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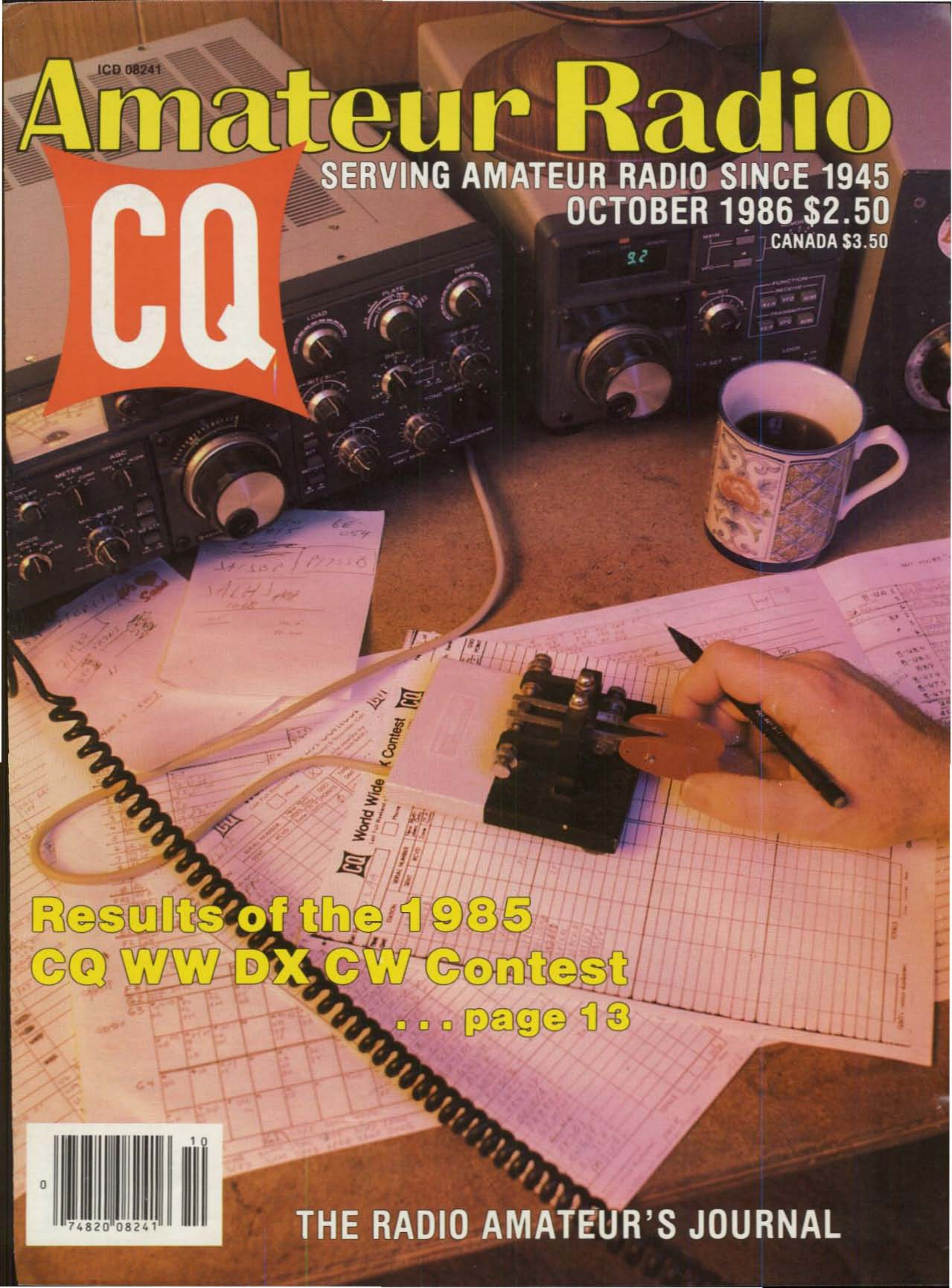
Amateur Radio

SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1945

OCTOBER 1986 \$2.50

CANADA \$3.50

CQ



Results of the 1985 CQ WW DX CW Contest

... page 13



THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL

KENWOOD

...pacesetter in Amateur radio

All New
Compact HF!

“DX-citing!”

TS-440S Compact high performance HF transceiver with general coverage receiver

Kenwood's advanced digital know-how brings Amateurs world-wide “big-rig” performance in a compact package. We call it “Digital DX-citement”—that special feeling you get every time you turn the power on!

• **Covers All Amateur bands**

General coverage receiver tunes from 100 kHz—30 MHz. Easily modified for HF MARS operation.

• **Direct keyboard entry of frequency**

• **All modes built-in**
USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, and AFSK. Mode selection is verified in Morse Code.

• **Built-in automatic antenna tuner (optional)**

Covers 80-10 meters.

• **VS-1 voice synthesizer (optional)**

• **Superior receiver dynamic range**

Kenwood DynaMix™ high sensitivity direct mixing system ensures true 102 dB receiver dynamic range. (500 Hz bandwidth on 20 m)

• **100% duty cycle transmitter**

Super efficient cooling permits continuous key-down for periods exceeding one hour. RF input power is rated at 200 W PEP on SSB, 200 W DC on CW, AFSK, FM, and 110 W DC AM. (The PS-50 power supply is needed for continuous duty.)



• **Adjustable dial torque**

• **100 memory channels**

Frequency and mode may be stored in 10 groups of 10 channels each. Split frequencies may be stored in 10 channels for repeater operation.

• **TU-8 CTCSS unit (optional)**

Subtone is memorized when TU-8 is installed.

• **Superb interference reduction**

IF shift, tuneable notch filter, noise blanker, all-mode squelch, RF attenuator, RIT/XIT, and optional filters fight QRM.

• **MC-42S UP/DOWN mic. included**

• **Computer interface port**

• **5 IF filter functions**

• **Dual SSB IF filtering**

A built-in SSB filter is standard. When an optional SSB filter (YK-88S or YK-88SN) is installed, **dual** filtering is provided.

• **VOX, full or semi break-in CW; AMTOR compatible.**



Optional accessories:

- AT-440 internal auto. antenna tuner (80 m—10 m)
- AT-250 external auto. tuner (160 m—10 m)
- AT-130 compact mobile antenna tuner (160 m—10 m)
- IF-232C/IC-10 level translator and modem IC kit
- PS-50 heavy duty power supply
- PS-430/PS-30 DC power supply
- SP-430 external speaker
- MB-430 mobile mounting bracket
- YK-88C/88CN 500 Hz/270 Hz CW filters
- YK-88S-88SN 2.4 kHz/1.8 kHz SSB filters
- MC-60A/80/85 desk microphones
- MC-55 (8P) mobile microphone
- HS-4/5/6/7 headphones
- SP-40/50 mobile speakers
- MA-5/VP-1 HF 5 band mobile helical antenna and bumper mount
- TL-922A 2 kw PEP linear amplifier
- SM-220 station monitor
- VS-1 voice synthesizer
- SW-100A/200A/2000 SWR/power meters
- TU-8 CTCSS tone unit
- PG-2C extra DC cable.

Kenwood takes you from HF to OSCAR!



Complete service manuals are available for all Trio-Kenwood transceivers and most accessories. Specifications and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation.

25th Anniversary

KENWOOD

TRIO-KENWOOD COMMUNICATIONS
1111 West Walnut Street
Compton, California 90220

KENWOOD

...pacesetter in Amateur radio

NEW

Listen Up!



R-5000

High performance receiver

THE high performance receiver is here from the leader in communications technology—the Kenwood R-5000. This all-band, all mode receiver has superior interference reduction circuits, and has been designed with the highest performance standards in mind. Listen to foreign music, news, and commentary. Tune in local police, fire, aircraft, weather, and other public service channels with the VC-20 VHF converter. All this excitement and more is yours with a Kenwood receiver!

- **Covers 100 kHz-30 MHz in 30 bands, with additional coverage from 108-174 MHz (with VC-20 converter installed).**
- **Superior dynamic range.** Exclusive Kenwood DynaMix™ system ensures an honest 102 dB dynamic range. (14 MHz, 500 Hz bandwidth, 50 kHz spacing.)



- **100 memory channels.** Store mode, frequency, antenna selection.
- **Choice of either high or low impedance antenna connections.**
- **Extremely stable, dual digital VFOs.** Accurate to ± 10 ppm over a wide temperature range.
- **Kenwood's superb interference reduction.** Optional filters further enhance selectivity. Dual noise blankers built-in.
- **Direct keyboard frequency entry.**

- **Versatile programmable scanning, with center-stop tuning.**
- **Voice synthesizer option.**
- **Computer control option.**
- **Kenwood non-volatile operating system.** Lithium battery backs up memories; all functions remain intact even after lithium cell expires.
- **Power supply built-in.** Optional DCK-2 allows DC operation.
- **Selectable AGC, RF attenuator, record and headphone jacks, dual 24-hour clocks with timer, muting terminals, 120/220/240 VAC operation.**

Optional Accessories:

- VC-20 VHF converter for 108-174 MHz operation
- YK-88A 1.6 kHz AM filter
- YK-88S 2.4 kHz SSB filter
- YK-88SN 1.8 kHz narrow SSB filter
- YK-88C 500 Hz CW filter
- YK-88CN 270 Hz narrow filter
- DCK-2 DC power cable
- HS-5, HS-6, HS-7 headphones
- MB-430 mobile bracket
- SP-430 external speaker
- VS-1/VS-2 voice synthesizer
- IF-232C/IC-10 computer interface.

More information on the R-5000 and R-2000 is available from Authorized Kenwood Dealers.

KENWOOD

TRIO-KENWOOD COMMUNICATIONS
1111 West Walnut Street
Compton, California 90220

R-2000

150 kHz-30 MHz in 30 bands

- All modes
- Digital VFOs tune in 50 Hz, 500 Hz, or 5 kHz steps
- 10 memory channels
- Programmable scanning
- Dual 24-hour digital clocks, with timer
- 3 built-in IF filters (CW filter optional)
- All mode squelch, noise blanker, RF attenuator, AGC switch, S meter
- 100/120/220/240 VAC operation
- Record, phone jacks
- Muting terminals
- VC-10 optional VHF converter (108-174 MHz)



KENWOOD

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NEW
Compact 45 W 2 m

45 Affordable Watts!

TM-201B/401B

Super-compact mobile transceivers

The TM-201B boasts a powerful 45 watts output, easy-to-operate front panel controls, and ultra-compact size. The GaAsFET receiver front end provides high sensitivity and wide dynamic range. Receive and transmit characteristics are tailored for minimum distortion and excellent audio quality. Both the TM-201B and the TM-401B are supplied with a high-quality external speaker, 16-key DTMF microphone and mounting bracket.

- 45 watt output, with HI/LO power switch (TM-401B has 25 watts output.) 5 W low.
- Dual digital VFOs
TM-201B covers 142-149 MHz, includes certain MARS and CAP frequencies
TM-401B covers 440-450 MHz
- 5 memories plus "COM" channel, with lithium battery back-up



- Programmable, multi-function scanning
- High quality external speaker supplied
- Audible beeper confirms operation

Optional accessories:

- PS-430 power supply
- TU-3 or TU-3A two frequency tone encoder
- FC-10 frequency controller
- MC-55 (8-pin) mobile microphone
- SP-40 compact mobile speaker

- SP-50 deluxe mobile speaker
- SW-100A/B SWR/power meters
- SW-200A/B SWR/power meters
- SWT-1 2 m antenna tuner
- SWT-2 70 cm antenna tuner
- PG-2K extra DC cable
- PG-3A DC line noise filter
- MB-201 extra mobile bracket



Optional FC-10 frequency controller

Convenient control keys for frequency UP/DOWN, MHz shift, VFO A/B, and MR (memory recall or change memory channel).

More information on the TM-201B/401B is available from authorized dealers.



25th
Anniversary

KENWOOD

TM-401B is similar to the TM-201B, but covers 440-450 MHz and is 25 watts.
Specifications and prices subject to change without notice or obligation.
Complete service manuals are available for all Trio-Kenwood transceivers and most accessories.

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The Radio Amateur's Journal

ON THE COVER: It's contest time again. Our cover depicts a CW contestant hard at work. Check the 1985 results in this issue to see just how hard some of these ops worked. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.



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Zero Bias

AN EDITORIAL

Somewhere out there is a company that thinks up categories of interest to include in questionnaires on warranty cards packed with new merchandise. No, I'm not talking about amateur radio gear. I'm talking about home appliances, sporting goods, and things like that. The company would like you to supply some demographic information on your family, your income and education, the number of children living at that household, etc. Some might call it prying and others might think of it as market research. The last few items I purchased all had such cards, and the backs of these cards listed about 100 pastimes, hobbies, or interests. The purchaser was supposed to check the boxes next to these various areas of interest to indicate what he likes to do in his spare time. I guess they want to see what kind of person buys their product, whether there are any patterns, and what else this person buys. The list of things on cards that I've seen is quite long and varied, and in fact, some of the things listed look interesting in themselves.

Well, to get to the point, the only thing that came remotely close to amateur radio on those lists was CB. The CB boom, fad, or whatever you want to call it has been over for many years now, and the great profusion of literature, magazines, and movies about CB is gathering dust in archives. I'm not saying that CB is gone, but the high visibility of CB and CBers is gone. Even the CB whips on cars have been replaced by mobile telephone antennas—a different form of status. So why CB and not amateur radio? I don't really have a good answer except that in spite of a lot of very good press coverage and TV coverage of amateur radio activities we just don't come across as an interesting enough group. Perhaps we should push for an extra line on these forms that says *other*, where we could write in amateur radio. Anyway, this is just a little pet gripe.

Speaking of pet gripes, about this time of year I start hearing from a few amateurs out there who are "fed up to here" with contests and contesters hogging up the bands every weekend. Since *CQ* really doesn't sponsor 52 contests a year (it only seems that way), we can't take full credit for all that activity. However, the big word is *activity*, whether it's one of our contests or some other group's. With regard to our contests, we recently learned of a data base being formed on one of our events. Looking at one particular band and the entries from that section produced well over 200,000 unique call letters. I can see where some folks may not be able to ragchew, but I have to wonder who's left out there to talk to when it seems that almost everyone out there is working the contest. In a sense, we're grateful that each of these amateurs doesn't send in a log (again, it only seems that way).

Besides creating a tremendous amount of contest fever, the contests also provide the greatest way to work new countries for both established and fledgling DXers. Contests are

also a way of honing and sharpening your operating skills. You have to get in and out in a hurry while conveying information. Therefore, we apologize to the few amateurs who may believe they've been inconvenienced during these periods, but we too have been inconvenienced by not having the opportunity to work them.

This month we present the results of the *CQ* World-Wide DX CW Contest for 1985, and the *CQ* World-Wide DX Contest All-Time Records. These are the aiming points for those you'd like to beat this year, plus they are the way to find out exactly who beat you last year and how badly. These results, especially this month, demonstrate that there is merit in CW practice, and it really can be fun and challenging at this level.

As usual, George Jacobs, W3ASK, our Propagation Editor, has prepared a special comprehensive forecast for the contest period to help you out. Remember that we're talking about the whole world taking part in amateur radio's biggest contest, the *CQ* World-Wide DX Contest, so if you just want to hang around and ragchew, you might consider logging some repeater time instead. If you still haven't sent in for logs, please do so quickly and be sure to include an SASE. To be frank about it, it's sometimes hard—almost impossible—to read your handwriting. This year's Phone spectacular takes place the day after United Nations Day and ends on Mother-In-Law's Day, so it's a might auspicious time frame, as they say.

Travels With *CQ*

Where else would we go in mid-July except to Atlanta to help celebrate the heat-stroke season? As Ed MacMahon says to Johnny Carson, "How hot was it?" It was hotter than it seemed watching the news broadcasts on TV. The area we saw was parched, very hot, and uncomfortable. Therefore, the prospect of an air-conditioned hamfest seemed just the thing. The big, new, air-conditioned convention center is an ideal setting for a hamfest, and it's big enough to hold several other events for the community at the same time. This is the second year for this event to be held at the convention center, and I guess I'm finally getting used to it. The number of exhibitors seemed up, but I'm afraid that the overwhelming heat kept a lot of folks at home next to their air conditioners. The flea market once again was located adjacent to the commercial area with plenty to pick and choose. I can't see how anyone went home from this one empty-handed.

Earlier in July we were in Dallas, another hot spot, for their big one. This show was held at a new location, actually in Arlington, and was quite an improvement over last year. The area is more centrally located and apparently easier to get to for Dallas area amateurs. I did get a chance to wear the Armadillo County Sheriff's badge that the Texas DX Society sent me

to help publicize the Great Armadillo Run of 1986. The show facilities are part of a new Sheraton hotel which opened this year. I'd give the whole event high marks except for the hotel food, which was far worse than any airline food. I'd heartily recommend going there next year, but eating somewhere else.

We've got about six more shows to do before the end of the year. We'll be at Virginia Beach, San Diego, Radio Expo in Chicago, Houston, Boxborough, and the new one in Las Vegas. Everyone will miss *you* if you don't show up, and most of all you'll miss a great time if you decide to stay home. You owe it to yourself to take part in this aspect of amateur radio, and you owe it to the many folks who work extremely hard to present these events.

Who Replenishes The Well?

The latest issue of *QST* has an editorial that describes the ARRL's plans for a museum and a meeting room. Philosophically, I guess that we all can go along with that idea, until one reads the anticipated cost—\$2.7 million. Now this is a lot of money in anyone's book, no matter who is going to pay for it. I am also sure that by the time someone is ready to turn the first shovel full of earth to start the project, the costs will have risen to probably \$3.5 million or so.

There is a very big difference between something philosophically a good idea and the needs and demands of real life. One would assume from reading the editorial that the membership (which includes me) will be solicited to dig deep and help pay for the project, as with the headquarters building. At this particular time in amateur radio, and in our ongoing history, reality would say that the same request could be made for funds to reach out and publicize amateur radio. The sums of money now being spent on recruitment and publicity for amateur radio are a miniscule fraction of even \$2.7 million, and that money has been hard to come by. Those within the amateur radio industry association, which includes the ARRL, have labored hard on ideas and projects whose total cost would be a small percentage of the sales tax on \$2.7 million. To think in terms of what that money could mean for recruitment, publicity, and training of new members is astounding.

To think in terms of a museum at this time is like preparing own's own mausoleum or monument. If we don't reverse the trend, the museum will be a place to go and see what amateur radio was. In the not-too-distant future, we as median-age amateurs can take our grandchildren there to see the "dinosaur" remnants of the short ecological life of amateur radio. We have to secure a future in order for the past to have meaning. The idea is good, but the timing is awful. This huge amount of money would be better spent to secure that future—namely more amateurs.

73, Alan, K2EEK

Or This Inexpensive

It Really Shouldn't Be This Easy

Remember just a few years ago, how it took a roomful of equipment just to work RTTY. And if you wanted more than one mode it took a dedicated computer system costing thousands of dollars. The new AEA Pakratts are proving it doesn't take lots of equipment or money to enjoy working all bands in five different modes.

First, A Good Idea

The idea behind the Pakratt is very simple. One controller that does Morse, Baudot, ASCII, AMTOR, and Packet, and works both HF and VHF bands. Of course the decoding, protocol, and signal processing software must be included in the unit, and connection to the computer and transceiver have to be easy. The unit also has to be small and require only 12 volts, so it will work both in the shack and on the road.

Second, Computer Compatible

It doesn't matter what kind of computer you have, we have a Pakratt for you. The PK-64 works with the popular Commodore 64 or 128, and the PK-232 works with any other computer or terminal that has an RS-232 serial port. The PK-64 doesn't require any additional programs. Simply connect to the computer and transceiver and you're on the air. The PK-232 needs a terminal or modem program for your computer. The one you're using with your telephone modem will work just fine.

Fourth, AEA Quality and Price

Not many manufacturers like to discuss quality and price at the same time. AEA thinks you want high quality and low price in any product you buy, so that's what you get with the Pakratts. Ask any friend who owns AEA gear about our quality. The people who buy our products are our best salespeople. As for price, the PK-64 costs \$219.95, or \$319.95 with the HF option. The PK-64A, an enhanced software unit with a longer flexible computer cable, costs \$269.95 or \$369.95 with the HF option. The PK-232 costs \$319.95 with the HF modem included. All prices are Amateur Net and available from your favorite amateur radio dealer. For more information contact your local dealer or AEA.

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice or obligation.

PAKRATT™ Model PK-64



PAKRATT™ Model PK-232

Third, Performance and Features

The real measure of any data controller is what kind of on-air performance it gives. While the PK-64 and PK-232 use different types of modems, both give excellent performance on VHF. The optional HF modem of the PK-64 uses independent four-pole Chebyshev filters for both Mark and Space tones, and A.M. detection. The HF option can be factory or field installed.

The PK-232 uses an eight-pole bandpass filter followed by a limiter discriminator with automatic threshold correction. The internal modem automatically selects the filter parameters, CW $F_c = 800$ Hz, BW = 200 Hz; HF $F_c = 2210$ Hz, BW = 450 Hz; VHF $F_c = 1700$ Hz, BW = 2600 Hz.

The PK-64 uses on screen indicators to show status, mode, and DCD (Data Carrier Detect) while the PK-232 uses front panel indicators. Both units use discriminator style tuning for HF operation. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Features like multiple connects on packet, hardware HDLC, CW speed tracking, and other standard AEA software features are included in both the PK-64 and PK-232.

AEA

Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc.
P.O. Box C-2160, Lynnwood, WA 98036-0918
206-775-7373 Telex 6972496 AEA INTL UW

1987 CALLBOOKS



The "Flying Horse" sets the standards

Continuing a 66 year tradition, there are three new Callbooks for 1987.

The North American Callbook lists the calls, names, and address information for licensed amateurs in all countries from Canada to Panama including Greenland, Bermuda, and the Caribbean islands plus Hawaii and the U.S. possessions.

The International Callbook lists the amateurs in countries outside North America. Coverage includes South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific area.

The 1987 Callbook Supplement is a new idea in Callbook updates; it lists the activity in both the North American and International Callbooks. Published June 1, 1987, this Supplement will include all the new licenses, address changes, and call sign changes for the preceding 6 months.

Publication date for the 1987 Callbooks is December 1, 1986. See your dealer or order now directly from the publisher.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> North American Callbook
incl. shipping within USA | \$28.00 |
| incl. shipping to foreign countries | 30.60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Callbook
incl. shipping within USA | \$28.00 |
| incl. shipping to foreign countries | 30.60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Callbook Supplement, published June 1st
incl. shipping within USA | \$13.00 |
| incl. shipping to foreign countries | 14.00 |

SPECIAL OFFER

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Both N.A. & International Callbooks
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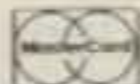
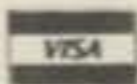
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CIRCLE 17 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Our Readers Say:*

Recognition—We Need It

Editor, CQ:

Recognition—certainly one of the key aspects of amateur radio that draws people into the hobby. As human beings we thrive on recognition. The academy awards of amateur radio are presented each month in this and other publications. For the best performance in the CQ World-Wide DX Contest, for technical achievement in antenna design, for working all zones (WAZ), for working 100 countries on 5 bands (5BDXCC), and on, and on, and on. We each participate in our own way. Just look around any ham shack and you're sure to find some appropriate "wallpaper."

My personal efforts for the past few years have been to complete WAZ and 5BDXCC. At this stage of the solar cycle I have found myself whiling away operating hours on 80 meters looking for the final 2 zones for WAZ and 5 confirmations needed for 5BDXCC. A few weeks ago I found myself answering a CQ from F2MA. Gee, I need that one on 80. The station came back to me and called me by name. I was shocked. Naturally, he was using a computer. The next day a QSL card was enroute. Within ten days Max sent his card to me. On the back he said: "Many thanks for another nice chat. I often hear you on one band or another . . ." I thought I'd better not show this to my wife, as she already thinks I spend too much time on the radio.

Each morning at 6:30 a.m., before heading off to work, I trudge down to the shack for 15 minutes with two objectives. The first is to work an elusive new one on 80 meters, and the second is to drain the stuffiness out of my head after a night of dry, artificial heat, which permeates the house. For the past few weeks 80 meters had been dead. This morning, however, as the transceiver sprung to life and the preset memory locked on to 3.800 MHz, I heard activity. Nothing like a pile-up to clear the cobwebs out of the mind and get the adrenaline pumping. I heard a Minnesota station say, "Thanks for the report,

*CQ encourages its readers to send in for publication letters expressing your opinions, ideas, etc. We will print them as space permits, and we reserve the right to choose material as we see fit. Please address all correspondence to "Our Readers Say" care of CQ.

Jim." Through the intense static crashes I heard a familiar voice. It was Jim, VK9NS, on Norfolk Island. I had worked Jim on several other bands and had corresponded with him at length over the years. Quickly, I threw the amplifier into stand-by and checked to ensure that the sloper had been selected. I threw in my call several times. Jim was working the midwest. I looked outside and daylight pierced through the mist this rainy spring morning. I thought, tomorrow is another day. I guess the gray-line had moved west. I called twice more and waited for the roar to simmer down. Through the static I heard: "George, long time no hear! Your 5 by 9!" My instantaneous reaction was that he was working another George somewhere west of the Mississippi. Those fears subsided as his ever so recognizable voice continued: "KN3P this is VK9NS." After a short QSO we signed and he continued to work the pileup. Wow, if Jim only knew how he had made my day.

George J. Freed, KN3P
Owings Mills, MD

Three Norths?

Editor, CQ:

In perusing the article entitled "Which Way is North?" (May '86 CQ), I noticed that Mr. Borchers has implied that all survey maps are true north. Based on my hands-on experience with maps, I have found many exceptions to the use of true north on survey maps.

In the book *Mapping* (University of Chicago Press), Mr. Greenwald points out that three kinds of north can be encountered in mapping—i.e., true north, magnetic north, and grid north.

Based on my own experience, I have found that *all* local survey maps describing city plots, farmlands, lots, section lines, etc., are based on magnetic north. As explained to me by professional surveyors, this is because the original U.S. Land Survey utilized magnetic readings, and very little correction has been accomplished to date.

When using a map to establish a true north reference point, I would suggest checking with the surveyor responsible for making the map to determine the type of north used as a base. Don't overlook your County Surveyors Office as a source of information.

Richard Buchan, W0TJF
St. Paul, MN

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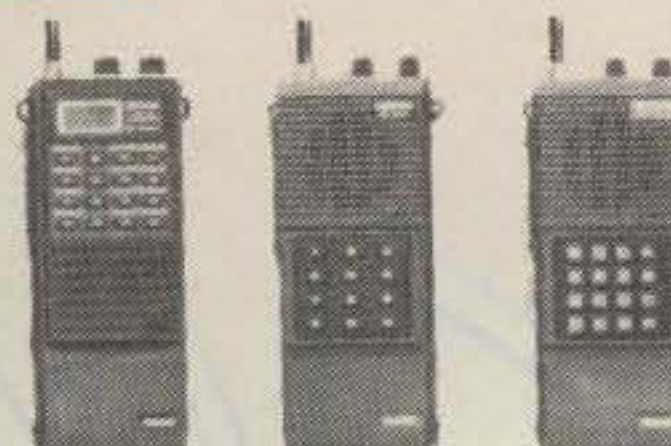
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House location of CY0SAB on Sable Island.

1985 CQ WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST C.W. RESULTS

BY BOB COX*, K3EST/6, AND LARRY BROCKMAN**, N6AR/4

"I had never operated in a DX contest before last weekend. Several sources indicated that it might be a good way to pick up some new countries and have some fun, and since I had just added a second monoband vertical on 7 MHz making a phased pair, I decided to give the CQ WW DX Contest a shot on the CW weekend. It was amazing how much fun I had, and I worked a lot more QSO's and new countries than I thought I would with QRM and high-powered stations everywhere. I guess at any level it is a thrill to work new ones!" We think Dave, KA1KFC, sums up the enthusiasm and excitement we all feel by entering the CQ WW. At first, getting into the big contest sounds intimidating, but once you get your feet wet, you find that yes, you can work just about anyone with 100 watts and a dipole.

All Band

The top scores in the world reflect the enthusiasm shown above. Not only are they all seasoned contesters still excited about the fun and competition, but their

scores indicate that they worked just about all the 100 watters who called them.

A quick glance at the Top Scores box and you will see that 1985 was a little different than competitions of the past. The top five single operator all band stations finished within about 300 K of one another. This result was not left to chance; the operators had all agreed to operate from different regions that would be competitive for top world honors. When the ions finally settled down, Richard Norton, N6AA, operating at EA9IE, had topped the pack of 9Y4VT (Op. OH2BH), PJ2FR (Op. W8ZF), CN8ES (Op. OH2MM), and D44BC (Op. N6TJ). In the USA, John Dorr, K1AR, decided to do it the hard way by setting a new US record at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. In second place was W1KM, who would have pushed John for first place if his 40 meter antenna had not broken. A special mention should be made of the top US non-east-coast score: Gary, WA6VEF (at AI6V), topped all scores west of Pennsylvania. In the QRPp category, YU3BC edged out SP3KEY to become the world QRP champion.

Low Bands

The action on 7 MHz was so good that K1MM and YZ9A on opposite sides of the Atlantic both commented that the band



John at the key of A25/G3HCT.



JA5DQH, NN7S gave everyone VS6.

was open 21 hours a day! At least 150 countries were available on 7 MHz, including choice catches such as BY, HS, XU, ZD9, ZC4, and 3A, to name a few. Top world honors go to KP4FI, followed closely by XE2FU (KZ5M op.) and YZ9A (YU3EY), all with over 2000 QSO's. In the US the race was a photofinish with K1OX (KC1F op.) topping K1MM for a new US record. On 3.5 MHz the well-recognized signature of EA2IA set a new European record on the way to the world high score. In the US, W1FV not only set a new 3.5 MHz US record, but also worked more countries than any submitted log (85) in his winning effort over the second-place score of N4RJ. On top band YV3AGT keyed his way to a new world record over HB9AMO. Both stations should be congratulated for confronting totally different band openings to finish at the top. In the US, K5UR not only won but beat KV4FZ's 1976 North American record. If you check out the 160 scores in the results you will see that 71 countries were worked by LZ2CJ and over 90 appeared in the logs received.

High Bands

YX5A led all stations on the "work-horse" band, 20 meters. His 1 meg-plus score topped DK3GI to become the world

*3039 Campbell Place, Davis, CA 95616

**12041 Walker Pond Rd., Winter Garden, FL 32787



The V2A crew. Front, left to right, W8PR, K6GXO, NC8Q, W8OK. Back, left to right, W8RKL, W8ILC, N9AG, WB9CIF, W8WPV, NY5Q.



HS0A—the only Zone 26.

14 MHz champion. In the US, K2VV just edged out K3RV/4 to set a new US record. On 15 meters CX5AO was the world top score beating out CE3DNP. CX5AO led all single band entrants with 1.3 meg points and almost 3,000 QSO's. In the US, K1RM took top honors over K5GO. Ten meters? Hmmm, well, we can remember it, can't we. Remember when 100 contacts on 10 were just a matter of putting in the time? Now the spectrum has been turned upside down with 160 producing much more than 10. The world top score was ZS6P with 288 QSO's. Both ZS6P and runner-up I2ARC had 59 countries. In the US, WA3CGE headed a field of four entrants.

Multi-Operator

Our hats are respectfully off for anyone putting on an expedition for the contest. But if we could take off two hats, we would do so for the hard work and planning shown by multi-expeditions.

V3A, V2A, RF3V, UP7A, ZS3/W6QL, CY0SAB, 8P9AG, and DF8ZH/CT3 all deserve our special thanks. A special mention should be made of RF3V, the world top multi-multi; they carried the whole

station of UP1BZZ in trucks, railroad cars, etc., down to UF6. This year the multi-single category competition between V3A and KP4BZ produced some real fireworks. After the dust settled, V3A emerged as the world champion. In the US, K1KI and their multi-lingual crew finished ahead of N3ED for top honors. In the multi-multi category RF3V finished ahead of EA9CE for the world top score, while in the USA the boys at Tuxedo Park, N2AA, put it all together again to beat W3LPL for the U.S. Championship.

New Records

To summarize the new records that were set in the 1985 CQ CW, a new world record on 1.8 MHz was set by YV3AGT, almost doubling the existing record. The continent to be on for setting new records was Europe: HB9AMO (1.8), EA2IA (3.5), YZ9A (7), and DK3GI (14) all set new European records. New continental records were also set by K5UR (1.8), KH6CC (1.8), KH6MD (14), and YV3AGT (1.8). In the US, K5UR (1.8), W1FV (3.5), K1OX (7), and



The flying Finns heading out for better propagation: 9Y4VT (OH2BH), CN8ES (OH2MM), and C53AA (OH2BBM).

TOP SCORES

WORLD		USA	
Single Operator All Band		Single Operator All Band	
EA9IE	5,731,360	K1AR	3,397,905
9Y4VT	5,676,536	W1KM	2,713,558
PJ2FR	5,434,550	N2LT	2,703,206
CN8ES	5,422,763	W3GRF	2,634,252
D44BC	5,418,018	N4WW	2,482,248
YV5TK	4,839,410	K3TUP	2,323,376
4V2C	4,281,212	K3ZO	2,157,396
LU8DQ	3,989,814	W3BGN	2,090,889
C53AA	3,447,396	K1EA	2,002,184
K1AR	3,397,905	W2REH	2,000,432
Single Op Single Band 28 MHz		Single Op Single Band 28 MHz	
ZS6P	65,680	WA3CGE	2822
I2ARC	27,600	NU4Y	1764
ZS6TUK	6,510	KQ1V	588
EA7BU	5,106	K4DDB	576
YU3ER	4,032		
WA3CGE	2,822		
21 MHz		21 MHz	
CX5AO	1,300,025	K1RM	275,100
CE3DNP	752,496	K5GO	216,500
LU4FDM	561,200	W8UA	170,640
A25/G3HCT	329,360	W6YA	162,946
ZM8OY	314,880	W4NL	162,162
I5MPN	307,195	N4BP	130,758
14 MHz		14 MHz	
YX5A	1,065,860	K2VV	655,046
DK3GI	776,860	K3RV/4	634,293
5H3BH	760,784	K2SX	480,340
OH80S	664,116	K1BW	462,594
K2VV	655,046	N5CR	453,870
K3RV/4	634,293	KY2P	402,996
7 MHz		7 MHz	
KP4FI	696,864	K1OX	439,632
XE2FU	665,728	K1MM	437,112
YZ9A	637,144	N6QR	366,000
YT3M	472,102	W7EJ	301,645
K1OX	439,632	KA5W	281,936
K1MM	437,112	N6NI	258,825
3.5 MHz		3.5 MHz	
EA2IA	258,408	W1FV	197,120
4N1A	200,655	N4RJ	122,451
W1FV	197,120	W6RJ	103,224
VE2HQ	176,180	K8GL	81,911
VG3BMV	172,805	K9RX	58,696
IO3JSS	167,664	K2RR	54,570
1.8 MHz		1.8 MHz	
YV3AGT	147,588	K5UR	47,005
HB9AMO	95,201	AA1K/3	24,120
LZ2CJ	81,900	N4PN	21,608
UA9KAA	65,046	N9MM	19,966
G4OBK	63,411	N4SU	15,840
RA9AKM	63,291	N0XA	15,504
Multi-Op Single Transmitter		Multi-Op Single Transmitter	
V3A	5,068,554	K1KI	3,477,100
KP4BZ	4,992,390	N3ED	2,905,875
LZ2KTS	4,252,248	N2RM	2,893,366
KH6XX	4,212,528	K4VX/0	2,716,780
UZ9AYA	3,881,148	K3OO	2,530,456
OK5R	3,865,496	KM1C	2,251,770
Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter		Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter	
RF3V	12,666,192	N2AA	8,770,631
EA9CE	9,374,244	W3LPL	7,011,840
N2AA	8,770,631	N5AU	5,374,392
V2A	7,463,449	K2TR	4,853,520
W3LPL	7,011,840	K1RX	4,348,222
UP7A	6,882,560	N3RS	4,030,565

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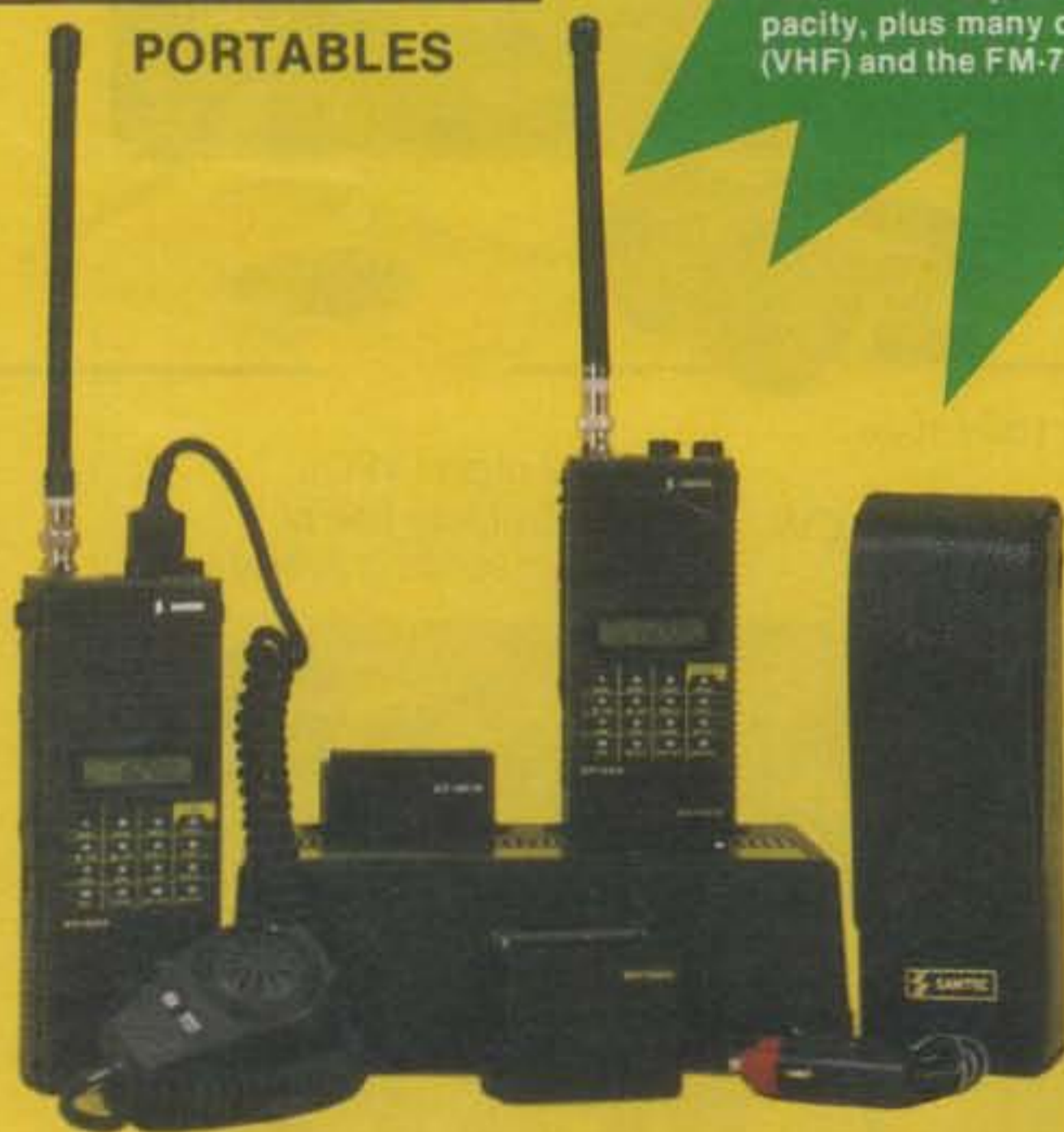
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propagation on low bands and giving big QRM, HRD good DX but not QSO's. Hi! ... SP3HLM. Fine contest, as usual ... OK1ABP. Thank you for QSO's everybody! See again soon! ... HA4XX. Big pile-up for BY8AA! Nice test! ... IK2DVG. I missed hearing the big signal from W6AM ... OH1JT.

Best propagation in several years ... AL7CQ. Wish I could have known 40 was going to be so good; would have tried for a world class score ... KL7RA. This contest was just as much fun as the first, which was in 1947 ... N4RP/C6A. Working 180 stations in 1 hour ... VP2MEV. First "XQ" prefix in the World-Wide DX Contest ... XQ1ADG. Excellent cndx on 160 meters ... HK1AMW. Biggest thrill: making new friends and running into old ones on the air. Biggest disappointment: all the multipliers I could hear on 160 meters who couldn't hear my 100 watts ... PJ2FR. This is my first World-Wide Contest ... OA4ZV. Hard to believe, the band was open almost all the weekend ... CX5AO. Big thrill—VS6DO on 80! ... YU5TK. VS6DO called me in the last minutes to give me two new multipliers ... YX5A.

The patience shown my QRP sigs a credit to all ops. Thank you ... G4MOC. First ever QRP CW test. (Not the last!) No Sunday log due to toothache ... G4KIU. Hard job to take part with 2 watts between the big guns! Anyway, a few new ones ... OK1DKR. Problems with 3.5 MHz dipole, SWR depended on rain ... DF8ZH/CT3. Greetings from the Graveyard of the Atlantic ... CY0SAB. Can't wait for the WPX Contest with this rare prefix ... DX2F. Beautiful 80, 40, and 160. Ten poor! ... V3A. All very happy with JA ... VE2UMS. We were on display at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa ... VE3JW. Always a lesson in propagation. Why do the stations who sign their call after each QSO seem to win every year? ... VG3IY. Everyone got our call mixed up ... ZS3/W6QL. Working Europe and Africa on low frequencies was different than we are used to when operating at home from West Coast ... 8P9AG.

Was called twice by XU1SS! ... AH8A (Opr. W6OSP). My 15-year-old xcvr still works ... VK2BQQ. Operated at Hobbies Exhibition, but a band playing nearby QRMed everyone ... VK5GZ/p. Worked my first 9Y station in 33 years! ... VK6AJ. How does one work through the European barrier on 160 meters to be heard at C53AA? ... VK6HD. Is there really a zone 8 and 9? ... NY6M/KH2. HZ1HZ and 4Z4OZ called me simultaneously; that's a heckuvalot of ZZZZ's. Sending ID after every

QSO sure cuts down on dupes ... KH6MD (Opr. N6HR). Got two new ones on 160 meters ... KH6CC. Stations should try long path on 80 meters; it's open ... YB0ARA. As in previous years, no USA on 14 and 21 MHz ... YB3ATB (Opr. PA0LOU). Worked my former housemate, NH6J/NH0, whom I haven't talked with in eight months ... KA7KSY/YB. My first contest, very comfortable to join ... YB4FNN. I missed EA9CE and CT2FN on 1,831 MHz, too much EU QRM ... 9M2AX. Nothing heard or worked on 160 or 10 meters ... ZL1AIZ.

Wish I had a much shorter callsign for my first ever CW contest ... WA7CQE/DV2. License came through day before contest; tossed a dipole into a tree ... KD6TB/DU2. My alarm clock failed to wake me up; I slept well for 5½ hours ... NH6J/KH0. Went swimming when pileups got too deep ... ZK1XU (Opr. W7TB). 599 32 from Polynesian paradise ... ZK1XT (Opr. K5BDX). With such a distinctive callsign I thought I'd have no duplicates. You can see how wrong I was ... A25/G3HCT. Thunderstorm and broken rotator crashed my record attempt, but had good fun ... ZS6BCR. I was ready to go all band, but when I heard about D44, CN8, C53, and EA9, I knew I had no chance; I did what was possible on 20 anyway in spite of dead band during the day and night ... 5H3BH (Opr. SM0AJU).

Delighted to get Mexico on 7 MHz for my WAZ ... ZC4CZ. I got 117 zones but no zone 4 on 20 meters. Why? ... VS6DO (Opr. JA5TQH). 28 MHz propagation was the pits ... VE1BNN. Rig was Heathkit SB-401 with Hallicrafter SX-111; receiver is older than I am ... VO2AC. Worked ZL and VK on 21 MHz, but where were the JA's? ... VE3NBE. CQ contests are tops ... VE6OU/3. My second contest, licensed 8 months ... VE3OZB. Special prefix seemed to be more of a hindrance than a help ... VG3KRN. Seems like all the 20 meter ops were on 160 meters ... VE3INQ. Been chasing China since 1952; both BY1PK and BY4AA called me ... VE4IM. Best conditions ever on 80 meters ... VG5RA. BV2DA was a nice surprise with only one hour to go ... VE6CB.

STATION OPERATORS

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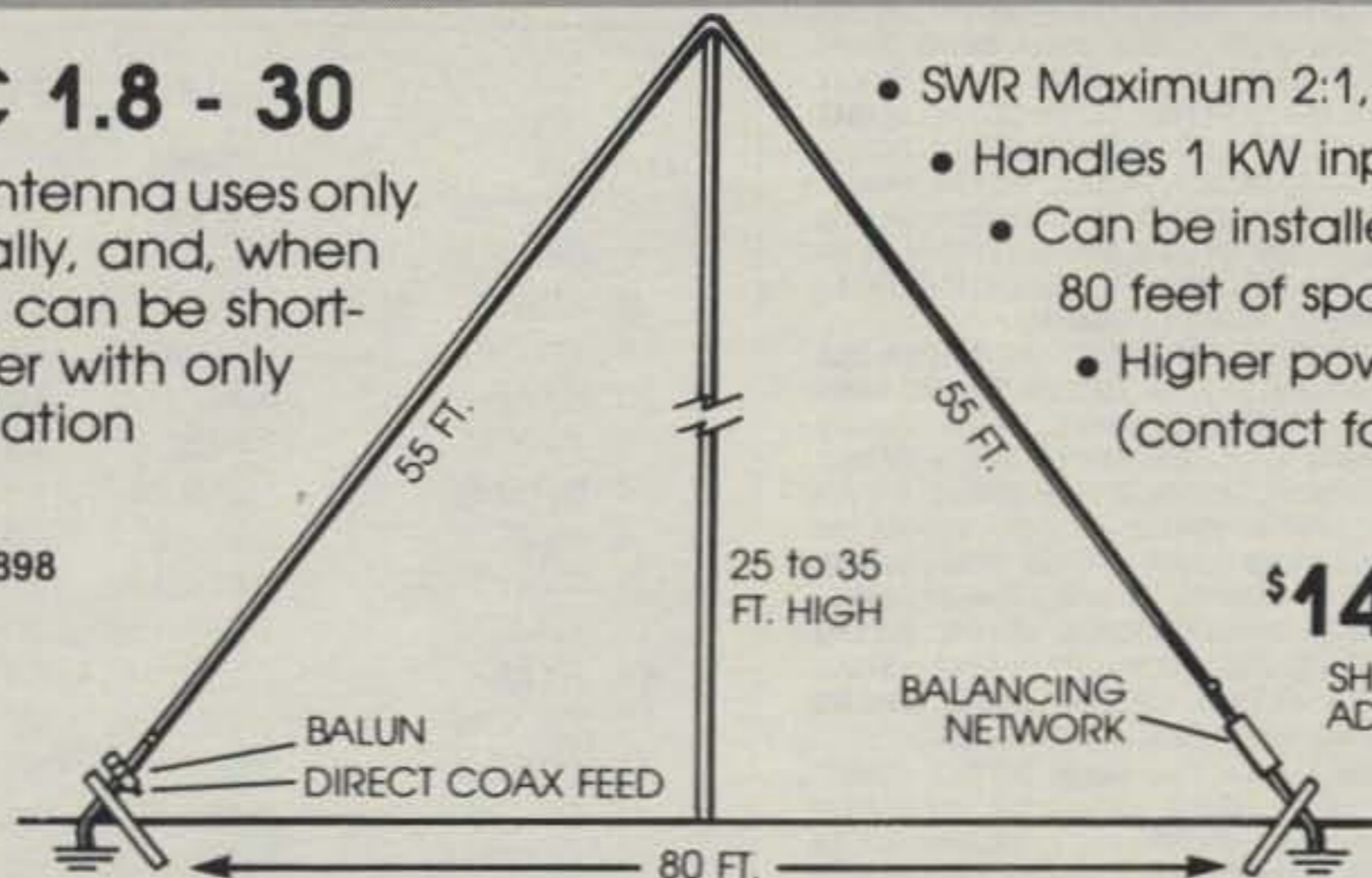
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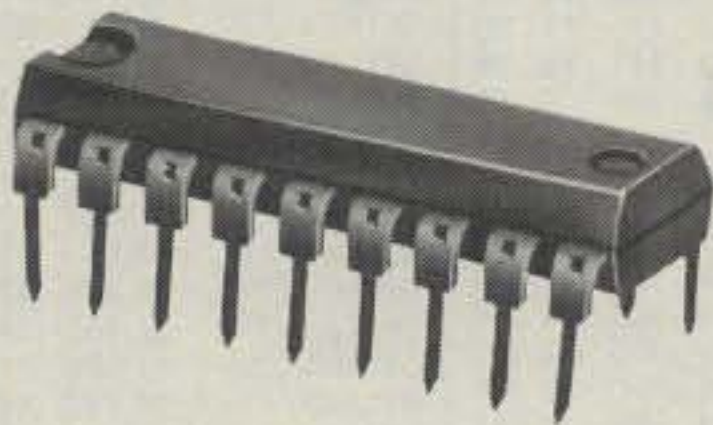
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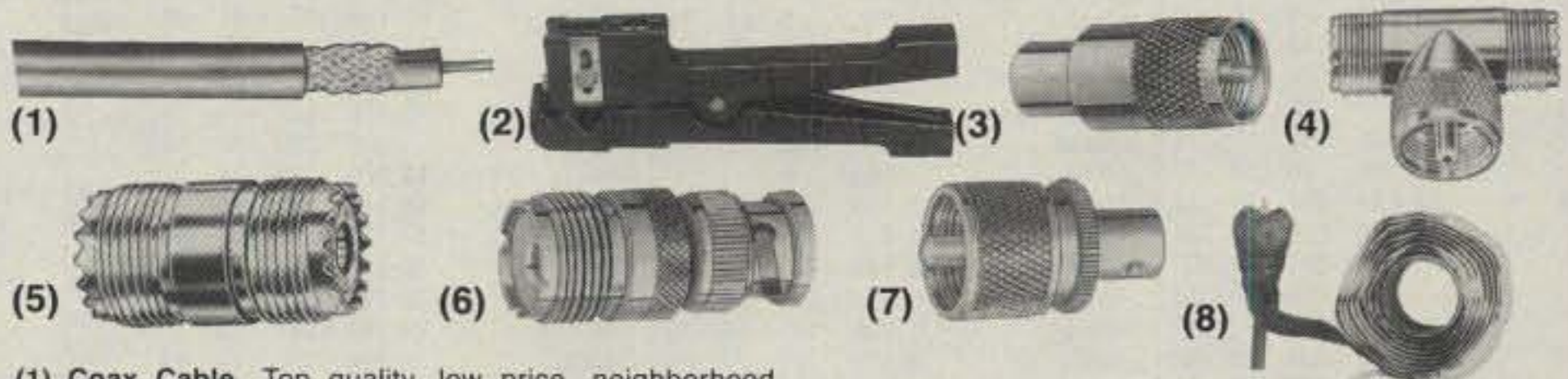
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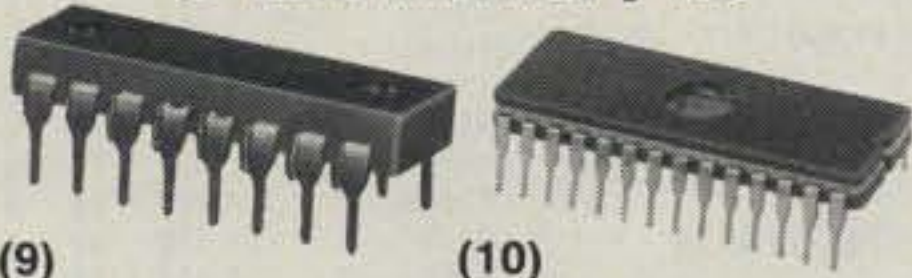
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RG Type	Ohms	Velocity Factor	Loss Per 100 ft.		Cat. No.	Price Per Ft.
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			200 MHz, 5.0 dB	400 MHz, 8.0 dB		
8/M	52	75%	50 MHz, 2.2 dB	100 MHz, 3.0 dB	278-1328	.21
			200 MHz, 4.6 dB	400 MHz, 7.5 dB		
58/U	52	66%	50 MHz, 4.0 dB	100 MHz, 5.3 dB	276-1326	.16
			200 MHz, 8.0 dB	400 MHz, 12.0 dB		
59/U	75	75%	50 MHz, 1.8 dB	100 MHz, 2.8 dB	278-1327	.16
			200 MHz, 3.9 dB	500 MHz, 7.5 dB		

(2) **Coax Cable Stripper.** Indispensable. #278-240, **10.95**

(3) **PL-259 Plug.** #278-205 Pkg. of 2/1.99
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 (5) **PL-258 Coupler.** Joins two PL-259 plugs. #278-1369 **1.49**
 (6) **UG-255/U Adapter.** BNC male to SO-239. #278-120 **2.39**
 (7) **UG-273/U Adapter.** BNC female to PL-259. #278-121 **2.39**
 (8) **RF Connector Sealant Tape.** Keeps harmful moisture out and stays flexible. #278-1645 **2.49**

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 (10) **256K Dynamic RAM.** 150 ns access, low-power design 16-pin DIP with specs, pin-out. #276-1252 **6.95**
 (11) **64K EPROM.** UV erasable, 250 ns access, 28-pin. With specs and pin-out. #276-1251 **6.95**

25-Position Connectors



Fig.	Type	Cat. No.	Each
12	D-Sub Male	276-1547	1.99
13	D-Sub Female	276-1548	2.99
14	Hood for Above	276-1549	1.99

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(16) **Heavy-Duty Antenna Wire.** 65 feet of high-strength seven-strand, 22-gauge annealed bare copper. #278-1329 **4.59**
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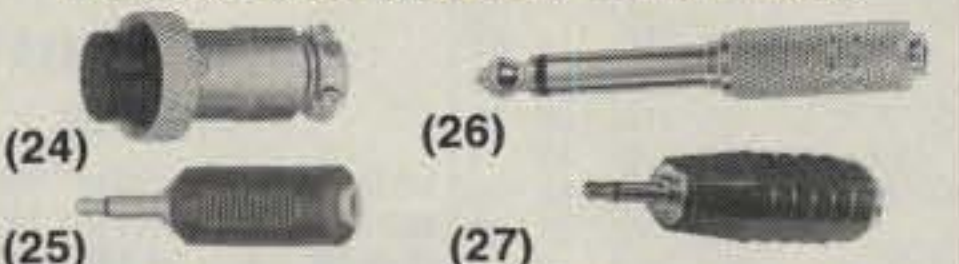
Fig.	Size	Power	Cat. No.	Only
18	3"	7-13.8 VDC	273-243	14.95
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 (23) **UMC 3482 Melody Synthesizer IC.** Preprogrammed with a dozen popular tunes. 16-pin DIP with data. #276-1797 **2.99**

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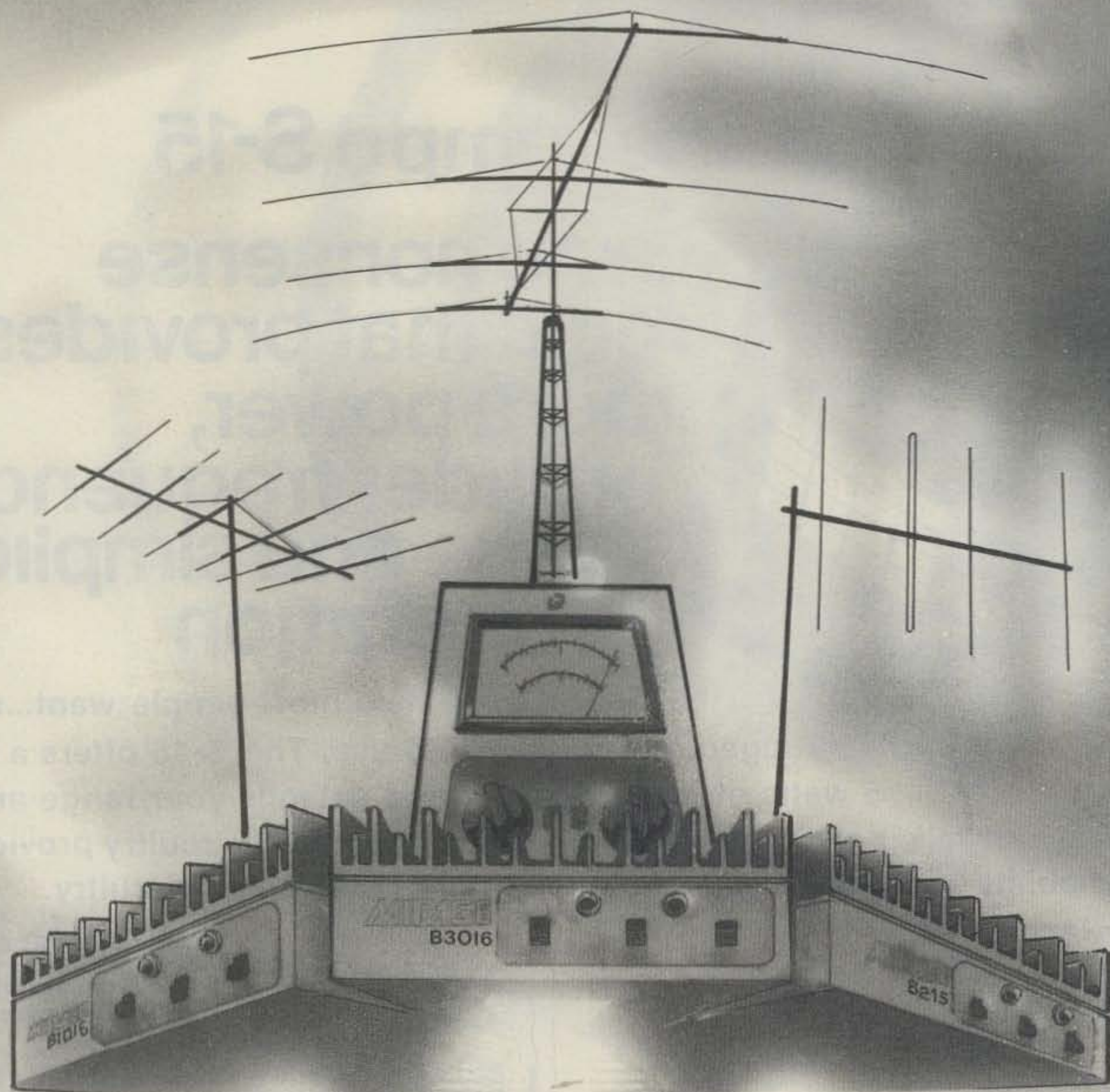
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CIRCLE 135 ON READER SERVICE CARD

CQ World-Wide DX Contest All-Time Phone Records

BY FREDERICK CAPOSSELA, K6SSS

In the records listed below, boldface listings denote world records. Number groups after calls are: year of operation, total score, contacts, zones, and countries. All-band and Multi-Operator records include a band-by-band breakdown of the world leader in each category.

Single Operator/Single Band WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

1.8	UP2BBT/U6V('83)	203,416	1,490	8	39
3.5	VE3BMV('85)	383,040	1,629	25	89
7.0	VP2ET('85)	850,795	2,295	31	124
	(Opr. K5RX)				
14	VP2KAA('81)	2,011,185	4,186	37	150
21	AH0AB('82)	1,923,840	4,509	36	108
	(Opr. JA3DOC)				
28	YV2AMM('82)	1,839,004	3,700	37	130

AFRICA

1.8	EA8AK('82)	34,220	201	12	46
3.5	CT3BZ('79)	235,113	772	22	87
7.0	EA8AK('84)	776,700	1,736	35	115
14	CR6WW('74)	1,058,446	2,152	35	132
21	EL2AV('81)	1,404,936	3,087	35	117
28	OH2MM/CT3('79)	1,827,150	4,068	37	113

ASIA

1.8	UP2BBT/U6V('83)	203,416	1,490	8	39
3.5	UW9AF('83)	222,192	554	19	53
7.0	JA5BJC('85)	310,905	764	36	111
14	N2BZQ/4X('82)	1,142,964	2,347	36	135
21	4S7AAG('81)	918,925	2,897	38	137
	(Opr. OH2BCP)				
28	4X0U('80)	1,187,200	2,555	37	123
	(Opr. 4X4UH)				

EUROPE

1.8	LZ2CJ('84)	107,818	1,319	13	61
3.5	4N3E('85)	162,628	1,046	27	82
7.0	IO3MAU('83)	355,000	1,447	31	94
14	YZ9A('85)	1,286,126	2,954	38	142
21	LZ2KTS('83)	1,368,897	2,821	39	152
	(Opr. LZ2CC)				
28	9H1EL('81)	1,355,760	3,662	36	132

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	VE3NNR('85)	47,390	672	14	21
3.5	VE3BMV('85)	383,040	1,629	25	89
7.0	VP2ET('85)	850,795	2,295	31	124
	(Opr. K5RX)				
14	VP2KAA('81)	2,011,185	4,186	37	150
21	VP2KAC('81)	1,783,500	3,941	37	137
28	KV4FZ('79)	1,482,525	4,079	39	126

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6CC('85)	45,984	484	13	19
3.5	T32AF('85)	222,768	1,064	23	49
7.0	T32AF('84)	677,844	2,045	34	80
	(Opr. KH6UR)				
14	ZM1BIL('83)	1,334,232	2,635	38	136
21	AH0AB('82)	1,923,840	4,509	36	108
	(Opr. JA3DOC)				
28	AH0B('82)	1,788,430	4,173	36	109
	(Opr. JA2VUP)				

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	YV2IF('84)	18,291	172	14	25
3.5	YV3AZC('84)	351,324	1,238	26	82
7.0	9Y4VU('84)	700,488	1,718	28	110
14	FY7AK('76)	1,415,329	2,950	36	127
	(Opr. F5QQ)				
21	CX4CR('82)	1,602,120	3,519	36	120
28	YV2AMM('82)	1,839,004	3,700	37	130

Single Operator/All Band

AF	EA8AK('81)	9,974,811	5,506	152	457
AS	EX6F('84)	6,362,000	4,648	113	387
EU	YU3EY('82)	4,913,574	3,170	136	455
NA	HI8PGG('81)	9,009,721	7,190	131	392
	(Opr. N1GL)				
O	KH6XX('81)	5,713,434	4,912	131	262
SA	9Y4VT('82)	11,954,696	7,082	146	422
	(Opr. N6AA)				
QRP	TG9GI('82)	1,035,693	1,747	75	192

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

AF	ED9CM('83)	10,157,160	5,148	152	511
AS	RG6G('82)	12,276,352	6,012	156	558
EU	I4RYC('80)	9,918,368	5,997	139	453
NA	NP4A('82)	14,953,818	8,772	174	585
O	KH6XX('85)	7,632,357	5,657	149	308
SA	9Y4W('82)	16,775,034	8,097	158	540

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

AF	EA8CR('77)	21,351,898	10,290	153	544
AS	EW6V('82)	18,746,136	10,100	142	544
EU	OH0W('82)	19,030,501	10,773	188	729
NA	VP2KC('79)	37,770,012	17,767	175	677
O	KH6XX('79)	21,990,252	10,989	184	494
SA	P41C('81)	41,957,244	17,718	173	625

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	39	7	9
9Y4VT	3.5	404	17	57
(1982)	7.0	748	25	78
11,954,696	14.0	1,620	32	89
	21.0	1,476	34	96
	28.0	2,795	31	93
Total		7,082	146	422

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	124	8	25
9Y4W	3.5	296	17	59
(1982)	7.0	594	27	86
16,775,034	14.0	1,953	35	127
	21.0	2,104	35	121
	28.0	3,026	36	122
Total		8,097	158	540

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	261	9	21
P41C	3.5	861	22	69
(1981)	7.0	1,752	30	98
41,957,244	14.0	4,837	38	156
	21.0	5,790	39	143
	28.0	4,813	35	138
Total		17,718	173	625

CQ World-Wide DX Contest All-Time C.W. Records

Single Operator/Single Band

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

1.8	YV3AGT('85)	147,588	591	21	63
3.5	VP2KAC('83) (Opr. N4RJ)	332,880	1,302	28	86
7.0	VP2KAA('83) (Opr. N4PN)	837,366	2,461	30	104
14	VP2KAA('80) (Opr. N4PN)	1,244,782	3,111	37	117
21	LU8DQ('81)	1,359,711	2,993	37	116
28	LU8DQ('79)	1,033,399	2,775	34	93

AFRICA

1.8	EA8AK('82)	75,768	385	15	51
3.5	EA9EU('83)	229,150	787	14	75
7.0	EA7TL/9('83)	354,308	1,175	21	80
14	CR6IK('74)	925,386	2,021	38	116
21	5Z4MX('83)	820,338	1,953	35	106
28	FR0MM('79)	978,012	2,590	36	90

ASIA

1.8	UP2BBT/U6V('83)	83,160	481	14	49
3.5	UP2NK/UF('84)	283,362	1,230	19	64
7.0	UP3BA/UF('84)	573,648	1,755	27	87
14	4X0U('82)	735,504			
21	4Z4NUT('80)	519,831	1,500	34	83
28	4X4UH('80)	554,645	1,772	32	83

EUROPE

1.8	HB9AMO('85)	95,201	740	17	66
3.5	EA2IA('85)	258,408	1,397	28	83
7.0	YZ9A('85)	637,144	2,017	36	110
14	DK3GI('85)	776,860	1,985	38	117
21	YU3ZV('81)	732,096	1,957	37	107
28	DK3GI('79)	592,848	1,584	31	101

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	K5UR('85)	47,005	219	25	60
3.5	VP2KAC('83) (Opr. N4RJ)	332,880	1,302	28	86
7.0	VP2KAA('83) (Opr. N4PN)	837,366	2,461	30	104
14	VP2KAA('80) (Opr. N4PN)	1,244,782	3,111	37	117
21	VP2KAC('80) (Opr. N4RJ)	1,075,407	2,955	36	105
28	KV4FZ('79)	653,072	2,384	32	87

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6CC('85)	23,746	257	15	16
3.5	VR3AH('76)	178,560	956	24	40
7.0	KH6XX('84)	427,230	1,424	33	68
14	KH6MD('85)	610,722	1,640	37	89
21	KH6XX('78) (Opr. K7SS)	816,102	2,311	38	81
28	KG6DX('80)	801,876	2,367	35	79

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	YV3AGT('85)	147,588	591	21	63
3.5	4M3AGT('83)	133,152	617	21	52
7.0	YX5A('84)	696,150	2,003	29	88
14	PJ9CC('80) (Opr. K4BAI)	1,209,022	2,914	34	105
21	LU8DQ('81)	1,359,711	2,993	37	116
28	LU8DQ('79)	1,033,399	2,775	34	93

Single Operator/All Band

AF	CN8CX('82) (Opr. K6NA)	6,234,664	4,354	121	358
AS	UF6CR('82)	4,613,680	3,982	92	312
EU	CT1BCM('84) (Opr. OH2BH)	3,295,152	3,108	123	344
NA	NP4A('83) (Opr. K3UA)	6,027,752	4,537	139	399
O	N6BT/AH0('81)	4,241,746	4,083	121	228
SA	9Y4VT('83) (Opr. N6AA)	7,153,434	4,961	127	359
QRP	UP2BIM('82)	899,932	1,351	83	279

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	94	6	8
9Y4VT	3.5	421	18	53
(1983)	7.0	838	20	69
7,153,434	14.0	1,439	31	80
	21.0	1,288	27	76
	28.0	881	25	73
Total		4,961	127	359

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

AF	EA9EU('80)	5,077,696	3,884	116	326
AS	RG6G('82)	10,394,658	5,355	166	511
EU	YU3EY('81)	7,674,190	4,051	150	345
NA	NP4A('82)	11,648,565	6,881	168	515
O	KD7P/KH2('84)	4,487,665	3,375	159	296
SA	P41E('81)	8,059,296	5,055	148	388

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	172	15	35
NP4A	3.5	589	23	73
(1982)	7.0	1,342	28	92
11,648,565	14.0	1,270	36	108
	21.0	1,547	34	106
	28.0	1,961	32	101
Total		6,881	168	515

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

AF	EA8CR('78)	17,734,970	9,799	142	463
AS	EW6V('82)	14,702,688	8,001	159	504
EU	OH0W('82)	14,371,840	9,515	184	618
NA	NP4A('80)	17,627,820	10,846	171	487
O	AH0C('83)	6,877,750	5,164	149	302
SA	P42E('82)	23,295,408	12,315	161	475

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	390	12	28
P42E	3.5	1,083	22	60
(1982)	7.0	1,995	29	81
23,295,408	14.0	2,965	36	112
	21.0	3,351	32	103
	28.0	2,531	30	91
Total		12,315	161	475

CQ World-Wide DX Contest All-Time U.S.A. Records

BY FREDERICK CAPOSSELA, K6SSS

Tabulated below are the record-high scores achieved by U.S. Contesters in the CQ World Wide DX Contest. Number groups following calls and bands are: year of operation, total score, contacts, zones, and countries.

PHONE

Single Operator/Single Band

1.8	AA1K/3('85)	24,633	165	19	50
3.5	W1ZM('83)	177,862	669	27	86
	(Opr. K1ZM)				
7.0	W7RM('85)	243,270	813	31	71
	(Opr. W7WA)				
14	K1OX('85)	1,131,328	2,176	36	140
21	N7DD('81)	923,945	1,998	36	121
28	N7DD('80)	754,536	1,730	36	113

Single Operator/All Band

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	27	8	19
K1AR	3.5	168	24	80
(1985)	7.0	97	22	67
4,007,648	14.0	1,073	34	116
	21.0	1,007	28	109
	28.0	98	13	36
	Total	2,465	129	427

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	34	14	30
KX4S	3.5	208	24	80
(1985)	7.0	222	30	101
4,603,120	14.0	1,167	34	134
	21.0	769	31	118
	28.0	41	15	40
	Total	2,441	147	505

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	109	8	16
N2AA	3.5	406	24	79
(1979)	7.0	366	28	84
13,299,750	14.0	1,646	40	152
	21.0	2,198	40	144
	28.0	1,354	36	120
	Total	6,079	176	595

CW

Single Operator/Single Band

1.8	K5UR('85)	47,005	219	25	60
3.5	W1FV('85)	197,120	603	27	85
7.0	K1OX('85)	439,632	1,055	32	110
14	K2VV('85)	655,046	1,567	35	107
21	W1RM('82)	483,560	1,196	33	107
28	N4WW('82)	394,940	1,064	33	97

Single Operator/All Band

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	63	11	32
K1AR	3.5	329	19	69
(1985)	7.0	607	30	89
3,397,905	14.0	967	33	97
	21.0	428	23	72
	28.0	4	4	4
	Total	2,398	120	363

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	17	9	16
N4AR	3.5	67	16	62
(1981)	7.0	461	28	92
4,564,350	14.0	755	34	110
	21.0	499	33	101
	28.0	686	32	97
	Total	2,485	152	478

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	72	14	27
W2PV	3.5	427	18	70
(1981)	7.0	1,101	30	103
10,431,729	14.0	1,389	35	118
	21.0	1,228	35	103
	28.0	1,050	34	106
	Total	5,267	166	527

Club record: Frankford Radio Club ('79) 173,821,640

Optimizing with Accessories

In the same manner that belts, shoes, and neckwear coordinate and complement a basic wardrobe, mating station accessories also creates a smooth interworking amateur radio set-up of exceptional flexibility. The "professional difference" resulting from inclusion of such items produces a station that can work DX with ease, turn a high score in any contest, and is a sheer dream to operate.

Recognizing that situation, ICOM complements each of its general coverage, HF, VHF and UHF receivers and transceivers with a full line of performance-optimizing accessories. Some of those items are small and comparatively inexpensive, others are larger and quite sophisticated. This arrangement provides individual equipment tailoring and the capability of assembling a truly personalized station.

As an example of deluxe station assembly, let's consider the unlimited versatility produced by combining an ICOM IC-2KL linear amplifier and AT-500 automatic antenna tuner with an IC-751, IC-751A, IC-735, or IC-745 HF transceiver. Each of these units interconnect with their host transceiver via a single multi-wire cable: neat, simple, and easy to install in any location.

Both the IC-2KL and AT-500 are solid state in design and fully automatic in operation. You can switch on this top-of-the-line station, tune a desired DX station (on any band your antennas operate) and call him/her right "on the spot" without warmup or tuning delays. Meanwhile, other operators are still reaching for knobs and switches to swing their linear amplifiers and antenna tuners into action. You're moving up and down the band, even changing bands, and "kicking off" DX pileups while others can only follow your uncompromising lead. That's the ICOM advantage!

The IC-2KL amplifier features several capabilities that simply are not available in competitive units. Band selection automatically tracks with its host transceiver, and broadband circuits let you operate any 160 through 15 meter amateur frequency (including WARC) without pre-tuning.

The IC-2KL amplifier and its power supply are housed in separate cabinets for easy handling, and each is no larger than its mating transceiver. The unit is protected against antenna mismatching, overheating, overdrive, excessive RF output, and unbalance of its dual power amplifier sections. Its approximate 500 watts output is an optimum level for generating a strong signal, and it doesn't require a massive current 110 or 220 volt AC outlet for operation. It's also the ideal amplifier for condo or apartment use.

ICOM's AT-500 is actually two units in one small cabinet. It's an automatic 160 through 10 meters antenna tuner (including WARC bands) and an antenna switch which follows band selections from its mated transceiver. During operation, the tuner presets its variable capacitors for optimizing reception on a selected band. The application of RF energy then fine tunes adjustments for an optimum impedance match within one or two seconds time.

Up to four antennas can be connected to the AT-500's rear panel for automatic selection when the AT-500's AC switch is on. A 100 watt version of the AT-500 (AT-100) is also available for use with "barefoot" ICOM transceivers, and a cabinet-matched AT-150 (100 watt antenna tuner) is available for the IC-735.

A variety of internal and "expandable" accessories are also available for ICOM's HF, VHF and UHF transceivers. A full discussion of the most popular of those items, additional IF filters, was presented in a previous Tech Talk. A reprint of that

information is available directly from ICOM America.

If computer control piques your interest, a connector is available for the IC-751, IC-751A, IC-271A/H, IC-471A/H and IC-1271A transceivers. The IC-735 needs no connector. Using minimum support hardware and software, frequency, mode, memory selection and scanning can be performed via your home computer.

Need power supply flexibility? ICOM's IC-PS35 (20A) AC supply can be installed inside the IC-751, IC-751A, or IC-745 transceivers for "single box" use. Alternately, the husky IC-PS30 (25A) can be used for simultaneously powering several transceivers (great for OSCAR use).

If your interests include mobile and portable activities, ICOM's all band and fully automatic AH-2 antenna system places unlimited operating pleasures right at your fingertips. This mobile whip and microprocessor controlled tuner combo accepts frequency information from its mated transceiver for simple "tune any station and give a call" convenience. The tuner includes eight internal memories for storing and immediately recalling impedance matching data of previously tuned frequencies, and a simple random wire can be substituted for the mobile whip for optimum mobile or field day operations.

Although space limitations preclude full discussions of all ICOM accessories, the overall message of the Tech Talk is quite apparent. Whatever HF, VHF, or UHF unit you use or plan to use, a glamorous line of complementing accessories are available for optimizing its capabilities in a personalized manner. If you're interested in top-of-the-line performance and operator-friendly gear, the obvious choice is, naturally, ICOM!

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The term Zepp comes from the word Zeppelin, a dirigible named after its developer, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin. This early photo shows the most famous of the Zeppelins, the LZ127 or Graf Zeppelin. An interesting note about the Zeppelins is that they were made in Friedrichshafen, Germany (the city under which this Zeppelin is flying). Friedrichshafen today is the home of Europe's biggest amateur radio hamfest, the Dayton of Europe.

In the final installment of this three-part series W1ICP covers questions and answers relating to whether or not one should use a Transmatch.

The Unexpurgated Transmatch

Part III – Conclusion

BY LEW MCCOY*, W1ICP

This is the final installment of my questions and answers article relating to whether or not one should use a Transmatch.

End or Zepp Feed

Lots of questions were asked about end or Zepp feeding a wire as in fig. 1. The

term *Zepp* feed comes from long ago when Zeppelins (gas-filled dirigibles) flew the skies. A trailing wire from the Zeppelin was end fed, usually with open-wire feeders, and the lengths of the trailing wire and feeders were important. (I don't really know the reason, but I guess it was to avoid voltage-fed antennas and the high RF field around explosive gases!) By the same token, I never understood the term *center-fed Zepp*, which is still commonly heard on the bands. I think the terms came from amateurs who really,

above all else, liked the sound of names. In any event, I did have a center-fed dipole up, about 150 feet long, using open-wire feeders, and several amateurs called it a "center-fed, double-extended Zepp." There is an antenna that is center fed with 0.64 wavelength each side of the feedpoint that has that name applied to it. But when anyone says "Zepp feed," I think end-fed. Otherwise, I don't know what in heck they are talking about. (After checking with several real experts, I found they agreed with me!) This is a long

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way from the question, but I thought you would be interested in that relatively useless information. (I think I'll write some ham trivia questions. That should be fun!) The "Zepp" feed I am talking about is an end-fed wire fed with open-wire feeders or twin lead.

I haven't mentioned radiation patterns, but I should here. End-feeding an antenna can produce patterns different from center feed. It depends, of course, on how long the antenna is. For example, end-feeding a full-wavelength dipole produces a clover-leaf pattern, one with four main lobes (more or less). If that same antenna is fed in the center, it becomes two half-wavelengths (in phase), and the pattern is a figure-eight with two major lobes and with a slight gain in each lobe over a single half-wavelength. I would recommend a study of the *Handbooks* for more information on this subject.

Getting back to end-feed, if you want to use open-wire feeders for such an antenna, by all means do so. For myself, I have always used a good earth ground on the rig (and Transmatch) and then fed the antenna wire directly on the end (no feeders). One precaution I would observe here is to insulate the antenna wire and not let it touch any metal around the shack. Also, and most important, try to make the wire an odd multiple of a quarter wavelength on the most used band. This will provide low-impedance current feed, and the system is likely to be cooler as far as RF around the shack is concerned.

The important point of all of the above—end-feed, double-extended Zepps, center-fed Zepps, etc.—is that they are all multiband antennas when used with a Transmatch. With the open-wire feed they can be very, very good multiband antennas, working on all bands.

Grounds

I also received several questions about grounds, and what I use. Should I ground the Transmatch? This is really a subject that deserves a full article—or more. However, a few guidelines might help. In the first place, all modern electrical-outlet installations carry a ground that goes back to the power service entrance, which is grounded with a good electrical ground (or should be). Many amateurs will install another ground (rod, usually) directly at the station location. This can get a little sticky to understand, but there could be some differences between these two grounds. If your earth conductivity is very good, then the difference is minimal. However, I once had a location where the power-company ground was about 100 feet from my station ground and the two grounds were at a different potential. I kept getting slight shocks from my equipment until I finally found out what was happening and did some "regrounding" so that everything

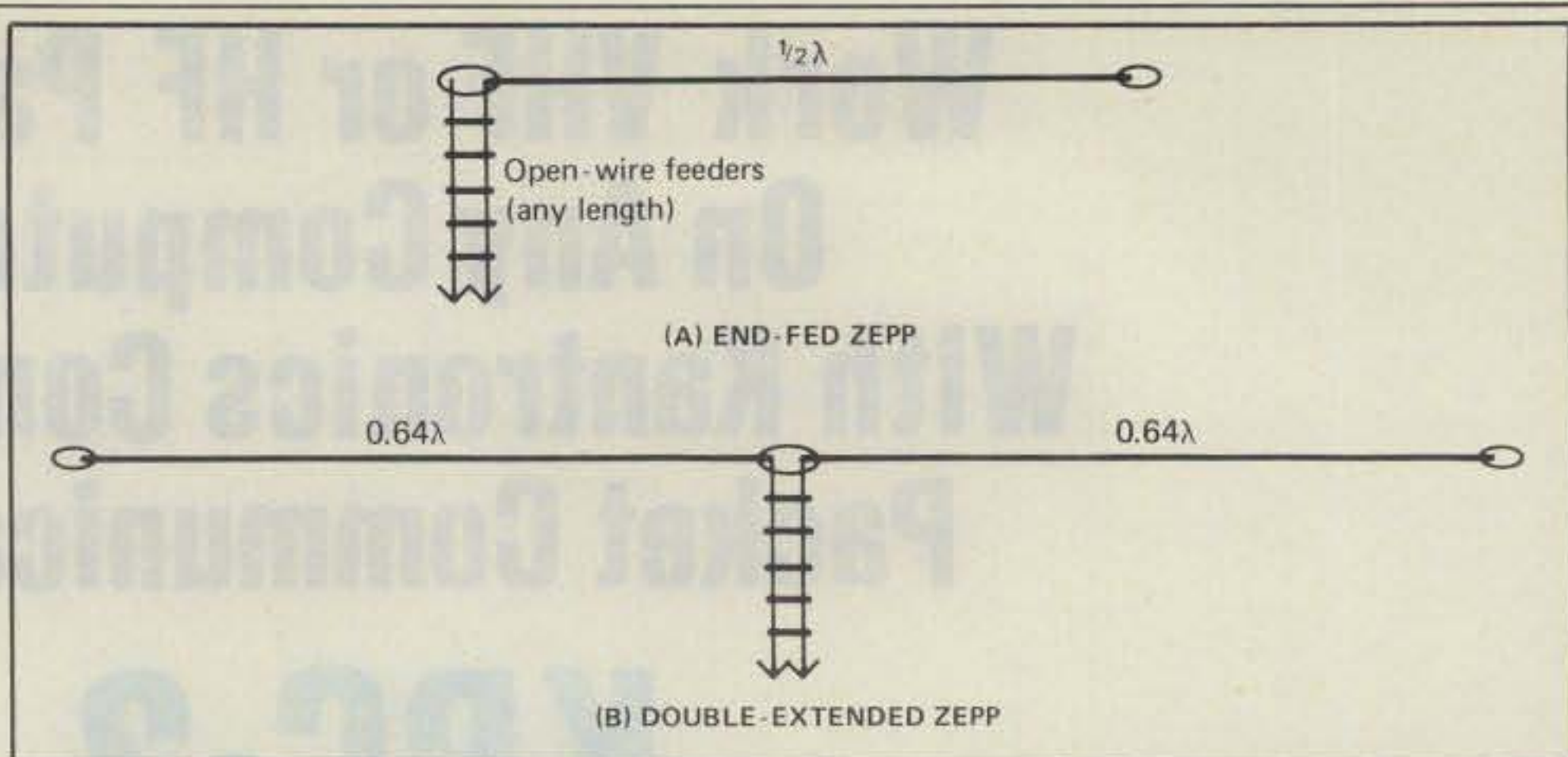


Fig. 1—At (A) is an end-fed Zepp described in the article. At (B) is a double-extended Zepp, which, assuming you have the space, is an extremely effective antenna. This antenna has a gain of 3 dB over a half-wavelength dipole. The dimensions given are for the lowest frequency band. The antenna will be an outstanding performer on any higher band used. Also, it can be used in an inverted-Vee configuration, but will be best when mounted horizontally, and as high as possible.

was at the same voltage level. What has this to do with antenna systems and antenna performance? If you live some distance above ground, such as in a tall building, the ground return can be quite long and act as part of the antenna. I know one amateur who lived in a high-rise. He was an old broadcast station engineer who was familiar with grounded verticals, so he ran a wire down the building, grounded it, and then fed it at the top (his apartment) and used is Transmatch. Each station has different grounding characteristics, so it is well nigh impossible to give advice that covers all.

Ground Radial Systems

While this has nothing to do with Transmatches, many questions were about running lots of radials out from around the base of a tower and would doing this improve the beam performance? Would radials reduce ground losses? These are easy to answer in one sense, but difficult in another. Let's discuss horizontally polarized beams as an example because those are the type of antennas most of us use.

A mess of radials around the base of a tower helps to establish the electrical height of the beam and therefore its impedance and, to some extent, the radiation patterns. Please note that I say "help to establish" simply because one would have a difficult, if not impossible, task in establishing a really good ground. One must keep in mind several things here. First, the actual feed impedance of a horizontally polarized antenna, such as your 20 through 10 meter beam, is determined by several factors, one of which is its height above electrical ground. Unless we were doing some kind of outdoor antenna laboratory tests, there would be no purpose in installing the radials. Second,

and this is the most important, the radials beneath the tower will not improve the efficiency of the radiated pattern of a horizontally polarized antenna. (The radials could reduce some losses, but these are so minimal that they are not worth considering.) If one looks at the radiation pattern of a beam, it would show major lobes at some particular angles both above and below the beam.

Let's assume we have a major angle of radiation at 30 degrees above and below the beam. Let's further assume the beam is mounted at 60 feet above ground on the tower. The 30-degree major lobe above the beam leaves the antenna and goes up into the ionosphere to reach the various ionized layers and then be reflected and refracted back to earth at some distant point. If you are handy with math, you can calculate the distance the 30-degree signal will go if we assume an F-layer at 150 miles (the signal would go quite a distance at 30 degrees and 150 mile-high ionosphere reflector!). However, and this is where the clinker with our radials system lies, the other half of that 30-degree major lobe takes off from the bottom of the beam, going downward. The signal is going to strike the earth some distance out from your tower and radial system; the exact distance out will depend on the height of the tower. However, the distance out will most surely be on someone else's property, so the nice ground you built under the beam, the radials, are useless. The reflectable ability (I like that term!) of the earth where our major lobe strikes is the governing factor in how much signal is lost. Unfortunately, there isn't much we can do about that part of our signal unless we live on the shore of the ocean and aim our beam out over the ocean. (Years ago I said the best radio location would be on a mile-high plateau covered by a salt marsh, which I now

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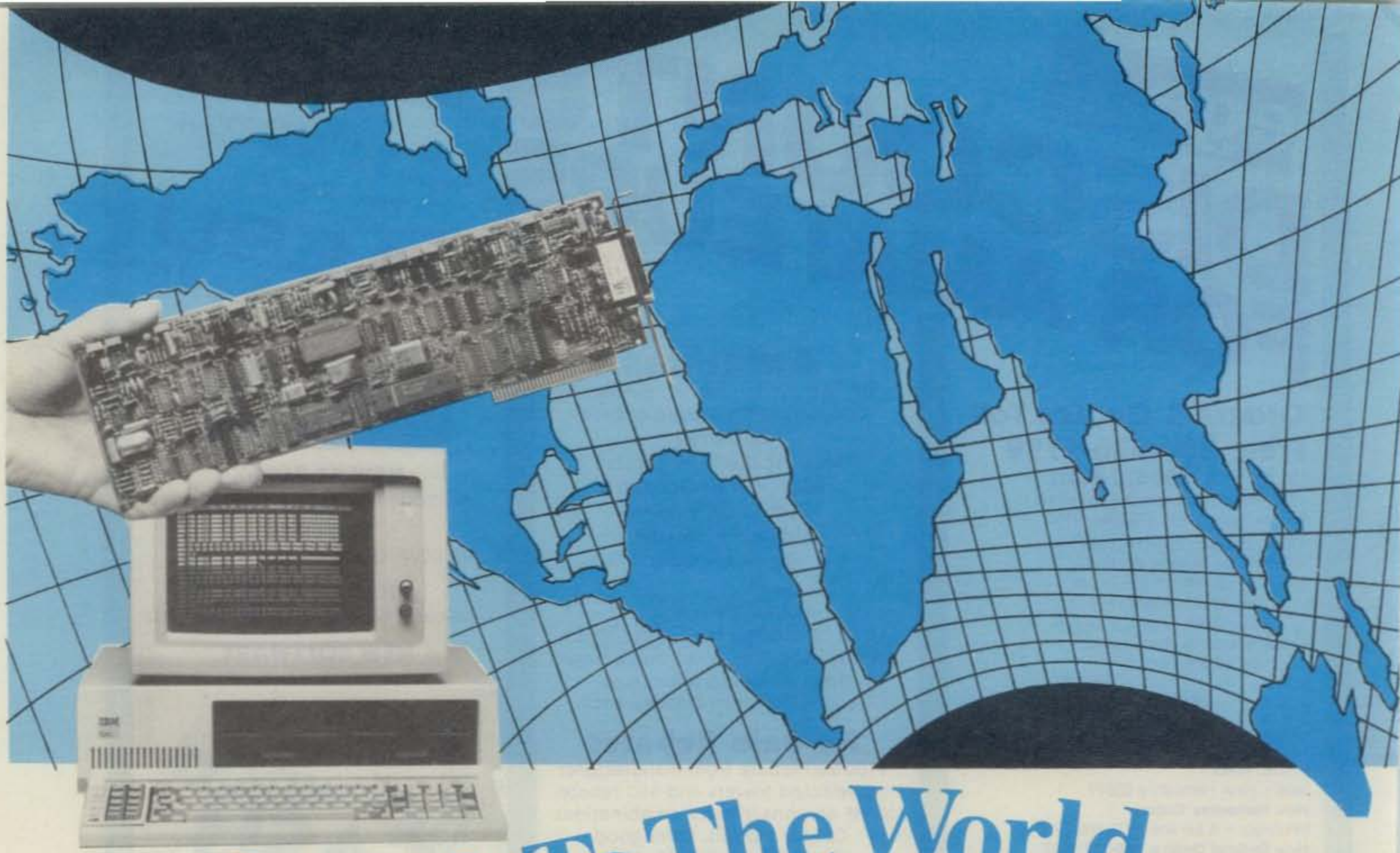
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have—almost!) I know some antenna engineers may argue with me for trying to oversimplify a complex subject of antenna grounds, but this is about as simple a way as possible to answer the questions about a radial field below a beam or horizontally polarized antenna.

More Feed-Line Questions

Some questions were from amateurs who had poor locations and asked about using long runs of open-wire feeders to avoid the losses of coax. I have never tried such things myself, but I know of amateurs who had runs of up to a thousand feet of open-wire line and claimed good results with such long runs.

Others asked about radiating feed lines (parallel standing waves) and what, if anything, should be done about them and would a Transmatch help. First, in a multiband antenna system consisting of a dipole that uses tuned feeders, it is foolish to worry about feed-line radiation as such. Such radiation is not lost power, but radiated power; it actually goes somewhere and is likely to work someone for you. If you are worried about such feeder radiation, then follow the old rules about bringing the feeders away from the antenna at right angles and so on. But it is something I don't concern myself with in that type of system. A directional antenna system is a completely different story.

If there is one thing you don't want, it is to put up an expensive tower and a directional beam, and then have the coaxial feeders radiate. A radiating feed line can seriously degrade front-to-back and front-to-side performance of a beam. Of course, I am talking about coaxial feed here, not open-wire line. One normally would feed a beam with coax. A balun transformer is usually installed at the beam. The purpose of the balun is to provide balanced feed for a "balanced antenna" while using an "unbalanced" feed line (coax). With simple coax feed one attaches the center conductor to one side of the antenna and the outer shield to the other side. The RF from your transmitter flows on the inner conductor and the inside of the outer conductor. When the outside shield is attached to the antenna, one must keep in mind that physically, both the inside and outside of the outer shield are attached. If RF flows on the outside of the outer shield, then a condition known as parallel standing waves exists on the outside, and the waves will cause the line to radiate. Supposedly, putting in a balun will cure this problem. However, in actual practice this may or may not happen. Unfortunately, if the outer shield happens to be resonant in any amateur band on which the beam is used, the RF field will couple to the outside of the line (because it is resonant) and set up the condition of parallel standing waves.

In fact, any wires or metal that happens to be resonant lengths—telephone


lines, house wiring, plumbing, TV feed, etc.—in the strong RF field around your station will be coupled to the signal, and strongly.

Of course, the basic questions would be, how do I know if I have this problem with my coax and how do I fix it? One simple method of detecting parallel standing waves is to set your SWR meter reading (forward) to about half scale and then observe the meter; run your hand up and down the coax while watching the meter. The reading should not change in the slightest. (Parallel standing waves will cause erroneous SWR readings—usually.) Another more accurate way is to grid-dip the line in each band and see if it is resonant (keep in mind here that you are only grid-dipping the outside of the outer braid). You can make a small loop in the coax (essentially, a one-turn coil) to get good coupling to the grid dipper. Tune the dipper through each band, looking for a dip (resonance). If you have this condition, the easy cure (sometimes) is to change the length of the coax or ground lead to make it nonresonant. For gosh sakes, don't prune the coax. That costs too much!

The resonance I am talking about is the

electrical length of the outside of the shield and what is attached to it. That includes the length from the antenna, to the Transmatch, etc., to where the coax is returned to true earth ground (and we don't know where that is). Obviously, the easiest thing to do is to change the length of your ground wire a few feet because this changes the resonance. One has to be careful here, because changing the length may make the doggone line resonant in some other band! There, experimenting is in order. A Transmatch may or may not help in these situations. For myself, I would use one.

Some General Information

If you write to me with questions, please enclose an SASE. Also, being more or less retired, I work in spurts, so don't expect an instant answer. Oh yes, back issues of CQ are available for \$2.50 postpaid. There are probably plenty of points that I have missed, and I am sure the mail will have those questions. If so, I'll write some more material on the antenna and Transmatch subject. Thanks for reading this far, and I hope I have helped you. Good luck and good DXing 

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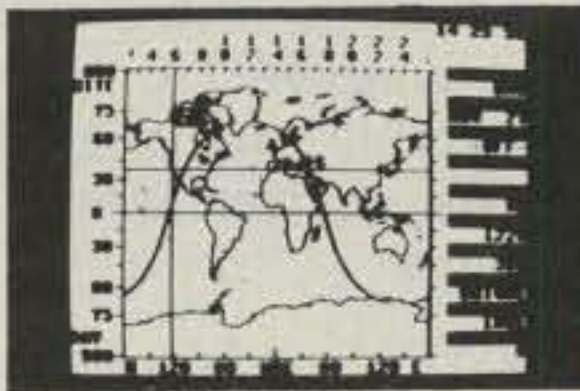
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The Ten-Tec Corsair II Transceiver — Part II

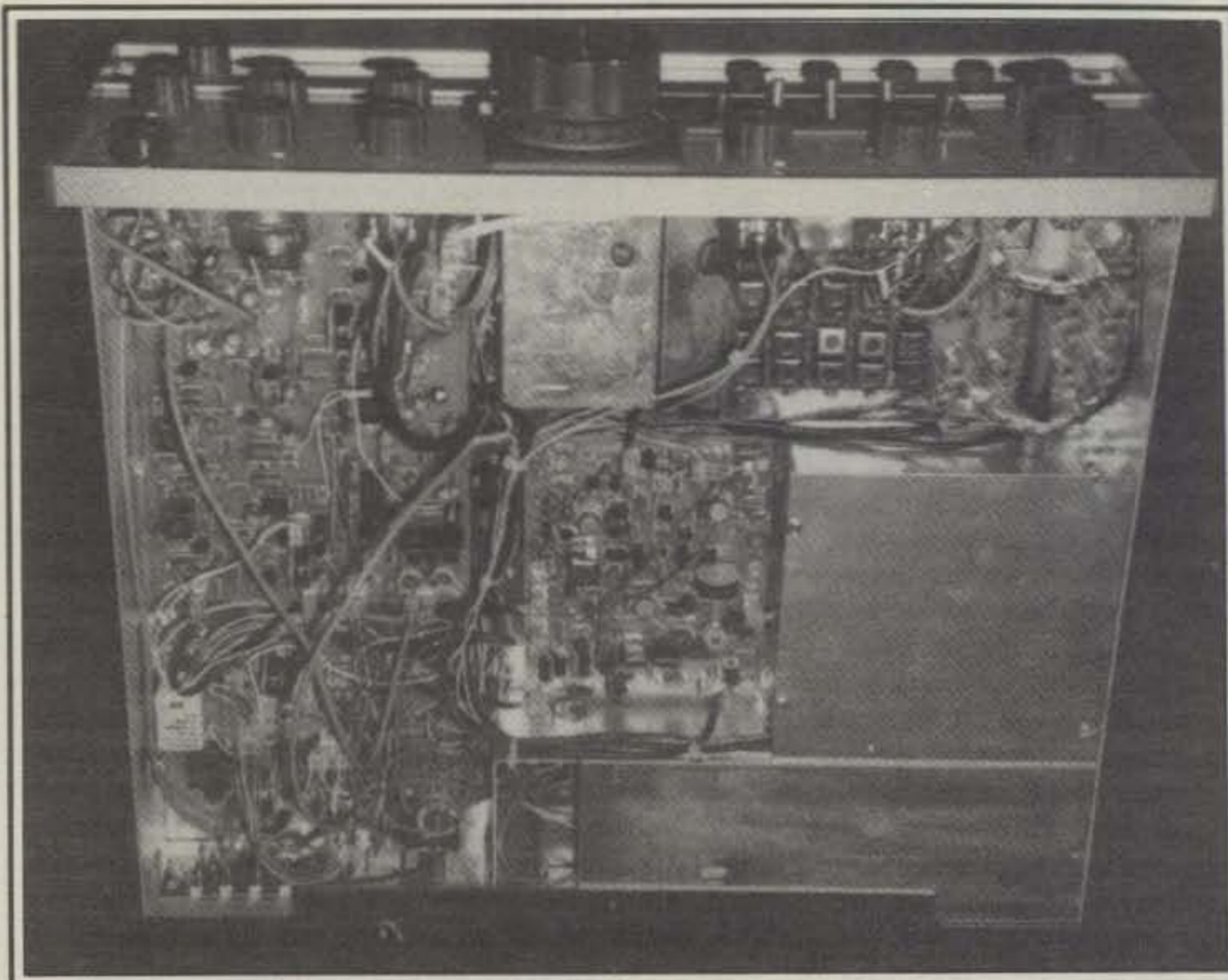
BY JOHN J. SCHULTZ*, W4FA/SV0DX

In reviewing a new piece of equipment, it's very hard to set guidelines, especially how much space to allow for publication. Sometimes the equipment is deceptively simple, and through use one finds much to write about and describe. In these instances the review, if run intact, would take up a majority of an issue, excluding other articles of interest. Although I don't like the practice of publishing reviews in several parts, it comes down to the only practical way of presenting all of our findings and at the same time giving readers additional amateur radio material to read and enjoy.

This month we conclude our review of Ten-Tec's Corsair II transceiver. Last month we left our discussion at the point of describing the front-panel metering. We now take up that discussion with a description of the Corsair II's frequency readout system. —K2EEK

The frequency readout still uses 6-digit 0.3 inch LED numerals, but the color scheme has been changed with the display having five yellow readouts and a green one for hundreds of Hertz. However, behind the scenes there is much more than a cosmetic color change. The display driver circuitry has been completely changed and a logic board with a new MC68705P3 LSI circuit introduced. Fig. 5 shows the logic board diagram. Apparently, the LSI handles a variety of functions concerned with control, counting, and display, and last, but not least, it contains the iambic keyer and keyer memory functions.

Finally, to sort of "top off" an overview of the new circuitry in the Corsair II, fig. 6 shows the LPF-TR (low pass filter—transmit/receive) board. This board is the heart of QSK operation when using CW. The final amplifier output is disconnected from the low-pass filters and antenna circuit during *receive* by relay K1 to prevent



A look inside with the bottom cover shell removed.

signal "suck-out." Q1 indirectly controls the connection of the antenna to the receive terminals during non-transmit periods by biasing diodes D1 and D2. These PIN diodes, when not forward biased for receive, are back biased for antenna isolation on transmit by a voltage rectified by D3 to D6. The circuitry looks relatively simple, but it requires a very careful balance of switching and recovery times to achieve high-speed, clean, full QSK.

Construction

During the course of trying to obtain at least a basic idea of the circuitry in the Corsair II, a fair amount of time was spent roaming around the PC boards inside the transceiver. All of the boards are very well laid out, the component locations are clearly labeled, prime quality parts are obvious, and each board is interfaced with connectors to other boards so any individual board can be removed for ser-

vice purposes rather easily. The only minor point that was missed, in my opinion, was that the internal speaker did not have a cable disconnect at the speaker terminals. Therefore, when I rather quickly removed the bottom cover (which holds the internal speaker), I pulled the voice coil connections on the speaker completely apart. A new speaker was purchased and easily installed.

From a mechanical construction viewpoint the Corsair II rates very high marks. Good hardware is used throughout. There are some riveted mountings used for phone-type rear-panel connectors. But, for the connectors which are likely to receive hard usage (e.g., the SO-239 antenna connector) solid hardware with plenty of lockwashers is used. As with the original Corsair, one continues to have the feeling that the Corsair II was designed with a great deal of attention to those internal details which would augur

c/o CQ Magazine

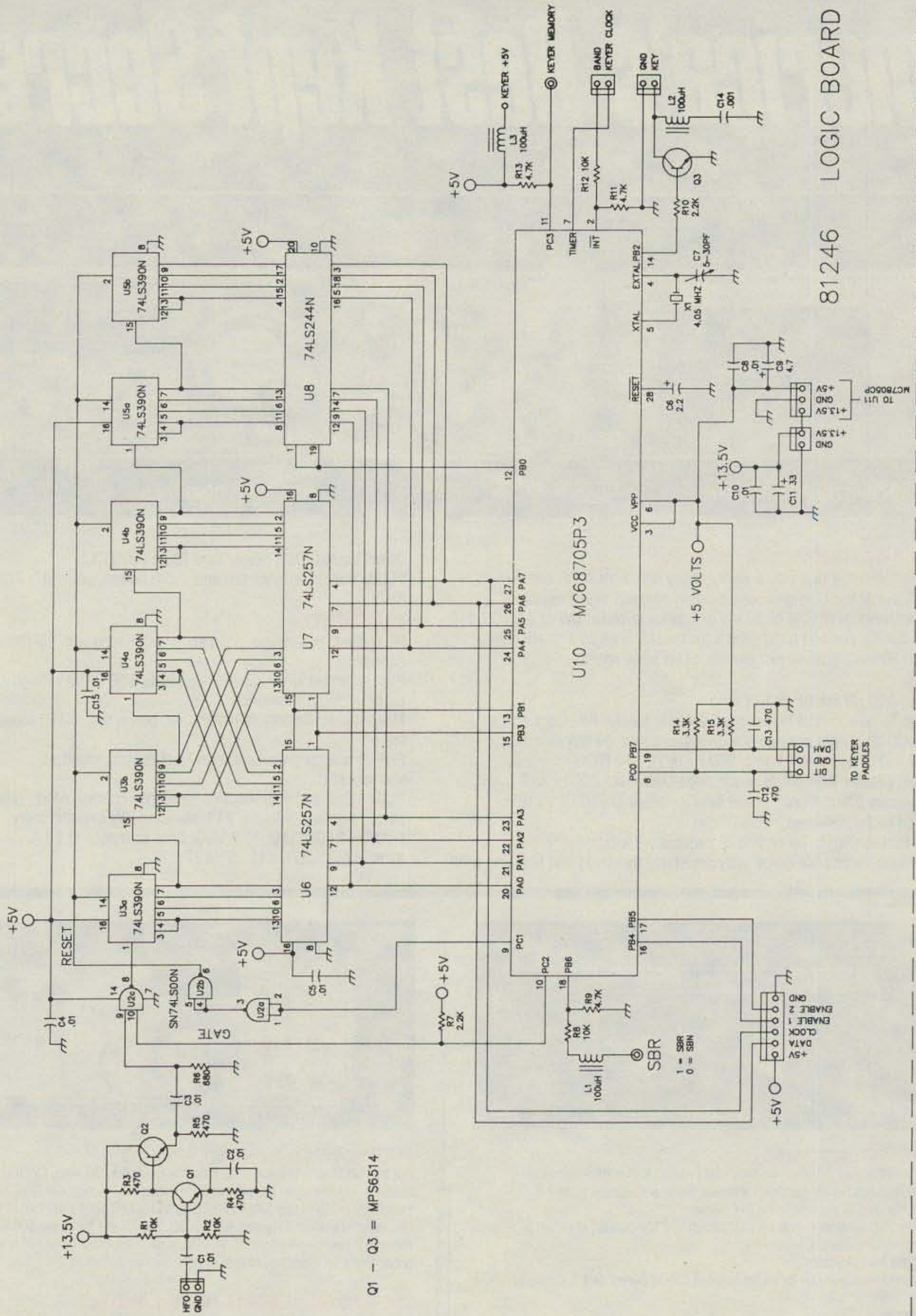


Fig. 5— The logic board. U10 also contains the keyer circuitry.

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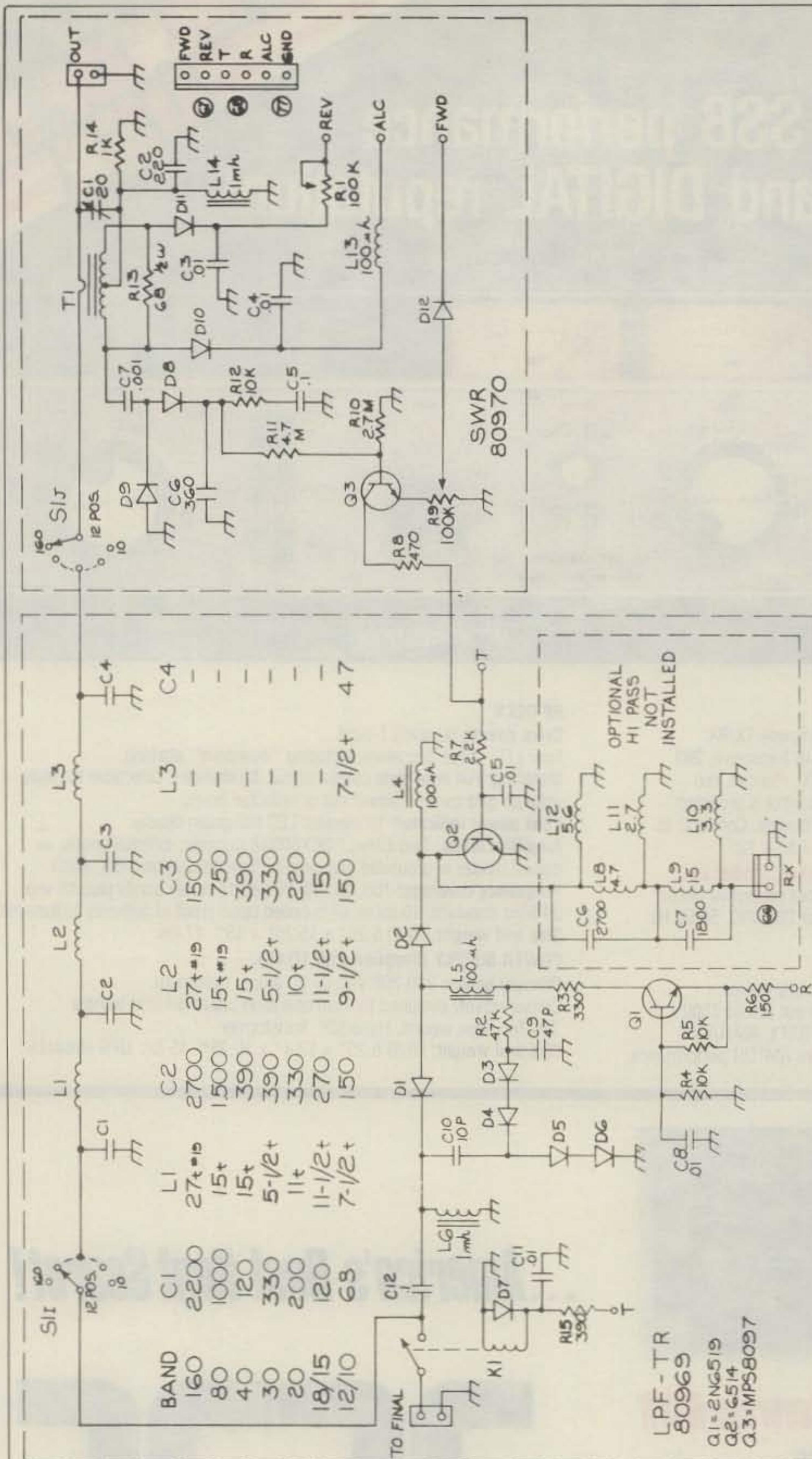


Fig. 6—The low-pass filter and transmit/receive board which contains the antenna switching circuitry for QSK operation.

for the combination of an extremely long, normal service life, yet allow the relatively easy removal of PC boards or other components if service work is necessary.

Two of the photographs show the transceiver with its top and bottom outer

shell covers removed. Ten-Tec has stayed, basically, with its original design concept of distributing the transceiver's circuitry among a large number of PC boards. In fact, although all sorts of circuit boards have changed, their "head

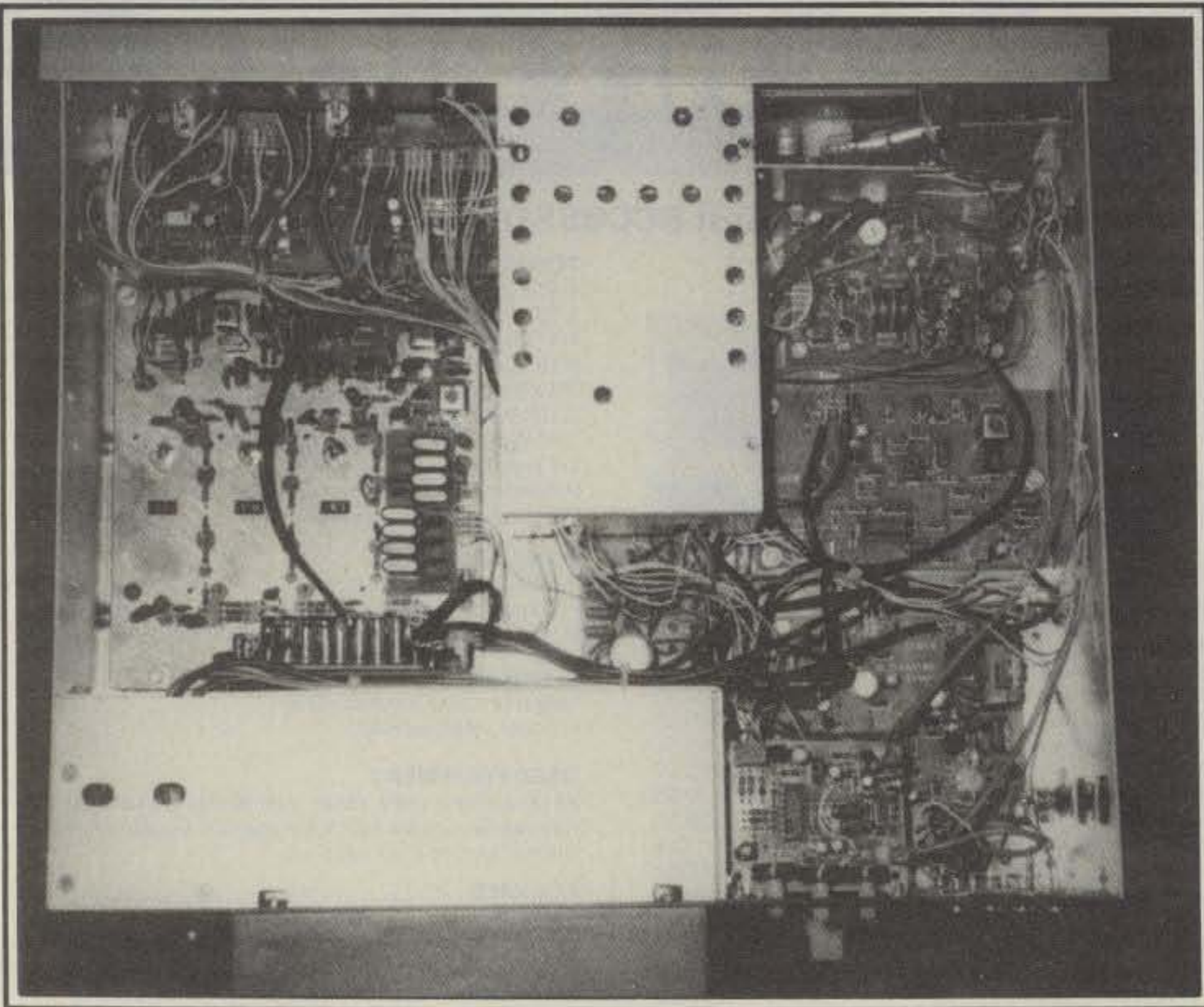
count" remains at 22. This construction approach requires a good amount of interconnection wiring among the boards, but it keeps the signal circuits better isolated, and the interaction between diverse signal paths is minimized.

One can see from the photographs that the PC boards are very neatly arranged. Some of the cable runs seem to be a bit haphazard, but in reality they are well grouped and held together by numerous cable ties. The shielding of individual boards or sections has been increased. For instance, looking at the photograph of the bottom interior one can still see the shielded PTO assembly behind the main PTO tuning knob. However, new shielding has been added to completely enclose the Oscillator/Mixer assembly (middle right) and the bottom of the power amplifier section (lower right). The actual power amplifier is in another separately shielded enclosure directly connected to the heat sink on the rear of the transceiver. Because of the added shielding, only a small portion of the bandswitch can be seen (upper right corner). All of the main RF paths for the bandpass and low-pass filters are switched by the bandswitch. No relays or diode-switching schemes are used. Diode switches are used, however, in some sections of the transceiver for in/out switching of the RF amplifier stage on receive, selection of the optional IF filters, routing of the IF signal, and various other functions.

Looking at the top interior view, one immediately spots that a new shield has been placed over the top side of the power amplifier section. The large shielded enclosure in the upper middle part of the photograph used to house the frequency counter circuitry. It still houses that type of circuitry and also the circuitry shown in fig. 5. One can see three blank areas (middle left) which are provided for mounting any of the three optional IF filters.

Bench Checks

The "specs" measured on the Corsair II proved to be better in many cases than those found on the original Corsair. Certainly, none came out worse. There are no super dramatic improvements in any given area, but the fact that so many improvements were noted "across the board" confirms again that Ten-Tec worked over the original design in every corner. Some of the measurements were so uniform it was not felt useful to tabulate them. For instance, the power output varied at most ± 2 watts from 100 watts on all bands. Full power output was available for at least 30 minutes key-down without anything seeming to go astray (not using any external fan). Transmit third-order IMD products on 20 meters measured -34 dB at full output (an improvement of several dB). Unwanted sideband rejection and carrier suppression both improved to better than $-63/64$ dB.



A look inside with the top cover removed.

On the receive side, the dynamic range showed the most improvement, going from 90 to 96 dB (SSB bandwidth on 40 meters). The third-order intercept point was an excellent +19 dB with the RF amplifier *out* and +7 dB with it active. The receive "birdies" of significance were exactly those noted by Ten-Tec in the instruction manual: 1.838, 21.300, and 28.980 MHz. The latter can be eliminated by using the VFO overrun on the 29.0-29.5 MHz 10 meter band segment.

Operation

The Corsair II provides the same light and easy tuning "feel" as the original design with the main tuning covering about 18-20 kHz per revolution. Markings on the skirt of the knob can be used for quick but approximate QSY's, such as the typical up/down 3 or 5 kHz. Ten-Tec didn't follow my original advice to provide a deeper fingertip well on the knob. That would still be my preference. The new yellow color for the digital frequency readout is very easy on the eyes while being sufficiently bright under any ambient light condition.

Ten-Tec makes a point of the fact that the "S" meter reads the commonly accepted standard of 50 microvolts for S9. It does indeed on 20 meters. Another transceiver I was testing in a price class above that of the Corsair II required 300 microvolts to read S9.

As with the original design, the low-noise design of the transceiver creates the impression of even relatively weak signals "popping" out of a quiet back-

ground as one tunes across a band. It definitely will be pleasing to an operator who spends hours behind a transceiver searching for rare DX.

I rarely had to deactivate the RF amplifier stage (done by means of a pull-switch on the RF gain control) to avoid overload conditions even when encountering strong broadcast QRM on some bands. However, even the best designs can "cave in" under extreme conditions, so it's nice to know the switch is there. It's also nice to see that separate RF and AF gain controls are retained.

As for combating QRM, the optional filters, the standard notch and passband tuning, and the new bandpass tuning features provide many possibilities. Since none of them are on ganged controls, they are all easy to manipulate. The offset tuning (selectable ± 1.5 or 4 kHz) is also extremely useful, and it can be used for either receive or transmit offset. The new bandpass filter control, although centered on 750 Hz and presumably intended for CW reception, was also very helpful on SSB reception. The passband tuning acts as a variable bandwidth feature on SSB (either with the standard 2.4 kHz or optional 1.8 kHz SSB filter) and functions very smoothly, although I would have preferred that the tuning range be spread over more of the potentiometer rotation. If one of the optional CW filters is installed, the passband tuning no longer changes the bandwidth, but the effect is produced of having a BFO control so stations close together within the narrow bandwidth of the filter can still be distin-

guished by their pitch. All in all, I would say the Corsair II provides very balanced features on receive for both the CW and SSB operator. For casual operating (however one defines that), the optional filters are not necessary. For serious DX or contest operating on a crowded band, one or more of the optional filters becomes a very logical investment.

On the transmit side, excellent reports were obtained on both CW and SSB, although my CW ability is really below the capabilities of the transceiver. Using either mode tune-up quite simple. The mode switch is placed in the "lock" position and the drive control advanced until the ALC LED lights. While doing this, any external accessory, such as an antenna tuner, can be adjusted. When operating CW, tune-up is then complete. When operating SSB, one has to double-check that the ALC LED only lights on voice peaks and, if not, advance or retard the drive control (now acting as a microphone gain control) accordingly. One can use the panel meter to check various parameters on transmit, but once initially set up, the ALC LED "tells it all." Once one gets used to operating the unit, one can even sense from the LED if the speech processor is correctly adjusted.

For CW operation one has all sorts of possibilities to key the unit. An external electronic keyer or straight key can be used, or one can use the internal keyer by connecting an external paddle. The internal keyer worked as smoothly as any I have ever tried. The use of the built-in keyer memory requires a simple, external switch connection to set the memory for either programming or playback. Forty characters, including pauses, can be recorded. In playback, the speed is set at that of the front-panel keyer speed control.

Full or semi break-in operation is available. I'm sure I couldn't "exercise" the Corsair II fully on QSK, but at 20 wpm plus the full break-in seemed to work perfectly. Considering that the receive recovery time is 30 ms and that a dot has a length of 30 ms at 40 wpm, the upper speed limit for full QSK must surely be at least 40 wpm. The 30 ms recovery time also means the Corsair II should be fully AMTOR compatible, although that mode was not tested. Naturally, the Corsair II has all the necessary features to operate full QSK with Ten-Tec's TITAN linear amplifier. The built-in sidetone is adjustable for volume and pitch by thumb-wheel controls reached via an opening in the bottom cover.

On SSB, consistent reports were received of full, clean modulation using Ten-Tec's Model 214 electret microphone. The speech processor deserves extremely high marks for a purely AF type. Comparison reports under medium to weak signal conditions (roughly S5 or below) indicated that the use of the pro-

cessor added about an "S" unit to the received signal. Many stations preferred that the processor be left in at all times. I couldn't find any fault with the processor—indeed it deserves great praise—but I did sort of feel that an opportunity was lost with the Corsair II to offer the user who also desires true RF-clipping-type processing a choice of processing methods. After all, an 8-pole SSB filter sits unused in the set during transmit, which would seem ideally applicable to filter a clipped SSB IF signal. I suspect the good folks at Ten-Tec can't accept the idea that *moderate* RF clipping produces better results than involved AF processing schemes.

Accessories

Besides the optional IF filters, the main accessories available are the Model 260 power supply, Model 263G remote VFO, and the Model 425 TITAN linear amplifier.

The 260 power supply is a fully regulated, overcurrent and overvoltage protected unit. It also contains a front-panel facing ceramic magnet speaker. It is a ruggedly constructed unit with a large heat sink on the rear panel for the pass transistors, and two jacks on the rear panel for accessories needing 12 VDC. A bottom-panel switch provides for 110 or 220 volt primary operation. The front-panel on/off switch is also a circuit breaker which can easily be reset if a quick overload takes place during tune-up, for instance. The 260 was used when testing the Corsair II, and it is a highly recommended unit. By the way, Ten-Tec does highly recommend that their Model 1140 circuit breaker be used in the 12 volt line to the transceiver if it is powered from a power supply other than the 260 or directly from a 12 volt battery. The breaker ensures a quick enough overcurrent response to protect the final amplifier transistors. The TITAN linear amplifier was covered in a previous review article. It interfaces, of course, fully and instantly with the Corsair II to develop a full legal-power-input station with full QSK on CW.

Owner's Manual

The manual for the Corsair II is, first of all, spiral bound. It's a small point, but it is one of the few manuals around that one can lay flat for page-by-page usage. The manual is easy to read and starts off with basic hookup information, condensed step-by-step operating instructions for those who are hell-bent to get the transceiver on the air a few minutes after hooking it up, detailed operating instructions so one can really appreciate how to use the transceiver after one calms down, and then finishes up with an alignment and service section. The latter section contains a block diagram, a main chassis wiring diagram, and schematic diagrams

for each PC board to include voltage-level charts. Alignment instructions are also given for each PC board where such work is user-possible. Given the information supplied, an experienced amateur, even with only what today would be considered basic test equipment, can perform a considerable amount of troubleshooting and alignment work on the transceiver. Only the counter and logic boards would be beyond field service.

The Corsair II which was tested worked perfectly from the day "go," so I can't comment personally about any factory service work. But other amateurs with whom I have discussed Ten-Tec's

service response continue to rate it as outstanding.

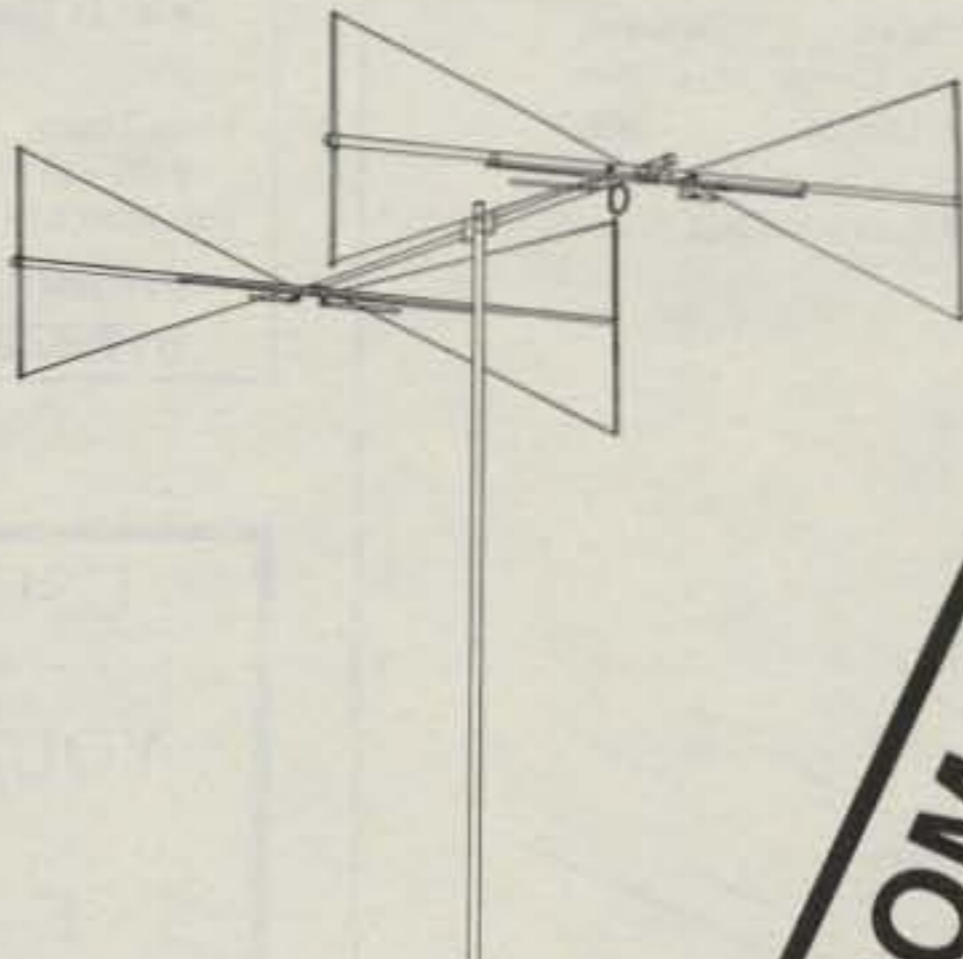
Summary

I think the point has been adequately made that the Corsair II is not the original Corsair with a few factory updates. It is a newly redesigned Corsair both inside and outside. The transceiver has sophisticated operating features, but is still very straightforward to operate. It makes sense that Ten-Tec has expressed an intention to continue to produce the Corsair line for those amateurs who obviously prefer its design philosophy and attention to details in execution of the design.

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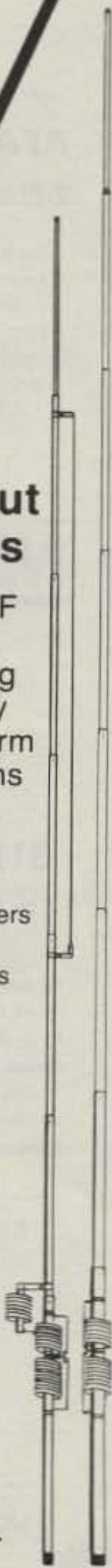
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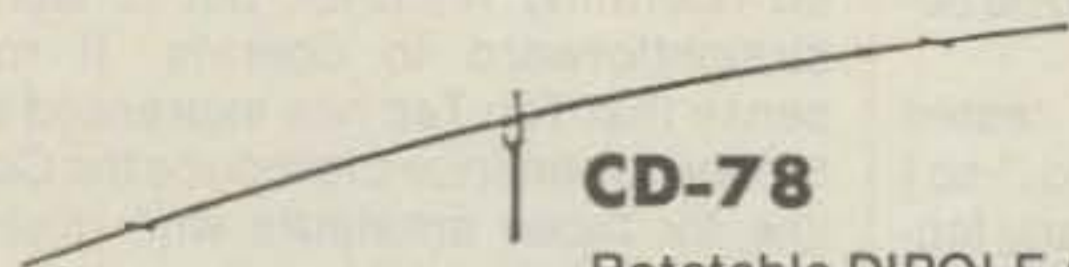
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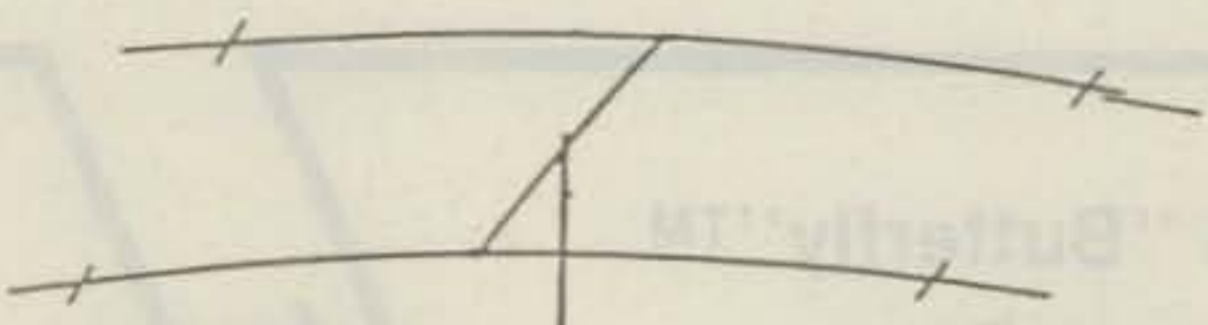


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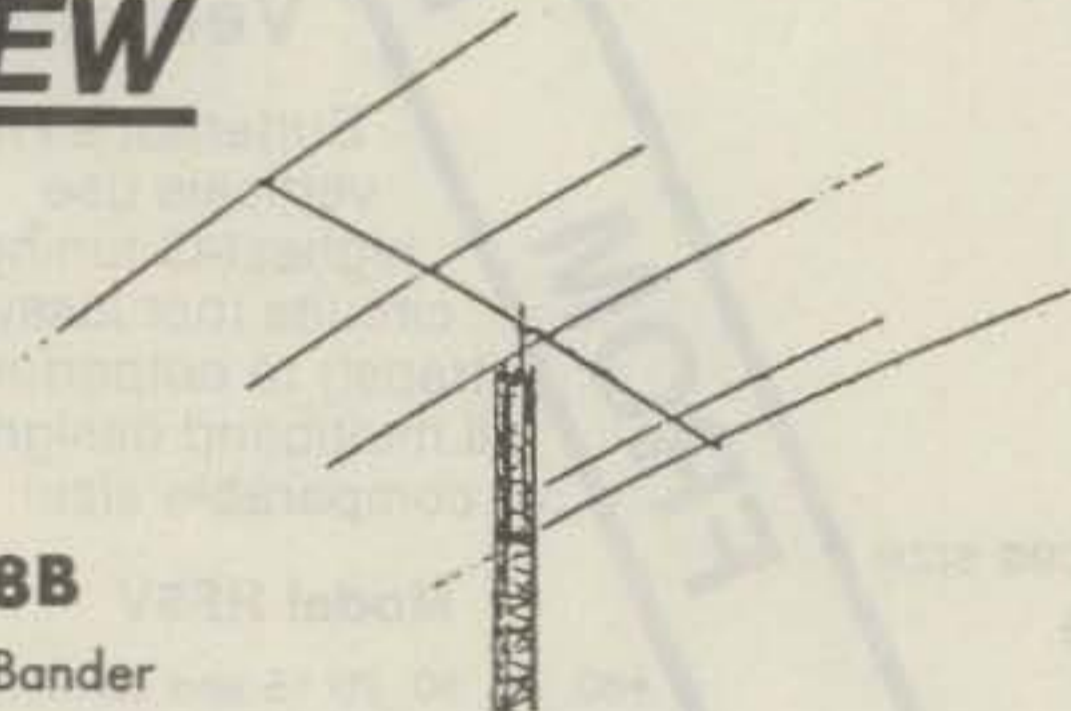


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Frequency MHz	3.8	Impedance	50ohms
Front Gain dB Avg.	4-6	Element Length Max.	79ft
F/B Ratio dB Avg.	18	Boom Length	30ft
F/S Ratio dB	30	Weight	148 pound
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Power Capability			
CW/PEP KW	2/4		
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Power Capability				Weight	49pound
CW/PEP KW	1/2	1/2	1/2	Wind Survival Rate	90mi/h
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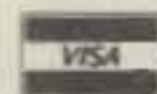
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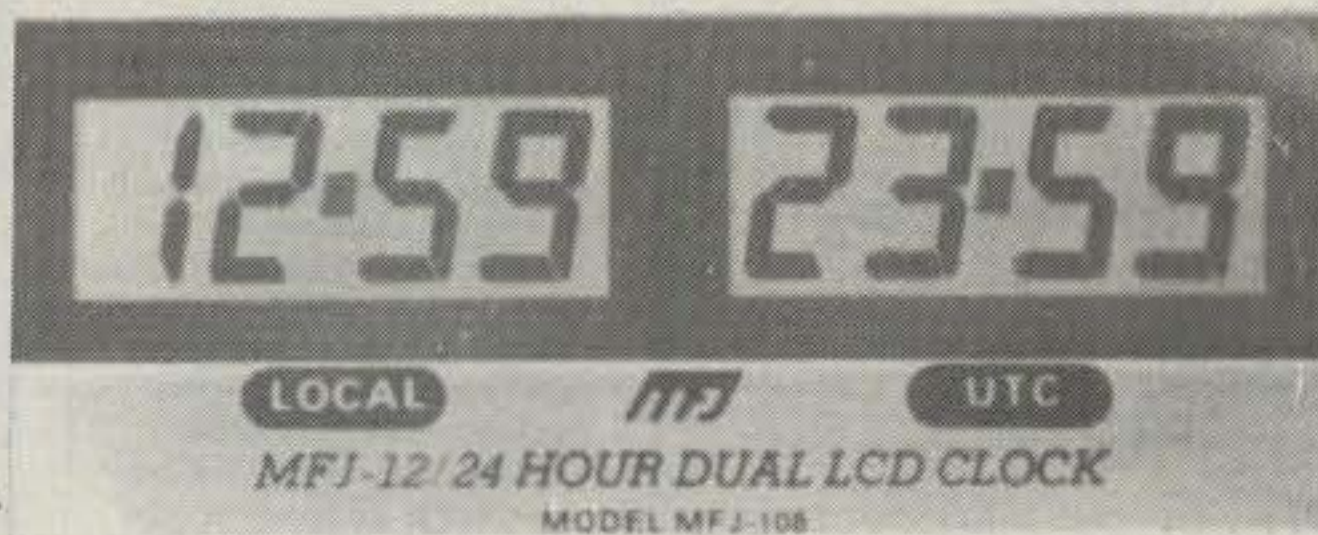
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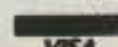
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CIRCLE 74 ON READER SERVICE CARD

CIRCLE 73 ON READER SERVICE CARD

"HOW TO" FOR THE NEWCOMER TO AMATEUR RADIO

How To Get Started In Amateur Radio— Part II of III

Last month's column covered introduction, licenses, written examination preparation, and code.

Clubs and Courses

If you have an amateur radio club in your area, you should find out if it conducts licensing courses. If so, I advise you to attend a club course. Some clubs conduct very effective licensing programs. All courses should be helpful to newcomers. Clubs can conduct activities that are beyond the capability of an individual amateur. It is a good idea to join a local radio club and to be an active member, whether or not it conducts licensing courses. If no licensing program exists at your local club, you may be successful in initiating one. If you are unable to locate a nearby club and/or course, the American Radio Relay League's Clubs and Training Department may be able to provide assistance. Write to them (at 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111) and tell them what you want. Be sure to give them your postal zip number, plus the postal zip number of each nearby area to which you would be willing to travel for a club and/or class.

Examinations

Novice exams (as such) are not part of the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Program that provides Technician through Extra class test sessions. The Novice exam is conducted by a single unrelated volunteer examiner holding at least the General class license. This test may be presented in any form selected by the examiner. It may be multiple choice (most popular), yes or no, true or false, fill in the blank, or essay. The April and May 1985 issues of *CQ* cover amateur radio examinations in detail.

A current typical Novice "written" exam contains 20 questions and each question has a selection of four possible answers. Only one of the answers is completely correct in each group of four answers. Answers such as "all of the above" and "none of the above" require three bits of knowledge (instead of one), and they are no longer used in amateur tests. The license candidate selects one answer for each of the 20 questions. A



Meet 5-year-old Jill Kristine Dietrich, KA9VGW, of Bremen, Indiana. She may be the youngest female to ever achieve an amateur radio operator's license, and she is probably the youngest amateur currently on the air. She is a kindergarten student. Jill has been interested in amateur radio since she was three years old. Her father (Jeff, WB9ZHV) shares a fine station with Jill. It includes a Kenwood TS-520S transceiver, Heath keyer, Dentron antenna tuner, 40 meter vertical antenna, and a Hy-Gain TH6-DXX triband Yagi-Uda beam antenna. Her first contact was with KA0WQ in Flatriver, Missouri. Jill has contacted amateurs in nine states so far. She is studying to upgrade to the Technician license. Jill's other interests include coloring, bike riding, camping, and piano playing.

passing grade is 75% or better; one must answer at least 15 questions correctly to qualify for the Novice license.

One does not have to be a mathematics expert to earn a license. Most of each test (seven questions) is about rules and regulations. However, electronics is really mathematics put to practical uses, and it is in the amateur's best interest to acquire a good knowledge of electrical and electronic fundamentals. If possible, study and practice code with someone else who is interested in amateur radio.

When you are ready to take the Novice license exam, locate an unrelated General (or higher) class licensee who is at least 18 years old and is willing to serve as your volunteer examiner. It is common for amateur radio clubs to regularly conduct licensing courses and one (or more) of their instructors conducts Novice exams. A visit to your local electronics

stores will probably provide leads to clubs and individual amateurs who provide this type of service. If you have an antenna installation in your area which leads you to believe a neighbor is an amateur, there is nothing wrong with going to that residence to seek help. If your neighbor is a licensed amateur, he/she will probably be glad to help you directly, or by telling you where you can go to take a Novice exam. If you are going to be examined by a club licensing instructor, she/he probably has a supply of the necessary form (610) on hand. If some other amateur is going to serve as your volunteer examiner, you should obtain the FCC Form 610 yourself and have it with you when you go to take the Novice exam. If you do not know the address of your local FCC office, it is usually easy to find in your nearest major city telephone directory; just look for Federal Communications Commission in the United States Government listing. Simply telephone or write your request for a Form 610 Application for individual Amateur Radio Station and/or Operator License. If all else fails, send your request (with the usual self-addressed and stamped envelope) to me, and I'll send a Form 610 to you.

The Novice examination procedure is simple. Once you have obtained the Form 610 Application and located a volunteer examiner, arrange an examination date, time, and location that are suitable and mutually satisfactory to both your examiner and yourself. The examination site should be comfortable, well lighted, and free of distraction. The first part of the exam is the code receiving and sending tests, and the second part is the written test. The examiner may decide to just administer a receiving test. The code receiving test is administered first, since there is very little possibility that anyone will fail a sending test and pass a receiving test at the same speed. Almost everyone can send code faster than they can receive it. The code receiving test is a 5 minute long run at 5 words per minute. Since each 5 letters counts as a "word," the Novice code test is actually 125 letters in 5 minutes. Just letters in the alphabet should be included in the Novice code receiving test, and the text must be forward-reading material, such as one would read in a magazine or newspaper article. The volunteer examiner can require the applicant to pass either the "one minute out of five" or the "code

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comprehension" type test. A passing run in the first case is simply any 25 consecutive correctly copied letters out of the 125 total letters in the test. If a "code comprehension" test is used, the applicant must correctly answer at least 7 of 10 questions related to the text material.

If one passes the code receiving test, the code sending test may be administered. The code sending test includes all the numerals (one through zero), four worksigns (\overline{AR} , end of message; \overline{BT} , paragraph/break; \overline{SK} , end of work; and \overline{K} , answer), four punctuation marks ($?,.,/$), and all the letters of the alphabet. The applicant is required to "transmit by key" at a rate of at least 5 wpm. It should be noted that each numeral, worksign, and punctuation mark has a two-unit value, whereas each letter has a one-unit value. A passing sending test is simply any 25 consecutive correct units sent at a rate of 5 (or more) wpm during the 5 minute test run. The examiner may take an article from some publication and tell the applicant to send everything included in the article. The examiner usually strikes out punctuation marks which the applicant is not required to know and adds worksigns which are required, but would not appear in newspaper or magazine articles. If the code tests are passed, the volunteer examiner will administer the "written" test. The applicant should supply a stamped and addressed envelope for mailing the completed Form 610 to the FCC. The volunteer examiner must retain the "written" test for one year.

The volunteer examiner should not discuss questions or answers with the candidate. When the FCC has processed the received Form 610, they mail the Novice license directly to the successful candidate, using the mailing address shown on the submitted Form 610. It may take just a few weeks to get a new license, but it is more likely to take 8 to 12 weeks now. It is common to first learn your new callsign by seeing it on address labels of companies trying to sell their amateur-radio-related products to you.

Any applicant for any class of amateur radio license who holds a first class radiotelegraph operator's license (or has held one within five years) is not required to take a code test, since she/he has already passed a code test above the maximum code speed (20 wpm) associated with any amateur license code test. Similarly, anyone who holds a second class radiotelegraph operator's license (or has held one within five years) is not required to take a code test when applying for any license below the Extra class license, since she/he passed a 16 wpm code test to get that commercial license, and the code test requirements for Novice/Technician and General/Advanced licenses are 5 wpm and 13 wpm, respectively. However, commercial licensees are required to pass "written" exams related to

amateur licenses because the rules, regulations, and frequencies are different between the commercial and amateur services.

Callsigns

American Novices are issued two-by-three type callsigns, which means there are two letters in the prefix and three letters in the suffix of each callsign. A typical Novice callsign is KB6OTI. The two-letter prefix is KB, with the first letter showing it is an American station (A, K, N, and W are U.S.A. callsign first letters). The 6 between the prefix and suffix shows that this callsign was issued to someone living in California at the time her/his application was submitted. The OTI suffix completes the specific identification of this particular station. The FCC refers to Novice callsigns as group D callsigns.

You do not have to change callsigns when you upgrade to a higher class license. If you like the callsign you have, do not check block 2E on FCC Form 610 when you apply to upgrade. However, if you do want to change to an "appropriate" callsign when you upgrade, be sure to check box 2E (Change Call Sign). Technician and General callsigns are one-by-three, such as N6OJT. Advanced callsigns are two-by-two, such as KI6EC. Extra class callsigns are two-by-one, such as WS6V. If you are lucky enough to receive a callsign you like, it is wise to keep it.

One is not required to change her/his callsign when one moves to a different callsign district, but it is a good idea to do so to minimize confusion. As an example, KB4TGF might move to California (sixth district) and decide not to change her/his callsign. Other amateurs would swing directive antennas to the southeast corner of the country to work KB4TGF, rather than the correct west coast direction.

Privileges

Power. The Novice licensee is permitted to run as much as 200 watts (peak envelope power) output power. This is more than enough power to enable one to have solid contacts with amateurs throughout the world. Stated realistically, I operate 2 to 20 watts output power and regularly work amateurs all over the world. When operating in any Novice band, every class of licensee (Novice through Extra class) is limited to 200 watts (PEP) output power. Basically, General through Extra class licensees are permitted to use up to 1500 watts PEP maximum output power outside the Novice bands.

Modes. Novices are limited to radiotelegraph (code, A1) communications. This enhances the probability that they will increase their code proficiency to the point where they can pass the 13 wpm General/Advanced code test. As one upgrades to higher class licenses, one is granted authority to operate more sophisticated

modes as well as additional frequency segments. Higher class licensees are authorized to operate several voice modes (amplitude modulation, phase modulation, single sideband, etc.), radioteletype, facsimile, and television. Space communications have been available to amateurs since 1962. Modern OSCARs (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) are very sophisticated, but they are easy to use.

Bands. Novices share the use of four bands (frequency segments) that are approximately centered within overall bands. As an example, the 80 meter Novice band is 3700 to 3750 kiloHertz, whereas the entire band is 3500 to 4000 kiloHertz. Two of the Novice bands (10 and 15 meters) are best for long-distance communications during the day; however, 10 meter activity is now at the low point of the 11-year sunspot cycle. The other two Novice bands (80 and 40 meters) provide optimum long-distance communication opportunities during the night. The frequency limits of the Novice 80, 40, 15, and 10 meter bands are 3700-3750 kHz, 7100-7150 kHz, 21.1-21.2 MHz, and 28.1-28.2 MHz, respectively.

Novice bands are not for the exclusive use of Novices. They are simply segments of the overall bands wherein Novices are permitted to operate. Novice bands are really Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra class bands. It is not reasonable to be upset from hearing a couple of higher class licensees in contact with each other in a Novice band; such operation is normal and correct. Most higher class licensees operating in Novice bands automatically send code slower when they contact a Novice or Technician. One-way contacts are not productive; one must slow down to the receiving capability of the less proficient code operator. Do not hesitate to ask a fast operator to send more slowly; the proper Q-signal for this is QRS.

Novice band operation is not limited to fixed locations. Novices are allowed to operate mobile (auto, airplane, balloon, motorcycle, bicycle, etc.), portable, and from temporary locations.

Equipment and Accessories

Modern amateur radio equipment and accessories are much more useful and sophisticated than their older counterparts. The separate transmitter and receiver combination has been replaced by the transceiver, which combines both functions within a single cabinet. The transceiver is primarily designed to provide mobile voice communications. Some transceivers are just marginally suitable in regard to code operation. Most of them do not come with a suitably narrow code filter as standard equipment, requiring one to obtain and install one for satisfactory operation. Also, the time delay between transmit and receive

modes is usually too short, letting the equipment constantly cycle between transmit and receive modes when sending slow code and using a transceiver's automatic changeover system (VOX). The mobile design does not harm anything, although it must increase the price. However, most transceivers are not operated mobile; they are primarily operated from fixed locations where they are powered by 117 VAC input.

There is a wide variety of accessories on the market. Modern electronic keyers, telegraph paddles, VSWR/power meters, antenna tuners, clocks, antenna rotators, and other accessories are plentiful and most are excellent. I consider amateur radio equipment and accessories to be adult toys. Get the best items you can afford. Poor items are a bad investment at any price.

Cost. Remember that a transceiver is a combination transmitter and receiver; do not expect it to be priced at the level of either one.

I push my students to get an efficient and versatile initial station because it has been my experience that good operating results usually keep the beginner enthused enough to progress to a higher class license. Naturally, it is easier to get good performance from excellent equipment and accessories than from junk items. However, as the father of seven children, I do understand that it is not always possible to spend a lot of money on something like an amateur station. It has been my experience that most of my students spend about \$600 to \$1500 on their initial stations, depending on whether they purchase used or new gear.

It is my observation that the quickest route to the General license is to get on the air as a Novice with good equipment and to do a lot of operating. I do not like to have Novices spend a lot of time building kits; I want them operating and studying in their spare time.

Used equipment usually provides the best value. A benefit associated with club membership is that no fellow club member would be likely to intentionally sell another member a defective piece of gear. It is generally safe to buy used gear from active local amateurs. If you are going to purchase used equipment from a store, you should only deal with an organization which allows you to return unsatisfactory items at full refund or (more commonly) full allowance towards other gear. You are advised to avoid equipment which has been stored for a long time, particularly if it was stored in a garage, shed, covered patio, or cellar.

As is true in most fields, amateur radio gains some new companies each year and loses others. A simple way to get a list of the organizations presently manufacturing and distributing amateur radio equipment, accessories, and related items is to extract names, addresses,

and telephone numbers from recent issues of *CQ*, *Ham Radio*, *QST*, *Worldradio News*, and *73*. Some outfits advertise in more than one of these publications, whereas others just run their ads in one publication. There is an advertisers' index among the last few pages of each magazine. This index makes it easy to locate each company's ad. It takes a lot of effort to maintain a current list of the organizations associated with our Amateur Radio Service. It is more practical to just use the latest publications to obtain specific required information as it is needed.

If you do not know where electronic parts and equipment stores are located in your area, it is usually easy to find them by using your telephone directory's yellow pages. Incidentally, store salespeople are not always a source of dependable information, and they do not have time to educate you in electronics while they are waiting on customers. If you are lucky enough to find a helpful salesperson, please do not abuse this opportunity to obtain assistance.

Antennas and towers are separate from the considerations related to the inside station. These external installations can be very expensive. The prospective amateur should check to find out whether or not there are restrictions against erecting antennas where she/he resides. A license is not much good if one cannot operate. Most new amateurs erect a 40 meter dipole which allows them to operate on 40 and 15 meters. If you have plenty of room, put up an 80 meter antenna because 80 meters is the best Novice band during the evening. If you want to work DX (long distance) contacts, a sim-

ple 15 meter monoband Yagi-Uda, quad, or delta loop directional antenna will do the job at relatively low cost. The beam antenna can be mounted on a sturdy push-up TV mast, and it should be used with a suitable rotator to provide direction selection. A directive antenna is almost a necessity for consistent long-range (DX) contacts. A good antenna is more important than high power.

This concludes the second part of this three-part article. The concluding part covers operating, QSL cards, and printed material.

Photographs Wanted

Photographs of Novices in their shacks provide introductions to a few of the newer amateurs. Photograph size is unimportant, but good definition, contrast, and subject matter are important.

73, Bill, W6DDB

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CIRCLE 34 ON READER SERVICE CARD

NEWS OF CERTIFICATE AND AWARD COLLECTING

The Story of the Month for October is:

**Rob March, VE7OR
All Counties #505, 2-22-86**

"I was born here in Victoria on February 19, 1939 and have lived here all my life. I have done some traveling, eleven countries in Europe and a few trips to Mexico, but never could find a more beautiful place to settle down. After finishing school I spent a short stint in the R.C.A.F. (Royal Canadian Air Force). Then in 1960 I made the big move and got married. We have one married daughter, Monica, and two sons, Aaron and Shawn, all out on their own now. We also have one beautiful granddaughter, Dawn. During the first few years of marriage I worked in various positions in the logging and lumber industry here on the island, but about 15 years ago I got into the paint contracting business, where I am at present.

"I began amateur radio back in June of 1968 after spending three years as a shortwave listener. One day, tuning across the bands I came across a couple of hams chatting, and I decided right then and there that amateur radio was for me. I didn't know there were radio classes here in town, so I just struggled with a couple of books and practiced CW on my own. Well, after about six months I wrote and passed the test. My first contact was with WN7IRD, now WA7IRD, Willie, USA-CA #29, on 40 meter CW.

"In Canada we must operate only on CW for the first six months, but I stayed on CW for the next two years before getting my advanced ticket.

"My first rig was homebrew, crystal controlled, using a 6L6 tube. The receiver was an old Navy Surplus CSR-5, and with that setup I managed to work all states and a few countries. Since that time I guess I've changed the equipment ten or more times. I'm now using an FT-707, SB-200, and a three-element Yagi up 45 feet. I've participated in most areas of amateur radio—building, antennas, contests, DXing, etc.—but nothing as interesting and as much fun as County Hunting.

"On January 23, 1983 I ran across the County Hunters and worked my first county, Angelina County, Texas, with K5KZL. Then the bug took over. At that time I was using my old call, VE7AZV, but three days later I got my present call. In the summer of 1984 we took a trip down

333 South Lincoln Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060



Rob March, VE7OR, USA-CA All Counties #505, 2-22-86, displays his award in Victoria, B.C., Canada

to Post Falls, Idaho to visit my brother. That was my first chance at giving out some counties, and I really enjoyed being 'on the other end,' even sweating it out on a county line when the temperature was at 100 degrees.

"While in Post Falls we visited with some other county hunters and had some very enjoyable get-togethers. The following year we returned to Coeur d'Alene for the County Hunters Convention and had a great time meeting all the County Hunters with whom we had made friends on the net. We spent much of the time with KG5J and WB6FJU and their XYL's and will have lasting memories of a most enjoyable time together.

"Al, KG5J, went to the very last county for me. I think my most memorable experience in County Hunting was after I sent in my application to the Custodian. I came upon the County Hunters Net while I was demonstrating amateur radio to some of my friends and was informed that I now had USA-CA All Counties #505. Well, I never expected the response that followed. All the County Hunters congratulated me, and with the company in the shack it was twice the thrill.

"Other than the radio, my hobbies are motorcycling, sailing, camping, and our

Special Honor Roll

William J. Webb, KX1A (ex. WB1GOO)
All Counties #513, 6-2-86

Honor Roll

3000		500	
KX1A	546	GU2ASO	2112
		DK7SU	2113
		N4ILG	2114
2000		LU1DOW	2115
W3IJT	673	LZ1YE	2116

The total number of countries for credit for the United States of America County Award is 3076. The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$4.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$10.00. Initial application must be submitted in the USA-CA record book, which may be obtained from CQ Publishing Company, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801, U.S.A. for \$1.25 each. To qualify for the special subscriber rate please enclose a recent CQ mailing label. To obtain a complete copy of the rules for the CQ USA-CA Program send a business-size, number 10 envelope with 22 cents postage to the USA-CA Custodian, 333 South Lincoln Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060, U.S.A. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

German Shepherd 'Cobber,' who goes everywhere with us, except on the bike. My wife and I really enjoy gardening, so during the summer months she putters in the garden while I operate the radio out on the patio. It is really a great way to get a tan! Our biggest dream is to own a cruising sailboat with Ann at the helm and me working the counties M/M.

"We live here on an island and very seldom get to the mainland, so I don't really have much opportunity to put out counties.

"Yes, I am going to start over. In fact, the first mobile contact I had for the 'second time around' was Armadillo County, Texas. I also have a good start on an RTTY endorsement. I have had many hours of enjoyment and a few of aggravation on the net and made many friends, so expect me to be around for a few more years. I'm really proud of my All Counties #505 and want to thank everyone who helped me win this coveted award. 73, Rob, VE7OR."

Awards Issued

William J. "Bill" Webb, KX1A (ex. WB1GOO), finished them all and qualified for USA-CA 3000 #546 and USA-CA All Counties #513, Mixed Band and Mode, 6-2-86.

George A. Dessert, W3IJT, sent for USA-CA 2000 #673, All SSB, 6-4-86.

USA-CA 500 certificates went to:

George Henry Smith, GU2ASO, USA-CA 500 #2112, Mixed, 6-2-86, #2 to Guernsey.

Fritz Rainer, DK7SU, USA-CA 500 #2113, All CW, 6-3-86.

Alfred Blake, N4ILG, USA-CA 500 #2114, Mixed, 6-7-86.

Hector A. Villafane, LU1DOW, USA-CA 500 #2115, All CW, 6-24-86, #3 to Argentina.

Antanas Petrov Kolev, LZ1YE, #2116, Mixed, 6-25-86.

Awards Available

The Danish Underground Radio Award. This is a new award issued by the Museum of Denmark's Fight for Freedom 1940-1945. The award is patterned after the armband which the Danish fighters for freedom used after the 5th of May 1945.



The Danish Underground Radio Award issued by The Museum of Denmark's Fight for Freedom 1940-1945.

Amateur radio station OZ5MAY is using WW II clandestine radio sets exclusively. The sets were partly built in Denmark, partly supplied by parachute to the Danish Resistance Movement from SOE in England. The rules for the award are as follows.

OZ: Contact with OZ5MAY on 3 different bands or on 3 different days representing at least 2 different bands. One contact less is acceptable if you visit the Museum of Denmark's Fight for Freedom, which is the QTH for OZ5MAY.

EU: Contact with OZ5MAY on 2 different bands or on the same band on 2 different days. One contact less is acceptable if you visit the Museum of Denmark's Fight for Freedom, the QTH for OZ5MAY.

DX: Make one contact with OZ5MAY.

Send log info and fee of 6 IRC's to Award Manager: Allis Andersen, OZ1ACB, Kagsaavej 34, DK-2730 Herlev, Denmark.

Union des Radio-Club (U.R.C.A.). These are *new rules* from the U.R.C.A. This award is available to licensed amateurs and for SWL's (heard basis) who can demonstrate having participated in or heard two-way contact with the maximum number of Radio Club stations worldwide. All bands and modes are acceptable. Please request endorsement for band and mode at time of application for the awards. Contacts after January 1, 1986 are valid. This award is issued in three (3) classes:

HF Class I—100 confirmed QSO's. A minimum of 30 French Radio-Club stations plus 70 worldwide Radio-Club calls. At least one in each of six continents.

HF Class II—80 confirmed QSO's. A minimum of 20 French Radio-Club sta-

tions plus 60 worldwide Radio-Club calls. At least one in each of 5 continents.

HF Class III—50 confirmed QSO's. A minimum of 10 French Radio-Club stations plus 40 worldwide Radio-Club calls. At least one in each of 4 continents.

The valid continents are North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.

One continent may be substituted by a "joker." Each joker is also equal to 3 French Radio-Club stations and FF6URC for 5.

The "joker" calls are: F1 or FC1QY, F1 or FC1CQQ, F1 or FC1GKF, F1KCE, F1 or FF1URC, F5 or FE5SP, F5 or FE5XM, F6 or FE6BUG, F6 or FE6DLA, F6 or FE6DZS, F6 or FE6EBN, F6 or FE6EMA, F6 or FE6EVT, F6 or FE6EYS, F6 or FE6FNA, F6 or FE6GHT, FD1JCH, FC1JLJ, FD1LAL, F6KCE, F6URC, SWL FE1107 or F11ADB.

VHF Class I—75 confirmed QSO's with any Radio-Club stations.

VHF Class II—50 confirmed QSO's with any Radio-Club stations.

VHF Class III—30 confirmed QSO's with any Radio-Club stations.

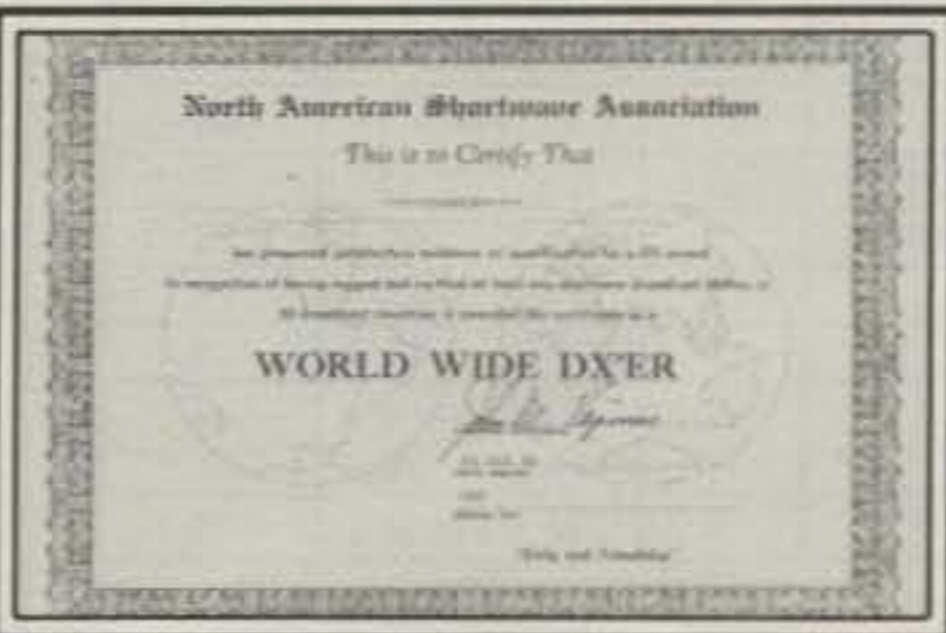
Do not send QSL cards. A list showing full details of logged contacts, verified and confirmed by your local club official or by two licensed amateurs, is enough.

The charge for each award (Class I, II, or III) is \$4.00 US or 12 IRC's. Send application and fee to: URC Diplome Manager, B.P. 73-08, 75362 Paris Cedex 08, France; or to Mr. J.-P. Lehembre, F6FNA, 8, rue de Verdun, 77270 Villeparisis, France.

Note: Lists of all applicants will be published in the French magazine *Ondes Courtes Information* each year in December. The best Radio-Club score in Class I will receive *OCI* magazine free for one year. The second and third will receive another award.

All French military Radio-Clubs in RFA (FFA) are valid for French Radio-Clubs. The first suffix K calls with three suffixes are French Radio-Clubs—i.e., F6KCP, F6KAW, F6KMX, etc. Since January 1, 1986 the French RC prefix is FF.

North American Short Wave Association. The North American Short Wave Association (NASWA), the largest Short Wave Broadcast DX Club in North America, has



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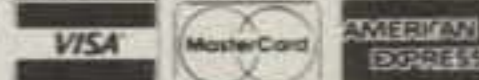
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prepared a new booklet listing details of their Award Program and Radio Country List. The program consists of over 50 different custom certificates. Until quite recently only NASWA members were eligible. However, the Association has now instituted a major policy change opening up the program for non-members.

The awards are most reasonably priced at \$1.00 each in North America and \$2.00 elsewhere. The 16-page booklet, which contains the Radio Country list and all details of the awards program, is \$2.00 in North America and \$3.00 elsewhere. Overseas delivery is by airmail.

To order the booklet and for further details of the NASWA Awards program write to: John M. Kapinos, NASWA Awards Chairman, 86 South Quinsigamond Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545 U.S.A.

Worked Arctic Circle Award. Sponsored by the Radio Club of the Arctic Circle, OH9AB, the award is issued to amateurs and SWL's of any country. The rules are as follows:

1. OH applicants need 15 points, and others need 6 points.
2. OH9AB gives 2 points and members 1 point.
3. There are no band or mode limits.
4. The same station may be worked once on each band.
5. All contacts after January 1, 1979 may be used.



The VU-1000 Award sponsored by the Japan Amateur Radio League.

To apply for the award, please use a GCR list and send a fee of 10 IRC's for return postage to: OH9AB, P.O. Box 50, SF-96101 Rovaniemi 10, Finland.

VU-1000, SWL-VU-1000, Japan Amateur Radio League. The VU-1000, SWL-VU-1000 Award may be claimed for having contacted (heard) and received a QSL card from each of at least 1000 different amateur radio stations on 50 MHz, 144 MHz, and/or 430 MHz. For contacts with an additional 1000 stations, VU-2000, 3000,

etc., will be issued. A list of QSL cards should be arranged in alphabetical order of prefix and then suffix. Only contacts made on or after July 29, 1977 will be acceptable. Endorsements are available for 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 430 MHz, CW, RTTY, SSTV, ATV, and FAX.

Send QSL card list accompanied by statement from applicant's national society or from two amateurs other than the applicant that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in possession of the applicant and that the items of the cards are correctly listed. If such a statement is not available, the applicant must submit all QSL cards concerned.

A fee of 8 IRC's will be charged, along with an additional 2 IRC's for airmail delivery. If QSL cards are submitted, sufficient funds for return postage will also be required.

Only contacts with amateur stations authorized by the administration will be acceptable. Contacts with the Far East Military Stations (signing KA prefix) in Japan will not be acceptable.

All contacts must be made on land (river/lake) within a same call area, or if no call area exists, within the same country.

Address application and all correspondence to: Japan Amateur Radio League, Award Section, 1-14-2 Sugamo, Toshima, Tokyo 170, Japan.

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RS-12A, RS-12M, RS-12S	9	12	4 1/2 x 8 x 9	13
RS-10A	7.5	11	4 x 7 1/2 x 10 1/4	11
RS-7A, RS-7B	5	7	3 1/4 x 6 1/2 x 9 4 x 7 1/2 x 10 1/4	9
RS-4A	3	4	3 1/4 x 6 1/2 x 9	5

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The Heard All Continents (HAC) Award, offered by the Japan Amateur Radio League, is a special award for having heard six signals for amateur radio stations of six continents.

Heard All Continents (HAC). This award is offered to SWL's only by the Japan Amateur Radio League and may be claimed for having heard and received a QSL card from an amateur station located in each of the 6 continents. The continental boundaries for IARU's WAC are standard, with a few exceptions in Asia which are shown in the Asian Countries List. Contacts must be on or after July 29, 1977. All other conditions are the same as for the VU-1000 Award.

Notes

I hope things are going well where you are and that the fall season is off to a good start.

73, Dorothy, WB9RCY

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A LOOK AT THE SHACK FROM BOTH ENDS OF THE COAX

Hamshack Computers: Part III

This time W8FX continues his examination of the personal computer in the hamshack with Part III. In the first two installments he looked into computer selection and practical installation guidelines and techniques. This time he delves into the heart of the matter: day-to-day operation.

—K2EEK

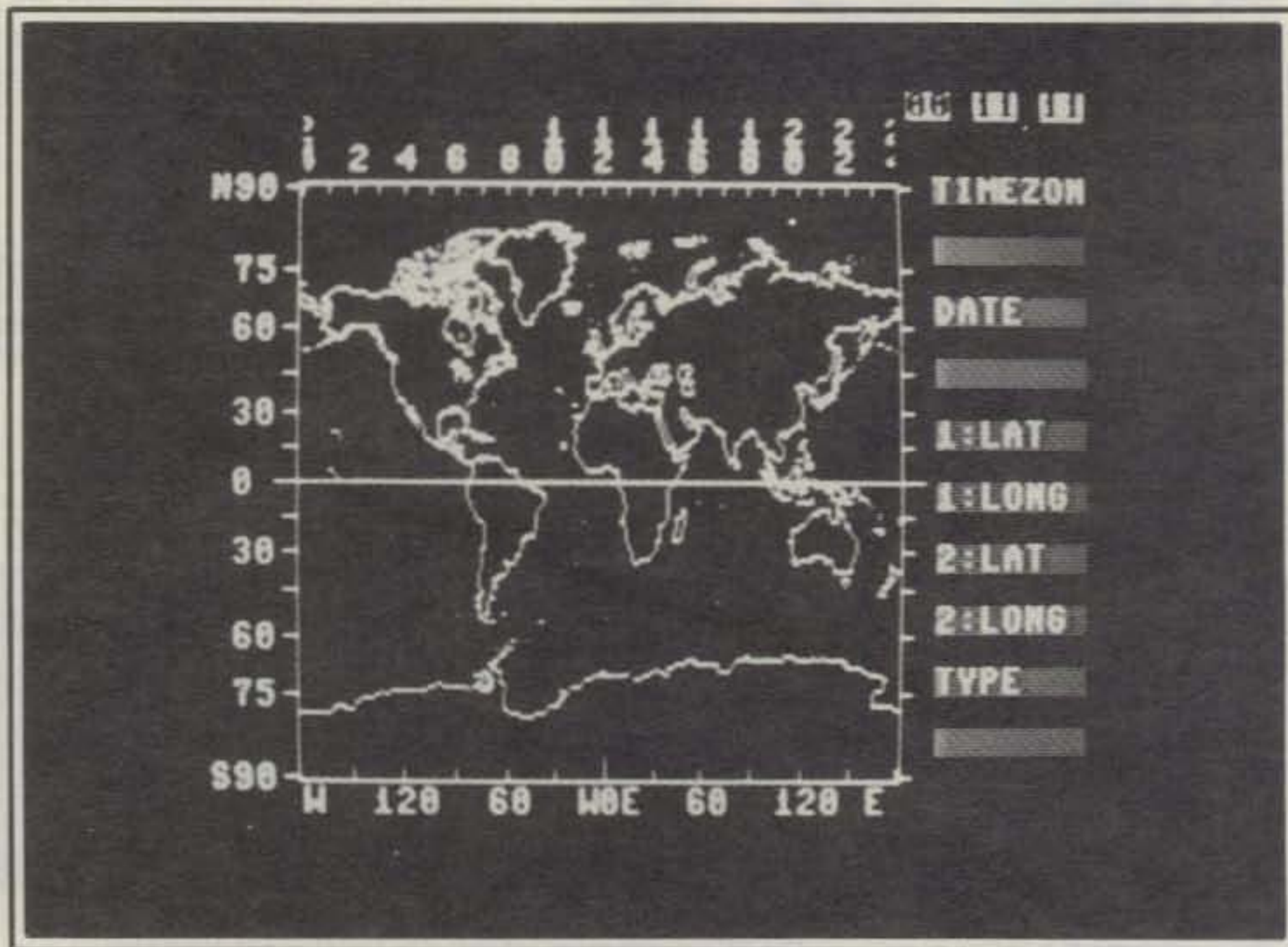
Last month we continued our multi-part series on the personal computer in the hamshack. We indicated that over the coming months we would cover topics such as computer selection, installation, operation and maintenance, and software. We kicked off the series with a look at computer selection criteria and some specific suggestions. In last month's column we launched into a discussion of computer installation tips and techniques. We covered the basics, some installation details, furniture and flooring, ventilation, area cleanliness, and accessories and supplies. Fig. 1 in last month's column summarized the various installation "do's and don'ts" which we discussed in the article.

This month we follow up with some general operating tips, hopefully useful across the broad spectrum of computers in hamshack usage. We had originally planned to cover computer care and maintenance this month, as well, but that topic is such a broad and important one that we decided that it should "stand alone" next month.

Computer Operation

Hamshack Computer Uses. We have frequently mentioned that computers are "naturals" for many specialized ham applications. The uses are many, and they include regular and contest logging and dupe-checking; Morse code and RTTY communications; code practice and instruction; antenna design and beam aiming; propagation forecasting assistance; contact tracking; and many other specialized applications.

At the risk of perhaps being too simplistic, it's nevertheless a good idea to review some of the basic hamshack uses for the PC before discussing specific operating suggestions and techniques. So let's do that by examining some of the



Shown here is the display screen map produced by the Xantek DX EDGE™. In operation, the program draws "grayline" propagation curves used in chasing sunrise and sunset DX. (W8FX photo)

real, live computer tasks possible and practical in your station.

1. *Accomplishment Tracking.* Many hams are serious certificate and awards collectors. Attainment of radio amateur awards is complicated by the fact that many are available with different frequency bands, power levels, modes of operation, and other specialized criteria applying to them. Many logging and database programs have features that allow summarizing of one's contacts by such specialized criteria. For example, it's possible to print out a band-by-band summary of one's country, state, or continent contact status, as well as a summary of remaining accomplishments needed and a summary of whether the necessary QSL cards have been received. Such programs surely beat pushing a pencil!

2. *Contact Logging.* Most amateurs keep detailed records of their contacts, even though the FCC has eliminated the legal requirement for most formal log-keeping. Logging is still done for a variety of purposes, if for simply being able to refer back at a future date to a particularly enjoyable QSO. Logging is still important for keeping track of contacts for the special awards which many amateurs seek. PCs lend themselves well to recordkeep-

ing, and especially to fast retrieval of data by date and time of contact, frequency band, radio callsign, name, QTH, etc. Most of the logging programs are set up for convenient, real-time (on-the-air) data entry, so no extra time is required to enter the log data, which can be stored to disk and printed out later on.

A specialized form of logbook program is the contest logger. This type of program allows use of a special type of log that is designed to properly record the on-the-air "contest exchange," and to later print out this data in a mail-ready format that is easily scorable by the contest sponsors. Sophisticated contest logging programs reduce the drudgery of checking for contact "dupes," which carry no contest credit.

Some log and contest programs also can automatically generate QSL (confirmation) cards using the logbook data already recorded. On keystroke command, a day's QSLing chores can be taken care of, with the cards made ready for mailing to a QSL forwarding bureau, or directly to the other stations. This auto-QSL feature is a boon to high-volume contest amateur operations.

3. *Radio Propagation Prediction.* Predicting whether or not radio conditions

317 Poplar Drive, Millbrook, AL 36054

will be good enough to expect to be able to "work" various areas of the world is very important. Using a computer, amateurs can produce timely predictions of HF skywave conditions between any two points on the globe.

Most of the propagation prediction programs use an ionospheric model based on a microcomputer program developed by the Navy for field use by the military. Using a few easily obtainable bits of essential information (the solar flux figure, available over the air from the National Bureau of Standards station WWV; your geographical coordinates; and the coordinates of the distant point), these programs produce a formatted video or printed output of 24 hourly predictions of the MUF (maximum usable frequency) over the path.

Some such programs are no-frills, but others do some fancy things, such as showing an estimate of the LUF (lowest usable frequency) over a path; calculating the distance to the target area or point in kilometers or miles; and providing rotary beam antenna heading information. Some particularly capable propagation programs allow you to "scan the world" to readily see which areas are likely to be well suited for DX to the area, and to track sunrise and sunset on both ends of the signal path, when especially favorable conditions are likely to prevail.

4. *Beam Aiming.* Whether as part of a propagation program or as a stand-alone algorithm, it's relatively easy to point your rotary beam antenna in the right direction using a global heading calculating program. Most such programs have you enter the latitude and longitude coordinates of the station with which you want to communicate, along with your own coordinates. They will then output the desired beam heading and distance (short and long path), and often additional information such as time zone differences.

Most of these programs include a self-contained database of country and/or callsign prefix information so that the need to enter actual geographical coordinates is eliminated. Such programs are often available customized for your own location. The same geographical database can be used in both propagation and beam-heading programs, so the two types are frequently combined in a single package.

5. *All-Around Recordkeeping.* Most amateurs keep records of some nature, and these lend themselves to database management programs of all sorts. Any kind of task that requires data collecting, sorting, searching, and tracking should lend itself to database management, thus allowing the operator to devote more time to the more productive aspects of the hobby.

Practical database activities include tracking QSL cards sent and received; indexing magazine articles; inventorying



One of the frequency information screens from Multisat, an amateur satellite tracking program offered by Spectrum West. (W8FX photo)

hamshack equipment for replacement purposes; generating component lists for construction projects; and maintaining the membership list for an amateur radio club. Most amateurs can think of a host of practical applications I haven't even considered!

6. *Antenna Design, Construction, and Measurement.* Ham antennas are usually designed using stubby pencil and calculator. But, it's also possible to do your figuring on your computer. With antenna calculation programs it's fairly simple to plan and calculate the correct dimensions and wire sizes for all sorts of antennas, including dipoles, quads, Yagis, inverted Vees, and verticals. Some such programs include construction data for log periodics, phased verticals, and even stacking harnesses for VHF and UHF arrays. Some programs even include determination of ERP, as well as predicted gain, while others simplify use of the Smith Chart that electrical engineering students learn to hate! While the average ham may not really need an antenna design program, such programs nevertheless offer the experimenter some nice "what if" possibilities.

7. *Circuit Design and Electronic Calculation.* Amateurs who are electronic experimenters and equipment builders make use of a wide range of calculations. The computer can readily be programmed to handle the most commonly used formulas. Programs are available, including some in the public domain, which facilitate calculations involving Ohm's Law; power supply design; resistor or capacitor combinations; resonant frequency; filter, stub, and trap design;

series and parallel inductors; and solid state dynamics.

8. *Satellite Tracking.* Communication through the amateur radio satellites is one of the current "hot" areas in ham radio. Since 1961, when the first OSCAR was launched, amateurs have been able to communicate over thousands of miles using VHF and UHF—wavelengths traditionally considered useful mostly for relatively short, line-of-sight distances. A new era dawned in mid-1983, when the first Phase III satellite, OSCAR 10, was launched. This satellite is distinctive in that its highly elliptical orbit allows properly equipped amateurs to communicate through it on a 10- to 12-hour basis over intercontinental distances. However, to effectively use satellites such as OSCAR 10, it's necessary to have some means of precisely locating the satellite and determining the times when it's within range. This can best be done using a computer.

Numerous computer programs are available which allow simple and rapid antenna positioning. For example, the Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) offers inexpensive programs for most popular PCs. These provide accurate access schedule and tracking information on satellites in both circular and elliptical orbits using "Keplerian" orbital information available from AMSAT or NASA. The programs determine the times when a satellite will be above the horizon, and they also provide needed information for aiming a directional antenna at the satellite for optimum communications, as well as other important information.

9. *Station Control.* We've only dented the surface so far in this area, but some



Even the smaller, less-expensive computers such as the Timex-Sinclair Series have good potential for amateur radio applications. Shown here is one of the "mission control panels" from the GM4IHJ satellite tracking program for the Timex 2068 or Sinclair Spectrum computers. (Photo via WA6DLI)

amateurs are experimenting with computer control of their hamshacks, particularly for the "smart" control of various transceiver functions.

At least one manufacturer, the Heath Company, produced a computer-compatible HF transceiver, the SS-9000. This transceiver contained a "smart" control circuit that assists a serial interface in maintaining communication protocol between operator requests and the internal circuits within the transceiver. The controller allowed communication between a video terminal, ASCII teletypewriter, or computer. Although the Heath H-89 computer is the one the company had in mind to interface with the new transceiver, connecting the unit to other PCs is a possibility.

Interfacing computers to external radio equipment is quite practical. For example, Bearcat Electra introduced a very capable scanner radio for the Commodore 64 and other PCs, which enabled some very complex, user-programmable scanning and search patterns. Other programmers have developed software routines that control the scanning pattern and other frequency-related characteristics of receivers and transceivers in ICOM's line, and other units that lend themselves to external microprocessor control.

10. Morse Practice and Instruction. Various approaches are taken in Morse code practice software, but most promote a sense of letter and sound association. Typical Morse programs include features such as programmed, progressively more difficult learning of individual

Morse characters; automatic generation of random code groups at a specified speed; screen displays of quizzes and tests; and user-definable messages and practice groups offering immediate performance feedback. For the beginner, computer-generated Morse code practice is probably superior to over-the-air code practice sessions, as the latter are subject to interference, static, and noise. Interestingly, however, several commercial on-the-air Morse simulation programs have been developed which even include internally generated QRM and other annoyances. Such features give one challenging practice in copying under difficult conditions, especially helpful when trying to build real-world experience to upgrade one's license.

11. RTTY/CW Communications. Cumbersome and noisy mechanical Teletype™ units have largely been replaced by silently efficient computers and video screens. PCs are particularly popular as the heart of state-of-the-art RTTY setups, the only extras required being an appropriate software program and an interface or terminal unit to connect between the computer and the transceiver. Fortunately, a detailed technical knowledge of computer operation isn't necessary to get on the air on RTTY either.

While there is considerable variation in the available software and interfaces, most RTTY packages include features such as the option to use Baudot or ASCII code at different data rates; split-screen receive and transmit operation; user-definable "canned" messages; and a type-ahead buffer that allows one to continue

typing while still listening to the other station's transmission.

"Manual Morse," or CW, has benefited by the computer revolution, too. Many stations now use keyboards rather than straight keys or keyers to exchange messages with one another. The features of computer Morse programs resemble those provided by RTTY programs, though the cost of CW software is less than that for RTTY, and simpler interfaces are required.

Combining RTTY and CW in a single package is a natural evolution, and several offer both communications modes. One limitation you should be aware of: using your computer for on-the-air RTTY or CW work generally precludes its simultaneous use for logging or other hamshack and household chores!

12. AMTOR and Packet. A fairly new development is AMTOR, or Amateur Teletyping Over Radio. This is an RTTY-like communications mode which has a handshaking feature that minimizes errors caused by noise, static, and interference. HF mailbox or bulletin-board operation using AMTOR makes good sense, especially since the sending station is assured that his message is being received correctly. AMTOR's virtually error-free transmission characteristic offers the exciting possibility of reliable exchange of computer programs over-the-air.

Packet radio is an even newer and more exciting mode of highly reliable digital communications. This is a high-speed, digital, and error-free handshaking communications mode which is similar to RTTY and AMTOR. While similar to these two modes, packet is different in that communications data is sent at a much higher speed, and in a sort of "connected" or telephone-like, virtually interference-free mode. Each station must have special equipment, including what is known as a terminal node controller (or TNC) plus appropriate software and hardware, to use packet. Despite some initial expense in setting up one's station, packet holds exceptionally great promise to be the communications mode of the future.

13. Other Applications. There are many other uses for the computer in the hamshack. If you purchased your PC strictly for radio activities, its potential will not be fully exploited unless you use it to help with home and household chores—the area of personal productivity. These chores could include maintaining personal finance and tax records; tracking investments; organizing recipes; preparing and maintaining a household budget; and telecomputing—to name just a few practical applications.

Using the two hobbies, computers and ham radio, in tandem makes good sense and is bound to make each more interesting and enjoyable. With the cost of the personal computer—even very capable ones on the way down to the very attrac-

tive levels—it's even practical to dedicate (hardwire) one computer for hamshack activities, leaving a second computer for conventional household computing tasks.

Operating Tips and Suggestions. We've indicated some of the things that can be done with the hamshack PC. However, the first few months of computer ownership can be very demanding in terms of equipment familiarization, poring over sometimes not-too-helpful hardware manuals, and studying often cryptic and poorly written software users' guides. To be sure, there is a good deal of wheel-spinning involved in setting up and productively using a computer system. Now we would like to present a potpourri of operating tips and suggestions that should help facilitate the use of a computer in your station.

1. Organize, Label, and Catalog Your Software. The idea is to make sure that your software is readily available when you need it. When you're just starting out with a computer, keeping track of a few disks is no big problem. But as your software collection grows, and especially if it includes programs and data in several different areas in addition to hamshack programs, then it's important to scope out how you will keep track of all of those pesky floppies.

Use some sort of disk organizer or caddy, possibly using different enclosures to house various categories of software as your collection grows. Make each disk's label meaningful, showing clearly what program(s) or data the disk contains, and important information such as program version or backup status. Some users find it helpful to print out a directory listing of the files contained on the disk right on the paper sleeve, or in a separate loose-leaf binder. If your software collection grows to be very large, then you may want to purchase a disk cataloging program that can keep tabs on it.

2. Back Up Important Programs and Data. Oh, if I had only taken a few minutes to make a backup! Despite one's best intentions, it's a fact that disk disasters do occur. Thus, it's imperative to back up key program disks, or if they are not copyable, then to obtain suitable backups from the manufacturers. Many manufacturers will sell you backup disks for a small fraction of the original software cost, if you are a registered owner of the program. As a consequence, it's important, upon purchase of a software package, to return the warranty card. This is significant not only for obtaining program backups, but also to get on the firm's mailing list to be advised of program enhancements and new products.

It's also necessary to back up disks containing valuable file data. This is especially important in the case of logging and contest programs, particularly if a paper record has not been made of the contacts

made. If it's data that you use and update regularly, you may wish to use a "grandfather system," in which three copies of data disks are maintained, so that at all times three generations of data are available in case of a system crash or damaged disk. No need to go overboard, but it's hard to appreciate the need for a disk backup until you need one but then don't have it!

3. Make Use of Available Utility Programs. Such programs are often ignored by first-time computer users who consider them more suited to the advanced programmer or computer "hacker." However, it's wise to become familiar with useful utility programs for your computer, as these may effectively extend the power and flexibility of your system, allowing it to "do tricks" which its manufacturer never thought of.

A popular PC will spawn literally thousands of utility programs in its wake. While many will be of limited usefulness to you, others can do things such as help you to reorganize disk data, reclaim program or data files from "hopelessly" damaged disks, transfer floppy disk-based programs to a hard disk drive, convert data from one file format to another, and the like. Indeed, many PC users consider their utility programs the most important software they own.

4. Take Care of Your Disks. In fact, treat them as honored guests in your

hamshack. To properly preserve them, it's important not to eat, drink, or smoke around them (or your computer, for that matter). You shouldn't leave your disks lying around a TV, telephone, or other magnetic source, or in a spot where they may be subjected to temperature extremes or direct sunlight. Be especially careful not to touch or to scratch the disks' delicate magnetic surface coating. Don't write on the disks with a ballpoint pen or pencil; use a soft felt-tip pen instead. Don't paperclip anything to them.

Be sure to minimize the disks' exposure to foreign particles, static electricity, and dust, and never insert a dirty or gummed-up disk in your drive. The disks are best protected by storing them vertically in their paper sleeves, preferably inside a disk caddy. And, if you loan your program disks to others, ensure that they know how to use and properly take care of them.

5. Take Care with the Interconnections. When it comes to connections, computers are sensitive little devils. If, for example, a particular board or chip expects 5 volts and you feed it 12 volts, goodbye component! Many amateurs have had the costly and frustrating experience of connecting up add-on devices to their computer ports, or installing internal modifications, which have literally caused their machines to go up in smoke. Triple-check pinout connections before hook-

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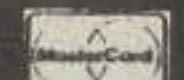
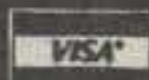
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ing up peripheral attachments such as modems, RTTY and packet terminals, keying devices, and the like.

Keep all computer and interface connectors and "cards" clean and firmly seated to help ensure reliable, trouble-free operation. Don't physically disconnect peripherals while they or the computer is powered-up, as power surges or temporarily crossed pin connections can cause extensive damage to both. In most situations it's best to turn on peripherals before powering-up the computer and to turn off the computer before turning off peripherals (but consult your users' manuals for the specific turn-on/turn-off sequence recommended).

A tip: Unplug your computer's power supply, if it's one of those black boxes that plugs into the wall, whenever the system isn't in use. Why put lots more hours on the power supply than on the computer itself?

6. Pamper Your Computer Equipment. Computer gear is, by and large, more delicate than ham gear. Thus, a few special precautions are in order when working with computers on a daily basis.

We have already mentioned that you shouldn't smoke, eat, or drink around the computer system. You should keep your computer equipment clean, preferably covering computer equipment when it's not in use, keeping unnecessary windows closed, if possible. Vacuum the computer system frequently, paying special attention to the keyboard, printer, and disk drives.

In some computer systems the disk drives constitute the weakest link in the system and so deserve special care. Many drives are temperamental, particularly with respect to head alignment and overheating. It's wise to avoid jarring the disk drives unnecessarily, or to keep them up and running for many long hours with poor ventilation. If your drives run warm, you can help increase their lifespan by using a small fan to direct airflow on the drives to minimize the chance of overheating. This can be a major problem in ham computer systems that are kept running for long stretches in contests or in bulletin-board-style operations. While most drives don't require frequent cleaning, heavy drive use may necessitate occasional cleaning of the head with isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab. If you're squeamish about taking your drive apart, a commercial disk-head cleaning kit that contains a specially treated cleaning disk may be used.

7. Be Ready to Cope with RFI. Computer RFI comes in two unpleasant forms. The more common one is that of the computer generating a good deal of RF hash, such that working weak-signal DX is difficult or impossible. The other one is that of your transmitted RF getting into the computer's innards, thereby upsetting its operation. Both are very real problems.

Computers produced before the FCC set RFI standards for PCs in 1981 are particularly troublesome. For such computers, wholesale shielding and brute-force filtering of all cables is often required if the system is to coexist with the ham gear. On newer computers RFI problems are less severe, and the machines have better shielding.

If you suffer computer RFI in one form or another, standard RFI suppression techniques can be applied. Some things you can do to minimize RFI problems include placing the computer on an AC circuit separate from the ham gear, moving the computer to a different position in the hamshack, filtering the PC's AC lines, and filtering or shielding the peripheral cables. Using an antenna located high and far from the hamshack and fed with coaxial cable helps.

8. Safeguard Computer Equipment Records. For the unthinkable disaster or theft, be sure to have records on your computer system as good as those you maintain for other household possessions. For replacement and insurance purposes, it's wise to have complete, accurate receipts, records of model and serial numbers, and original as well as replacement cost information on key computer items. You should have hardcopy (paper) copies of this data, preferably at least two copies, one at home and the other in your safe deposit drawer or other safe place.

The computer itself makes an excellent vehicle for tracking just such data. General-purpose databases can be used to handle such asset and inventory records with ease, or a specific household inventory program can be purchased for the purpose. Just be sure to have hardcopy files as well, and backup critical disk data such as these. Be certain, too, to keep the users' manuals for the PC and all peripherals and software together where you can get to them easily. (Even consider reading them from time to time!)

As you become increasingly familiar with your computer and its hamshack uses and applications, you will undoubtedly develop an "operating style" of your own. In the meantime, the few operating tips and suggestions we've presented should help you on your way to productive PC employment.

Wrapping It Up

This month, in the third of our hamshack computer series, we have focused on computer operation. To this end we reviewed the major uses for the computer in the hamshack, and we provided a number of hopefully useful operating tips and suggestions. Next time we'll get into some aspects of computer care and maintenance; wrapping up the series will be a discussion of PC software. See you then.

73, Karl, W8FX



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PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND PROJECTS FOR THE VHFER

The 1986 World-Wide VHF WPX Contest

When this reaches print, the second annual CQ VHF WPX Contest will be about nine weeks past. As of this writing, it is only one week past, but we're already getting excellent feedback. It seems this contest, like last year's, was a success—probably a bigger one, since we received 65 logs in the first 7 days after the contest. If this is any indication of how things will be, we'd better be prepared for an avalanche of logs!

Here in the northeast, conditions were only average on the bands above 144 MHz; however, the 50 MHz band played tricks all weekend, producing "spot" openings to various places all over North America. We had single-hop and double-hop E-skip to everywhere except W6-land (darn it!) and worked 81 prefixes—not to mention 100 grid squares—on 6 meters in the 48-hour contest period from our SCORE multi-op station, KC2PX. Our mighty little group sweated through the muggy weekend to make about 708 QSO's and 201 PX's on 5 bands, for a total preliminary score of 164,217. This is up a few Q's and down a few PX's from last year, resulting in a score that is 3.6% lower than our 1985 showing. While there was clearly more activity this year than last, we didn't have the extended tropo session on 144 MHz this year that we enjoyed all through Friday night in the 1985 contest. And while we had E-skip on 6, it wasn't as strong as in the 1985 contest. *C'est la vie.*

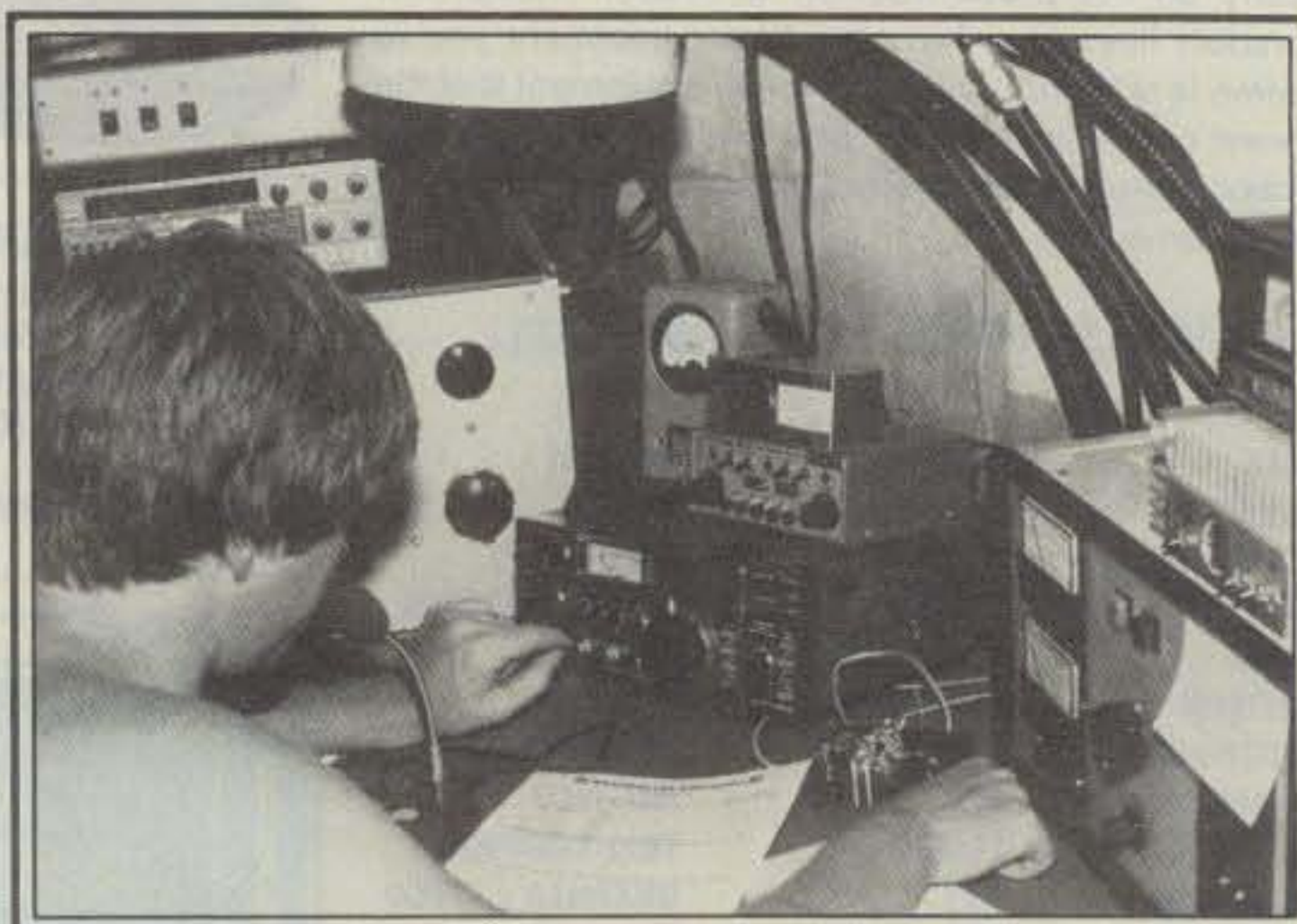
At club station KC2PX we relaxed our 50 MHz efforts a bit this year (compared with our NV6O/2 effort in 1985) by using a simple IC551D driving a 4-1000 amp and two 7-element KLM beams installed on separate towers for rapid direction switching. Last year we had this elaborate 6 meter rig based on a Collins KWM-380 and muTek transverter, and we used *three* 7-element KLM beams, including a pair stacked on the same tower for gain. Needless to say, last year's station worked a bit better, and netted us 257 Q's and 87 PX's on 50 MHz alone. But we don't feel too badly about making 234 Q's and 81 PX's, and I think we were competitive with other "home stations" in the northeast.

Our 2 meter QSO total was up this year from last, despite poorer band conditions. This was due primarily to our "killer" FM station (500 watts output to a pair of 4-element beams at 60 feet), which helped us bag about 100 QSO's on 146.52 simplex. The SCORE 2 meter weak-signal mode station played well, too; a pair of 3CX800A7's at 1.5 kw output to a pair of 19-element "Boomers" created a pretty big bang on the band. At KC2PX our 220 MHz QSO total more than doubled from last year, and we snagged six more PX's on the band. Seventy and 23 cm played about the same in '85 and '86.

I'm very anxious to find out how others did. If you have an unusual anecdote relating to the VHF WPX Contest, please jot me a note so we can all share in your experiences. I was happy to hear the big station at W1VD, operated by K1JX, on the air for the WPX. Clarke did very well, I'm sure, and he sounded tired by the end of the contest. John, W1XX, who operated station NA1L to last year's first place in the single-op/multi-band category, had a multi-op station running from Mt. Equinox, VT, a reknown VHF contest location. They may have taken the category nationally.

We've heard rumors of some very big scores from Europe, and I can't comment on this yet, but shall be anxious to see how the big stations did. You may remember that F6KAW/p, a portable group operating just 144 MHz, had the world's highest score in the 1985 VHF WPX. Did they do it again?

A friend and fellow VHF WPX Contest Committee member, N6NB, came east for the contest with plans of setting up a modest multiband QRP station atop Pack Monadnock Mountain in southern New Hampshire. K1KA had laid all the groundwork by securing permission for Wayne to operate from the famous contest site, and Wayne flew in on Thursday to ready for his drive to New England. Harold, KB2M, offered Wayne the loan of a dozen or so pieces of low-powered solid-state gear which would hopefully make things go smoothly. Wayne visited my home Thursday night, and I loaned him a Bird wattmeter, a clamp-on utility floodlight (for midnight antenna installations), an Astron 20 amp



Pete, KT2B, snags a new prefix multiplier on 432 MHz during the second annual Worldwide VHF WPX Contest at multi-op station KC2PX. The rig was an IC-740 driving a Microwave Modules MMT432 transverter, driving in turn a Tokyo Hi-Power 50 watt solid-state amp and then a Henry 2004A running 700 watts output to 4 stacked K2RIW 19-element Yagis. The setup worked fairly well.

power supply, a few "jerry" cans for gasoline, a large ice chest, and other assorted paraphernalia which should have proven useful.

Alas, things did not go very well for Wayne. Between the malfunctioning equipment, poorly performing antennas, hordes of mosquitoes, and foggy weather, his motivation to continue operations declined until, on Saturday afternoon, Wayne decided to abandon the hilltop and head for New Jersey. I spoke with N6NB/1 on 2 meters (and three other bands, but that doesn't mean things were going well) on Saturday and invited Wayne to visit our operation at KC2PX and do some operating with us, so his weekend wouldn't be a lost cause. He agreed, and said he'd be leaving New Hampshire as quickly as possible. We should have seen him by about midnight Saturday.

Noontime Sunday came and went, with no sign of Wayne. I began to think he's been eaten by the bears when the familiar rental car, complete with antennas and masts adorning the roof rack, pulled up to my house Sunday night about 10 o'clock. It turns out that Wayne spent most of Saturday night looking for a hotel room to rest his weary head (and other parts), determined that every room in all of New England had been booked since 1977, and ended up driving to the Connecticut/New York border before finding lodging early Sunday morning. I guess not even famous VHF contesters from the west coast get any respect around here.

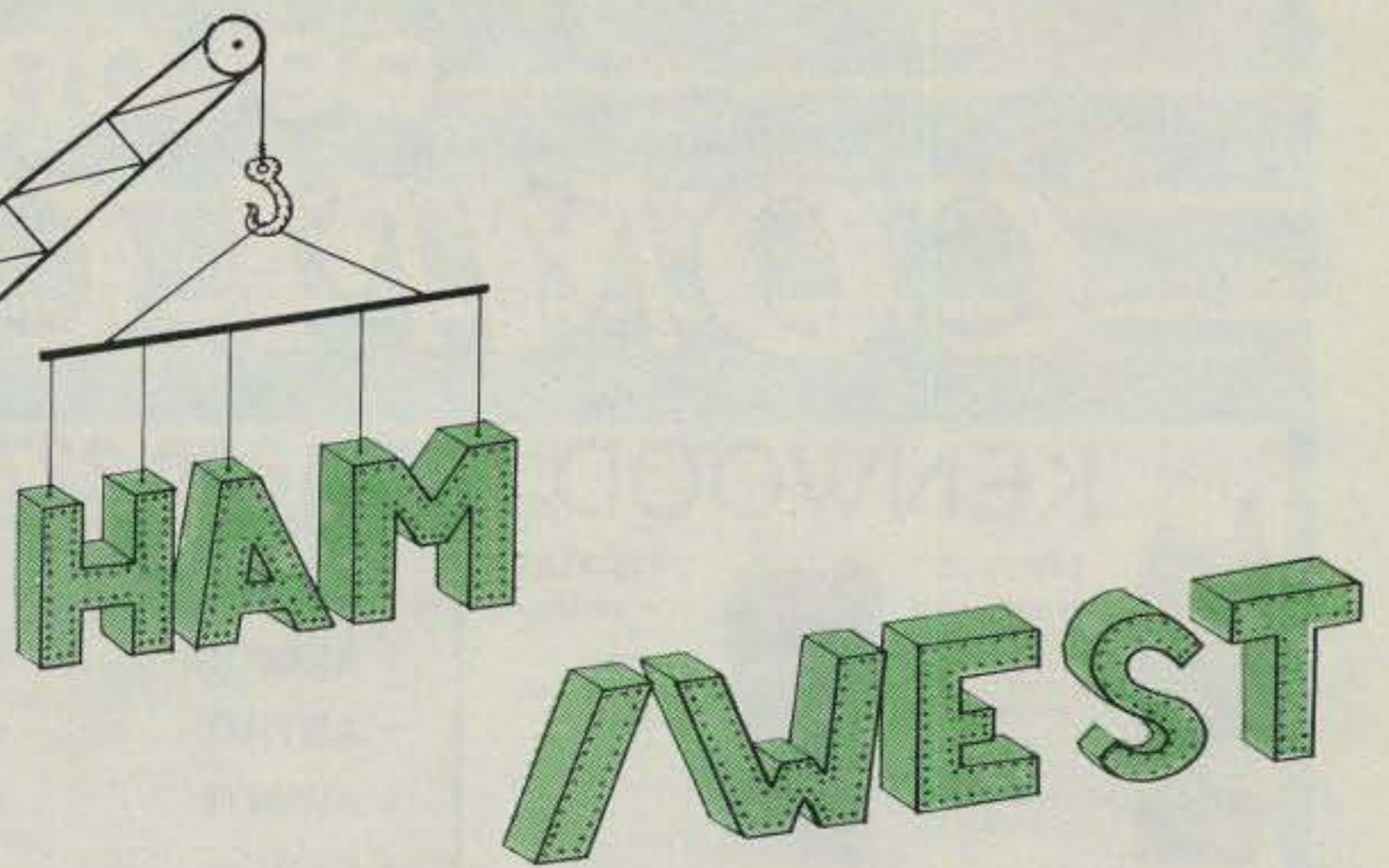
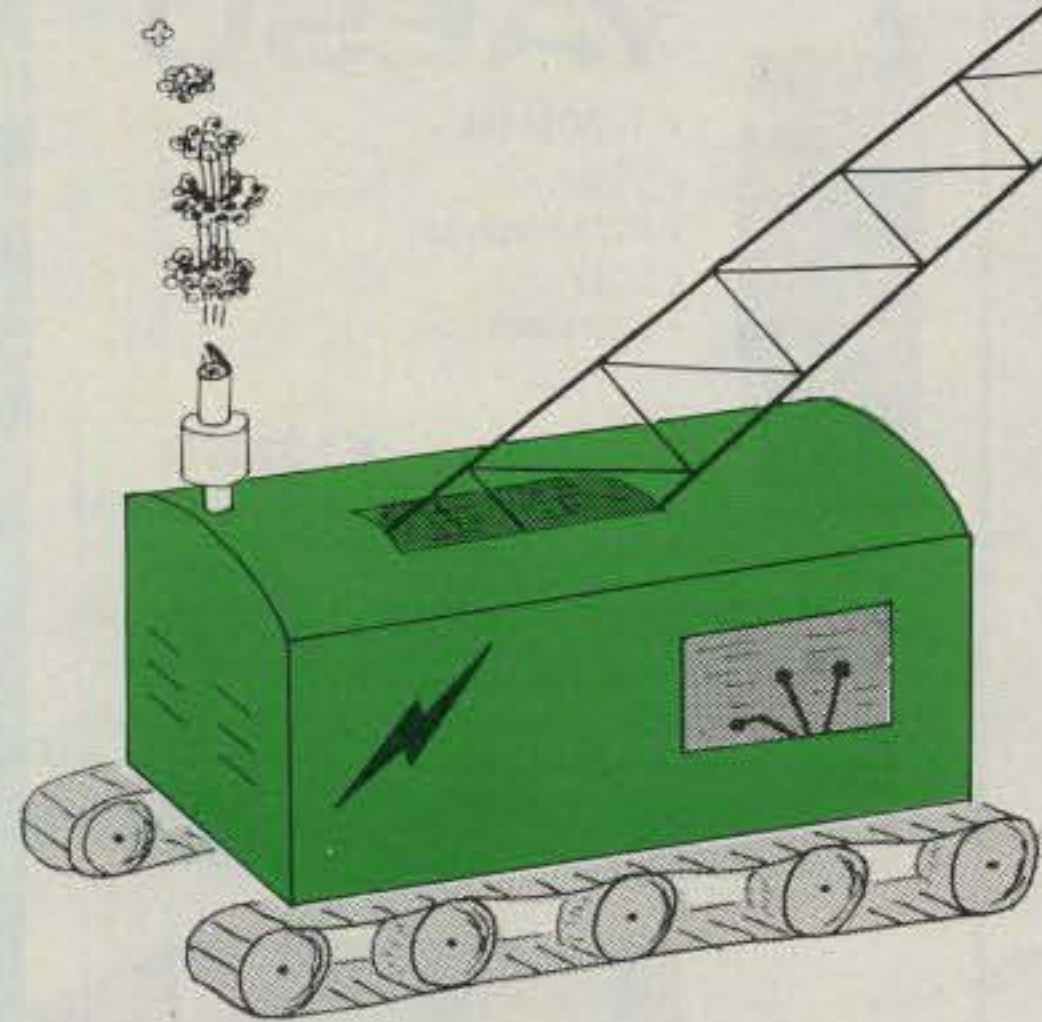
A Tower Grows in Jersey

W5UN surely has one of the largest 144 MHz antenna systems in the world (remember the picture?), but Mike Crawford, WA2VUN, has undertaken the task of erecting the largest free-standing, rotating antenna system in New Jersey—at least it's the largest one I know of. Mike, a welder and VHF/UHFer who does nothing halfway, decided a year ago to erect a rotatable 100 foot tower with stacked antennas for several bands. He realized his dream this June, with the installation of a Tri-Ex DX86 tower topped with a 24 foot mast and sitting on a rotating base platform. While the DX-86—an 86 foot tall, motorized, 5-section telescoping tower—is a commercially available item, all the other apparatus had to be designed and fabricated from scratch. The results can be seen, to some extent, in the accompanying photographs.

WA2VUN dug a very large hole (by hand—about 5 feet square and 7 feet deep) to contain the 6 or so yards of concrete required to support the monster, and planted a 6 foot tall homebrew base with self-con-

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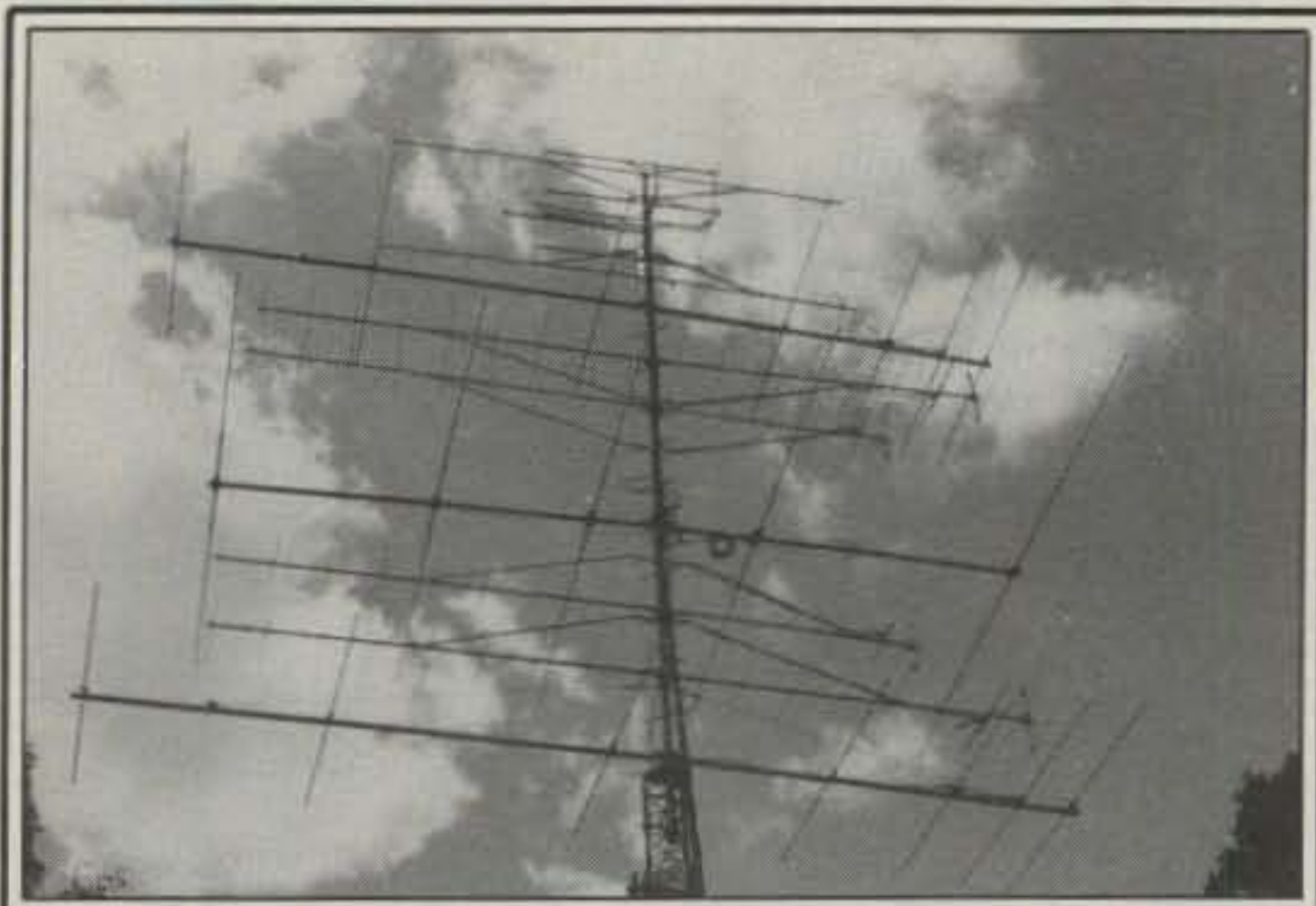


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The "Christmas tree" is made of aluminum at WA2VUN, W. Caldwell, NJ. The antennas, and the rather unique tower that supports them, are described in the column.

tained rotating system. The final drive system has about ten times more torque than the heaviest-duty amateur rotator available, and this is coupled to the tower via a heavy-duty chain-drive transmission. The behemoth tower sits atop a large circular platform spaced about a half-inch away from an identical plate containing the roller bearings which make the only mating surfaces for the tower and the base structure.

Tower rotation is controlled by a homebrew rotor box in the shack, and the azimuth position is transmitted back to an indicator in the shack via a selsyn. Tower height is controlled by an "up/down" switch in the shack, and it takes a few minutes for the tower to raise from its nesting height of 28 feet to its extended height, which places the uppermost antenna at 116 feet above ground. Tower rotation is limited to about 380 degrees by limit switches, and rotational speed is one r.p.m. Since the tower is free-standing (no guy wires), antennas may be installed up and down the length of the tower beginning just above roof level.

At the time these photos were taken (mid-July), Mike had already installed the following antennas on *just the mast* above the tower: 92-element F9FT array for 23 cm; pair of stacked 21-element F9FT Yagis for 70 cm; 7-element vertical Yagi for 135 cm FM; pair of stacked 19-element "Boomers" for 2 meters; pair of stacked 17-element "Boomers" for 135 cm; pair of stacked 7-element KLM HD long-boom Yagis for 6 meters; Hy-Gain 105BA 5-element Yagi for 10 meters. This total of 232 elements for 6 bands is only the beginning, since he intends to add 5-element monoband Yagis for 15 and 20 meters, and possibly a 2- or 3-element 40 meter beam as well.

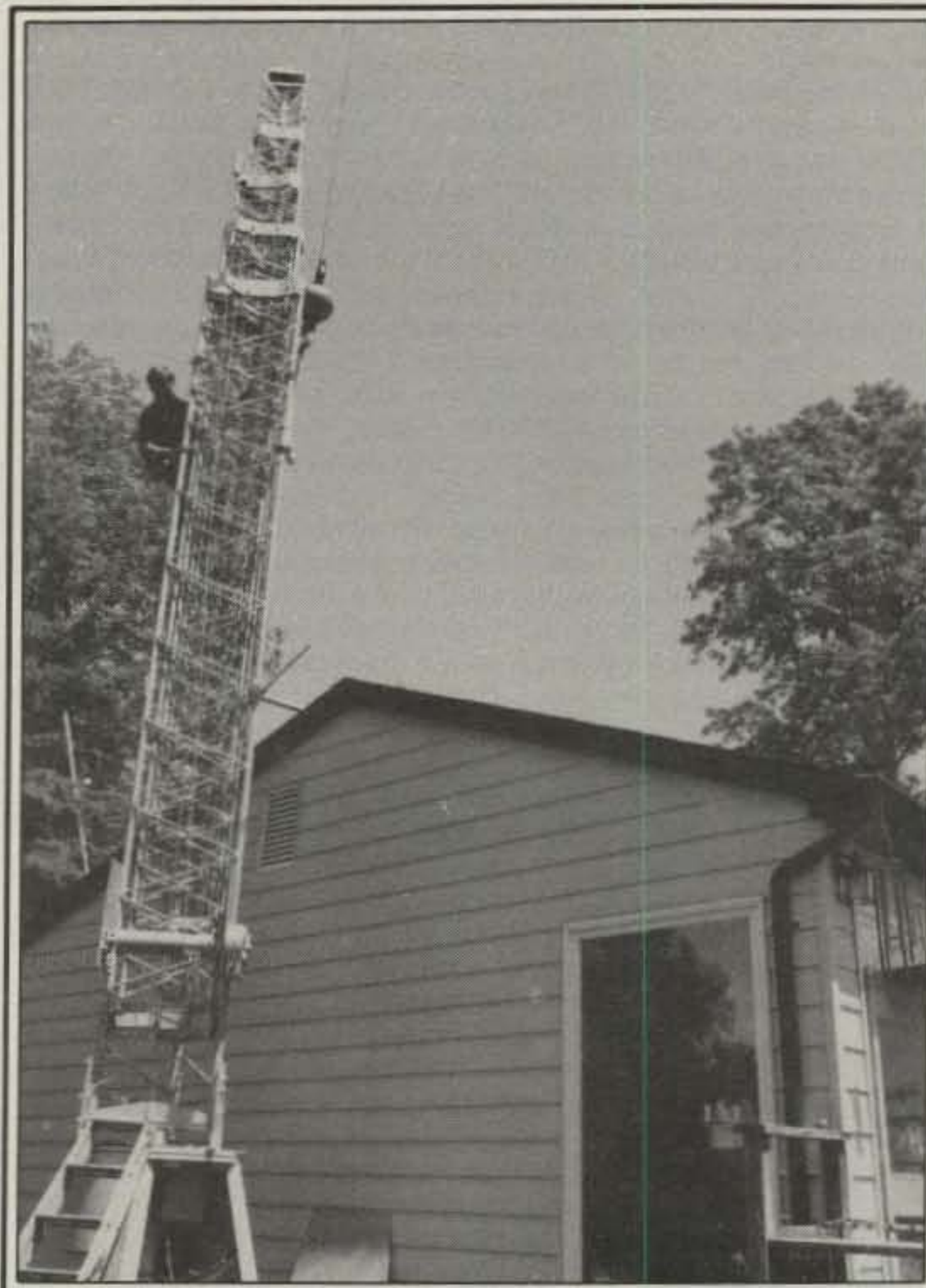
The total system—including base, tower, motors, mast, and antennas—weighs something like two tons. Yet the system occupies a scant 25 square feet of real estate and could truly be built on a city lot. I was present in mid-May when the crane set the tower on its base and then the specially fabricated, climbable mast in the tower; this was a sight to behold. The entire installation, due to Mike's very considerable advance planning, took perhaps 15 minutes.

Last heard, WA2VUN was still in the process of wiring up all the controls into the shack. He was working *E-skip* on 50 MHz, and was overheard telling a station, "Hold on a minute so I can run outside and see where my antennas are aimed. I have this \$20,000 antenna system and still have to run outside to see where it's pointed" By now, I'm sure that problem is solved.

Product Review: The Alinco ALR-206T 2 Meter FM Transceiver

While this column is primarily dedicated to discussions of weak-signal work, no VHF column is truly complete without an occasional excursion to our most popular band and mode: 2 meter FM. Like most active amateurs, I have a 2 meter FM rig in my car, plus a couple of handhelds and a "base" rig tuned to a local calling frequency. Unlike many, however, I live in the New York metropolitan area, which means lots and lots of QRM. Only the most worthy FM transceivers survive the severe co-channel and adjacent-channel interference problems this region offers, and I've been disappointed to find that many modern rigs cannot hack our local RF environment.

For this reason, I continued to use an old Kenwood TR7400A for



Here's Mike, WA2VUN, handing on his new DX-86 motorized tower while the construction crane lowers it onto its custom rotating base.

years after its natural obsolescence. The TR7400A, big and burdensome as it is, has excellent IF filtering which offers sufficient 15 kHz adjacent channel rejection to make it usable in the overcrowded NY metro area, where repeaters occupy every assignable channel and then some. When my trusty old TR7400A was stolen from my vehicle last fall, I was heartbroken—more about the loss of a good rig than about the cost to repair the car.

Then I met Everett Gracey, President of Alinco Electronics, at the Dayton Hamvention. He offered a challenge I couldn't refuse: to try the Alinco ALR-206T transceiver for a while. If I didn't like it, I could return it. This seemed pretty fair, so I took delivery of a factory-fresh ALR-206T a short while later, fully expecting to dislike the tiny radio; after all, it wasn't nearly as big as a TR7400A, so how could its IF filtering be sufficient? And, could a box this small actually put out 25 watts without bursting into flames? (Remember, I'm from the old school. My first 25



The new Alinco ALR-206T is small but powerful, delivering 25 watts output across the entire band. Uncluttered front panel is the result of a design that puts the majority of the operating controls right into your hand.

watt 2 meter transmitter used an 829B—that's a vacuum tube, for you newcomers.)

I received the ALR-206T in May and have had it in operation for about ten weeks as of this writing. Never have I been more pleased with a piece of new gear. After nearly three months of harsh service, only two bothersome quirks have surfaced: The LCD display "blacks out" when left for extended periods in direct summer sunlight, and the microphone cord has a tendency to pull out of the back of its connector, especially if tugged on a lot. Neither of these "problems" are insurmountable, and I feel they're quite common to modern mobile transceivers.

Being a frequent user of a repeater on 146.985 MHz, I am painfully aware of the adjacent-channel problems many of our users have with another local repeater on 147.000 MHz, only 15 kHz (and less than 30 miles) away. While there is an ongoing dispute over the operation of the 147.000 repeater and its possible "wide" modulation, I am personally never bothered by this powerful adjacent signal. The ALR-206T is to thank for this blessing. Its receiver is razor-sharp and precisely on frequency, making operation within 15 kHz of a very strong and heavily modulated signal a pleasure. In my opinion, this is one of the most important characteristics by which an FM transceiver should be measured. You know what they say, "If you can't hear 'em, you can't work 'em."

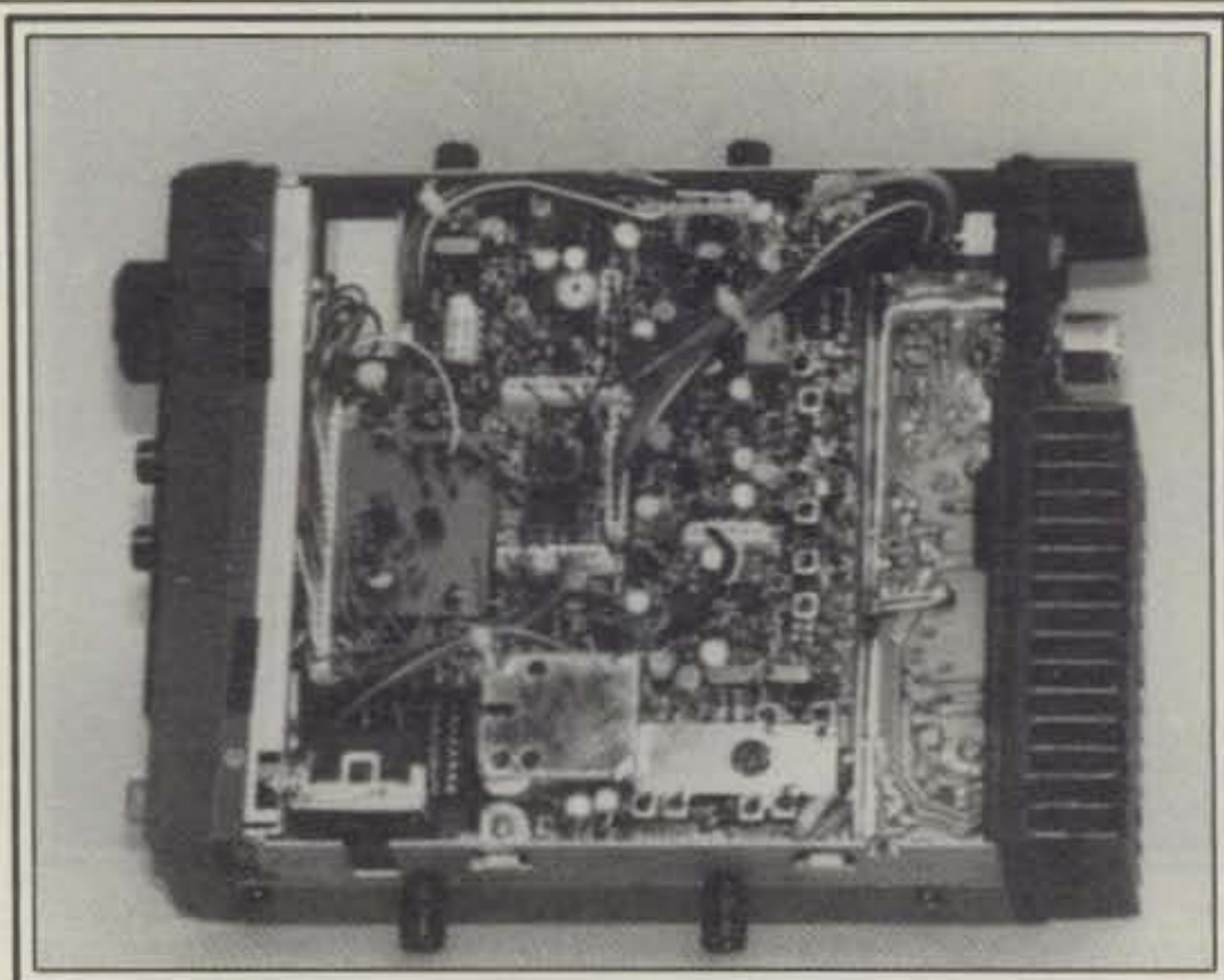
After ten weeks of pleasurable mobile operation with the ALR-206T, I felt it was finally time to run some laboratory tests on the rig and assign some numbers to its obviously impressive performance. A visit to the local RF lab at Hewlett Packard revealed the Alinco radio to be a strong performer. Thanks again to Charlie Rothschild, WB2INB, for his assistance in accessing the requisite equipment. Tabulated data on the ALR-206T under evaluation is shown in Table I. (All data was taken with 13.80 VDC applied.)

Parameter	Measurement
Xmtr output: 144 MHz	4.3 W (low), 26 W (high)
145 MHz	4.3 W (low), 26 W (high)
146 MHz	4.3 W (low), 26 W (high)
147 MHz	4.3 W (low), 26 W (high)
148 MHz	4.3 W (low), 25 W (high)
Current drain, receive	100 mAdc (display lamp "off") 200 mAdc (display lamp "on")
Current drain, transmit	2.2 Adc, low power position 4.5 Adc, high power position
Xmtr spurious output	X2 harmonic, -54 dB (low power) -56 dB (high power) X3 harmonic, -65 dB (low power) -65 dB (high power) No other spurious within 70 dB
Rcvr sensitivity	-115.3 dBm (.38 uV) for 20 dB quieting
Rcvr "S" meter level	S1 = -115.3 dBm (.38 uV) S3 = -110.3 dBm (.69 uV) S5 = -107.6 dBm (.93 uV) S7 = -105.4 dBm (1.2 uV) S9 = -103.4 dBm (1.5 uV) 20/S9 = -100.3 dBm (2 uV) 40/S9 = -97.2 dBm (3 uV)
Average "S" unit	2.6 dB
MDS* w/400 Hz mod.	-130.4 dBm (.07 uV)
w/1 kHz mod.	-126.3 dBm (.11 uV)
15 kHz adj. ch. rej.	>> 60 dB
Min. squelch threshold	-122 dBm (.18 uV)
Max. squelch threshold	-114 dBm (.45 uV)
Squelch range	8 dB
Rcvr. spurious rejection	114.3 dB, ±65 kHz and +290, -495 kHz. None others noted.

*MDS = minimum discernible signal; data taken with 5 kHz peak deviation. Readings vary with modulating frequency.

Table I—Evaluation data for the Alinco ALR-206T.

Based on the above, the ALR-206T meets or exceeds all its ratings except possibly the second harmonic rejection, which appears to be about 4 to 6 dB above its rated level, but would normally be further reduced by using a tuned antenna system. One performance parameter which is difficult to specify but on which I attempted to take data is that



The Alinco ALR-206T top view with cover removed. Layout is densely packed but neat and serviceable. The P.A. heatsink takes up most of the rear panel, leaving just enough room for the UHF antenna receptacle and 2-pin power connector. The supplied mobile bracket is an easy "push in, pull out" affair which is simple but secure.

of 15 kHz adjacent channel leakthrough; I'll define this as the power ratio required to affect a change in readability of a desired signal already limiting the receiver. This is a most critical parameter to users in densely populated areas, and is probably more important than sensitivity under uncrowded band conditions.

Based on my measurements, I'd proclaim the ALR-206T to have one of the best 2 meter FM receivers I've ever used (and I've used a lot of them). Adjacent channel leakthrough (spaced 15 kHz) does not vary from -100 dBm (2.23 uV) all the way to +13 dBm (1 volt!) once the receiver is already limited by the "desired" signal. The "fully limiting" signal used for my tests was one at -94 dBm (4.47 uV), fully modulated (5 kHz peak deviation at 1 kHz rate); this appeared to be the level required to put the IF limiters into full saturation. To say the ALR-206T's receiver is remarkable would be an understatement.

A look at the Alinco's schematic diagram reveals the "secret" behind its excellent dynamic receiver performance. The first RF stage, a 3SK129 dual-gate FET, is protected by a pair of back-to-back diodes across the receiver input line, and the signal applied to its gate is filtered by a dual-tuned bandpass network; its drain then drives a triple-tuned bandpass filter before the signal reaches the first mixer, a 2SK192 JFET. The mixer's output at 10.7 MHz is filtered by a four-pole discrete crystal lattice and then fed through a pair of cascaded 2SC2668 bipolar IF amplifiers before reaching an integrated IF-AMP-DETECTOR module labeled "IR3NO6," a circuit with which I am not familiar. This IF-AMP-DETECTOR integrated circuit contains, according to the block diagram, the second local oscillator, second mixer, second IF amplifier, and limiter, discriminator, and squelch circuit.

Between the second RF mixer and the IF AMP-LIMITER is a multi-pole ceramic filter tuned to the second IF at 455 kHz. A separate IF amplifier drives the S-meter detector, while the output from the discriminator drives an integrated audio power amplifier module labeled "uPC575C2." Again, I'm not familiar with the audio amplifier integrated circuit, but the manufacturer rates the output to be more than 1.6 watts. I didn't measure this, but can say that the internal (bottom-mounted) speaker produces enough audio to overcome a fairly noisy environment (automobile with windows open at 55 mph).

The ALR-206T transmitter is straightforward, using an integrated CPU/PLL (central processing unit/phase lock loop), crystal oscillator/divider, and prescaler with mostly discrete stages comprising the main RF chain. The "PA Unit" which contains the power amplifier and its driver stage (a 2SC2538 bipolar power device), output detector, P-I-N diode T/R switch, high/low power range circuit, and 6-pole output RF filter, is located in a separate housing from the main circuit board. The 25 watt power amplifier is a hybrid module which would require replacement in the event of a malfunction. The unit under test did not malfunction at any time, despite my efforts to force a failure; the ALR-206T is apparently capable of driving an open or short circuit without damage.

Since the Alinco's T/R switching is all solid-state, I imagine it is well suited for automatic high-speed digital communications (packet), but I

did not attempt to measure its switching speed. Possibly a call or note to the importer will shed some light on this.

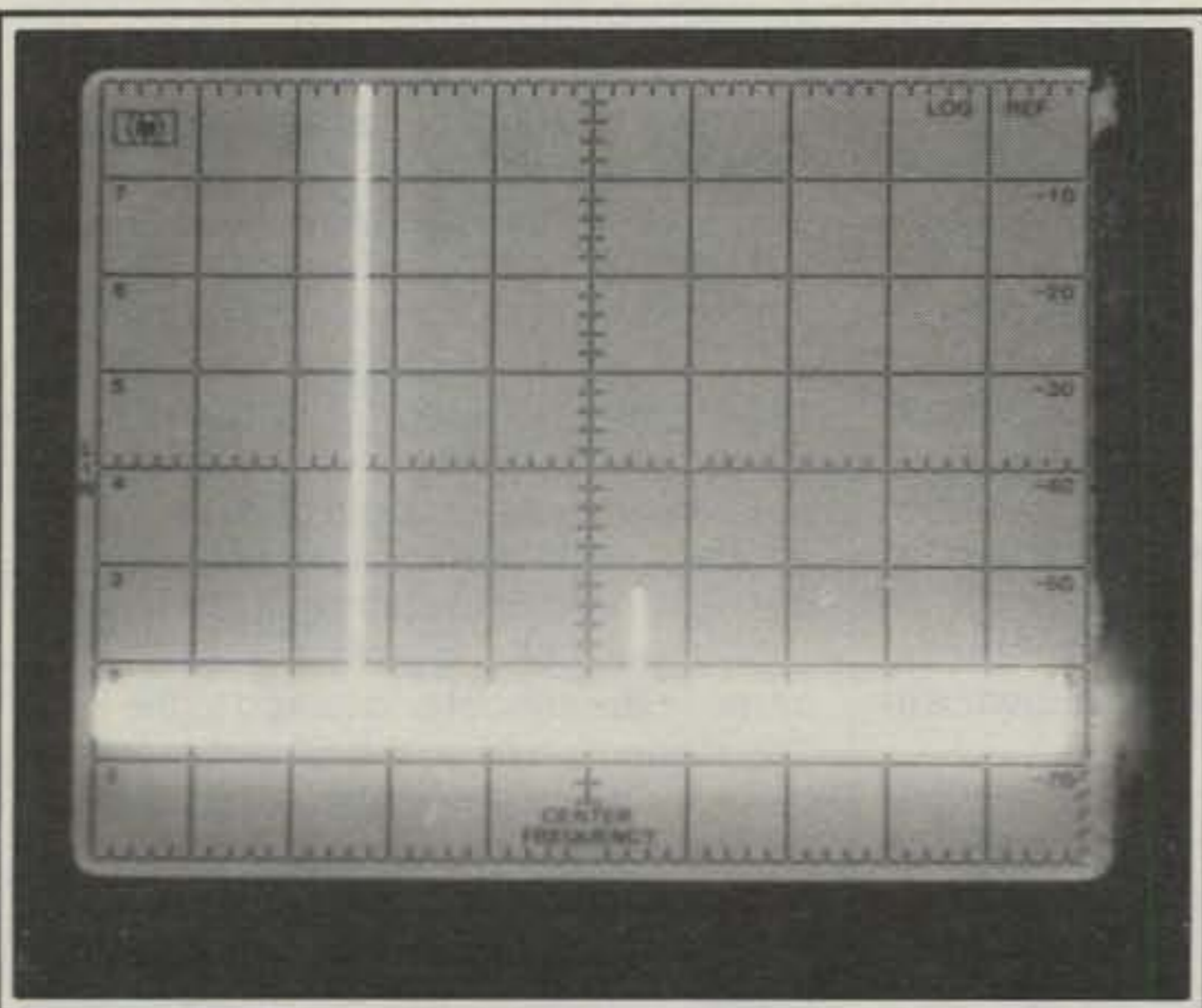
Speaking of light, the ALR-206T, having a liquid-crystal display (LCD) of operating frequency, offset, memory selected, and S/R/F meter, needs a source of light to be readable. No problem in daylight, of course, when the display offers plenty of contrast. At night, an internal light source may be switched on by the front panel "lamp" switch; this creates a cool, green glow as the background for the black LCD segments. It's quite attractive. The front panel does have three LED (light-emitting diode) indicators as well. These show the selection of "duplex," "low power," and "busy" (on receive) or "transmit" status.

Frequency programming of the ALR-206T is accomplished in any of three ways: One may select a frequency by "keying it in" with the 16-button key pad on the rear of the factory-supplied microphone; one may "dial" the frequency in using the five-position, spring-return rotary switch located on the left side of the front panel; or one may use the "up/down" push buttons located atop the factory-supplied microphone. Either of these latter approaches requires that the user watch the LCD frequency display to determine when he has reached the desired channel. At home or parked roadside, any of these methods works well. While operating an automobile, the preferred method is the keypad entry, which is quickly accomplished and only requires taking one's eyes off the road for perhaps a second—not enough time to get into trouble under normal traffic conditions.

Any of ten preprogrammed channels may be selected using just two keypad buttons. Once the user gets the hang of this, a preprogrammed channel may be selected without taking his eyes off the road at all; surely this is the approach condoned by the National Traffic Safety Council. The rig emits a subtle but reassuring "beep" tone with each keypad stroke to let the operator know that some change in programming has been effected. "Keyboard Operation" instructions consume four pages of the ALR-206T owner's manual, and the new user is well advised to familiarize himself with all the keyboard functions before pushing the mike button. It is entirely possible to transmit *anywhere* in the 2 meter band with this radio, regardless of the frequency displayed on receive, if you don't know what you're doing.

Other front-panel switches select ± 600 kHz transmit offsets, duplex/simplex mode, display lamp on/off, a non-standard transmitter offset (which uses one memory channel that must be preprogrammed), volume, squelch, and power on/off. The ALR-206T contains a long-life battery for semi-permanent storage of CPU information; that is, the rig will "remember" all your preselected memory channels *and* the last frequency you selected prior to shutting the power off, even if it is disconnected from its 12 volt power source. This is very handy, and I can't imagine using a transceiver that "forgets" where it was last used.

The Alinco also has "bells and whistles" which will be used by only some owners; for example, the ALR-206T contains a DTMF ("touch tone") encoder in its microphone and a synthesized, programmable subaudible ("PL") tone generator within its case. The desired "PL"



Spectrum analyzer photograph of the ALR-206T output "low" power (5 watts), which is a "worst case" condition. The second harmonic is down 54 dB from the 146 MHz signal; all other spurious outputs are down more than 60 dB.

tone is selected by a DIP switch with the aid of a chart contained in the owner's manual. Further, the ALR-206T is capable of frequency scanning any band segment or the preprogrammed memory channels with the touch of a couple of keypad buttons. It takes some getting used to, but this is a very versatile rig!

The Alinco ALR-206T measures just 5.5"(W) \times 2"(H) \times 7.5"(D) and weighs only 2.8 lbs. Its diminutive size allowed its installation alongside the center console in my Toyota Cressida, a car not noted for its abundant free space. Because of its small power consumption, even in the 25 watt mode, a pair of #16 conductors are more than sufficient to handle the DC line to the car battery or base power supply.

Oh, yes . . . I had mentioned a problem with the LCD display in the fourth paragraph of this review. This problem occurs only when the rig is in my car with the display window facing "up" (towards the sun) and the car windows all closed on a very hot and sunny day. The display goes totally black and cannot be read until it cools off a bit, usually after a few minutes of driving with the air conditioning on. This is symptomatic of liquid-crystal displays in general, and has only actually occurred twice with my rig and installation. The display blanking does not otherwise affect the rig's operation.

The Alinco ALR-206T is manufactured in Osaka, Japan and is imported by Alinco Electronics, Inc., 44 Glen Carran Circle, Sparks, NV 89431. It is available from leading amateur radio distributors.

Big News

Before I go, I should mention that the fabulous F9FT "Tonna" antennas from France are available from a newly franchised east-coast distributor who is importing these products in large quantities. If you're interested in Tonna VHF/UHF antennas, try writing to The PX Shack, 52 Stonewyck Drive, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 or calling (201) 874-6013. Ivars, KC2PX, is a nice guy and will be glad to help you out. Also, the excellent muTek Ltd. VHF/UHF products, some of which have been reviewed in this column, are now being distributed by "Q" Products, 417 Staudaer St., Bozeman, MT 59715. Write, or call Gene, KB7Q, at (406) 587-9150 for more info on this innovative British gear.

73, Steve, WB2WIK

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INFO ON AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING

Youngsters—The Future of Our Hobby

Amateur radio exists for many reasons. None is more important than providing a reservoir, a beginning, for those who might someday become gifted high-tech engineers and technicians. In today's sophisticated technology times no nation can survive without highly trained professionals. Electronics is more than a profession; it is a lifelong calling, a love of tinkering and experimenting, of trying something different, making it work, and getting excited about it. It takes those with a certain psychological makeup.

Those who make electronics their lifelong work usually begin at an early age. They start with science projects, or as a computer buff or amateur radio operator. Innovators start as curious experimenters. Crackerjack technicians are more than trained machines. They are lifelong tinkers. Ingenuity, genius, talent, aptitude, brightness—call it what you may, it isn't something that you develop. It is something that you have from birth. Under the right circumstances, the seed once planted germinates and eventually blossoms into ability and professionalism. Amateur radio is frequently the catalyst.

We must continually seek out those who are inquisitive and have the capacity to excel in a high-tech career. The Amateur Radio Service historically has provided the reservoir from which many of our finest scientists have sprouted. Hamming provides us with a method of recognizing aptitude and a training ground for those with an interest in electronics.

In recent years, however, substantially fewer youngsters are entering amateur radio. Most of those who do are turned off by what they see. Their classroom environment is filled with the magic of computers and satellite communications. Few are excited about being restricted to Morse code operation. They consider it to be antiquated. Most who do become amateur radio operators consider the code a *necessary evil* and want to get it out of the way as fast as possible. Their only interest in the code seems to be that they know they must have knowledge of it before they can go on up the amateur radio license ladder. A sad fact is that most Novices today never go on the CW airwaves.

FCC statistics show 10,000 fewer Novices than just three years ago. More than 30,000 of the 50,000 amateur radio operators over that period dropped out of the hobby, never making it even to the voice privileges Technician level. It is obvious that we need to make the service more attractive to beginners, and it is destined to happen soon.

In Japan it is a different story. Ham radio there is big. Very big! In a nation smaller than the state of California (and with a population less than half that of the United States), Japan has more than twice as many amateur radio operators as our entire country and its possessions put together. Many go on to high-tech careers after first having had their interest fueled by the wonders of amateur radio. It is little wonder that Japan leads the world in high-technology and consumer electronics manufacturing. Hardly a day goes by when we don't read about some Japanese innovation.

There has to be a reason for their success. I believe part of it is the manner in which they create desire (particularly among their youngsters) by providing an electronic playground—a no-code ham class—for their people. A certain percentage go on to high-tech careers. The larger the pool, the greater the number of engineers and technicians. It is that simple.

Many countries around the world—many of them previously closed to amateur radio for what is perceived to be national security interests—are now recognizing its technological value. Amateur radio is a national sport in the Soviet Union. Beginners there start early by simply listening to shortwave radio.

You have developed nations, emerging nations, and the so-called "third world." A characteristic of a developed nation seem also to be a developed amateur radio program. Interest in electronics and technical achievement go hand in hand. Think about it. Where amateur radio is big, so is the country's progress, self-esteem, and their overall influence in the world.

Having been a ham for more than three decades and having witnessed a severe deterioration of amateur radio interest among our youth, I am really concerned about our country's technological future prospects. From where are our replacement engineers and scientists going to come and what about our technological position in the free world? Will it also deteriorate?

Amateur radio statistics indicate that *we are going backward*. It is vital that we place renewed emphasis on bringing new blood, particularly youngsters, into our hobby, not because we need radio operating activity to utilize (and therefore protect) our valuable amateur radio spectrum, but because it is essential down the road to our nation. The following Novice "success story" shows what happens when youngsters are interested and guided.

78 New 6th Grade Novices

About a year ago, 37-year-old George Gruenther, a sixth-grade social-studies teacher at James Madison Middle School in Burlington, Iowa, was studying Newfoundland in his class. He came across the name Marconi. Marconi was the first to send a transatlantic radio message to Newfoundland. At that time he knew nothing about amateur radio.

It wasn't long before Gruenther was investigating the Iowa Illinois Amateur Radio Club in Burlington, Iowa. George Smyth, K0KOP (one of our VE's), helped Gruenther get started. A few short months later he became a Novice, KA0VPM.

George Gruenther asked his class of 20 social-studies students if they would like to learn about radio and Morse code and possibly even get their Novice licenses. They were all very excited! It wasn't long before they too were learning the code with the help of the radio club—particularly John Lenahan, K0RW, and Larry Newby, WB0BHF.

Gruenther had five other classes, and they too wanted to participate in the project. The Novice amateur radio classes at James Madison Middle School swelled to 143 students! George arranged for the students to do most of their social studies as homework so he could concentrate on amateur radio during class time. He had the full support of the principal, John Smull.

Members of the amateur radio club came to the school and talked to the kids. The students had built a crystal radio in a previous class. They were told that with amateur radio they not only would be able to hear foreign countries, but would be able to talk back to them as well. This kindled their interest even more! Club members put out the word on various nets that code oscillators and keys were needed, and did they ever start coming in! Some even came in from as far away as South Dakota.

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator,
P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

One amateur donated a Heathkit HW-101 to the school. John Lenahan had a code keyboard and that made a big difference. The kids would get on the keyboard and send messages to each other. The students were allowed to check out the oscillators at night to practice at home. There were never any oscillators left over. There was always a waiting list for the 18 oscillators.

The kids' grades, self-confidence, and self-esteem increased. They worked harder and harder. The Iowa Illinois Amateur Radio Club volunteered all sorts of books, equipment, gadgets—support. They would get on the 2 meter band and scrounge up more oscillators and keys for the kids. A complete operating amateur radio station was set up—the antenna one weekend, the equipment the other. The kids sold jars of honey to finance some of the equipment purchases that John made at the Dayton HamVention.

On May 15th, three months after beginning the Novice classes, the kids were ready. John Lenahan, Larry Newby, and Willie Anderson administered the Novice tests that our VEC program provided in three groups. The code exams were from the Gordon West/WB6NOA 5 word-per-minute code test tape. Each group got a different test.

Sixty-one kids passed the code test the first go-round. On the 29th of May more code and written tests were given in the school cafeteria. All together, 78 new 11- and 12-year-old Novices emerged! John said examining 143 Novices was a little breath-taking! He said it took him a while to sign all of the applications at his dining-room table. The club is now addressing the issue of upgrading the kids to Technician. The story made the front page of their local newspaper, complete with a photo of 12-year-old Jennifer making her first Morse code radio contact!

A great success story for ham radio thanks to the efforts of a motivated teacher and an amateur radio club! Our bet is that at least one of those kids will be an electronic engineer thanks to them. Being a VEC, we review a lot of 610's (applications). Very few are from youngsters. We need more of this sort of thing!

Novice Oscillators, Keys, Manuals . . .

We published that Novice success story in our twice a month ham newsletter. It got a lot of attention. We also asked if anyone could help make low-cost Novice study material and code equipment available.

Bob Grove, WA5PYQ, of Brasstown, North Carolina offered his Grove Enterprises engineering and production capability to provide low-cost code oscillators. Gordon West, WB6NOA, called and agreed to let us purchase Morse code keys (which he imports from the Orient) and code-learning/practice tapes at es-

entially his cost. We get special volume discount prices as a dealer for various study guides. Both the League and AMECO gave us special "deals." The bottom line is that we have put together a complete Novice package that we believe is the most comprehensive (and lowest priced) ever devised. We are offering it without a profit motive at essentially our cost. The package contains:

Morse Code Oscillator (9V battery not included)	Reg. \$9.95
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Things Are About To Change For The New Novice

Both our FCC and Canada's DOC (Department of Communications) are aware that changes are needed in the amateur radio entry level. Both regulatory bodies have suggested changes, and as I write this, they are considering the appropriate path of action to take. The DOC has suggested and the two largest Canadian national organizations have supported an entry-level no-code certificate. (They don't call them licenses in Canada.) A 7 wpm code endorsement will permit voice privileges on 10 meters.

The FCC proposal, patterned on a petition from the ARRL and others, would allow voice privileges on segments of the 10 meter and 1215-1300 MHz band in addition to 220-225 MHz VHF operation. The FCC/ARRL Novice recommendation still requires 5 wpm code proficiency.

One thing is for certain: It will be easier to get into amateur radio in this continent, and the enhanced operating privileges will be more attractive to beginners. I predict a big expansion in amateur radio. We will probably see what the FCC and DOC have in mind for their respective



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CIRCLE 32 ON READER SERVICE CARD

October 1986 • CQ • 85

amateur radio beginners sometime around Christmas.

Whatever new Novice privileges Canada and the U.S. permit will still fall short of what Japan allows its amateur radio newcomers. They have a low-power (10 watt) no-code phone class that permits long-distance HF operation on all bands except 160 and 20 meters. It is unbelievably popular! Strictly speaking, this is in violation of the ITU rules which allow no-code operation only above 30 MHz. Japan gets around this by stating that any radio operation is allowable under the rules, providing it does not cause interference to other nations. No other country has ever complained about Japan's no-code HF license.

From The Mailbag

We try to answer general-interest questions in this column. This month's topic . . .

Code is a problem for me. How does the testing and code credit work? The ITU members (about 150 different countries) agreed several years ago that Morse Code proficiency would remain a requirement for amateur radio operation above 30 MHz (International Radio Regulations, Article 32, Section I, §3.1). Japan bends the rules a little, as we mentioned above. In reality it appears that a nation can do pretty much what it wants to.

While the international law states that amateurs shall prove that they are "able to send correctly by hand and receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals," our FCC allows volunteer examiners to waive the sending requirement. There is no provision for this waiver in the §Part 97 rules, but it is mentioned in the instructions sent to all VECs. A VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) acts as the FCC's testing administrator, since all testing is now prepared and conducted by ham volunteers (VE's).

It is the FCC's experience that if a person can receive Morse code, they possess sending ability, too. There is no international requirement for receiving code at a specific speed. Theoretically, as far as international law is concerned, one word per minute legally could qualify you for all amateur privileges.

§Part 97, a section of the Communications Act of 1934, defines the U.S. Morse code requirements for ham band operation. They are 5 wpm for Novice/Technician level, 13 wpm for General/Advanced level, and 20 wpm for the top-of-the-line Extra class ticket.

The §Part 97 rules governing Morse code examinations do not specify the testing format that VE's should use. Some require correct answers to questions asked about what was transmitted, while others correct copy transcription for a one minute period out of five. Still others require various combinations. The test can even be oral.

There is no FCC requirement that the code be transcribed on paper. Some people copy the code in their heads and then answer seven out of ten questions, a multiple-choice or a fill-in-the-blanks format examination. It is even legal to pass an amateur who simply correctly tells the VE what generally has been transmitted. This is a particularly useful method when testing the handicapped. Again, it is totally up to the volunteer examiner. Passing mark is 70 percent. The exam objective is for the applicant to be able to *communicate* by the Morse code language. While you don't have to put anything down, you are required to be able to know what is being sent.

Applicants who hold commercial First or Second Class Radiotelegraph licenses (or who have held one within five years) get automatic credit for the 20 wpm code exam. No code credit is given to amateurs who hold foreign ham licenses or those operating with a U.S.-issued reci-

procal amateur operator license. Even though our country has accepted these operators' own nations' examinations and has issued them a U.S. amateur (reciprocal) license, they must take the code tests like everyone else if they want a regular United States ham ticket.

Amateurs are responsible for knowing all 26 letters of the alphabet, the numerals 0-9, the period, the comma, the question mark, and certain operating prosigns (\overline{AR} , \overline{SK} , \overline{BT} , and \overline{DN}). Five characters are considered one word. Each punctuation mark, prosign, or numeral is counted as two characters. If a sending test is given (and it is at the option of the VE), a straight, semi-automatic (bug), or electronic keyer may be used, but not an electronic keyboard keyer.

Only one General class or above volunteer examiner is required to administer the 5 wpm Novice code test. A formal VEC accredited testing team consisting of three Extra-class-level VE's is needed to administer the 13 or 20 wpm code test. All applicants for code (or written) amateur examinations must apply using FCC Form 610, June 1984 or July 1985 versions only. Earlier application form versions can't be used since they are not suitable for the FCC's new volunteer examination program.

The VE will grade your test immediately after you complete it, and you are advised of the results. The test paper is retained by the VE for one year (if a Novice examination) or sent by the VE team to the VEC if for 13 or 20 wpm. All applicants who pass a Morse examination are issued a certificate indicating that they have attained a specific code speed proficiency, or have upgraded to a new license class.

Every VEC has these certificate blanks available for its examiners. VE's administering the 5 wpm test can make out their own certificates. It can be as simple as a short note. This certificate indicates that the applicant has code examination credit for a period of one year at the specified speed. Instead of having to take another code test, the code credit certificate is given to the VE at a subsequent test session when taking the needed written test in order to upgrade.

Getting a new license or upgrading also requires successful completion of a written test. If you do that, then the VE sends the application directly to the FCC in Gettysburg, or to the VEC in the case of Technician and higher class operator levels. After a review process the VEC then sends it to Gettysburg, and about six weeks later you get a new upgraded license. You can immediately operate your radio set with your new privileges even though you haven't received the upgraded FCC license yet. The certificate also allows temporary "Instant Upgrade" privileges. Your new operating rights won't be permanent, however, until the license is issued.

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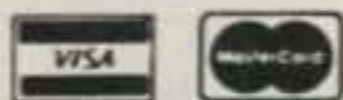
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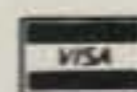
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NEWS OF COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

*They spoke, I think, of cycles past.
They spoke, I think, of DX at last.
One thing I remember:
CQ Worldwide Tests go forever . . .
Every October.*

We knew it was one of the Locals coming up the hill, even at some distance. The joggers who frequent the hill route are always in their jogging shorts. This Local had the traditional DX garb—the pants with the seat cut knee length. He came to talk about DX. We were not surprised. It was what he said that was surprising.

"You know something," this Local started in with an always original opening, "a couple of months back I heard about planning by a DX group aiming to do some really great things in DXing—a really grass-roots effort which not only will bring the scarce and long-needed countries up on the bands, but which will also have some absolutely *new* countries for the first time. It's really a good plan, and they have a good grasp of what DXers need. They told me so themselves."

While it might be fall with most of the thinking being directed to the start of the new DX season with the CQ WW DX Test the last weekend in October, this one caught our attention. "Tell us about it," we suggested. One does hear of many DX plans which never come to full fruition, but one also learns the perils of skepticism. That was learned the hard way years back when the story was released on the planning for Okino-Torishima and the possibility of a new DXCC country. "No way!" we had expounded. "That reef is only above water at low tide. How can they operate?" They could and they did. If you are curious, they erected some of that portable scaffolding you see on construction jobs and operated very nicely while 6 feet of water covered the reef below them. We never again doubted. DXers can do anything!

"Well," the Local continued, obviously anxious to impress us with all the good information he was carrying, "these fellows doing the planning are DXers who really know all about DXing. They are organizing a non-profit, scientific organization aimed at learning all about propagation. They plan to operate from various DX spots around the world. Some will be new countries, everyone will be rare, and from the signal reports they can learn a



Here is a true Believer, a long-time worker in the DX vineyards, Leo Haijsman, W4KA, who handles the most difficult award in amateur radio—the Worked All Zones Award. Some years back Leo was with the FCC, but now he lives in Florida, works DX, guards the WAZ, and wonders when he will get that handful of countries he needs. Most DXers want the WAZ. Now you know whom you do business with—W4KA!

great deal about propagation and how it affects DXing. Understand?"

We did understand what he was saying. Always there are great things going in DXing, and big plans and planning are often among them. Perhaps we had heard of similar plans in the past but always one needs all the facts to reach a considered and mature judgment. This time we were not going to miss anything, but still, this time again we were cautious. "New countries?" we echoed brightly. "How are they going to find those? Hasn't everything been worked over by this time—the enclaves, the UN outposts, the extra-territorial spots—and hasn't the DXCC Desk moved to tighten up the consideration of those kinds of places? Aren't such possibilities just about dead? Don't you think so?"

If the Local did, he was not admitting it. Instead, he moved to attack. "You might believe that, but there are some who label such thinking a dead-end street. And these are not just sitting and waiting for something to drop out of the heavens at Newington. They are doing research. In old ship logs, in European and South American libraries, and in the file of ancient charts compiled by such as Lord Anson back in the 1700s when he was capturing the Spanish treasure galleons in the Pacific, that's where they are looking. Just stop and remember how the treasure of the Atocha was found by studying old charts and records. That should prove that the study of those ancient charts can reveal a lot of new information. Think about that."

There is always difficulty in arguing with solid facts firmly presented, even should they be erroneous. "Tell us about the group," we suggested. "How they are going to operate and things like that." Actually, we wanted a bit more time to mull over things.

"The whole thing is rather unique," the Local said, "and the first thing will be to complete the compiling of an updated needed country list and which DXers are interested. Certainly every active DXer will be interested, and the itineraries will be molded to cover as many needed ones as possible. But the real kicker is that there will be at least one new country on every leg of the DXpeditions. Thus, you will not only work the rare and often needed ones, but you can also work the new one. Neat, yes?"

Neat it was. It made us younger just to think about it. "But how will they travel," we asked, "and where will they go? All that travel and all the needed gear certainly will present a logistics problem. Don't you think so?"

The Local did not. "All of that has been covered in the careful planning," he advised. "If you go to Clipperton, you'll need a boat, right? And if you go to Kingman, you need a boat, right? And if you go to Minerva Reef, you'll need a boat, right? So isn't it the sensible thing to plan to travel by boat? On the continental land areas naturally it will be more convenient to use land transportation. But remember that there are a lot of places in this world where boat transportation is not only convenient but necessary. A lot of such places can be new DXCC countries. Certainly you can understand that!"

We were trying, and trying real hard. "Any idea where some of these islands might be?" we asked brightly, wondering if this one would reveal any information, or if he had anything at all. He did have it and definitely was out to put us in our place.

"Okay," he quickly replied with some firmness. "I've been in on some of the planning, and I'll tell you a couple of things if only to prove them beyond any doubt. But you will have to promise not to reveal the names of the islands to anyone. Promise?"

Of course we promised. What true-blue DXer would not promise anything when a possible new country is involved? After all, such information has to be kept secret, at least until you've worked it.

"Ever hear of Kentzell's Island?" the Local asked, and we had to admit that we had not. We could also note that the admission of ignorance pleased the Local.

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Award of Excellence Holders: DL7AA, ON4QX, YU2DX, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GQ, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, W8RSW, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1BWS, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IIC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, K6JG, N4MM, I8YRK, W4CRW, SM0AJU, K5UR, K6XP, N5TV, K2VV, VE3XN, W6OUL, DL1MD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, SM6DHU.

Award of Excellence Holders with 160 Meter Endorsement: W8ILC, W1BWS, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, VE7WJ, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, W4VQ, K6JG, W4CRW, N4MM, SM0AJU, KF2O, K5UR, OK1MP, N5TV, W8CNL, W1JR, W6OUL, W4BQY, W5UR, N4NO, W8RSW.

Complete rules and application forms may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (foreign stations send extra postage if air-mail desired) to CQ WPX Awards, P.O. Box 1351, Torrance, CA 90505-0351 U.S.A.

This one definitely was on the inside and enjoying it.

"Back in 1856," the Local continued, "the North Pacific Surveying Expedition stopped in San Francisco and learned of reports of an island at approximately 40°N and 150°W. A San Francisco bar pilot, a Captain Kentzell, asserted that he had seen the island and that it was about 20 miles long and very low. It was re-



The ingredients of a DXpedition—W2CQA and the XYL of PP2ZDD stand beside the gear (including two 40 foot masts) off-loaded from W2CQA's twin Cessna at the Brazilian Air Force base on Fernando de Noronha. A three-day operation, as PY0FI, was mounted by W2CQA, PP2ZDD, and KB4MHR with two transmitters on the air. A total of 90 countries was worked despite poor propagation.

ported that the island was kept secret so that certain parties could exploit anything of value found on the islands such as the sea lion colony and the guano deposits. What do you think of that?"

This was interesting, maybe. But we also knew that back in sailing-ship days such reports had not been infrequent. What we wanted was some corroboration. "Only that one report?" we asked, and the Local smiled.

"No, the barkentine *Washington* bound for the west coast from Hawaii in 1867 also reported sighting the island, saying it was about 40 miles long and swarming with sea lions and sea elephants. What do you think of that?"

We had to think over things. We knew that ships bound for Hawaii take a southwesterly course out of the Golden Gate, and those bound for Japan and the Orient head almost north on a Great Circle course. The coordinates of this island would make it about 700 miles straight west of California. Without saying such, we made a note to look further into this matter. "Any others?" we asked, and from his look we knew that there were.

"Well," he said, continuing to savor the moment, "maybe just a few of the names of islands so you can recall them later on when they are on the air. Just keep in mind names like Duncan, Gallego, Walker, and Sarah Anne. And you might also listen for Jane, Poltroon, Barbera, and Prospect Islands. You just might do that. And if you are having any doubts, just try checking some of the nautical charts from the middle of the last century. The problem at that time was that their navigation was not too precise, and the islands were logged in wrong positions. But, and keep this in mind, there should be no arguments made at all that in a majority of cases the ships did see something. The problem has been the exact locations. That's where this group is doing their research, and they are doing it

well. You should hear them tell about what they are doing. They are good. That's for sure!"

Sometimes Sam further down the county tells us that we are gullible and spend too much time watching the financial stations on TV. "Watch out for those fellows with the full beards selling gold and silver and things like that," Sam has warned us. "They can convince you even when you know you should be smart enough to ignore their words." But this Local brought a different word. This was about DX, and always there are things to learn about DX and DXing, maybe even from a Local DX type who has hardly more than a hundred countries on the wall. We were receptors and asked, "How are they going to pay for all the travel and expenses? How will they live and things like that?" The Local proceeded to tell us, and we thought again of that name that we have dared not mention in this house for the last 20 or so years.

"This is a non-profit, scientific group," the Local explained. "Thus, it will not have any foundation or grant money. Those who will benefit naturally will be the ones who will support the good work. Memberships in the group will be available, and naturally they will be tax deductible if the non-profit status is ap-

The WAZ Program

10 Meter Phone

307 JE1VPC

20 Meter Phone

565 KB7VD 567 G4UCB
 566 K0JZM 568 WL7E

40 Meter Phone

37 JA1WTZ

80 Meter Phone

37 I1APQ

15 Meter CW

118 SM0AJU

20 Meter CW

244 LA9XG 246 I4YTE
 245 OH3TQ

All Band WAZ

SSB

3033 I4FYF 3037 K9MDK
 3034 DF2AL 3038 YB5QZ
 3035 I4AVG 3039 W5BPT
 3036 I4EWH 3040 JR3HEW

Phone and CW

5977 IK4CQJ 5982 JA7YAF
 5978 WB4CSK 5983 VE7FJE
 5979 HB9ASN 5984 DK6CC
 5980 JA3FKK 5985 DK2GZ
 5981 F6HWM 5986 I1QGZ

Applications and reprints of the latest rules may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (39 cents) size 4 1/2 x 9 1/2 to the WAZ Manager, Leo Haijzman, W4KA, 1044 S.E. 43 Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904. Applicants forwarding QSL cards either direct to the WAZ manager or to a check point should include sufficient postage for safe return of their QSL cards. The processing fee for all C.Q. awards is \$4.00 for subscribers and \$10 for non-subscribers. In order to qualify for the subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application.

5 Band WAZ

Standings as of July 1, 1986

All 200 zones worked:

1. ON4UN	43. I4EAT	84. SP3BQD
2. K4MQG	44. ZL1BQD	85. LZ1NG
3. SM4CAN	45. TG9NX	86. N4JF
4. AA6AA	46. XE1J	87. CT2AK
5. W8AH	47. F5VU	88. HB9CIP
6. W6KUT	48. W3AP	89. OK1MG
7. EA8AK	49. YO3AC	90. CT4BD
8. LA7JO	50. K3TW	91. VK6HD
9. EA3SF	51. XE1OX	92. EA6ET
10. OH1XX	52. VE7IG	93. VK3QI
11. EA8OZ	53. OK1ADM	94. LZ2DF
12. W0SD	54. CT1FL	95. ON4QX
13. K0ZZ	55. WA1AER	96. SM0DJC
14. ON6OS	56. N4RR	97. CT3BM
15. OK3TCA	57. UW0MF	98. K2TQC
16. K6SSS	58. W4DR	99. EA8XS
17. ZL3GQ	59. OK1MP	100. HA9RE
18. OK3CGP	60. W1NW	101. SM4CTT
19. SM0AJU	61. OE1ZJ	102. A71AD
20. OZ3PZ	62. HB9AHL	103. LZ2CC
21. I3MAU	63. HB9AMO	104. SM4CLE
22. I2ZGC	64. LA6OT	105. LZ1HA
23. 4Z4DX	65. UR2QD	106. SM5AKT
24. N4KE	66. UK2RDX	107. CT4NH
25. K5UR	67. ZS5LB	108. ZL4BO
26. K9AJ	68. F6DZU	109. I1BSN
27. SM3EVR	69. DL4YAH	110. DF6CY
28. LA5YJ	70. LA7ZO	111. DK5AD
29. DL3RK	71. W9ZR	112. DL6EN
30. N4WJ	72. W1NG	113. SM6CVX
31. G3MCS	73. VK9NS	114. LU8DPM
32. SM5AQD	74. N4KG	115. SM6DYK
33. W0MLY	75. YU7DX	116. DL7XS
34. I0RIZ	76. DL8MAG	117. DF7NM
35. ON5NT	77. OK3DG	118. UA3TT
36. OH6JW	78. ZL1BOQ	119. OK1DDS
37. OK1AWZ	79. EA9IE	120. YU2TW
38. IV3PRK	80. DL7HZ	121. EA8QL
39. DJ6RX	81. DJ9RQ	122. I1APQ
40. OH3YI	82. EA5SP	123. G3TJW
41. I4RYC	83. EA2IA	124. NW5K
42. ZL1BIL		

The top 16 contenders for 5 Band WAZ are:

1. JA1BWA, 199	9. K4CEB, 199
2. JA3EWU, 199	10. G3GIQ, 199
3. N4WW, 199	11. SP7KTE, 199
4. K5YRA, 199	12. ZP5JCY, 199
5. W8UVZ, 199	13. LU6GV, 198
6. F6BEE, 199	14. W2YY, 198
7. JA0CWZ, 199	15. K7UR, 198
8. W6GO, 199	16. W3GG, 198

377 Stations have attained the 150 zone level.

proved. Even if they change the tax laws, no DXer would refrain from helping such a good DX endeavor. Just think of the new countries alone. Everything will be computerized in this organization. Thus, the expeditions will be able at all times to have an updated list of members and their contributions. This list will help in pile-ups. You know how it is always easier to pick out a familiar callsign in a pile-up. If you know the callsign, it is easier to read. Right?"

Of course he was right. Most DXers have seen this happen in other times and

on other bands, but we had the information and, admittedly, it was intriguing. But the echoes of other years were still ringing through our memories. The Local was about ready to depart but took the time to fling one last barb.

"I get the idea that you have some reservations about this project," he said, and we forced ourselves to withhold any comment. "But isn't it true," the Local continued, "that while things did not end right years back, not all the operations were invalidated?" We acknowledged that this was true.

"Thus," the Local pressed on, "it was not the plan that was faulty, but rather the operator or operators, right?" Again we had to admit that this was right.

"Then," the Local said with a note of patience in his voice, "if a group was to handle things right, do everything above board and out in the open, and play the game squarely and by the rules, things could be different." Again we had to admit that perhaps the thinking was correct.

"So tell me," the Local said, drawing up to his full height and taking care not to mask the stridency in his voice, "why wouldn't such a plan work?" We again had to admit that it did seem that he was on track. And on that final note of triumph the Local left us. Going, no doubt, to further the good work on the great plan for DXing.

All the rest of the day the words of the Local stayed with us. We could not shake them at all. The plan had promise, that was for sure. And in other times and other places we had heard guarded mention that there were still places out in the Pacific that would count for new countries should anyone put them on the air. And not only the Pacific. There were other places in the world, and we recalled the time we had spent months looking for information on Mustang. Even Gus Browning had mentioned that one along the way. Then the Old Timer came wandering down the hill, and we had something perhaps interesting to tell him.

"A propagation study?" the Old Timer said, immediately picking up some of our report on the matter. "What sort of a report does a DXpedition get usually?" he asked, and after some thinking we had to admit that we could not ever recall anything but a 599. "And phone?" he asked, and again we had to concede that we remembered nothing but steady 59s.

"What about those new countries?" he continued, pushing us back against the wall. "That Kentzell's Island, for instance. Didn't you say that the last report was of a sighting in 1867? And doesn't it seem strange that such a large island, 40 miles long, has not been sighted again in over a hundred years?" We did have to admit that this was rather strange.

"Remember back in the sixties," the Old Timer continued, "when Slim showed signing 4X4A from Cray Island? When a



Well, there it is! Solid proof that there is a boat named the Long Path. There must be something to what the Local says about that DX planning and Kentzell's Island. (Photo for substantiation only to help the Believers believe.)

lot of experienced DXers questioned the operation on the air, all Slim did was refer them to a recent issue of *National Geographic* and an article about volcanic islands popping up out of the sea south of Iceland. Remember?"

We sure did remember that one. Slim sure fooled a lot of DXers. The latter would get very irate if you expressed any doubt about the operation. "But these fellows have a boat," we protested. "Certainly that should prove a point. And look at the name. They call it the *Long Path*. I have even seen it at one of the marinas down by the Golden Gate. How about that?"

If we thought to convince the Old Timer, we were wrong. All he did was shake his head. "You are jumping in and believing because you want to believe," he told us. "Yet every time you stop to think out things you start to hear the doubts in the back of your mind, right?" It was so and we admitted it.

"Anytime you hear of a big plan for DXing that sounds too good to be true, just stand aside and let the crowd rush by you," the Old Timer advised. "Listen to hear how it rings. There is a logic to most everything, even DXing, and when it's right you'll know it."

So what could we say? The Old Timer was right, and we recalled that more than one has been embarrassed by wanting to believe because he needed a new country. Others, when they found they had been had, never got over their righteous indignation—not even after a couple of decades.

"But what about those islands on the old charts?" we protested. "Isn't it possible that there is something to all of that?"

The Old Timer shook his head. "Possibly, but not probably," he advised us. "Keep in mind that a lot of islands shown on old nautical charts are duplicates, this often being caused by navigational errors. For example, Bouvet was also known as Lindsay Island for some years. Actually, they were not sure whether there were two separate islands or the

The WPX HONOR ROLL

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with CQ master prefix list. Scores are based on the current prefix total regardless of an operator's all-time count. Honor Roll must be up-dated annually by addition to, or to confirm present total. If no up-date, file will be placed into "inactive" until next up-date. Lifetime Honor Roll fee \$2.00 (U.S.) for each mode, with no fees required for up-dates.

MIXED

2903	YU2DX	1792	YU1DZ	1490	CT1LN	1131	YU2CQ	901	W0JIE
2865	F9RM	1792	YU7BPO	1437	N6AW	1108	SM0AJU	889	I0AOF
2664	K2VV	1782	SM7TV	1415	K8LJG	1090	N4IB	883	W14K
2616	W2NC	1709	W9NUF	1414	IT9QDS	1079	N8BJQ	853	K7CU
2532	K6JG	1675	I2PHN	1392	I2MQP	1063	KC8CC	821	KX1A
2416	VE3XN	1674	W0SFU	1391	IS0LYN	1060	WD9IIC	820	W2XQ
2346	K6XP	1668	I6SF	1370	PY1APS	1052	3A2LF	800	I2TZK
2244	W4BQY	1662	YT7DX	1359	KL7AF	1038	YU2CBK	800	AC2J
2224	N4NO	1654	4X4FU	1322	N6JM	1028	PY1DFF	799	KO2Q
2209	W9DWO	1644	YU7AW	1312	LA7JO	1028	W5PWG	764	I2EAY
2174	N4MM	1637	I2PJA	1305	DK5AD	1016	N2AIF	747	OE1KJW
2103	YU7BCD	1620	K9BG	1247	YU7AJD	1012	A1BS	745	VE6VW
2077	YU2TW	1599	WA8YTM	1227	W6OUL	1007	A16Z	679	W4WKQ
2018	N6JV	1597	KF2O	1227	WB8ZRL	997	SV1PL	661	KL7VZ
1985	N9AF	1584	I3ZKD	1215	G4FAM	995	KC2RS	654	G4SDJ
1869	K5UR	1564	IN3ANE	1194	W7CB	973	VE5FX	650	JO1BMV
1855	N4UU	1525	N5TV	1189	JH1VRO	934	WD4RAF	640	N3KR
1840	N2AC	1516	PY4OD	1181	K2QF	922	VE2PD	633	Y44UI
1836	I8YRK	1516	WA1JMP	1169	K2OLG	917	NE6I	632	K6UXO
1829	K0BLT	1512	K7NN	1157	K2POF	917	W6YMH		

SSB

2789	F9RM	1479	WF4V	1075	I1POR	921	IK5ACO	699	I2KKL
2409	I0ZV	1460	CT4NH	1073	N6FX	909	I0SGF	692	XF4MDX
2260	K2VV	1413	CT1LN	1060	TG9GI	902	VE2PD	687	W6YMH
2223	K6JG	1377	I2MQP	1037	KC4OV	896	WA2FKF	666	JA1XDA
2157	ZL3NS	1370	WA4QMQ	1035	WB8ZRL	896	PY4VX	666	KC2FC
2108	K2POA	1339	KF2O	1032	KC8CC	895	N4IB	663	CT1AHU
2089	K6XP	1303	CT1FL	1029	N2AC	888	I5AFC	662	T12KD
2070	I0AMU	1301	W9NUF	1017	I4LCK	878	W14K	662	VO1AW
1956	N4MM	1249	N5TV	1012	KC8YM	850	CT1BY	659	I4UFH
1950	CT1UA	1243	AC2J	996	K5RPC	817	ON6IT	654	EA8AKN
1858	W0YDB	1234	LA7JO	992	H18GB	805	EA8AKN	654	KX1A
1840	I4ZSQ	1219	G4CHP	974	I4CSP	795	I2EOW	652	CP8HD
1803	WD8MGQ	1204	W3ARK	967	LA2TO	792	AG2K	649	A16Z
1724	YU7BCD	1183	XE1OX	950	PY4OD	769	KK5P	646	OE5BGL
1693	N4NO	1173	W2NC	945	CT4UW	763	K3IXD	643	KE6KT
1688	OZ5EV	1171	W2CC	945	EA3AQC	758	WB6SRK	621	YB3CEV
1667	I8YRK	1132	I8KCI	938	W4UW	744	EA5BCX	618	CT1BWY
1642	W4BQY	1130	NJ0C	936	W3GXX	715	I8WYD	616	NE6I
1633	I2PJA	1112	KK0L	935	XE1XF	714	SM0AJU	615	N2AIF
1605	W9DWO	1095	KL7AF	934	W0ULU	707	K9BQL	607	YB3CDL
1599	I8YZP	1078	ZP5RS	933	K8LJG	704	K8ZZU	606	WA8YTM
1593	K5UR								

CW

2391	W2NC	1569	YU7SF	1161	I2DMK	811	N2AIF	654	W0JIE
2116	K2VV	1501	N4MM	1160	KA7T	800	JH1VRO	647	WB8ZRL
1999	N6JV	1501	LZ1XL	1159	N6FX	788	YU2CQ	646	JA2GCW
1950	WA2HZR	1482	K5UR	1130	JE1JKL	753	KN7K	645	PA3CKO
1924	N4NO	1446	VO1AW	1116	IT9VDQ	748	SM5DAC	643	N4IB
1901	K6JG	1436	ON4QX	996	K2POF	747	W9PWM	642	I2EAY
1836	W3ARK	1436	I6SF	990	K8LJG	725	SM0AJU	641	NE6I
1834	W9DWO	1357	N4YB	943	KL7AF	724	VE4AEX	628	W6YMH
1739	K6XP	1329	W4WJ	922	OH3TQ	715	F6HKD	621	CT1LN
1734	W4BQY	1296	W9NUF	909	DJ1YH	710	T14BGA	616	WA8YTM
1730	G2GM	1290	K9QVB	901	AK2H	689	OE1KJW	614	KQ8J
1699	VE7CNE	1287	PY4OD	850	I7PXV	669	ZS6BCR	610	K6UXO
1672	YU7BCD	1234	I1YRL	823	G4FAM	667	W2XQ	603	I8YRK
1651	N2AC	1200	N5TV	818	A16Z	663	LA7JO		

same island with two names. In addition, Thompson Island was reported in the same area to add confusion. For years these duplications, as well as the ones reported once or twice but not again, have been in the process of being purged from charts. Even Maria Theresa—and you know about that one—was still showing on charts in 1978 and in 1983 was relocated on the charts some 15° east of the 1978 chart position. The only trouble is that no one seems to be able to find it."

We were getting the feeling that the Old Timer was not placing too much trust in the great DX planning, not even in the

propagation studies. "What do you think we should do?" we finally asked, and again the Old Timer shook his head.

"Listen to everything, believe only that which is plausible, and expect only that which is possible," he said. "In other words, don't accept every promise, but don't reject any plan. Is that clear?"

Really, it was not. Maybe one of these days, however, we will understand. Maybe when we are a bit older, like the Old Timer, or something like that. But always it is a joy to anticipate. DXers do a lot of that. Perhaps we might even get to calling the *Long Path* on the long path. Some-



This is Spyros Staurinides, 5B4MF, at Nicosia on Cyprus. Spyros is 18 years old and was first licensed in 1982 at the age of 14. He runs a Yaesu FT-102 with a TH3MkII Hy-Gain beam for 10/15/20 meters with dipoles for 40/80. All this is atop the apartment where he lives. Possibly you met Spyros in a contest along the way. He was 3rd in the 1983 CQ WPX test on 10 meters, 7th in the same contest in 1984 but on 15 meters, 7th in the 1984 IARU Radio-sport, 2nd in the 1985 European DX Test, and all as single operator, all SSB. He likes contests. Listen for him later this October in the CQ WW DX Test.

times DXers do have some real problems, but some we wonder about.

One thing we know for sure. DXers always give accurate signal reports—accurate and honest. And any study will prove that DXers always hear very well the signal from a needed country—sometimes amazingly so.

Andorra

Right at this time, and to the 18th, Heinz Gronemeier, WD8QVD, says that there will be activity from Andorra during the WAE DX Test. Actually, the action will have started on September 9th, and the plan was to run up a bit of a score during the contest period, September 13/14th. Possibly you can still catch them when you read this. They were planning activity on everything from 160 to 10, CW and SSB. Trying to fit their operating plan to the current band conditions, they were looking for emphasis on 160, 40, and 80 meters. You can watch for C30AAN, and QSLs can go to either Dieter Schuster, Uhlandstr. 28, D-4902, Bad Salzuflen 1, West Germany, or via the DARC Bureau to DL8OH. SASE or SAE/IRC needed.

Korea QSLs

The American Amateur Radio Club of Korea is looking for a bit of elbow room and hopes to gain it by cleaning out some of the unclaimed HL9 QSLs they are holding. Any past member of the club who operated under an HL9 callsign can gather their cards, or even find out how many are on hand, by writing to: American Amateur Radio Club of Korea, Dependent Mail Section, APO San Francisco 96301.

Steve Hanes, HL9AV, passes along the word, and he also notes that the 1988 Olympics will be held in Seoul, in case you might be traveling that way.

Labrador

This is another "work 'em right now" note.

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB

1486 YC0DPZ 1488 YB4FW
1487 YB3CDL 1489 EA7AVU

CW

669 OH1MQ

SSB Endorsements

310 18AA/316 200 N2CIC/200
300 KE3A/301 200 YB3CDL/209
300 KZ0C/301 3.5/7 MHz N2CIC
250 18WYD/250

CW Endorsements

310 W2FXA/312 275 IT9QDS/279
275 WD9IC/288 150 OH1MQ/191

Total number of active countries is 315. The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$4. For non-subscribers, it is \$10. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are made free when an s.a.s.e. is enclosed for confirmation of total. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards Program may be obtained by sending a business size, No. 10 envelope, self-addressed and stamped, to CQ DX Awards Manager, Billy Williams, N4UF, Box 9673, Jacksonville, FL 32208 U.S.A. DX stations must include extra postage for air-mail reply. Please make all checks payable to the awards manager.

The Zone 2 DX Group, with KA1BC setting the course, headed for Labrador a couple of weeks back and planned to operate through the month of September. The plan is to operate on all bands, mostly CW and with a kw of power. The callsign will be VO2DX, along with KA1BC will be VO1CA. Listen for the QSL information.

DXers—The True Internationalists

Once we asked a DXer, and this was years ago, why DXers are so friendly and have so many friends overseas. The answer was quite terse, maybe even pithy: "Because Part 97.1 of the FCC Regulations says that the basis of the amateur license is the continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill. That's why!"

When we did not immediately snap to attention, this possibly taken as a sign of residual skepticism, we were firmly directed: "Just look in Section 'e' of the Basis and Purpose, Section 97.1." We did. Son of a gun! There it was. It made us instant believers. It's a government regulation!

A couple of recent notes brought this fresh again to our thinking. Ron Weaver, N6VO, dropped a note to tell us of his reception in Tahiti by the local amateur group. Among other things, Ron noted that Pierre John, FO8JP, and his wife were most gracious as guide and host during the stay there. Stan, FO8IW, and Dominique, FO8IZ, entertained at dinner. Robert, FO8KS, not only showed them the island during the day, but added astronomical observations at night. Bob, FO8BI, gave a surprise barbeque as well as information on the island culture. Emille, FO8AG, located someone to repair N6VO's rig, and Daniel, FO8LP, gave a lot of information on navigating the Southern Ocean. While in Tahiti Ron signed FO0WVR. That's to help if you need a QSL route.

We also had a note from George Wagner, K5KG, of Quail Creek Drive in Houston, who in recent years has been heard far from the familiar skies. George notes he has left Al-Jubail in Saudi Arabia and can now be found in downtown Buenos Aires. He obtained the call



This is Drew Givens, GM3YOR, who should be heard from Sri Lanka this October. Drew has been heard in other years from the Faroes, Iceland, Gibraltar, and Montserrat. Look for GM3YOR/4S7 from October 14th, mostly CW but some SSB during the WW DX Test. In case you are curious, that hair is red!



Tony Smaker, KL7AF, is the only 5BDXCC in Alaska and shortly should be the only one holding 5BWAZ. Tony is on Kodiak Island and is ex-W6JDO, DL4JD, KL7JDO, F7JD, WA5IHE, and KG1AC. He has been KL7AF since 1976. Tony has been in the service. Guess what branch!? He is a member of the Wireless Institute of Australia, and a founder of and Second Past President of the Alaska DX Assn. Currently he holds 185 DX Awards and is concentrating on 160 and 80/75 meters. (Photo via K6ZDL)

LU6KG with the help of Oscar, LU1BEU, and Jorge, LU8DQ, and George expects to be heard in the CQ World-wide DX Tests the last weekend in October. If you work LU6KG, QSLs go to K5TU. If you are going to Buenos Aires or thereabouts, drop a line to George via ESSO S.A.P.A., 396 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, Florida 33134, or if you are right on the scene, phone him at 313-7531-5061—Buenos Aires, that is.

We had another note from Josephine Clarke, WB6ZUC, who handles the archives for the Northern California DX Foundation. She tells of going to San Francisco for a dinner and meeting Kirsti and Jim Smith, P29JS, et al, then going east to the FOC meeting at Danbury, Connecticut and finding that Jim and Kirsti were staying at the same motel.

These are only a couple of examples of amateurs with wide-ranging acquaintances with other DXers. If you are planning to travel over-

seas, you should drop a line to Naoki Akiyama, JH1VRQ/N1CIX, at the ARRL in Newington. He can give you updated information on licensing and things like that. Also, Naoki has the International Travel Host Exchange Program. You might be surprised to find what amateurs are along your itinerary, and even what languages they speak. True internationalists need all the help they can get.

Sri Lanka

Drew Givens, GM3YOR, from Kirkcaldy, Fife, in Scotland, will be in Sri Lanka in October from the 14th to the 28th, and should be heard signing GM3YOR/4S7. Drew will be mainly on CW, and you can look for him low on the bands, 3 kHz up on 80 and 40, 33 kHz up on 20, 15, and 10 meters. During the CQ WW DX Test Drew might try some SSB during the annual hal-elujah chorus.

Previously Drew has operated from the Faroes and Iceland in 1978, from Sierra Leone as a guest operator at 9L1SL in 1982, from Gibraltar in 1982, and from Montserrat in 1984. QSL to his home QTH.

Turkey

Dr. Unal Akbal, TA1A, notes that he is on the air most days, mostly on 15 and 20 CW from 2100Z to 2400Z. Actually, look for Unal at 14013 kHz or 21025 kHz, possibly 5 kHz either way, but definitely in that neighborhood. TA1A QSLs, but only directly. His latest address is: Dr. Unal Akbal, c/o Box 787, Istanbul, zip 34435, Turkey. That should put a Turkish QSL within reach should you need one. If you are among the fortunate, drop in anyhow.

Guyana

Rick Dougherty, NQ4I, will be in Georgetown, Guyana, later this October for the great CQ WW DX Test. Rick has been there before and will again sign his contest call, 8R1Z. Look for him to be on the air a couple of days before the weekend—maybe even four or five days before. He will be concentrating on 75 and 160 meters during this time. Last time out Rick made 6500 contest QSOs, operating in the single-operator category, and finished up in #3 spot for all bands. This time it will be even better.

The Moseley Classic 33 will be reinstalled atop the Pegasus Hotel some 165 feet above the street, the 40 from one corner at 190 feet of elevation, and there will be a couple of slopers for 160/75 meters sloping down towards the ocean, one favoring Europe and one favoring stateside, these being designed and built by W9INN especially for this 8R1Z operation.

Rick says the Europeans should look for 8R1Z on 160 at 1827 kHz, transmitting here and listening at 1849 kHz, the action each hour starting at 0200Z and showing at the start of each hour for at least 10 minutes.

A member of the Dixie DX'ers, dedicated contest operators in the Atlanta area, Rick was on the team that in 1983 and 1984 put 4V2C on the air in the multi-single category, in 1984 the group being #1 worldwide. After you work 8R1Z, direct your QSLs to Carol, WI4K (SASE or SAE/IRC needed).

Paraguay

Doug Woolley, ZP5XDW, says he will be in Ascension for at least another year and continues to rack up a lot of QSOs, all on CW. Doug has been there for four years now and notes that when he leaves it might be a bit difficult to find any CW activity with the ZP5 prefix.

Previously Doug was heard from EP-Iran and VS6-Hong Kong. Recovering from a recent major operation, five bypasses, he is back working DX but chewing less red meat. Doug notes that the local radio club there in Ascension has used the DXpedition slide shows from the Northern California DX Foundation in their programs and are highly delighted with them. He also reports that ZP5XGG has departed Paraguay for Sierra Leone and hopes to get a license there for some sustained CW work.

If you work ZP5XDW, Doug Woolley, or even if you worked ZP5XGG in the past, the QSL route for both stations is via N4DW. If you want ZP5 on CW, your best opportunity is right now, before Doug departs the country.

Sunspots

One sunspot scanner noted that in mid-summer there was little to scan. There are a number of predictions as to when the actual bottom will be. Unfortunately, you won't be sure until things are well beyond that great solar milestone.

June was almost a blank. One source said there was no activity for over a week in the latter part of June. Another said that the June solar flux level was the lowest average he'd ever recorded. There were only a couple of days in June with much sunspot activity and the preliminary mean spot count for June was noted by one source as expected to be down around 0.8. That's low.

Some say that the bottom will be reached around the turn of the year. A late NASA/NOAA prediction is pointing at October/November, and you know how far ahead that is—not very far.

Some stations, however, have been reporting 20 meters open into the evening hours, and even up to midnight. The Northern California DX Foundation beacons at 14100 kHz are reported as being heard by large numbers. There are nine of these, and there have been periods during the summer when some observers have reported logging all nine beacons.

What should a Deserving DXer do? As the Hero of Mafeking, Lord Baden-Powell, would often say, "Be Prepared!" Listen to WWV at 18 minutes after the hour, listen for the NCDXF beacons on the hour, and if you do not know the sequence, drop W6RQ a query with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No matter whose sage advice you follow, the bottom does appear near, if not already passed. Also, don't be surprised at what you are starting to hear on 20 and 15. The CQ WW Phone Test the end of October might be surprising. Then again, if you have been waiting long, it might not be. Just what was expected.

The looked-for reverse polarity has been showing in some areas, but not in high latitudes—rather low down. But while there are such areas, in June they had no spots. The beacons, however, are being heard better than they were last year at this time. Son of a gun! All the portents are there. Cycle 22 is at hand. The Great Days of DXing are with us. Rejoice! ... Maybe.

Some DX Notes

A recent note came from a nearby country noting that though one of the locals has been out of the country for over two years, his DXCC score continues to mount. Seems this was not considered cricket. As the note went to about everyone that might be concerned with awards and such, you might hear something about it elsewhere.

Nick Langmead, G4OOE, currently on Cyprus, notes that the ZC4RSJ callsign was a special one to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. Nick is currently signing ZC4EE on Cyprus and is also the custodian of the ZC4RSJ special call. The QSL address for ZC4-Bureau is ZC4-QSL Bureau, JSB, BFPO 53, London, England. This is also the route for ZC4EE and ZC4RSJ.

The publishers of DX bulletins often have to make a choice—either use the available space for terse and often cryptic reports or expand and give some matters full background treatment. Chod Harris, who took over the *DX Bulletin*, is going in both directions. He is adding supplements to the regular issues, a recent

addendum covering items such as MacQuarrie Island, the Kenwood TS-940, some decisions of the DXAC/DXCC Desk, Aruba, and DL7FT/SV/A operation.

Jack Troster, W6ISQ, has stepped down as President of the Northern California DX Foundation, and Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, has taken over the duties. Bob is a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

The "JA DX Family News Letter" notes that "... the 'famous' group which recently gave up on Peter I has been trying to open the route to Albania through the Chinese bureau ...". There is mention that the JARL is looking for something suitable to commemorate their 60th anniversary. If not Peter I, maybe Bhutan,

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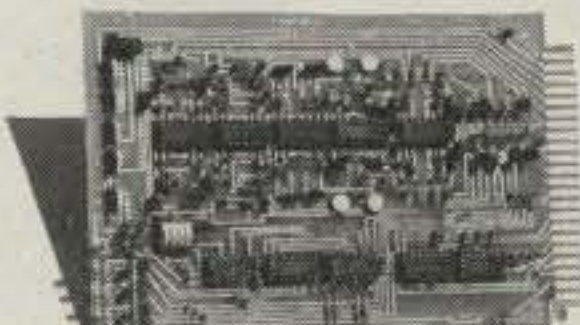
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There is a report that the FO8 prefix may have become FO4 or maybe FO5 sometime this last summer. FK25 is a special prefix in New Caledonia for the 25th anniversary of amateur radio there. The recent Clipperton effort, the one last spring, still did not work all the Europeans looking for it. Some complain, while others say that the operators were trying hard. One European DX bulletin complained that only about 120 QSOs were made with Europe on 20 SSB, while 2485 were made with the W/Ks. One school of thought says that any DXpedition at the bottom of a sunspot cycle can expect problems. Possibly that thought should be given to waiting, even though that might be difficult. Another raises the question as to how many W/Ks worked FO0XX for practice or ". . . to check band conditions." It is sometimes difficult to realize that all areas are not equal when a needed station or country shows. The Pacific is often difficult for the Europeans, while the Caribbean is tough for the JAs, and the Indian Ocean/East Africa sometimes causes a problem for the W/K/VE stations. When things get rough, it often is time to show a bit of reticence in displaying one's signal. Or, as the Old Timer has been heard to say, "Let it not be them that have gets," but rather "Let the last be first, let the distant be near, let the needy be heard."

Mike Menafo, K3UOC, will put 4M4A on the air during the CQ WW DX Tests this year both phone and CW. Mike is in Valencia, Venezuela.

QSL to K3UOC, his home QTH. SASE desired.

Those who read the masthead on the DX bulletin *INC SPOTS* may wonder about those Breckenridge names. Where did you hear that name before? We ourselves had to ask. We were right. James Cabell Breckenridge was Vice-President of the U.S. under Buchanan, nominee of the southern Democrats for President in the 1860 election that Lincoln won, and Major-General in the Confederate Army and its last Secretary of War. There was a recent article in *Civil War Illustrated* on General Breckenridge's service at the Battle of Stone River in Tennessee in the War Between the States. Drop a note to Jim Breckenridge at Box 1082, La Grange Park, Illinois 60525 if you want to know more about DX Incorporated, the publisher of *INC SPOTS*. You might also tell Jim that you remember his ancestor, vice-president at the age of 35.

Finally, circle the dates for the last weekend in October, the start of the great DXing in Cycle 22—phone this October, CW next month at the end of November. Check Frank Anzalone's notes and the rules for the contest. DX is coming back, and this is the year. Already on Saturday nights we can hear the local DXers down in the village shouting, "We're Number One! We're Number One!" But then again, every true-blue DXer has always known that we are Number One. Number Two? Not even in sight.

DX Ten Years Back

PY1ZAE was on from Trinidad, and K4IIF was headed for the Bahamas for the CQ WW

Phone Test. Also out was Martii Laine in Madeira, CT3, DJ9ZB in Turkey, WB4ZKG in the Western Carolines, 6W8FP in Senegal, HL9TD in Korea, K6SDR in the British Virgins, the Buffalo DX Club in Antigua, W5MYA in Grenada, DJ0UP at St. Vincent, Grand Turks by the North Florida DX Club, WA1JKJ in Guadeloupe, HP1KC in Panama, WA5KLF at the Grand Caymans, and WB4SJK in Jamaica. The Colvins were in the U.S. Virgins, WB6EXW was in Polynesia, and UV3GM was promising to spend the contest on 80 meters. Ah, the cry was, "Let the good times roll!"

The Big QRM, aka "The Russian Woodpecker," showed, and there were demands that something be done. An early solution to the problem was promised ". . . through both legal and official channels." When some DXers, later on when nothing improved, asked some of the ubiquitous ". . . those in the know," the guarded answer was that not too many noisy protests could be made . . . through legal and official channels . . . when some of the homebodies hereabouts are also stretching the frequency allocations a bit. No amateurs but . . . Anyhow, it was eventually identified as over-the-horizon radar, and a call to HH5HH, Cousin Dominique in the Greater Antilles, improved the understanding of the matter.

QSL Information

One gets smarter about QSLing. Often the initial indexing is a marker at the DX section in the monthly magazines. On upgrading to a DX bulletin a lot of the information comes with the reports. One also learns to listen when a DX station is on the air, especially when not sure of the station worked. Contests are often difficult times for call signs, and if you did not get the whole call sign, listen. Eventually it will come, especially if the band holds out. Some stations apparently score points for the rapid delivery of their call sign.

When you are really elbowing everyone out of the way as you head for the 300 DXCC country mark, you look for the specialists. The W6GO/K6HDD QSL List shows what computers have brought to the Deserving. Also, a long-established list is the "JA QSL Report" turned out by Hiromichi Katsurashima, JH1HWN. Eventually most DXers find their way to the specialized information—DX bulletins and QSL publications. There must be a reason.

AZ1ARU to LU6FAZ
A35WZ to NE7W
A71AU to DJ9ZB
BT1YRC to JA6YRC
H44JA to JP6CMA
H44BL to SM6APQ
LU6KG to K5TU
KH8AC to K7ZA
OA8P to W7LZG
OH0MD/OJ0 to OH2BH
OE5SYM/5N3 to N2AU
VP8AEN to GM3ITN
VQ9GB to NA7P
VK8SJ to VK7RM
YN8RC to WB8SSR
ZK1XE to WB6GFJ
ZP5DXW to N4DW
ZP5XGG to N4DW
ZK1XV to VK2BCH
ZL7BKM to ZL2HE
8R1Z to WI4K
9M8EN to WB0TEC
A71AD to Box 7121, Nicosia, Cyprus
C30AAN to Dieter Schuster, Unlandstr. 28, D-4902, Bad Salzuflen 1, West Germany
CEBZIJ to Box 1, Easter Island, Chile

BY4RB to Box 413, Zhenjiang, Peoples Republic of China
HK3MAE to Allison Bergsneider, HK7IMP, Box 864, Bucaramanga, Colombia
J6LGH to Box 638, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
RZ1OWA to Box 88, Moscow, USSR
TA1A to Dr. Unal Akbal, c/o Box 787, 34435, Istanbul, Turkey
TA1D to Box 1167, Istanbul, Turkey
ZC4EE to ZC4-Bureau, JSB, BFPO 53, London, England
ZC4RSJ to ZC4-Bureau, JSB, BFPO 53, London, England
4M4A to Mike Menafo, 2419 Willow St., Wesleyville, PA 16510
3C8A to TR0A, Box 1826, Libreville, Gabon
9H3DX to Peter Hans, Hardbergstr 8, D-7550, Rastatt, West Germany
5V7HL to Box 8062, Tokoin, Lome, Togo

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CIRCLE 28 ON READER SERVICE CARD

THE SCIENCE OF PREDICTING RADIO CONDITIONS

DX Contest Special

Bulletin

A long-range CQ propagation forecast based upon 27-day and other recurrence tendencies in day-to-day conditions indicates that Low Normal HF conditions are most likely to occur during the CQ World-Wide DX Contest Phone Section week-end of October 25-26.

The 1986 CQ World-Wide DX Contest will be held on the following dates:

Phone: 0000 GMT Saturday, Oct. 25 to
2400 GMT Sun., October 26

CW: 0000 GMT Saturday, Nov. 29 to
2400 GMT Sunday, Nov. 30

For the 36th successive year this month's Propagation column is devoted to special forecasts for the contest periods, both Phone and CW.

Solar Activity

The daily sunspot count during June 1986, as reported by the Royal Observatory of Belgium, was the lowest to be recorded in more than 160 years! The sun's surface was completely devoid of spots on 27 days during the month. The monthly mean sunspot number for the month was one, the lowest recorded since 1824. This results in a smoothed sunspot number of 15, upon which the cycle is based, centered on December 1985.

The plateau in the decline of the present cycle, which was discussed in last month's column, now appears to have ended, and the cycle is again declining. A smoothed sunspot number of approximately 8 is forecast for October 1986. This would be the lowest level of sunspot activity to occur during a CQ World-Wide DX Contest since 1954. By comparison, solar activity during last year's contest periods was at a level of 17. During 1979, the year of maximum solar activity, the smoothed sunspot numbers were 158 for October and 162 for November.

Statistically, this would mean that general propagation conditions during the 1986 contest periods, particularly on the 10, 15, and 20 meter bands, are very likely to be poorer than during last year's contest, and in fact, poorer than they have been during the past 32 years.

Don't dismay, however. The ionosphere will still be there, and world-wide

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LAST MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for October 1986

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1, 10, 28	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 2, 11-12, 23-24, 29	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 3-5, 8-9, 13, 17-19, 21-22, 25-27, 30-31	A-B	B-C	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 6-7, 14, 16, 20	B-C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: 15	C-E	D-E	E	E

Where expected signal quality is: A—Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9.

B—Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.

C—Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.

D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, and with considerable fading and noise.

E—No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find propagation index associated with particular band opening from Propagation Charts appearing on the following pages.
2. With the propagation index, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the band opening for any day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the charts with a propagation index of 3 will be excellent (A) on Oct. 1st, good (B) on the 2nd, fair to good (B-C) from the 3rd through the 5th, etc. Low Normal conditions are expected for the WW DX Contest on the 25th and 26th.

DX will still be possible. DX contests are always a challenge to participants, and even more so during very low periods of solar activity, as we are now experiencing. It will take more time, more patience, greater skill, and a better understanding of the ionosphere to pile up points during the 1986 contest, but DX openings will still be out there to work, particularly if you know where and when to look for them. This is where the information contained in this month's column can be of use to contest participants. The DX Propagation Charts and other information are designed to help the 1986 contest participant make optimum use of the ionosphere, despite the continuing decline in solar activity.

This means that propagation conditions on the 10 and 15 meter bands, and to a lesser extent on the 20 and 40 meter bands, should not be as good during this year's contest compared to last year's results. Conditions should be somewhat better, however, on the 80 and 160 meter bands, since DX propagation on these

bands usually improves during periods of very low solar activity.

Band-By-Band Conditions

The following is a band-by-band summary of DX propagation conditions normally expected during October and November and centered on the contest periods.

10 Meters: With the bottom of the present sunspot cycle rapidly approaching, very few DX openings are expected on this band. During High or Above Normal conditions look for some openings towards Central and South America from a few hours before until a few hours after noon, and perhaps towards the South Pacific during the afternoon.

15 Meters: Although DX conditions are not expected to be as good as last year, 15 meters could be a fair DX band during many of the daylight hours, especially towards Central and South America. When conditions are High or Above Normal, signals from Europe and Africa should peak an hour or two before noon, while signals from Central and South America, the Far East, and the South Pacific should peak during the late afternoon. During Below or Disturbed conditions, 15 meter openings will be spotty and of short duration, if possible at all.

20 Meters: This is again expected to be the "mainstay" band during the Contest. During Normal conditions good DX openings are expected to almost every corner of the world sometime between sunrise and the early evening hours. Conditions should peak for a few hours after sunrise and again during the late afternoon. When conditions are High and Above Normal, the band should remain open for DX well into the evening hours. During peak periods openings will usually be characterized by strong, steady signals. When conditions are Below Normal, 20 meter openings will be considerably fewer in number, of shorter duration, and with weaker signal levels. In general, however, the band should hold up for some DX openings during all but Disturbed conditions.

40 Meters: The band is expected to open towards Europe and the east during the late afternoon hours, and remain open for DX to one area of the world or another until shortly after sunrise. Look for openings to Europe and Africa to about midnight in the MST and PST time zones, and to about 2 a.m. in the CST and EST zones. Good openings towards Central

and South America should be possible throughout most of the hours of darkness. Openings towards the South Pacific and the Far East are expected to peak during a two-hour period before sunrise. When conditions are at least Low Normal, 40 meters should share honors with 80 meters as the best DX band during the hours of darkness. When conditions are Below Normal or Disturbed, openings will be spotty and considerably fewer in number.

80 Meters: DX propagation conditions are generally at their best on this band during periods of very low solar activity. Some good 80 meter DX openings are expected to several areas of the world during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. When propagation conditions are at least Low Normal, signals should be strong during many openings. Even during Below Normal and Disturbed periods there is a fairly good chance that some DX openings may be possible during the hours of darkness. Expect conditions to normally peak around midnight for openings towards Europe, Africa, and the east; after midnight and before sunrise for openings towards Central and South America; and just before sunrise for openings towards the South Pacific and the Far East.

160 Meters: DX possibilities are also improving on this band as the solar cycle nears its absolute minimum. While not as good as 40 and 80 meter openings, some DX should be possible to many areas of the world on 160 meters during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. Because of power limitations imposed in this band in many areas of the world, signals at best are likely to be weak, especially on phone. The best time to look for 160 meter DX is when a path is in complete darkness, or when the sun is just beginning to rise at the *easterly* terminal. The best do-it-yourself forecaster for 160 meter DX is a set of sunset and sunrise tables. For example, if the sun is expected to rise at 0600 GMT in western Europe, then this would be the best time to check 160 meters for openings between the USA and western Europe, plus or minus a half hour. Conditions on 80 meters can often serve as an indicator for 160 meter openings. When conditions seem to be peaking on a particular path on 80 meters, check for the same path to open on 160. With these tips and some patience, it should be possible to work several DX areas of the world on 160 meters during the contest.

Contest Work Plan

The DX Propagation Charts in this column show the times when each amateur band from 10 through 160 meters is expected to open for DX from the United States to the major areas of the world. Instructions for the proper use of these Charts are given elsewhere in this column.

Time PST	Areas to which openings should be optimum
00-03	No openings expected with a propagation index of (2) or higher. Some (1) openings should be possible to South America, South Pacific, New Zealand, and Australasia, but this means conditions should be High Normal or better. This is a good time to catch up on some sleep.
03-06	About the same as the previous block.
06-09	Should open in just about every direction: Europe, North Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, most of Asia and the Far East, Pacific Islands, New Zealand, Australasia, the Caribbean, Central America, and most of South America. This is the period in which to rack up points.
09-12	About the same as previous period, but signals getting weaker and openings falling off.
12-15	Western and southern Europe, most of Africa, most of the Caribbean, Central America, and the northern countries of South America.
15-18	All of the Caribbean, Central America and South America, most of Africa, the Pacific Islands and New Zealand, the Far East.
18-21	Another peak period, and a good time in which to increase scores. Most of Asia including the Far East; the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, and Australasia; Caribbean, Central and South America, but falling off: Antarctica.
21-00	South Pacific, New Zealand and Australasia, much of South America, Antarctica. A propagation index (1) opening to Europe and Africa.

Table I- Sample 20 meter operating schedule for a Western USA QTH.

The information contained in the Charts can easily be reorganized into more convenient types of operational work plans, or schedules, which can serve as valuable propagation guides during the contest. Experience gained through previous years has shown that such plans can be extremely useful in piling up points with a minimum of wasted time.

Table I is an example of one of several types of plans that can be devised. It shows, for each three-hour period throughout the day, the areas of the world to which 20 meter propagation conditions are expected to be optimum. Only those openings shown in the charts with a propagation index of (2) or higher were used in compiling this plan.

A western USA QTH has been chosen for this example, but similar plans can be devised for other locations, for other bands or for multi-band operation, and for other time spans.

Radio Storms

The forecasts discussed in this column are based on *Normal* propagation conditions expected with a sunspot level of approximately 14. If actual conditions during the contest turn out to be *Above Normal*, DX openings on 10, 15, and 20 meters are likely to be somewhat better than shown in the charts. On the other hand, if a radio storm should develop, with accompanying Below Normal or Disturbed HF propagation conditions, fewer openings will take place on these bands. During radio storms, propagation conditions on 40, 80, and 160 meters generally also

become erratic, with poorer openings during certain types of storms and improved openings during other types.

If a radio storm should develop during the contest, circuits passing through or near polar regions will probably become weak, fade considerably, or may even black out entirely, depending upon the severity and duration of the storm. During certain storms, while east-west propagation may become poorer, north-south openings may improve.

If a storm should occur, concentrate on working the higher frequency bands and the paths to the northeast, north, and northwest during the daylight hours, and the lower bands and the paths to the east, south, and west during the evening and early morning hours.

A Last Minute Forecast made at press time for the phone section of the contest appears at the beginning of this column. A similar forecast for the CW section will appear in next month's column. For updated geomagnetic and solar data during the contest period, check the National Bureau of Standards Radio Station WWV broadcasts at 18 minutes past each hour. These broadcasts (transmitted simultaneously on 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, and 20.0 MHz) contain the latest available geomagnetic A- and K-figures and the level of 10.7 cm solar flux. They also contain a short-term forecast of geomagnetic and solar conditions given in subjective terms. Table II can be used to convert the geomagnetic and solar data given on the WWV broadcasts into expected HF ionospheric conditions. For example, a solar flux of 70 and an A-index of 9 should result in Low Normal conditions, while a solar

Geomagnetic Activity	Range		Solar Flux Range	
	K	A	65-80	80-100
Quiet	0-1	0-3	Above Normal	Above Normal
Quiet	1-2	3-7	High Normal	Above Normal-High Normal
Unsettled	2-3	7-15	Low Normal	High Normal
Active	3-4	15-27	Low Normal-Below Normal	Low Normal
Minor Storm	4-5	27-48	Below Normal-Disturbed	Below Normal-Disturbed
Major Storm	5+	48+	Disturbed	Disturbed

Table II- This table can be used to convert the geomagnetic and solar data given on the WWV broadcasts into expected HF ionospheric conditions.

flux of 74 and a K-index of 6 would indicate Disturbed conditions.

The hourly forecasts broadcast on WWV along with the latest solar flux and geomagnetic indices, also may be obtained by telephoning (303) 497-3235 at any time. This is a service provided by the NOAA Space Environment Services Center, but the call is not toll free. For live, up-to-the-minute propagation data, direct inquiries can be made to the NOAA duty forecaster at the Center by calling (303) 497-3171. This service is available around-the-clock every day of the week. As with the recorded announcements of WWV transmissions, there is no charge for this service, but the call is not toll free and collect calls will not be accepted.

Do-It-Yourself Forecasting

Besides the WWV transmissions of solar flux and geomagnetic data, there are now available several aids, including software for home computers, which can be used for forecasting conditions and band openings during the 1986 contest.

I use W6EL's MINIPROP program with my IBM-PC. This is a user-supported, comprehensive HF propagation program developed by Sheldon C. Shallon, W6EL. It produces a wealth of information, including the prediction for around-the-clock short- and long-path band openings between path terminals anywhere in the world, predicted signal levels, sunset and sunrise times, gray-line times and bearings, etc. The program is well prompted, self-explanatory, and easy to use. Required input data are latitude and longitude of path terminals, date, and smoothed sunspot number. If real-time values of flux data are available, their equivalent values of sunspot numbers can be used to obtain "real-time" results. Additional information and terms for obtaining a copy of MINIPROP can be obtained directly from: Sheldon C. Shallon, W6EL, 11058 Queensland Street, Los Angeles, CA 90034. The MINIPROP program is intended for use with IBM PCs and compatible types. Commodore and Apple computer users will find another program, called MUFPLLOT, useful for predicting HF propagation conditions. The latest version of the program will print out in stan-

dard format highest usable frequency, maximum usable frequency, and lowest usable frequency for any path over a 24-hour period. The program also prints out beam heading and distance, and can also be used for obtaining sunrise and sunset data, etc. The only input needed, besides path terminals and date, is solar flux level. Since solar flux values can be obtained from WWV, the MUFPLLOT programs is to a very large degree a "real-time" propagation prediction method. For pricing, availability, and full information write directly to Base (2) Systems, 2534 Nebraska Street, Saginaw, MI 48610. Check the Ham Shop section in this issue of CQ for other propagation programs that may be available. Programs such as MUFPLLOT can be of tremendous help during the DX Contest.

Another propagation aid that I use is the *DX Edge*, which is available from Xantek, Inc., P.O. Box 834, Madison Sq. Station, New York, NY 10159. It is a slide-rule-type device which allows you to determine quickly and easily those areas of the world that are in daylight, darkness or twilight at any given time of day and for any month of the year. It is great for determining sunrise and sunset times at a glance, for locating the terminator, and for predicting long-path and gray-line openings. The *DX Edge* has recently been modified to also make it possible to determine great-circle bearings. I also find it useful for determining local time anywhere in the world.

The *DX Edge* consists of a slide-rule-type carrier and a set of monthly transparent overlays. Imprinted on the carrier is a unique double map of the world showing the 40 CQ DX zones and many country prefixes. The overlays slide along the carrier, giving a clear, instant visual picture of daylight-darkness conditions. Easy-to-understand instructions come with the *DX Edge* and explain how to use the instrument for determining the best times to look for DX openings on the HF bands. It should be an invaluable aid during DX contests. Pricing and other information can be obtained directly from Xantek. A computerized version of the *DX Edge* is also available.

Lee Wical, KH6BZF, puts out an excellent weekly newsletter, full of interesting

HOW TO USE THE DX PROPAGATION CHARTS

1. Use chart appropriate to your transmitter location. The Eastern USA Chart can be used in the 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, KP4, KG4, and KV4 areas in the USA and adjacent call areas in Canada; the Central USA Chart in the 5, 9, and 0 areas; the Western USA Chart in the 6 and 7 areas; and with somewhat less accuracy in the KH6 and KL7 areas.

2. The predicted times of openings are found under the appropriate meter band column (15 through 80 meters) for a particular DX region, as shown in the left-hand column of the charts. An * indicates the best time to listen for 160 meter openings; ** indicates best times for 10 meter openings.

3. The *propagation index* is the number that appears in () after the time of each predicted opening. The index indicates the number of days during the month on which the opening is expected to take place as follows:

- (4) Opening should occur on more than 22 days
- (3) Opening should occur between 14 and 22 days
- (2) Opening should occur between 7 and 13 days
- (1) Opening should occur on less than 7 days

Refer to the "Last Minute Forecast" at the beginning of this column for the actual dates on which an opening with a specific *propagation index* is likely to occur, and the signal quality that can be expected.

4. Times shown in the charts are in the 24-hour system, where 00 is midnight; 12 is noon; 01 is 1 A.M.; 13 is 1 P.M., etc. Appropriate *daylight* time is used, *not* GMT. To convert to GMT, add to the times shown in the appropriate chart 8 hours in PST Zone, 7 hours in MST Zone, 6 hours in CST Zone, and 5 hours in EST Zone. For example, 13 hours in Washington, D.C. is 18 GMT. When it is 20 hours in Los Angeles, it is 04 GMT, etc.

5. The charts are based upon a transmitted power of 250 watts CW, or 1 kw, PEP on sideband, into a dipole antenna a quarter-wavelength above ground on 160 and 80 meters, and a half-wavelength above ground on 40 and 20 meters, and a wavelength above ground on 15 and 10 meters. For each 10 dB gain above these reference levels, the *propagation index* will increase by one level; for each 10 dB loss, it will lower by one level.

6. Propagation data contained in the charts has been prepared from basic data published by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of the U.S. Dept of Commerce, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

Note: The Propagation Charts are given in Standard Time. In the USA, daylight time is in effect until 2 a.m. October 26, local time. While daylight time is in effect, add one hour to the times shown in the charts for band openings. The first day of the 1986 CQ World-Wide DX Contest, October 25, will fall in the daylight time period; the second day, October 26, will fall in the standard time period.

propagation information, and containing advanced forecasts of HF and VHF ionospheric openings. Write directly to KH6BZF at 45-601 Luluku Road, CRT #4411, Kane'Ohe, Hawaii, 96744-1854 for more complete details, availability, and pricing.

If you do not already have a copy of the *Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by myself and Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX, then you might want to get one to read before the contest begins. Copies are still available from the CQ Book Shop, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 for \$8.95 postpaid (plus \$2.00 shipping and handling).

VHF Ionospheric Openings

While the CQ Contest does not include the VHF bands, some interesting ionospheric activity is likely to occur on these bands during October.

Some fairly good meteor-scatter-type openings should be possible on the VHF bands around October 21st when the two-day *Orionids* meteor shower is expected to begin. This should be a major shower, with a maximum hourly rate of at least 25 meteors.

Auroral activity usually increases during October, and some corresponding auroral-scatter-type and sporadic-E VHF

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openings can be expected during periods of such activity. The best days to check are those which are expected to be either Below Normal or Disturbed on the HF bands. See the Last Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for the days in October that are forecast to be in these categories.

CW Contest Forecast

This month's DX Propagation Charts are valid for both the phone and the CW sections of the contest. Be sure to keep them handy for use during next month's CW section as well. Short-Skip Propagation Charts for use during October appeared in last month's column.

Experience from the past 35 contest years has shown that DX contests are excellent periods in which to test the accuracy of prediction and forecast methods used in this column. Contests generate a large amount of activity in every corner of the world and on all HF bands. Previous results and observations have helped considerably in improving the accuracy of this column. Comments concerning the 1986 contest and the accuracy of these forecasts and predictions would be appreciated, and should be sent directly to W3ASK at P.O. Box 1714, Silver Spring, MD 20902. *Good luck in the contest!*

73, George, W3ASK

October and November 1986 Time Zone: EST (24-Hour Time) EASTERN USA TO:

	15 Meters	20 Meters	40 Meters	80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	08-09 (1) 09-11 (2) 11-12 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-09 (4) 09-11 (3) 11-13 (4) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	16-18 (1) 18-19 (2) 19-21 (3) 21-01 (2) 01-02 (3) 02-03 (2) 03-04 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-23 (2) 23-01 (3) 01-02 (2) 02-03 (1) 20-23 (1)* 23-01 (2)* 01-02 (1)*
Northern Europe & European USSR	08-10 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-11 (2) 11-13 (1)	17-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 22-00 (1) 00-01 (2) 01-02 (1)	19-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-02 (1) 22-01 (1)*
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	08-09 (1) 09-10 (2) 10-11 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-17 (1)	17-19 (1) 19-23 (2) 23-02 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-01 (1) 22-00 (1)*
Western Africa	10-14 (1)** 08-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-14 (3) 14-15 (2) 15-16 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (4) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-02 (2) 02-03 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-02 (1) 22-01 (1)*
Eastern & Central Africa	10-13 (1)** 09-11 (1) 11-13 (2) 13-15 (1)	07-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	20-01 (1)	21-00 (1)
Southern Africa	09-12 (1)** 08-10 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	07-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	20-23 (1) 20-22 (1)*
Central & South Asia	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 19-21 (1)	18-21 (1) 05-08 (1)	18-20 (1) 05-07 (1)
Southeast Asia	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 18-21 (1)	17-20 (1) 05-08 (1)	05-07 (1)

Far East	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-11 (1) 16-19 (1) 19-21 (2) 21-22 (1)	17-20 (1) 04-08 (1)	05-07 (1)
South Pacific & New Zealand	13-16 (1)** 12-15 (1) 15-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-09 (3) 09-11 (2) 11-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 18-20 (3) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	00-03 (1) 03-05 (3) 05-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	02-04 (1) 04-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 05-07 (1)*
Australasia	14-16 (1)** 14-16 (1) 16-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-20 (1) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	02-04 (1) 04-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	04-05 (1) 05-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 05-07 (1)*
Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	08-09 (1)** 09-14 (2)** 14-15 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-14 (3) 14-15 (4) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	00-03 (2) 03-06 (1) 06-07 (2) 09-11 (3) 11-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-18 (4) 18-19 (2) 19-00 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-21 (3) 21-03 (4) 03-05 (3) 05-06 (2) 06-07 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-01 (2) 01-03 (3) 03-05 (2) 05-06 (1) 22-02 (1)* 02-04 (2)* 04-05 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	10-15 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	02-06 (1) 06-08 (2) 08-11 (2) 14-16 (1) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (3) 18-20 (2) 20-23 (1) 23-02 (2)	20-22 (1) 22-04 (2) 04-05 (1)	21-23 (1) 23-03 (2) 03-04 (1) 02-04 (1)*
McMurdo Sound	15-17 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-07 (1)	00-03 (1) 03-05 (2) 05-07 (1)	03-05 (1)

Time Zones: CST & MST (24-Hour Time) CENTRAL USA TO:

	15 Meters	20 Meters	40 Meters	80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	08-09 (1) 09-11 (2) 11-12 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	17-18 (1) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (3) 20-22 (2) 22-01 (1) 01-02 (2) 02-03 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-00 (2) 00-02 (1) 20-01 (1)*
Northern Europe & European USSR	08-10 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-11 (2) 11-13 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-21 (2) 21-01 (1)	20-00 (1) 20-23 (1)*
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	09-11 (1)	06-11 (1) 11-14 (2) 14-16 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	20-22 (1)
Western Africa	10-13 (1)** 08-10 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-01 (2) 01-02 (1)	19-20 (1) 20-00 (2) 00-01 (1) 20-00 (1)*
Eastern & Central Africa	10-12 (1)** 08-11 (1) 11-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	07-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	20-00 (1)	21-23 (1)
Southern Africa	10-12 (1)** 08-10 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-12 (3) 12-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	07-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 21-23 (1)	19-22 (1) 20-22 (1)*
Central & South Asia	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 17-18 (1) 18-20 (2) 20-21 (1)	05-08 (1) 18-20 (1)	05-07 (1) 18-20 (1)
Southeast Asia	16-18 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 18-21 (1)	04-08 (1) 17-19 (1)	05-07 (1)
Far East	16-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2)	01-02 (1) 02-04 (2)	02-03 (1) 03-05 (2)

		10-12 (1) 16-18 (1) 18-20 (2) 20-22 (1)	04-06 (1) 06-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	05-07 (1) 03-06 (1)*
South Pacific & New Zealand	12-17 (1)** 11-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (3) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (3) 09-12 (2) 12-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 18-20 (3) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	23-01 (1) 01-03 (2) 03-07 (3) 07-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	00-02 (1) 02-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 02-07 (1)*
Australasia	14-17 (1)** 10-14 (1) 14-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	05-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-10 (3) 10-11 (2) 11-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-19 (1) 19-23 (2) 23-02 (1)	02-04 (1) 04-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	03-04 (1) 04-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 04-07 (1)*
Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	08-09 (1)** 09-14 (2)** 14-16 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-14 (3) 14-15 (4) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	02-06 (1) 06-07 (2) 07-09 (4) 09-11 (3) 11-14 (2) 14-15 (3) 15-18 (4) 18-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-23 (1) 23-02 (2)	18-19 (1) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (3) 21-03 (4) 03-05 (3) 05-07 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-00 (2) 00-03 (3) 03-05 (2) 05-06 (1) 21-02 (1)* 02-04 (2)* 04-05 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay	09-11 (1)** 11-14 (2)** 14-15 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (1)	01-06 (1) 06-08 (2) 08-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (3) 18-20 (2) 20-22 (1) 22-01 (2)	19-21 (1) 21-01 (2) 01-03 (1) 03-04 (2) 04-05 (1)	21-23 (1) 23-01 (2) 01-03 (1) 00-02 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	15-17 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-23 (2) 23-08 (1)	23-02 (1) 02-05 (2) 05-06 (1)	02-05 (1)

**Time Zone: PST (24-Hour Time)
WESTERN USA TO:**

	15 Meters	20 Meters	40 Meters	80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	08-11 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-10 (1) 10-13 (2) 13-15 (1) 23-01 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	19-23 (1) 20-22 (1)*
Northern Europe & European USSR	08-10 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-11 (2) 11-12 (1) 23-01 (1)	21-00 (1)	21-23 (1)
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	08-10 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-11 (1) 11-12 (2) 12-14 (1) 21-23 (1)	18-22 (1) 06-08 (1)	Nil
Western Africa	09-11 (1)** 08-10 (1) 10-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	07-10 (1) 10-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1) 22-00 (1)	18-23 (1)	19-22 (1) 19-21 (1)*
Eastern & Central Africa	09-12 (1)	08-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-17 (1) 21-23 (1)	18-21 (1) 06-08 (1)	Nil
Southern Africa	08-10 (1) 10-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	06-09 (1) 09-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 13-16 (2) 16-18 (1) 23-01 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (1) 06-08 (1)	18-20 (1)
Central & South Asia	16-18 (1)	08-11 (1) 16-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	17-19 (1) 04-09 (1)	05-07 (1)
Southeast Asia	14-16 (1)** 14-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	07-09 (1) 09-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 17-19 (1) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (1)	02-03 (1) 03-06 (2) 06-08 (1)	03-07 (1) 04-06 (1)*
Far East	13-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-11 (1)	22-00 (1) 00-02 (2) 02-06 (3)	23-01 (1) 01-05 (2) 05-07 (1)

		11-13 (2) 13-16 (1) 16-18 (3) 18-19 (2) 19-21 (1)	06-08 (2) 08-09 (1)	01-06 (1)*
South Pacific & New Zealand	12-14 (1)** 14-16 (2)** 16-17 (1)** 11-13 (1) 13-16 (2) 16-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	04-08 (1) 08-10 (3) 10-12 (2) 12-16 (1) 16-17 (1) 17-18 (3) 18-20 (4) 20-21 (2) 21-02 (1) 02-04 (2)	21-22 (1) 22-05 (3) 05-07 (2) 07-09 (1)	22-00 (1) 00-05 (2) 05-07 (1) 02-06 (1)*
Australasia	15-17 (1)** 11-12 (1) 12-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-18 (1)	17-19 (2) 19-20 (3) 20-21 (2) 21-03 (1) 03-05 (2) 05-08 (1) 08-10 (3) 10-12 (2) 12-17 (1)	02-03 (1) 03-04 (2) 04-07 (3) 07-09 (1)	03-04 (1) 04-06 (2) 06-08 (1) 04-07 (1)*
Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	08-10 (1)** 10-14 (2)** 14-15 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-15 (4) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	08-09 (4) 09-13 (2) 13-15 (3) 15-17 (4) 17-18 (2) 18-22 (1) 22-02 (2) 02-06 (1) 06-08 (3)	18-19 (1) 19-01 (3) 01-04 (2) 04-05 (1)	19-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-04 (1) 22-00 (1)* 00-02 (2)* 02-03 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	09-11 (1)** 11-14 (2)** 14-15 (1)** 07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (3) 15-16 (1)	12-14 (1) 14-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-06 (1) 06-07 (2) 07-09 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-02 (2) 02-05 (1)	20-23 (1) 23-00 (2) 00-02 (1) 23-01 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	14-16 (1)	17-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 22-02 (1) 08-10 (1)	23-02 (1) 02-05 (2) 05-06 (1)	02-05 (1)

*Indicates best time for 160 meter opening.
**Indicates best time for 10 meter opening.

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NEWS/VIEWS OF ON-THE-AIR COMPETITION

All competitive sporting events have rules and regulations that must be followed to keep things in order. With judges, referees, and umpires on the scene to make a visual judgment, a positive decision can be made. The decision might be questioned, but it must be accepted. Penalties and disqualifications follow for those making strong objections.

Contesting in amateur radio is also considered a sporting event with rules and regulations, penalties and disqualifications. However, I sometimes wonder if a small minority pay any attention to them.

Reading the results of the last CQ World-Wide Phone Contest, I only saw two disqualifications, which were for obvious reasons, giving the impression that we had a clean contest. However, the remarks made in the story, some of the remarks in the QRM section, and on-the-air observations would indicate that this was not the true story. The honor system and self-policing does not prevent certain operators from using their own set of rules.

Unfortunately, it is almost impossible for the Contest Committee (the judges) to do much about the situation except to cross-check logs for scoring violations. They do not have the on-the-spot advantages of judges in other sporting events. Don't you think it's about time to give more attention to other areas and to try to keep things from getting out of hand?

This observation is not limited to our own CQ contest, which was probably the first one to enforce penalties for rules violations, but also pertains to other world-wide organizations who have contest programs. Sweeping the dirt under the rug is not going to solve this growing problem.

Deadline for material for the January issue is October 15th, and November 15th for the February issue.

73 for this time, Frank, W1WY

Iberoamericano Contest

2000Z Sat. to 2000Z Sun., Oct. 4-5

Organized by "Seccion Territorial de URE del Valles Oriental" and by "CQ Radio Amateur de Boixareu Editores," this contest will be sponsored every year the weekend before October 12th to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of America. This is a phone-only contest with the emphasis on Latin-American areas.

14 Sherwood Road, Stamford, CT 06905

Calendar of Events

Oct. 4-5	Iberoamericano Contest
* Oct. 4-5	IRSA World Championship
* Oct. 4-5	"Middle of World" Contest
* Oct. 4-5	VK/ZL/Oceania SSB
* Oct. 11-12	VK/ZL/Oceania CW Contest
Oct. 11-12	Pennsylvania QSO Party
Oct. 12	RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB
Oct. 12-13	Illinois QSO Party
Oct. 15-17	YLRL Anniv. CW Party
Oct. 18	RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
Oct. 18-19	ARCI QRP CW Contest
Oct. 18-19	Boy Scout Jamboree
Oct. 18-20	CARTG RTTY Contest
Oct. 18-20	Rhode Island QSO Party
Oct. 25-26	CQ WW DX Phone Contest
Oct. 25-Nov. 1	Cayman's Pirate Week
Oct. 29-31	YLRL Anniv. SSB Party
Nov. 1-2	Int. Police Assn. Contest
Nov. 1-3	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov. 8	ALARA YL/OM Contest
Nov. 8-9	European RTTY Contest
Nov. 15-16	AOEC 160 Meter Contest
Nov. 15-16	Oceania QRP CW Contest
Nov. 15-17	ARRL Phone Sweepstakes
Nov. 29-30	CQ WW DX CW Contest
Dec. 6-8	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec. 14-15	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

* Covered last month.

Classes: Both single and multi-operator, and SWL. Multi stations are restricted to one transmitter.

Exchange: RS plus a progressive QSO number (001, etc.).

Bands: All six bands, 1.8 through 28 MHz.

Points: Latin-American stations score one point per QSO. Non-Latin-Americans, 3 points per QSO with Latin-Americans, 1 point with other non-Latin-Americans.

Multiplier: Latin-Americans use the DXCC list. Non-Latin-Americans use the following L-M country list: CE, CO, CP, CR, CT, CX, C3, C9, DU, EA, HC, HI, HK, HP, HR, HT, KP4, LU, OA, PY, TG, TI, XE, YS, YV, ZP, 3C, and dependencies.

Final Score: Total QSO points from all bands times the sum of multipliers from all bands.

SWL: Same rules apply to SWL entries. The same station cannot be logged more than 15% of the total logged. And the same station can only be logged again after 5 other entries.

Penalties: Taking credit for excessive duplicate contacts, and violation of rules and amateur radio regulations could result in disqualification.

Awards: Certificates will be issued to the highest scores in each DXCC country. Participating certificates will go to non-Latin-American stations making 50

or more QSOs. There are plaques for overall winning scores showing at least 4 hours of operation and 100 or more QSOs.

Mailing deadline for entries is November 30th to: IX Concurso Iberoamericano, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 594, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Pennsylvania QSO Party

1600-0500Z Sat.-Sun., Oct. 11-12
1300-2200Z Sun., Oct. 12

This is the 29th annual party sponsored by the Nittany ARC of State College, Pennsylvania. The same station may be worked on each band and mode for QSO points. PA stations may also work other PA stations for QSO and multiplier credit. Mobiles may be worked in each county change.

Exchange: QSO number, and QTH. County for PA, ARRL section for others.

Scoring: One point for SSB contacts, 1.5 points for CW, 2 points for CW on 80 and 160.

PA stations multiply total by ARRL sections + PA counties + 1 DX country worked. Others use PA counties for their multiplier (maximum of 67).

Mobiles add 500 bonus points for each county operated from, minimum of 10 QSOs. Mobiles on county lines give one QSO number but get credit for two multipliers.

Frequencies: CW—1810 and 40 kHz up from bottom edge of each CW band. SSB—1850, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28580. Novice—10 up from bottom of each Novice band. Mobile—5 kHz below listed frequencies. Try 160 at 0300Z.

Awards: Will be made in five classes—single operator, multi-single, multi-multi, mobile, and QRP (maximum 5 watts). Certificates to winners in each county, each section, and club (minimum of 3 members and 20 QSOs). Plaques to top scorers in both eastern and western PA, out-of-state, multi-single, mobile, western and central USA, and QRP (*quite a selection—ed.*).

Include a summary sheet with your entry showing the scoring, a check list of counties or sections worked, and a dupe sheet if you make 100 or more contacts. There is a severe penalty of 100 points deducted for each dupe that has not been removed.

Official log forms are recommended and are available from W3HDH. For a copy of the results send 50¢ (no SASE).

Mailing deadline for entries is November 15th to: Douglas R. Maddox, W3HDH,

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Illinois QSO Party

1800Z Sun. to 0200Z Mon., Oct. 12-13

The Radio Amateur Megacycle Society has changed the dates of this year's party and made other minor modifications. It's a shorty, only 8 hours long.

Stations may be worked once per band and mode, and IL stations can now contact other in-state stations for QSO and multiplier credit.

Exchange: RS(T) and QTH. County for IL stations; state, province, or DX country for others.

Scoring: One point for phone QSOs, 2 points if on CW. IL stations multiply total QSO points by (states + provinces + IL counties + maximum of 5 DX countries) worked for their final score. Others use IL counties for their multiplier (maximum of 102).

Additional DX can be worked, but for QSO points only. IL mobiles add 200 bonus points to their final score for each county from which 10 or more QSOs were made. All stations earn one extra multiplier for every eight QSOs with the same county.

Frequencies: CW—3550, 7050, 14050. Phone—3890, 7290, 14290. Other bands may also be used.

Awards: Highest score in each state,

VE province, and DX country. Also top 10 IL stations and top 5 IL mobiles, and highest club/team aggregate score.

Include a summary sheet with your entry and a dupe sheet for logs with 100 or more contacts.

Mailing deadline is November 1st to: RAMS, Att: Joe Le Kostaj, WB9GOJ, 9134 Ewing Ave., Evanston, IL 60203. Include a large SASE for a copy of the results.

RSGB 21/28 MHz Phone Contest

0700 to 1900 GMT Sunday, Oct. 12

It's the world working the British Isles on 21 and 28 MHz.

The same station may be worked on each band for QSO and multiplier credit. There are a total of 42 prefixes available on each band. Following are the rules for areas other than the British Isles.

Sections: Single operator and multi-operator, both bands only, and SWL.

Exchange: RS report plus a progressive QSO number starting with 001.

Scoring: Each contact with a B.I. station is worth 3 points. Multiply total QSO points from each band by the sum of B.I. prefixes worked on each band (maximum of 42 per band). The GB prefix does not count for QSO or multiplier.

Unmarked duplicate contacts will be penalized 10 times the points claimed. Logs containing more than 5 unmarked duplicates will be disqualified.

There is also an SWL section. Only B.I. stations are to be logged. Scoring is the same as indicated above. The same call sign may appear once only in every three contacts, except when the logged station is a new multiplier.

Awards: Overseas stations will be awarded certificates to the leading station in each country and the leading station in the multi-operator section, and to the SWL winner in each country. The first, second, and third overall winners will also receive certificates of merit.

Separate log sheets are required for each band. Include a summary sheet showing the scoring, prefixes worked, and a signed declaration that rules and regulations have been observed.

Logs must be received by December 8th. This year they go to: RSGB Contest Committee, P.O. Box 73, Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 6UJ England.

RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest

0700 to 1900 GMT Sunday, Oct. 19

Like the 21/28 MHz Phone Contest, the activity in this one is between the British Isles and the rest of the world. Competition is limited to single operator stations only. There is a separate QRP section in which power input must not exceed 10 watts, and there is also an SWL section.

The following rules are for areas other than the British Isles.



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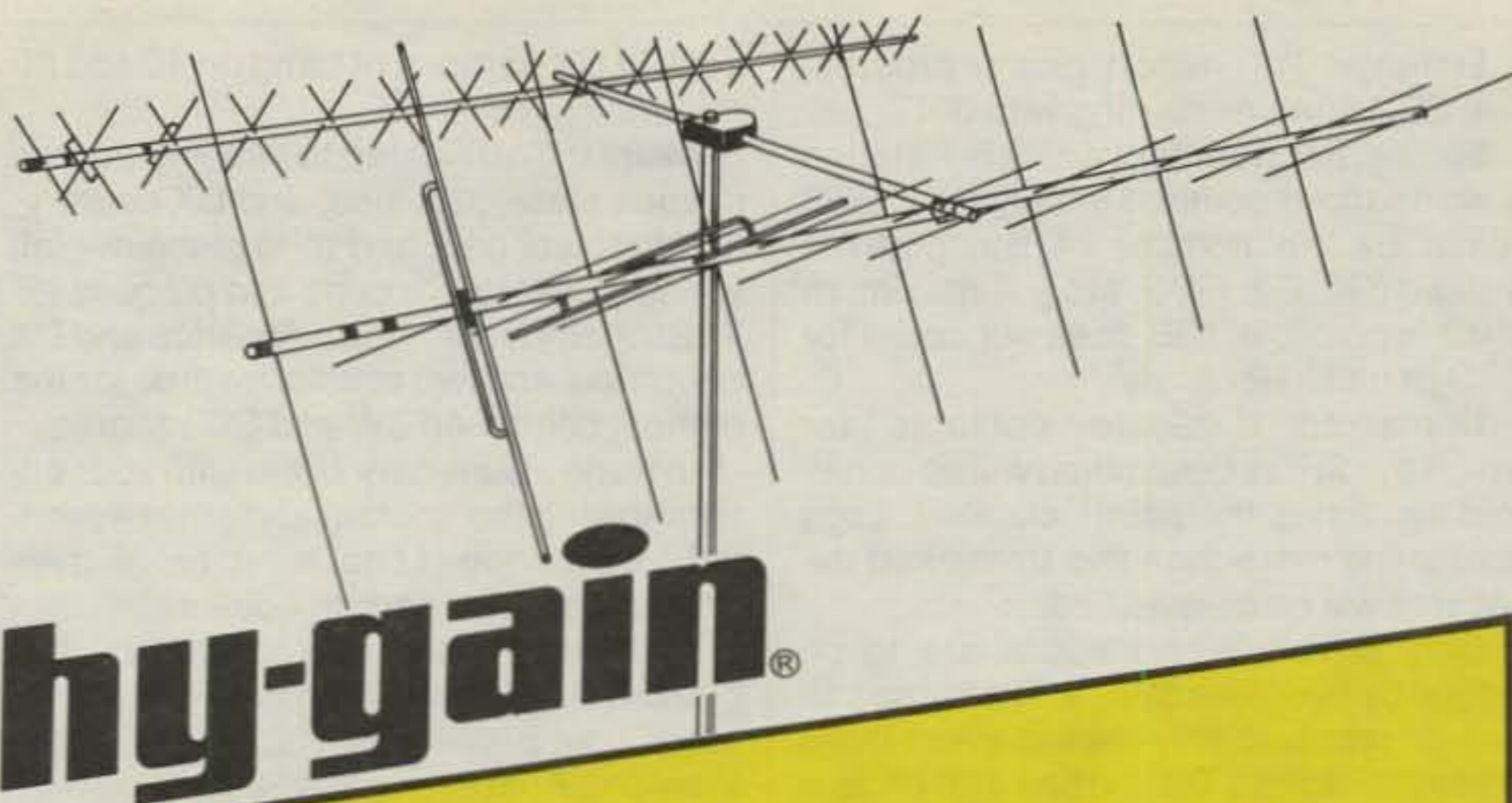
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Exchange: RST report plus a progressive QSO number starting with 001.

Scoring: Each contact with a B.I. station is worth three points. Multiply total QSO points by the number of B.I. prefixes worked (G2, G3, GD3, etc.). A maximum of 42 is possible. (GB does not count for QSO or multiplier.)

Unmarked duplicate contacts for which credit has been taken will be penalized ten times the points claimed. Logs containing more than five unmarked duplicates will be disqualified.

Only British Isles stations are to be logged by overseas SWL's. The same call may be reported only once in every three contacts, unless the logged station is a new multiplier. Scoring is the same as above.

Awards: Certificates to the three leading stations in each overseas country, both transmitting and SWL.

Include a summary sheet with a list of prefixes worked, station description, the usual signed declaration, and your name and address in block letters.

Logs must be received by December 31st. This year they go to: RSGB HF Contests Comm., c/o J. Bazley, G3HCT, "Brooklands" Ullenhall, Solihull, Warks. B95 5NW, England.

YLRL Anniversary Party

CW: Oct. 15-17 SSB: Oct. 29-31
1400Z-0200Z, Wed.-Fri.

This is the 47th annual party run by the YL Radio League. It is open to all YL's around the world. Activity will be found on all bands, 10 through 80 meters, and will be between YL's only.

CW and SSB are separate contests and require separate logs. A station may be worked *once only* for contest credit. Operation is limited to 24 out of the 36-hour contest period. Be sure to indicate off periods in your log.

Exchange: QSO no., RS(T), and QTH; U.S. state, VE province, or DX country.

Scoring: One point per QSO between stations within the U.S. and Canada (including Alaska and Hawaii). Two points for contacts with stations in other areas.

DX YL's score 2 points for QSOs with the U.S. and Canada and with other continents, but 1 point with stations in own continent.

Final Score: Multiply total QSO points from all bands by the sum of states, provinces, and DX countries worked.

There is a low-power bonus multiplier of 1.25 for stations using 150 watts or less on CW and 300 watts PEP on SSB. Multiply final score by 1.25 if applicable.

For each duplicate contact removed from your log there is a penalty of 3 additional and equal contacts removed from your log.

Frequencies: CW—3555, 7055, 14055, 21195, 28195. SSB—3955, 7255, 14295, 21395, 28595 (plus or minus 15 kHz).

Look in DX portions of band on 40 and 80 meters.

Awards: Certificates to winning scores in each state, province, and DX country, and first, second, and third place overall winners. There are cups and plaques for YLRL members in North America and DX countries, and two special awards for the highest combined CW and SSB scores.

Include a summary sheet with your entry showing the scoring and other essential information. Logs must be in their original form, no carbon copies.

Your entry must be received by December 13th, and this year logs go to: Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, 504 Channel View Dr., Anacortes, WA 98221.

ARCI QRP CW Contest

1200Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Oct. 18-19

This is the fall edition and 25th anniversary of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International. This year's activity will be found on CW only. Participants may operate the full 24 hours.

Exchange: RS(T) and state, province, or country. Members will include their number; non-members their power output.

Scoring: Contacts with members, 5 points. Non-members, 2 points if in same continent, 4 points if in a different continent. The same station may be worked on each band for QSO and multiplier credit.

There is a power output bonus: 4 to 5 watts— $\times 2$; 3 to 4 watts— $\times 4$; 2 to 3 watts— $\times 6$; 1 to 2 watts— $\times 8$; less than 1 watt— $\times 10$; over 5 watts check log only.

The following bonus multipliers are also available: solar or wind power— $\times 2$; battery power— $\times 1.5$. Must be used for duration of contest.

Multiplier: Each state, VE province, and DX country worked on each band.

Final Score: Total QSO points from all bands \times (states + provinces + countries) \times power bonus \times power type if any.

Frequencies: 1810, 3560, 7040, 14060, 21060, 28060, 50360. Novice—3710, 7110, 21110, 28110.

Awards: Certificates to the highest scorers in each state, province, and DX country with two or more entries. All entries will be considered for the Triple Crown QRP Award. In addition, Adrian Weiss, W0RSP, is sponsoring a special *Milliwatt* certificate to be awarded to the top-scoring station in the less than 1 watt category, providing there are two or more entries in that category.

Use a separate log sheet for each band. Include a summary sheet showing the scoring, equipment description, and other essential information. Include a large SASE for a copy of the results. It is suggested you send a large SASE to KA5NLY for official log forms.

Logs must be received by November 19th and go to: QRP ARCI Chairman,

Gene Smith, KA5NLY, P.O. Box 55010, Little Rock, AR 72225-0010.

Rhode Island QSO Party

1700Z Sat. to 0500Z Sun., Oct. 18-19
1300Z Sun. to 0100Z Mon., Oct. 19-20

This one is again being sponsored by the East Bay AWA (WA1YPN). The same station maybe worked on each band and each mode. RI stations may contact others RI stations for QSO points.

Exchange: RS(T) and QTH. City or town for RI; state, province, or DX country for others.

Scoring: Phone QSOs are worth 2 points, CW 3 points, and Novice/Tech. 5 points.

RI stations multiply total QSO points by the number of states, VE provinces, and DX countries worked. Others by the different RI cities and towns worked for their final score (39 cities and towns).

Frequencies: CW—1810, 3550, 3710, 7050, 7110, 14060, 21050, 21110, 28050, 28110. Phone—3900, 7250, 14300, 21360, 28600, 50110, 144.2 and 146.52. (Use of FM simplex is encouraged. No repeaters.)

Awards: Certificates to the top-scoring single operator station in each RI county, and each state, province, and country. The top-scoring Novice/Tech. in RI and out of state will also be rewarded, as will the winning RI multi-operator station.

Include a summary sheet with your entry showing the scoring and other essential information, and an SASE for a copy of the results.

Mailing deadline is November 30th to: East Bay AWA Inc., P.O. Box 392, Warren, RI 02885.

Scouts Jamboree On The Air

0001 Sat. to 2400 Sun., Local Time,
Oct. 18-19

This is the 29th annual Jamboree sponsored by the World Bureau of Scouts. Activity is world-wide and includes not only Scout units, but also Girl Scouts and Guides. This is not a contest, but an opportunity for Scouts or anyone interested in Scouting to get together on the air and exchange greetings. Amateurs can invite members of Scout units or individuals to visit their stations or clubs to see how ham radio operates.

No specific exchange, no scoring, and no logs are required. However, participating postcard-size certificates issued by the World Scout Bureau are available. They may be requested before the JOTA weekend for distribution and included with your QSLs of JOTA contacts. Send a large SASE to: JOTA, 1325 Walnut Hill, Irving, TX 75038-3096. Cost is 22¢ postage for 10 cards and 17¢ for each additional 10.

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cies are suggested. CW—3590, 7030, 14070, 21140, 28190. Phone—3940, 7290, 14290, 21360, 28990. And the usual frequencies for Novice, RTTY, SSTV, ATV, and Packet. Look for headquarters stations K2BSA, HB9S, and other special calls.

Reports of your activity and additional information should be sent to: JOTA Coordinator, International Division BSA, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75038-3096.

(Harry Harchar, W2GND, who was the stateside coordinator for many years, became a Silent Key some months ago.)

CARTG RTTY Sweepstakes

0200Z Sat. to 0200Z Mon., Oct. 18-19

This is the 26th annual contest run by the Canadian Amateur Radio Teletype Group. No more than 30 hours out of the 48-hour contest period are permitted for single operators. Multi-operators can use the full 48 hours. Off times can be taken at any time, but must be indicated in the log.

Use all five bands, 3.5 through 28 MHz, in that portion of the band designated for RTTY. A station may be worked once on each band for QSO and multiplier credit.

Classes: Single operator, multi-operator single transmitter, and SWL.

Exchange: RST, Time in GMT, and CARTG Zone.

Points: Contacts with stations within own zone, 2 points. All other contacts, points as listed in CARTG zone chart. (Write to CARTG for copy of chart.)

Multiplier: ARRL country list plus U.S., VE, and VK call areas.

Final Score: Total exchange points \times countries/call areas \times continents. There is a bonus of 200 points added to final score for each Canadian contact on all bands.

Awards: All awards in form of plaques. Ten to the top scores and several other awards in different classes and categories.

It is suggested that you send a large SASE or IRC to CARTG for additional information, log sheets, and a copy of the zone chart.

All entries must be received before December 31st and go to: CARTG, 85 Fife-shire Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2L 2G9.

Caymans Pirates Week

0000Z to 2400Z Sat., Oct. 25-Nov. 1

This is not a contest, but an event that should stir up some activity in the Cayman Islands.

Special prefixes will be used that will make it interesting for prefix collectors. ZF1 will sign ZF10, ZF2 will sign ZF20, ZF8 will sign ZF80, and ZF9 will sign ZF90—four brand new prefix calls to add to your total.

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Pirates Week will be issued to all stations sending a confirmation of contacting a Cayman station during the above week.

Include 2 IRCs with your QSL, which must be received no later than December 1st 1986. Address it to: C.A.R.S., P.O. Box 1029, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Phone: Oct. 25-26 CW: Nov. 29-30
0000Z Saturday to 2400Z Sunday

Complete rules were published in last month's issue and are the same as those used these many years. There have been a few changes and additions in the sponsors of the more than 60 trophies and plaques that will be awarded in the 1986 contest. The Team Contesting category has been retained.

You are again reminded to study the disqualification clause. Penalties for taking credit for duplicate contacts and other infractions have been clearly defined. You not only risk a deduction in your score, but also possible disqualification, especially if your score was questionable in last year's contest.

There are other areas that might lead to being disqualified—sportsmanship, regulation violations, etc. Reading the comments in the phone results last month (USA QRM) would indicate that there are areas for improvement. The Contest Committee is cognizant of the fact and will be watching those areas in this year's contest.

Note: The CQ Champion Plaque for stations winning the same category for two consecutive years only applies to world winners, not to other sub-areas.

Repeating the deadline, all entries must be postmarked NO LATER than December 1, 1986 for the phone section, and January 15, 1987 for the CW section. An extension may be granted if requested in writing to the Contest Committee.

Again this year all logs must be sent directly to: CQ World-Wide DX Contest, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 U.S.A. Be sure to indicate Phone or CW on the envelope.

Int. Police Assn. Contest

CW: Sat., Nov. 1 SSB: Sun., Nov. 2
0600Z-1000Z & 1400Z-1800Z

The International Police Assn. Radio Club Contest is again organized by the German Chapter. There have been some changes made in the rules.

Participation is by members and non-members in three classes: single operator, multi-operator, and SWL. The same station may be worked in each band and mode for QSO and multiplier credit. CW and SSB should be scored separately.

Exchange: RS(T) and QSO number starting with 001. Club members will identify by including IPA and their state if in the

U.S. Non-members in the U.S. will also include their state.

Scoring: One point per QSO; 5 points if it's with an IPA station. Multiply total by DXCC countries and U.S. states worked on each band with an IPA station.

Frequencies: CW—3575, 7025, 14075, 21075, 28075. SSB—3650, 7075, 14295, 21295, 28575. DX—3775, 3800, 7075, 7100. (U.S. on 40 and 80?)

Awards: Certificates to the three highest scorers in each class and each mode. Contest contacts can be applied to the Sherlock Holmes Award and Trophy (*requirements were not given*).

Stateside stations can get additional information by sending a large SASE to Thomas D. Jenkins, WA8VDC, 4828 Elm Street, Newport, MI 48166.

Mailing deadline for contest logs is December 31st, and they go to: Anton Kohlen, DK5JA, P.O. Box 40 0163, D-4152 Kempen 1, West Germany.

ARRL Sweepstakes

CW: Nov. 1-3 Phone: Nov. 15-17
Starts: 2100Z Sat. Ends: 0300Z Mon.

This is the 53rd running of the Sweepstakes, making it the oldest domestic competition going, and it really stirs up a lot of activity.

Operation is limited to stations in ARRL sections, which also includes the West Indies section (KP4, KV4, etc.) and U.S. possessions in the Pacific. Operation is limited to 24 out of the 30 hour contest period. Times off may not be less than 30 minutes and must be clearly indicated in your log.

In order to minimize QRM to non-contesters it is recommended that operation be confined to certain portions of the bands. It is recommended that you check QST for details.

There are several other regulations, including a cross-check sheet if you make 200 or more contacts. A large SASE (39¢ in postage) will get you the "SS Package" and Operating Aid #6 with enough log and summary sheets for an average outing.

Exchange: QSO no., power class, call, last two digits of year first licensed, and your ARRL section.

Stations using 150 watts or less are classed "A" and over 150 watts "B." The same station may be worked once only regardless of the band.

Scoring: Each completed QSO is worth 2 points. The multiplier is derived from the number of ARRL sections, plus VE8, worked (maximum of 74).

Awards: The usual certificates in each class and mode for single operator stations in each section and multi-operator stations in each division.

Logs must be received no later than December 21st and go to: ARRL Communications Dept., 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

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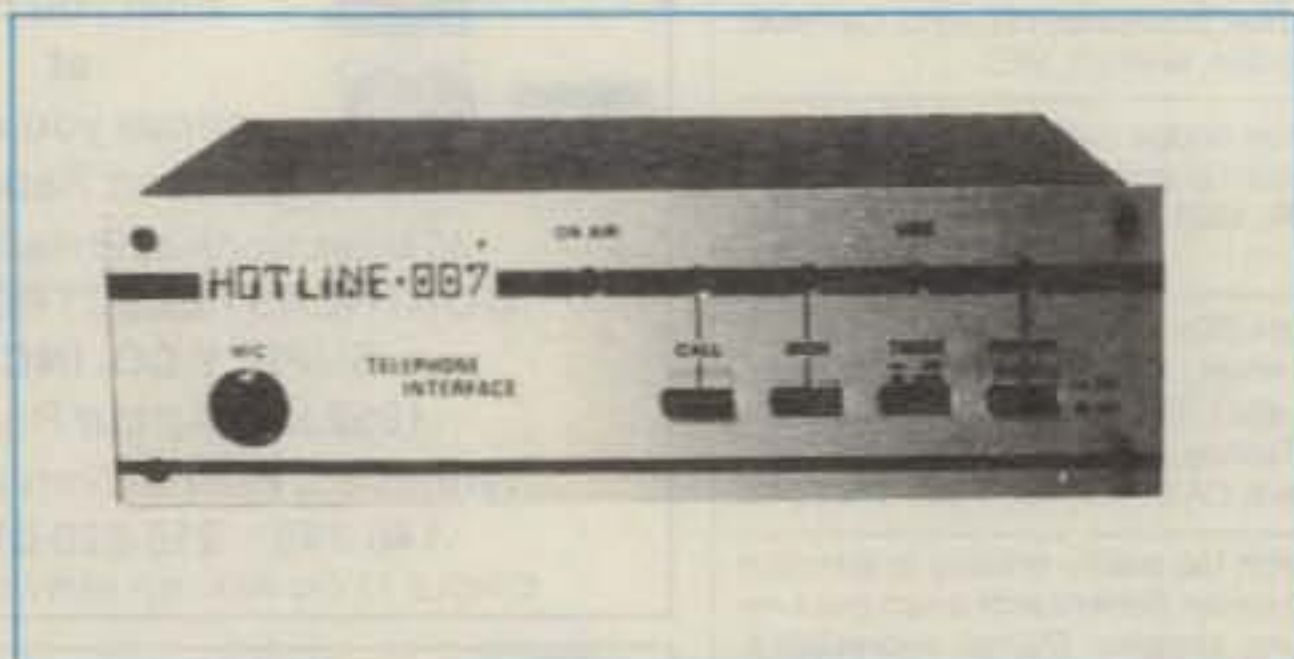


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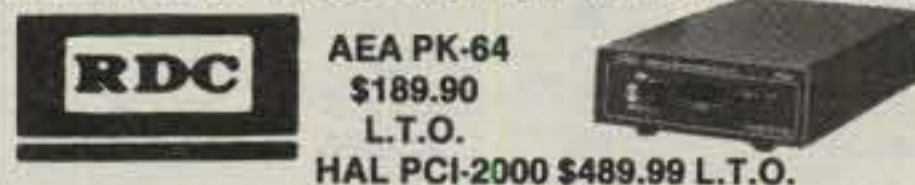
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MRF453,IA	Q 60W	15.00	35.00
MRF454,IA	Q 80W	15.00	34.00
MRF455,IA	Q 60W	12.00	28.00
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MRF485*	15W	6.00	15.00
MRF492	Q 90W	16.75	37.50
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MRF238	30W	136-174	13.00	30.00
MRF239	30W	136-174	15.00	35.00
MRF240	40W	136-174	18.00	41.00
MRF245	80W	136-174	28.00	65.00
MRF247	75W	136-174	27.00	63.00
MRF260	5W	136-174	7.00	—
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MRF607	1.75W	136-174	3.00	—
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MRF644	25W	407-512	24.00	54.00
MRF646	40W	407-512	26.50	59.00
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SD1477	100W	136-174	32.50	78.00
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2N4427	1W	136-174	1.25	—
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2N6081	15W	136-174	9.00	—
2N6082	25W	136-174	10.50	—
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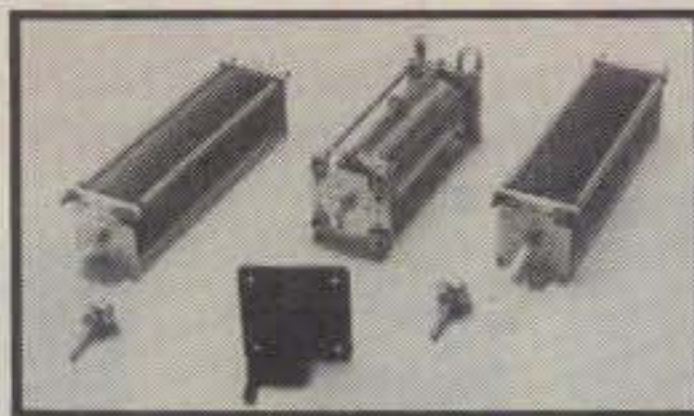


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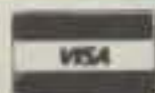


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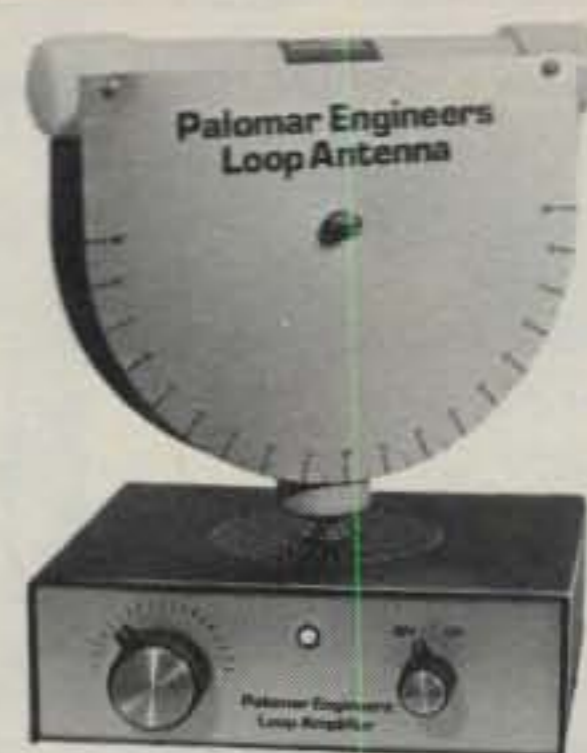


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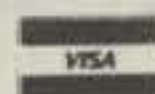
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