

# Up Front

## Stepping Up

John Morelli, W1JGM, shared the many facets of ham radio with his friends, including the process of acquiring one's license. Interest was high, so he approached his club, the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, about sponsoring a class. A hybrid approach was decided upon, meeting first in person to go over class expectations, distribute materials, and have a question-and-answer session. After several online meetings, they met again for in-person demonstrations and hands-on radio experience. The Northville Amateur Radio Association/Candlewood Amateur Radio Association VE Team administered the exam. The class was a success — nine new Technicians and two new Generals! John thanks the volunteers — John Ahle, W1JMA; Dan Thill, N2DGT, and Vinny Tompkins, N2OHH — who helped make his first training class such a success.

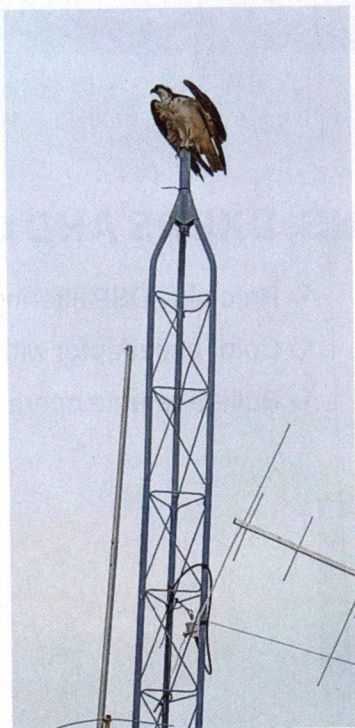


Students taking their license exams. [John Morelli, W1JGM, photo]

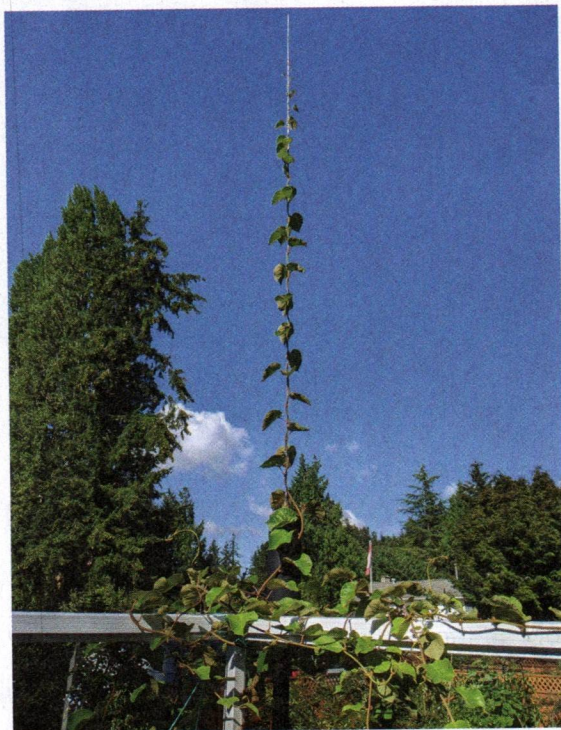
## Birdies

Hams often refer to spurious signals on their radio as *birdies*. Typically tones or chirps, birdies are unwanted signals caused by radio or nearby oscillators. You can do without these annoying sources of interference.

Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, was surprised that the birdies on his satellite radio signals were evidently caused by an osprey, a real birdie!



[Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, photo]



[Kosta Kropivny, VA7KL, photo]

## Stealth Antenna

Kosta Kropivny's, VA7KL, wife, Elena Terekhova, used a vertical 102-inch whip antenna to grow kiwi fruit. Testing showed that the SWR dip shifted down by 150 kHz on the 80-meter band. Elena thought the vine made the antenna more attractive; Kosta noted that the fruit harvest increased.

If you see something ham-related out in the world, take a photo of it and send it to "Up Front" at [upfront@arri.org](mailto:upfront@arri.org).