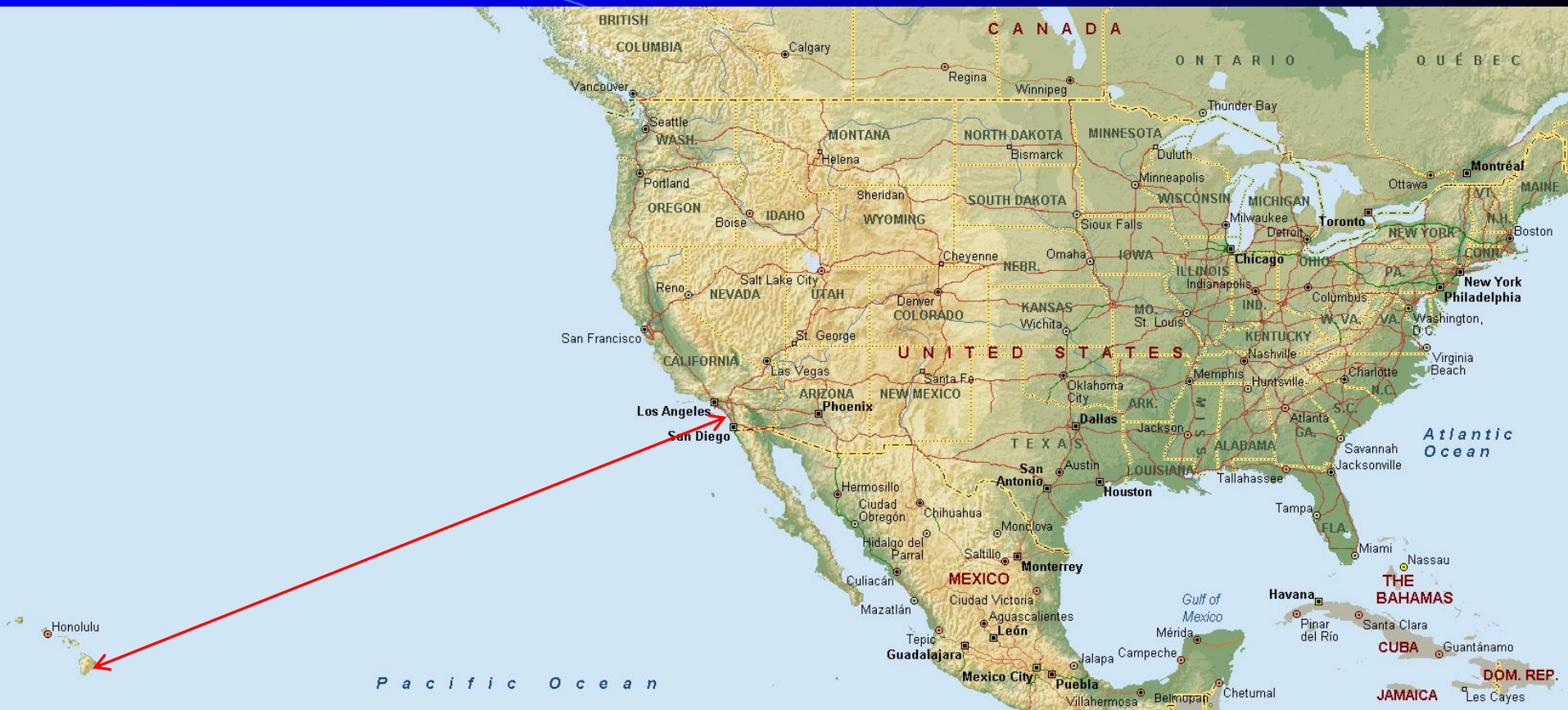
# A Hawaii adventure: World DX records on .9, 2.3 and 3.4 GHz







Above the duct...



4,024 km. on 2304 and 3456 MHz! (June, 2015),  
4095 km. on 902 MHz (June, 2016)



Central States VHF Society

**The 2015  
John T. Chambers  
W6NLZ  
Memorial Award**

*Presented To*



**N6NB  
Wayne Overbeck**



*In Recognition Of His  
Outstanding Contributions  
To VHF & UHF  
Amateur Radio*

**2015**

CENTRAL STATES  
VHF  
SOCIETY

THE 1978

**JOHN T. CHAMBERS  
W6NLZ**

MEMORIAL AWARD

PRESENTED TO

**WAYNE E. OVERBECK  
N6NB**

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO VHF AND UHF AMATEUR RADIO

Another John Chambers Memorial Award, 2015

Storm clouds in  
Colorado, 2017  
(still winning as a  
rover after 60 years  
on the air???)





# VHF+ highlights of 65 years

- 12 #1 contest scores nationally as a single operator in the section multiplier era (pre-1984)
- 26 #1 scores nationally as a rover in the grid square era (post-1984)
- 7 #1 scores nationally in the single operator portable category (post-1984)
- Antenna solutions like the Quagi
- Winning scores in seven decades
- Dozens of also-ran scores and forgettable boondoggles that aren't shown here...

QST cover story,  
May, 2021:  
Is this  
the future?

# QST



the national association for  
**ARRL amateur radio**

May 2021

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

## A VHF Eco-Rover

### QST Reviews

**MobilinkD**  
TNC3 for APRS

**aprs.fi** App for iOS

**Four State QRP Group**  
Nouveau 75A QRP  
AM Transceiver Kit

**Yaesu SCU-LAN10**  
Remote Control Unit

**bhi NES10-2 MK4 DSP**  
Noise Cancelling Speaker





# The N6NB website



[www.n6nb.com](http://www.n6nb.com)