



Sticky Notes

GECO Newsletter
Vol.6, No. 2, Mar 2021

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Ready to Serve and Sustain Our Community



GECO Int'l Women's Day Challenge

The 2021 International Women's Day theme was "Choose to Challenge." GECO rose to the occasion by issuing a challenge to women HAMs. To be more welcoming and inclusive of women, we asked them (including women and girls interested in becoming HAMs) to tell us their story:

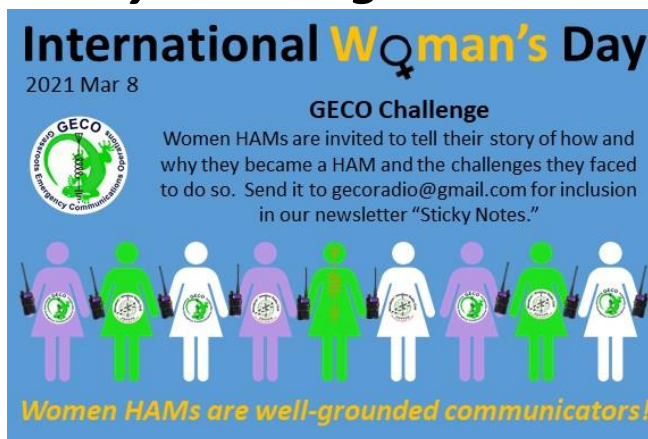
- Why and how they became HAMs?
- What challenges they faced before and after they got their licenses?
- What changes do they suggest for making them feel more welcomed and included in the HAM community?

Women and girls who are HAMs (and those who want to be HAMs) are asked to submit their story. If you want to remain anonymous, please tell us and we will comply with your request. We will compile these stories and publish them in a special edition of the newsletter.

This effort seeks to understand how women and girls perceive HAM radio and the HAM community. This insight will be useful to seek ways to make HAM radio more inclusive and welcoming to women and girls. Cultural inertia (e.g., it's always been that way) can set in and create situations where people are not aware their actions (or inactions) are being exclusionary, unwelcoming, etc. These unintended actions are a source of miscommunication at best and non-communication at worse.

GECO operates on mutual respect and uses self-selection as a criterion for training. When a person freely chooses to pursue a dream, they have a good mindset and attitude to learn. But this also assumes they know the choices available to them. History has shown people are born in a place and are initially shaped by the environment. As they grow, and learn more, they modify their lives accordingly. Restricted access to information / education can mean people grow up only knowing what they are told. This has been a major tool in social control. In the case of women and girls, lack of education often results in them being second-class (or lower) citizens in their countries.

As a grassroots organization, GECO operates on a people-to-people basis. We focus on the individual and their community. We follow Mahatma Gandhi's idea "Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being. Without interrelation with society, he cannot realize his oneness with the universe or suppress his egotism. His social interdependence enables him to test his faith and to prove himself on the touchstone of reality." 🦎



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Invisible HAMs

In the US, the [purposes of HAM radio](#) “for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill.”

Hiram Percy Maxim was an American amateur radio pioneer and inventor. He created the American Radio Relay League ([ARRL](#)) in 1914. The organization of amateur radio stations let radio messages travel beyond the range of any single station.

I became a HAM in Fall 2006. My Elmer, Mark N7YLA, urged me to join ARRL. I did and have been a member ever since.

I am not a technical HAM. I’ve dabbled in homebrewing antennas. I felt this was one of the technical aspects I could manage. But my real interests lay in the realm of “public service and international goodwill.” I could apply my knowledge and experience as a Geographer and Teacher readily to those activities. I could also apply my hobby of photography to my new hobby of HAM radio. I helped Mark create illustrated teaching materials and QSL cards. The challenge of the regulations made it an uphill battle to set up my amateur station in Thailand. EchoLink was much easier to put into operation and became the mainstay of my radio operating. It was fun to make my QSL cards using photos from my farm and around the rural Thai village where I lived. The QSL cards could be informative, educational venues to advance the enhancing of international goodwill.”

Contacting HAMs around the world is traditionally documented exchanging QSL cards. Personally, I am not chasing awards, so receiving QSL cards is not a priority for me. But making and sending them is a way to have fun combining my photography, geography, and HAM interests. To reduce costs, I send my QSL cards via email. But I don’t always get an email address for all the folks I contact. I use QRZ.com to find many email addresses for them. However, if they are not listed there, they become “invisible” HAMs.

I wrote an article to encourage all new HAMs to “put themselves on the map of HAM radio.” I strongly urge all HAM radio groups who help train and get new HAMs licensed to get them set up on QRZ.com so the rest of the HAM community can find them. I have seen and heard the excitement of new HAMs making their first contact and getting a QSL card.



Greg KI6GIG entering data on a QSL card.



Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW (formerly SNY, 1WH, 1ZM, 1AW, and W1AW) creator of ARRL.



[“Geography for New HAMs: Putting Yourself on the HAM Radio Map.”](#)

I bend the QSL tradition a bit when hearing folks on a Net. I hear them check-in, but I don’t really have a conversation with them. Some nets allow this to happen. But many Nets are large and have many folks reporting in. There is little time to chat with others. But I log their callsign, date / time that I hear them, and try to email a QSL card.

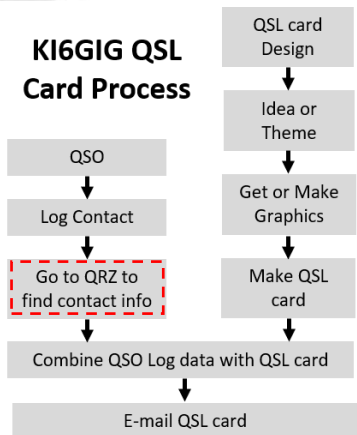
Sticky Notes1

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Some Nets are regularly scheduled. Others can be special events or occasions. For example, on March 8, 2021, the WBRC-SAARC Echo-VHF Net commemorated International Women's Day. A few years ago, Joe N6WZK and I assisted the WBRC to get their Club Station on EchoLink. It took a while to overcome some technical challenges. But as you can see, they make good use of it.

I wanted to create a special QSL card to use for any stations I copied during the time I connected with this net. The diagram on the right shows my QSL card making process. There are two separate phases to my QSL card process: making the contact and designing the card.

In this case, the special net was to celebrate International Women's Day 2021. I got some ideas for the graphics to go on the card in addition to the standard QSL documentary data, my callsign and station ID information. Once the card is designed, the "missing data" are the specifics of the contact. I get this during the net by recording the callsign/name and the time of the contact. It is easier for me to record my local time, then convert it to UTC time/date. I had to adapt my QSL data block to EchoLink operations as they are a bit different than the Traditional HAM data format (see below). For this net, I needed 2 EchoLink stations for me to



No email address for a contact means no QSL card is sent.

Confirming contact w/	Date / Time				Local	UTC	Mode	Notes	Thanks for the QSO to Greg KI6GIG Control Operator
	Year	Month	Date	Hour					
							<input type="checkbox"/> RF/MHz <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VOIP#384040 EchoLink	Via VU2WB-R Node #953521 EchoLink	

hear the contact. The "Mode" box has boxes to check if RF (list the MHz) and VOIP (list the node #). The "Notes" box is used as needed. Here is where I listed the EchoLink node of the IWD Net. Once on the net, I logged the callsigns and my local time when I heard them. When I cannot make out a callsign, it is a lost opportunity for me and the other station. After I leave the net, I take my log and start to search for email addresses on QRZ.com. If I cannot find an email address for a HAM, I don't complete a QSL card as I cannot send it. [Note: It's unfortunate because I couldn't find email addresses for 8 of the 25 stations on my IWD Net log. That's nearly one-third of all the stations!] It is disappointing because it takes the fun out of the contact. Making and sending QSL cards is my way of "enhancing international goodwill" which is a big part of the hobby for me.

Below are some samples of other QSL cards I made for some past special events. As a Geographer and teacher, I use my photo and graphic QSL cards as opportunities to give other HAMs glimpses of local people and scenes for international understanding.

HAMs Helping HAMs

Nepal Man Prisoner for 4 Decades Freed

. [Editor's Note: We edited notes we got from the WBRC. This story focuses on the role of HAMs in the case and not the legal details.]

Deepak Joshi (yellow circle), a resident of Nepal, was released from Kolkata's Dum Dum Jail. He came to India in his 20's looking for work. In 1980 he was arrested. In 1982, the court found him mentally unfit for trial as his mental ability was deemed that of a 9-year 9-month-old.



In all, he was in various correctional facilities for the past 41 years. WBRC HAMs contacted HAMs in Nepal who helped locate Deepak Joshi's relatives. The family had no word of him all this time. The following is from the WBRC:

"This story of reuniting won't end in a few words....

So, we would like to thank ADG and IG of Correctional Home, Mr. Piyush Pandey, IPS Sir for his immense support.

We are also grateful to Ananda Bazar Patrika for bringing this issue to light. Thanks to Mr. Malay Bhattacharyya, Mr. Subhrajyoti Ghosh for their support throughout the entire procedure.

We don't have enough words to thank Mr. Hirak Sinha (VU3ZHG) for all he did for Joshi. He's our Vice President of WBRC as well as an ADVOCATE of Calcutta High Court. We can't thank Mr. Subrata Manna enough for his support. We are grateful to Mr. Pradip Mondal and Saikat Banerjee for their immense support as well.

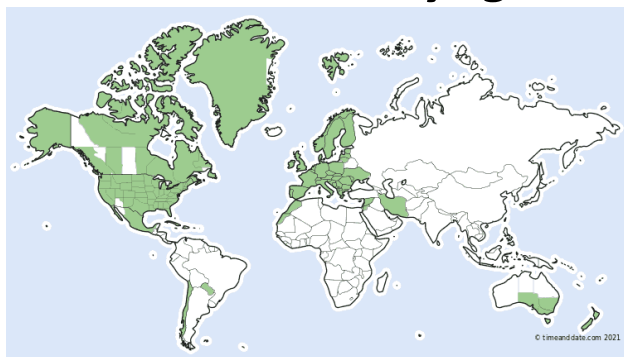
Right now, Joshi is on his way towards Nepal with his brother who came all the way from Nepal to receive him and MR. SATISH THAPA, OFFICE SECRETARY of NEPAL CONSULATE. Once home, he will meet his mother and all family members after a long time. His mother, Dhanmaya Devi thought her son was no more. By God's grace, this is again a sweet reuniting story of a Mother & Her Missing Son.

Last but not least, team WBRC wants to thank Mr. Ambarish Nag Biswas (VU2JFA) for his efforts behind the scenes for this effort."

The WBRC has a well-established track record of reuniting families. India is a huge country with many languages. People traveling to other states and cities on business, pilgrimages, etc. encounter language barriers. Whether victims of crimes, accidents, or being lost, they can become strangers in their own country. WBRC HAMs have gotten involved using HAM radio to contact other HAMs to identify the languages involved in some of these cases. Once the language was identified, WBRC HAMs reached out to HAMs in regions where the language was spoken to try to locate relatives of these lost or hospitalized people.

The WBRC provides communications services for Gangasagar Mela, an annual pilgrimage with an attendance of about 30 million people. WBRC set up a website to help link lost/missing people for this event. WBRC is truly an example of HAMs Helping HAMs in public service to their community. 🌱

Daylight Saving Time (DST)



Green = DST, White = [Non-DST](#)

Did you know most of the world does not use daylight saving time (DST)? Most Americans may not realize this, especially if they don't travel or have international contacts. As society and conditions change, some reasons for DST have changed over time. Some countries discontinued using it.

As students, we heard various reasons for DST. In the US, New England (the Northeast part of the country) is noted for its pragmatism. The story goes the proponents for DST were going around the

country explaining the concept to people. A New Englander was supposed to have said "Ah, yep. Well, the good Lord made only 24-hours in a day, and you can't save any of it."

A quick look at the world (see map above) gives a summary glance at the 2021 status of DST vs. Non-DST users in the world. There are countries which use it and those which don't. What is curious are the countries and areas of the world where some parts do and other parts don't: Canada, US, Mexico, Australia, Greenland, and Ukraine. (There are some others, but they are not obvious in the map. For more details, click [here](#).)

GECO prefers to use UTC dates and times on our QSL cards, but we also recognize it is easier for some folks to use local time in their record keeping. To eliminate the potential for errors, our QSL cards use "check boxes" to clearly indicate which is being used.

Date / Time		<input type="checkbox"/> Local	<input type="checkbox"/> UTC
Year	Month	Date	Hour

Geography is not taught very much in the US. In some states, students only get one geography class in middle school. There are some notable events in US history when time calculations were not applied. The first Pan American Airways Trans-Pacific flight had to delay its arrival in Manila because the navigators forgot to allow for the time/day difference when crossing the International Date Line. A similar miscalculation occurred in WW II when planning the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. As a result, the landing fields in China were given the wrong date/time to expect the arrival of the Doolittle Raiders. As a result, the landing fields in China were not illuminated as the Raiders arrived in China. The planes crashed or crews bailed out at night. Japanese occupied coastal China and began searching for the Americans. The Japanese troops were ruthless in their search. Later, it was estimated that a quarter million Chinese were executed for not cooperating in the search. This price of a miscalculation in time is lost in the dusty pages of history.

You may find it hard to believe, but until the Vietnam conflict (it was never officially declared a war by the US Congress) time was an issue. When the conflict started, local time/date stamps were used. This caused confusion for officials in Washington trying to sort out the timeline of the chain of events.

As a Geographer and teacher, these are classic examples of why making mistakes in the classroom are valuable lessons. Paper errors in class don't cost lives. 🌱

U.S. Daylight Saving Time (+1 hr.) began 14 March 2021, Sunday 02:00 local time.

Our station in Scottsdale, AZ remains UTC -7 and does not use DST.

London (UTC 0) starts DST on 28 March 2021, Sunday 01:00 local time.

EchoLink / RF Nets

All HAMs are welcome to join these Directed EchoLink / RF Nets. Two of them are weekly nets: GERC and ARSB. The WBRC-SAARC Net is daily.

GERC EchoLink-VHF Weekly Net.

The purpose of the net is for Glendora Emergency Response Communications (GERC) members to use their equipment and practice their on-the-air skills. Juan KM6DBN provided the EchoLink Gateway (KM6DBN-L, #869843). His node can take 8 connections. If his node capacity is full, alternate connections via linked stations are N7YLA-L (#358124) or KI6GIG (#384040). Visitors can check-in after the member roll call.

WBRC-SAARC ECHO-VHF NET.

The West Bengal Radio Club (WBRC)-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Net is for regional HAMs to connect via EchoLink with local Kolkata HAMs via VHF. EchoLink gateways are via VU2WBR-R (#949570) and VU2WB-R (#953521). EchoLink stations connect and wait to be called by Net Control.

ASRB International ECHO-UHF Net.

The Amateur Radio Society of Bangladesh Net is and AllStar/EchoLink Net providing members with HAM access to the world. The EchoLink gateway is S21HQ-R (#470709). Local HAMs connect by UHF. EchoLink stations connect and wait to be called by Net Control.

G.E.R.C. Net

Glendora Emergency Response Communications

2m RF w/ EchoLink Gateway

GERC Net Control

EchoLink 869843
145.675
Alternate EchoLink connections via
N7YLA-L 358124
KI6GIG 384040

Simplex 145.675
GERC

The purpose of the Glendora Emergency Response Communications Net is to prepare HAMs for an emergency and to share information relevant to that purpose. All HAMs are welcomed!

Visitors Welcome!

Glendora Emergency Response Communications
GERC Net Freq
Simplex 145.675 MHz
Thursdays 20:30 Hrs. Pacific
UTC-8 DM14bd CQ 3 ITU 6
DST: Set clocks at 0200 local time.
Starts 2nd Sunday in Mar &
Ends 1st Sunday in Nov.

SCIRA Check-in*
2nd Thursday of the month
after the regular GERC Net
W6CTR-R
445.940 MHz (-) PL 100.0 (non-linked PL)
EchoLink #379885 Allstar #48383

GERC EmComm Freq
remain as
Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5
FFI: KG6TQT

*SCIRA, Inc. Check-in Net 2nd Thursday of each month, About 21:00 pm after G.E.R.C. Net
At the SCIRA, Inc., Pleasant's Peak Repeater 445.940 MHz (-) PL 100.0 (non-linked PL)
EchoLink #379885 W6CTR-R Allstar node 48383

Amateur Radio Society Bangladesh - ARSB

International ECHO UHF Net

S21HQ-R ECHOLINK Dhaka, Bangladesh

Time Every Saturday
Local Time 10:00pm - 11:00pm
UTC 16:00 - 17:00
EST 11:00 - 12:00

You are cordially invited to join our net

Net Controller

AMATEUR RADIO
S21PL

AMATEUR RADIO
S21OI

West Bengal Radio Club
Amateur Club

WBRC SAARC ECHO-VHF NET

Our Net Controllers
March'21

Sunday

VU3ODS

Wednesday

S21KV

Friday

VU2JFA

Monday

VU2JFC

Thursday

S21NO

Saturday

VU3ZIH

Tuesday

VU3ZHH

Thursday

VU3IQW

Observer

VU3JXF

Net Time-Daily
UTC 15:30-16:30
IST 21:00-22:00
BST 21:30-22:30

EchoLink Nodes
VU2WBR-R
VU2WB-R

VU2WB Repeater
145.000 (-ve shift)
Kolkata Area

All successful QSO verified with eQSL