



Second Century

“You think you’re Mickey Spillane?”

“You think you’re some kind of writer?” You may recognize these as the noble words of Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in Full Metal Jacket! That is my question to you this month: do you see yourself as some kind of writer?

One of the major topics included in the member comments that I receive, month in and month out, is *QST*. It’s too thin. It’s too technical. It’s not technical enough. There are too many ads. Why aren’t there more ads with cool stuff? There’s not enough content! Over the years, ARRL has expanded its publishing footprint to include four magazines: *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. There is a tremendous amount of content to satisfy member needs within those pages. Are you aware that with your membership, you get all four magazines for free digitally? It is remarkably convenient to be able to access the magazines on a timely basis from anywhere by simply going online to read them at arrl.org/arrl-magazines. You can even search the full text of *QST* for issues published from January 2012 to present. I also enjoy the ARRL Periodicals Archive (arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search), which lets me search for even older articles that I think back to from early on in my ham radio career.

This blessing is also a curse: our appetite for content is insatiable. We know which articles our members love. It’s no surprise that just about any new antenna concept leads to excitement! Kit or construction articles are also very popular. Some of the articles I used to enjoy — that appeared in *QST*, or even in the *Handbook* — had to do with simple transmitter or receiver designs. Doug DeMaw, W1FB (SK), was my hero! Doug was a prolific writer and was on the HQ staff from 1965 to 1983, serving as Senior Technical Editor and Technical Department Manager. My best friend in high school, Mike Conwill, N2MW, loved QRP and built Doug’s “Tuna Tin 2” project, which first appeared in the May 1976 issue of *QST*. Along with his Heathkit HW-8, Mike attacked the airwaves, digging for a Worked All States Award — and he was successful! I too built a Tuna Tin 2, which sat next to my homebrew Novice rig (12AT7/6L6GC), and I had a wonderful time with that little radio. Thank you, Doug.

We certainly have our modern-day Doug DeMaws: Steve Ford, WB8IMY; Ward Silver, N0AX, and others who inspire us with their knowledge. But now, we are looking for YOU!

You’ve probably read our magazines for years. You know the kinds of articles we are looking for. Or maybe you have something innovative we’ve never thought of or seen before! Go ahead and submit an article to our editorial team. It should be about 1,200 words long and include a “how-to” component, so other hams can reproduce your success. We also like to see three to five high-resolution images that complement the text.

If you’re writing up a construction project with step-by-step instructions, your article may exceed 1,200 words, and will likely require additional images — that’s fine; send in whatever your project requires. Submissions go to qst@arrl.org and are routed to the manuscript evaluation committee that reads and discusses all submissions. We take a broad view of all manuscripts, considering potential use in all of ARRL’s publishing outlets. If you’d like more information about what we’re looking for, there’s an author’s guide available at www.arrl.org/qst-author-guide.

If you’re not a writer, why not *recruit* one! We can’t be everywhere. Perhaps you have a friend or someone in your radio club who has written for a newsletter or who is doing/building great things. Encourage them to consider writing something — or sharing something they’ve already written — with ARRL.

ARRL’s current core of authors, editors, and content contributors (thank you all!) already know how rewarding it is to hear from members who tell us that an article they’ve read or project they’ve built has inspired them — to try something new, or to become more active in amateur radio. Our editorial mission parallels ARRL’s overall mission: To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

Be a writer! Write for ARRL! Get interested and involved in our content. Be radio active. Bring your passion for ham radio to the pages of ARRL magazines.

David A. Minster, NA2AA
Chief Executive Officer