

**Contesting with your next door neighbor (and you bring over the station)** - Some months ago a new next door neighbor moved in; he turned out to be Rob KI6PLB. Both Rob and I like to operate HF. Some hams might have taken pause to this sort of development, with worries of blowing out each other's receiver front ends with S40+ signals. What to do? Do Sweepstakes together as a multi-op, and invite some more local ham friends! Rob nor I have had much time yet to put up many permanent antennas. I have a new portable station trailer that deploys a triband yagi on a 42 foot pneumatic mast, but no room to set it up in my driveway. But Rob has a much bigger driveway. Simple solution – tow the trailer next door to Rob's place and put up the beam (see attached picture). Neither of our house lots has enough room for a ½ wave 80m dipole. However, if you erect a 40 foot push-up mast right on our adjoining property line, the array will fit. We were also joined by fellow Valley Radio Club (of Oregon) members Scott N7JI and Gabe N7XAX who helped fill the logbook. Our QSO number was moderate, but we were pleasantly surprised that we had worked 80 sections (where were the Canadian Maritimes?). This is the first time the trailer has been used for a major contest and everything worked well. So if you have a ham neighbor, suggest that you combine efforts and contest together; the results can be great!

73, Mike KC7HF