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CQ

Results of the 1986 CQ WW DX CW Contest ... page 13



THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL

KENWOOD

...pacesetter in Amateur Radio

#1 Rated HF

“DX-cellence!”

TS-940S

The new TS-940S is a serious radio for the serious operator. Superb interference reduction circuits and high dynamic range receiver combine with superior transmitter design to give you no-nonsense, no compromise performance that gets your signals through! The exclusive multi-function LCD sub display graphically illustrates VBT, SSB slope, and other features.

• **100% duty cycle transmitter.**

Super efficient cooling system using special air ducting works with the internal heavy-duty power supply to allow continuous transmission at full power output for periods exceeding one hour.

• **High stability, dual digital VFOs.**

An optical encoder and the flywheel VFO knob give the TS-940S a positive tuning “feel!”

• **Graphic display of operating features.**

Exclusive multi-function LCD sub-

display panel shows CW VBT, SSB slope tuning, as well as frequency, time, and AT-940 antenna tuner status.

• **Low distortion transmitter.**

Kenwood's unique transmitter design delivers top “quality Kenwood” sound.

• **Keyboard entry frequency selection.**

Operating frequencies may be directly entered into the TS-940S without using the VFO knob.

• **QRM-fighting features.**

Remove “rotten QRM” with the SSB slope tuning, CW VBT, notch filter, AF tune, and CW pitch controls.

• **Built-in FM, plus SSB, CW, AM, FSK.**

• **Semi or full break-in (QSK) CW.**

• **40 memory channels.**

Mode and frequency may be stored in 4 groups of 10 channels each.

• **Programmable scanning.**

• **General coverage receiver.**

Tunes from 150 kHz to 30 MHz.

• **1 yr. limited warranty.**

Another Kenwood First!

Optional accessories:

• AT-940 full range (160-10m) automatic antenna tuner • SP-940 external



Interface IF-232C/IF-10B

speaker with audio filtering • YG-455C-1 (500 Hz), YG-455CN-1 (250 Hz), YK-88C-1 (500 Hz) CW filters; YK-88A-1 (6 kHz) AM filter • VS-1 voice synthesizer • SO-1 temperature compensated crystal oscillator • MC-43S UP/DOWN hand mic. • MC-60A, MC-80, MC-85 deluxe base station mics. • PC-1A phone patch • TL-922A linear amplifier • SM-220 station monitor • BS-8 pan display • SW-200A and SW-2000 SWR and power meters.



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



More TS-940S information is available from authorized Kenwood dealers.

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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-43S 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-5/6/7 headphones
- SP-40/50B 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-2S extra DC cable.

Kenwood takes you from HF to OSCAR!



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

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NOW!
70 cm

All Mode Mobility!

TR-751A/851A Compact all mode transceivers

It's the "New Sound" on the 2 meter band—Kenwood's TR-751A! Automatic mode selection, versatile scanning functions, illuminated multi-function LCD and status lights all contribute to the rig's ease-of-operation. All this and more in a compact package for VHF stations on-the-go!

- Automatic mode selection, plus LSB 144.0 144.1 144.5 145.8 146.0 148.0 MHz

CW	USB	FM	USB	FM
----	-----	----	-----	----

- Optional front panel-selectable 38-tone CTCSS encoder
- Frequency range 142-149 MHz (modifiable to cover 141-151 MHz)
- High performance receiver with GaAs FET front end
- VS-1 voice synthesizer option

- 25 watts high/5 watts adjustable low
- Programmable scanning—memory, band, or mode scan with "COM" channel and priority alert
- 10 memory channels for frequency, mode, CTCSS tone, offset. Two channels for odd splits.
- All mode squelch, noise blanker, and RIT
- Easy-to-read analog S & RF meter



- Dual digital VFOs
- Semi break-in CW with side tone
- MC-48 16-key DTMF hand microphone and microphone hook included
- Frequency lock, offset, reverse switches
- Digital Channel Link (DCL) option

Optional accessories:

- CD-10 call sign display
- PS-430, PS-30 DC power supplies
- SW-100A/B SWR/power meter
- SW-200A/B SWR/power meter
- SWT-1 2 m antenna tuner
- SWT-2 70 cm antenna tuner
- TU-7 38-tone CTCSS encoder
- MU-1 modem unit for DCL system
- VS-1 voice synthesizer
- MB-10 extra mobile mount
- SP-40, SP-50B mobile speakers
- PG-2N extra DC cable
- PG-3B DC line noise filter
- MC-60A, MC-80, MC-85 deluxe base station mics.
- MC-43S UP/DOWN mic.
- MC-55 (8-pin) mobile mic.
- MA-4000 dual band antenna with duplexer



Actual size front panel

TR-851A

70 cm SSB/CW/FM transceiver

The same winning features are yours on 70 cm with the TR-851A!

- Covers 430-439.999 MHz
- 25 W high power/5 W adjustable low
- MC-43S UP/DWN mic. and mic. hook included



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ON THE COVER: These are the flying fingers of Steve McElroy, K4JPD of Douglasville, GA. Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI.

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Zero Bias

AN EDITORIAL

It occurred to me the other day that the original crew who started the *CQ* World-Wide DX Contest way back when had some pretty devious motives in setting the dates. Maybe it wasn't so devious the first year or so, but in subsequent years the wonderful planning became obvious. I know that Frank, W1WY, will say that it was a choice made after analyzing contest activity, open dates, geopolitical considerations, and the opportunity for global amateur friendships. George, W3ASK, would add some esoteric information on critical sunspot activity favoring a particular window of time.

The interest starts to build in the *CQ* WW DX Contest about the time the high-claimed scores are published. Who did what and who beat whom and who was even listed at all becomes very important. Then September comes and tension heightens as the phone scores are published and the all important rules for the next one are printed. Now it starts getting down to the wire and people see just whom they beat and who beat them (and by how much). They can also see who has been gaining on them and on whom they are gaining. In October we have the CW results plus the All-Time Records, another hurdle to overcome and new levels of aspiration. Everyone is now up for a challenge. October is also the time of the Phone contest, and so a month is spent getting everything in shape, fine-tuned, and honed, with back-up gear in place and an all-out concentration of effort. November arrives and it is a repeat of October, adrenalin flowing freely, DXpeditions all over the place, and amateur activity from countries, island rocks, sandbars possibly populated by one shepherd and three goats . . . it's the ultimate amateur high. It's contest fever.

Now comes the uncertainty. The contest is over and you're not quite sure how you did. If only you had put up another beam, tried a new mike or keyer, bought that new super-duper transceiver, or even went for the whole nine yards and ordered the latest King Kong "Super Mega Blaster" all band amplifier, you could have edged out so-and-so or at least given him cause to cringe at your signal. It's at this point that our fantasy life (amateur radio fantasy, that is) blossoms. If only we had had this and that, we could have done better. Even the top guys and groups want to be so top that there's plenty of space between them



Plaque presented to CQ by the ORARI.

and the next guy. Who wouldn't be proud to be listed in the All-Time Records and have that record stand for a long time?

Now you'll see the logic of timing, for timing is everything. Following on the heels of the *CQ* WW DX Contest is Christmas with its wonderful tradition of exchanging gifts. What better time to ask for all the things you'll need, want, have to have, can't do without for next year's outing. So you see how sneaky it can be. As close as I can figure and piece together from remaining records, the original contest committee was infiltrated by certain members of the gift-wrapping industry posing as amateurs. They arranged in very subtle ways this bit of timing. I mean after all, none of us really wanted all of these new and wonderful transceivers, antennas, amplifiers, and the myriad of accessory items. Before that we were all happy with our one-tube oscillators. The bigger the gift, the more wrapping paper it takes. Simple, yet insidious. So if your family complains about the price of the King Kong "Super Mega Blaster," tell them it's not your fault, and they can get even by not wrapping it.

CQ Receives Award

After years of presenting awards for amateur radio achievement, *CQ* was on the receiving end recently. ORARI (Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia) in celebrating the 19th anniversary of their QSL

and Awards Bureau has awarded a plaque to the *CQ* Award Directors on behalf of all ORARI members who have participated in *CQ* Awards Programs and *CQ* DX Contests. The plaque was presented by Ben S. Samsu, YB0EBS/W6.

On behalf of the *CQ* Award and Contest Directors, I thank the members of ORARI.

Travels With CQ

Huntsville does attract a lot of amateurs. I can't attest to the actual numbers, but in absolute terms it ranks extremely high in amateur turnout. I'd say that we saw more people there than at most hamfests we attend. There were also more young people there than at most hamfests.

What's the secret? Well, it's absolutely free; there is no admission charge. How do they pay for all that space in the Von Braun Civic Center? Again it seems to be a simple idea—raffle tickets. Instead of attaching a prize ticket to an admission ticket, this group sells the prize tickets (both amateur and nonamateur prize drawings) to any and all who attend. They found out that they could sell enough prize tickets to pay for the event. It also allows anyone who is interested in the event to attend even though they may not have money. Another good idea that works is their mailing for the hamfest. If you've attended the previous event and registered at the door, your name will be added to the mailing list for the current hamfest. You will receive a card letting you know about the event coming up. That card is also a raffle ticket. Shortly before the event you will receive another reminder card, also a raffle ticket. These two tickets are for Saturday and Sunday drawings. Each of these drawings is held for prior-attendees and the prize for each is a \$100 bill. That's quite an inducement to keep coming back each year.

Dick and I were quite impressed with the organization and how efficient everything was run. Of course the food concession needs quite a bit of work to get it out of a double yech rating. Dave and Sandy Ingram drove up for the event, and Karl and Millie Thurber showed up, too. The fleamarket had a lot to offer, and both Dick and I availed ourselves of several goodies to bring home. The weather was good and the price was certainly right, so any of you out in that area who decided not to go, shame on you.

73, Alan, K2EEK

New PK-232 Breakthrough

Six Digital Modes - Including Weather FAX

1900 25FE87 38A-4 01052 17831 SC24N112W-2

NEW IBM AND
COMMODORE PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE NOW!

A new software enhancement makes the AEA PK-232 the only amateur data controller to offer six transmit/receive modes in a single unit.

- * Morse Code
- * Baudot (RTTY)
- * ASCII
- * AMTOR
- * Packet
- * Weather FAX



\$319⁹⁵ AMATEUR NET
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Your home computer (or even a simple terminal) can be used for radio data communication in six different modes. Any RS-232 compatible computer or terminal can be connected directly to the PK-232, which interfaces with your transceiver. The only program needed is a simple terminal program, like those used with telephone modems, allowing the computer to be used as a data terminal. All signal processing, protocol, and decoding software is in ROM in the PK-232.

The PK-232 also includes a no compromise VHF/HF/CW modem with an eight pole bandpass filter, four pole discriminator, and 5 pole post detection low pass filter. Experienced HF Packeteers are reporting the PK-232 to have the best Packet modem available.

Operation of the PK-232 is a breeze, with twenty-one front panel indicators for constant

status and mode indication. The 240 page manual includes a "quick start" section for easy connection and complete documentation including schematics. Two identical back panel radio ports mean either your VHF or HF radio can be selected with a front panel switch. Other back panel connections include external modem disconnect, FSK and Scope Outputs, CW keying jacks, and RS-232 terminal interface.

The RS-232 connector is also used for attaching any Epson graphics compatible parallel printer for printing Weather Fax. Weather maps and satellite photos, like the one in this ad, can be printed in your shack.

Contact your local AEA dealer today for more information about the one unit that gives you six modes for one low price, the PK-232.



Brings you the Breakthrough

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You're face to face

Meet America's Newest, the Ten-Tec Paragon, Model 585

PARAGON HF TRANSCEIVER, Model 585 . . . \$1995

The Paragon Model 585 is a full featured, synthesized transceiver. General coverage all mode receiver tunes from 100 kHz to 29.999.99 MHz. Transmit at 100 watts output on all authorized frequencies from 1.8 to 29.999.99 MHz. SSB, CW, FSK and optional FM. Noise blanker and speech processor are standard equipment. Dual VFOs, RX offset, TX offset, QSK with a changeover time of less than 30 ms, five i-f filters (standard 6 kHz AM and 2.4 kHz SSB, optional 1.8 kHz, 500 Hz and 250 Hz) that are front panel selectable independent of mode, selectable tuning rates with automatic speed-up at rapid tuning knob rotation, passband tuning, audio bandpass filtering, tone control, squelch, notch filtering and more!

Sixty-two programmable memories that include frequency, mode, filter selected, channel number and a 7 character alpha-numeric tag for entering a net name, call sign or I.D. of your choice. As the memory channels are scanned, all of the information is displayed (what a light show!) and the receiver automatically sets up mode, filters, tag and frequency as stored in each channel. Channels scanned are totally controllable with global lock-out, global reset and individual lock-out and reset.

The construction is impressive too. All circuit boards are glass epoxy (G-10) and all of them can be removed without desoldering. The front panel is hinged to provide access to all sections of the chassis. All aluminum construction keeps the weight of the rig reasonable too. And of course, the front panel is a spacious arrangement which makes the critical controls easy to use.

Frequency selection can be made using the main tuning knob, keypad direct entry or up/down buttons that can shift one MHz or to the next ham band. Frequency readout is selectable to display to 100 Hz or 10 Hz. Front panel clock is in 24 hour format. Rear panel input and output provisions keep the all-mode operator in mind too. Fixed level audio out and FSK keying (170 Hz shift), auxiliary dc jack, amplifier control circuits plus all the other connections that you could possibly need, including RS-232 computer interface option.

The Paragon is the end result of a three year engineering effort. Much of that effort was invested in improving the receiver performance and controlling the phase noise inherent in a PLL oscillator. We are proud of the performance of the Paragon and we think it has set new standards of excellence in synthesized rigs. All we ask is that you take the time to check it out. We think that you will share our pride in the Paragon.

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Range: Receive: 100 kHz to 29.9999 MHz. Transmit: 1.8 to 29.9999 MHz.
Frequency Control and Readout: Microprocessor controlled digital PLL synthesizer. 10 Hz resolution.
Frequency Stability: Worst case, 1 PPM per degree C. at 29.999 MHz.
Frequency Accuracy: ± 100 Hz @ 25 degrees C.
Tuning Rate:

	Normal	Normal Shifted
CW/USB/LSB/FSK	10 Hz 4.8 kHz per turn	20 Hz 9.6 kHz per turn
AM/FM	50 Hz 24 kHz per turn	100 Hz 48 kHz per turn
	Fast	Fast Shifted
CW/USB/LSB/FSK	20 Hz 9.6 kHz per turn	50 Hz 24 kHz per turn
AM/FM	100 Hz 49 kHz per turn	500 Hz 240 kHz per turn

Antenna Impedance: 50 ohm unbalanced.
PC Boards: 14 double-sided, 9 single-sided .062" glass-epoxy.
Power Required: Receive = 1.5A. Transmit = 20A. 12 - 14 VDC.
Dimensions: HWD 5 1/4" x 14 1/4" x 14 1/4". 13 x 37 x 36 cm.
Net Weight: 16 lbs. 7.25 kg.

Paragon Station with Model 960 Matching Power Supply (\$229), and the Mighty Titan Amplifier (\$2685).





Shown actual size.

with the Paragon.

TRANSMITTER

Modes: USB & LSB (J3E), CW (A1A), FSK (F1A); FM (F3E) optional (Model 256).
DC Power Input: Typical 200 watts.
RF Power Output: ALC stabilized, adjustable, 10 to 100 watts (into 50 ohms) with front panel RF OUT control.
Microphone Input: Low impedance, bias voltage for electret provided.
CW Sidetone: Internally generated, adjustable tone and volume independent of AF GAIN control.
SSB Generation: 9 MHz, 8-pole crystal ladder filter. Balanced modulator.
Carrier Suppression: Greater than 60 dB.
Unwanted Sideband Suppression: Greater than 60 dB at 1.5 kHz AF input.
Harmonic Emissions: Greater than 45 dB below peak power output.
Spurious Output: Greater than 50 dB below peak power output.
Third Order Intermod Products: -30 dB from two-tone at 100 watts PEP.
Metering: Switchable forward power, SWR, collector current or audio processing level on SSB.
CW Offset: 750 Hz automatic.
FSK Shift: 170 Hz.
Transmit Offset Tuning Range: ± 99.9 kHz.

RECEIVER

Modes: USB, LSB, CW, FSK, AM, (FM optional).
Sensitivity:

	.1 - 1.6 MHz	1.8 - 29.999 MHz	
SSB/CW/RTTY	.5 μ V	.15 μ V	10 dB S/N @ 2.4 kHz
AM	3.5 μ V	1.0 μ V	10 dB S/N @ 6.0 kHz
FM	1.0 μ V	.3 μ V	12 dB SINAD @ 15 kHz

Selectivity:

	-6 dB BW	-60 dB BW	Shape Factor
Standard AM	6.0 kHz	11.25 kHz	1.875:1
Standard SSB	2.4 kHz	3.36 kHz	1.87:1
Opt. 1.8 kHz SSB (Model 288)	1.8 kHz	2.9 kHz	1.60:1
Opt. 500 Hz CW (Model 285)	500 Hz	1.4 kHz	2.80:1
Opt. 250 Hz CW (Model 282)	250 Hz	.85 kHz	3.40:1
Standard FM	15 kHz	30 kHz	2.00:1

Attenuator: -20 dB for 1.6 to 29.999 MHz, -10 dB for .1 to 1.6 MHz.
I-F Frequencies: 1st = 75 MHz, 2nd = 9.0 MHz, 3rd = 6.3 MHz (FM 3rd = 455 kHz).
Image Rejection: Greater than 80 dB.
I-F Rejection: Greater than 70 dB.
Noise Blanker: Switchable on/off with adjustable width.
Dynamic Range: 100 dB.
Blocking Dynamic Range: +16 dBm for 1 dB compression of an S9 signal, frequency offset = 50 kHz. -2 dBm for 1 dB compression of an S3 signal, frequency offset = 50 kHz.
Third Order Intercept: +18 dBm.
Noise Floor: -132 dBm @ 2.4 kHz BW.
Squelch Sensitivity: Less than .6 μ V.
Receiver Recovery Time: Less than 27 ms.
Receiver Offset Tuning Range: ± 99.9 kHz.
Pass Band Tuning I-F Shift: ± 1.2 kHz.
Audio Output: 1.5 watts @ 8 ohms. 5% distortion max.
Notch Filter: 250 Hz to 2.2 kHz, greater than 50 dB notch depth.
Audio Bandpass Filter: 4 pole, variable center frequency 220 to 1.7 kHz, 35% bandwidth @ -6 dB.
Tone Control: Variable 15 dB rolloff @ 5 kHz.

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Having A Ball On 6

Editor, CQ:

I really loved your article on 6 meters in July by Dave Ingram. Matter of fact, I liked it so much I tried it, and you know what? He was 110% correct. I have found a home on 6 meters and am having a ball! This band has something for everyone, and running 20 watts PEP does not bother anyone's TV in my neighborhood, as I was told it would, not even channel 2. I have worked stations from Alaska to Hawaii QRP with no trouble at all with a 3-element beam. Cheap thrills!

One other thing I would like to say is that I have read a lot about the DXpeditions in your magazine, and I would like to know if they are all alcoholics. Every line seems to be filled with the "hard stuff." Come on, guys! We have young impressionable hams reading this stuff! They should be told that drinking and hamming do not have to go together!

Mitchell W. Cox, KB4WTS
Ridgeway, VA

Banjo Lessons Over The Air?

Editor, CQ:

I always enjoy KR7L's writing, and his recent article "What Do You Do After

You Say 'Hello'?" was no exception (June 1987 issue). I also like to tell people about my interests and hear about theirs. The results are sometimes surprising.

One of the best examples of this is a QSO I had with a retired phone-company worker raising trees in Oregon. When he found out I teach banjo, he told me he'd always wanted to learn to play one but didn't know where to begin. It was tricky giving a banjo lesson over the air without playing one, but we managed. We signed off two hours later, very pleased with our conversation.

Since then, I've discussed chiropractic techniques with a retired chiropractor who'd been a jazz musician since the 30's, heard about an author's latest book on public speaking, and compared work experiences with other freelance technical writers and consultants.

Tell people about yourself. You have no idea who you'll meet.

John V. Hedtke, KD7WS
Seattle, WA

Hi Hi—Low Low

Editor, CQ:

Bradley Wells should get a special award for his June '87 article "What Do You Say After Hello?"

After being an SWL only for 40-plus years, I've learned more about radio, geography, and weather than any hundred or so people could ever possibly want to know in several lifetimes. But the hams remain my favorite, if for no other reason than the fact that sooner or later patience is always rewarded with something that is informative or amusing or otherwise worth hearing. That is, if one isn't first too irked by the one thing that is more unimaginative than all of the too-often repeated, mundane talk that Bradley referred to.

I'm referring to the absolutely mindless and meaningless prattle that sometimes comes into vogue, is picked up by nearly everyone, and is then parroted by too many for no reason other than the fact that every other parrot is saying it—e.g., fortunately the society has almost completely given up "Sorry about that." I wish the hams would do the same with "Hi Hi." It means nothing, does nothing, is nothing. Please, people. Pull the plug on Hi Hi. On any scale for rating anything that's worth saying or hearing, Hi Hi has long since passed the ultimate pits of being low, low.

Russell G. Sheley
Phoenix, AZ



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Announcing

• **Marfa, Texas** - The Big Bend ARC will operate K5FD on October 2, 3, 4 from the Marfa Lights Festival from 1500-0000Z on suggested frequencies phone 3.920, 7.250, 14.250, 21.400, and 28.400. For certificate send QSL and SASE to Stewart Billingsley, N5HXZ, P.O. Box 1458, Marfa, TX 79843.

• **Clovis, California** - The Fresno ARC emergency communications van will operate Diamond Jubilee Special Event station W6TO in the City of Clovis for their Octoberfest Crafts Fair Pioneers' Day. For a certificate, QSL 8½" x 11" SASE to W6TO FARC, P.O. Box 783, Fresno, CA 93712-0783. Operating time 1500Z Oct. 3 to 0100Z Oct. 4. Suggested frequencies: lower portions of General 80, 40, 20, and 15 meter bands, Novice phone 28.450, CW 7.130, and 2 meter repeater 146.82/22 or 146.94/34.

• **Dearborn, Michigan** - The Ford Amateur Radio League, the Tin Lizzie Club, will operate K8UTT and member stations October 3 and 4 from 1200-2200Z to commemorate the first Model T Ford built October 1, 1908. Operations will be in the General portions of the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands. For 8½" x 11" certificate, send SASE and QSL to member station or to K8UTT, Ford Amateur Radio League, Box 2112, Dearborn, MI 48123-2112.

• **Topeka, Kansas** - The Kaw Valley ARC will operate Special Event station W0CET on October 3 and 4 from 1500-2300Z in celebration of John Amis's call sign, 9CET. Suggested frequencies: 10 meter ±28.400, 20 meter ±14.275, 40 meter ±7.275. For certificate send QSL and SASE to Terry Hoss,

KA0BHO, 2931 Tutbury Tr. Rd., Topeka, KS 66614.

• **Fullerton, California** - The Rehab Radio program at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton, California will mark its tenth anniversary with a Special Event operation. Special QSLs, will be sent to hams confirming QSOs with WD6BPT. Operation will be on 10 meters (28.3 to 28.6 MHz) and 15 meters (21.3 to 21.4 MHz). In case of poor band conditions, there may be operation on 20 meters (14.2 to 14.3 MHz), plus some 2 meter FM operation on local repeaters. WD6BPT operation will commence on October 4 from 2000-2400Z. Operating times Monday through Friday, October 5 to 9, will be scheduled in one hour sessions scattered between 1500Z and 0030Z. Send QSLs to WD6BPT, St. Jude Hospital, P.O. Box 4138, Fullerton, CA 92635.

• **Hodgenville, Kentucky** - The Kentucky ARS will operate WE4K from Hodgenville, Kentucky, birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln, on October 10. Operation will be on SSB from 1500-2000 UTC in the lower 25 kHz of the General class phone bands on 40 and 20 meters. Operation will also take place on 28.325 MHz if conditions are favorable. For a special certificate, send SASE (business-size envelope) to WE4K, 128 Meadow Lane, Bardstown, KY 40004 or Callbook address.

• **Clarksburg, West Virginia** - The Stonewall Jackson ARA will sponsor Special Event station WB8ZVS in conjunction with Local 89 of The International Firefighters Union October 10 and 11 to promote National Fire Prevention Week. Operation will be 7235 kHz from 1700-2200 UTC and 3860 kHz from 2200-0300

UTC. A certificate will be available for SASE to J.R. Chaido, 289 Magnolia Ave., Clarksburg, WV 26301.

• **Hot Springs National Park, Garland County, Arkansas** - The Hot Springs ARC, WA5BRF, in recognition of the opening of its radio station at the Mid America Museum, will operate 10 kHz from the bottom of the General portion of the phone bands and on the Novice 10 meter band from 0001 UTC October 10 to 2400 UTC October 11. For special QSL send your QSL and SASE to WA5BRF, 117 Camellia Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

• **Dalton, Georgia** - The Dalton ARC will operate Special Events station KI4IG on October 10 and 11 from 1400-2000Z at the Prater's Mill Country Fair. Suggested frequencies: ±7.250, 14.250, and for Novice 28.400. For special QSL card, send your QSL & SASE c/o Dalton ARC, POB 143, Dalton, GA 30722-0143.

• **Carthage, Missouri** - The Carthage ARS will operate W0LF on October 12-16 from 2100-0200Z, and October 17 from 1300-2000Z in conjunction with The Carthage Annual Fall Maple Leaf Festival. Suggested frequencies: CW—3.600, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050 ±QRM. Phone—3.860, 7.230, 14.260, 21.375; and Novice phone—28.350 MHz ±QRM. For special QSL and certificate send your QSL and 9" x 12" SASE for unfolded (39¢ postage) or a business #10 SASE for folded certificate, to CARS, W0LF, c/o Civil Defense, 407 S. Garrison St., Carthage, MO 64836.

• **Edmond, Oklahoma** - The Edmond ARS will operate

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W5ERY from 1700Z October 17 to 1700Z October 18 in celebration of the Edmond ARS's 30th anniversary. Suggested frequencies include 3.870, 7.270, 14,100 (CW), 14,270, and 147.135. For unfolded certificate send an SASE 9" x 12" envelope (39 cents postage); folded certificate for business-size SASE (22 cents postage) to: Edith Vaughn, KA5YPX, 1020 Juno Circle, Edmond, OK 73034.

• **Poteau, Oklahoma** - The Fort Smith (Arkansas) Area ARC will operate Special Event station W5ANR in conjunction with the first annual Green Country Sorghum Festival. Operation will be from 1500-0300Z October 17 and 1500-2300Z October 18 in the lower 30 kHz of the General phone bands, 28.435 in Novice phone, and 145.01 on packet. For certificate send QSL and SASE to FSAARC-W5ANR, Box 32, Ft. Smith, AR 72902-0032.

• **Scout Jamboree On The Air** - The Boy Scouts of America sponsors this annual event, which includes Boy and Girl Scouts, former members, amateur ops, etc. It will take place on October 17 from 0001 local time to October 18 at 2400 local time on Phone 3940, 7290, 14290, 21360, 28990; CW 3590, 7030, 14070, 21140, 28190; Packet, RTTY, SSTV, ATV on usual frequencies. Exchange name, QTH, Scout rank, etc. Send brief reports (logs not necessary) to JOTA Coordinator, International Div., S221, BSA, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75038-3096, no later than November 15, 1987. Postcard-size certificates are free and available to all participants. Temporary patches for the Scout uniform are available for \$1.50 each from the above address. For more information, also contact the above address.

• **Lexington, North Carolina** - The Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society will operate K4HOG for the 4th Annual Lexington Barbecue Festival on October 24 from 1300-2100Z on 7.250 MHz, 14.250 MHz, 21.325 MHz, 28.325 MHz, Novice frequencies. Also area 2M repeaters. Special BAR-B-QLS for SASE only. Mail to: Healing Springs Mtn. VHF Society, Inc., P.O. Box 41, Lexington, NC 27293-0041.

• **The following hamfests, etc., are slated for October:**

Oct. 3, **Tri-State ARA Hamfest**, Huntington Civic Center, Huntington, WV. Contact Paul Patton, NT8M, P.O. Box 652, Huntington, WV 25711.

Oct. 3, **Cochise ARA Swapmeet**, Sierra Vista, AZ. Contact Jacquie Kelly, KD7DZ, 602-458-4107, or write to CARA, P.O. Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636.

Oct. 3-4, **ARRL Virginia State Convention & Hamfest/Computer Fair**, Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Manny Steiner, K4DOR, 3512 Olympia Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (804-340-6105).

Oct. 4, **Yonkers Electronics Fair & Fleamarket**, Yonkers Municipal Parking Garage, Yonkers, NY. Contact Yonkers ARC, 914-969-1053.

Oct. 4, **Springfield Hamfest & Computer Expo**, Springfield, OH. Contact Springfield Independent Radio Association, P.O. Box 523, Springfield, OH 45501 (SASE).

Oct. 4, **Rome, Georgia Hamfest**, Rome Civic Center, Rome, GA. Contact Bobbie Carol Waller, KA4DXU, 24 Wellington Way, SE, Rome, GA 30161 (404-235-5417).

Oct. 4, **Salt Plains ARC Eyeball QSO Party**, south side of Salt Plains Lake, north central Oklahoma. Contact Gary Gerber, KB0HH, 316-842-5079, or 842-5155.

Oct. 10, **New England DXCC Assn. 35th Anniversary Banquet**, Masonic Lodge, Concord, MA. Contact New England DXCC, Joe Poges, W1EED, 144 Broadway, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Oct. 10, **11th Annual Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference**, Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington, PA. Contact Pat Cawthorne, WB3DNI, 215-672-5289.

Oct. 10-11, **1987 Kansas State ARRL Convention & Hamfest**, Broadview Ramada Hotel, Wichita, KS. Contact Wichita ARC, 707 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203; or call Verne Heinsohn, WA0ZWW, 316-264-2796.

Oct. 10-11, **Greater Memphis Hamfest 87**, National Guard Armory, Memphis, TN. Contact Tommy Holbrook, W4WBQ, 4780 Bowen Ave., Memphis, TN 38122 (901-685-1796).

Oct. 11, **NOARC Allen County Hamfest**, Allen County

Fairgrounds, Lima, OH. Contact NOARC, Box 211, Lima, OH 45802 (license exams will be given; contact W8TY at above address).

Oct. 17, **Tri-Cities Hamfest**, Appalachian Fairgrounds, Gray, TN. Contact Tri-Cities Hamfest, P.O. Box 3682 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602.

Oct. 17, **Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse Hamfest**, Arts and Home Center, New York State Fairgrounds, Route 690. Contact Ed Swiatlowski, WA2URK, 315-487-3417, or write to RAGS, P.O. Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088.

Oct. 18, (raindate Oct. 25), **Hall of Science ARC Hamfest**, New York Hall of Science parking lot, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, NY. Contact Steve Greenbaum, WB2KDG, 718-898-5599 (evenings) or Arnie Schiffman, WB2YXB, 718-343-0172 (evenings).

Oct. 24-25, **Texoma Hamarama 87**, Lake Texoma Lodge, east of Kingston, OK. Contact Texoma Hamarama Assn., P.O. Box 610892, DFW Airport, TX 75261.

Oct. 24-25, **9th Annual Hamfest Chattanooga Amateur Radio & Computer Convention**, Chattanooga Choo-Choo complex, Chattanooga, TN. Contact Hamfest Chattanooga, P.O. Box 3377, Chattanooga, TN 37404.

Oct. 25, **Kettle Moraine RAC Ham, Computer, Video Fest**, Waukesha County Exposition Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact KMRA Club, 313 Hillview Circle, Waukesha, WI 53188 (SASE).

Oct. 25, **Kalamazoo Hamfest**, Kalamazoo Central High School, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact Jim Hastings, Kalamazoo Hamfest, 1813 Greenbriar Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Oct. 25, **Heart of Ohio Ham Fiesta**, Marion County Fairgrounds Coliseum, Marion, OH. Contact Ed Margraff, KD8OC, 1989 Weiss Ave., Marion, OH 43302 (614-382-2608).

Oct. 31, **Tri-City ARC Auction**, St. James Parish Hall, Poquetanuck, CT. Contact WA2RYV, 203-464-6555.

Oct. 31, **Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo**, Hennepin Technical Center/North Campus, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, MN. Contact Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo, Box 726, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 (SASE).



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Paul, K1XM, and his XYL Charlotte, KQ1F, helped staff this year's HC8A effort, third in the world in Multi-Single.



Here's the team at world high Multi-Multi KP2N. Top row, from left, N7BG, W6MSG, KA6S, WB6NRO; second row, K5VT, W6OUL, KC7V, AA6AA; and bottom row, WA2UZA, N6DX, W7CB, N6ZV, N6VI.

1986 CQ World-Wide DX Contest CW Results

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

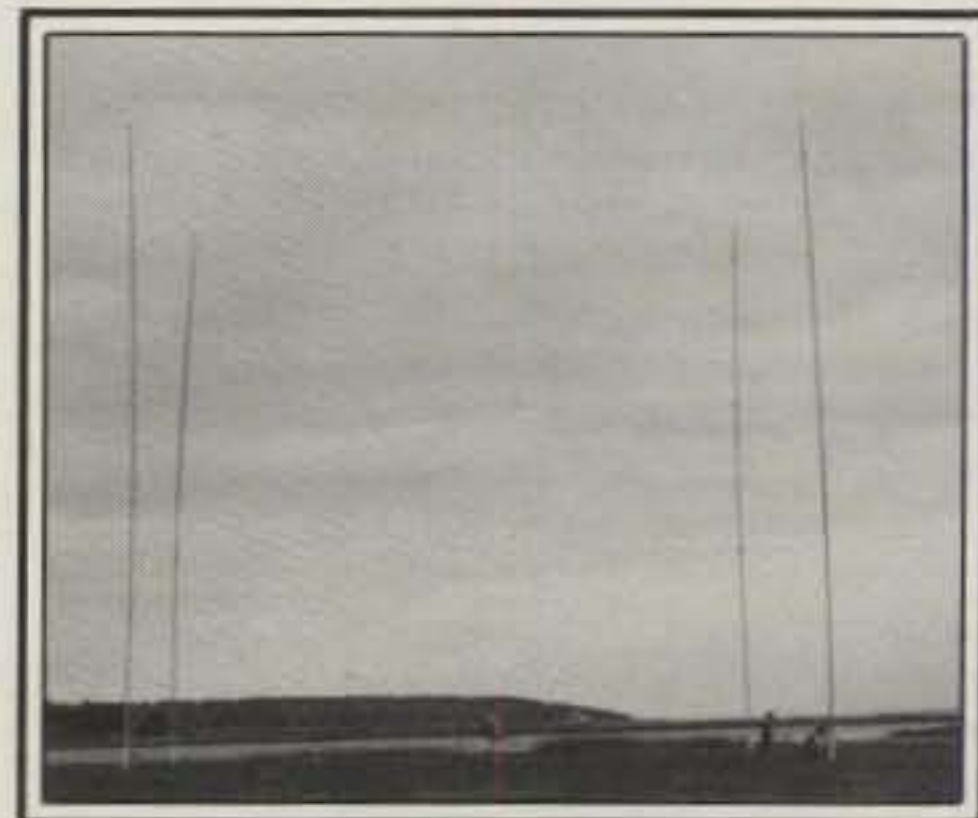
Suppose you could experience the DX Contester's dream. What would it be? Possibly you would like to win the contest from some far-off place, or perhaps field the ultimate super-station in the USA, one where you could work everything on the first call. Many have had one of these dreams. Buzz Reeves, K2GL, not only had the second dream, but he lived it. Buzz put together a super-station whose N2AA operating team utilized it to the fullest in becoming the perennial Multi-Multi winner for the USA. A look at this year's results is a case in point—67 countries on 160; 95 on 80; well over 100 on 40, 20, and 15; and almost 50 on a quiet 10 meters. Not bad for one weekend. Close to 6 band DXCC in 2 days!

But it's the experience on the air with N2AA that convinces one of the real mysticism of K2GL's station. For example, as you tune across the band you're likely to hear a zone 23 station give N2AA an answer to a QRZ, helpless to get in on a piece of that action yourself. Or, how about the long string of answers they would get on a dead or dying band? Then there's the stuff you can't even hear that they

are working. In the end we all shake our heads in amazement at the final score as well.

There's a video tape that tells the story of K2GL's station. It's a real eye-opener, too. An arsenal of big antenna arrays are being built and erected right before your eyes, not to mention the battery of gear and the intensity of the operation that follows. Of course, the commitment it takes to field such a station is incredible—the work, the pain, the time, the space, the expense of it all. Not many could afford to do it, but Buzz could and did. Yet if money were the answer, that would be one thing. But money is not the answer. There's something intangible in what it takes to put a super-station together and keep it together for any length of time. Those who have tried it know what we mean. Just think about the problems in keeping your own station in top condition—the wind, rain, snow, cold, heat, normal wear and tear, the unexpected. Just one rotor can be an incredible thing to keep running, with some subtle problem areas to solve. Multiply your maintenance by 10 or more, and it's clear what kind of a challenge it is to keep a super-station running. Not to mention the challenge of keeping a top-notch operating team motivated year after year.

It is with regret that we report that K2GL died this year, and his super-station passes on along with him. For most of us K2GL served as an example of how some things could be done.



W1KM used this four-element phased array of verticals on 80 meters to amass 524 QSOs while winning the All Band Single Op category for the USA.

It was actually possible to put that kind of a super-station together; the band was really open at that time; all that DX really was available. In recent years several super-stations have met the same fate—K2GL, W2PV, and W6AM to mention a few. We might all do well to reflect on what those guys really meant to us as DX contesters. "Nothing," you might say. Well, "nothing" is not an honest answer. If you were active at all in the past 10 years, you know that even if you never met any of those three guys, they affected you. And not just the "Yeah, I remember all the times I had to wait for those bruisers in the pile-up" type of effect either. Those super-stations and the operators who manned them provided us all with some real inspiration and drive. They gave us some good, old-fashioned determination, a goal to strive for; they built confidence that it could be done because someone else had done it. To many their example also provided training for all of us in technique. Lastly, their big signals were like magnets that attracted DX, DX that we would otherwise not have worked because they wouldn't even have known the band was open. Yes, Buzz Reeves, K2GL, will be missed.

The All Band Results

Despite generally poor conditions and low sunspots, the 1986 CW Contest produced some truly amazing scores around the world.

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

** 3039 Campbell Place, Davis, CA 95616



QRP enthusiast CX8DT set up portable 100 feet above the Atlantic Ocean at Punta Negra, Uruguay.

Dick Norton, N6AA, set a new world and South American continental record at 9Y4VT with a fantastic 8.2 million points. Dick amassed over 5000 QSOs, 146 zones, and 396 countries in besting his own 1983 World record mark from the same location by 1 M points. But alas, we are saddened to report the passing of Cyril Balwah, 9Y4VT, Dick's host, and an end to an era of contest records at 9Y4VT. Dick had lots of competition. Finishing second with a new North American record was Chip, K7JA, at Pedro, NP4A's super-station with a fine 7.04 M. Then in third and fourth place were a pair of visiting operators in PJ land. Dean Fredriksen, W8ZF at PJ2FR, and John Corvelli, W2GD at P40GD, finished in that order. Not far behind in fifth place was Jim Neiger, N6TJ, with 6.8 M at D44BC. Jim returned for the second year in a row, this time setting a new African continental record. Jorma, OH2KI, took top honors for Europe as ZB2X, with a fine 3.8 M points, enough for a new European continental mark and tenth in the World.

Things were tough in 1986 Stateside, with absolutely no records set in any category of the contest. Yet Greg, W1KM, broke 3 M in capturing USA Single Operator all band high for the USA. Greg's 80 meter effort is absolutely incredible for an all band entry, with 524 QSOs on that band, and that proved to be the real difference. He was followed by Scot, K0DQ, guest operator at W3GRF, and a string of W1, 2, and 3 stations. Yes, the northeast swept all ten top spots in the USA this year.

This year's Multi-Operator efforts had the interesting distinction of not setting any records in the contest. Yet the Multi-Single category continues to enjoy enthusiastic participation and growth. Worldwide, it was the teams at KP4BZ (7.9 M), VP9AD (7.8 M), and HC8A (4.6 M) in that order for a Western Hemispheric sweep of the top three spots. Europeans LZ7A, UZ2FWA, and EA3VY took the second three slots in that order, and all were closely packed at about the 4.5 M mark. In the USA, Austin Regal's N4WW team won with an impressive 4.2 M effort, 700 K above the pack, led by W5WMU and N3RS at 3.6 M and 3.4 M, respectively.

The boys at KP2N sent us photos of the panoramic view from their Virgin Island location, but we couldn't figure out how to do it justice in the magazine. The unobstructed shot they had helped them scoop up the world high Multi-Multi honors with a fine 17.5 M, just shy of the

North American record. The teams at EA9CE (16.5 M) and J6DX (14.7 M) finished second and third, welcome multipliers for us all.

As mentioned in our introduction, the top USA spotlight went to N2AA (at the K2GL super-station) for the last time due to Buzz's death. That's twice in a row for N2AA. Congratulations on the fine 7.6 M effort, guys. In second place was Frank Donovan's W3LPL team. Following our two year rule, that makes W3LPL the trophy winner. Well, it is the rule, I guess. The guys at NR5M finished third with a fine 5.5 M despite the significant disadvantage in location.

In the QRP category, a tough game in any year, but even tougher in the sunspot minimum, it was Stancho, LZ1BB, who walked away with a great 868 K effort, almost double the runner-up 4X6IF at 424 K. The list of QRPers submitting entries continues to grow longer and longer, indicating that the real thrill of the contest is the skill and challenge of it all. Congratulations to all the hard-working QRPers for a job well done.

This year's combined SSB/CW all band winner was Olli Rissanen, OH0XX, who posted an impressive 12 M points from FY5YE. Olli also contributed to the CW mode winning Finlandia Contest Team, which sent representatives to 4 continents and amassed over 21 M points. Four of the entrants (EA9AM, PT7BZ, FY5YE, and ZB2X) finished in the top 10 worldwide. Let's see some more competition in the team arena in future years. It's a good way to drum up some friendly rivalry, and team contesting does not affect the club competition, which is separate.

Speaking of the club competition, the Frankford Radio Club recaptured its top USA spot from the Yankee Clipper Contest Club this year with an impressive 120 M points compared to 95 M points for the Clipper Club. In third place was the Southern California Contest Club, narrowly edging out the Potomac Valley Radio Club by .5 M out of 50 M. In the DX Club competition the Rhein/Ruhr DX Club narrowly edged out the Bavarian Contest Club at the 25 M level for first place. The Northern Lithuania Contest Club (21 M) bested rival Lithuanian Contest Club (17 M) for third place. Just a note on club scoring. It is important that your club name appear on the log submission. It is not sufficient that the list of entries sent by the club show all the calls and scores. That's the most common reason most club scores are lower than club officials feel they should be. We've had some complaints on this, but the only way we can be sure an entrant means for his score to be counted for a club is by looking at the actual log. This year, for example, one club claimed credit for HS0A, but the HS0A log clearly specified a club on it different than the other club's list. So the logs themselves will be the final guide.

Single Band Categories

The lower bands continued to dominate the competition in this year of the sunspot low. Although no 160 M records were set this year, the low band enjoyed new levels of activity from around the world. The Europeans led by HB9AMO (87 K), IO2UIY (82 K), and SP3BQD (70 K) ran away with the top 3 worldwide spots. In the USA, W1CF challenged K5UR's 2-year-old record with a fine 43 K, but failed to top it. The defender, K5UR, finished second, complaining that the lack of a JA opening kept him from achieving a repeat of his record.

TOP SCORES

WORLD Single Op All Band		USA Single Op All Band	
9Y4VT	8,191,246	W1KM	3,029,832
NP4A	7,040,400	W3GRF	2,933,507
PJ2FR	7,028,688	K1ZM	2,779,014
P40GD	6,991,947	K1EA	2,631,084
D44BC	6,815,001	K5ZD/1	2,469,159
EA9AM	6,367,956	N2LT	2,446,688
FY5YE	5,836,215	K1TO	2,311,680
PT7BZ	5,242,977	K1CC	2,253,421
5T5XX	3,929,844	W3BGN	2,209,006
ZB2XX	3,796,480	K3WW	2,166,300

Single Op Single Band 28 MHz		Single Op Single Band 28 MHz	
4M7A	312,092	N6BFM/4	11,600
LU4FDM	120,528	KB3A	6,644
LU1DCB	105,225	WA3CGE	6,380
VK6HD	80,448	AC8W	5,700
VK6SM	74,472	KD1U/4	4,059
LU5UL	66,990	WA6FGV	4,068

21 MHz		21 MHz	
PY5CA	1,102,486	K3RV/4	258,888
CX7BY	747,604	K1ZX/4	238,518
ZS6BCR	673,068	WB4TDH	197,714
UB5IJG	447,984	K5GO	192,584
LU1AF/D	338,520	N4BP	134,244
YW5X	290,996	K5TSQ	126,120

14 MHz		14 MHz	
P40N	1,477,905	W2YV	573,990
KP4FI	1,218,928	K2VV	534,576
YW1A	829,280	K1RU	468,402
CX5AO	828,933	K2RD	394,236
DK3GI	822,024	WB8JBM	337,220
HK1HHX	772,376	N5CR	327,740

7 MHz		7 MHz	
UP3BA/UF	696,134	N6QR	336,980
I4IND	553,632	W7EJ	270,592
I5MPN	496,546	AA4LU	269,800
CX8BBH	448,723	W6YA	263,451
4N1C	395,388	K0RF	263,296
LZ1KDP	368,368	W6PU	208,611

3.8 MHz		3.8 MHz	
P40R	576,725	W1FV	195,804
EA8RCT	441,350	W6RJ	106,600
UP2BJK/UF	339,158	W8UVZ	34,700
CT5AT	295,464	K9DX/6	34,650
SP3GEM	266,376	WE5P	32,908
YX3A	205,300	W3QM	25,382

1.8 MHz		1.8 MHz	
HB9AMO	87,204	W1CF	43,460
IO2UIY	82,377	K5UR	28,815
SP3BQD	70,468	N4IN	22,200
DK8NG	69,012	K4TEA	18,870
OZ1LO	63,770	W0ZV	13,330
UL7MAN	52,938	WB3AVN	10,915

Multi-Op Single Transmitter		Multi-Op Single Transmitter	
KP4BZ	7,922,868	N4WW	4,176,612
VP9AD	7,830,495	W5WMU	3,589,872
HC8A	4,641,780	N3RS	3,434,920
LZ7A	4,532,352	K3KG	3,308,125
UZ2FWA	4,436,100	K4JPD	2,814,714
EA3VY	4,417,268	K3OO	2,582,118

Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter		Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter	
KP2N	17,480,855	N2AA	7,558,965
EA9CE	16,497,312	W3LPL	7,016,880
J6DX	14,710,800	NR5M	5,542,537
VP2MU	10,725,081	N4ZC	4,164,714
UP9A	8,208,608	W3GM	3,862,982
N2AA	7,558,965	NF2L	3,752,720

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USA QRM

Blew up two receivers, two amps, and one antenna switch, cut one ops leg, propagation was awful, but this contest is the best of the best. Always fun whatever happens... *NR5M*. Power failure, high winds, cold weather, low power, low antennas, plus good food, good conditions, and good friends = Fun Contest... *NG6W*. Working 24 countries on 160 from Florida!... *K8UNP/4*. Incredible absorption made our antennas work like underground dipoles; only the determination of the operators made this difference... *K7LXC*. My two-element quad became a one-element quad halfway through the contest... *W7HS*. I found a black hole—over my house... *KT7G*. A real thrill working my son, *K8GL*, on 5 bands at *VP2MU*... *WA8/GG*. Due to an injury, couldn't write my log, so I taped the contest and then transcribed it 3 weeks later when I could write... *W8VSK*. Where were the JA's?... *K9QVB*. Where were the sunspots?... *NJ9Z*. Took time out from the contest to get married this weekend, but worked a few QSOs anyway... *K9BG*. All the hot summer's antenna work paid off... *W0JLC*. The holiday weekend kills me... *KM0L*. Lost 4 hours to snow static... *K0RF*. I learned a lot; I'll be out for blood next year—QRP all the way... *WB1ESN*. First QRP Contest. How to be humble... *WB6JMS*.

Working 5T5XX in a huge pileup... *KA1SR/QRP*. 32 countries with 2.9 watts on 80... *AA2U*. Power failed at 1140Z Saturday. Murphy has found my new QTH... *K1DG*. Forty and 80 just don't cut it from western Pennsylvania... *K3TUP* (opr. *K3UA*). Couldn't believe how 80 meters opened up... *WA2CNF*. 33 countries on 160 with under a hundred watts for an ex-W6 is like dying and going to heaven... *N6AR/4*. First entry. Not much of a score but lots of fun... *KR1B*. Great fun with only a multiband dipole... *W1WAI*. Sunspots wanted... *K2UR*. Missed my 80 meter record of last year by just over 1000 points... *W1FV*. Only CQ on 40 meters was answered by *FO5BI*... *W2DW*. I found out you need great stamina and sharp hearing to make it through in one piece... *NT2S*. Sat back, relaxed, and worked only what sounded interesting... *K4PI*. A ground plane on the East Coast is just like a tribander at 60 ft. in the Midwest... *W9LT/4*. Quite a difference compared to being at *HH2VP*. Still a lot of fun... *N4XR*. Worked an HZ first call in a pileup even though I forgot to turn on the amplifier or retune the transmitter... *K4BAM*. If the "tuner uppers" ever got tuned up, it would help a lot... *W4BAA*. Worked ZB2X for country number 100 on "top band"—makes 6 band DXCC... *W8CNL/4*. Worked 2 BY's for a new country... *N6OM*. D44BC standing out among the crowd with a big signal and answering the first time... *K6ZUR*. Thanks to all the Soviet and African stations that showed up on 40 meters... *K5MK*. No JA opening really hurt the score on 160... *K5UR*.

DX QRM

Being called by *HS0A* on 80 meters!... *8P9AG*. First contest in our new clubhouse... *PI4RTZ*. High winds both days—couldn't always rotate antennas... *XE2SI*. This contest was a kind of a Dutch meeting (20 PA's)... *PA6DX*. Aurora really affected conditions a couple of hours into the contest... *NL7G*. Many of the old timers came back to the University to operate in the contest... *JA2YKA*. Mountains to the west blocked the Pacific. Thanks to *VP2MAI*, *VP2MIX*, and *VP2MO* for their efforts in trying to move it... *VP2MU*. This is my first year of taking part in your contest... *VU2UR*. What happened to the 20 dB power factor you are supposed to have with a BY prefix—not one USA station... *K5IID* (*BY1QH* opr.). Had two power failures but worked a few new ones anyway... *YB3ATB*. Though visually disabled, I enjoyed participating in the contest... *VU2TTC*. I guess the 1825 to 1830 window has gone by the boards... *VE7BS*. Why is it so lonely up here when there is actually propagation on 10?... *YC6LD*. Is this the sunspot null?... *ZS6BCR*. Keep up the great magazine; it makes magic reading... *VK3NI*. Next year I return to my home call, *CT1ADP*... *CT3ET*. Tough on 10—did not work or hear local zones 30, 31, or 32... *VK6HD*. My first DX on 3.5 MHz—*F5IN*... *VE3OMU*. My last contest from the Philippines; next year I'll be on from *AH2*... *KD6TB/DU2*.

Difficult to find Europeans when I'm only running barefoot on 7 MHz... *YC4FRX*. 80 meters is a tough band to operate when the closest station is 1500 miles away... *KG6DX*. Won't be so intimidated by 20 meters the next time... *VE7GFA*. 28 MHz made up for the disappointing conditions on 160... *VE3IY*. Island power shut down Sunday. 500 feet of drop cords got me back on the air using resort's standby power... *W7TB* (*ZK1TB* opr.). Always noisy in Hong Kong—too many lights... *JA5DQH* (*VS6DO* opr.). What would contesters do if the Finns and the Americans didn't go on contest expeditions?... *VE3XN*. Thanks for the contest... *UA9LDF*. Hope to meet you next year... *UA9CBO*. Had to take a rest period for 14 hours—AC power problems... *UP3BA/UF*. Very poor conditions... *UC2AA*. Good conditions on 3.5 MHz...

UW3AA. Worked in class C power, 2.25 watts... *UA1ANP*. Worked only a few hours because I operated at *U3KM*... *UV3ACX*. Sorry, but I was very busy... *UA1OT*. Glad to take part in the contest... *UQ2GGP*. New location, new antennas, new power amp, FB conditions on 160 and 80, wonderful *PJ2FR* operation... *UP3BO*. Last dipole installed just 5 hours before the contest and had infinite SWR; had to operate in the contest without a linear—never again... *UP2PAQ*. Sorry, but aurora hurt conditions to the USA... *UP2BZ*.

A new world opened up to me on 40 meters with a rotatable antenna just put up a week before the contest... *UB5WE*. This is our first entry into a CW contest ever; those contest-minded and skilled CQ WW operators were a joy for us newcomers... *OZ1FYM*. First heard "22," then "MM," then *9N1MM* for the first time on 40 meters... *HB9BOU*. I hope that the 40 meter quad will stay in the air long enough so that I can enter another CQ contest... *G4NCY*. Biggest thrill was *BY0AA* coming back to a CQ call... *G3LNS*. Roll on cycle 22... *E11DH*. Nice to work *HS0A* for a new zone for my *WAZ* on 160... *HB9AMO*. A real experience to work USA by aurora on 15 and 10 meters... *SM5AOE*. Age 19 and I'm becoming too old for operating the entire 48 hours... *DL6FBL*. Part of the bandswitch on the amp broke. To switch to 80 and 160 we had to go in with the needle-nose pliers... *HC8A*. It was so cold at night we couldn't pound on the paddle... *JA1YWX*. We used the big 5-element Yagi on 14 MHz for the first time and it helped us greatly to get new Caribbean multipliers... *JA7YAA*. We could hear the stations in the Caribbean, but couldn't work them... *JA9YAV*. We suffered from snow static noise (*S9* + 20 dB) for 20 hours or more... *JH7YJF*.

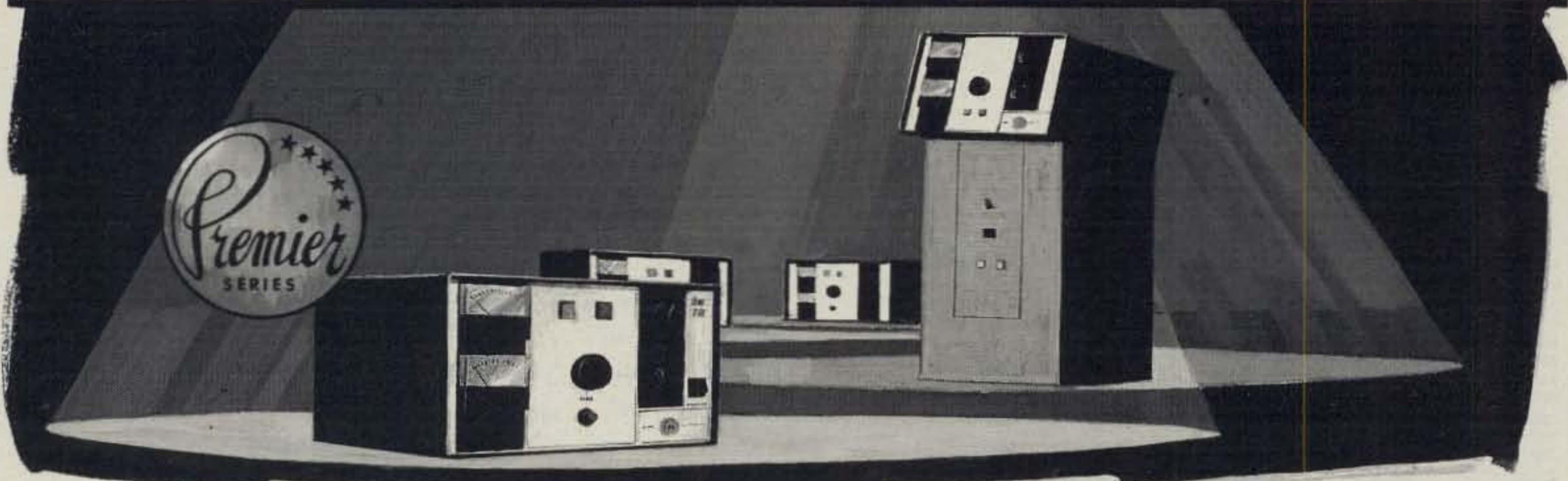
Two-element 40 meter Yagi broke in a windstorm two days before the contest... *K5KG/LU*. Biggest problem was operators falling asleep on the key... *VE1CIT*. Biggest thrill was the first hour of sleep after the contest... *VE3WAA*. Had a lot of fun despite the *S9* + noise; just wish we heard more DX... *XE2NQ*. First multi-op experience; we got the know how now... *ZY4OD*. It was our honeymoon for me and my wife; after 3 weeks and 19000 QSOs she still loves me... *DF4ZL/5B4*. Lost a few JAs while assisting a passing motorist... *IK5AFR*. Your contests are fascinating world feasts without political borders... *IO0KHP*. The CQ WW CW is the funniest game of the year... *IOUZF*. My first contest on 160 meters single op. What fun being called by 5T5 and ZB2!... *I2UIY*. First CQ WW Contest after 9 years; how nice that all the bands were open at some time or another... *OH2BDP*. The 48 hours is too much for my strength (62 years old)... *OH3NM*. Two QSOs with a question mark—not sure the reports were for me... *OH5MX* (*It's good to see others with a "definite maybe" QSO—ed*). I joined the test only to pick up a few new countries... *OH2BNS*. I didn't hear any JA stations on 80 meters... *OH2BCI*. Conditions were down from SSB part. Winds were up and knocked off half of my first director on Saturday night... *OH1ZAA*.

I wonder what the power limit is in some countries... *OH3RF*. The color TV next door and my fatigue allowed me only about 6.5 hours in the contest—looking for a remote QTH... *OK1HBT*. CW is a great joy... *SP9PRH*. This is my 28th CQ WW CW... *YU7SF*. I had TVI problems during the best contest time... *YU2TW*. I heard *VP2MU* calling like in a dream, but when I turned the antenna, nothing!... *SV1RP*. Unbelievable! I got one report of 579 out of 57 QSOs on 160 meters with a maximum of 100 watts... *SV0AA*. My swan song from *ZC4*; back to a humble *G4* next year... *ZC4CZ*. Thank you for the competition. The first major contest the club has entered... *ZC4EPI/ZC4AP*. Fifteen was so bad I ran outside to see if a moose had eaten my antenna... *KL7UR*. A lot of fellows missed a good multiplier when I couldn't break their memory keys! *N4RP/C6A*. Imagine my surprise when that chirpy European on 40 turned to to be *9N1MM*... *NP4A* (opr. *K7JA*).

OK, enough fooling around. Next year I'm going to get serious... *PJ2FR* (opr. *W8ZF*). *BY4AA*, *VS6DO*, *HS0A* on 2 bands, all called me!... *ZP5XDW*. Our last WW from Venezuela... *4M4A* (opr. *K3UOC*). Bad conditions, but a nice contest... *LU5UL*. Best operator was *D44BC*... *LU2DGZ*. My first CW Contest; thanks to everyone who worked me at 12 wpm... *CE3BFZ*. His Majesty, CQ WW DX Contest, seems to be the contest that shows who is who! We love it... *UZ9AYA*. Three-element 80 meter beam was wrecked with a wild wind... *UZ0AXX*. It was hard work this year... *OK7AA*. Had to QRT at 1930Z Sunday due to video interference... *GB4DX*. Really appreciated the low-band openings... *F5IN*. Good conditions on 80; great opening on 10... *DL7ON*. Sixth straight year in the Channel Islands for the WW CW. Tremendous fun. See you next year... *GJ0AAA*. Spent over an hour calling *PJ7A* and *9M2MM*. In the end they gave me a call when I had a pileup!... *LX9BV*. Our best score, and on the sunspot minimum. Wow!... *EA3VY*. Worked every QSO—took a week off work to recover... *G4ELZ/QRP*. Biggest thrill was worked JA's on 40 meters... *DL9YX/QRP*. My neighbor loved it. I worked QRP and there was no TVI... *SM0DJZ*. Little score, Big Big Fun... *CX8DT*. A big battle with QRP... *G3LHJ*.



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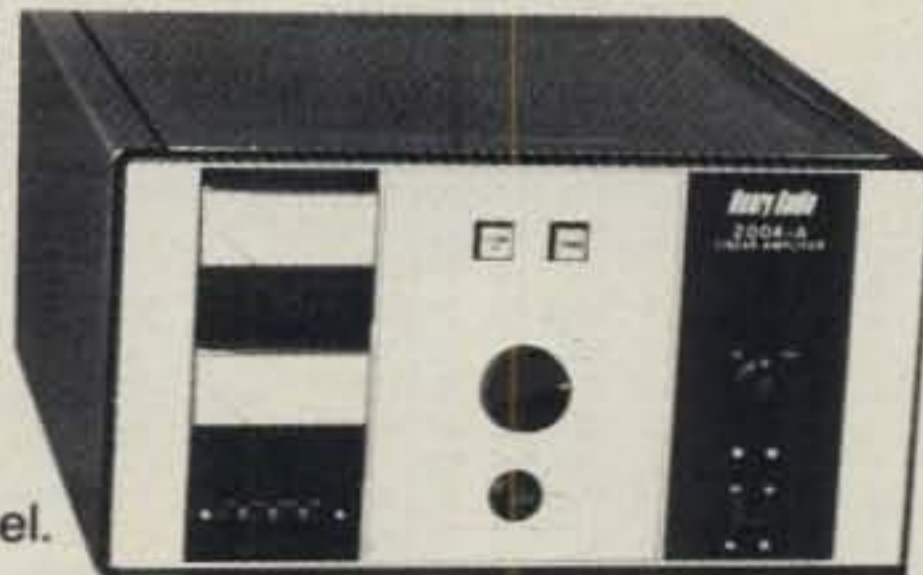
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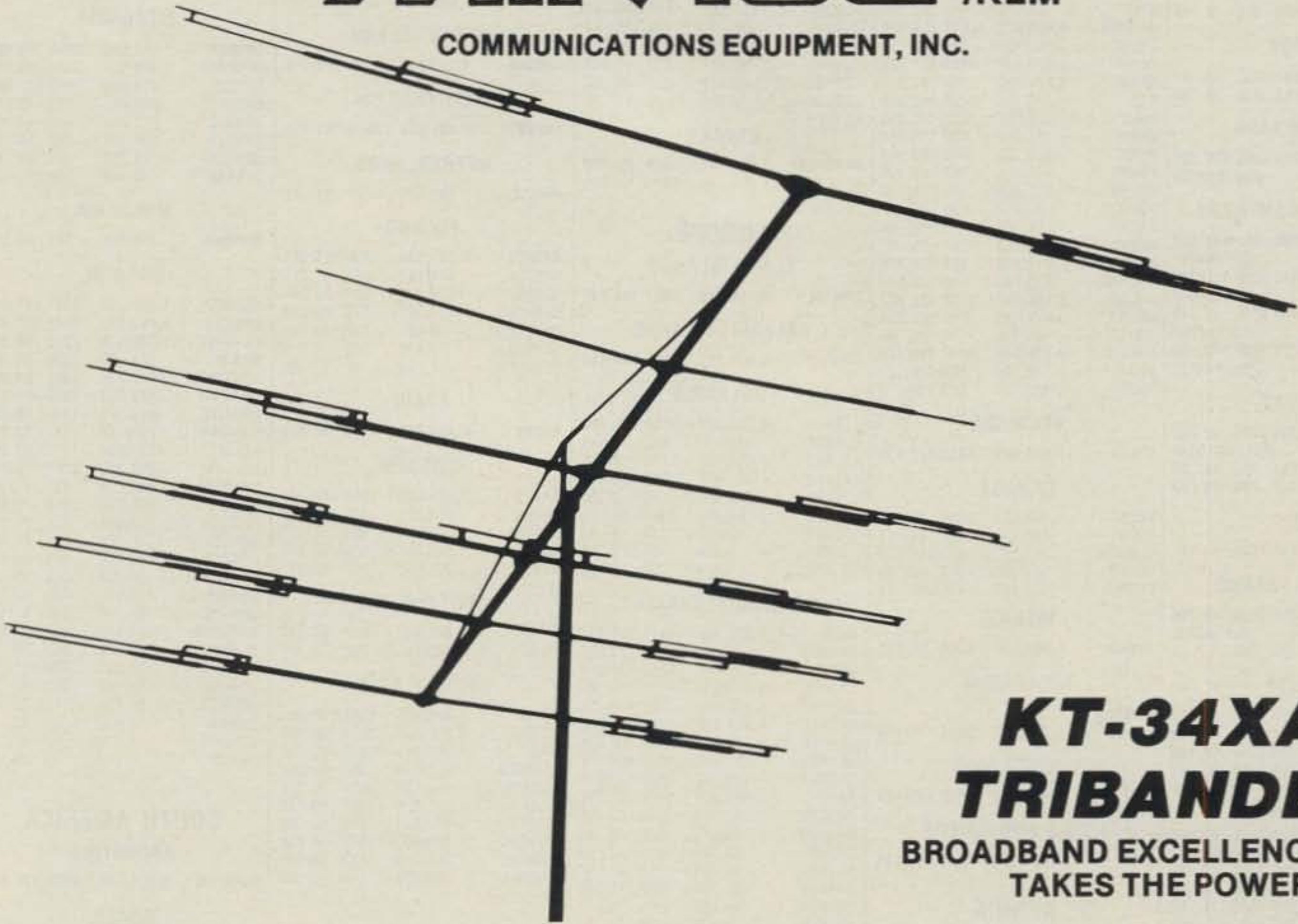
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TAKES THE POWER

KLM's KT-34XA TRIBANDER is the 2nd generation of a unique new series of antennas designed to provide superior **broadband** coverage on 20, 15, and 10 meters. The combination of lossless linear loading and hi-Q air capacitors enables the KT-34XA to outperform **all** commercial available tribanders and meet or exceed the performance of a conventional stacked monoband system. The lower weight and windload of a single antenna mean reduced tower and rotator requirements. Thus, overall system costs can be kept to a minimum while enjoying the best of monobander-type performance.

KLM's field proven KT-34A is the heart of the "XA" model. The boom length of the "XA", however, has been doubled, and one tri-resonant and one full size 10 meter element have been added. These changes increase the gain to **11-11.3 dBd** on 10M, **9-9.5 dBd** on 15M, and **8.5-9 dBd** on 20M. Two driven elements are used to make the KT-34XA unusually broadbanded (a concept applied to many KLM antennas). Gain is virtually flat across each band except for 10 meters which has been optimized for the DX'er, 28-29 MHz. The chart shows the remarkable performance qualities of the KT-34XA.

The KT-34XA's design represents the first major advancement in tribander technology in over 20 years! The conventional traps, coils, and capacitors have been discarded in favor of integral linear loading and hi-Q air capacitors, all composed of aluminum tubing. These give the KT-34XA a conservative power handling capability of 4 KW PEP and an unusually high level of operating **efficiency**. Linear loading also makes full $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave elements possible on 15 and 10 meters, and brings 20 meters much closer to the desirable $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave than any conventional tribander.

BANDWIDTHS: ...	14.0-14.350 MHz	GAIN:	8.5-9dB
	21.0-21.50 MHz		9-9.5dB
	28-29 MHz		11-11.3dB
VSWR:	1.5:1	BOOM LENGTH:	32 ft. x 3" O.D.
FB/FS:	20dB/40dB	TURN RADIUS:	21.5 ft.
FEED IMP.:	50 ohms w/balun	WINDLOAD:	9 sq. ft.
BALUN:	3-60-4:1 5KW PEP	WT. (LBS.):	75 lbs.
ELEMENT LENGTH:	24 ft.	MAST:	2" O.D. (standard)

Mechanically, the KT-34XA has been built to survive the toughest weather conditions. All aluminum, including the boom, is strong 6063-T832 alloy. All electrical hardware is stainless steel. Virtually indestructible "Lexan" insulators, just like those on KLM's 40 meter "Big Sticker," are used for mounting the elements and insulating them from the boom. KLM's 3-60 MHz 4:1 balun is supplied for direct connection to any 50 ohm feedline.

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JA9YBA	3,036,563	2521	148 291	CZECHOSLOVAKIA				EA1CSB, EA8ZS, F11ATR, G3ICH, G4FDC, G5TK, HA3PT, HA7KLG, HA7KNT,				
JA2YKC	2,458,746	2094	135 279	OK7AA	7,445,390	5775	167 519	HA8RJ, HA8XX, HA8NAE, HK3DDD, K4FW, K6FM, K7QQ, K8CL, KE6VL, K08M,				
GERMANY (FRG)				NETHERLANDS				LA1B, LA2EG, LA5PEA, LA6XI, LA8CE, LA8XM, LA9ABA, LA9OI, LA9XG, LA9ZV,				
DK3BJ	3,257,217	3191	138 411	PA6DX	4,786,236	5329	129 417	LZ1IA, LZ1KCC, LZ1KHK, LZ1KKI, LZ1KSD, LZ1MC, LZ1OX, LZ2AG, LZ2CF,				
DL8KF	3,066,096	3452	125 403	PI4RTZ	131,670	660	43 122	LZ2KD, LZ2SB, LZ6CW, N5TV, N7JB, NP4A, OH1XX, OH2BAH, OH2FQ, OH2NL,				
DF0EG	31,360	320	10 60	YUGOSLAVIA				OH3TQ, OH5FA, OH5OT, OH5RZ, OH6AA, OH6NH, OH6RC, OH6VR, OH6XA,				
ITU GENEVA				4N4C	709,866	1153	89 250	OH6ZH, OH7NDX, OH8NKQ, OK1AYU, OK1DMP, OK1DOWJ, OK1KIX, OK1KTA,				
4U1ITU	2,965,360	3797	120 385	QRP				OK1US, OK2PGG, OK2PLH, OK3CIR, OK3CGT, OK3CQD, OZ1ABA/A, OZ1BUR,				
LITHUANIA				LZ1BB	A	868,137	1285 99 294	OZ1CMC, OZ1EUO, OZ1HRS, OZ1IPP, OZ1JLX, OZ1JMM, OZ1JNR, OZ1PP, OZ2E,				
UP9A	8,208,608	6481	178 557	4X6F	424,928	753	53 143	OZ2JI, OZ4RS, OZ5PA, OZ8JD, PA3AAV, PA3AFF, PA3DUA, PA8LKR, PA4GAZ,				
NETHERLANDS				UB5IJA	350,880	798	74 198	PY10L, PY2DP, PY2FK, PY2NZP, PY3CJI, PY6BZ, RA1AI, RA1OAZ, RA1OE,				
PA6DX	4,786,236	5329	129 417	G4ELZ	244,860	629	52 158	RA3EA, RA3EF, RA3NB, RA3RM, RA4NBG, RA8JB, RA8SS, RB5CB, RB5ICV,				
PI4RTZ	131,670	660	43 122	RB5IJ	227,539	522	71 176	RB5JJ, RB5LTZ, RB5NT, RB5UU, RB5UX, RD6DAA, RL8PYL, RT4UA, RV6AA,				
YUGOSLAVIA				OK3CGP	227,539	447	93 206	RV6AM, RV6AZ, RV9UV, RW6AA, RW3DM, RZ3AM, RZ3DZ, SK7UL, SM5AHX,				
4N4C	709,866	1153	89 250	DL9YX	186,780	274	73 210	SM5CEU, SM5FUA, SM5FUG, SM5ICV, SM5MLE, SM6AHS, SM6BWW, SM6BZE,				
QRP				K1CGP	167,562	290	58 156	SM6CDN, SM6CMR, SM6LJP, SM6OEF, SM6OLL, SM6REA, SM7CZC, SM7KWE,				
LZ1BB	A	868,137	1285 99 294	G3KDB	155,112	448	49 135	SM7OEL, SM7RWE, SM8BFJ, SM8CMH, SM8CSX, SP1AEN, SP2BIK, SP2BLC,				
4X6F	424,928	753	53 143	DL8CM	151,341	460	51 132	SP2BME, SP2BMI, SP2DKI, SP2FAV, SP2GBL, SP2G0H, SP2GUV, SP2IU,				
UB5IJA	350,880	798	74 198	WR4K	150,588	297	56 132	SP2HGG, SP2PMK, SP2US, SP3BYZ, SP3CQD, SP3DAH, SP3MY, SP3ZAC/3,				
G4ELZ	244,860	629	52 158	DL4FN	126,716	339	44 114	SP4ETO, SP4NKV, SP5CCC, SP5CQW, SP5ILO, SP5PB, SP6CES, SP6FER,				
RB5IJ	227,539	522	71 176	YV2BE	114,062	368	39 68	SP6HTX, SP6KSD, SP6PKQ, SP8AG, SP8BJH, SP8GSC, SP8JMA, SP8JIP,				
OK3CGP	227,539	447	93 206					SP8ZHY, SP9PFD, SP9ZFC, SP9JPA, SP9PJF, U3ADD, UA10AM, UA10FT,				
DL9YX	186,780	274	73 210					UA1QBO, UA1QCC, UA3AAJ, UA3ACJ, UA3AGV, UA3DAU, UA3DEV, UA3DL,				
K1CGP	167,562	290	58 156					UA3DMY, UA3DIT, UA3ECJ, UA3ECO, UA3ET, UA3IAA, UA3IDT, UA3LCC,				
G3KDB	155,112	448	49 135					UA3MED, UA3NCJ, UA3NEM, UA3PB, UA3PDW, UA3PP, UA3QUK, UA3RAO,				
DL8CM	151,341	460	51 132					UA3RCG, UA3RFZ, UA3ROE, UA3TBZ, UA3TFV, UA3VGY, UA4CJO, UA4HFK,				
WR4K	150,588	297	56 132					UA4HLL, UA4HML, UA4NBH, UA4NZ, UA4WAP, UA4WH, UA4YAO, UA4YZ,				
DL4FN	126,716	339	44 114					UA4YZ, UA6ADN, UA6HNU, UA6HOF, UA6HU, UA6LFO, UA6LON, UA6PCH,				
YV2BE	114,062	368	39 68					UA6YBU, UA6YCI, UA9AKW, UA9CES, UA9FZ, UA9JEL, UA9MDV, UA9OJ,				
								UA9XAA, UA9YC, UA0AAB, UA0DA, UA0FFU, UA0JDD, UA0KAV, UA0KDB,				
								UA0KLL, UA0SGN, UA0WZ, UA0ZX, UB1RR, UB3IWA, UB3JWW, UB4JFJ,				
								UB4UDN, UB5AGL, UB5AJP, UB5ENC, UB5EQV, UB5III, UB5IMZ, UB5KCA,				
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								UQ2GMR, UR2RGN, UT4UB, UT4UH, UT5BP, UT5JBG, UT5UCK, UT5UFI, UT5UI,				
								UV3DAV, UV3HD, UW3AQ, UW3EG, UW3PN, UW3ZV, UW4CN, UW6AA, UW6HO,				
								UW6HS, UW9CS, UW8CN, UY5GG, UZ1AWT, UZ1LWF, UZ4FWE, UZ4LWV,				
								UZ4PZA, UZ6AXF, UZ6EWA, UZ6EWF, UZ6LXM, UZ6LZL, UZ9CZA, UZ9OWD,				
								UZ9OXI, UZ9XXG, UZ8OWB, UZ8UWC, VE3PEX, VE7ACM, VK4UR, W3HOW,				
								W9YDP, WQ5W, Y21AE, Y21DG/A, Y21UC/A, Y21UD, Y21XH/A, Y22JD, Y22TD,				
								Y22TO, Y22YJ, T23CO, Y23EL, Y23QD, Y23RB, Y23VH, Y24CG, Y24EA, Y24GE,				
								Y24LN/A, Y24LO, Y24WJ/A, Y24XD, Y25BE, Y25PA, Y26BN, Y26DO, Y26GN,				
								Y26IH, Y26IL, Y27VH, Y27YH, Y28HL, Y28TO, Y31YF, Y32PT, Y32QH, Y33UB,				
								Y35VG, Y35WF, Y38YE, Y39XC, Y41MH, Y43XL, Y46TO, Y46XF, Y49MH, Y51YJ,				
								Y52ZE, Y53VL, Y54ZA, Y56YF, Y56ZN, Y57ZL, Y61XM, Y62QH, Y64ZL, Y71VG,				
								Y75YL, YQ2KCB, YQ2KYI, YQ5TA, YQ6DDF, YU3RU, YU7DR, YV5ANT, ZL1BSG,				
								ZL2BDC, ZY6BG, ZZ2-0548, 4N2D, J6LAD/9Y.				
								Disqualifications: None				



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W4FA presents specific details on constructing an economical maximum power dummy load plus hints on building HF dummy loads for any power level.

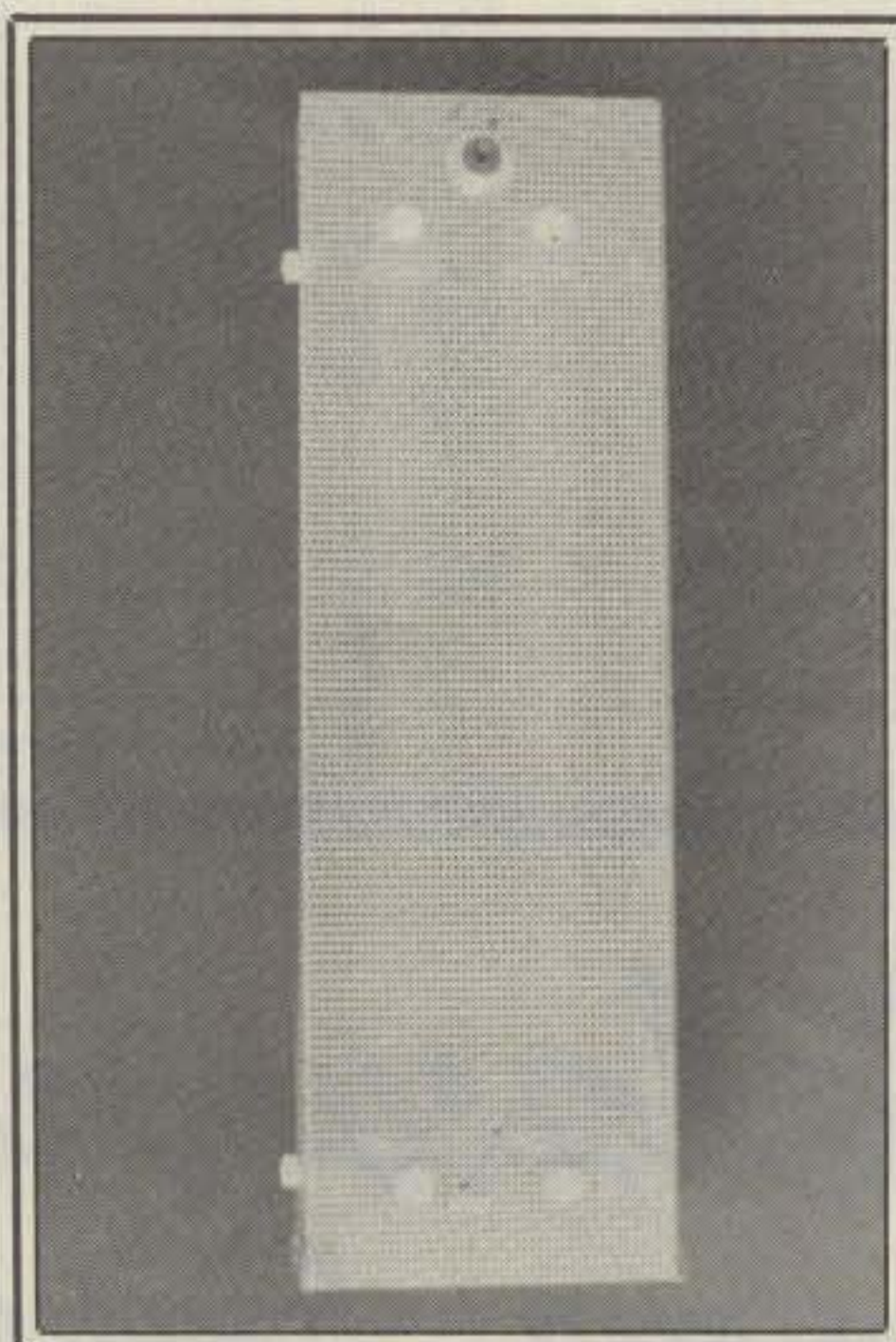
Build A Really Big Dummy Load

BY JOHN J. SCHULTZ*, W4FA/SV0DX

The dummy load described in this article evolved after a number of years of experimenting with dummy loads. What finally convinced me to go ahead and build it is the last experience I had with a KW, oil-filled dummy load overheating and spilling oil (all of its contents) over a test bench. That dummy (of foreign manufacture) had a safety valve which didn't function, and one of the end seals simply popped out of its main cylindrical frame.

Anyway, the dummy load described in this article, as the name implies, will handle more than a KW output on any HF band with a very low SWR. It uses four load resistors (air-cooled), whereas some commercial, air-cooled dummy loads on the market rated at a KW use only one such resistor! One need not duplicate the construction of the dummy exactly. One could use only one load resistor, if desired, or various combinations of lower wattage load resistors rather than the types mentioned.

This article will mainly present a few construction hints on how one can inexpensively homebrew an HF dummy load in the power range of 100 to 1,000 watts plus. But first of all, one perhaps should ask the question if a dummy load is still really necessary or useful in a station set-up? The classic answer used to be that using a dummy load prevents a lot of unnecessary on-the-air QRM as one tunes up a transceiver's output tuning and loading circuits. That was partially true, although the circuits still had to be "touched up" on the air when the transceiver was connected to a real antenna. The new transceivers with solid-state finals don't require output tuning. If anything, an antenna tuner has to be adjusted, and a 50 ohm dummy load between the transceiver and the antenna tuner doesn't aid the process. An in-line noise



The Big Dummy is constructed in a 14" x 5" x 4" perforated sheet-metal enclosure which is tack-soldered together.

bridge is the only really "quiet" way to pretune such a setup. But in spite of all that, my station setups, even using the latest transceivers, have always included a dummy load.

The dummy load, first of all, presents a quick means to check to see if a transceiver is putting out the proper power level and if the various ALC, speech-processing functions, etc., are performing properly as indicated by the transceiver's internal metering. I'd estimate that more than a few amateurs have encountered situations, either in a new station setup or when something has gone wrong with an antenna or grounding system, where there is so much RF feedback, VOX problems, keying problems, etc., that one couldn't tell what was going on until one

could confirm that the basic transceiver was functioning properly by using a dummy load. Even if there are no problems, periodic checking of a transceiver's meter readings with a dummy load will basically confirm the transceiver's output capability, the same as making and recording periodic SWR checks on a station's antenna system will highlight a possible developing problem. Of course, for those of us who like to experiment with or test transceivers and linear amplifiers, a dummy load is an essential tool.

Circuitry

The dummy load consists of a 50 ohm load which is basically nonreactive at HF frequencies. Some stray capacitance cannot be avoided in the construction of the dummy, but the main thing to avoid is inductive effects by choosing an RF non-inductive load resistor or resistors. Not to insult anyone's intelligence, but I would like to emphasize RF noninductive load resistors. There are various audio noninductive load resistors available, and more than one amateur has picked them up and tried to use them as RF dummy loads with, of course, complete failure. Unfortunately, they are usually just labeled "noninductive."

One could at the 100 watt power output level parallel a number of carbon-composition 2 watt resistors to form a 50 ohm dummy load. But even starting at that power level, I think it is much better to shoot for a proper noninductive load resistor. Such a resistor is of the carbon-film-deposit type and looks like the ones shown in the photograph of the "Big Dummy." They come in various ohmic values and power ratings and range in size from 3 inches long to 11 or more inches long. They have been around for years for use as terminating resistors in transmitting rhombic antennas and as parasitic suppressor resistors in the tube-type finals of high-power (1 kw to 500 kw) broadcast transmitter. They are

*c/o CQ magazine

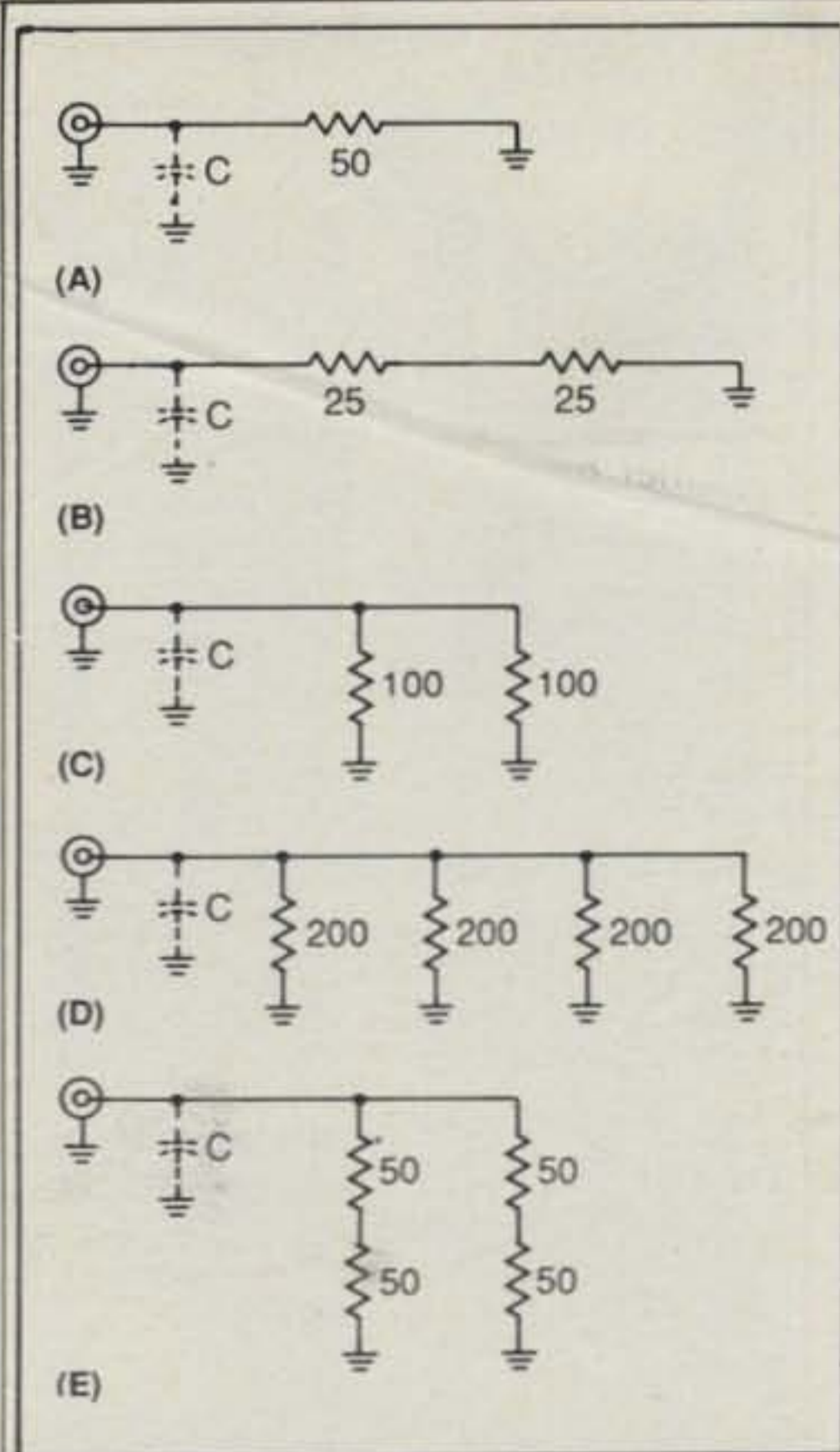


Fig. 1—(A) through (E) are various combinations of resistors that may be used to form a 50 ohm dummy load. The "Really Big Dummy" uses the arrangement at (E) with four 50 ohm resistors nominally rated at 90 watts each. The capacitor "C" is explained in the text.

still being manufactured today by a number of companies. Unfortunately, I don't know of any source from which an amateur can directly mail-order them except from surplus outlets such as Fair Radio Sales, which now and then comes across a supply of them. However, they are out there, and I can't believe that any amateur who really checks the surplus outlets, flea markets, etc., can't come across them at no more than a few dollars each. A few years back I came across one source which had some sitting around which were unused and over 30 years old. They needed a bit of cleaning up but were A-1 electrically.

Depending upon what resistor values can be found and what power level one wants to achieve for a dummy load, the resistors can be arranged in almost any manner as shown in fig. 1, ranging from the use of a single resistor to various parallel/series combinations. I've shown just a few possibilities in fig. 1 because the 25, 50, 100, and 200 ohm resistor values seem to be the most commonly available values. Fig. 1(E) is that of the "Really Big Dummy." The dashed-in capacitor shown by the coaxial input connector for each diagram is a frequency compensating capacitor which may or may not be necessary to obtain the lowest possible

SWR on 10 meters depending upon the physical construction used for a dummy load. The capacitor value required usually ranges from 5–20 pF, but the capacitor itself need only be the absolute run-of-the-mill 1 kv disc ceramic type, even for a 2 kw dummy load.

The carbon-film-deposit resistors are very rugged electrically and the seemingly low wattage ratings marked on them are deceptive. If no markings are found on them, a reasonable rule of thumb is that the 3 inch long ones are rated 20–25 watts and the 8–11 inch long ones are rated at 70–90 watts. The resistors can have enough RF power dissipated in them that they glow a dull red and yet will cool off again without sustaining any damage. They have been (and are being) used in dummy loads where the rule of thumb has been applied that they can dissipate 10 times their power rating for a 20 second period if allowed to cool off between usages. Therefore, a 20–25 watt rated resistor will certainly suffice for test periods a minute or less with a 100 watt output transceiver. The "Big Dummy," which uses four 90 watt resistors, should be able to handle 3.6 kw for short periods, although I've been very happy to see it perform at the 1.5 kw output level for many one minute periods with cooling periods in-between. All of this assumes that the resistors are mounted such that air can freely circulate about them.

Construction

The "Really Big Dummy" was constructed as simply as possible using perforated sheet metal stock, as shown in the photographs. The stock was salvaged from some old, old audio amplifier chassis, but the type of decorative metal stock available in hardware outlets can also be used. Also, any type of commercial enclosure which has plenty of perforations to allow free air flow around the resistor(s) will suffice. The resistor(s) should have a clearance of 3/4 inch to 1 inch to each side of the enclosure and between the resistors.

Large electrical fuse clips were used to hold the resistors and the clips insulated from the enclosure by mounting them with standard 10-32 nylon hardware (a nylon nut was used under each clip to act as a spacing insulator). The fuse clips are not necessary, however, and a perfectly suitable mounting can be fabricated from 3/4 inch wide copper strapping fastened around each end of the resistor(s). The strapping material can be found in large hardware or electrical outlets or simply do it yourself by cutting up copper sheeting material.

As shown in the photograph, a standard SO-239 connector is mounted on one side of the enclosure rather than one end of the enclosure. This allows the enclosure to be stood on end during operation and seems to facilitate the air flow

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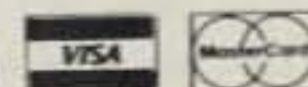
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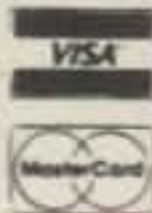
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around the resistors as a convection flow develops along the length of each resistor.

Electrical Tests

Initial electrical tests of the "Really Big Dummy" weren't bad, but did show an SWR of 1:2 at the high end of 10 meters. Experimentation with compensating capacitors at the coaxial input connector did help, but not enough. Finally, the wiring at the "far" end of the resistors was changed to a crossover arrangement (explained in the caption to one photograph). That, plus a 10 pF compensating capacitor at the coaxial connector, did it. The SWR went down to 1:1.25 at 29.9 MHz and was always better below that frequency. The point is that if multiple resistors are to be used in a dummy load, you might have to experiment a bit with the wiring to get maximum cancellation of stray capacitive and inductive effects for minimum SWR, especially on 10 meters.

Summary

Dummy loads are not difficult to construct for the HF bands, and if one has enough patience to find the parts necessary (mainly the RF noninductive resistors), they can be constructed at a considerable price advantage compared to buying commercial units. Besides, it's a good, fun-type project even for a newcomer.

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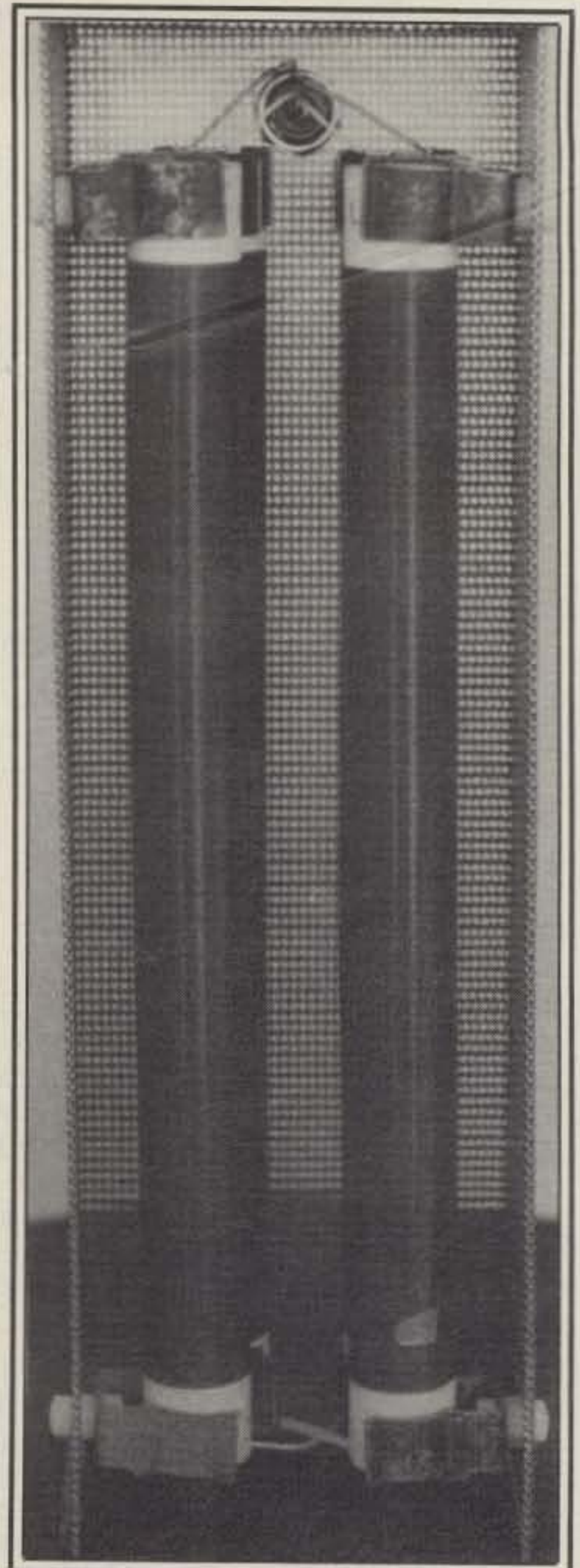
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This photograph shows the resistor mounting with fuse clips insulated from the enclosure by nylon machine-screw hardware. Note the crossover wiring at the bottom of the resistors. The top end of the right foreground resistor is wired to ground, while its bottom lead crosses over to the bottom end of the left background resistor, the top end of which goes to the center pin of the coaxial connector. The four resistors form the network shown in fig. 1(E).

The 20 second to 1 minute test period allowed by some of the dummy loads suggested may sound short, but usually it is enough to check for proper equipment adjustment even using a continuous-carrier mode of modulation. The simplest of fans directed to force air across the dummy-load resistors should, if desired, increase the operating period by a factor of at least two or three times.

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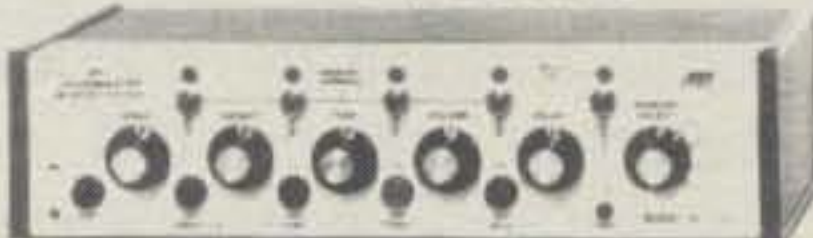
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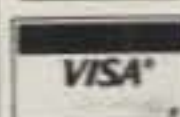
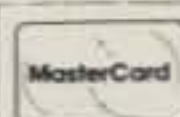
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MRF454/A	Q 80W	15.00	34.00
MRF455/A	Q 60W	12.00	28.00
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MRF247	75W 136-174	27.00	63.00
MRF248	80W 136-174	33.00	71.00
MRF641	15W 407-512	20.00	46.00
MRF644	25W 407-512	24.00	54.00
MRF646	40W 407-512	26.50	59.00
MRF648	60W 407-512	31.00	69.00
2N6080	4W 136-174	6.25	—
2N6081	15W 136-174	8.00	—
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For more information, contact Austin Custom Antenna, P.O. Box 75, Chalfont, PA 18914, or circle number 101 on the reader service card.



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The Heathkit SB-1000 Linear Amplifier provides a full 1000 watts PEP output on SSB or 850 watts output on CW. It provides full HF coverage from 160-15 meters including 80% of rated output on the three WARC bands. The SB-1000 uses a

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For more information about the SB-1000 Linear Amplifier and Heathkit's line of amateur radio equipment, send for the free Heathkit catalog. Write to Heath Company, Dept. 150-955, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. In Canada, write to Heath Company, 1020 Islington Ave., Dept. 3100, Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 5Z3.

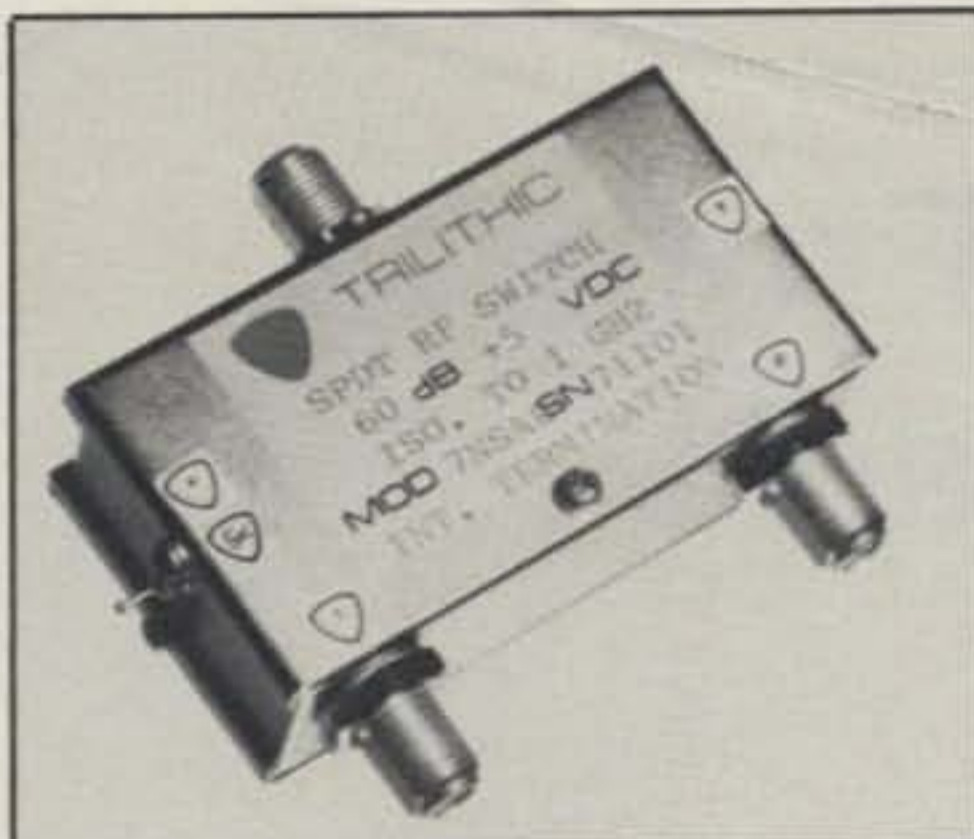


Astatic Silver Eagle Plus Microphone

The Astatic Corporation is introducing a new version of the Silver Eagle. The ETS9-D104SE+ is the Silver Eagle plus a new microphone amplifier, switching system, and built-in ETS. The end of transmission signal (ETS) was originally developed for use in the NASA Space Program. The circuit produces 1 kHz tone when the microphone is unkeyed. This tone indicates the transmission is completed. The ETS tone is heard by the user of the microphone as well as the person receiving the transmission, and is generated electronically within the microphone. The ETS feature is switch selectable. The Silver Eagle Plus also features a new switching system. With its newly redesigned amplifier, the ETS9-D104SE+ retains its talk power while improving SSB operation.

Additional features include a new VOX switch which allows improved operations

on transceivers that incorporate this feature, a 20 dB pad on the audio output, and the capability of powering the microphone either from a 9 volt battery or directly from the radio. For more information, contact Astatic Corp., Harbor and Jackson Streets, Conneaut, OH 44030-0120, or circle number 103 on the card.



Trilithic Programmable A/B (SPDT) RF Switch

Trilithic has announced the Models 7LSAB and 7NSAB electronically controlled latching and non-latching A/B switches. Available in a variety of configurations, including a direct PCB mountable version, the electrical performance includes return loss of 20 dB minimum, insertion loss of 0.2 dB maximum, isolation of 60 dB minimum 70 dB typical, frequency range DC-1000 MHz, and characteristic impedance 75 ohms.

A/B switches are used for switching between dual (redundant) local area networks, between cable drops and receiver antennas, and in automated and/or remote test equipment. They may be ganged to create 1 x 3, 1 x 4, 1 x 5, etc., switches for other applications. Trilithic will package these in 1 x N versions as well as N x M (e.g., 2 x 5) matrix switches in a single housing. The Model 7NSAB Non-Latching A/B Switch with Type-F connectors is priced at \$49 each in quantities of 10 or more. The PCB mountable version is \$34 each. Other connectors and options are slightly more. A 450 MHz version is less. For more information, contact Trilithic, 6840 Winona Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46236-9506, or circle number 102 on the reader service card.

Miracle Flux

Miracle Flux makes it possible to solder aluminum to aluminum or aluminum to dissimilar metals. All that is required, in addition to Miracle Flux, is a brush for application, ordinary solder, and a soldering iron. After ensuring that the surfaces to be soldered are free of dirt and scale, brush on Miracle Flux and then heat. Once flux reaction starts, apply solder immediately. For more information, contact Miracle Rod, P.O. Box 791, Glasgow, KY 42141, or circle number 104 on the reader service card.

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Getting The Signal From Here To There—Part I

BY LEW MCCOY*, W1ICP

Radio-signal propagation is a fascinating subject and one not completely understood by many amateurs, particularly newcomers. There are many ways in which your transmitted or received signal can arrive at its destination. A great deal depends on the frequency, the time of day, the condition of the sun, and so on. Just how propagation takes place is the subject of this article.

Groundwave

There are many different ways a radio signal can travel, but there are only two basic methods of radio-signal propagation. These two ways are by **ground wave** or by **sky wave**. Let's deal with ground wave first. The term *ground wave* is just what the name implies—a wave of radio energy that travels along the earth until it is completely absorbed or attenuated. If it travels in contact with earth, it is also called a surface wave. Ground-wave signals have a very high attenuation factor. This is easily evidenced by signals on the broadcast band where 100 miles is just about the limit for ground-wave distance. For example, in the 80 meter band the signal loss at 100 miles is on the order of 150 dB! The range for 80 meters for ground wave is about 25 to 50 miles, of course depending on the power of the transmitted signal.

There are many conditions when the transmitting antenna and the receiving antenna are within line of sight of each other. Some portion of the transmitted signal travels this route and is called the "space wave." Of course, any signal traveling via ground wave and line of sight has some angles involved in its travel

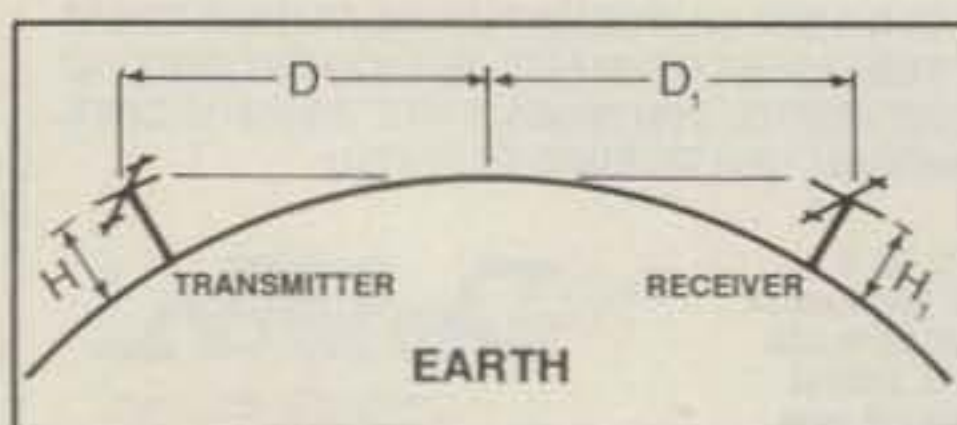


Fig. 1—This drawing shows the distances one can get from line-of-sight contacts. The formula for D or D1 (in miles) is $D = 1.415$ divided by the height in feet of the antenna. We have also included a simple basic program for those amateurs with computers (see text).

from transmit to receive point. A portion of the signal can strike the earth and then be reflected so that it actually takes a longer path to reach the destination than the direct signal. These signals combine when they reach the receiving antenna, and depending on their phase difference, because of arriving at different time intervals, they can actually add or subtract in strength from each other.

Line of Sight, or How High the Antenna

Normally, on VHF and UHF the distance the signal travels is "line of sight." Except for rare instances, signals above 144 MHz are not propagated via the ionosphere, so we must depend on line of sight. Repeater owners seek the highest possible location for their stations for just this reason. The higher the repeater, the greater the coverage (see fig. 1).

Many amateurs live in fringe areas of repeaters, and it is helpful to know what they can expect in distance from given heights. The distance from the transmitting antenna to the horizon can be found from the formula $D = 1.41$ times the

square root of the antenna height. The distance from the horizon to the receiving antenna is, of course, determined by the same formula.

This information comes into play many times in amateur radio, so I have included a simple program in BASIC.

Program to determine the line-of-sight distance.

```
10 PRINT "The height of the transmitting antenna in feet is"
20 INPUT H
30 D = 1.41 * SQR(H)
40 PRINT "The distance from the transmitting antenna to the horizon is"; D; "miles."

50 PRINT "The height of the receiving antenna in feet is"
60 INPUT H1
70 D1 = 1.41 * SQR(H1) + D
80 PRINT "The distance between the transmitting site and the receiving site is"; D1
90 end
```

While it isn't called a signal-propagation method, there is another way signals can get from here to there, so to speak. It is not unusual for a transmission to be reflected off hills, mountains, etc., at VHF and UHF, causing different signal paths than normal line of sight. This is also true when large buildings which sometimes act as reflectors are present.

Meteor Scatter

It should be mentioned that in the case of VHF-UHF signals the signals can be propagated in other ways. For example, during meteor showers (which occur much more frequently than many people believe) there are relatively long distance contacts possible on the higher bands. A meteor passing through the upper atmosphere leaves an ionized trail from which a signal can be reflected. The trail only lasts for a very short time, so contacts must of necessity be very short. However, during dense meteor showers it is

*Technical Editor, CQ, 200 Idaho St., Silver City, NM 88061

possible for longer contacts, on 10 and 15 meters, for example.

Ducting

Still another means of transmission, particularly evident at VHF, is "ducting." Atmospheric ducts occur particularly over large bodies of water and tend to "trap" signals, and they can be carried great distances. Notable examples are contacts on VHF from the west coast of the U.S.A. to Hawaii.

Sky-Wave and the Ionosphere

Much of the fun of amateur radio would not be there if it were not for the ionosphere. This is an ionized layer that surrounds the earth and ranges in height from 20 miles up to 200 or so miles. As we go higher from the surface of the earth the atmosphere becomes less and less dense. The atmospheric pressure becomes much weaker, and free electrons and ions can move about without combining into atoms. (Note: One important point the newcomer to amateur radio should know is that radio waves travel at different speeds depending on the dielectric material they are passing through or striking. They can "bend" or "bounce" depending on this dielectric material.)

The ionization is caused by ultraviolet radiation from the sun. However, the ionosphere is by no means constant, and each layer we will discuss has many vagaries. The sun, as most of us know, is not a "constant" radiating device in that the amount of ultraviolet radiation depends on many things such as the sunspot and solar flux numbers, which go through a cycle of changes.

Sunspots and Solar Flux

As mentioned, radiation from the sun is the controlling factor of the ionosphere. Solar sunspots have been noted for well over 200 years, and it has been noted that the number of sunspots tends to rise and fall in cycles, covering approximately 11 years for each cycle. Over the last 50 years or so much more has been discovered about solar activity and the sun's relationship to radio-signal propagation. Until recently we discussed sunspot numbers when talking about propagation conditions. Those numbers are smoothed to provide a "better" average. However, for meaningful and useful information the sun's activity is measured every day at 1700 Universal Mean Time at an observatory in Ottawa. This information is compiled to provide a daily report of solar activity called the *solar flux*. Hourly bulletins from WWV give the solar-flux number or index.

A "quiet sun" has a solar-flux number of 66 (and propagation would be considered poor for the higher bands). During times of sunspot cycle peaks the solar flux numbers can go quite high. For ex-

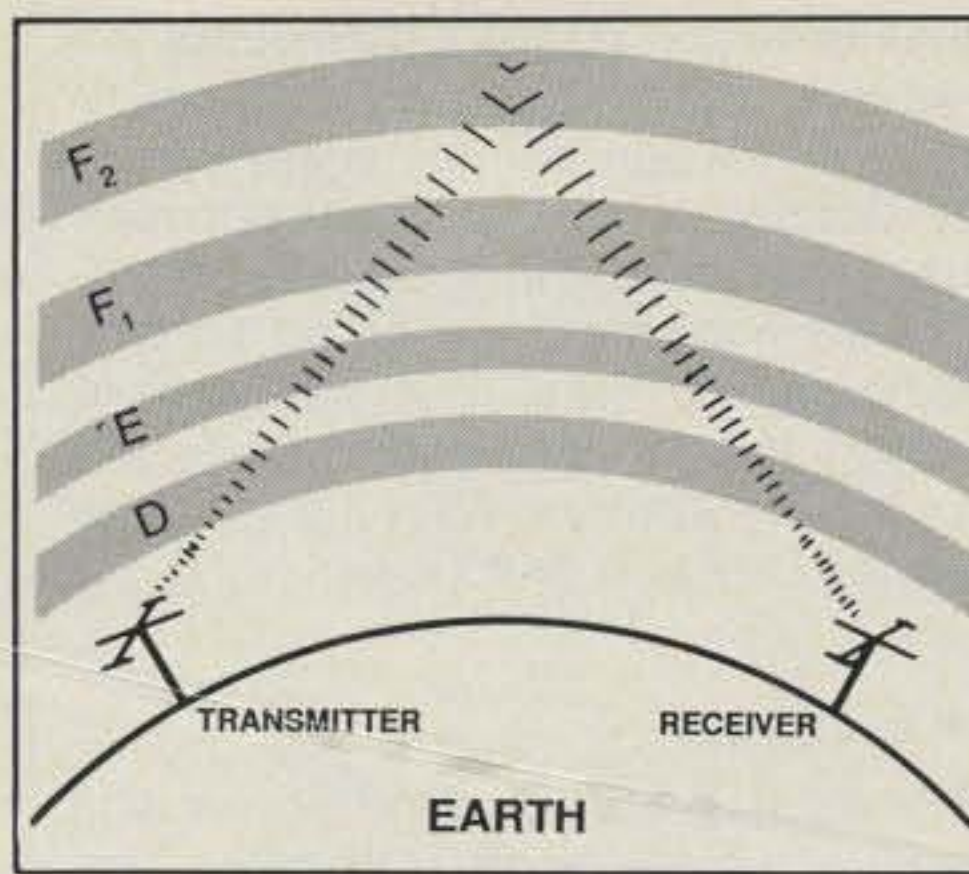


Fig. 2— This drawing shows the various layers of the ionosphere.

ample, in the peak month of Cycle 21 (we currently number the cycles), November 1979, a solar flux of 383 was recorded—very good conditions indeed! Anyone who has come into amateur radio in the last few years has a real treat in store. Conditions are getting better, and we are on the upswing in sunspot numbers.

Radio signals leave the antenna at many angles, some going up to be refracted and reflected off ionized layers back to earth at some distant receiving antenna providing the long-distance contacts so many of us enjoy. Fig. 2 is a drawing showing these layers.

Depending on the type of antenna used, there will be many angles of radiation from the antenna. We'll discuss this subject in greater detail later on, but there are a few points that should be covered now. The ionosphere has the capability of reflecting radio signals, but only signals below a certain angle (see fig. 3). This cutoff angle is called the "critical

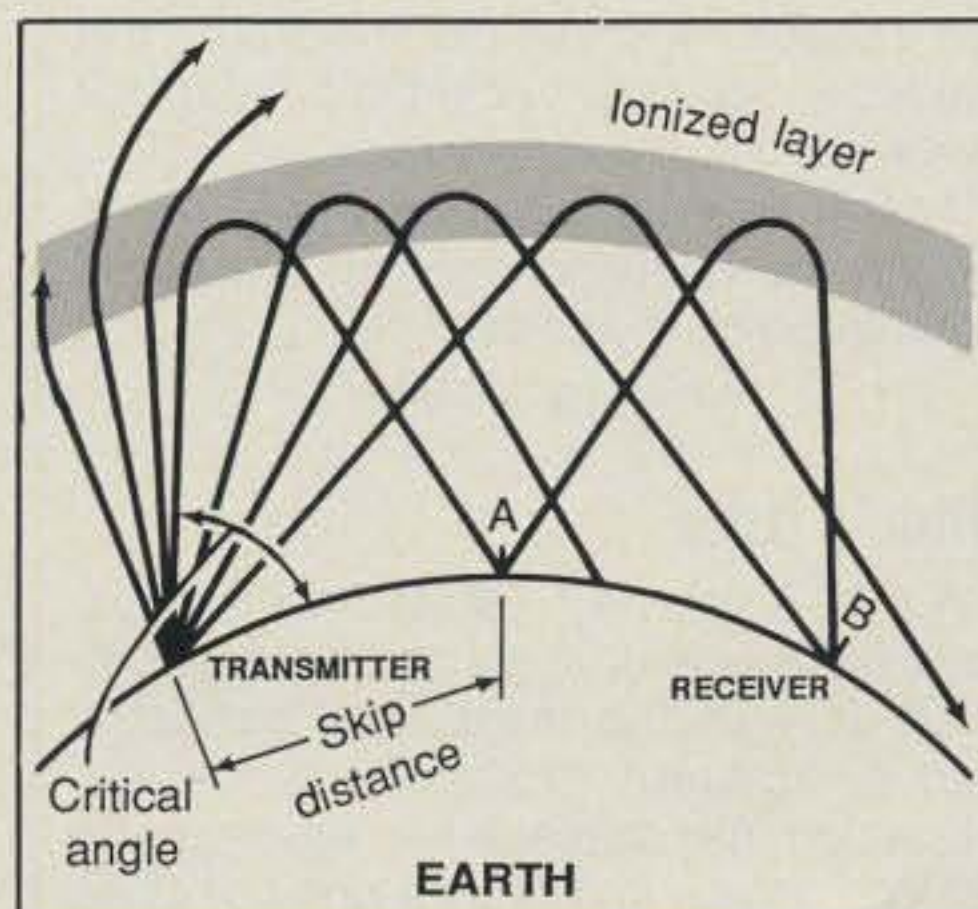


Fig. 3— As discussed in the text, any angle above the critical angle will not be returned to earth but will proceed on through the ionosphere into space. In actual practice, the signal leaving the antenna does not travel in single lines as shown, but rather travels as a broad front, with some areas of the front, or lobes of energy, stronger than others.



The New Pro-Am Designer Series

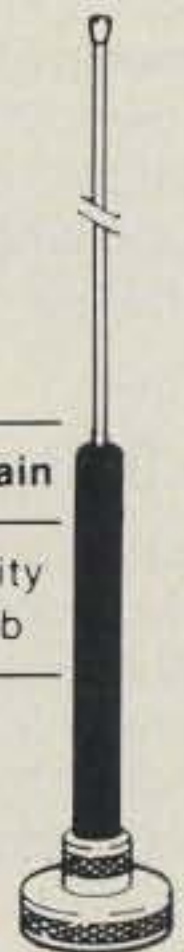
- State of the Art designs
- Full line of amateur, two-way - commercial - cellular Antennas & Accessories
- 100% American made . . . because it matters!
- The best kept secret, just got better

Here are just a couple models

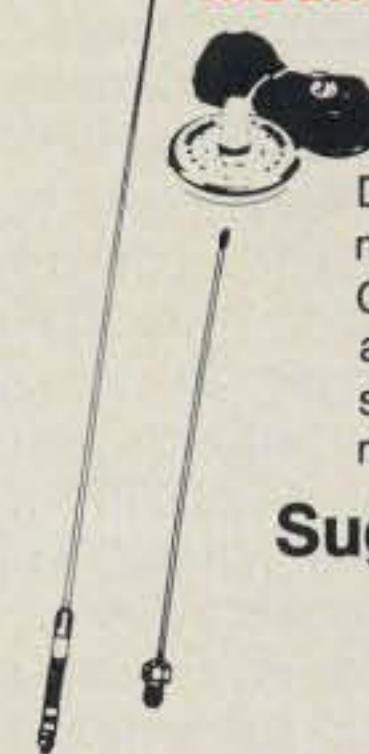
Model	Frequency	Gain
*PA270	144-148 MHZ, VHF 440-450 MHZ, UHF	Unity 3db

Suggested List

\$39⁹⁵



2 Meter Combo Magnetic Mount Kit



Model CX5814

Dual combo magnetic mount kit includes one CX144, one PAQ3820 and one 301 utilizes standard 3/8-24 mounting.

Suggested List

\$39⁹⁵

Now it's out! It's no secret anymore. So your next antenna system, why not make it Pro-Am. Have your dealer call us today, or write to:



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185 W. Hamilton St.
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We now accept:



angle," and any signals higher than this angle will go right through the ionosphere without being returned to earth. (Which means we want to avoid antennas with the majority of their radiation straight up! Some of the popular loop antennas can be guilty of "lost" radiation.)

In addition to the ionosphere, the earth itself serves as a reflector, so signals reflected back down from the ionosphere strike the earth and are reflected back up, going up and down until they are dissipated. It should be noted that there is always some loss from the signal when it strikes the earth. The amount of loss depends on the quality of the earth where the signal strikes, and we have little or no control over that factor. The distance between the transmitter and where the signal is bounced back to earth from the ionosphere is called the **skip distance**.

Now that we have an idea about the signal skip of sky wave, let's look at the various ionosphere layers and how they can help or hinder our signal.

The D-Region

Let's discuss the layers one at a time to see how they affect our signals. As we know now, the sun is the controlling factor when it comes to ionization. During daylight hours the lowest layer or region comes into play. It is called the D-region and is about 60 miles up. This is a relatively dense layer of atoms with fewer free ions. As the sun strikes this layer, the D-region becomes a very heavy absorber of low-frequency signals, such as those in the broadcasting band and our 80 meter band. In fact, at midday absorption is so strong that we have to depend entirely on ground wave at these low bands. Low-frequency signal waves such as 160 and 80 meter signals take longer to travel through the D-region than high-frequency signals. The wave has more time to strike atoms and dissipate energy (as heat). In fact, the entire signal can be dissipated in this manner, never having a chance to be reflected back to earth. Signal loss is much less at 40 meters, and the D-region has practically no effect on any of the higher bands.

The 1988 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest

CW: January 29-31
SSB: February 26-28

An interesting sidelight here about the D-region is that the Federal Communications Commission permits some broadcast stations to operate only between certain time limits during the day and requires them to shut down during non-daylight hours to prevent their signals from reaching too far and causing interference to other stations. After the sun goes down the D-region disappears.

The E-Layer

The next layer is called the E-layer, and it exists at a mean height of 65 miles. This layer comes into play for long-distance communications. It is the next most heavily ionized layer, again with ionization heaviest at noontime and during daylight hours, with the layer (normally) disappearing at night. And it, like the D-region, can be a heavy absorber of signals. There are occasions when a condition exists that is called **sporadic-E** (many times this occurs at night). This makes for some interesting signal paths on 15, 10, and 6 meters. For this reason one should never "give up" when these bands appear dead. Check them frequently and try a few CQs. You might be surprised. More about sporadic-E later.

The F-Layer

To most of us the really important layer in the ionosphere is the F-layer, as this is responsible for most of our long-distance contacts. The height of the F-layer is between 150 and 250 miles, and it is the most intensely ionized layer. The F-layer at times breaks up into two distinct layers, the F1- and F2-layers, the F1-layer being the closest to the earth. They usually recombine after dark into the F-layer. The degree of ionization depends on many factors—time of day, time of year (sun's position), and most important, the time of the sunspot cycles and solar flux number.

Next time we'll discuss signal paths through and via the ionosphere and some of the vagaries that exist.

(To be continued)

Editor's Note

W1ICP's two-part series on propagation is designed as a basic primer to familiarize us with the terms and concepts used in amateur radio. For a full discourse on the subject we recommend that you obtain and read a copy of *CQ's The Shortwave Propagation Handbook*. The *Handbook* was written by *CQ's* Propagation Editor George Jacobs, W3ASK, and Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX. It covers all areas of propagation in full detail and is written in easy-to-read language. The book is available from the *CQ* Book Shop for \$8.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.



SPECIAL PULL-OUT CATALOG

Pages 41-48

Specially bound into this issue of CQ is the new 1988 Alinco Full-Line Amateur Products Catalog featuring all the fine Alinco VHF/UHF Mobile Transceivers, VHF/UHF Handhelds, VHF/UHF Amplifiers and Alinco Power Supplies.

Remove your personal copy of this handy reference catalog by firmly grasping the entire 8 pages and pulling it *slowly* out of the issue. The issue itself will remain intact as will the catalog.



ALINCO

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ALINCO
ELECTRONICS INC.

VHF & UHF FM MOBILE TRANSCEIVERS



ALR 22T (25 WATTS)

ALR 22HT (45 WATTS)

ALR 72T (25 WATTS)

With ALINCO's advanced engineering and technology, the ALR-22T (Output: 25W) and ALR-22HT (Output: 45W) 2m FM Transceivers as well as the ALR-72T (Output: 25W) 70cm FM Transceiver are designed to be the ultimate in compact size and power. An impressive array of features gives maximum flexibility in mobile installations.

FEATURES

- **Ultra-Compact**

5-1/2" W x 1-9/16" H x 6-1/2" D, an ideal size for installation in today's compact automobiles.

- **Large LCD**

Highly visible front Panel LCD is designed for easy viewing.

- **21 Memory Channels**

21 fully programmable memories. All offsets, encode and decode information and "locked out" memories can be programmed.

- **High RF Output**

Provides a powerful 25 watts (or 45 watts with ALR-22HT), RF output power with a low power setting of approximately 5 watts.

- **Dual Digital VFOs**

Features dual digital VFOs, with front panel selection. The two VFO's tune independently.

- **Memory Scan and Programmable Band Scan**

- SCAN Button initiates memory scan. Skips memories in which no data is stored or are locked out.

- UP or DOWN buttons on the microphone initiates band scan in the appropriate direction. Two selectable frequencies can be stored independently for scanning limits, if so desired.
- In both memory and band scan, scanning stops on the busy frequency and automatically resumes 2 seconds after signal ceases.

- **Priority Function**

With priority function selected, the unit scans back to the memory channel selected to monitor activity.

- **Easily Programmable Repeater Offsets**

+/-600KHz: (ALR-22T and ALR-22HT) + /-5MHz: (ALR-72T) or simplex are selected by the front panel offset button.

- **16-Key Autopatch Up/Down Microphone**

Encodes 16 DTMF tones. Up/Down switches provide step frequency change or initiate band scan.

- **Standard Tone Squelch — not an add-on option as with other manufacturers.**

- **Easily programmed Non-Standard Offset Frequency.**

- **Unit can be used for CAP or MARS operation with no modifications.**

TYPE	ALR-22T/22HT	ALR-72T
Frequency Coverage (MHz)	140-149.995	440-450
Channel Spacing (KHz)	5, 10, 15, 20 and 25	5, 10, 15, 20 and 25
Subaudible Tones-Encode/Decode	Included	Included
DTMF	Included	Included

Accessories Supplied as Standard

- Hand Microphone with DTMF Pad (Condenser Type)
- Mobile Mounting bracket
- Spare fuse
- DC Power Cable
- Washers and Screws for Mounting . . .



ALD-24T (25 Watts on both bands) has all the features as 22T, 22HT, 72T plus Cross Band full duplex. (See page one)

24T DUAL BAND MOBILE

140-149.995MHz/440-450MHz



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ① ON/OFF and Volume Control | ⑧ MR/CHECK (Memory Recall/Offset Frequency Check) | ⑬ +/- /OW (Offset select button/Offset write button) |
| ② Squelch Control | ⑨ MW/SKIP (Memory Write/Memory Skip Button) | ⑭ F (Function key) |
| ③ Main Dial | ⑩ LOCK/DUAL Button | ⑮ TX LED (Transmit) |
| ④ ⑤ MHz UP/DOWN Control (1MHz steps) Also memory channel selection | ⑪ CALL 1/CALL 2 Button | ⑯ F LED (Function) |
| ⑥ Scan/PRI (Scan and Priority Channel Button) | ⑫ Tone/Tone No. Button (Tone unit Activate/Tone Frequency Select) | ⑰ RX LED (Receive) |
| ⑦ A/B/TS (VFO A or B and Tuning Spacing) | | ⑱ H/L Button (Power: High/Low Select) |
| | | ⑲ LCD (Display) |

Ask your dealer for the product brochure which shows the specifications on this outstanding Dual Band Mobile.

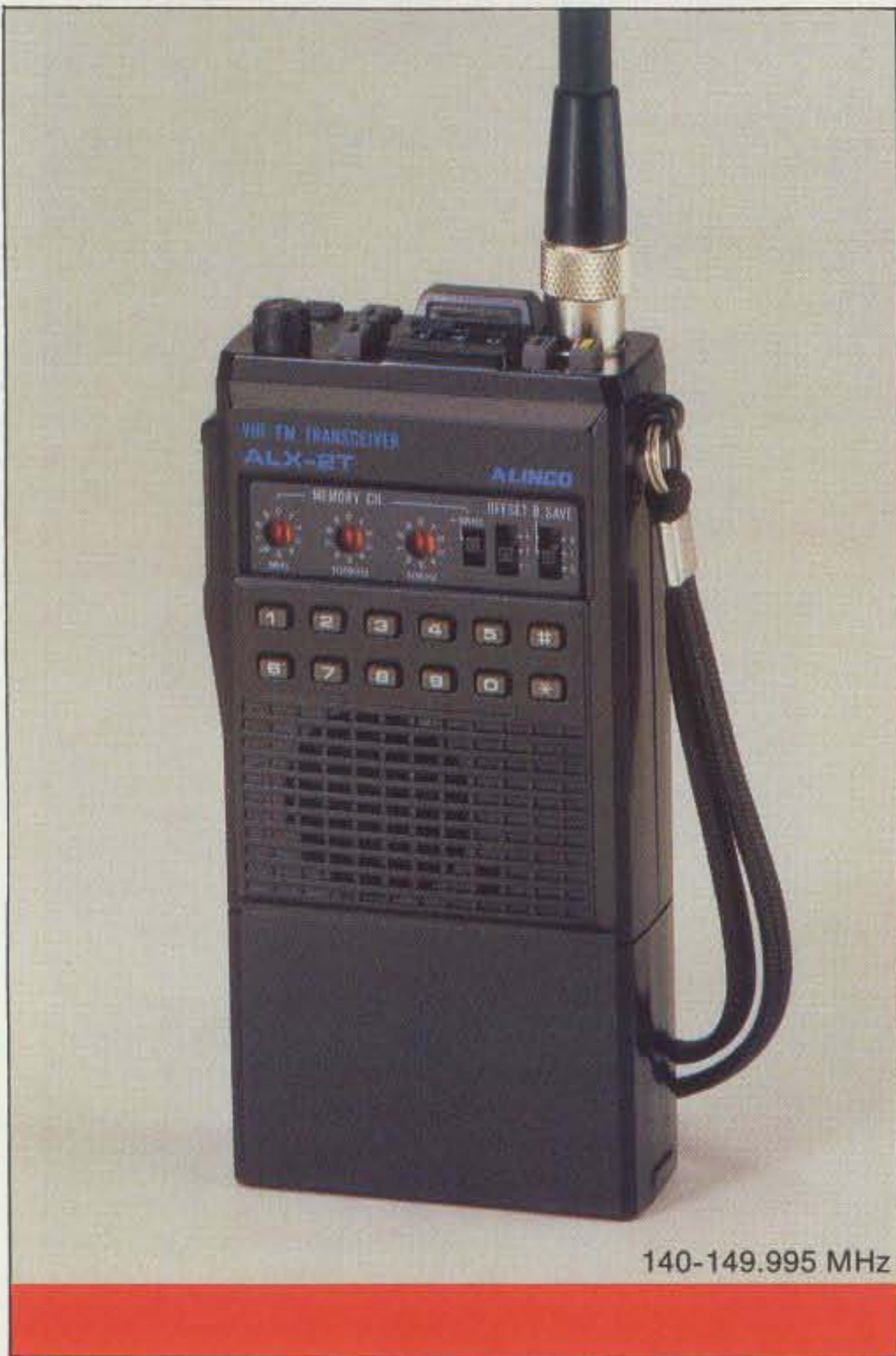
ALX-2T & ALX-4T HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER

With ALINCO's advanced electronics technology, the ALX-2T and ALX-4T Ultra Compact UHF & VHF hand-held transceivers have been designed to provide maximum performance and operating convenience. Choice of standard and/or optional heavy duty batteries expands the flexibility of these units. These units give you all the advantages and performance of a larger hand-held in a package, so small, so refined, so well built that only ALINCO could build it.

FEATURES

- Dimensions: With battery 160mAH
4 5/8" (H) x 2 3/8" (W) x 7/8" (D)
- Output Power

	ALX-2T	ALX-4T
a. With Standard 450mAH Ni-Cd.....	2W	1W
b. Optional Ni-Cd packs available for increased output power		
- Easy-to-operate thumbwheel frequency selection
- Battery Save Function
- LED illumination of the dial
- Detachable Slide on battery pack
- Expanded frequency coverage
- Standard Repeater Offsets
- Priority Function
- Subaudible Tone & DTMF Encoder
- Rugged, high impact molded case



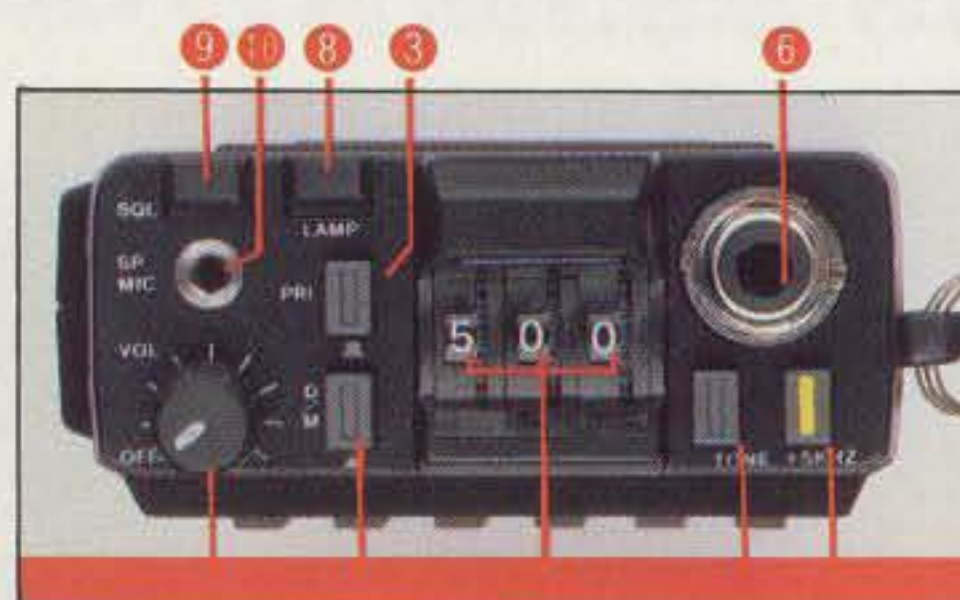
ADVANCED PRIORITY FUNCTION Operator can monitor another frequency as well as the operating frequency when using the priority function. (Receives operating frequency for 1.5 second and priority frequency for 0.5 second.)



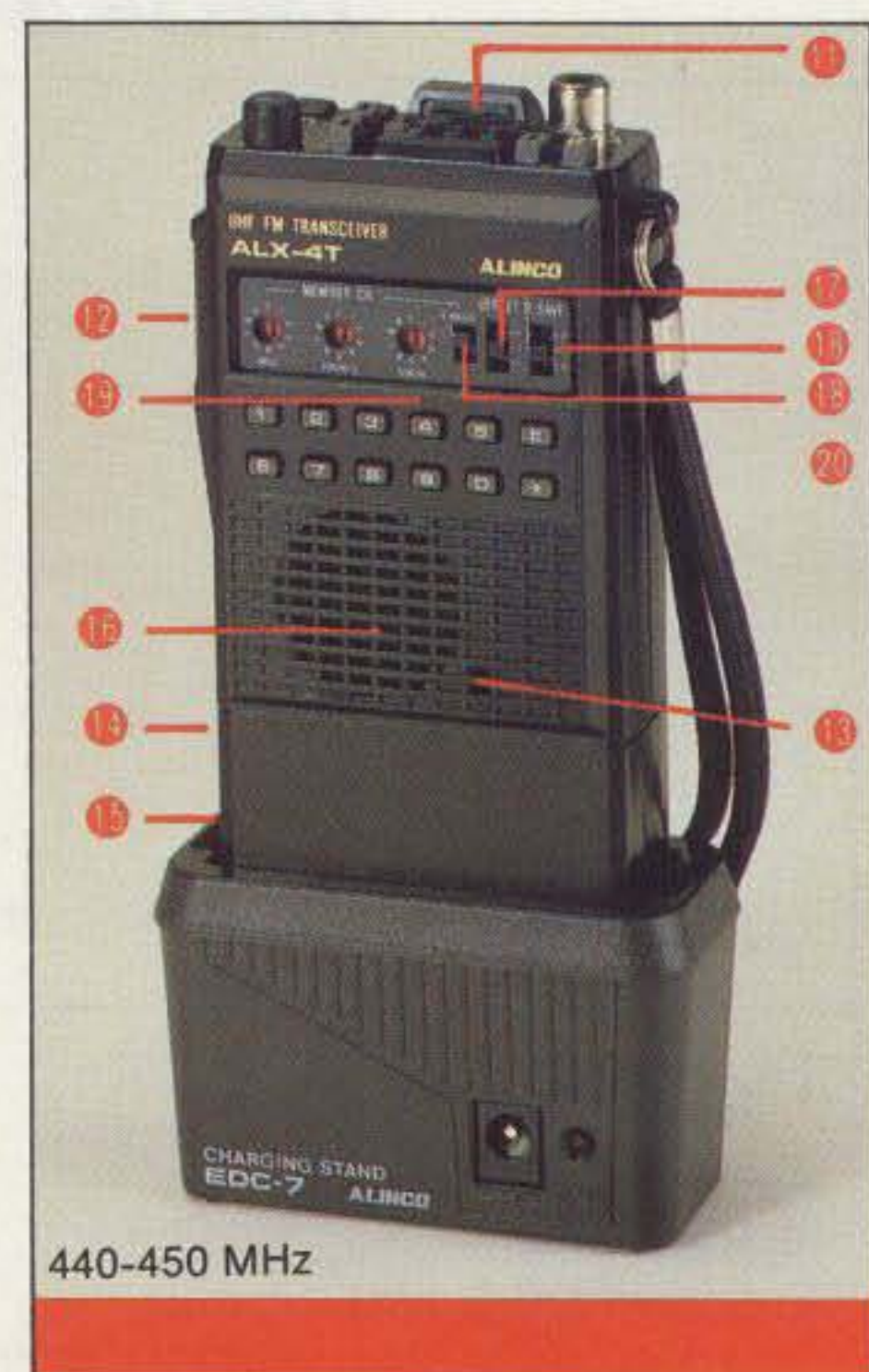
Optional Accessories

- Battery Charging Stand
Input: 13.8V (DC12V - 17V).....EDC-7
- DC/DC ConverterEDH-10
- NI-CD Battery Pack 7.2V (160mAH)EBP-2N
- NI-CD Battery Pack 7.2V (450mAH)EBP-3N
- NI-CD Battery Pack 7.2V (700mAH)EBP-4N
- NI-CD Battery Pack 9.6V (450mAH)EBP-6N
- Leatherette Case Set
(Body Case, Battery Case & Belt Clip).....ESC-5
- Earphone MicrophoneEME-2

Note: All optional accessories can be used both on ALX-2T and ALX-4T.



1. Volume & Power Switch
2. M/D (Memory/Dial) Button
3. PRI (Priority) Button
4. Tone Button
5. +5KHz Switch
6. ANT connector
7. Thumbwheel
8. Lamp Button
9. Squelch Button
10. Earphone/Mic Jack



Ask your dealer for the product brochure which shows the specifications on these outstanding Handheld Transceiver

ALR-206T

2m FM MOBILE TRANSCEIVER

ALINCO's Model ALR-206T 2 meter FM transceiver has been designed for maximum flexibility in mobile installations. This compact transceiver offers new concepts in design for easier operator control.

Microprocessor control offers improved receive and transmit circuitry. Features a powerful 25-watt high and 5-watt low RF output and is programmable from microphone.

Non-standard offsets, subaudible tones and 140-149.995 MHz coverage make this the ideal transceiver for today's Amateur needs.

FEATURES

- Unique Frequency Control Knob
- Compact
- 25-Watt Output with HI/LO Power Switch
- 10 Channel Memory (Back-up Lithium Battery)
- Memory Scan and Programmable Band Scan
- High Visibility LCD Display with S/RF Meter
- 16-Key Up/Down Microphone w/DTMF
- Audible "Beeper" Confirms Operations
- High Performance Receive/Transmit
- Repeater Offset Buttons and Reverse Button
- Easy-to-Install Mobile Mount
- External Speaker Jack
- Programmable Subaudible Tones
- Programmable Non-Standard Repeater Offsets
- Extended Frequency Range for MARS and CAP



TYPE	ALR-206T
Frequency Coverage (MHz)	140-149.995
Channel Spacing (KHz)	5
Tone Burst	Not Available
Subaudible Tone	Included
DTMF	Included

ALM-203T 2m FM

HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER

The Model ALM-203T has been designed with special emphasis on compact size, super performance and rugged construction. Incorporating the latest in mechanical and electronic technology, including key features such as a bright LCD, 10-channel memory with memory back-up; memory scan, programmable band scan; key board frequency selection, and an easy-to-operate front panel key board layout. The ALM-203T also functions as a 150-160 MHz receiver when A/B switch is set to B position.

FEATURES

- 17-Key Function Control Panel
- 10-Channel Memory (Built-in Backup Battery)
- Indication of Function on LCD
- Memory Scanning
- Programmable Scan
- Non-Standard Repeater Offset
- Built-in "S" & "POWER" Meter
- Battery Saving Function
- Max. Output: 5W (When optional DC/DC Converter is used.)
- 2 Programmable Subaudible Tones

TYPE	ALM-203T
Frequency Coverage	144-147.995 150-160:RX Only
Channel Spacing (KHz)	5
Tone Burst	Not Available
Subaudible Tone	Included
DTMF	Included

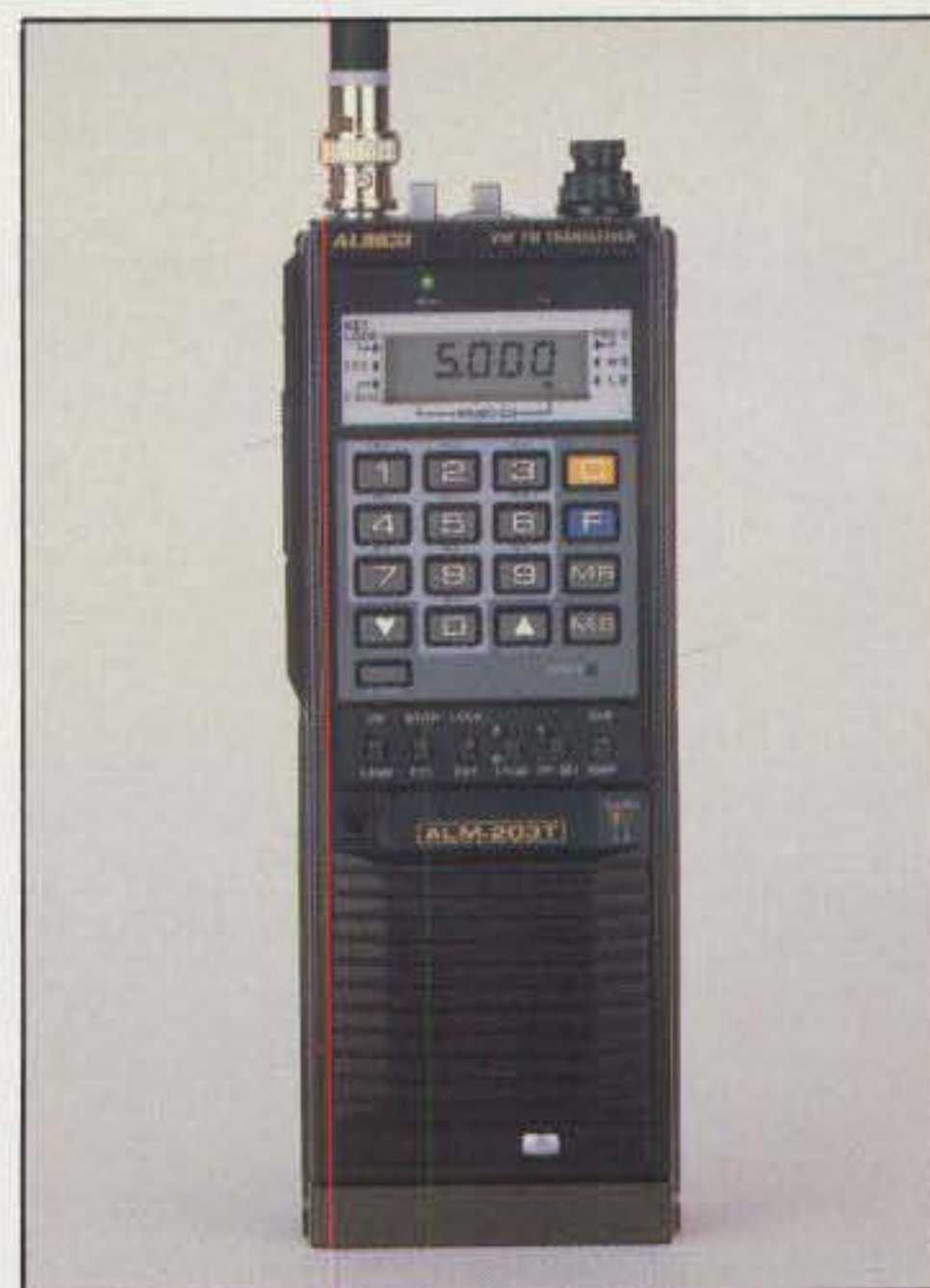
Optional Accessories

- EDH-25 DC/DC Converter for 5W Output
- ESC-3 Leatherette Case & Shoulder Belt
- EDC-2 Cigarette Plug & Charger Cable
- EMS-20 Speaker/Microphone
- EBP-5N Ni-Cd Battery Pack (Supplied as Standard)

Standard Accessories

- Ni-Cd Battery Pack
- Hand Strap
- A.C. Wall Charger
- Belt Clip
- Rubber Flex Antenna
- Earphone

Ask your dealer for the product brochure which shows the specifications on this outstanding Handheld Transceiver.



144MHz and 440MHz Linear Amplifiers

The silver grey anodized chassis with the black front will complement your shack or mobile.

FEATURES

- Heavy duty heat sink for longer transmissions
- Low pass filter installed for a cleaner signal
- All units include a protection circuit
- ELH-260D and ELH-230D include a gain Rx Pre-Amp

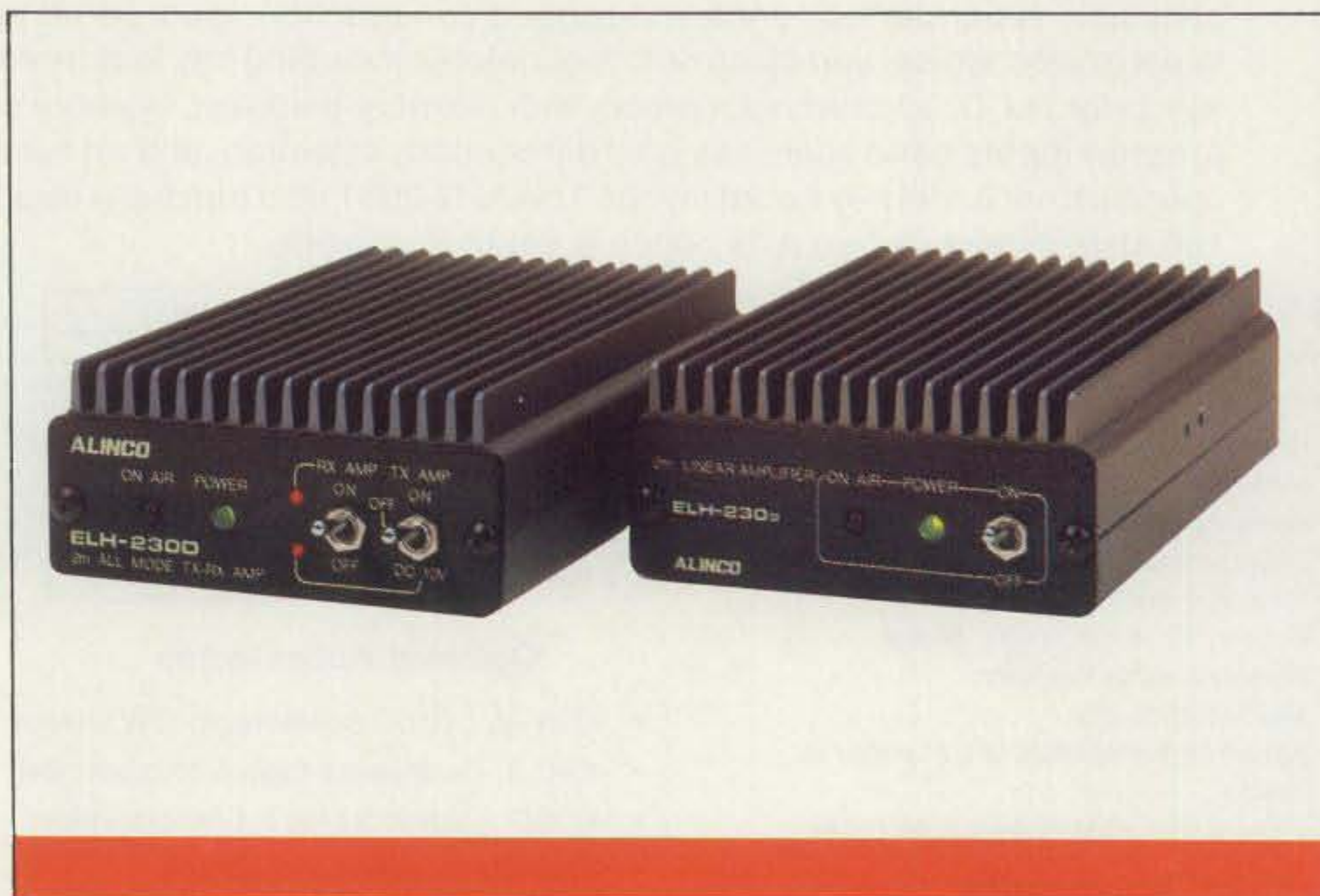


ELH-260D
140-150MHz
All Mode (FM SSB CW)
200mw-5W Input Power
3W in = 50W Output Power
DC13.8V/10A
10dB Gain Rx Pre-Amp
50 ohms
3.58" x 1.61" x 8.50"
1.50 lbs.

ELH-730G
430-450MHz
All Mode (FM SSB CW)
200mw-5W Input Power
3W in = 30W Output Power
DC13.8V/7A
50 ohms
3.58" x 1.61" x 7.68"
1.19 lbs.

ELH-230D
140-150MHz
All Mode (FM SSB CW)
200mw-5W Input Power
3W in = 30W Output Power
DC13.8V/4.5A
15dB Gain Rx Pre-Amp
50 ohms
3.58" x 1.61" x 6.42"
1.12 lbs.

ELH-230G
140-150MHz
All Mode (FM SSB CW)
200mw-5W Input Power
3W in = 30W Output Power
DC13.8V/4.5A
50 ohms
3.58" x 1.61" x 6.42"
1.12 lbs.





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It has always been Alinco's policy to provide its customers with the most efficient and best performing power supplies at the most competitive prices possible. Alinco products are the best value for your money — recognized the world over for their high quality standards. Alinco's I.C. Regulated Power Supplies consistently out perform the competition.

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- No Hum - Quiet Operation
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D.C. 13.8V (Rated) (Variable: 3-15V)
25A D.C. (Continuous) 32A D.C. (Max) (50% Duty Cycle)
Under 30mV (P-P) (Rated)
770VA (Rated)
Automatic Current Limiting Systems shuts down in excess of 20 amps
11¼" x 4" x 5¼" (W)
11 lbs.

EP-2030
About 10V-15V D.C. (With Voltage Adjuster on front panel)
117/220 Volt Dual Transformers
15A D.C. (Continuous) 20A D.C. (Max.) (50% Duty Cycle)
Under 30mV (P-P) (Rated)
Automatic Current Limiting Systems shuts down in excess of 20 amps
10½" x 9½" x 6"
13½ lbs.

EP-3030
About 10V-15V D.C. (With Voltage Adjuster) on front panel)
117/220 Volt Dual Transformers
25A D.C. (Continuous) 30A D.C. (Max.) (50% Duty Cycle)
Under 30mV (P-P) (Rated)
Automatic Current Limiting Systems shuts down in excess of 30 amps
13" x 9½" x 6"
19 lbs.

EPS-110M
About 10V-15V D.C. (With Voltage Adjuster) on front panel)
117/220 Volt Dual Transformers
10A D.C. (Continuous) 11A D.C. (Max.)
Under 30mV (P-P) (Rated)
Automatic Current Limiting Systems shuts down in excess of 11 amps
8½" x 8" x 5"
12 lbs.

Ask your dealer for the product brochure which shows the specifications on this outstanding DC Power Supply.

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Alinco Electronics is proud to warrant its full line of quality products. Alinco products will provide reliable service when properly installed and operated.

Alinco, Inc., U.S.A. warrants this equipment to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 180 days from the date of purchase. If an Alinco product fails in the first 30 days after purchase and has not been subject to the limitations listed below, the unit will be replaced by the selling dealer.

In addition, Alinco will repair or replace at its option, any and all defective parts, assemblies or entire units free of charge, necessary to correct any defects in material or workmanship for 180 days from the date of purchase.

In addition, for a period of 545 days (18 months), Alinco Electronics will repair any defects in material or workmanship for a charge of \$38.00 inclusive of all parts and labor. This 545 days (18 month) period will become effective upon the expiration of the customer's original 180 day warranty.

This warranty is limited in duration to a total of 2 years. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Failures due to improper installation, improper operation, static discharges, abuse or modification by purchaser or any other party are hereby expressly excluded from this warranty.

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AES-Orlando, FL.
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AES-Las Vegas, NV.
A-Tech Electronics-Burbank, CA.
Austin Amateur Radio Supply-Austin, TX.
Barry Electronics-New York, NY.
Burghardt Amateur Center-Watertown, SD.
Colorado Com. Center-Denver, CO.
Delaware Amateur Supply-Delaware, DE.
Doc's Communications-Rossville, GA.
El Original Electronics-Brownsville, TX.
EEB-Vienna, VA.
EGE, INC.-Woodbridge, VA.

EGE, INC.-Salem, NH.
Erickson Communications-Chicago, IL.
Floyd Electronics-Collinsville, IL.
The Ham Station-Evansville, IL.
The Ham Hut-Amarillo, TX.
Hatry Radio-Hartford, CT.
Henry Radio-Los Angeles, CA.
HR Electronics-Muskegan, MI.
HRO-Anaheim, CA.
HRO-Atlanta, GA.
HRO-Burlingame, CA.
HRO-Oakland, CA.
HRO-Phoenix, AZ.
HRO-San Diego, CA.
HRO-Van Nuys, CA.
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Now You Can Have the Best of Both . . .

Radio Data Communications and PC-Compatibility!

DS-3200



Now you can have the **BEST** in a radio data communications terminal with the **NEW DS-3200**.

Recognizing the chief weakness of previously available computer-based terminals is RFI generation and susceptibility, HAL has designed the fully-shielded DS-3200 for operation in the radio data communications environment. No longer do you have to QRT when that rare DX station's signal dips near the noise level!

The DS-3200 is provided with an extensive RTTY software package which emulates the operation of our MPT3100/DSK3100 combination for message processing and handling. Continuous save to disk of all received text, direct transmission of selected files from disk, and full editing capability are just a few of the features of this "user-friendly" software package. Plus, we have included the latest release of MS-DOS with GW BASIC!

The built-in RS-232C serial port allows the use of the DS-3200 with an external demodulator such as the HAL ST-5000, ST-6000, or ST-8000. Or, add the HAL PCI-2000 for a completely self-contained RTTY/CW terminal and demodulator. Also, with the use of a second RS-232C serial port the DS-3200 can be used with your favorite TNC on Packet!

The DS-3200 with its IBM PC XT-style architecture gives you virtually unlimited flexibility for future expansion. Here is a list of just some of its hardware features: 8088 CPU, 640KB RAM, RS-232C Serial Port, Parallel Printer Port, Clock/Calendar with Battery Back-Up, Two 360KB Floppy Disk Drives OR One 360KB Floppy and One 20MB Hard Disk Drive, HERCULES-compatible Monochrome Graphics Adapter with High-Resolution 12 Inch Monochrome Video Monitor.

The DS-3200 is **THE** choice for modern radio data communications.

Write or call for complete specifications on the **NEW DS-3200**.



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CQ REVIEWS:

The Encomm Tokyo Hy-Power Lab Model HL-1K/A HF Linear Amplifier

BY JOHN J. SCHULTZ*, W4FA/SV0DX

The diminutive size of the HL-1K/A amplifier (its front panel measures only 11¼" × 5½") led me at first to imagine that it must be just another "tin-box" type of amplifier design. That was before I tried to lift the thing. After gaining due respect for the fact that the HL-1 will stay put in a hurricane, I began to look much closer at the amplifier. I'll go into details as we go along, but suffice it to say that I found the HL-1K/A to be an extremely well-constructed unit with electrical performance that matches its physical ruggedness. It was a refreshing surprise to discover the unit.

General

The HL-1K/A is a 1 KW input class linear amplifier that covers all of the HF bands (including the WARC bands) and 10 meters when modified by a licensed amateur. It is ideally suited for use with any HF transceiver (tube or solid state) of the 100 watt output class. It is completely self-contained to include an internal power supply and is configured to present a very small front-panel area while being about 14½ inches deep. It "weighs in" at about 40 pounds, and while such a weight does not negate portability, it does pack a lot of weight for its small size. Physically and electrically the HL-1K/A does not present any greatly innovative ideas. Rather, it is a conservative, well-disciplined design that should appeal to amateurs who are willing to invest in an amplifier that should last for many years of dependable performance. Table I presents the specifications for the HL-1K/A as supplied by the manufacturer.

Circuitry

Fig. 1 presents the overall schematic of the HL-1. The upper half of the diagram presents the RF circuitry while the lower half covers the power supply and control circuitry.

Looking at the RF circuitry first, one immediately notices that the heart of the amplifier is a pair of Eimac 4X150A tubes



The front panel of the amplifier is dominated by the two panel meters and the plate tuning and load controls.

operated in a grounded-grid, class AB mode. Why manufacturers choose a certain tube for a linear amplifier design out of the many tube types available is always an intriguing question. At first I

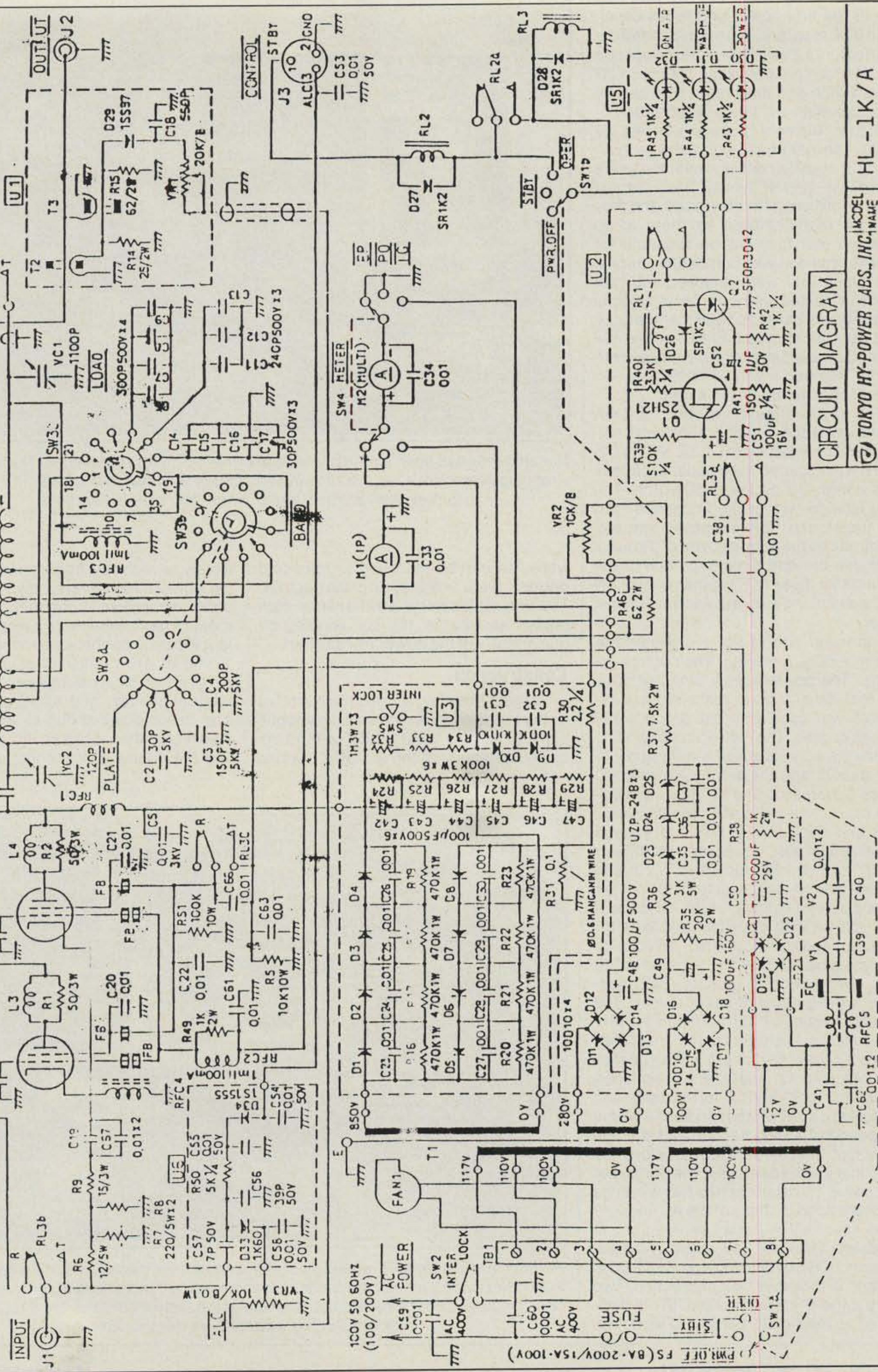
couldn't quite understand why Tokyo Hy-Power chose 4X150A tubes, since I haven't seen them used for some years in HF amplifier designs. But as I speculated about their choice, I realized that it was

Frequency band:	1.8 through 21 MHz all HF amateur bands (1.8, 3.5, 3.8, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21 MHz)
Mode:	SSB, CW (RTTY/SSTV/AM)
Output power:	500 watts max. (RTTY/SSTV/AM: about half of SSB and CW)
Driving power:	100 watts max.
Plate voltage:	DC 2 KV (DC 2.4 KV with no RF excitation)
Plate current:	500 mA max.
Input impedance:	50Ω (unbalanced)
Output impedance:	50Ω (unbalanced)
Vacuum tubes:	Eimac 4X150A/7034 × 2
Semiconductors:	Unijunction transistor × 1, Thyristor × 1, Diode × 31, LED × 3
Class of operation:	Class AB 1, grounded grid
AC supply voltage:	AC 100/110/117/120/200/220/234/240V, 15/8A max. (50/60 Hz)
Built-in meters:	Plate current meter IP 600 mA (full scale); Multi-meter IG 3 mA (full scale), PO 1 KW (full scale), EP 3 KV (full scale)
Input/output connector:	M type (SO-239)
Dimensions:	284 (W) × 153(H) × 375(D) mm
Weight:	approx. 18 kg
Accessories:	Control plug, fuses (8A/200V, 15A/100V)
Cooling method:	Forced-air cooling by a large sirocco fan
Power consumption:	150VA at stand-by, 1600VA at max. input

Table I—Specifications of the linear amplifier.

*c/o CQ magazine

* C1-2-3-4 : DISC CERAMIC CAPACITORS, RF POWER TYPE.
 * C6-8-11-16 : DIPPED MICA 500V TYPE.
 * UNMARKED CAPACITORS ARE 500V CERAMIC TYPE.



CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

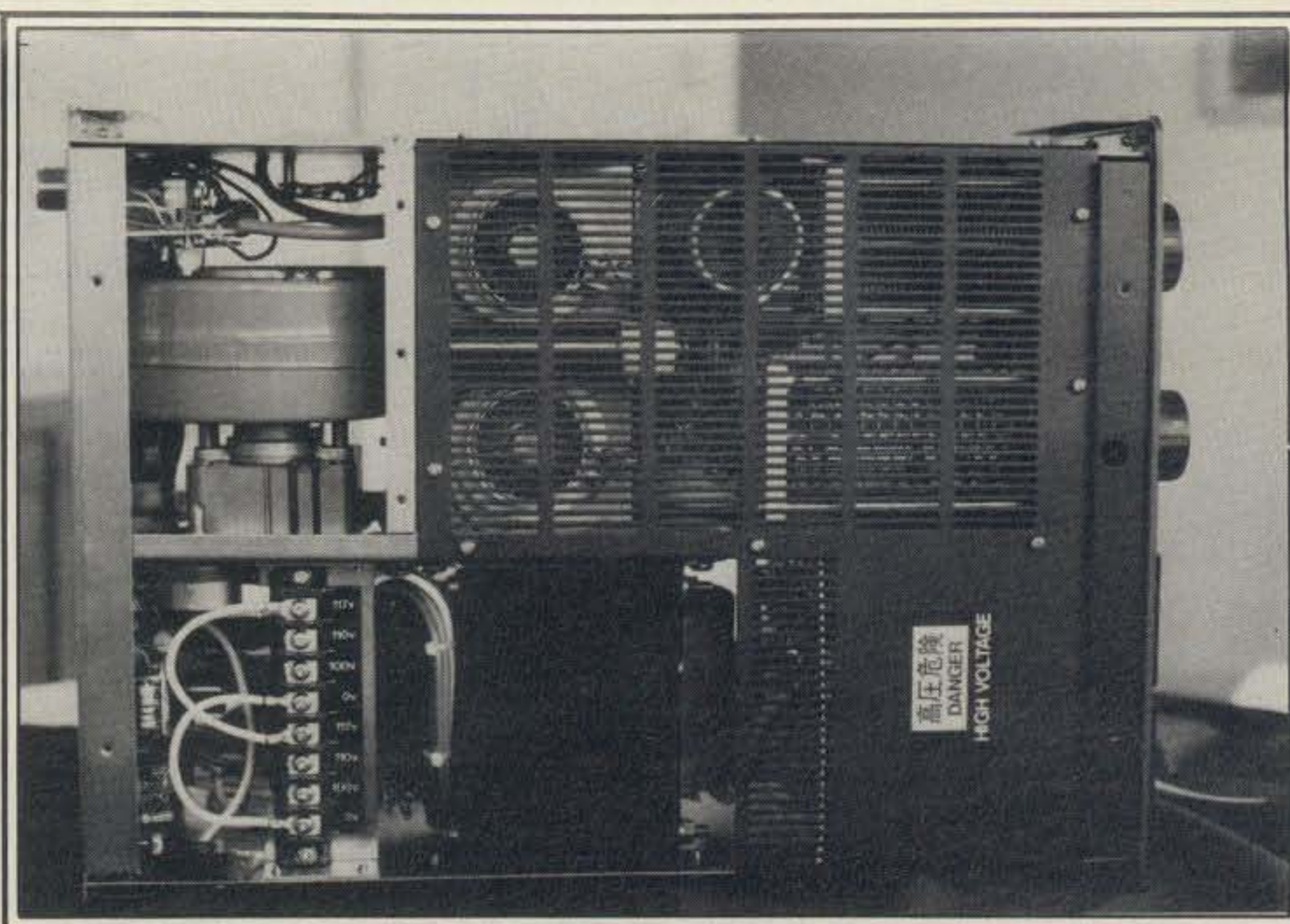
TOKYO HY-POWER LABS., INC. MODEL HL-1K/A

Fig. 1 - Circuit diagram of the HL-1K/A HF linear amplifier.

very well thought out. The 4X150A was one of the first power grid tubes developed by Eimac, and its ceramic/metal design features a very high plate dissipation in a very compact package (4X150B/C/D types which one may see advertised by surplus outlets are the same tube but with a higher filament voltage—up to 26 volts). The tube has been used in thousands of amplifier designs over the years (more VHF than HF types). There literally must be millions of them around, and they are still manufactured so there is no question that they will be available for years to come at very competitive prices. The tubes that were supplied with the HL-1K/A tested were in their original Eimac boxes dated as 1986 manufacture and with the standard Eimac guarantee form. Subsequently, all new models are being shipped with 4CX250B's. All specifications remain the same.

The plate circuitry of the HL-1K/A works into a conventional pi-network output circuit consisting of L1, L2, VC1, VC2, and the associated fixed padding capacitors controlled by the bandswitch. The area labeled "U1" in fig. 1 contains a toroid transformer forward-power wattmeter circuit so the output power of the amplifier can be read directly on one of the front-panel meters. Transmit/receive antenna switching is done by a conventional relay.

The lower half of fig. 1 presents the power supply, metering, and control circuitry. The power-supply circuitry does not include any compromises; it is extremely well done. Only one power transformer is used. The high-voltage winding for the plate supply uses a voltage doubling circuit, and there are separate RC surge suppressor and voltage equalization networks across each rectifier (e.g., R16 and C23 across D1) and voltage equalization resistors across each filter capacitor (e.g., R29 across C47). A 280 volt winding on the power transformer develops screen voltage for the 4X150's. A 100 volt winding develops grid bias for the tubes and is switched to -55 volts for operating bias or to -140 volts for cutoff bias during receive periods. Both voltages are regulated by zener diodes. The 12 volt winding on the transformer provides filament voltage for the final tubes and is also rectified to provide an operating voltage for Q1 and Q2 (lower right corner of fig. 1). Q1 and Q2 form a timer and switching circuit which mandates a warm-up period of 45-60 seconds for the filaments of the 4X150A tubes before the amplifier can be operated. The primary of the power transformer has two windings and taps such that any of the AC line voltages specified in Table I can be accommodated (100 to 240 volts). A great amount of RF bypassing and RF filtering is used in the power supply section. Two front panel meters are used. M1 is dedicated to read plate current (0-600 ma),



The amplifier has been set on one side and the top cover removed for this view. The strapping panel for various AC line input voltages is shown in the lower left. An interlock switch removes power when the cover is removed.

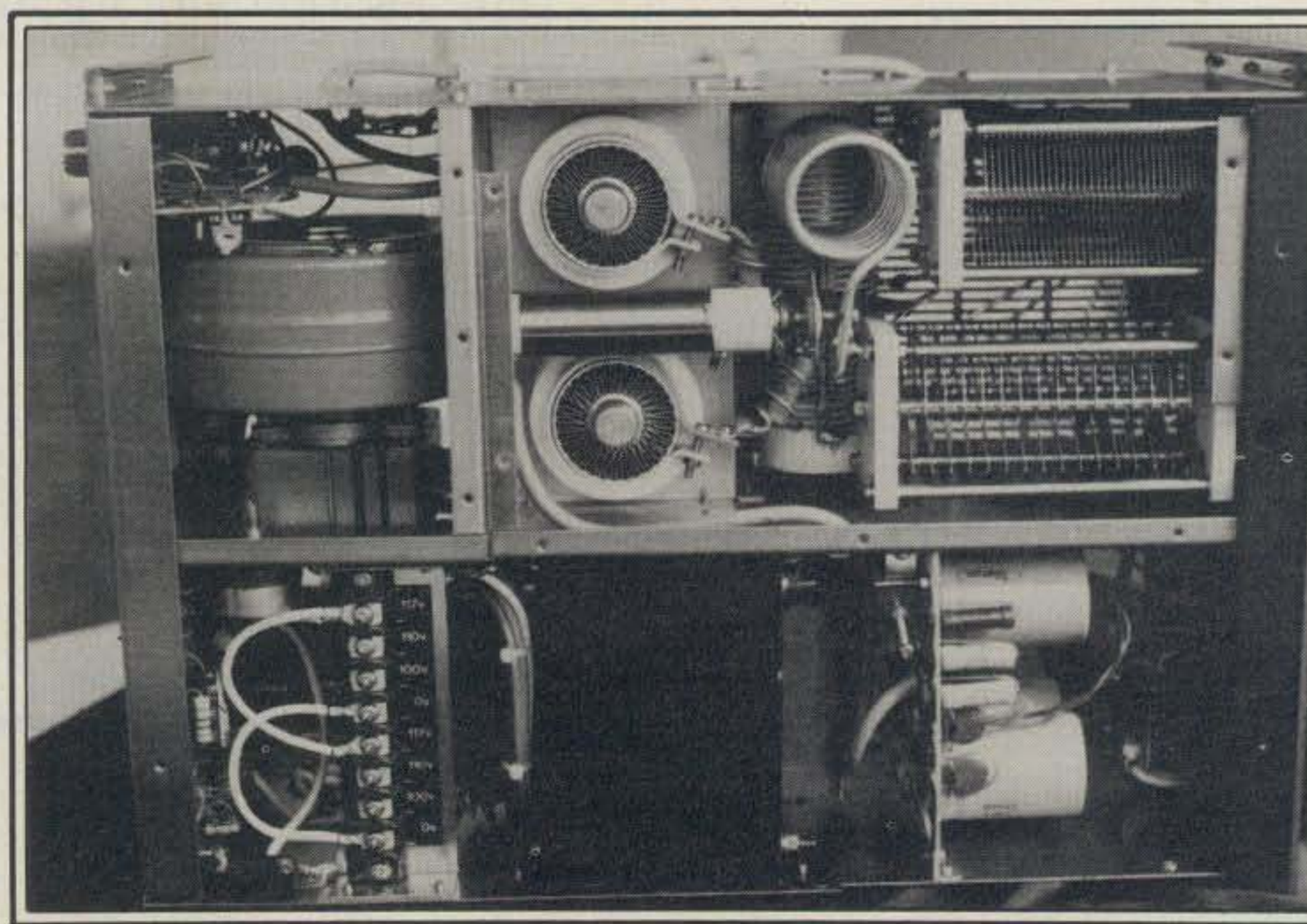
while M2 can be switched to read grid current, plate voltage, or power output. The cooling blower is permanently connected across the 100 volt winding on one primary of the power transformer.

Construction

Without "beating around the bush" or trying to use evasive wording, if someone were to ask me what I think of the construction quality of the HL-1K/A, I would

simply have to rate it as outstanding. Being a bit of a homebrewer myself, I appreciate equipment construction that is meant to last, especially in relation to major pieces of station equipment.

The HL-1K/A amplifier utilizes a compartmented internal chassis structure, internal shields, and rolled steel upper and lower outer shells to enclose the whole amplifier. It is a bit difficult to convey the quality of the construction fea-



Removing the internal RF shield for the RF compartment produces this view. A further interlock switch grounds the plate high voltage when this shield is removed. The PC board mounted on the back panel and above the blower contains the circuitry for the direct-reading wattmeter in the amplifier.

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tures in writing, so I would suggest that readers take a close look at the photographs of the internal top and bottom views of the amplifier.

The internal view of the top side of the amplifier shows three main compartments—one containing the power transformer and other power-supply components, the main RF compartment, and a rear compartment for the large squirrel cage blower. Several PC boards are used to mount circuitry components, but everything is very accessible. One can see how the tubes are mounted. Then looking towards the front panel and in between the two variable capacitors, one can see the two coils associated with the plate pi-network circuit. The air-wound coil uses 4 mm diameter silver-plated wire (many 3 KW amplifier designs don't go that far), and the larger coil is wound on a ribbed ceramic form. All of the cabling is neatly held in place and well dressed.

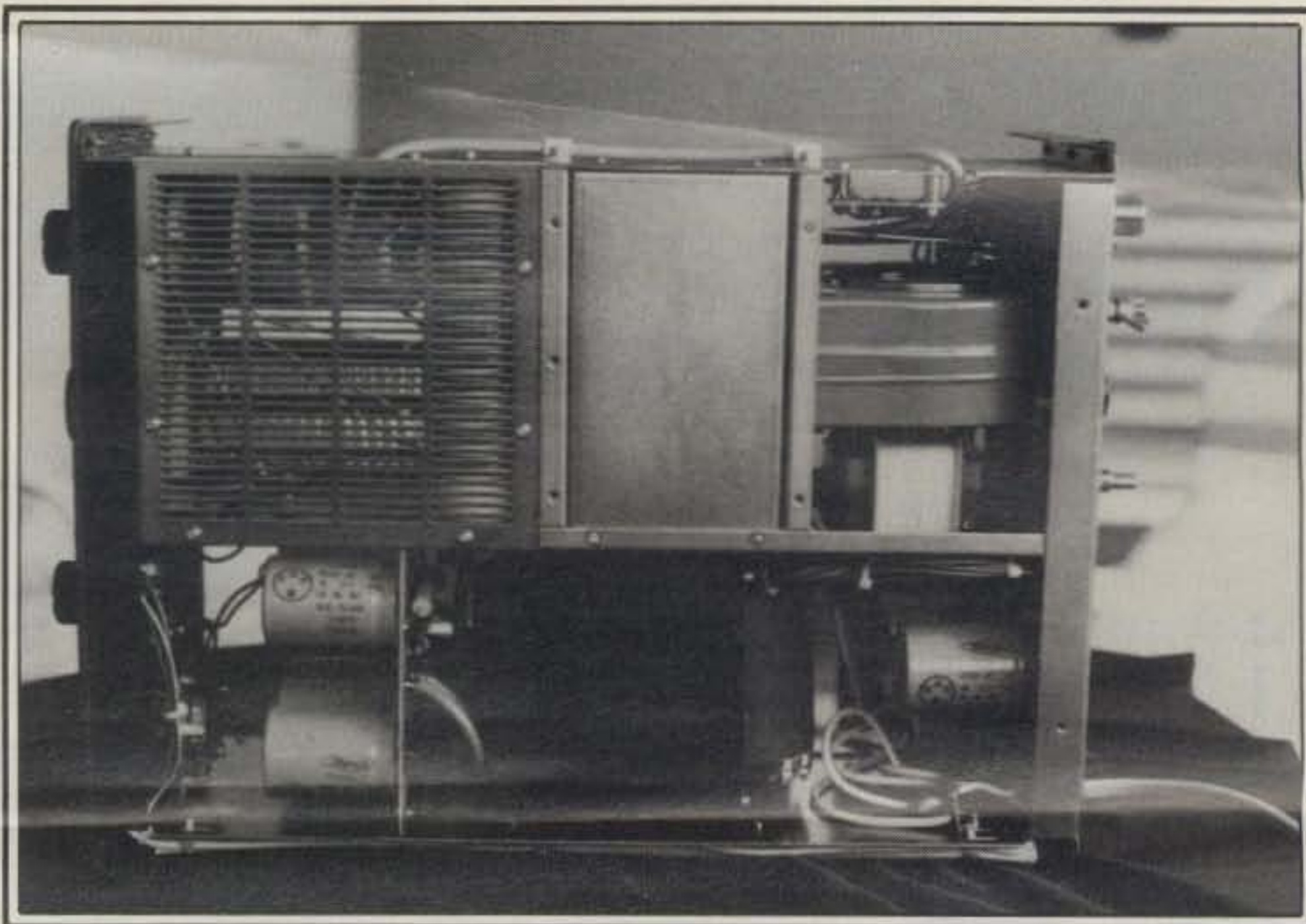
Taking a look at the photograph showing the internal view of the bottom side of the amplifier, one sees more clearly the filter capacitors associated with the power-supply circuitry. Also, note the sealed, air-tight tube socket mounting sub-chassis to which the blower is attached (upper middle of the photograph).

The photograph of the rear panel of the amplifier shows a very clean and functional arrangement. There are two SO-239 connectors for RF in/out (each mounted with four bolts, lockwashers, and nuts), a ground terminal, a connector for both relay control and ALC output, and a potentiometer control for the ALC output. Note that the rear panel is held to the forward compartments by three bolts on each side. The whole rear panel can be detached in case it ever becomes necessary to access any of the components mounted on the inside of the panel (e.g., the antenna changeover relay).

Quite by accident, the HL-1K/A that was tested rattled around for three months in the Stateside and overseas U.S. military postal system before it got to me. Talk about a shake-table test. Of course, once I received the unit I quickly examined it and fully expected quite a few things to be loose. In reality, only two of the four screws holding the front panel in place had worked a bit loose. The power tubes, by the way, are packed separately, and one inserts them when the amplifier arrives.

Connecting and Operating The HL-1K/A

Setting up the amplifier involves little more than making the RF input/output connections (a coaxial jumper cable is supplied), a connection to a transceiver to key or ground the coil of the antenna changeover relay in the HL-1K/A, a ground connection, and plugging in the



In this view the amplifier is on its side and the outer bottom cover has been removed. The sealed compartment in the middle is a sub-chassis for the tube sockets.

AC line cord. Speaking of the AC line, one should note that the HL-1K/A will operate perfectly well from the usual 110 volt, 16 ampere type of household line. A separate 220 volt line is not required as is usually the case with higher powered amplifiers. On the other hand, however, one should note that the HL-1K/A has power transformer taps for both 110 and 117 volt lines. They are there for a reason. If you use the HL-1K/A on a 110 volt line when it is set up for a 117 volt input, you will get only an RF power output of 450 watts or so rather than the full 500 watts output.

The manufacturer recommends that

an ALC connection be used from the HL-1K/A back to the driving transceiver. I suppose this might be useful with some older transceivers, but I found it quite unnecessary with modern solid-state transceivers which have tight internal ALC loops.

The front-panel controls on the HL-1K/A are absolutely straightforward and easy to use. The power switch would normally immediately be set to the "operate" position. A green LED then immediately illuminates, an amber LED illuminates after the 45-60 second filament warm-up period, and a red LED illuminates when the amplifier is keyed. Tune-



A view of the back panel (the top and bottom covers have been removed). Note the absence of any pop rivets or the like. Everything is secured with solid hardware.

Band(MHz)	Input SWR	Drive(watts)	Output(watts)
1.8	1.4	65	500
3.8	1.4	60	500
7.2	1.5	65	500
10.1	1.5	60	500
14.2	1.5	75	500
18.2	1.35	65	500
21.2	1.25	70	500
24.5	1.2	80	500
28.5	1.4	85	500
29.5	1.45	80	500

Table II—Summary of test results for each band as related to the input SWR and the input power required to achieve a full 500 watts key-down output.

up is simple. The bandswitch is set to the correct band and drive slowly applied while the "plate" and "loading" controls are adjusted for maximum power output with meter M2 set to read output power. With the drive level properly adjusted, and assuming a reasonably matched antenna load is used, one will quickly see M2 read 500 watts while M1 indicates about 500 ma of plate current (1 KW input). The "plate" tuning control has a 1:6 vernier drive and is particularly easy to adjust. The "loading" control drive is direct, but that poses no problem since its tuning is relatively broad.

10 Meter Operation

The HL-1K/A will cover the entire 10 meter band. As was mentioned, conversion information will be supplied to licensed radio amateurs. Suffice it to say that no parts are required for the conversion, and a screwdriver is the only tool that is needed.

Tests/Operating Results

Table II presents a summary of test results for each band as related to the input SWR and the input power required to achieve a full 500 watts key-down output. As one can see, the input SWR never exceeded 1:1.5, so the HL-1K/A is perfectly suited for use with any solid-state transceiver. The maximum driving power required was 85 watts, but generally it was in the 60–70 watt range. Third-order IMD products were a respectable –34 dB on 20 meters.

The HL-1K/A perked along for hours and hours in actual use on SSB and non-QSK CW. The output remained rock stable, and absolutely no sign of over-heating was noticed. The blower in the HL-1K/A produces no mechanical noise whatsoever, although the faint whooshing sound of air flow is present, as with any forced-air cooled amplifier. The only way to get away from that effect would be to enclose the whole amplifier again in

another outer air-tight enclosure as is done with high-power broadcast transmitters. The wattmeter in the HL-1K/A was found to be a bit conservative, although it is a minor matter—the actual power output was about 20–25 watts higher on several bands than the 500 watts indicated on the amplifier's meter.

No exact tests were made, but it seems the HL-1K/A will cover a generous frequency range both below and above each of the amateur bands, so it should be quite suitable for applications such as MARS operation.

Manual

The instruction manual supplied with the HL-1K/A is complete enough in that it supplies one with all the information needed to set up and properly use the amplifier. However, in comparison to the beautiful hardware represented by the HL-1K/A, I would have to rate the manual as

only "adequate." It lacks a parts list, and one winces at some of the translations.

Summary

The HL-1K/A is not an inexpensive amplifier, but then again there is absolutely nothing inexpensive about its construction either. Having designed and built many linear amplifiers myself, I can only salute the engineers who put this one together. It is a quality product that should last for many years of enjoyable service. I would heartily endorse the HL-1K/A for anyone who wants to boost the output of their 100 watt class transceiver to the next level of competitiveness with a clean signal.

The suggested retail price for the HL-1K/A with tubes supplied is \$995.00. The amplifier is available without tubes for \$849.00. For additional information, contact Encomm, Inc., 1506 Capital Ave., Plano, TX 75074.

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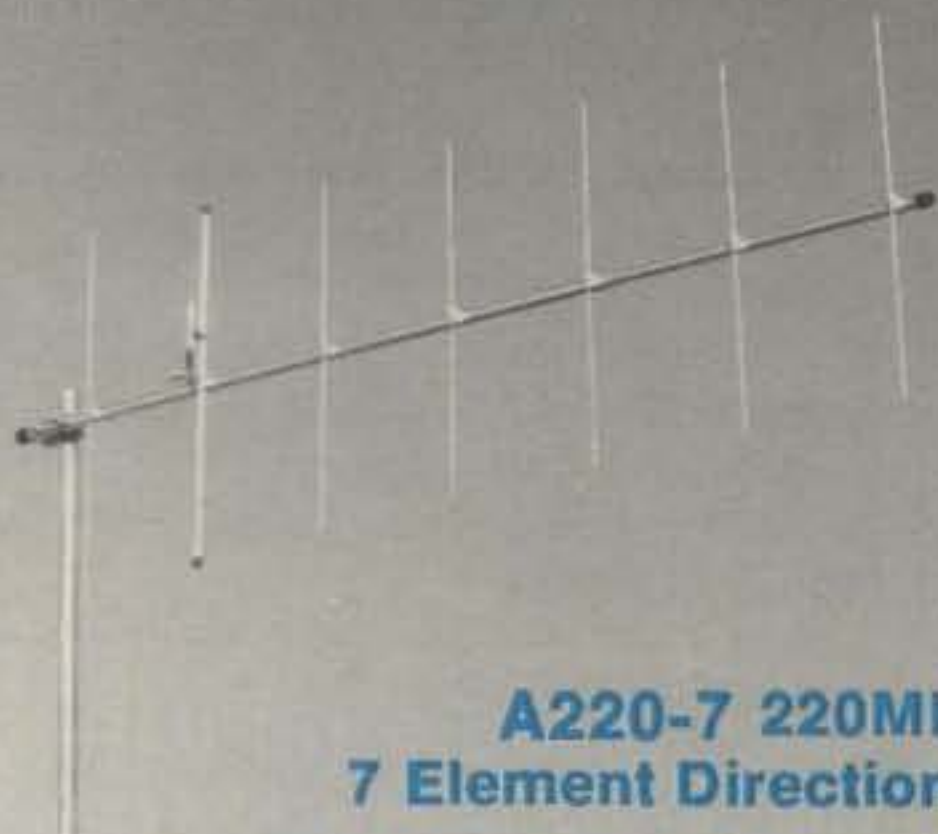
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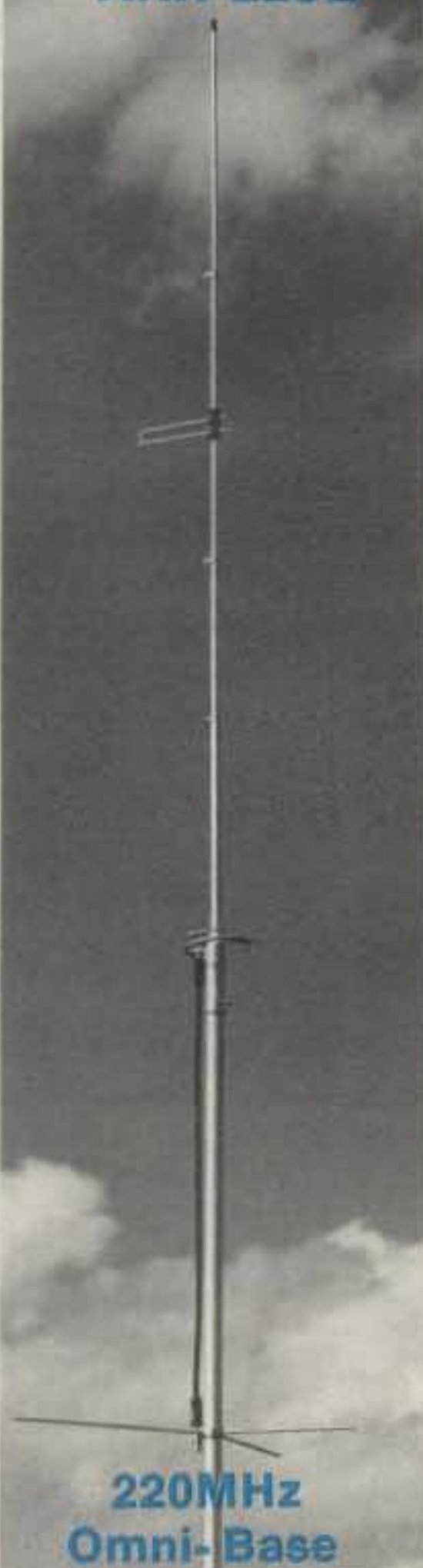
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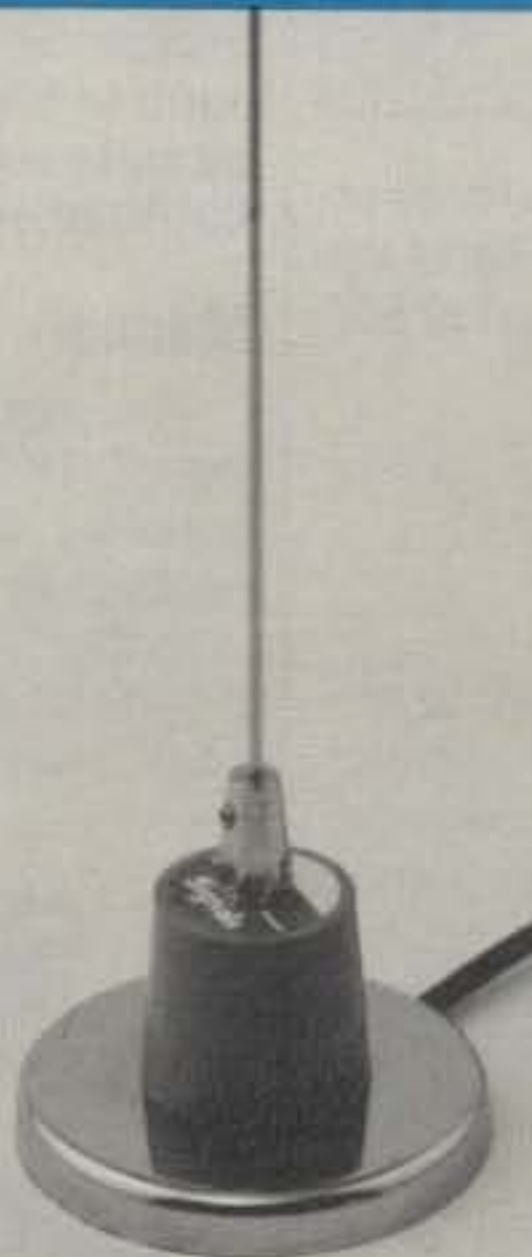


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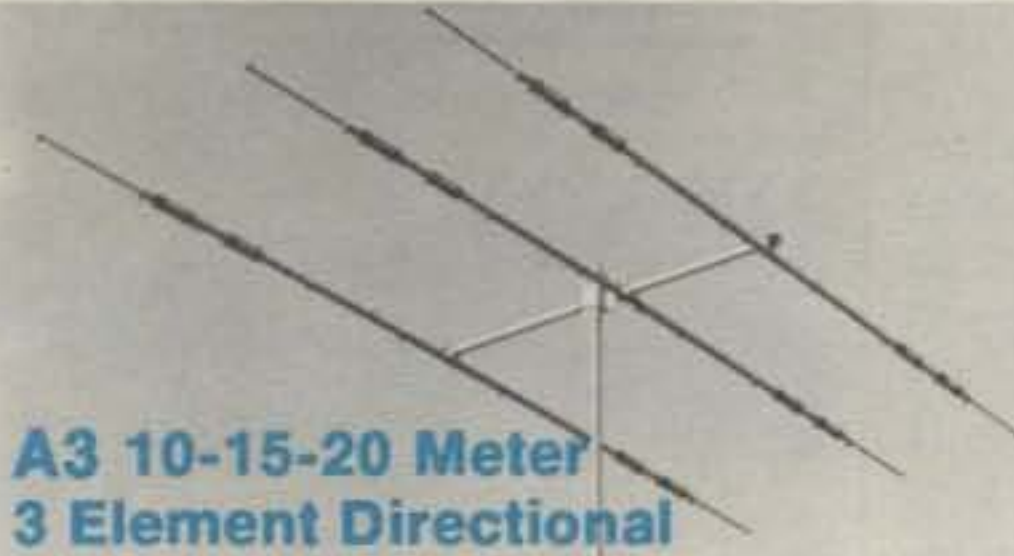
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Worried about destroying those expensive tubes in your amplifier when you tune up? Here's a nifty way to save your tubes and minimize QRM at the same time.

The Right Way To Tune Up Your Rig

BY MICHAEL R. MELTZER*, K2SDD

How many times have you had a nice QSO interrupted by the high-pitched whistle (heterodyne) of an inconsiderate person tuning up on the frequency? How many times have you been told to tune up only when using a dummy load? But has anyone ever told you how to properly use a dummy load? If you did tune up into the dummy load and then switched to your antenna, wouldn't your control settings change anyway?

After years of experimenting I have discovered a very successful way to tune up my rig. It may not be the best way, but if you do discover a better way please tell me, because I have not found it yet.

What You Need

First of all, you need the following:

1. A good dummy load of 50 ohms impedance that can handle the power you are using. Most of us get along fine with the resistors-in-oil variety that looks like a can of paint. The air-cooled types are nice but more expensive. Dummy loads must have adequate ventilation. Do not

place the oil types directly on the floor, just in case a little oil leaks out of the small vent hole some day. Oil will stain.

2. A coax switch, so you can switch between your dummy load and your real antennas. Use high-quality 50 ohm coax, such as RG-213U.

3. A peak-reading wattmeter. This will allow you to tune up on voice peaks. The meter will require a voltage source such as a battery. If it does not, it is not a peak-reading meter. Beware of inferior accessories. Quality is cheaper in the long run.

To make this method work, you must cut your antennas for a 50 ohm impedance (check for a very low SWR), or you should use an antenna tuner. I am going to assume that your antenna *does* require a tuner and that you own a large linear amplifier. If your antenna is cut for proper impedance and your power is lower, it will be even easier.

What You Do

The first step is to adjust your antenna tuner in the band segment you plan to use. Do that at as low a power level as possible, because you will be putting power into your antenna and you want to

minimize QRM. Five watts or less will probably do it. Set your SWR meter for *maximum* sensitivity and then tune the tuner for minimum reflected power.

Depending on the impedance of your antenna, you may be able to adjust for no reflected power at all. This will make your rig "think" that your antenna is 50 ohms, which is also the impedance of the dummy load. The rig will not be able to tell the difference between the tuner-antenna combination and your dummy load when you switch between them.

Leave the meter in the *reflected* position for the balance of tune-up. Now all rig adjustments can be made into your dummy load, which should not produce QRM. (Editor's note: At high power levels, many dummy loads do radiate some RF. Inexpensive coaxial cable, which has "holes" in the braid, will make the leakage much worse. Double-shielded coax, such as RG-213U, would be a good choice for this application. Additionally, make sure that all connectors are well soldered and tightly secured. You may want to have another amateur located within a mile or two of your station check to see that your dummy load is not radiating.) When you

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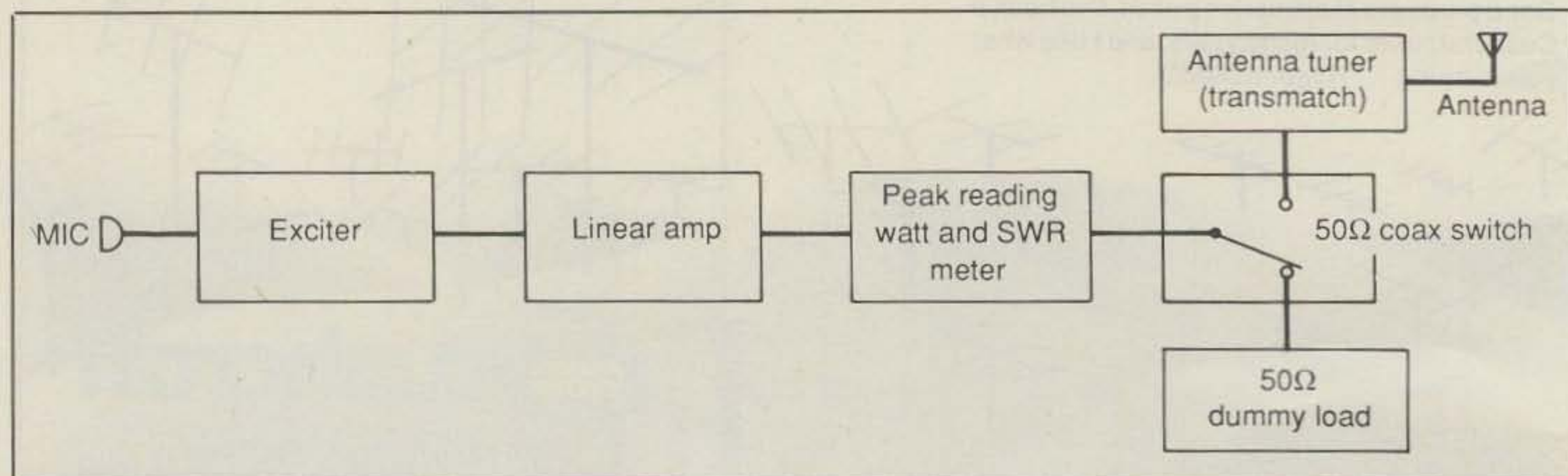


Fig. 1—Block diagram of station assembled for "safe" tuning. To minimize unwanted leakage, it is imperative that high-quality coax be used and that all connectors be properly affixed. RG-213U would be a good choice for the coax.

are finished, you may simply switch over to your tuner-antenna.

Many people tune up their linear amplifiers in such a way as to place unnecessary stress upon them. They tune them in the CW position where pressing down on the key forces the amp to transmit at full duty cycle. Do not do that.

Tune up as follows: Place your rig in the SSB position, turn on your speech processor if you have one, and speak into your mike. Watch your peak-reading wattmeter scale and tune for maximum output power. Single sideband is not full-duty cycle, so your tubes will stay much cooler during tune-up. You tune for maximum *output*, because power going *out* into your antenna system (or dummy load) will not remain behind in your rig to cook it. Maximum output will probably occur near resonance but not necessarily at exact resonance.

However, what if you are in the CW portion of the band? Tune up with voice peaks even if you plan to switch to CW. You are transmitting into a dummy load, so it is legal. As you speak into the microphone, there are certain syllables that make tune-up easier. Say the number 5 such as "Fiiive" or the letter "X" or, as I do, just say a nice long "AAHHH." You may feel silly until you get used to it, but chances are no one is hearing you anyway. Also, you are producing only about one-fourth the tube killing heat as the person who uses continuous key-down until he sees the anodes glowing red. Do not whistle into the microphone, because that produces full-duty cycle, just like holding down the key.

Tuning up on voice peaks may be much safer for your amplifier, but **beware** if you start to smell hot oil from your dummy load. If the hot oil expands too much, the dummy will burst. Ask my friend K2PTH how long it takes to clean oil off of the ceiling and walls!

As you gradually increase your power, your *reflected* power will be seen to increase and your SWR will appear to grow. Do not become alarmed. Remember, you left your SWR meter at maximum sensitivity. If your forward power increases by 10 times, of course, your reflected power will increase by 10 times as well. All is normal.

When tune up is completed, you just switch back to your tuner-antenna and you are ready to go. You created a minimum of QRM and you did not stress your amplifier tubes. It is a very nice system.

I wish to thank W2ISB, N2FIT, and W2EUD for experimenting with me on this during the past three years. We all arrived at the same conclusion. This system is the best that we know of.

So next time you have a QSO interrupted by a carrier from someone tuning up his rig on the frequency, remember he may not be thoughtless, but he definitely is ignorant!



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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	ZZ5EG('86)	2,184,570	4,236	36	138
	(Opr. N5FA)				
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	JA8IXM('86)	316,382	794	37	109
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	LX9BV('86)	185,280	1,527	19	77
	(Opr. DL6RAI)				
7.0	I4VEQ('86)	425,799	1,435	35	118
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	VE3BMV('86)	52,240	662	14	26
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	V22A('86)	1,789,470	4,075	37	140
	(Opr. WB7RFA)				
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	ZZ5EG('86)	2,184,570	4,236	36	138
	(Opr. N5FA)				
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

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

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

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

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	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

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Build A High-Gain Portable Antenna For VHF/UHF Operation

BY EDISON FONG*, WB6IQN, AND PETER HENDLER, KE6GG

I'm going to describe a portable antenna for the VHF 2 meter, 220 MHz, and UHF region offering +9.5 dB of gain over a quarter-wave loaded antenna (rubber duck). The antenna offers an SWR of less than 1.2 to 1 at resonance. It is completely collapsible to 10 inches and is easily stored in a briefcase or large pocket. Set-up time is less than 30 seconds. This paper describes construction details of the antenna and the performance compared with other portable antennas which are presently used in the VHF region.

In disaster situations, such as earthquakes and floods, VHF and UHF remain the primary source of communications. More radios operate in these two regions than all others combined. Essentially all emergency disaster drills in metropolitan areas are performed on VHF and/or UHF. For emergency communications, what is needed is a good antenna, even with the plethora of repeaters. If local repeaters are disabled during a disaster, long-distance repeaters would be the alternative. These are typically 50-100 miles away and would be marginal through a handheld transceiver using a loaded quarter-wave antenna. If an antenna could offer 6-10 dBs of gain, a welcome improvement would result. In addition, some directionality from the antenna would be desirable. For convenience and flexibility, the antenna should be small enough to fit into a portable first-aid kit or auto emergency kit. It must also be capable of performing on 220 MHz and 450 MHz if the need arises. The antenna must be affordable and components must already be in use or readily available. It is the author's belief that the antenna described in this paper will fulfill all of these requirements.

*74 Glover St., San Francisco, CA 94109

Antenna	Gain in dBs
3" short duck	-2.0
3" short duck with groundplane	-1.5
6" standard duck*	0
6" standard duck with groundplane	+1.5
1/4-wave whip	+2.5
1/4-wave whip with groundplane	+4.0
5/8-wave whip	+7.0
5/8-wave whip with groundplane	+8.5
5/8-wave whip with offset groundplane	+9.5

*Used as the reference.

Table 1—Relative gain of various antenna configurations which are practical for VHF 2 meter operation. Measurements were performed using an HP 8558a spectrum analyzer and rounded to the nearest 0.5 dB.

There is constant controversy over what antenna configuration gives the best performance on VHF and UHF frequencies. Some hold the opinion that the loaded quarter wave (rubber duck) has the best performance-to-convenience ratio. However, many prefer the unloaded 1/4-wave whip since it offers about 3 dB of gain over the rubber duck. Still others will tolerate the 5/8-wave whip simply for performance, independent of the convenience. Before describing the featured antenna, let's compare the relative performance of 2 meter omnidirectional antennas which could be adapted to portable use. These include a 3 inch short duck, a 6 inch loaded duck, a 1/4-wave whip, and a 5/8-wave whip.

The most popular of these antennas is the 6 inch loaded duck for 2 meters. In this report the 2 meter rubber duck will be used as the reference antenna. Table 1 shows the relative performance of the various configurations with and without ground plane. Similar relative perfor-

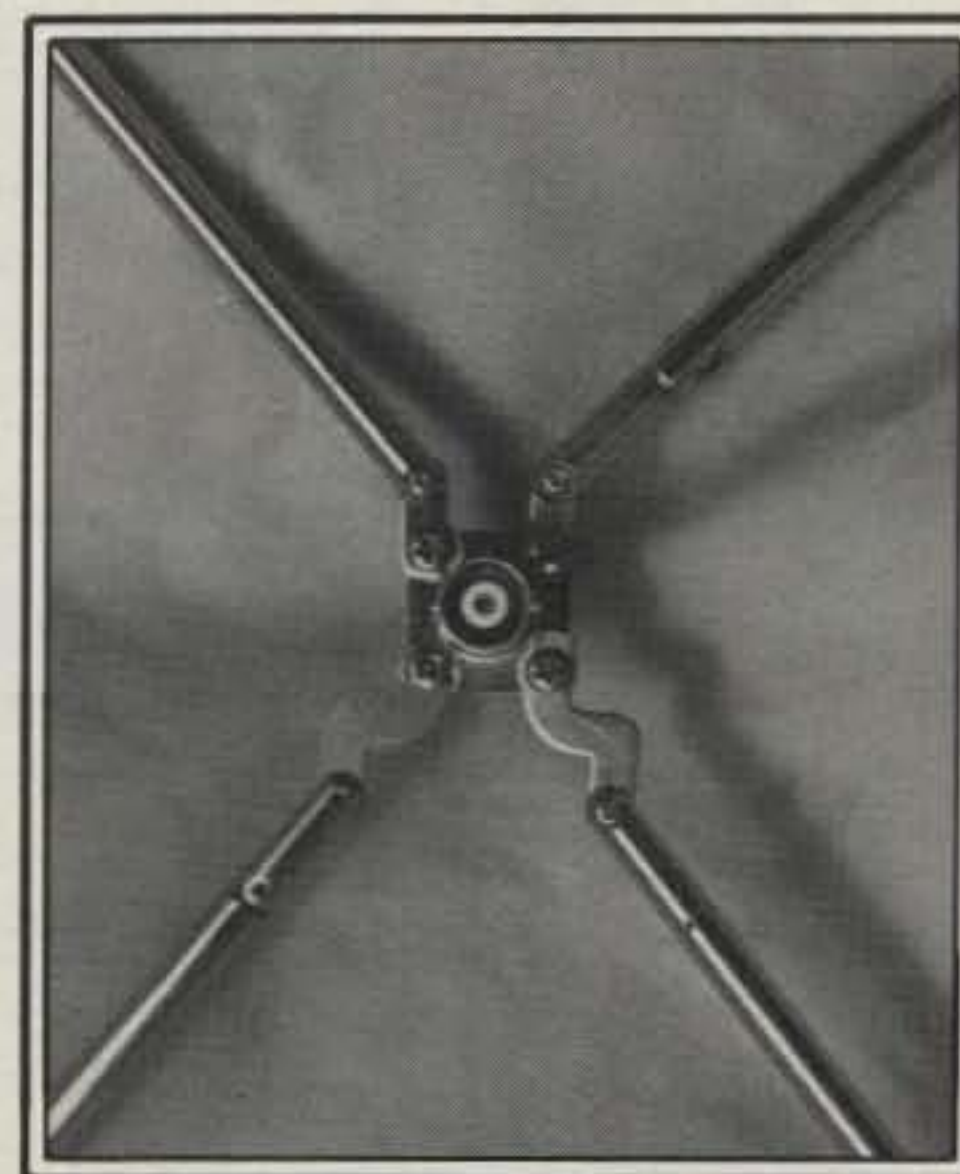


Fig. 1—Close-up view of the BNC connector with its four ground radials attached using the four holes originally intended for chassis mounting.

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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	K7SS('86)	217,038	828	31	91
7.0	W7RM('85) (Opr. W7WA)	243,270	813	31	71
14	K1OX('85) (Opr. KC1F)	1,131,328	2,176	36	140
21	K3RV/4('86)	925,031	1,821	35	138
28	N7DD('80)	754,536	1,730	36	113

Single Operator/All Band

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
K1AR (1985) 4,007,648	1.8	27	8	19
	3.5	168	24	80
	7.0	97	22	67
	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
KX4S (1985) 4,603,120	1.8	34	14	30
	3.5	208	24	80
	7.0	222	30	101
	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
N2AA (1979) 13,299,750	1.8	109	8	16
	3.5	406	24	79
	7.0	366	28	84
	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) (Opr. KC1F)	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
K1AR (1985) 3,397,905	1.8	63	11	32
	3.5	329	19	69
	7.0	607	30	89
	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
N4AR (1981) 4,564,350	1.8	17	9	16
	3.5	67	16	62
	7.0	461	28	92
	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
W2PV (1981) 10,431,729	1.8	72	14	27
	3.5	427	18	70
	7.0	1,101	30	103
	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

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Single Operator/Single Band

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

1.8	YV3AGT('85)	147,588	591	21	63
3.5	P40R('86)	576,725	1,682	25	90
	(Opr. K4UEE)				
7.0	VP2KAA('83)	837,366	2,461	30	104
	(Opr. N4PN)				
14	P40N('86)	1,477,905	3,138	37	122
	(Opr. N4PN)				
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	EA8RCT('86)	441,350	1,524	22	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	UP2BJK/UF('86)	339,158	1,194	25	76
7.0	UP3BA/UF('86)	696,134	1,875	32	92
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	CT5AT('86)	295,464	1,500	24	80
7.0	YZ9A('85)	637,144	2,017	36	110
14	DK3GI('86)	822,024	2,006	39	129
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)	332,880	1,302	28	86
	(Opr. N4RJ)				
7.0	VP2KAA('83)	837,366	2,461	30	104
	(Opr. N4PN)				
14	VP2KAA('80)	1,244,782	3,111	37	117
	(Opr. N4PN)				
21	VP2KAC('80)	1,075,407	2,955	36	105
	(Opr. N4RJ)				
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)	816,102	2,311	38	81
	(Opr. K7SS)				
28	KG6DX('80)	801,876	2,367	35	79

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	YV3AGT('85)	147,588	591	21	63
3.5	P40R('86)	576,725	1,682	25	90
	(Opr. K4UEE)				
7.0	YX5A('84)	696,150	2,003	29	88
14	P40N('86)	1,477,905	3,138	37	122
	(Opr. N4PN)				
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	D44BC('86)	6,815,001	4,488	130	379
	(Opr. N6TJ)				
AS	UF6CR('82)	4,613,680	3,982	92	312
EU	ZB2X('86)	3,796,480	3,507	126	386
	(Opr. OH2KI)				
NA	NP4A('86)	7,040,400	4,617	155	445
	(Opr. K7JA)				
O	N6BT/AH0('81)	4,241,746	4,083	121	228
SA	9Y4VT('86)	8,191,246	5,099	146	396
	(Opr. N6AA)				
QRP	UP2BIM('82)	899,932	1,351	83	279

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	Contacts	Zones	Countries
	1.8	310	17	51
9Y4VT	3.5	563	21	69
(1986)	7.0	1,114	25	72
8,191,246	14.0	1,137	32	80
	21.0	1,395	30	81
	28.0	580	21	43
	Total	5,099	146	396

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

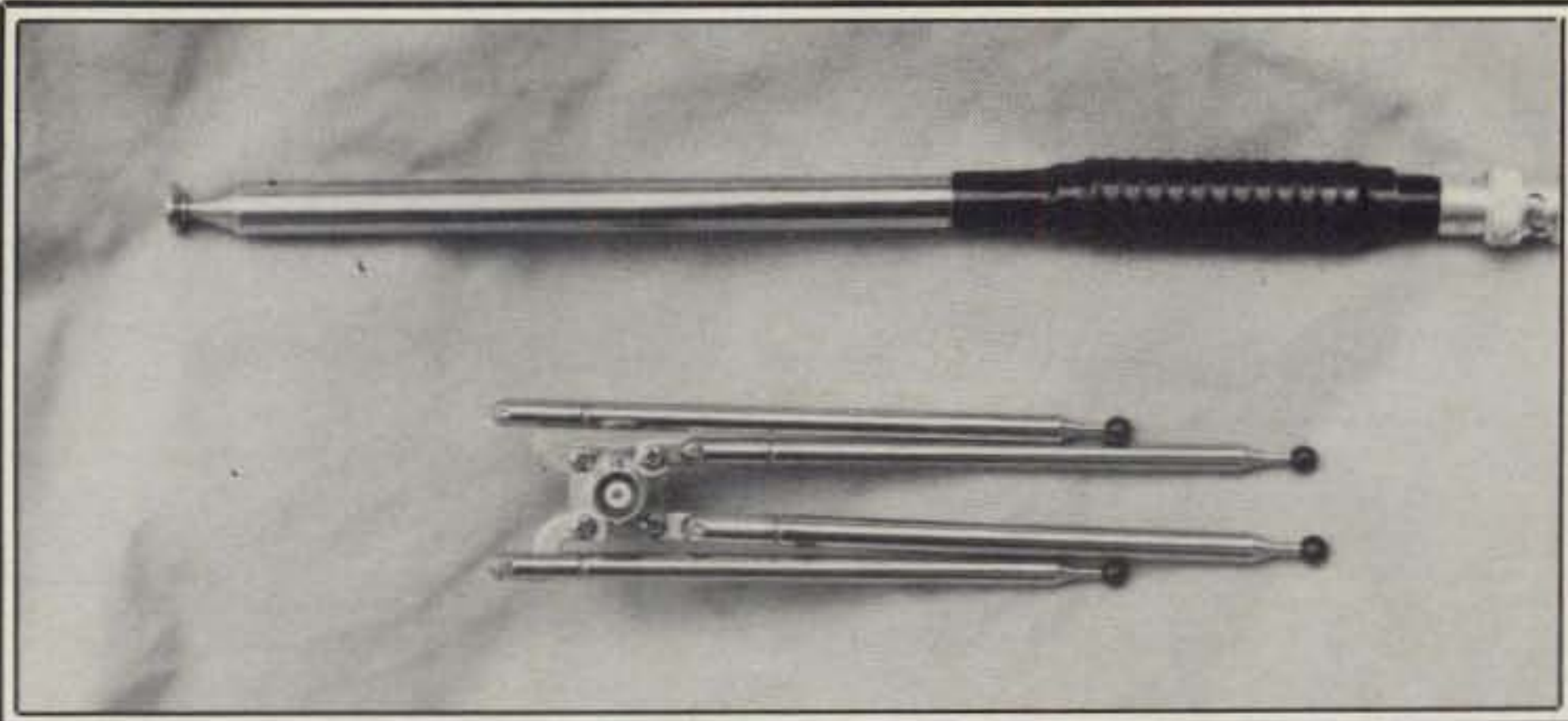


Fig. 2— Collapsed antenna which can easily fit into a large pocket or first-aid kit.



Fig. 3— Fully erected antenna which offers +9.5 dB of gain over a rubber duck.

mances were demonstrated by 220 MHz and 450 MHz. Table I demonstrates a trend which is common knowledge to most antenna enthusiasts. The larger the antenna, the greater its gain. This is a fundamental law in antenna theory.¹ The question then remains, what is the most practical configuration? The 6 inch rubber duck is clearly the most popular antenna on high-band VHF as demonstrated by its heavy usage on 2 meters and by public-safety officials. Table I indicates that the $\frac{5}{8}$ -wave whip with an offset ground plane gives the best performance. Although the physical size of a $\frac{5}{8}$ -wave antenna (about 45 inches for 2 meters) makes it impractical for day-to-day operations, during an emergency an antenna offering +9.5 dBs might be essential.

On the requirements mentioned in the first paragraph, the major obstacle was

to make the antenna portable so that it could be stored in a convenient place when not in use. In addition, setup should not take more than a few minutes, since in an emergency situation time is crucial.

To solve both of the above problems, a configuration using five telescopic whip antennas was developed. Four of the telescopic whips ($\frac{1}{4}$ wave) would be used as ground radials, while the remaining element would be the radiating element. The radiating element was a commercial $\frac{5}{8}$ -wave whip with a terminating male BNC connector. These are commercially available for 2 meters, 220 MHz, and 450 MHz.² A $\frac{5}{8}$ -wave radiating element could also be constructed from scratch as described in any antenna manual.¹ The four $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave whips were portable transistor radio antennas which coincidentally were about 19 inches. These were obtained from Russell Antennas Inc. (stock #SOM-6H).³ Since they are telescopic, they can be adjusted for optimum performance on each band. To attach the five whips together, a female-to-female BNC chassis mount connector (Amphenol 12650) was used. The four whips, with their swivel ends, are screwed to the four chassis mount holds on the BNC connector.

A close-up view of the BNC connector with its four ground radials is shown in fig. 1. Fig. 2 shows the antenna collapsed and fig. 3 shows it fully erected. With careful adjustments the SWR is easily tuned to below 1.2 to 1. This offers far better SWR compared to other configurations as shown in Table II. With the radials evenly spaced, gain relative to a rubber duck was +8.5 dB. With the radials offset to one side, an extra dB of gain was observed. Thus total measured gain was +9.5 dB. This translates to increasing effective radiated power (ERP) to nine times, equivalently converting the 2 watts from a hand-held transceiver to 18 watts of ERP. Receiving ability is also improved. The antenna could also be used



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6" standard duck	3 to 1
6" standard duck with groundplane	2.5 to 1
1/4-wave whip	2.0 to 1
1/4-wave whip with groundplane	1.2 to 1
5/8-wave whip	2.3 to 1
5/8-wave whip with groundplane	1.2 to 1
5/8-wave whip with offset groundplane	1.2 to 1

Measured SWR

Table II— Measured SWR of the various antenna configurations. The rubber duck antennas offer poor SWR because they are not adjustable.

in the 220 MHz and 450 MHz band simply by changing the radiating element and adjusting the ground radials for the proper length.

The three-band antenna complete with coaxial cable easily fits into a pouch or large pocket. Setup time for any particular band is less than 30 seconds. The applications for such an antenna are endless. I found this configuration essential on backpacking trips since it gives my HT the equivalent power of a mobile rig. My alternative would be to carry a large battery to drive a high-power transceiver. Since its development I have kept one in

my briefcase and use it when I access WA6EUZ/R, which is about 50 miles away. The rubber duck barely breaks squelch, while the featured antenna produces a full quieting signal (30 dB S/N).

References

1. ARRL Antenna Handbook, Newington, Connecticut, 1974.
2. Amateur Electronics Supply, 4828 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53216.
3. Russell Industries, 3069 Lawson Blvd., Oceanside, NY 11572.



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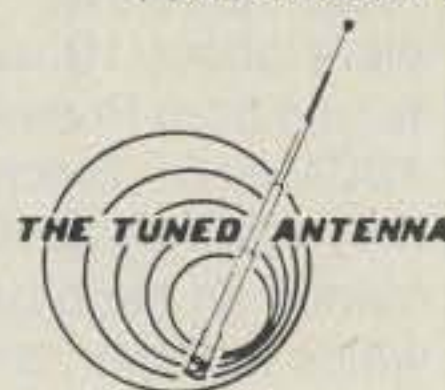
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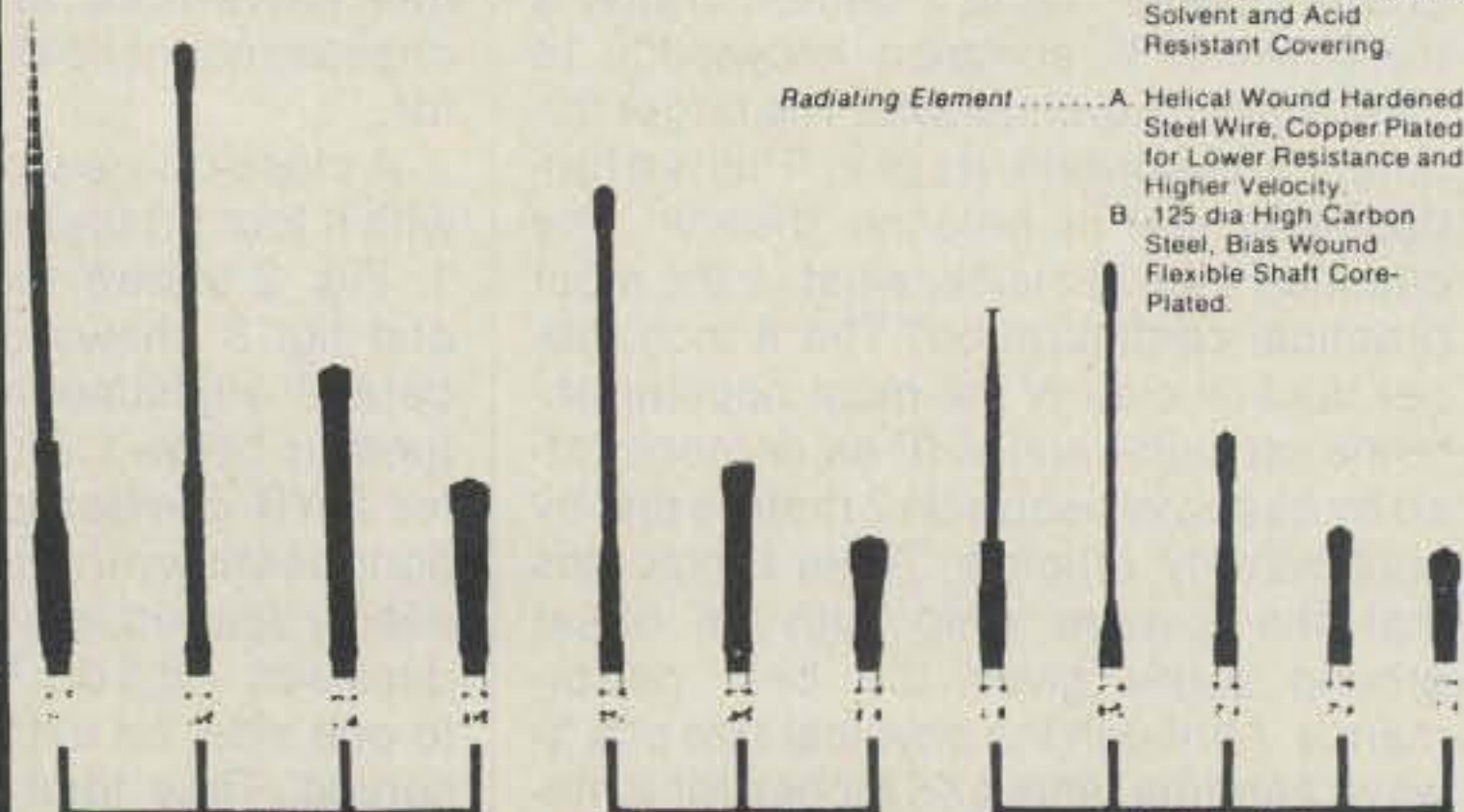
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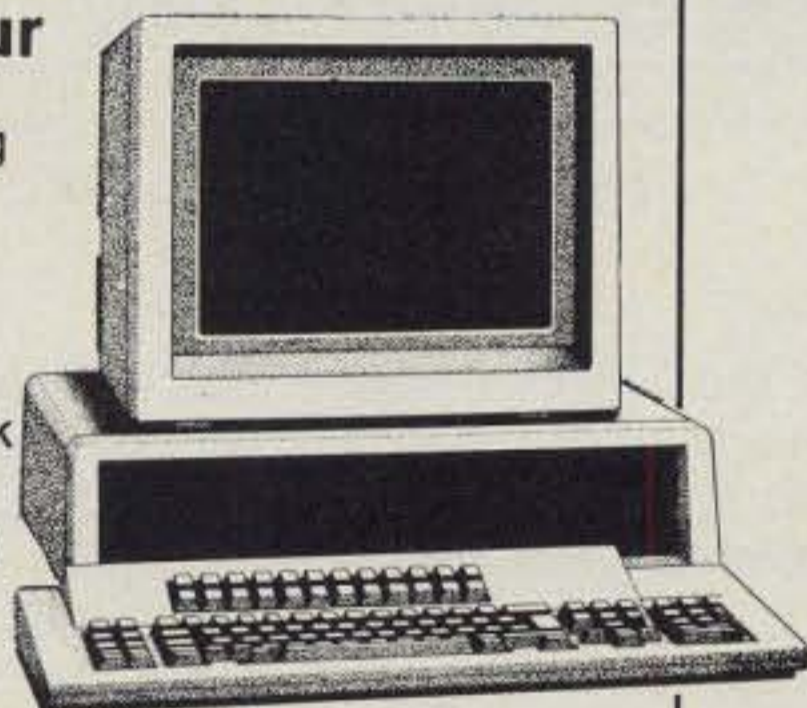
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The Radio Amateur's Novice Voice Class

BY PETER R. O'DELL*, KB1N

Remember back when learning something new was supposed to be difficult? You know all the trite phrases that the teacher always passed along with smug self-righteousness—"Study hard." "You have to work *hard* to get anything worthwhile." You get the idea.

In recent years, academia has discovered what wise teachers have known for millennia—learning is best accomplished in a relaxed state of mind. You get that by making it fun. Humor, quick pacing, and enthusiasm play a big role.

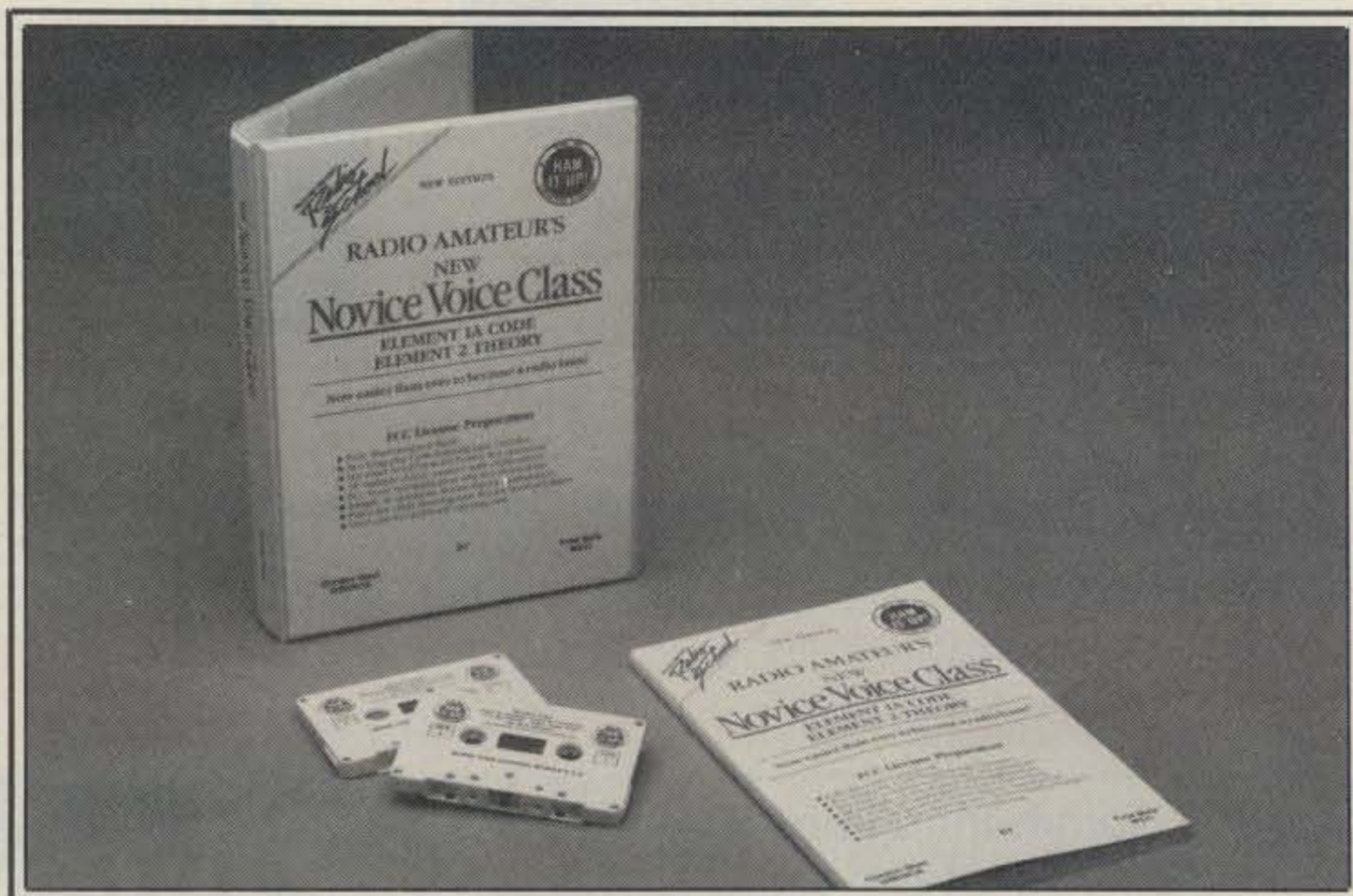
It is nice to see that someone is finally approaching Novice theory and code in this fashion. Others following suit will have to work to reach the mark established by Fred Maia, W5YI, and Gordon West, WB6NOA, in *The Radio Amateur's Novice Voice Class*.

Maia and West have put together a package of material for the person with no background in amateur radio. Two audio cassettes provide complete training in Morse code that should carry anyone above the 5 wpm mark. West keeps the tape lively as he intersperses wise cracks and jokes in with the instruction.

About half of the second side of tape two is devoted to describing what the code test will be like. West dissects a sample QSO. Then he takes the listener through a test that could be made up from the QSO. Finally, West discusses what an applicant must do to take the test.

There is a postscript to the tape informing the potential examiners of what they must do to administer the test. With all the changes that have occurred in testing rules in the last couple of years, that is information most of us would need to be sure we are doing things right. Phone numbers and addresses for West and Maia are included for applicants or test administrators who need more information. (A "real" test comes with the package. It is sealed in an envelope clearly marked that it is to be opened only by the amateurs administering the test.)

The package contains a book covering



Everything that a newcomer needs to pass the Novice exam can be found in the two cassette tapes and the book.

the written portion of the Novice exam. Each of the pool questions, along with the multiple-choice answers, is listed. Maia and West indicate which answer is correct and explain why it is the correct answer. West and Maia have a lively, tongue-in-cheek writing style that should keep most prospective Novices interested enough to finish the book and pass the test.

The manual contains a short history of the Novice license, more information on what the examiners must do, and information to answer just about any question that a newcomer might have. In fact, the authors have gone so far as to include a sample 610 form properly filled out to serve as a guide.

The tapes and book are bound in a handsome plastic carrying case. West and Maia provided *CQ* with an advance copy of the course. It contained a 610 form, an HF band limit chart, and a list of international prefixes, as well as the study material. We understand that the standard package will contain additional information from manufacturers and

dealers—anything and everything that it will take to get someone on the air and having fun.

West and Maia are making the package available directly or through dealers. More importantly, though, Radio Shack will be carrying a similar package in all of its 8500 stores! According to the authors, the only differences in the Radio Shack package will be cosmetic. It is in the 1988 Radio Shack Catalog as part No. 62-2402.

Let's see. What if each store sold one package every month? That would be 100,000 or so Novice courses out there. Suppose that 50% of the people go ahead and get a license. We would have 50,000 new Novices in the next year. It just might happen. After all, the trade magazines report that CB is on the upswing. Radio Shack does a wonderful job of promoting its products. Wonder why some of the other outfits that publish Novice training guides never thought of Radio Shack.

Price class is \$20. For more information, write to W5YI-VEC, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207 (phone 817-461-6443).

*Associate Editor, *CQ*

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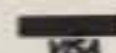
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CIRCLE 37 ON READER SERVICE CARD

NEWS OF CERTIFICATE AND AWARD COLLECTING

The Story of the Month for October, narrated by Cliff, is:

Cliff & Dot Jones, K4CCW & K4BZV USA-CA All Counties #487 & #488, 11-30-84

"I'd like to give credit to W9VHD and W7HMQ, both silent keys, and to W5ZIC, Boyd, for kindling my interest in amateur radio.

"I entered the Navy in October 1941 and started learning the code as a signalman, but changed to gunner and then to electrician. Dot and I were married in Nevada in 1944, and at the end of World War II, in 1945, I was discharged from the Navy and we moved to Ontario, Canada.

"I re-enlisted in the Navy in 1947, and after going through submarine school in New London, Connecticut in 1949, we went to San Diego, California, and from there to Hawaii. In 1958 I was transferred to Tacoma, Washington and began studying and helping Dot with code and theory. Our Christmas Eve mail of 1958 brought my General class license with the call K7GUK. Care of our children and my parents delayed Dot's study, so she was unable to upgrade to General class at that time.

"The year 1960 found me back in Hawaii, operating KH6SP at the submarine base, when Hawaii became a state. Cliff Corne, K9EAB (silent key), the first ham to work all the U.S. counties, contacted me there for a new state and county. Dot, back in Washington, studied on her own and surprised me on the air one night as K7HXH. Later she and family joined me in Hawaii, bringing furniture and rigs. We operated from Hawaii with the calls KH6EGE, Dot, and KH6EGF, Cliff.

"In 1963, after 20 years of military service, I retired and we moved to Illinois and were given the calls W9HGO, Dot, and W9HFF, Cliff. At our first Illinois Hamfest, just a few days after arrival in the state, we met K9EAB for an eyeball QSO. We also met George, K9CSL, at the same hamfest. We met Jack Scroggins, W0SJE, and Ella Koons, W0AYL, among the founders and charter members of MARAC (Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club) while operating mobile on 75 meters. That marked the beginning, in 1965, of our collecting and giving out counties.

"In 1969 we moved to Tennessee as K4CCW, Cliff, and K4BZV, Dot. Radio



Cliff and Dot Jones, K4CCW and K4BZV, out to run counties.

was sacrificed while we cut trees, cleared the land, and built our home. In 1979, when we decided to get back to county hunting in earnest, we found that over 200 of my cards had been misplaced, so I decided to go 'all mobile.' Some five years later, in November 1974, we finally completed USA-CA All Counties numbers 487 and 488.

"Now with retirement and our children grown and married, we spend our summers in Tennessee and winters in Texas and run counties in each area. We still enjoy running the counties and meeting old friends and making new ones.

"We can't begin to thank each person individually, so will just say 'thank you' to all."

Awards Issued

Ed Daigne, W5ILR, filed his qualifying application for All Counties #543, USA-CA 3000 #575, USA-CA 2500 #646, USA-CA 2000 #713, USA-CA 1500 #796, and USA-CA 1000 #973, All SSB, dated 6-4-87.

Bobby Hunter, KC5CV, made a clean sweep of it and claimed All Counties #544, USA-CA 3000 #576, USA-CA 2500 #648, USA-CA 2000 #715, USA-CA 1500 #799, USA-CA 1000 #978, and USA-CA 500 #2189, All SSB, dated 6-23-87.

Donald J. Simpson, Sr., W3EYF, claimed USA-CA 2500 #645, USA-CA 2000 #712, USA-CA 1500 #795, USA-CA 1000 #972, and USA-CA 500 #2184, Mixed, dated 6-3-87.

John G. Dittmer, W0IZV, received USA-CA 2500 #647, USA-CA 2000 #714, USA-CA 1500 #797, USA-CA 1000 #974, and USA-CA 500 #2185, Mixed, dated 6-10-87.

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Eldred J. "Ed" Daigne, W5ILR
All Counties #543, All SSB, 6-4-87

Bobby G. Hunter, KC5CV
All Counties #544, All SSB, 6-23-87

USA-CA Honor Roll

W5ILR	3000	575	NE5Y	798
KC5CV		576	KC5CV	799
	2500		1000	
W3EYF		645	W3EYF	972
W5ILR		646	W5ILR	973
W0IZV		647	W0IZV	974
KC5CV		648	Y23DL	975
	2000		NE5Y	976
G5PQ		711	N7FQQ	977
W3EYF		712	KC5CV	978
W5ILR		713		
W0IZV		714	500	
KC5CV		715	W3EYF	2184
	1500		W0IZV	2185
W3EYF		795	Y23DL	2186
W5ILR		796	NE5Y	2187
W0IZV		797	N7FQQ	2188
			KC5CV	2189
			WA6MUK	2190

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America County Award is 3076. The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$4.00. For non-subscribers, 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. To qualify for the special subscriber rate please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. To be eligible for the USA-CA, applicants must comply with the rules of the program as set forth in the revised USA-CA Rules and Program dated April 2, 1985. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending a SASE to the USA-CA Custodian, 333 South Lincoln Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060, U.S.A. DX stations must include extra postage for air mail reply.

D. H. "Doug" Allerston, G5PQ, updated his good record by claiming USA-CA 2000 #711, Mixed, dated 6-3-87.

Archie W. Roach, NE5Y, received USA-CA 1500 #798, USA-CA 1000 #976, and USA-CA 500 #2187, Mixed, dated 6-17-87.

Juergen Lorenz, Y23DL, qualified for USA-CA 1000 #975, and USA-CA 500 #2186, Mixed, dated 6-13-87.

Beatrice J. Wilson, N7FQQ, filed her application and received USA-CA 1000 #977, and USA-CA 500 #2188, All 20M SSB, dated 6-22-87.

Theodore E. Palmer, WA6MUK, qualified for USA-CA 500 #2190, Mixed, dated 6-29-87.

On May 29, 1987, Daniel G. Hammell, WA9EZT, submitted documentation to add a 75M endorsement to his All Counties #467 dated 2-25-84. Congratulations, Dan.

On June 1, 1987, Michael J. Eilers, K8OOK, added an All 40M CW endorse-

ment to his USA-CA 500 #1762. Mike also holds USA-CA All Counties #480 dated 7-3-84. Nice going, Mike.

USA-CA 500 certificates went to:

Donald J. Simpson, Sr., W3EYF, USA-CA 500 #2184, Mixed, 6-3-87.

John G. Ditmer, W0IZV, USA-CA 500 #2185, Mixed, 6-10-87.

Juergen Lorenz, Y23DL, USA-CA 500 #2186, Mixed, 6-13-87.

Archie W. Roach, NE5Y, USA-CA 500 #2187, Mixed, 6-17-87.

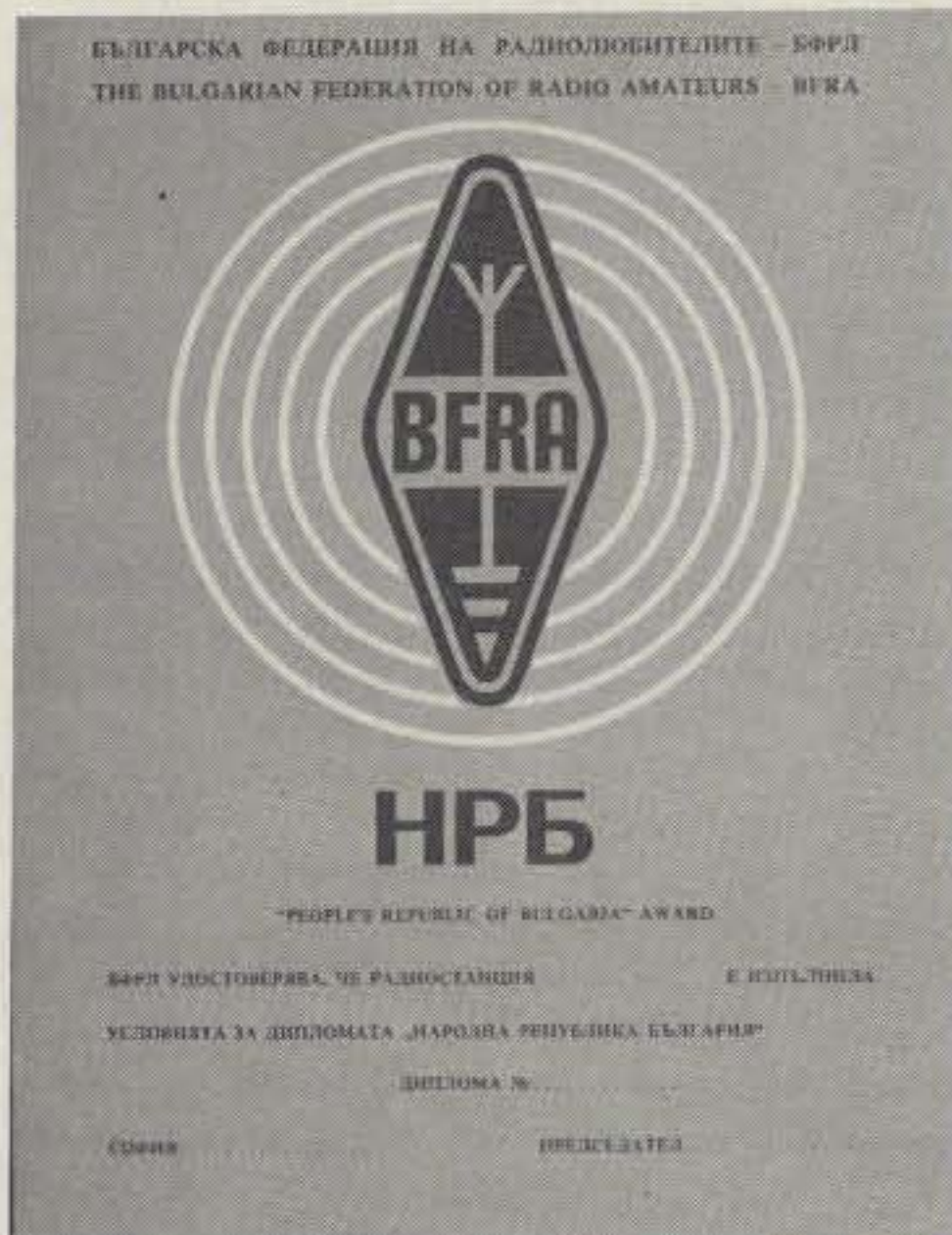
Beatrice J. Wilson, N7FQQ, USA-CA 500 #2188, All 20M SSB, 6-22-87.

Bobby G. Hunter, KC5CV, USA-CA 500 #2189, All SSB, 6-23-87.

Theodore E. Palmer, WA6MUK, USA-CA 500 #2190, Mixed, 6-29-87.

Awards Available

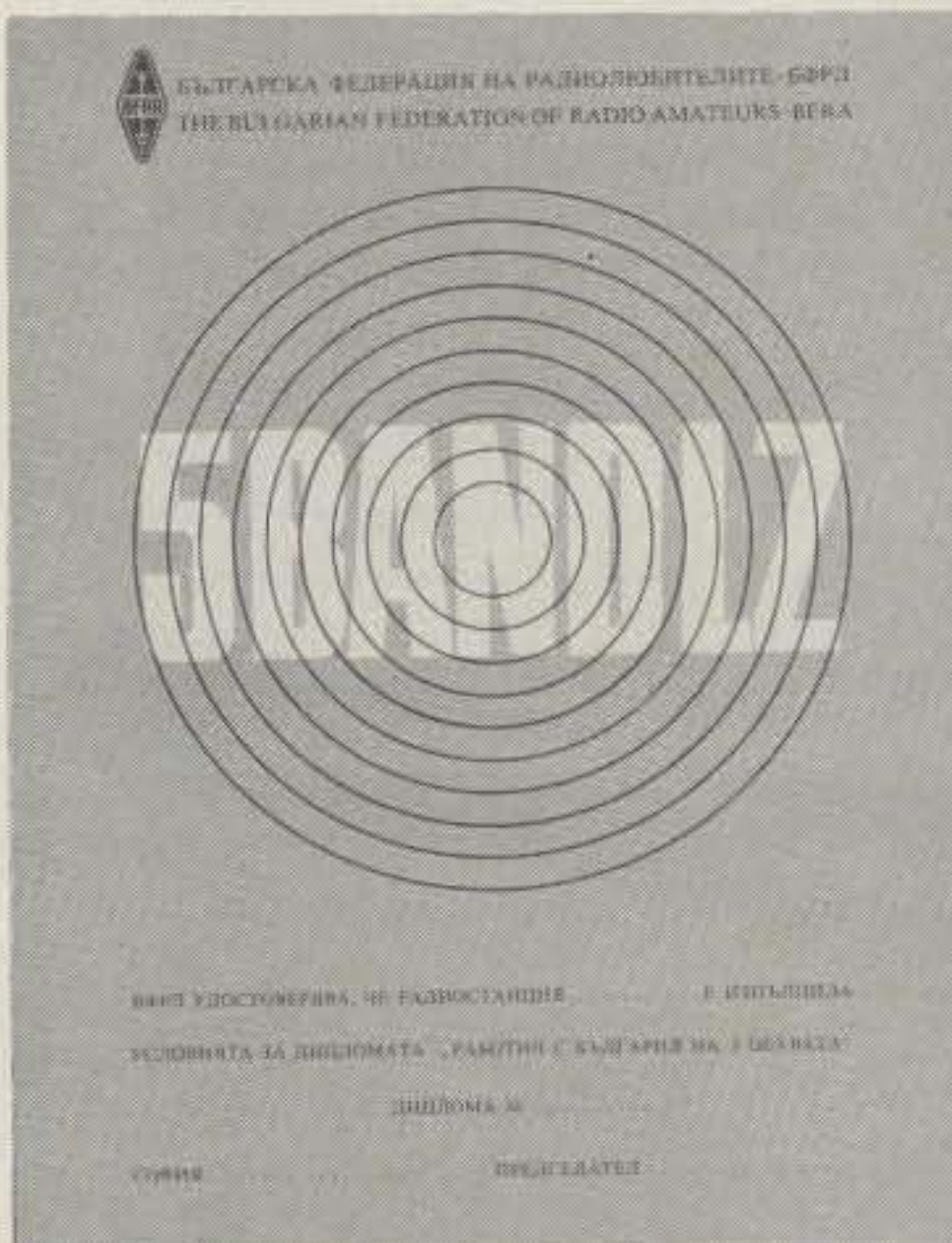
BFRA Awards. The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs sponsors an interesting awards program which offers six attractive certificates. The awards are available to all radio amateurs and short-wave listeners throughout the world for contacts on CW, SSB/AM, or mixed modes. To apply for any one of the six awards, submit a GCR list of contacts, verified by two licensed radio amateurs or local club officials, along with 10 IRCs, to Central Radio Club, P.O. Box 830, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria. The list must show station worked, date, time, band, and mode. The six awards and requirements for each are as follows:



Peoples Republic of Bulgaria Award available to amateurs and SWLs for contacts after January 1, 1965.

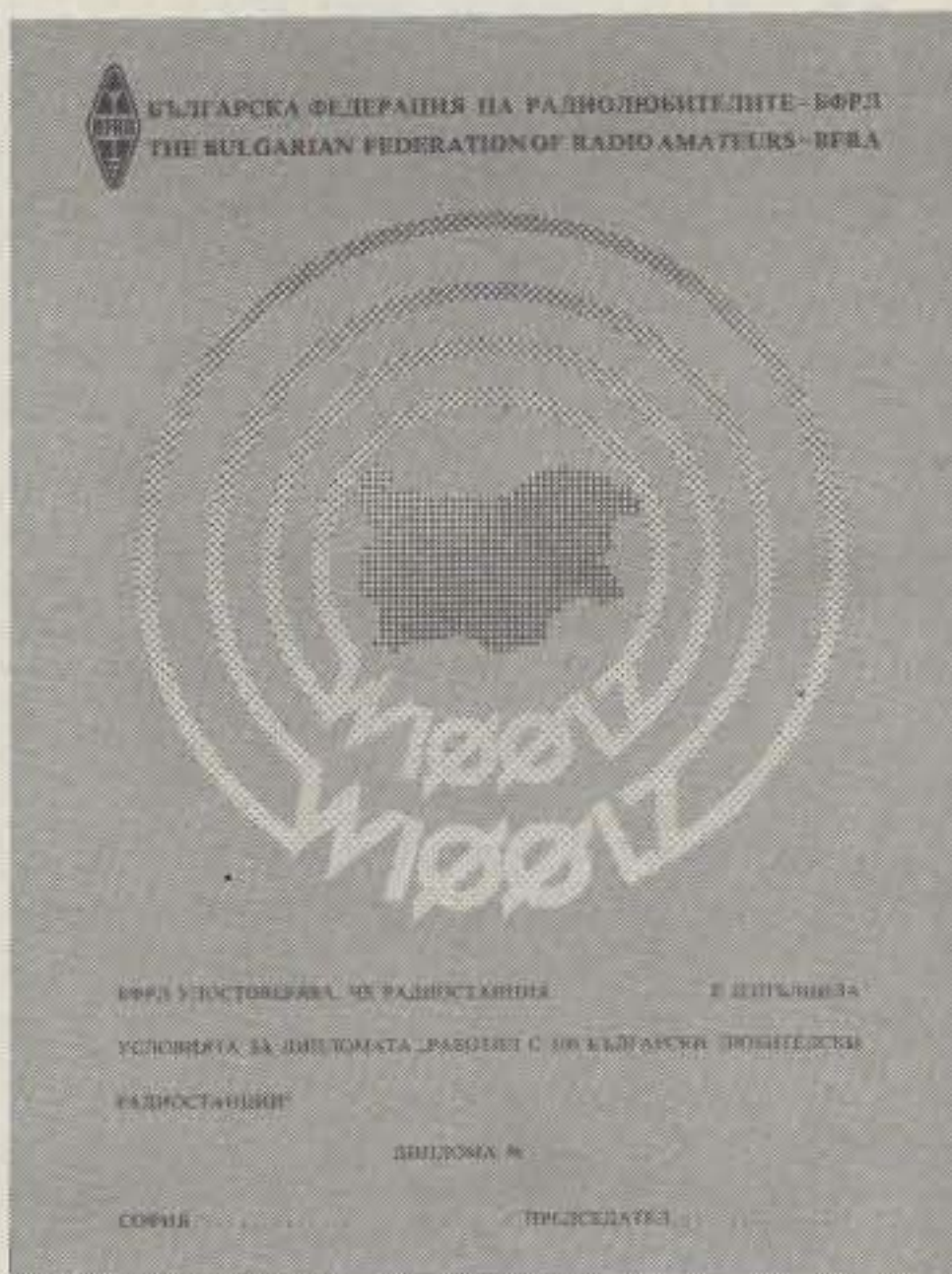
People's Republic of Bulgaria Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1965 are valid for this award. Applicants in Europe must have five contacts with LZ1 stations and five with LZ2 stations on each of the 3.5 and 7 MHz bands, for a total of 20 contacts with different Bulgarian amateur radio stations. Applicants on

other continents are required to have 20 contacts with different Bulgarian amateur stations—10 with LZ1 stations and 10 with LZ2 stations, irrespective of the band.



5 Bands LZ Award offered by the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs.

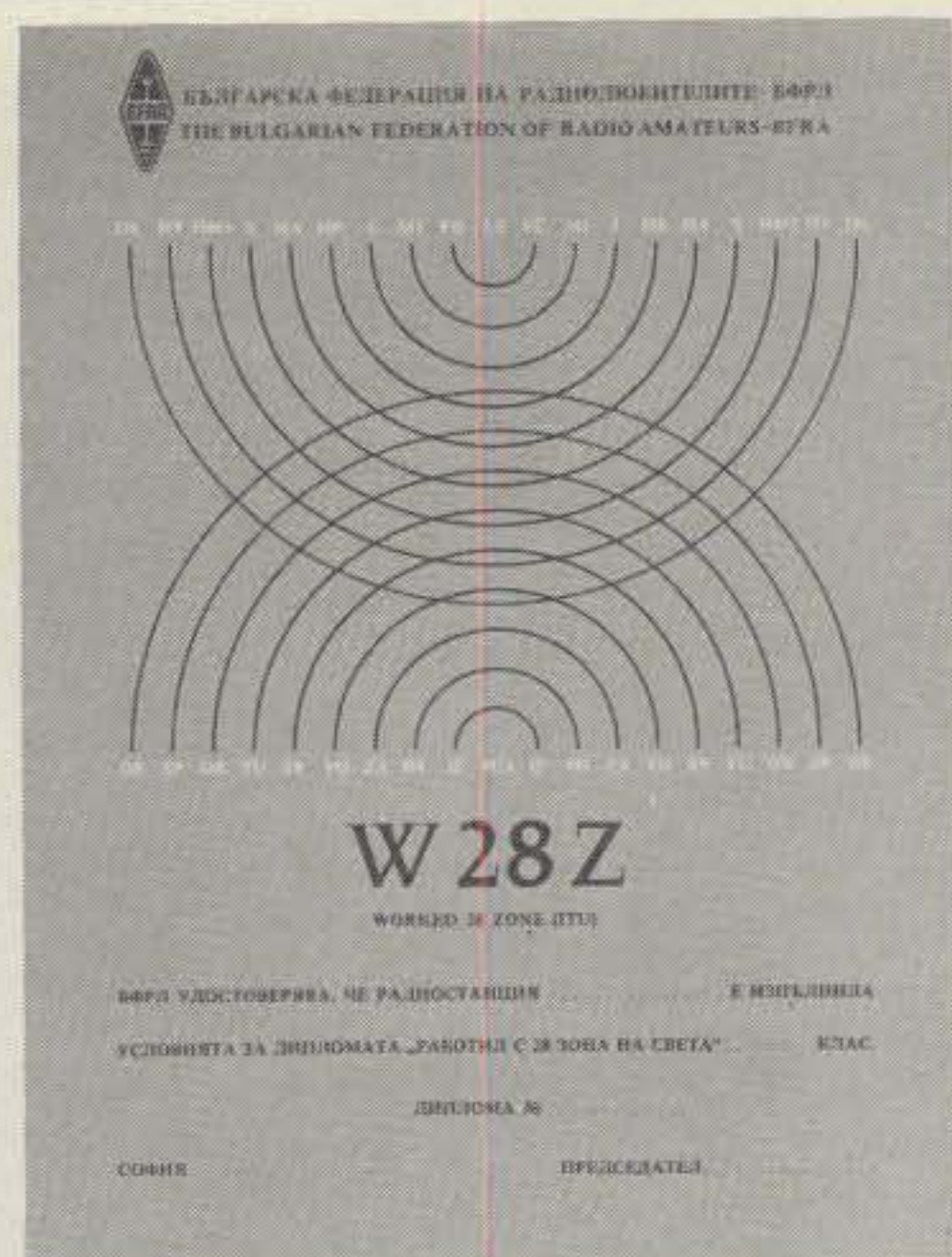
5 Bands LZ Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1979 are valid for this award. Applicants must have ten contacts, one with an LZ1 station and one with an LZ2 station on each of the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands.



W 100 LZ Award from the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs.

W 100 LZ Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1979 are valid for this award. Applicants must have 100 contacts with different LZ stations during one calendar year.

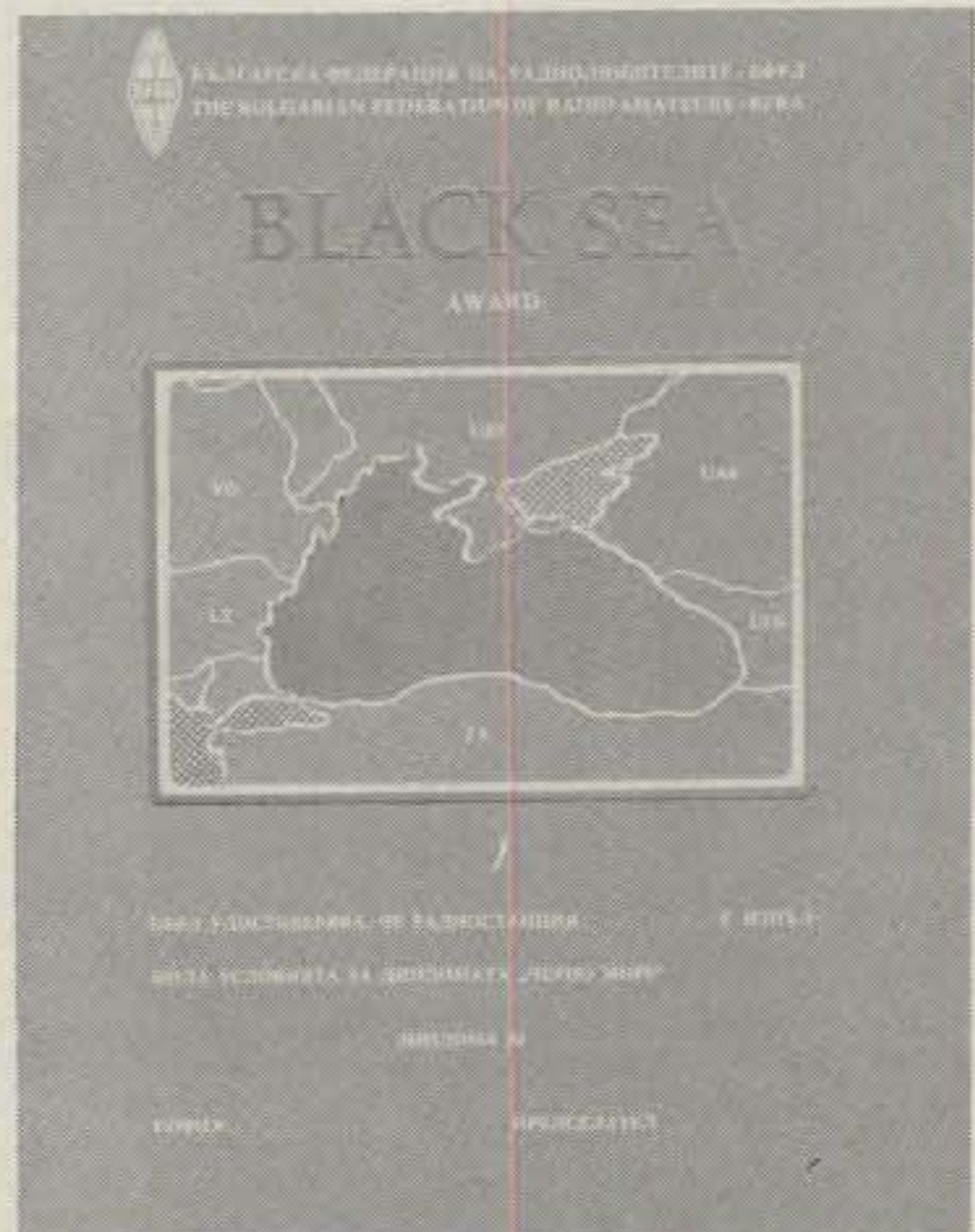
W 28 Z ITU Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1979 are valid for this award. Applicants must have specified numbers of QSOs/SWL reports with the



W 28 Z ITU Award available from the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs.

following countries of ITU Zone 28: DL, DL7/W, Berlin, FC/TK, HA, HB9, HB0, HV, I, IS, LZ, M1, OE, OK, SP, SV, SV5, SV9, SY, YO, YU, Y2, ZA, 9H, 4U1ITU.

The award is issued in three classes. Contacts with five different LZ stations are required, plus the following additional contacts for each class: Class 1—28 contacts with different stations in 20 countries; Class 2—28 contacts with different stations in 16 countries; Class 3—28 contacts with different stations in 10 countries.



Black Sea Award for contacts with countries bordering the Black Sea.

Black Sea Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1979 are valid for this award. Applicants must have 60 contacts with different amateur stations located in the countries bordering the Black Sea, with a minimum of one contact with each of the following countries: LZ, TA, YO, UA6, and UB5.

Sofia Award. QSOs/SWL reports after January 1, 1979 are valid for this award. Applicants must have 100 points based on contacts with amateur stations located in Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria. The point value for each contact must be determined as indicated by the following table.

Applicants	Band (MHz)				
	3.5	7	14	21	28
In Europe	2	2	1	2	2
Outside Europe	15	5	1	2	3

A station may be contacted only once per band, irrespective of mode.

The more active stations in Sofia are: LZ1KAA; LZ1KAB; LZ1KDP; LZ1KPG; LZ1KSA; LZ1KSF; LZ1KVV; LZ1KWF; AB, AD, AM, AP, AQ, AU, BC, FF, FN, IA, JW, KX, LB, MS, NP, QG, QI, QP, SS, UA, UO, WV, WD, WJ, XL, XX, ZQ.

California Kilo-QSO Certificate. The California Kilo-QSO Award is sponsored by A.R.S. N6NKN to promote the exchange of QSL cards, encourage contact with all California stations, and encourage espe-

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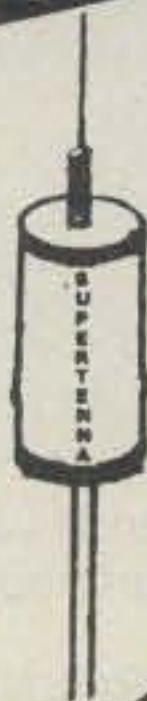
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1110 RG8X 95% shield (mini 8)	15
1130 RG213/U 95% shield mil spec NCV jkt.....	36
1140 RG214/U dbl silver shld mil spec.....	1.65
1705 RG142B/U dbl silver shld, teflon ins	
1310 RG217/U 50 ohm 5000 watt dbl shld	
1450 RG174/U 50 ohm .100" od mil spec	14

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PL259 standard UHF plug for RG8,213.....	.85
PL259AM Amphenol PL25989
PL259TS PL259 teflon ins/silver plated.....	1.59
PL258AM Amphenol female-female (barrel).....	1.45
UG175/UG176 reducer for RG58/59 (specify).....	.22
UG21DS N plug for RG8,213,214 Silver.....	3.35
UG83B N jack to PL259 adapter, teflon	6.50
UG146A SO239 to N plug adapter, teflon	6.50
UG255 SO239 to BNC plug adapter, Amphenol.....	3.29
SO239AM UHF chassis mt receptacle,Amphenol.....	.89

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THE BULGARIAN FEDERATION OF RADIO AMATEURS - BFRF



SOFIA

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СОФИЯ ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ

Sofia Award available for working stations in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

cially contacts with stations in Orange County, California. There is no fee for the award.

Rules: Starting January 1, 1988 and continuing through December 31, 1988, work enough California stations to accumulate 1000 QSO points. All bands and all modes are allowed, but each California station may be worked only once for QSO credit. All contacts must be verified by QSL cards. Contacts made from 0001Z January 3, 1988 through 2400Z January 3, 1988 are worth 5 points, and contacts made thereafter are worth one point. Contacts made with Orange County, California stations on January 3 are worth 10 points, and 2 points thereafter. (Orange County QTH must be stated in log.)

Awards: A plaque will be awarded to the first station to submit verification of 1000 QSO points, and to the first station to submit verification of 1000 QSO points by working only Orange County stations.

Numbered certificates will be awarded to all stations who accumulate 1000 QSO points within the calendar year 1988.

Special certificates will be awarded to stations who accumulate 1000 QSO points by working only Orange County stations.

Verification: Each contact must be verified by QSL, but QSLs need not accompany the application. Your logs need only be certified by yourself and two other amateur radio operators. For applications and official log, send #10 SASE to ARS N6NKN, R. J. Zolla, 3106 Ginger Apt. D, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, U.S.A.
73 and Good Hunting, Dorothy, WB9RCY

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IC-751A Gen. Cvg. Xcvr	1649.00	Call \$
IC-575A 10m/6m Xcvr	TBA	Call \$
Receivers		
IC-R7000 25-1300 + MHz Rcvr	1099.00	Call \$
IC-R71A 100 kHz-30 MHz Rcvr	949.00	Call \$
VHF		
IC-275A All Mode Base w/PS	1199.00	Call \$
IC-275H All Mode Base 100w	1389.00	Call \$
IC-271A All Mode Base 25w	859.00	Call \$
IC-27A FM Mobile 25w	429.00	Call \$
IC-27H FM Mobile 45w	459.00	Call \$
IC-28A FM Mobile 25w	429.00	Call \$
IC-28H FM Mobile 45w	459.00	Call \$
IC-38A FM Mobile 25w	459.00	Call \$
IC-2AT FM HT	299.00	Call \$
IC-02AT FM HT	399.00	Call \$
IC-μ2AT Micro HT	329.00	Call \$
IC-900 Six Band Mobile	TBA	Call \$
UHF		
IC-475A All Mode 25w	1399.00	Call \$
IC-47A FM Mobile 25w	549.00	Call \$
IC-48A FM Mobile 25w	459.00	Call \$
IC-4AT FM HT	339.00	Call \$
IC-04AT FM HT	449.00	Call \$
IC-μ4AT 440 FM HT	369.00	Call \$
IC-3200A FM 2m/70cm 25w	599.00	Call \$
220 MHZ		
IC-375A All-Mode, 25w, Base Sta.	TBA	Call \$
IC-38A 25w FM Xcvr	459.00	Call \$
IC-37A FM Mobile 25w	499.00	Call \$
IC-3AT FM HT	339.00	Call \$
IC-03AT Deluxe HT	449.00	Call \$
1.2 GHz		
IC-1271A All Mode 10w	1229.00	Call \$
IC-120 1w, FM, Xcvr	579.00	Call \$
IC-12AT Deluxe 1w HT	459.00	Call \$



TS-440S/AT

HF Equipment	List	Juns
TS-940S/AT Gen. Cvg Xcvr	\$2249.95	Call \$
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TS-830S Xcvr	1099.95	Call \$
TS-430S Gen. Cvg Xcvr	859.95	Call \$
TS-440S/AT Gen. Cvg Xcvr	1199.95	Call \$
TS-440S Gen. Cvg Xcvr	999.95	Call \$
TL-922A HF Amp	1499.95	Call \$
TS-670 40,15,10,6 Meter Quad	TBA	Call \$
Receivers		
R-5000 100 kHz-30 MHz	899.95	Call \$
R-2000 150 kHz-30 MHz	649.95	Call \$
VHF		
TS-711A All Mode Base 25w	899.95	Call \$
TR-751A All Mode Mobile 25w	599.95	Call \$
TM-221A Compact FM 45w	399.95	Call \$
TM-2530A FM Mobile 25w	429.95	Call \$
TM-2550A FM Mobile 45w	469.95	Call \$
TM-2570A FM Mobile 70w	559.95	Call \$
TH21-BT FM, HT	259.95	Call \$
TH-205 AT, NEW 2m HT	259.95	Call \$
TH-215A, 2m HT Has It All	349.95	Call \$
UHF		
TS-811A All Mode Base 25w	1049.95	Call \$
TR-851A 25w SSB/FM	699.95	Call \$
TR-9500 10w All Mode	649.95	Call \$
TM-421A Compact FM 35w	419.95	Call \$
TM-411A FM Mobile 25w	449.95	Call \$
TH-415A 2.5w 440 HT	359.95	Call \$
TH-41BT FM, HT	269.95	Call \$
TW-4100A, 2m/70cm FM	649.00	Call \$
TR-50 1w 1.2GHz FM	549.95	Call \$
220 MHZ		
TM-3530A FM 220 MHz 25w	449.95	Call \$
TH-31BT FM, 220 MHz HT	269.95	Call \$
TM-321A Compact 25w Mobile	TBA	Call \$
TH-315A Full Featured 2.5w HT	TBA	Call \$



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FT-980 9 Band Xcvr	1795.00	Call \$
FT-757 GX II Gen. Cvg. Xcvr	1079.95	Call \$
FT-767 4 Band New	1895.00	Call \$
FT-690R 6m, 10w All Mode	TBA	Call \$
FL-7000 15m-160m Solid State Amp	TBA	Call \$
Receivers		
FRG-8800 150 kHz - 30 MHz	699.95	Call \$
FRG-9600 60-905 MHz	679.95	Call \$
VHF		
FT-211RH FM Mobile 45w	459.95	Call \$
FT-290R All Mode Portable	579.95	Call \$
FT-23 R/TT Mini HT	299.95	Call \$
FT-209RH FM Handheld 5w	359.95	Call \$
UHF		
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FT-709RH FM HT 4w	359.95	Call \$
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430/726 430-440 MHz	329.95	Call \$
440/726 440-450 MHz	329.95	Call \$
SU-726 Sate Duplex	129.95	Call \$
FT-690R MKII, 6m, All Mode, port.	569.95	Call \$
Dual Bander		
FT-2700RH FM 2m/70 cm 25w	599.95	Call \$
FT-727R 2m/70 cm HT	479.95	Call \$
220 MHZ		
FT-109 RH New HT	379.95	Call \$
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- * Antigua and Barbuda (V2)
- * * Argentina (LU)
- * * Australia (VK)
- * Austria (OE)
- * the Bahamas (C6)
- * Barbados (8P)
- * Belgium (ON)
- * * Belize (V3)
- * * Bolivia (CP)
- * Botswana (A2)
- * * Brazil (PY)
- * * Canada (see note 4) (VE)
- * * Chile (CE)
- * * Colombia (HK)
- * * Costa Rica (TI)
- * Cuba (CO)
- * Cyprus (5B)
- * Denmark (OZ)
- * Dominica (J7)
- * * Dominican Republic (HI)
- * * Ecuador (HC)
- * * El Salvador (YS)
- * Fiji (3D2)
- * Finland (OH)
- * France (see note 5) (F)
- * the Gambia (C5)
- * Federal Republic of Germany (DL)
- * Ghana (9G)
- * Greece (SV)
- * * Grenada (J3)
- * * Guatemala (TG)
- * * Guyana (8R)
- * * Haiti (HH)
- * * Honduras (HR)
- * Iceland (TF)
- * India (VU)
- * Indonesia (YB)
- * Republic of Ireland (EI)
- * * Israel (4X)
- * Italy (I)
- * * Jamaica (6Y)
- * Japan (JA)
- * * Jordan (JY)
- * Kiribati (T3)
- * Kuwait (9K)
- * * Liberia (EL)
- * Luxembourg (LX)
- * Mexico (XE)
- * Monaco (3A)
- * Netherlands (PA)
- * Netherlands Antilles (PJ)
- * New Zealand (ZL)
- * * Nicaragua (YN)
- * Norway (LA)
- * * Panama (HP)
- * * Paraguay (ZP)



This is nine-year-old Ronie Weaver, KB6OLU, of Irvine, California. He got his Novice license during October 1986, and his first contact was with OE5AHL in Austria. His station includes an ICOM IC-745 transceiver, a 4-element Yagi-Uda antenna for 10 and 15 meters, and dipoles for 40 and 80 meter operation. Ronie is a full-back on his football team. He wants to be a policeman or the coach of a professional football team. His father is N6VO.

- * * Peru (OA)
- * Philippines (DU)
- * Portugal (CT)
- * St. Christopher and Nevis (V4)
- * * St. Lucia (J6)
- * St. Vincent and the Grenadines (J8)
- * Seychelles (S7)
- * * Sierra Leone (9L)
- * Solomon Islands (H4)
- * Republic of South Africa (ZS)
- * Spain (EA)
- * Suriname (PZ)
- * Swaziland (3D6)
- * Sweden (SM)
- * * Switzerland (see note 6) (HB)



Nine-year-old Patrick Reams, KB4VYP, of Wendell, North Carolina operates the 15 and 40 meter Novice code bands. He shares this station with his Mom, KB4EXL, and Dad, WA4MJF. Patrick is a member of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

- * * Trinidad and Tobago (9Y)
- * Tuvalu (T2)
- * * United Kingdom (see notes 7 and 8) (G)
- * * Uruguay (CX)
- * * Venezuela (YV)
- * Yugoslavia (YU)

Notes:

1. We have reciprocal operating agreements with 68 countries. We have third-party traffic agreements with 40 countries. We have both reciprocal operating agreements and third-party traffic agreements with 31 countries.

2. International radio communications must be in plain language. Business messages are prohibited. At the end of each exchange of international third-party traffic the FCC licensed amateur must transmit the call signs of the foreign station and of his own station.

3. Qualified foreign licensed amateurs may apply for reciprocal operating permits. The reciprocal permit is valid a maximum of one year or until the expiration date of the alien's license, depending on which date comes first. The reciprocal permit authorizes operating privileges specified by the alien operator's home regulations, but not to exceed U.S.A. Extra class operating privileges. The reciprocal licensee does not necessarily have full U.S.A. Extra class privileges. As an example, a reciprocal licensee who holds the equivalent of a U.S.A. General class license in her/his home country is restricted to no more than U.S.A. General class operating privileges in the U.S.A. FCC form 610A is used to apply for a reciprocal operating permit. A copy of the alien's license must accompany the permit application. U.S.A. citizens are not eligible to obtain reciprocal permits issued by the FCC. However, aliens are eligible to earn FCC issued U.S.A. amateur radio licenses.

4. American amateurs are allowed to operate in Canada (and vice versa) without having to obtain reciprocal operating permits.

5. Including French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gambier, Marquesas, Society and Tubai Islands, and Tuamotu Archipelago. This also includes Guadeloupe, Ile Amsterdam, Ile St. Paul, Iles Crozet, Iles Kerguelen, Martinique, New Caldeonia, Reunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon, plus Wallis and Futuna Islands.

6. Third-party traffic is only permitted with ITU stations 4U1ITU in Geneva and 4U1VIC in Vienna.

7. Third-party traffic is only permitted with special event stations having a GB call sign prefix. GB3 stations are excluded from this arrangement.

8. Including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, St. Helena and Turks, and Caicos Islands.

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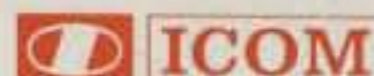
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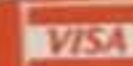
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Nine-year-old Charles "Andy" Broome, KB4VRU, of Chattanooga, Tennessee is a fourth grader. His father is KI4HZ. Their station includes a Kenwood TS-520-SE transceiver.

quests from foreign (DX) amateurs who want to know what can be done to add their countries to either or both lists. I have told these amateurs that they should initiate action at their end, since America is receptive to such agreements. A recent letter from a DX amateur caused me to be concerned that the policy I was stating may have been changed; however, a letter to the FCC evoked a favorable response as shown in fig. 1.

30th Pennsylvania QSO Party

The 1986 30th annual Pennsylvania QSO Party drew more than 500 entries, and this year's party promises to be bigger and better than ever. The contest section covers all such events, including this one. Look there to get complete contest details. This item simply mentions major facts.

Operating periods are 1600 UTC 10 October to 2200 UTC 12 October, with a break 12 October from 0500 to 1300 UTC. Exchange sequential contest numbers and ARRL section or county. Listen and call 10 kiloHertz up from the bottom end of the Novice code and voice segments. Novices should be very popular in this contest because each code and voice/SSB contact with a Novice counts 10 and 5 points, respectively. Novices double their own scores. Certificates are awarded to winners in each county, ARRL section, and DX country. I think you will like this one.

Vehicle Accidents Involving Hazardous Materials

It is very possible that you will encounter a highway accident involving a truck carrying hazardous materials. I have had this happen several times. In two cases I was the first one at the scene of the accidents. Luckily everything worked out satisfactorily. However, my good fortune was just a matter of luck.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has developed a guide that enables

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

March 3, 1987

IN REPLY REFER TO:

31220-C

Mr. William Welsh
2814 Empire Avenue
Burbank, CA 91504-3297

Dear Mr. Welsh:

This is in reply to your letter dated January 30, 1987, in which you seek information on how to add countries to the list of those for which the United States has concluded amateur reciprocal operating and third party agreements.

Agreements such as those which interest you are negotiated with foreign countries through the U.S. Department of State. Over the years it has been found that proposed agreements related to amateur radio are more readily negotiated when the proposal has the support of the foreign amateur radio community and is first initiated by the foreign country. If foreign amateur radio operators are interested in such arrangements with the United States or any other country, they should make known their desires with their home country. The United States, having a number of these agreements with other countries, is receptive to providing draft notes, which could form the basis of an agreement, to any country which makes known its interest.

If you or any amateur radio operator becomes aware of a significant interest in any particular country, you may wish to bring this to the attention of the U.S. Department of State or the Commission.

Sincerely,

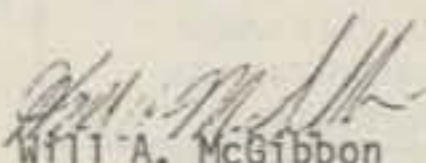

 William A. McGibbon
 Chief, Spectrum Engineering Division

Fig. 1 - How to initiate amateur reciprocal operating and third-party agreements.

one to make correct decisions and to take proper actions in such incidents. Their manual is the "Emergency Response Guide," which is available from several suppliers. This guide identifies hazardous materials placards, provides detailed instructions of how to handle accidents involving specific hazardous materials (plus general procedures), and states steps one should take following exposure to specific materials. One source of emergency response guides is the American Trucking Associations (ATA), Customer Services Department, 2200 Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. The ATA order number for the guide is C0980, and one should send \$6 (\$5 price of book, plus \$1 shipping and handling) for each guide. The pocket-size version of the guide costs \$4 each (total), and it is ATA order number C0985.

Amateurs are usually extroverts who are likely to stop at accidents to offer help, including radio communications. The guide is a worthwhile addition to the glove compartment. Guides are available at re-

duced prices when they are purchased in quantities, such as for club groups.

Metal Dog Tags Endangered

The Army Soldier's Data Tag Task Force is developing an electronic dog tag containing a microchip. This new identification device would contain the serviceman's family, financial, medical, military, and religious-preference data. It may contain more data in its final form. When the new plastic tag is inserted into a microcomputer, an extensive computer printout is produced. This device may prompt the military to use correct blood types on these tags, whereas they appear to have preferred marking everyone as being either O-positive or O-negative in recent times. The reasoning behind this practice is obvious: Type O blood can be transfused to those who have type A, B, or AB blood without harm. However, it is better to use the matching blood type in every case.

73, Bill, W6DDB



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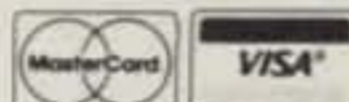
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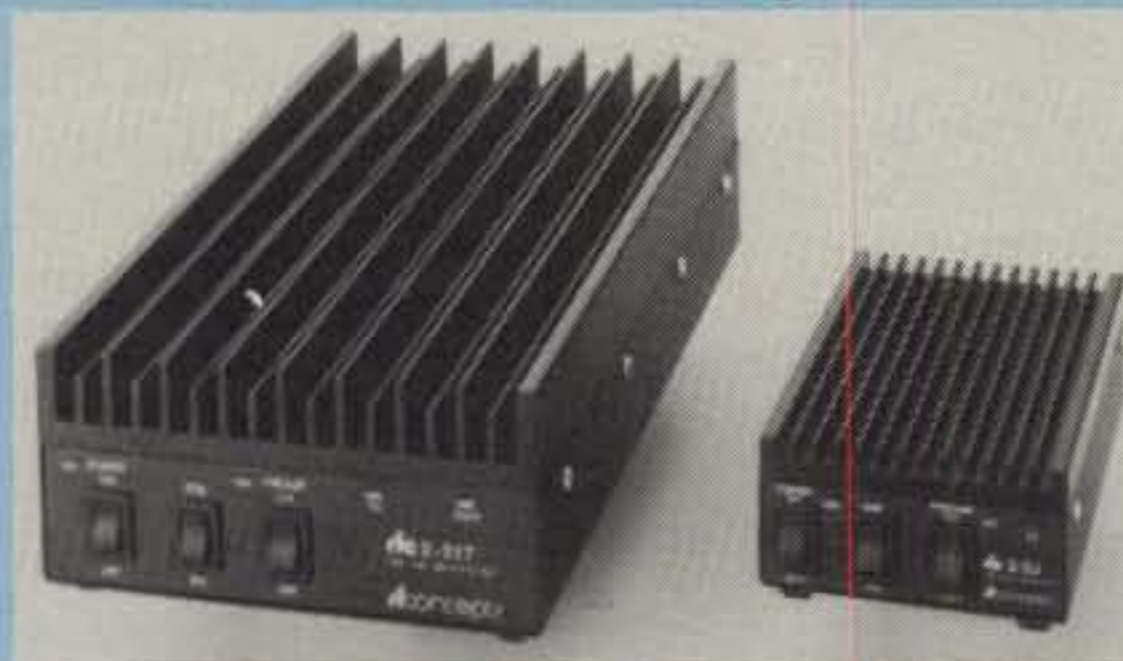
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A LOOK AT THE SHACK FROM BOTH ENDS OF THE COAX

A Look at Shareware

This month columnist W8FX takes a close look at a novel and interesting source of computer software. That source is known as shareware. We think you'll find this month's column quite instructive and informative.

—K2EEK

Last time we got together we concluded our series on "Super Software" for the hamshack. We continued on the software track by catching up on some mail on hamshack computer topics: letters on Commodore 64 diagnostic routines and parts procurement problems, updates to the Winner's Edge contesting software, and some notes on Etron and Gardner software. We also examined some of the pesky problems associated with hamshack AC lines and their effects on operating gear and computers, and we looked at some new antenna products, including the Big Horn Delta Loops. We also saved room for pulling down a few books, catalogs, and booklets from the bookshelf.

This month we'll continue our focus on software, but switch to a different track. We'll take a close look at the shareware software marketing concept, a concept that is very popular in the software industry as a whole, but one which is only recently taking hold in hamshack software. We'll also discuss some new antenna products and bring into focus one of amateur radio's newest frontiers, that of light-wave communications.

The Shareware Phenomenon

In my opinion, some of the biggest bargains

317 Poplar Drive, Millbrook, AL 36054

in computer software are products marketed via the shareware concept. This is try-before-buying software, which is usually freely distributed as though it were in the public domain. But shareware is usually much more sophisticated and comprehensive than most public-domain software and is often copyrighted. Its authors typically request voluntary payments from the user.

Before getting into the details of shareware, sometimes known as user-supported software, we should mention that shareware is often confused with public-domain software, which is totally free and not copyrighted. Most public-domain software is written by hobbyists and generally fills niches too small to be filled by commercial firms. Such software is distributed freely, often via electronic bulletin-board systems and user-group libraries.

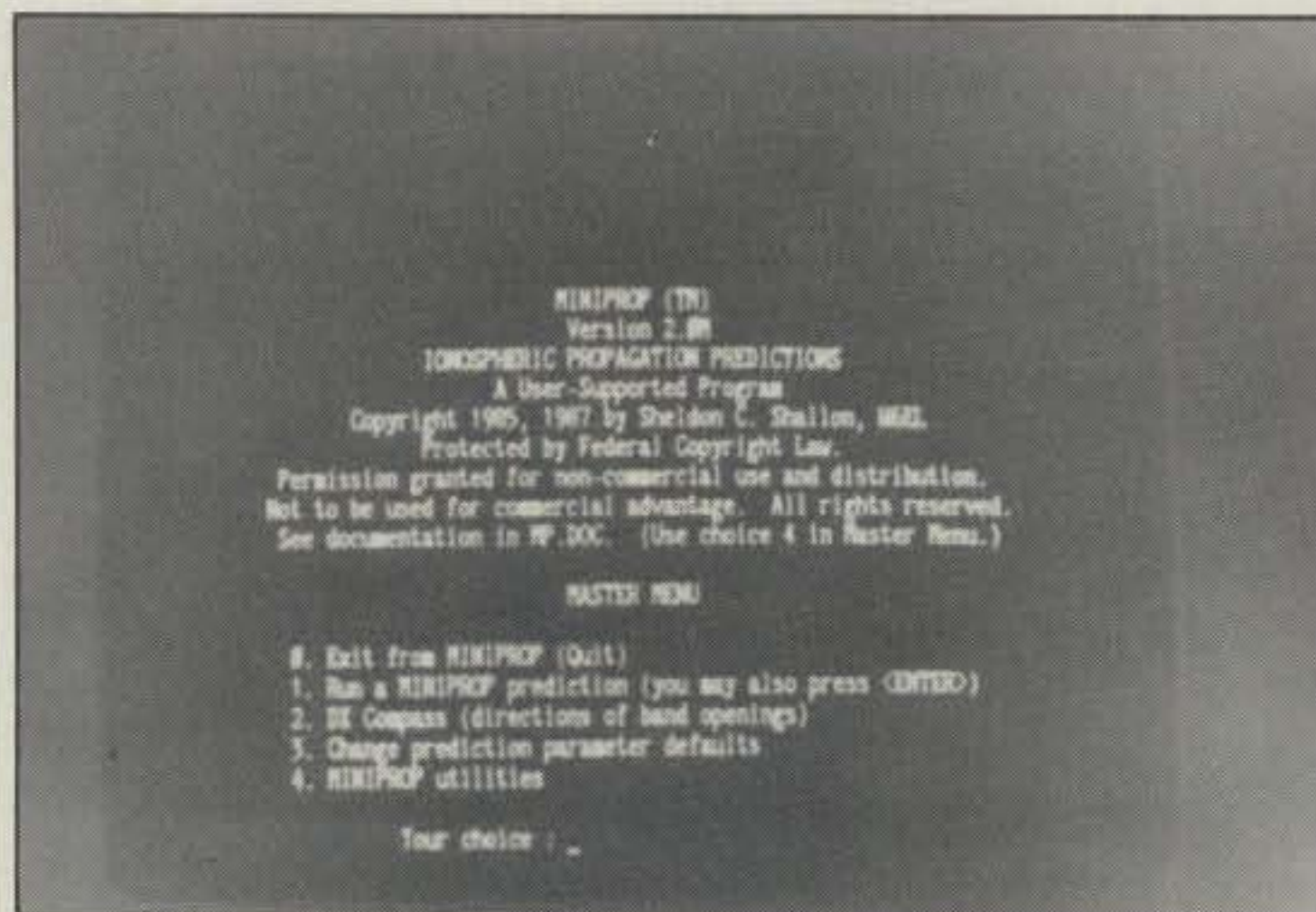
These libraries often make available collections at low prices, typically \$3 to \$8 per disk, to cover the costs of disk duplication and handling. Such software is never guaranteed, and almost always is unsupported by the author. But because the programs are not copyrighted, there are no fees to pay. Most such programs can be listed out and altered in any way you choose, or used as a base for programs you may write yourself. Most programs in the public domain are written by the "end user," either just for fun or because someone needed a routine or program that was not available commercially. As you might expect, quality varies widely. Shareware programs, on the other hand, are usually very good. Many of them are equivalent to, or better than, expensive commercial programs. While authorization is given for you to copy and distribute the software freely, the authors request a voluntary fee from you if you like and use the program.

Ordinarily, this user-support fee is somewhere between \$10 and \$90, rarely above the latter figure to avoid bumping into the price-tags of regularly distributed commercial software. In return for the registration fee, the authors will normally update you with the latest version of the program and furnish a professionally printed manual. Some authors even provide telephone support, much in the same fashion as do commercial software houses. Often the author will throw in extras such as automatic program updates for some length of time, and even pay commissions to users whose friends register.

The term "shareware" is said to have been introduced by the author of the very impressive and highly successful IBM-PC wordprocessing program PC-WRITE, Bob Wallace; his concept involved formal registration if you use the program. A similar concept known as Freeware™ was coined and eventually trademarked by Andrew Fluegelman, the author of the popular communications program PC-TALK III. There's a fee here, too, but it is more of a donation than a registration fee.

One of the big advantages of shareware and similar methods of distribution is the ability for you to directly contact the program's author for assistance. Most shareware firms are small operations, and when calling you may very well get to talk with "the man" himself rather than a customer service representative. You can easily suggest changes and improvements, directly influencing the product.

While there isn't a great deal of amateur radio software available as shareware, there is some, and all things considered, successful hamshack shareware is as good as the best commercial programs. This is probably because to be successful as shareware, a program must have a unique, identifiable niche



Screen photo of a MINIPROP 2.0 short-path prediction over a path from your columnist's Alabama QTH to South Africa. Note the inclusion of predicted signal levels. (W8FX photo)

```

MINIPROP (TR) SHORT-PATH PREDICTIONS 07-31-1987 Path Length : 19549 km
Sunspot Number : 11.8 Flux : 71.9 F Hops : 4 Radiation Angle : 2 deg
TERMINAL A : 32.58 N 06.38 W Millbrook AL Bearing to B : 103.7 deg
TERMINAL B : 27.00 S 26.00 E South Africa Bearing to A : 293.1 deg
Terminal A Sunrise/Set : 1103/0040 UTC Terminal B Sunrise/Set : 0501/1543 UTC

SIGNAL LEVELS ABOVE 0.5 uV
-----
UTC FREQ EOPF 5.6 MHz 7.1 MHz 14.1 MHz 21.2 MHz 28.3 MHz
0000 18.7 7.8 37.5 a 34.4 a 28.5
0200 18.8 3.9 42.3 a 36.4 A 29.1
0400 9.5 2.8 42.3 A 36.4 A 29.1
0600 12.2 9.4 32.5 a 32.4 a 27.8 B
0800 13.8 14.5 -6.6 a 16.4 a 22.8 b
1000 16.1 16.3 -18.4 a 14.4 a 18.5
1200 17.6 16.3 6.7 a 14.9
1400 19.4 15.8 5.6 a 13.4 B 16.8
1600 19.7 17.3 5.8 a 14.5 B 16.6
1800 12.8 17.4 -17.8 a 12.3
2000 18.9 16.3 5.3 a 19.3
2200 11.2 13.5 11.6 a 23.8 a 25.1

<Graph, <Table, <Print table, <Quit, <Menu, or <Long path ?
    
```

Shown here is the MINIPROP 2.0 shareware program's main menu screen. (W8FX photo)

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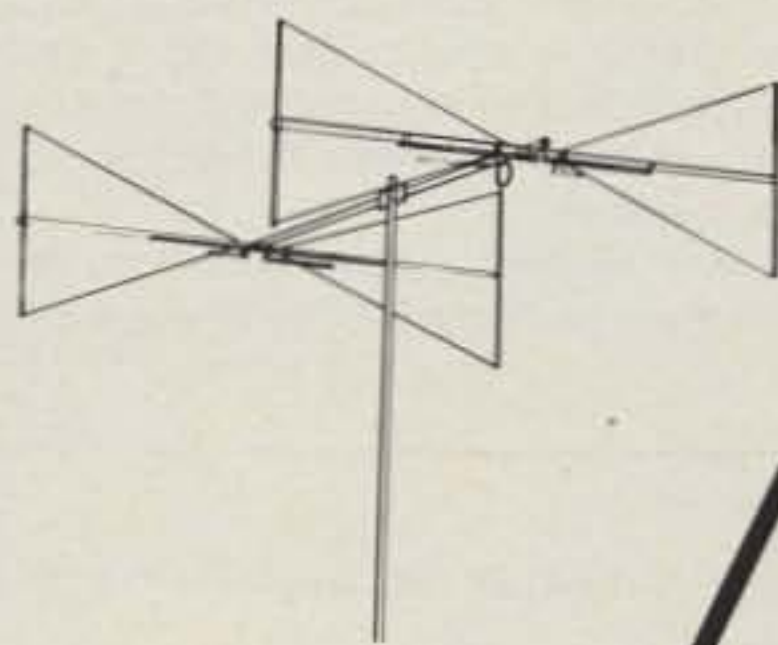
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MINIPROP (TM)
Version 2.0M
IONOSPHERIC PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS
A User-Supported Program
Copyright 1985, 1987 by Sheldon C. Shallon, W6EL
Protected by Federal Copyright Law.
Permission granted for non-commercial use and distribution.
Not to be used for commercial advantage. All rights reserved.
See documentation in MP.DOC. (Use choice 4 in Master Menu.)

MASTER MENU

- 0. Exit from MINIPROP (Quit)
- 1. Run a MINIPROP prediction (you may also press <ENTER>)
- 2. DX Compass (directions of band openings)
- 3. Change prediction parameter defaults
- 4. MINIPROP utilities

Your choice :

Fig. 1—MINIPROP 2.0 main menu. The above screen greets the user upon loading the MINIPROP 2.0 program. Note that this "shareware" program is described as user-supported and is protected by copyright.

and be truly useful, not just flashy or "interesting."

Where and how to access this software goldmine? Your area's local bulletin-board systems (BBSs) are some of the best sources. Many hundreds of open-access BBSs across the land allow you to download software which is posted on their board. While most software found on BBSs is a "mixed bag" of sometimes useful, sometimes not public-domain material, many boards also post shareware for downloading. All you need to access this useful source is a modem and terminal software for your PC. Local hams who are "into" modem communications can usually give you a telephone listing of the BBSs in your area. Another excellent source of BBS names and numbers on a national scale is *Computer Shopper* magazine, which in each issue provides an excellent listing of public access systems that is updated monthly.

A very good source of IBM-PC software is the PC Software Interest Group (PC-SIG). This outfit is the closest thing to what you might call an official "library of record" for IBM shareware and public-domain software. While they may not have every such program on disk, they have most of them, and their disks are inex-

pensive (about \$6). It's worth a postcard to the PC-SIG for their flyer. Write to them at 1030D East Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

PC-SIG and most of the dozen or more firms who perform a similar function don't specialize in amateur radio software. However, several outfits have put together small collections of ham public-domain and shareware programs. One firm that comes to mind is Public Brand Software, P.O. Box 51315, Indianapolis, IN 46251. A recent catalog shows four amateur radio disks, including some packet programs. They also distribute a large number of communications disks which include non-ham programs that are useful in the hamshack, including Pro-Comm™, an outstanding terminal program that's becoming increasingly popular as a companion for packet controllers.

One feature I particularly like about Public Brand's catalog is that they provide subjective ratings for each disk, ranging from "trophy" (tremendous) and four stars (invaluable) down to one star (interesting). This rating system, while not perfect, at least helps you cull out the wheat from the chaff before forking out \$5 for a disk of software.

Another IBM-PC software distributor that lists amateur radio disks in its 50-page catalog

is People's Choice Software, P.O. Box 3061, Warner Robins, GA 31099. Their disk collections are quite inexpensive at \$3.75 a crack.

Shareware seems to be focused mainly on IBM-PC type software, although there are a few Commodore and Apple suppliers out there. Too, there are numerous amateur radio shareware programs posted on the public communications utilities, such as CompuServe and QuantumLink (a Commodore-specific PC network).

We've mentioned it before, but it's worth mentioning again: Alfred Glossbrenner's book *How to Get Free Software* remains a premier source of "free software" information. It includes lists of software sources for most of the computers in hamshack use today, even the so-called orphan machines. Especially useful are the chapters on freeware/shareware, on-line sources of software, user-group libraries, and the little-known sources of free software. The \$14.95 book is well worth the price. It's available widely in bookstores, or contact St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Another source of information on public-domain and freeware offerings is, of course, this column. While we split our focus about 50-50 on antenna and computer topics, we try to bring to your attention new PC software that may have a hamshack application. Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, performs a similar service in his *QST* "On Line" column, where he regularly includes a "new software" feature and also helps to maintain the ARRL's The On Line Program Exchange (PX), which serves as a storehouse and exchange facility for amateur radio public-domain software.

A Shareware Example: MINIPROP 2.0

We indicated that there was not a great deal of amateur radio shareware in the field. But Sheldon C. Shallon, W6EL, is helping to turn this situation around with one of the most comprehensive propagation prediction programs we have seen.

Shel's program, MINIPROP 2.0, is a follow-on to the earlier CP/M version which we reported on some time ago. This program, also shareware, was one of the most comprehensive PC propagation programs available to the amateur, and copies of it quickly spread worldwide. As usage expanded, Shel received an increasing number of requests for additional features. In particular, a superior F-layer model and other techniques used by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) were included, as was an improved method for predicting E-layer cutoff frequency. These additional features and improved propagation models were combined in Version 2.0, now available for the IBM-PC as well.

This is truly a neat program. When you run a MINIPROP prediction, you are asked for the latitudes and longitudes of the terminals on either end of the path, the date, and the sunspot number or solar flux. Conveniently, the program's built-in atlas entries may be used instead of manually entering latitudes and longitudes, and your own QTH may be stored in a disk file so that you don't have to enter it each time. Predicted short- and long-path signal levels on 5 frequencies of your choice, F-layer maximum usable frequency (FMUF) and E-layer cutoff frequency (ECOF) at 2-hour increments throughout the day are displayed. Predicted band openings are flagged, and beam headings, path length, and sunrise/sunset times for the path terminals are also shown.

```
MINIPROP
07-31-1987
Sunspot Number : 28.2 Flux : 85.0 Min. Radiation Angle : 1.5 deg

TERMINAL A : Millbrook AL      TERMINAL B : Scotland
Latitude : 32.50 N             Latitude : 56.50 N
Longitude : 86.30 W            Longitude : 4.10 W

Sunrise : 1103 UTC             Sunrise : 0423 UTC
Gray line : 338/158 deg        Gray line : 325/145 deg

Sunset : 0040 UTC              Sunset : 2023 UTC
Gray line : 22/202 deg         Gray line : 35/215 deg

SHORT-PATH Bearing from A to B : 39.5 deg
           Bearing from B to A : 283.5 deg
           Path Length : 6584 km 4091 mi (U.S.)

LONG-PATH  Bearing from A to B : 219.5 deg
           Bearing from B to A : 103.5 deg
           Path Length : 33416 km 20765 mi (U.S.)

Computing short-path predictions..
```

Fig. 2—MINIPROP 2.0 initial statistical information for a given path. The computer displays the above screen while MINIPROP calculates the short-path prediction.

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* KAM, KPC-2, KPC-4, and KPC-2400 units shipped 7-31-87 or later.
** KPC-1 (Packet Communicator), KPC-2, KPC-4, KPC-2400

```

MINIPROP (TM) SHORT-PATH PREDICTIONS      07-31-1987      Path Length : 6584 km
Sunspot Number : 28.2      Flux : 85.0      F Hops : 2      Radiation Angle : 2 deg
TERMINAL A : 32.50 N      86.30 W      Millbrook AL      Bearing to B : 39.5 deg
TERMINAL B : 56.50 N      4.10 W      Scotland      Bearing to A : 283.5 deg
Terminal A Sunrise/Set : 1103/0040 UTC      Terminal B Sunrise/Set : 0423/2023 UTC

```

UTC	FMUF	ECOF	SIGNAL LEVELS ABOVE 0.5 uV				
			3.6 MHZ	7.1 MHZ	14.1 MHZ	21.2 MHZ	28.3 MHZ
0000	18.7	9.2	37.7 a	41.6 a	39.9 A	37.2 B	
0200	17.3	4.7	53.3 a	47.9 A	41.9 A	38.1	
0400	15.4	4.5	52.0 a	47.4 A	41.7 A	38.0	
0600	13.3	8.8	42.8 a	43.7 a	40.6 B		
0800	14.1	12.6	25.0 a	36.4 a	38.3 B		
1000	14.6	14.8	-6.5 a	23.5 a	34.2 a	34.5	
1200	15.7	15.9		8.3 a	29.4 a	32.2	
1400	17.3	16.2		-2.1 a	26.2 a	30.7	
1600	18.1	17.1		-5.3 a	25.2 a	30.2 B	
1800	18.3	17.3		-0.5 a	26.7 a	30.9 B	
2000	18.4	16.4		11.2 a	30.3 a	32.6 B	
2200	18.6	14.1	1.4 a	26.7 a	35.2 a	35.0 B	

<G>raph, <T>able, <P>rint table, <Q>uit, <M>enu, or <L>ong path ?

Fig. 3- MINIPROP 2.0 short-path tabular results. Note options available at the bottom of the display, which include displaying results in graphic form and making a long-path prediction.

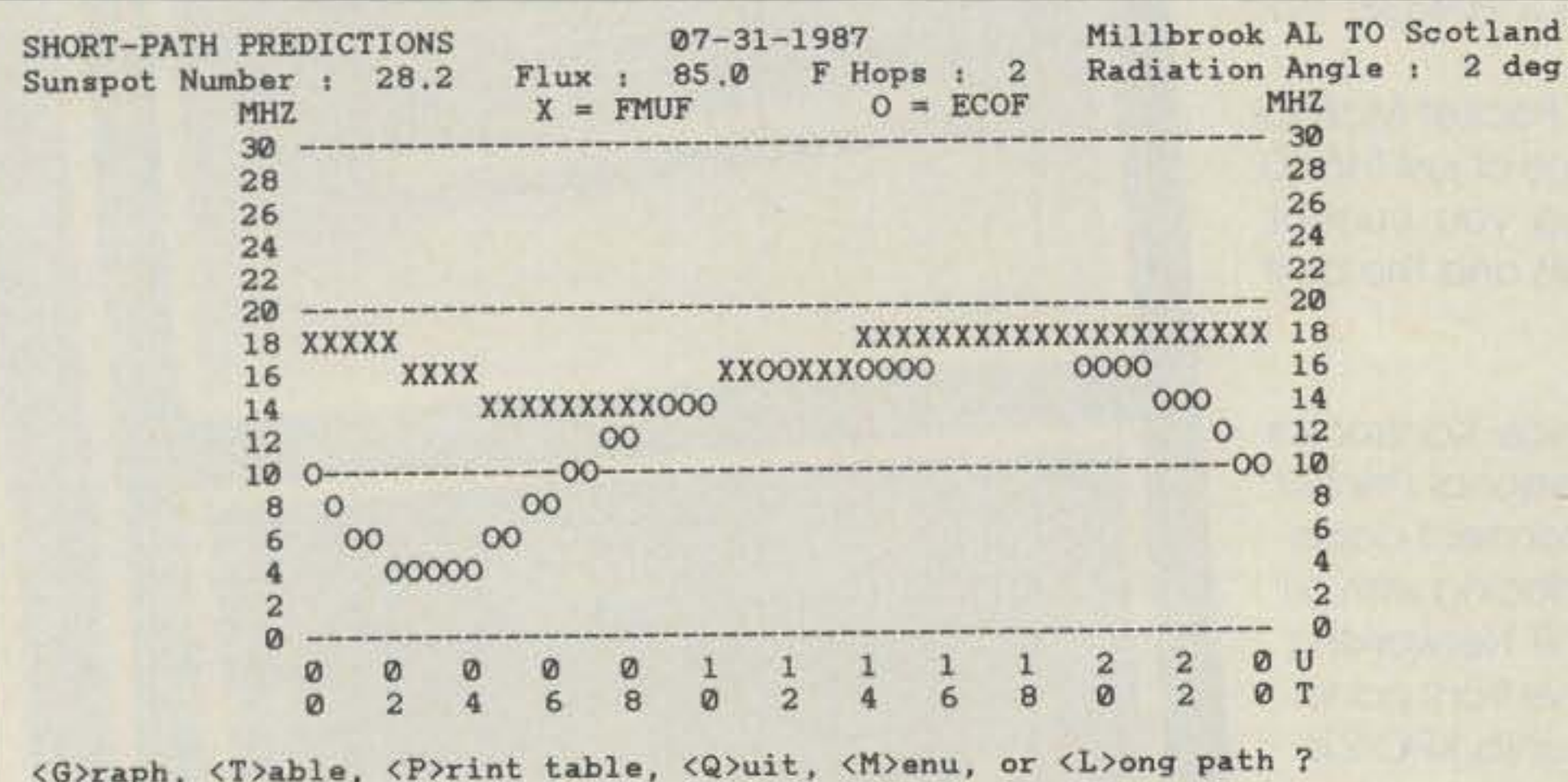


Fig. 4- MINIPROP 2.0 short-path graphic results. The above display corresponds to the tabular results shown in the previous example, fig. 3.

You're given the option of sending the program's output to your printer, but with predictions shown for each half hour instead of 2 hours.

A DX Compass feature helps you determine which bands are open in 12 directions from your QTH at any time of the day. Also, there are provisions for you to edit the atlas, view and print the rather considerable documentation, print a customized table of great-circle bearings from your QTH to all of the atlas entries, and more.

Fig. 1 shows the MINIPROP 2.0 main menu, while fig. 2 displays initial statistical information for a given path, prior to running the prediction. Fig. 3 shows short-path tabular results over the given path, while the corresponding graphic predictions are displayed in fig. 4. Long-path predictions, both in tabular and graphic form, can also be called up.

As you can see from the printouts we've selected, the program has some nice wrinkles. One is the display of sunrise/sunset and gray-line data. Another is that in addition to the FMUF (highest F-layer MUF) being displayed, the E-layer cutoff frequency (ECOF) is also shown. A third is the display of antenna radiation angle calculated for the path.

A fourth, and the most impressive wrinkle, is

the inclusion of predicted signal levels in the five primary HF bands. The signal levels shown are in dB with respect to 0.5 microvolt "behind" 50 ohms, and they assume a matched antenna load. As Shel explains it, if on your receiver 0.5 microvolt produces an S3 signal, then 0 dB would be S3. Assuming 5 dB per S-unit, 10 dB would be S5, 30 dB would be S9, and so on. The signal levels also assume 100 watts radiated power with free-space half-wave dipoles on both ends of the path. The predicted levels assume that a reflecting F-layer is always present and that there is no reflecting E-layer. Therefore, while the predicted signal levels can't be taken as Gospel, and they may have to be adjusted for your antenna and station power, they at least serve to give you some idea of whether signals are likely to be strong or weak over the path.

You may also note in fig. 3 that there are various letter "flags" which appear behind the program predictions. These are used to aid in interpreting the predicted signal levels in terms of the relationships between the FMUF, ECOF, and HPF (highest probable frequency), and whether propagation over the path can really be supported. This gets rather technical, but is nicely explained in the program's documentation.

A unique feature of the program is the DX Compass option. This handy feature provides a screen display showing the highest F-layer MUF (FMUF) you can expect on 12 bearings separated at intervals of 30 degrees from a specified location at any given time of day. It's easy to see how this feature is useful for planning operations during DX contests. Fig. 5 shows a representative DX Compass display.

MINIPROP 2.0 is available for 16-bit PC/MS DOS systems as well as CP/M machines. The PC/MS-DOS version will run on clones and compatibles having 128K of memory; an 80-column monochrome monitor is required. A CP/M version is also available which will run on machines using the CP/M 2.2, CP/M 3.0, and CP/M Plus operating systems, including the CP/M equipped Commodore 128.

As we've indicated, MINIPROP 2.0 is shareware, and it's copyrighted to preclude commercial sale and distribution by anyone other than the author. However, there is no restriction on noncommercial use, and Shel encourages users to give copies to their friends. In fact, the preferred method for obtaining the program is to get a friend to make a copy for you, or to find it on a BBS that has an amateur radio download section. Shel indicates that while he isn't in the disk duplication business, as a last resort you may send him a blank 5 1/4 inch disk and stamped return mailer, and he'll make a copy for you in either MS-DOS format or in one of several CP/M formats. If you ask Shel to make the copy for you, be sure to specify your operating system and whether you need a single- or double-sided disk. Contact Shel at 11058 Queensland St., Los Angeles, CA 90034-3029.

Remember: MINIPROP 2.0 is shareware, a user-supported program. This means that if you find it useful, you should consider sending to the author a contribution in the suggested amount of \$25.

New Antenna Products

NCG Antennas and Accessories. The NCG Company is well-known for its line of imported SSB transceivers. These are manufactured by Matsushita Electric Co., the parent company of Panasonic, Quasar, and Technics, and reportedly the world's largest electronic manufacturer. NCG has recently expanded the product line to include antennas and other antenna-related accessories.

Particularly interesting is the line of dual-band, "ultra super gain" antennas. These include various base/repeater and mobile models that cover 146/446 MHz, 446 MHz/1.2 GHz, and 1260/1300 MHz; a 920 MHz vertical is also available. The antennas are rated at 30 to 200 watts, depending on the particular model and band, and range in length up to 16 feet. SO-239 or Type N connectors are available on most models, which range in price from \$24.95 for a 146/446 MHz mobile antenna to about \$169 for a 146/446 MHz base/repeater antenna. At least two duplexers are available, one for 145/446 MHz rated at 500 watts and another for 900-1400 Mhz that's rated at 70 watts.

NCG also imports the Japanese Creative Designs roof towers, which are designed to spread antenna weight over a broad base for maximum stability. These are manufactured of polished, high-strength aluminum to provide a structurally sound mounting fixture that is stable in the face of severe winds. These towers are available in three versions with heights of about 6, 10, and 15 feet. Ranging in price from about \$150 to \$350, the towers are lightweight

Sunrise: 1123 UTC
Sunset: 0008 UTC
Millbrook AL

FMUF
17.4

Radiation Angle: 1.5 deg
Sunspot Number: 28.2
Solar Flux: 85.0

	17.6		18.1
	18.6		19.6
20.1		1500 UTC 32.50 N 86.30 W 08-31-1987	21.5
	22.0		23.4
	23.5		24.5
		24.3	

DX Compass for what UTC (e.g., 0215) (or <RTN> to quit)?

Fig. 5—MINIPROP 2.0 DX compass display. This display shows the highest FMUF expected on 12 bearings separated at 30 degree intervals from a specified location (the author's QTH in this case) at any given time of day (1500 UTC in this example).



A practical helium neon laser setup. The power supply and battery are housed in the toolbox shown in the photo. (Photo copyright 1985 Steve J. Noll.)

(18 to 51 pounds, depending on height), and the towers' roof surface feet are rubber coated to provide protection against roof damage.

For a flyer drop a line to NCG Co., 1275 North Grove St., Anaheim, CA 92806.

Communicating by Lightwave

Today, for better or worse, we amateurs are increasingly becoming appliance operators. Seems that the technology has gotten so far ahead of us that it's all but impossible to catch up with it, much less to be on the leading edge. That's why Steve J. Noll, WA6EJO's manual, *Amateur Lightwave Communications*, caught my eye. It's on the cutting edge of technology, and it talks about the frontier stuff hams should be experimenting with.

Steve's book is a unique "how to do it" manual written for the amateur and electronic experimenter who is interested in using lasers for free-space communications. In its 119 pages, the book takes a hands-on, practical approach to this frontier activity.

For one like me who never became involved with lightwave communications as an amateur activity, the book is an eye-opener. It discusses how light wavelengths are considered legitimate amateur bands by the FCC, and how

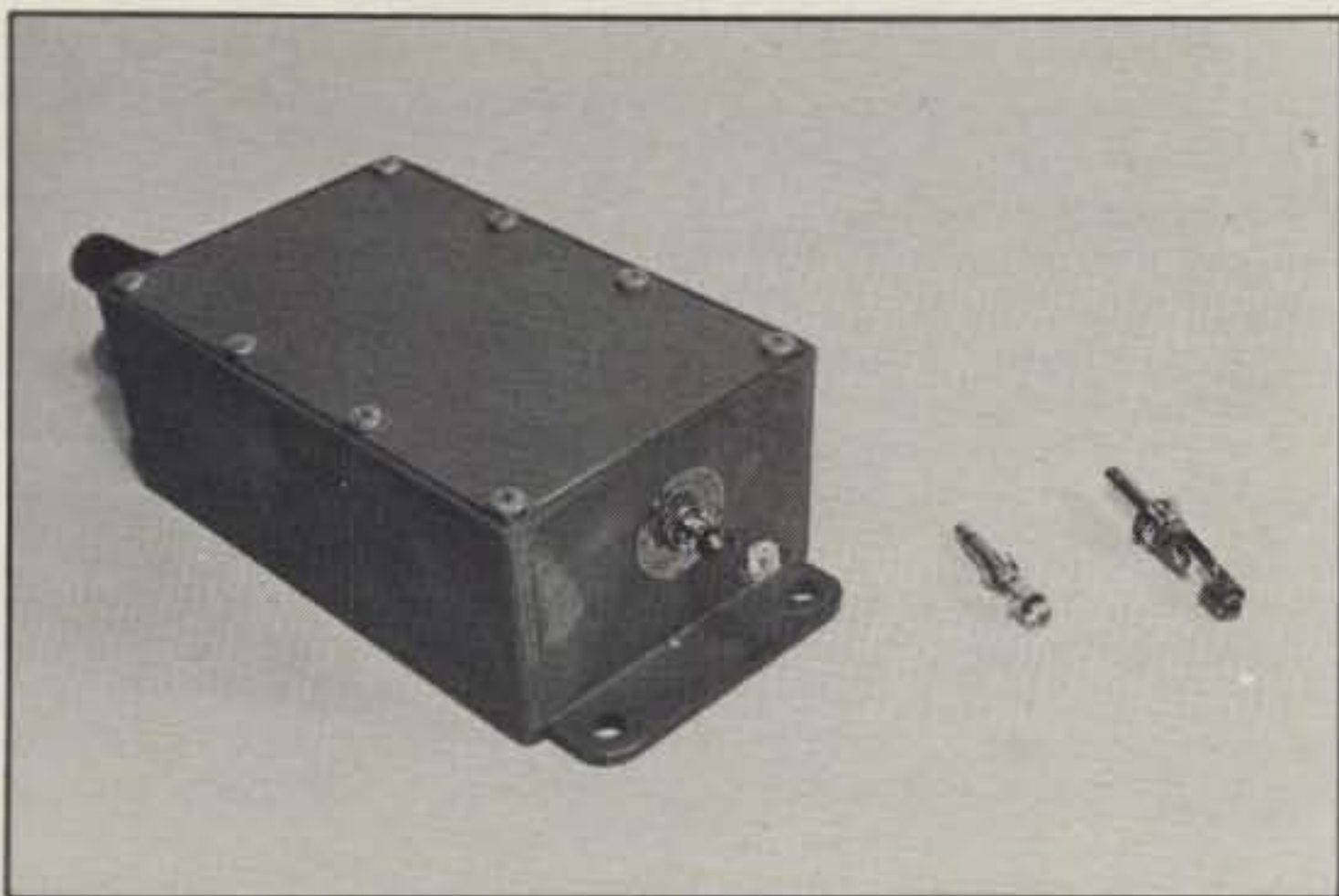
laser "contacts" are valid in ARRL contests. It covers the nature of light in layman's terms, makes comparisons to more-familiar RF concepts, and explores laser operation and the four main types of lasers (gas, solid state, liquid, and semiconductor).

Before getting into the manual's nitty-gritty details, it would be good to digress for a moment on the nature of light itself. First, when we examine light, we see that it is in fact a part of the electromagnetic spectrum just as ordinary radio waves are. The light wavelengths in which we are most interested for communications range from 400 nanometers (violet), to 700 nanometers (red), to over 1000 nanometers (infrared). Still, light is different from RF in that it also possesses a particle nature existing only in discrete units called *photons*. The separate, tiny "photon packages" can be made to travel in a very narrow beam, which makes light excellent for point-to-point communications.

When we look at the bands and emission types available to the Amateur Radio Service under Part 97 of the FCC rules, we see that there are over three dozen entries starting with 160 meters and extending through the millimeter waves. The last FCC entry is "above 300,000 GHz," and there is no upper limit (visible light starts at about 400 TetraHertz, one THz being 10^{12} Hz, or one million megaHertz [MHz]).

The light "transmitter" in which we are interested is the laser, a device which was first conceived in 1958 and actually built in 1960. The word *laser* is an acronym for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation," although its operation is not limited to producing visible light. There also are lasers (known as masers) that produce microwaves up through the infrared range, and progress is now being made on an X-ray laser. For amateur communications purposes, the most common and practical device is the helium neon laser. A laser transmitter setup is shown in fig. 6.

A "receiver" of sorts is required for two-day lightwave communications. Similar to an RF receiver, a light receiver requires an antenna to gather energy, a "front end" filter for selecting the wavelengths of interest, a detector for converting the photon energy to electrical energy, and miscellaneous circuitry for amplification and filtering of the final signal.



An electro-optic lightwave receiver. Photodetectors are mounted on phone jacks and plugged into this test box for comparisons. The schematic for this receiver is found in WA6EJO's manual, described in this month's column. (Photo copyright 1985 Steve J. Noll.)



Shown here is a photomultiplier tube lightwave communications receiver. A 3 inch diameter lens is housed inside the long PVC pipe. (Photo copyright 1985 Steve J. Noll.)

The "antenna" for the lightwave receiver is the critical area in communications; "the bigger, the better" applies here, too. The purpose of the light antenna is to gather as much light from the source as possible, concentrate this light onto the detector, and reject light coming from unwanted sources. Lenses and curved mirrors constitute the main tools of the trade and need only be mounted in a tube or holder, taking the form of a simple telescope, to make a complete antenna system. Fortunately, we only need to gather as much light as possible from the source and needn't have adjustable focus. Thus, a lightwave antenna can be much simpler and more inexpensively constructed than an optical telescope. A 3.5 inch lens light receiver setup is shown in fig. 7.

Steve's manual focuses on the practical and inexpensive helium neon laser, and he covers operation, construction, and sources. He also discusses several types of modulation schemes, optical receivers and antennas, front-end filters, and detectors. He includes schematics for laser power supplies and lightwave receivers, and examines propagation and communications-range factors as well as operating safety.

Steve also provides a long list of sources for low-cost lasers and laser-related equipment, as well as a commented bibliography and addendum of late-breaking laser and holography news. An important point is that while laser equipment usually carries with it astronomical price tags, the do-it-yourself sections of the

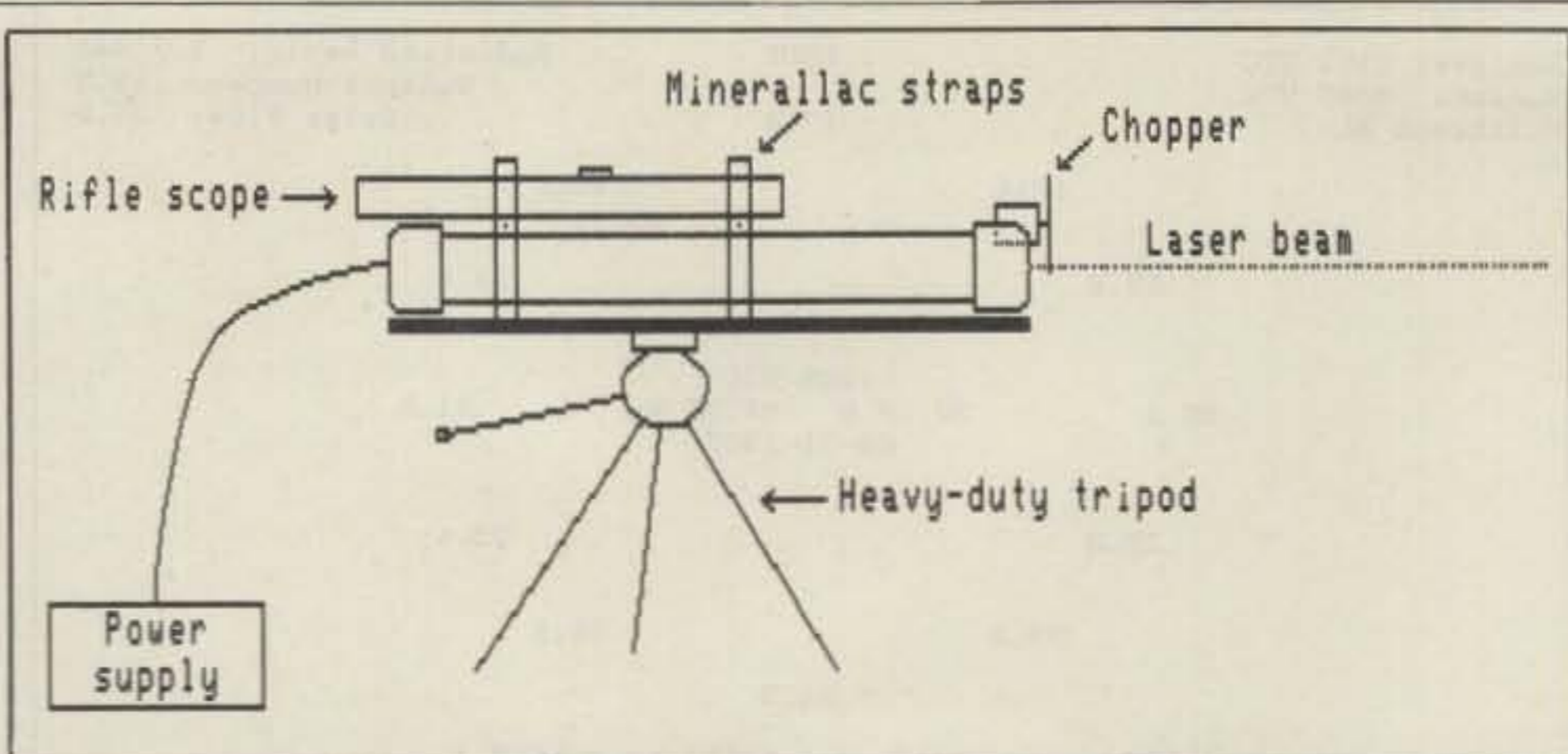


Fig. 6—A complete laser transmitter setup. WA6EJO's manual Amateur Lightwave Communications provides several ideas for laser transmitters suitable for amateur use, including schematics for power supplies. (Sketch copyright 1985 by Steve J. Noll.)

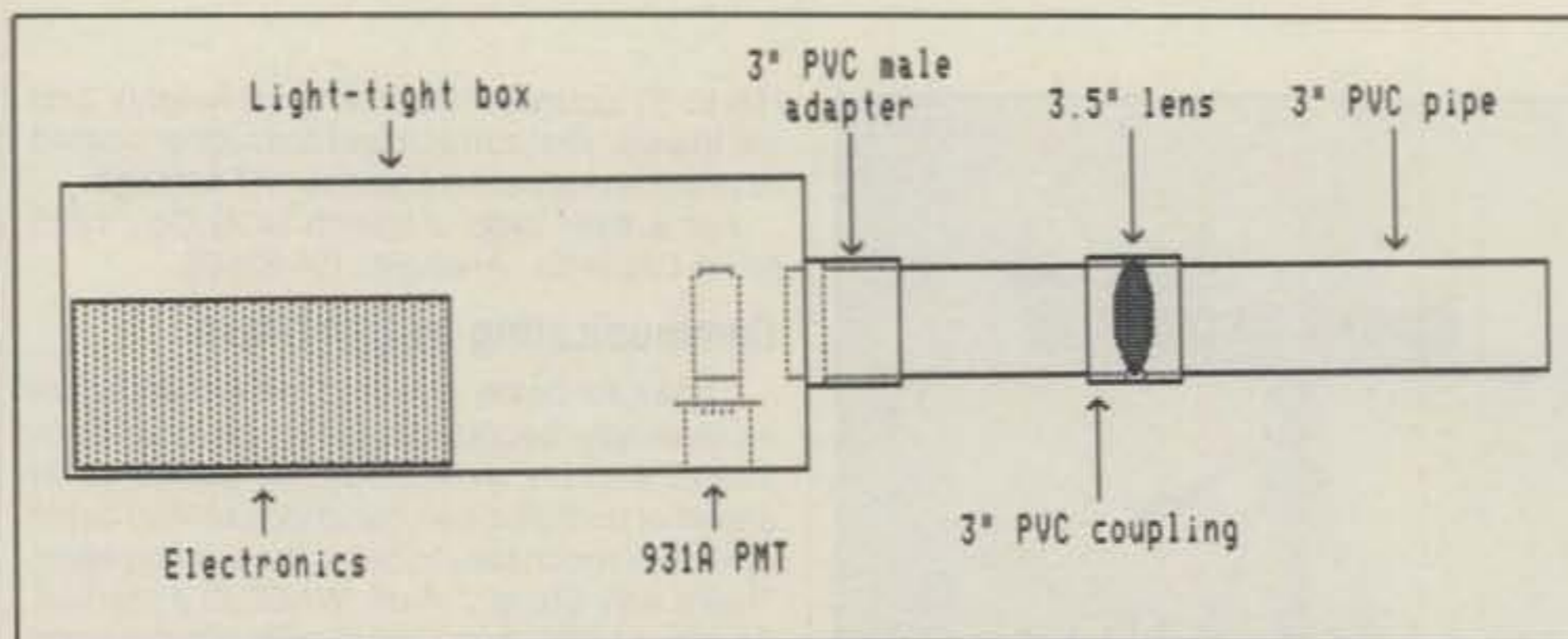


Fig. 7—3.5 inch lens light receiver. Shown here is one lightwave receiver built by WA6EJO; a 931A photomultiplier tube is used for the detector. (Photo copyright 1985 by Steve J. Noll.)



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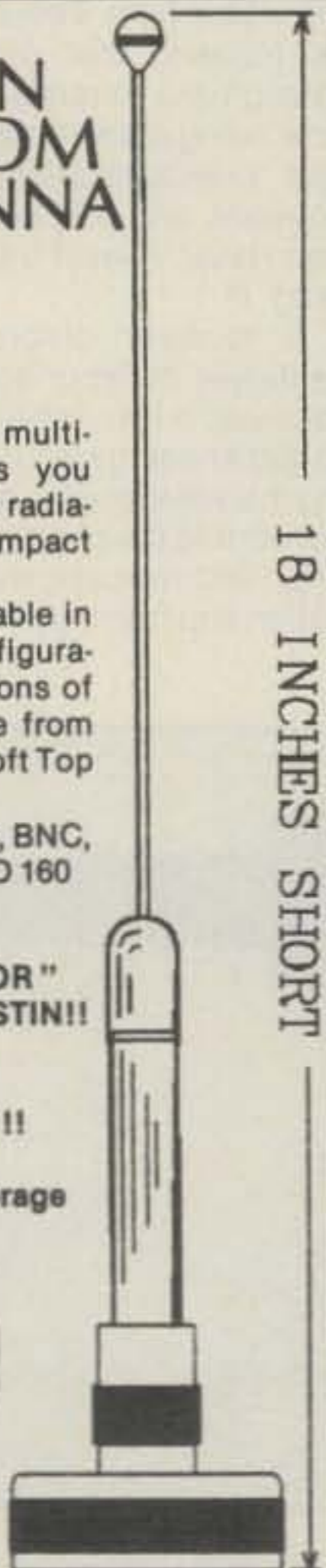
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manual deal only with materials and techniques that are within the reach of someone on a limited budget. His indexed 18,000 word manual is \$13.98 postpaid and is available directly from the author at 1288 Winford Ave., Ventura, CA 93004-2504.

We'd also like to thank Steve for permission to extract liberally from his copyrighted 1985 material in our column, and for the excellent photos and sketches he made available to us.

Short Bursts

Fluorescent Savings. Do you use fluorescent lights in the hamshack, and if so, do you ponder whether it's more efficient to just leave them burning when leaving the shack for a few minutes? Does a fluorescent light have to be turned off for a half-hour or so before the energy saved equals the energy used in initially energizing the light?

Many people think so, and they are wrong, according to an article distributed by the Air Force's PACAF News Service. The article cites a Navy study which showed that fluorescent lights need only be turned off for one second to save the amount of energy required to restart the light. The study suggests it's a misconception that it's cheaper to leave fluorescent lights on for short periods of time, rather than turning them off when not needed.

One rationale for this misconception is that the wasted electricity is cheaper than buying new lamps. This is because when fluorescent lamps first became popular in the 1940s, lamp

life was significantly reduced if the lamp was operated for but short periods of time.

While this may have been true in the early years, advances in the construction of fluorescent lamps have increased their life dramatically. In fact, economic studies of tradeoffs between fluorescent lamp replacement and electrical costs have shown that anytime a room is vacated for more than a few minutes, the fluorescent lights should be turned off. Of course, the study doesn't consider all the RFI the buggers can cause, which may mean that you don't want fluorescent lights in your hamshack in the first place!

Wrapping It Up

This month we've examined the shareware concept of software distribution, and we focused on one excellent example of amateur radio shareware, Shel Shallon's MINIPROP 2.0. We also briefly described some of the antenna products offered by NCG, and we discussed one of amateur radio's newest frontiers, lightwave communications, honing in on Steve Noll, WA6EJO's book, *Amateur Lightwave Communications*. We also brought out the results of an interesting study of fluorescent lamp usage.

As an aside, the following was overheard: "Don't get too nostalgic about anything, because it just might come back!"

Next time more Antennas and Accessories topics of current interest. See you then.

73, Karl, W8FX



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- ZOOM 1
- SAT
- OBS
- EPOCH
- ASTRO
- MOVE
- HELP
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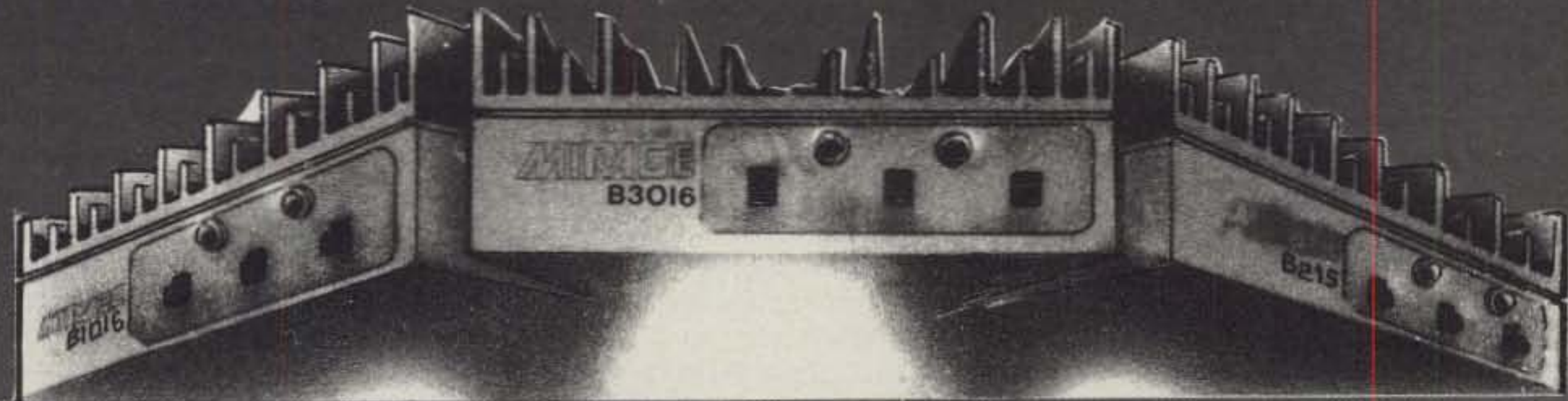
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A LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND US

Super Operating With Today's Hi-Tech Rigs

Turning a high contest score or contacting 100 countries in pacesetting time reflects a perfect blend of operating techniques and top-notch equipment. This month's column investigates the ingredients of that combination in a plain-language manner. My own HF station, recently upgraded with a new Cushcraft A-3 Tribander, deluxe ICOM IC-761 transceiver, and hand-made German keyer paddle serves as an easily recognized reference. Using this barefoot setup, antenna at 35 feet, and strictly average QTH, I worked 102 countries in 1½ days. You might do even better. —K4TWJ

A brief front-panel comparison between HF transceivers of the 1960s and the 1980s yields proof of modern technology's phenomenal advancements. Mechanical bandswitches have given way to direct frequency-entering keypads, analog dials have been replaced with digital readouts, and final-amplifier loading controls have become virtually extinct. Today's transceivers include a variety of special features and controls that were basically nonexistent during the era of vacuum-tube rigs. Heading the list of super attractions are dual digital VFOs, multiple memories, full CW break-in, and single-button split-frequency operation. The overall combination is truly fantastic! That vast array of operating flexibilities, however, raises some interesting questions regarding their use. Are we attracted to new rigs mainly because of their front-panel glitter, or do we really use their special frills advantageously? Are memories used as dynamic operating aids or merely as a glorified band-switch? Do we utilize full CW break-in and dual VFOs, or are we primarily adapted to single VFO SSB operations? Interesting thoughts, eh?

Two Styles of QSOs

Generally speaking, two categories or styles of operating are popular on today's HF bands—the casual and friendly QSO and the brief DXing or contest-type exchange of basic information. I don't encourage exclusive use of either method.

Eastwood Village No. 1201 So. Rt. 11,
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Author K4TWJ with high-tech operating technique well in hand(s). Both paddles are wired to same transceiver for mixed right/left-hand use as discussed in text. (Photo by Joe Veras, N4QB.)

Indeed, alternating the two styles keeps amateur radio life fresh and exciting. Since most of us are familiar with "conversational QSOs," let's thus concentrate on "rapid-fire DXing" or "getting maximum returns for every minute on the air."

Contacting 100 countries during any weekend of reasonably good propagation is both challenging and a great way to prove a new rig's performance. Working "all this" or "all that" within a similar time frame is less attractive because there are always a few "elusive ones" that only sporadically get on the air.

Briefly scanning a world map reveals 40 "often heard and easy to contact" countries in Europe, 20 in Central America and the Caribbean, 12 in Africa, 12 in South America, and 12 in Oceania. That tallies to 96 "common DX countries," and adding at least 4 "semi rare" ones will be unavoidable during such an operating stint (see fig. 1). The keynote to success centers around "multiplying air time" when the bands are open and jumping with action. During a 2 hour opening to Europe, we could use the "tune, wait, call, wait" procedure and contact 10 to 12 countries. Only one fourth of our time is actually spent communicating, and we miss other DX calling CQ (without

answers) while we're waiting or in a semi-QSO state. If we utilize communicating time for simultaneously tuning and waiting for additional DX stations, however, we can jump directly from (between?) QSO to QSO and increase our contact ratio three or four to one. That's 30 to 40 countries in less than 2 hours!

Super operating begins with recognizing your setup's advantages and limitations. Plot your beam's SWR on CW and SSB portions of all bands and all directions, and then memorize times when your antenna tuner is needed. If you use a manual tuner, mark its controls settings by band (20 CW, 10 SSB, etc.) for later "dial and go" convenience. *Mentally segment your transceiver's memories for maximum flexibility.* Memories 1 through 8 can be allocated for "favorite frequency call-up," memories 9 through 20 used for continuously storing/recalling DX QSOs on one band, and additional memories used for other bands. Continuously work between VFOs and memories until their use is second nature. Finally, learn preferred IF-Shift/Passband-Tuning settings for various modes and filters. When everything blends into one smooth overall motion, you're beginning to realize maximum performance from your rig.

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FG	HI	VP2	8P6
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JA	KJ7	KC6	ZL
CN	TU	ZR3	9Q5
EA	TR	5N2	9G1
EL	ZS6	6W8	9L1
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Fig. 1—One-hundred "often heard and easy to contact" countries categorized according to beam directions and band openings.

Stick with me and you'll be operating your transceiver like a nimble sports car in a slalom race.

Starting Easy

While super operating ideas can be applied to SSB activities, CW is definitely the preferred mode. A greater number and variety of countries operate CW, U.S. QRM is less than on SSB, and *full break-in lets you listen between characters*. I'll thus outline CW methods and let aural diehards relate them to SSB.

As an easy beginning, tune your transceiver's RIT and monitor other band activities while you're calling CQ. Modern RIT circuits cover a 10 kHz spread, and they can be continuously tuned without changing your transmit frequency. Also use *fast AGC*. Next, acquire the knack of talking to one person and listening to another simultaneously. It's not difficult. When you can copy a DX station's call and "basic info" while using full QSK and transmitting to another (different frequency) DX station, you've reached the first plateau. When you can comfortably and naturally conclude that QSO, switch on your rig's XIT, and immediately call the second DX station (or manipulate your T/R times and RIT/XIT so you can call or reply to one station while listening to the other), you've reached a significant second plateau. Subsequent steps involve copying calls backwards (it's easier when you're transmitting to another station) and keying with one hand while oper-

ating the rig and logging with the other hand. Now that's really living!

Moving Ahead

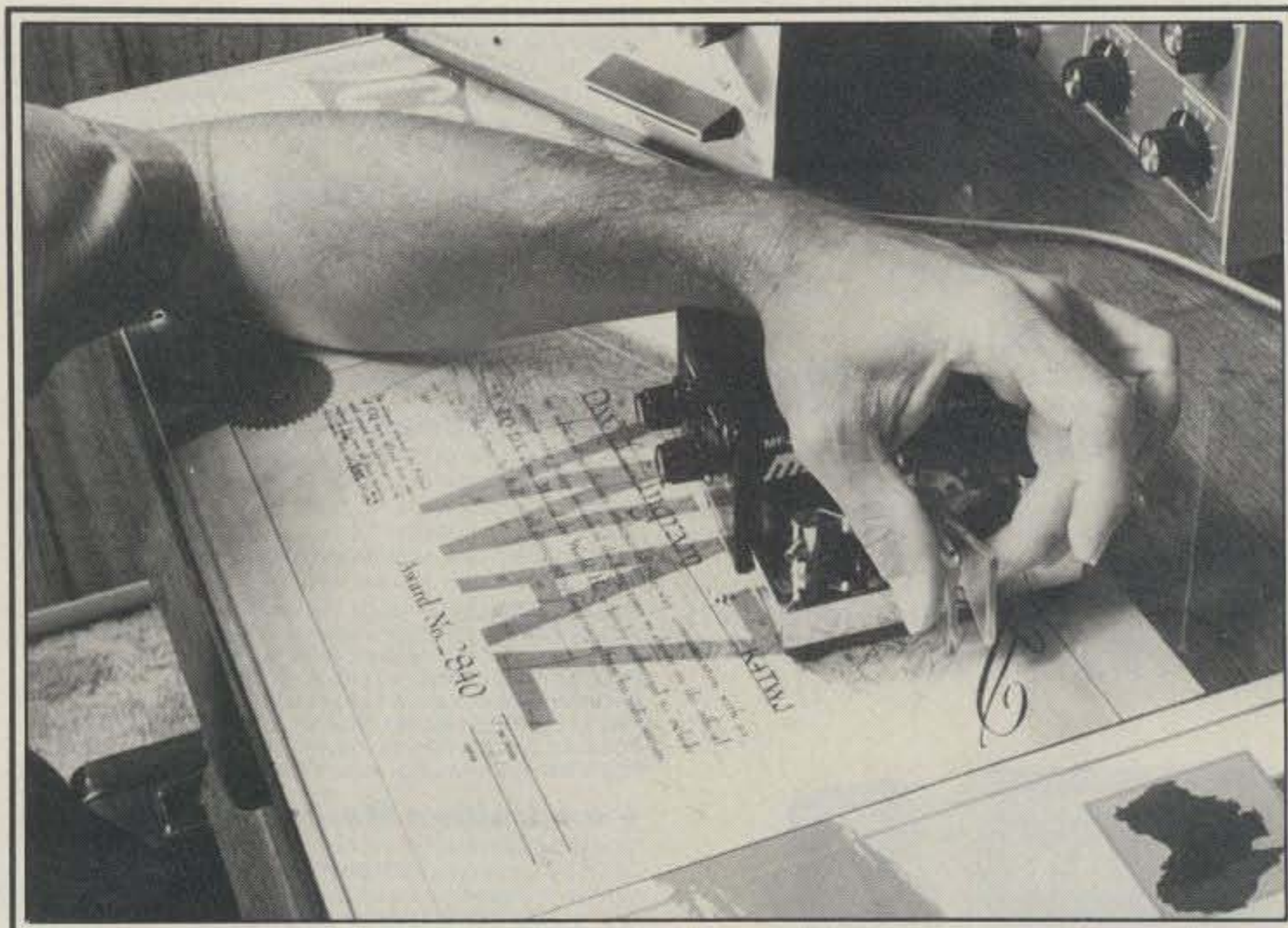
After you've mastered the knack of working two overlapping or simultaneous QSOs on different frequencies, your rig's dual VFOs can be called into action. As a working example, let's say you're beginning a 20 meter stint and VFO A is set on 14,000 kHz. Press "A=B" and both VFOs are synchronized on 14,000 kHz. Tuning upward reveals an LA5 in QSO on 14,003 kHz. Copy down his call, press "A=B," and continue tuning. A GM4 is next spotted in QSO on 14,008 kHz. Write down his call and then switch to VFO B (you left it on 14,003, the LA5). You can now alternate between the two until one signs clear, or continue DXing with your RIT and XIT. After the LA5 signs, you call him, listen only for your call's return, then switch to VFO A and check the GM4's status during the "de—," etc. There's no rush (yet); you're mainly listening to RST, name, and QTH. You can listen to the GM4 or use your RIT to "line up" a third (or fourth!) DX station 50 percent of that time. It's simply a matter of button pushing with one hand and logging calls and frequencies with the other hand.

Naturally, the GM4 (or another RIT-spotted DX station) will be available for QSO before you sign with the LA5. The solution? Press your transceiver's "SPLIT VFO" button and call the GM4 while listening to the LA5 (remember that full break-in lets you receive any time your key isn't down). The rig's "A/B" VFO button is then used to alternate between QSOs. Just watch your SPLIT transmit frequency and "who's where."

After you return to working a single QSO, the freed VFO can be used for additional DXing. Remember to tune only when the key is up, however, or you'll shift your transmitting frequency. Write down calls and exact frequencies until you have this down pat. You'll soon spot another DX station, and the "simultaneous QSO" cycle repeats.

If your transceiver includes *independently tunable and reprogrammable memories* (like ICOM's), you're set for even more fun. This capability is checked as follows. Store 14,010 kHz in memory 10, and then recall memory 10. Tune it to 14,015 kHz, and then press its "WRITE" button and tune onto 14,025 kHz. Next press recall the memory's stored information. The frequency readout should return to 14,015 kHz. Many Kenwood transceivers don't include this capability. You'll thus be confined to programming them from the VFO, using them for fixed frequency operations, and then reloading them "on the fly."

"All memory" operating or mixing memory and VFO operations can yield *three or even four(!) simultaneous QSOs*. Tune one memory to a DX station, store it, switch to the next memory, store another DX station, and keep rolling—even changing bands (broadbanded tribanders and automatic antenna tuners are great here). You'll now be using VFO A, B, SPLIT VFOs, and switching between memories. Slack QSO times are being used advantageously, transmitting to one station while listening to one or two others. You're moving between QSOs rather than merely waiting in a single line and munching snacks. After 30 minutes of this "super operating," scan the band



The easy way to operate a right-hand-wired paddle with your left hand. Curl wrist around keyer and use its top as a support. (Photo by Joe Veras, N4QB.)

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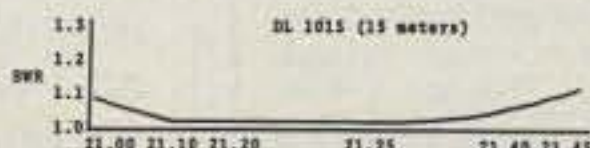
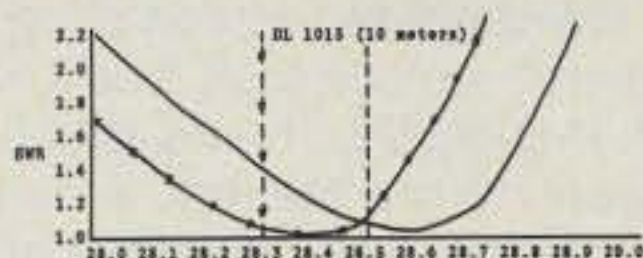
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and notice you've worked most of the DX while others are still tied up in waits. That's the time to swap bands and really charge ahead! Return to the previous band a couple of hours later, and shifted propagation will present a new variety of DX. Life just doesn't get any better than this, gang!

Do I sense some readers rapping about crossed arms or jumbled hands? No problem! Modern iambic keyers and smooth-handling paddles are the answer. *Parallel-wire two paddles and place one on each side of your transceiver.* Operate one with your left hand while logging with your right hand, and then swap in a word's middle and operate the rig with your left hand.

Remember how "lefties" wrote in high school with their hand curled over a paper's top? It also works great on right-hand-wired keyers! I prefer the "flat top" style keyer, as it provides a comfortable wrist position. An easy way to master left-

hand keying is starting at a very high speed and then slowing down after you get the feel. Let the keyer do the work of completing dots and dashes for you. Trust me. Operating a right-handed keyer with your left hand is easier than using a straight key. Would this young old-timer lead you astray? I'm having a ball working two and three countries simultaneously, and I want you to also enjoy the fun!

It's All Relative

Super operating techniques tend to generate an endless number of "oranges versus apples" questions, so I've developed a similarly confusing group of answers. Basically, I've found that a deluxe barefoot transceiver with full CW break-in and a good tribander are equivalent to the same setup with a 500 watt amplifier but without full break-in. A kilowatt amplifier (no QSK) increases that advantage 5 dB, but an only fair transceiver

or mediocre tribander lowers the factor 3 dB. Securing a QSK KW amplifier deflates your pocketbook 6 to 8 dB, but purchasing a choice QTH demolishes that purse.

If your tribander hasn't been refurbished in 8 years, subtract 2 dB. If your coax is over seven years old, subtract another dB. If you're an SSB diehard, subtract 8 dB. It all equates . . . really!

Conclusion

Modern hi-tech transceivers and super operating techniques truly open a completely new dimension to amateur radio enjoyment. They're great! The ideas highlighted in this article are also good "starting points" for unlimited future expansion.

Now follow these thoughts closely, gang. Computer control of a transceiver's VFOs and memories are logical starting points. Another computer, interfaced and programmed to function as an "intelligent" CW terminal, is the second step. A clever computer enthusiast could extend the "second computer's" capabilities to self-monitor received Morse, examine text, and shift operator-designated (DX) calls into a transmit message buffer. Add a few timing loops, information-evaluating subroutines, etc., and we have a *complete robot operator*. The two computer systems could then be interfaced, allowing the full setup to tune the band(s), call CQ, work DX stations, log them in memory, study daily success, and develop its own optimized operating patterns. Assuming we then add system timers, remote control, and full upload/download routines plus solar power and self-extending antenna system, we have a *"robotic DXpeditioner."* We only need a Cap'n Mike Windjammer traveler to set the package ashore on Fernando de Noronha, Tokelau, or Manihiki: *Our own home-controlled DXpedition.* Fantasyland? No way! Seventy years ago we were using spark coil transmitters and galena detector receivers. Today there are no limits!

The techniques described in this article were proven in my own recently upgraded station. It consists of an IC-761 (what a gem!) and Cushcraft A-3 tribander. A Hy-Gain BN-86 balun and 75 feet of unbroken 9913 coax connect the two items. My KW amplifier wasn't used because it doesn't include QSK. The IC-761 is very user friendly. Two hours after turn-on I was working two stations simultaneously. At one point a VK called out of curiosity because he heard me working two QSOs at once. He went bonkers when I explained that while working him, I was also signing with another station 10 kHz lower. Stay alert to those lulls during your QSOs, gang. Your contact may be working another station while you're doodling on a copy pad. What a great life!

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INFO ON AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING

VECs To Revise Written Tests Every Three Years

More than 42,000 applicants were administered nearly 62,000 test elements in the VEC system last year. If present projections hold up, VEs will administer over 75,000 amateur radio operator examinations during 1987 to some 48,000 applicants for upgraded amateur radio licenses at over 4,300 test sessions. In addition, about 28,000 new applicants will enter amateur radio for the first time via the Novice route. All examinations are now developed and implemented by collective VEC agreement. The amateur volunteer testing system has gotten to be a massive undertaking indeed!

There are actually two volunteer testing programs. One for beginners—Novices—and another (called the VEC System) for the Technician through Extra class levels. It takes two volunteer examiners to administer the Novice requirements. Beginners must pass the Element 2 (theory) and Element 1A (the 5 wpm code test).

The higher class examinations are more formal and require three examiners who must be approved by a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. VECs previously acted solely as the administrative link between the FCC and the VE team. They now have more important duties. It is the VEC that *completely* develops and implements amateur radio testing. Except for oversight authority, the FCC is now out of the amateur radio testing business.

VECs attending the third annual Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators held in Atlanta during July voted to overhaul each of the various written examination question pools on a three year cycle. Only one written element will be worked on at a time. Question changes necessitated by FCC rule changes will be revised at once. Up until this year the FCC handled all maintenance of the question pools. The various written examinations were revised annually by the FCC. The VECs and license preparation material publishers in attendance at the conference, however, felt that this was too often.

Five written amateur radio examinations are designed from question pools ranging from 286 to 507 questions. There are over ten times as many questions in a specific pool as there will be questions in

any one test. The revision process will consist of looking at the test outline (syllabus) and making any necessary adjustments to reflect current amateur regulations, operation, and technology. Then individual questions will be deleted, added, or modified as necessary.

A Question Pool Committee which consists of three VEC officials (Jim Clary, WB9IHH, Chairman; Ray Adams, N4BAQ; and R.C. Smith, W65RZA) was appointed to work out a schedule for the various activities. A program will be developed to solicit from the amateur community and to get concurrence from the other VECs prior to adoption and implementation of the new pool. We hope to publish this schedule in our next Ticket Talk column. Table I lists the various test elements and the number of questions currently in each pool.

This means that the license preparation material currently in the marketplace will be accurate—at least for another year. It will take at least that long for the VECs to go through the first revision process. The Extra class examination is anticipated to be the first examination revised by the VECs.

The FCC's Johnny Johnston, W3BE, Chief of the Personal Radio Branch, and Ralph Haller, N4RH, Deputy Chief of the Private Radio Bureau, were both in attendance at the VEC Conference and represented the FCC's Washington office.

The VECs also agreed to file a petition requesting that the Morse code testing rules revert back to the previous wording which stated that telegraphy tests *may* and not necessarily *shall* contain all required alphabet letters, numerals, and

certain punctuation and operating procedure signs. The VECs will also ask that the 5 minute code test rules in §Part 97.29(c) be amended to read a 5 minute *minimum*.

Morse Code Testing By Volunteers

We recently got a letter from David Mack, WA1TON, a long-time Tech class amateur from Nashua, New Hampshire. He writes, "I heard you have a sure-fire way to upgrade the CW portion of the FCC exam. I've had a code hang-up for years ... can't seem to get up to the 13-15 wpm level that I need to get out of the Technician class."

No, Dave, we don't have any *sure-fire* way to upgrade, but our code test preparation tapes are in the same format as our code test examinations, although the copy is different. We also allow our VE examiners more code testing latitude than most other VEC organizations.

Since we get more mail on Morse code testing than on any other single subject, let's cover this in detail this month. Morse code proficiency is an international requirement for Amateur Radio Service operation. As amateurs we get involved in all sorts of local, state, federal, and international law. Everyone seems to be telling us what we can and can't do, where we should do it, what we need to know.

Sending Morse code texts by hand and receiving by ear are an international prerequisite for participation in any nation's amateur service. This is very clear in Article 32, Section I §3.1, of the International Radio Regulations (IRR). This same regulation further states that any nation

Examination Sub-Element	Number of Questions to Select from each Sub-element				
	Element: 2 Novice	3A Tech.	3B General	4A Advanced	4B Extra
A Rules & Regulations	9	5	4	6	8
B Operating Procedures	2	3	3	2	2
C Radio Wave Propagation	2	3	3	2	1
D Amateur Radio Practice	4	4	5	4	3
E Electrical Principles	4	2	2	10	7
F Circuit Components	2	2	1	6	5
G Practical Circuits	2	1	1	10	6
H Signals & Emissions	2	2	2	6	3
I Antennas & Feedlines	3	3	4	5	5
Total Test Questions	30	25	25	50	40
Total Pool Questions (1,840)	302	288	286	507	457

Table I—Breakdown of amateur radio operator question pools.

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

"may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making exclusive use of frequencies above 30 MHz." Although not an ITU requirement for VHF and higher operation, our FCC requires code knowledge for amateur band operation on any frequency. Efforts to change this have been defeated in the past.

Section 1 §3.2 states that any nation "shall take measures that they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station." Thus, it is the radio regulatory agency of each country that decides what the code guidelines should be.

There are no international rules that require particular code-speed proficiency. Theoretically, recognizing the characters that are sent to you at any speed can legally qualify you to be an Extra class amateur radio operator as far as the international regulations are concerned.

There is also another IRR that says that any nation can license any type of radio operation as long as it does not cause interference to authorized services. Japan authorizes HF amateur operation without Morse proficiency based on this international legal loophole. Perhaps some countries (such as Costa Rica) that don't require code knowledge for any amateur frequency get around the international law the same way.

Our own FCC also does a little rule bending of its own. Our amateurs are no longer required to send the code by hand, since the Commission has determined that if you can receive, it has been their experience you can also send. Therefore, code sending by hand is not really a requirement, although a particular VE team may require it if they wish to.

The rules covering U.S. amateur code proficiency are very broad and are covered in §Part 97.29(c). A code element is passed if the applicant proves that he/she can receive International Morse code information at not less than the prescribed speed with five characters constituting a word. Punctuation and numerals count as two characters. The ARRL's VEC program bends the rules to allow the procedural signals to count as two characters. There is really no reason why they shouldn't either, except the rules don't provide for it.

§Part 97.21(a) states that the specified speeds are 5 words per minute for Novice, 13 for General, and 20 for Extra class. Further specified is that the code exam must contain all letters of the alphabet, numerals 0-9, period, comma, question mark, and operating procedure signs, AR, SK, BT, and DN.

It is the sole responsibility of the volunteer examiner to make the determination on whether the applicant passes the code test (4Part 97.29[a]). Since there are no other rules concerning Morse code tests, the VE is given very wide latitude in

Morse code test design, administration, and grading.

Until 1978, when the FCC was giving the tests, they determined that if you could copy for 1 minute solid out of 5 minutes of copy, then you were proficient. They didn't ask questions or even let you correct your paper after the code examination transmission stopped. In 1978 the FCC started giving multiple-choice code exams. It was later left to the discretion of the volunteer examining program as to how code examinations would be conducted and graded. Code had to be transmitted for 5 minutes, but various answer format methods—some very creative—were allowed.

Most teams started off with the same code grading system that the FCC first used—i.e., 1 minute solid copy. The League allowed code candidates to write in the answers to seven out of ten questions if they missed copying the correct number of characters in a row. Other VEC programs authorized multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank answer formats. All were legal.

While the ARRL-VEC only allows seven out of ten questions correctly answered without misspelling or 1 minute solid copy, our VEC program allows the VE team to make the decision as to which answer format they wish to use.

We also allow them to decide on whether they want to use the *Paris* or *Farnsworth* code timing standard. Frankly, we prefer the Farnsworth standard where code characters are sent faster—even at 20 words per minute—but the spaces are lengthened to yield the appropriate net speed.

If you learn the code initially at 20 wpm, you won't have a code plateau as you progress from one speed level to another. This is always the major problem in learning the code. The sound pattern simply doesn't change using Farnsworth timing. The FCC does not care what timing standard is used. If Farnsworth timing helps applicants to learn the code faster and pass tests easier, I say let's use it.

The code tapes that we provide to our VEs are exclusively Farnsworth tapes. In this day of easy microcomputer code test generation, most of our VE teams make their own code test tapes. We don't care what timing system they use as long as the speed yield is correct. Our VE manual simply states that any answer-format Morse code test may be administered.

Perhaps the most controversial code test format seems to be the fill-in-the-blank answer format. This consists of a paragraph of text being provided to the candidate prior to the test with ten words missing. The applicant must fill in seven out of the ten missing words correctly spelled. Applicants have the advantage of being able to follow the code transmission and therefore know when the missing words are coming up. On the other

hand, they have to be able to recognize what they are following and then correctly put down the missing word. We checked this with the FCC's Johnny Johnston before allowing it. He said it was a legal code test format.

From The Mailbag

Is it necessary to bring your original amateur operator license to a testing session? A good question, and one that has caused some confusion and upset applicants. There is no §Part 97 rule that requires an applicant to bring his original license with him to an upgrade testing session. Most applicants bring a photocopy with them to turn over to the VE team. Original licenses can't be returned to the applicant. A statement on the Application FCC Form 610 instructions does, however, contain the statement, to:

"Bring with you to the examination session and show to the examiners,

- A. The original document of your current FCC amateur radio license (if you hold one):"

We have had cases in which VE teams, sticking to the letter of the law, have refused to examine applicants who have not brought their original licenses with them for their inspection.

While FCC examiners only required photocopies of licenses, it is hard to fault VE teams for following instructions on government forms. Check with the VE team before you go to the test session to determine if they do indeed want to see your original amateur license—or if a photocopy, which you can turn over to them, will do.

What are the requirements for being a Volunteer Examiner? There are actually two different volunteer amateur radio testing systems—one is the older Novice program, another is for Technician and higher level upgrading. Most VE prerequisites apply to both programs. However:

1. You must be 18 years of age; and
2. not be related to the candidate, by blood or marriage.
3. VEs must not be *directly* engaged in the amateur radio equipment or license preparation business.
4. VEs must never have had their amateur operator or station license revoked or suspended.
5. Volunteer examiners may not be compensated for their services. VEs for the Technician level and higher may be reimbursed expenses, however.
6. Two volunteer examiners are required to conduct a Novice examination.
7. Three accredited (approved by a VE coordinator) volunteer examiners conduct Technician and higher examinations.
8. As a general rule, VE teams for the Novice examination operate pretty much on their own, while VE teams for the higher levels follow VEC developed testing programs.

9. VEs who participate in an examination by fraudulent means are subject to amateur license revocation.

10. Novice applicants may be tested by General class and higher level VEs. Technician class examinations require VEC accredited Advanced or Extra class level examiners. General, Advanced, and Extra class applicants must be tested by Extra class examiners. (The W5YI-VEC program only utilizes Extra Class VEs for Technician and higher testing.)

11. The FCC reserves the right to readminister any examination given by a VE team.

Our club wants to conduct periodic amateur examinations. How do we get set up? We assume that you want to administer all examinations from Novice through Extra class. There are more than 20 testing coordinators, but only 3 are FCC approved to arrange examination sessions in all areas. These are the ARRL-VEC (225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111), DeVry Amateur Radio Society (3300 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago, IL 60618), and our VE program, W5YI-VEC (P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207). These three organizations account for nearly 80% of all amateur testing. Write for some VE applications and tell them you want to hold amateur radio testing sessions. You will be sent all of the details. Remember that it takes a team of three volunteer examiners to conduct all examinations.

Why doesn't the FCC have the current FCC Application Form 610? The newer version Form 610 is only available from the VECs. The FCC can't print newer Application for Amateur Radio Station and/or Operator License forms until they exhaust their inventory of the July 1985 version. We understand that they have tens of thousands of these left, so it will be some time before the government prints the newer version. VECs were sent a single draft copy of the newer Form 610 and we had to have them printed for our own use at our expense. The older form does not provide for two Novice volunteer examiners, or for the split of the Tech/General Element 3 into 3A (Technician) and 3B (General). They work fine for license renewals and other routine modifications, however. You can get a few of the newer Form 610s at no cost from the ARRL-VEC or W5YI-VEC for an SASE if you want to conduct a Novice examination.

When do you think I will be able to select an amateur call sign of my choice? PRB-3, the FCC proceeding that is looking into specific amateur call sign assignment by the private sector, is presently under active consideration by the Commission. The comments closed on July 31st—reply comments, August 31st. My guess is that the Private Radio Bureau staff will start working on this right after the FCC reconvenes after their August recess. You can probably expect to see something from the FCC on this around Christmas. The FCC is finding out that there are several

groups interested in assigning amateur radio call signs of choice. Several very interesting proposals were submitted to them, and it looks like a lead-pipe cinch that you will be able to select your own call sign next year.

How do I know which questions to ask a Novice applicant? The FCC no longer publishes the PR-1035A bulletin which previously listed the approved Novice Element 2 questions. All Novice questions are now developed by the collective efforts of all VECs. We have just published a new fully illustrated *Novice Voice Class* textbook

that tells an applicant everything he ever wanted to know about how to become an amateur radio operator, including all 302 approved Novice questions, multiple choices, answers, and an explanation why the answer is right. It's completely up to date and covers all of the new Novice Enhancement privileges just adopted this year. It's now easier than ever to become a radio amateur. In addition, a chapter advises the volunteer examiner how to conduct the test session. Cost is \$4.95 plus \$1.25 postage from: W5YI-VEC, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207.



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THE ART OF VERY LOW POWER OPERATING

QRP Clubs and Activities

In the previous QRP column I gave you some idea about the challenge involved in QRP operation and tried to make the point that now is as good a time as any to give QRP a try, sunspot cycle minimum or not. The QRP philosophy predicates using propagation conditions, whatever they are, to the QRPer's best advantage by adjusting operating strategy and goals appropriately. This month I'd like to describe the range of activities and awards which various organizations are sponsoring for QRP operators. Most of these involve the on-the-air efforts of the individual QRP operator. That's what hamming is all about! But there are exceptions to this general rule. Let's start off with the exceptions because these definitely add the "icing" to the "cake."

The opportunities for getting together and putting a face to the call of another QRPer are rarer than in most other types of hamming. A given city with a decent population level is very likely to have a handful of amateurs for many of the interest areas of hamming, and a local club meeting will usually produce a couple of DXers, several contesters, some county-hunters, and a bunch who are pursuing the latest fad, like packet radio. At best, there might be one QRPer (if the city is lucky), and he's usually somewhat suspect in regard to his grasp on reality! After all, setting a goal such as working all states or 100 countries requires going "all out," and this guy is trying it with a dinky 5 watt rig and nondescript antenna. That smacks of loose wires in the cranial computer! The lucky QRPer live in an area where several can get together for the big event of the year—the ARRL Field Day. This is a big event, because the QRP ARCI and Milliwatt Books sponsor an awards program for QRPer's who accept the challenge of operating this major contest with QRP. A handsome plaque is awarded to the highest scoring club group, and that enhances the attraction of forming a group.

The QRP gang seems divided down the middle regarding preferences for Field Day. About half prefer to "go it alone," while the others find that operating with other QRPer's is the greatest. For example, Jim Stevens, KK7C, and Bob Joiner, WB7BIV, operated solo FDs until business trips put them at the same location during the 1985 FD bash. Naturally, they joined ranks. They enjoyed it so much that in 1986 WB7BIV drove 800 miles from Oregon to meet up with KK7C at the shores of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. They set up on an island on the Great Salt Lake, "the best ground plane in the continental U.S." as Jim put it, and racked up 236 QSOs in snagging the One-Watt FD Trophy.

In another case Randy, KA9HAO/7, relocated in 1985, moving from the nefarious Harper Air Hawks (the HAH!) to Arizona. His

first solo outing was so boring that he closed up shop after a while. A canvas of the area for fellow QRPer's had negative results, and being an energetic, optimistic type, Randy started from scratch by finding several individuals who were interested in ham radio, helping them get their licenses, and finally heading out for FD 1986 with a new QRP club consisting of KA7YIX, KA7YHC, KA7YHB, KA7YGY, and KA7YGZ! The payoff: "Our objective was to have fun, and we certainly did." There must be something to this business of doing FD as part of a QRP club, although I've never had the opportunity!

For my money, I'll take another kind of QRP gathering—the annual QRP bash at the Dayton Hamvention or one of Chris Page, G4BUE's summer "picnics" in the U.K. The main activity at these QRP events is talking QRP with QRPer's. There's nothing to compare these experiences with! Maybe I feel that way because I've been around the QRP world for a long time.

Back in 1968 or so when I first discovered that I wasn't the only QRPer in the whole wide world, I experienced a real "high" in just finding out about the others, working them on the air, and corresponding with them. Once I had The Milliwatt going, the ranks of known QRPer's grew steadily. Then I started writing this column and found even more QRPer's. It wasn't until 1974 that I began doing a QRP Forum at the Dayton Hamvention, and that was my first opportunity to actually meet real live QRPer's. That somehow made all of this QRP business much more personal. For the remainder of the 1970s, though, we just had the QRP Forum gathering, and then the gang drifted off into the fleamarket and then back to the scattered hotels. That was kind of a waste. But once Thom Davis, K8IF, then-president of the QRP ARCI, succeeded in changing the previously 100 watt club into a bonafide 5 watt QRP organization in 1980, the club took over organizing QRP for Dayton, and it's been getting better ever since.

In 1980 K8IF managed to locate several rooms at the Ramada and scheduled a hospitality suite for one evening as a gathering place for QRPer's. Despite poor publicity quite a few of the gang showed up. I can't really comment, since I got there a bit late at around 0230 local time. Two days of rainy weather slowed down my trip from South Dakota on my trusty Honda 550 so that I missed the gathering. Despite the fatigue and late hour, I enjoyed chatting with the core group consisting of K8IF; Red, K5VOL/9 (leader of the infamous HAH!); Brice Anderson, W9PNE, a QRP veteran reaching back to the 1920s and renowned for his milliwatt achievements; and a couple of other QRPer's.

The Dayton QRP Hamfest really took a quantum leap beginning in 1985, largely through the efforts of indefatigable Jim Fitton, W1FMR, who undertook the hopeless task of finding a block of rooms in February and or-

ganizing room sign-ups. By February the thousands of available rooms in the Dayton area are usually booked up, and the majority of flights into Dayton are full as well. But Jim was driven by the obsession: "Wouldn't it be fantastic to have rooms near each other in the same location?" Somehow W1FMR managed to sweet-talk "an Angel" on the Hamvention Committee into finding a block of 10 rooms, although these were located about 10 miles south of Dayton and about an hour away from Hara Arena on the shuttle buses. Nonetheless, it was fantastic!

Naturally, the first order of business was stringing an antenna, one of which turned out to be a rather miserable 33 foot wire on the shrubs hooked up to Mike Michaels, W3TS's WW II German spy transceiver. A sloping dipole around the corner was hooked to Jim Stevens, KK7C's HW-8. I never did find out how many QSOs resulted, but you can't put a QRPer in a motel without some kind of rig! Again, I missed a lot of it. United out of Sioux Falls is never on time, except when I cut it really close in making the Dayton flight, which, of course, I missed by 10 minutes.

Guests of honor at the hospitality suite and QRP Forum were Chris Page, G4BUE, and Colin Turner, G3VTT. Both stole the show during the usual high point of the suite when homebrew gear is discussed. They had brought along several examples of the kind of rig that the G-QRP Club features in its quarterly *SPRAT*—cubic-inch-size one- and two-stage transmitters. Colin proudly showed off his massive QRP transceiver built into three heavy cast aluminum chassis boxes which accounted for the rock-bound stability of the VFO. These guys in the U.K. take pride in producing beautifully crafted gear! Brice Anderson, W9PNE, the "Dean" of QRPer's, regaled the group with an account of his first solid-state QRP effort back in 1955 with a 40 meter crystal oscillator putting out 50 mw of RF! Mike Bryce, WB8VGE, added to the program by showing slides of his solar- and wind-powered system which was later written up in the *QRP Quarterly*. The group also included Les Shattuck, WB2IPX, President of the QRP-ARCI; Bill Harding, K4AHK, Treasurer; John, KN1H; Bob, KB2IM; Red, K5VOL/9; Joe, WA1WLU; Pete, WB9FLW; Andy, W8JRO; and others. The QRP booth signed up about 100 new members! The success of the 1985 approach set the stage for bigger and better QRP bashes in 1986 and 1987.

Again, up-front man W1FMR went to work, but this time he scored with a block of 20 rooms and hospitality suite at a motel in downtown Dayton. I had to do a Shakespeare Conference in Iowa the same weekend and only managed to get into Dayton late Saturday afternoon. I can only pass along what I heard about the previous two days. Apparently, the interest in QRP at the hospitality suite and the QRP ARCI booth took everyone by surprise.

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That was obvious from the euphoria that the gang exhibited. The story came out in excited bits and pieces. Everyone was rambling on about the traffic jam at the QRP ARCI booth—like the only hot-dog stand in the football stadium at half-time—two days running! No one had the slightest idea of how many new members had been signed up, but it was a crowd. I'd sent a small box of 20 books to offer at a special sign-up price to make joining the club more attractive, but the crew had forgotten them on Thursday and finally hauled them over on Friday and sold them all. Denny, K3TKS, member of the Board of Directors and QRP Net Manager, rambled on enthusiastically about booth activity and kept repeating that he could have sold 100 if he'd had them. I figure that he probably could have, since I watched him unload 9 copies in about an hour-and-a-half on Sunday afternoon when hardly anyone is around and only the lucky vendor rings up a sale.

From what everyone said, the QRP hospitality suite was packed Thursday and Friday evenings. It was pretty crowded on Saturday evening when I was there. A couple of fellas gave their versions of the "QRP Banquet" incident held Friday night. W1FMR had reserved something like 24 seats at a local restaurant, figuring that would allow some leeway for unplanned arrivals. Actually, a troop of about 32 QRPers walked out of the Belton Inn for the banquet! It must have been quite a sight—the biggest collection of live QRPers ever seen (in the entire history of the world) striding along Dayton streets. A veritable mass-movement! The details get kind of fuzzy about why they had to walk into and out of three restaurants before finding one that could accommodate the army. At one of these, however, British humor came to the fore in the guise of Chris, G4BUE, winner of DXCC QRPp, DXCC 200 QRPp, and DXCC Milliwatt trophies. Chris is a tall, lanky chap, and short guys like me have to catch him sitting somewhere to realize he's slightly balding. He's a soft-spoken fella and cracks a big smile when he laughs. He also makes his stabs at humor from behind his very sincere demeanor. So when Chris cracks a joke, it is typically subtle in classic British manner, and Americans usually have to think for a couple of milliseconds to realize they've been had again. At any rate, the QRP army was walking out of one of the intermediate restaurants when a waitress caught up with Chris, who was taking up the rear, and trying to determine the cause of the exodus of so many hungry "tips," she asked if anything was amiss. In his sincerest confidential tone Chris raised his eyebrows and answered, "What, haven't you heard?" and went merrily on his way, leaving the waitress in a fog of bafflement. Apparently, the army restrained its laughter until outside. Wish I'd been there!

Then there was the usual scramble to the fleamarket in search of bargain-priced HW-8's and Argonauts, which usually translates into "any HW-8 or Argonaut you find is a bargain, regardless of price." Leo Delany, KC5EV, knows the rules of the game, so he hauled in Tuesday evening after a torturous drive from Austin, Texas. Leo scooped up about the only HW-8 and Argo in the market on Wednesday and passed them along to a couple of late arrivals with very little in the way of mark-up for his efforts. This was the one area in which general disappointment was experienced by the QRP contingent. In fact, one of the standard topics of conversation at QRP gatherings is the "deal I got on an Argo at the—ham-

fest." Only Leo had a deal to talk about, and the Argo 509 was quite a deal at \$115! The exterior was messy, but when he and W1FMR opened it up, the guts were impeccable. So everyone was disappointed. When a QRPer goes to a fleamarket, he automatically runs through looking for an Argo or HW-8—not necessarily because he needs another one, but just so he can brag about finding one!

The hospitality suite on Saturday evening was crowded. Many well-known QRPers were there, as well as newcomers. It would be easier to list those who didn't make it, since over 40 QRPers showed up during the evening. The board of directors was just one short of an official quorum, so a live board meeting was held before banquet time with QRP ARCI President Les Shattuck, WB2IPX, presiding over board members Mike Bryce, WB8VGE, John Collins, KN1H, Jim Fitton, W1FMR, Danny Gingell, K3TKS, Chris Page, G4BUE, Fred Turpin, K6MDJ, Bill Harding, K4AHK, and Red Reynolds, K5VOL/9, and about a dozen other QRPers kibbitzing. Yours truly moved his chair up to the table to make up an unofficial quorum (actually, to be able to butt in with his two-cents worth whenever the spirit moved him!). We'll skip the business and get to the main event of the meeting.

Chris, G4BUE, had brought along a dozen or so kits of a one-transistor, cubic-inch rig featured in *SPRAT*, the quarterly of the G-QRPC, and the fellas snapped them up pronto. This "ONER" kit project is part of the program the G-QRPC sponsors in order to foster homebrewing among U.K. QRPers, and the club is quite successful, since a large majority of U.K. QRPers are homebrewers. During the board meeting someone raised the possibility of the QRP ARCI sponsoring such a rig. Then yours truly butted in with a favorite old idea—a contest with homebrew rigs. The idea took off, and we ended up with something that everyone reading this column should get excited about, since the resulting QRP ARCI rig project is finally a reality. The discussion led to specs for the design of the miniature rig: it was to be a simple two- or three-stage transmitter, VXO controlled, idiot proof, using readily available parts, and easily assembled in an evening. The design work was assigned to John Collins, KN1H, with Mike Michaels, W3TS, assisting, since both had produced reputable rig designs published in the *QRP Quarterly* previously. Pete, WB9FLW, offered 100 free PC boards to back up the project, although a number of the guys argued in favor of sticking to Wes Hayward, W7ZOI's widely-touted "ugly construction" approach.

The plan was to have the rig designed and ready for publication in the July issue of *QRP Quarterly* along with an announcement of the homebrew contest to be scheduled sometime around Christmas 1986. Enthusiasm is not the correct environment for project planning! As it turned out, the rig wasn't ready until the October 1986 issue of the *Quarterly*, and coordinated publication in this column of the rig and the contest announcement was impossible. At any rate, K6MDJ and W6SKQ put together 20 kits of the "Two-fer," the final design, for Dayton 1987 and sold them all before any went on the shelves of the QRP booth! At this time (June 1987) the "Two-fer" project group is searching around for the best deals on parts in the effort to produce kits at around \$15 (or less) each. The homebrew contest also is in the final planning stage, and an official announcement should have already appeared. We will try to

have an article on the "Two-fer" in the next issue of *CQ* (editor willing) as well as info on the homebrew operating contest. This will leave time for parts acquisitions and construction prior to the December contest date. It should be a lot of fun. For newcomers to QRP, here's an ideal way to get started in homebrewing, and for veterans, it's a chance to start over again and get some relief from the complicated rigs they build! More on this next month!

We had better get on to the main subject of this column—QRP activities and organizations. I got carried away talking about the "icing" on the QRP cake—any wonder, given the excitement of getting together with a multitude of QRPers in person? We'll have to forego notes about the 1987 QRP gala at Dayton, but from what I hear, it beat all the rest. Attendance at the QRP Forum was around 200 standing-room only. The G-QRPC contingent consisting of George Dobbs, G3RJV, Chris, G4BUE, Norm Field, G4LQF, Colin, G3VTT, and Pete, G3PDL, did a forum on QRP homebrewing that also was standing-room only. The Dayton folks recognized that QRP is "the thing" and gave the QRP ARCI a Saturday noon forum slot instead of the usual 0900 Sunday slot! Naturally, I missed the whole thing due to an infernal IV tube plugged into my arm. I sure would have liked to be there, wouldn't you?

QRP Clubs

The major QRP club in the U.S. is the **QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI)**, which was founded in 1961 by Harry Blomquist, K6JSS, as a 100 watt organization aimed at reducing QRM on the bands. As one writer recently put it, genuine 5 watt QRP-types "were a sub-culture of the QRP ARCI which few members took seriously" during the subsequent 18 years. But in 1979 President Thom Davis, K8IF, an avid QRPer himself, began the effort to transform the QRP ARCI into a bonafide 5 watt organization, and after much work and conflict, he succeeded in 1980. Since then the QRP ARCI activities and awards program has been based upon the 5 watt (10 watt PEP) RF output power standard. Club membership and activity has been growing ever since.

The center-piece of the club program is the *QRP Quarterly*, which has grown from a typed mimeo rag into a typeset professional publication of 20 (usually, but sometimes 40!) 8" x 11" pages under the guidance of a sequence of dedicated editors including William Dickerson, WA2JOC, Peter Spotts, N1ABS, Terry M. Gregg, KA5EXI, Fred Bonavita, W5QJM (formerly QRP Editor for *World Radio*, and Jim Stevens, KK7C. Each of these QRPers deserves praise for the continuing effort to make the *QQ* what it is today; it looks like *QST* without the ads and it's *all* about QRP.

Of course, any comment about the development of the *QQ* would be incomplete without commending the many contributions to "The Experimenter's Corner" by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, who has been writing about solid-state design theory and QRP construction since his first paper in *QST* way back in 1961! Wes has been a major force in QRP ever since. The board recently awarded him a handsome plaque for his "many and sustained contributions to low power communications"—a well-deserved award of appreciation. The usual *QQ* line includes Bob Brown, NM7M, who conducts a monthly propagation column which is an excellent introduction to propagation theory in the practical context of QRPing; Fred Turpin, K5MDJ, who packs a lot of material in-

U.S. QRP Club Activities

M-QRP-C CW QSO Party, 1500Z Jan. 10 to 1500Z Jan. 11
Winter Fireside SSB Sprint, Jan. 16, 0000-0400Z
Spring QSO Party, 1200Z April 18 to 2400Z April 19
Hootowl Sprint, May 30, 0200-0600Z
QRP (ARRL) FD, 1800Z June 27 to 2100Z June 28
Homebrew Sprint, July 11 2000-2400Z
Summer Daze Sprint SSB, Aug. 16. 2000-2400Z
Novice Sprint, August
Fall QSO Party, 1200Z Oct. 17 to 2400Z Oct. 18
Homebrew QSO Party, Dec. (to be arranged)
First Sundays, CW/SSB
Nets: See previous column
CW: 60 kHz up, except 40 up on 40
SSB: 15 kHz down

Other QRP Events*

AGCW-DL Winter CW QRP Test, Jan. 17-18
OK/G-QRPC Weekend, Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, 0800-2400Z daily
ARRL SSB DX Contest, Feb. 20-21
ARRL CW DX Contest, Mar. 7-8
CQ SSB WPX Contest, Mar. 27-28
CQ CW WPX Contest, May 29-30
World QRP Day—IARU, June 17
IARU Radiosport, July 11-12
AGCW-DL Summer CW QRP Test, July 18-19
G-QRPC Summer Ramble Week, August
Radiosport Championship, Oct. 3-4
CQ WW SSB DX Contest, Oct. 24-25
VK/ZL/Oceania QRP Test, Nov. 14-15
CQ WW CW DX Contest, Nov. 28-29
G-QRPC Winter Sports, Dec. 26 to Jan. 1

*check QRP Quarterly or CQ's "Contest Calendar" for details.

to his 3-4 page column detailing member activities and awards; Danny Gringel, K3TKS, who summarizes net activity; and construction articles, articles about operating techniques, and other QRP subjects round out each issue. The QRP ARCI membership fee of \$10 is repaid by a single issue of *QRP* reading as far as I am concerned!

The QRP ARCI sponsors quite a few operating activities. The 1987 dates/times are shown in the calendar listing. The annual scheduling of these events usually occurs on the same weekends. The QRP ARCI weekly QRP nets were described in the last column, which can be checked for meeting times. These provide

an excellent opportunity to meet fellow QRPers. Likewise, the first Sunday of the month meetings can usually produce quite a few contacts on the QRP calling frequencies. First Sundays are unstructured events and proceed at a leisurely pace. The objective is to work as many or as few other QRPers as you wish.

The major events are the **Fall and Spring QSO Parties** on CW, and the **QRP Field Day** during the annual ARRL Field Day event. The QSO Parties are actually contests for many of the gang, although quite a few jump in for a couple of hours just to work several QRPers. Scoring includes a power multiplier (4-5 watts = $\times 2$, 3-4 = $\times 4$, 2-3 = $\times 6$, 1-2 = $\times 8$, and under 1 watt =

$\times 10$; the same station may be worked on all bands to accumulate a sections multiplier; and battery power carries a $\times 1.5$ multiplier and solar power a $\times 2$ multiplier. This scoring system is a bit complex for my taste, but it is intended to reward extra efforts. Full details can be found in the *QRP Quarterly* and *CQ's* "Contest Calendar" column (usually two months in advance of the event). QRP Field Day is sponsored by Milliwatt Books (formerly *The Milliwatt*) and the QRP ARCI during the annual ARRL Field Day. A full report about this event is usually in *CQ* May and/or June issue.

Stations may enter in three categories: 1 watt, 5 watt, and club. The 1 watt and 5 watt categories are limited to a single transmitter and two operators maximum, while the club category is open-ended—no limit on transmitters and operators. The power multiplier is $\times 8$ in the 1 watt (and club if 1 watt RF output is used) category and $\times 4$ for powers above 1 watt. A bonus of 150 points is credited for full portable operation away from permanent antenna installations and AC mains along with a $\times 1.5$ multiplier for battery power. QRP FD is the "big event" on the QRP calendar and top-scorers are awarded a handsome trophy (1 and 5 watt) or plaque (club). Entrants in these three major events can qualify for an engraved Milliwatt Achievement Certificate by placing in the top five in the QSO Parties, or second in the 1 watt FD category.

The QRP ARCI also sponsors several other "minor" events intended to provide regular opportunities to work QRPers during a limited time frame. These include the "sprints" which usually occur during a 4-hour period. In addition, the club encourages members to participate in the events sponsored by other organizations including World QRP Federation affiliated QRP clubs, *CQ*, and the ARRL. Membership dues for the QRP ARCI is \$10 U.S. (check or money order) to Bill Harding, K4AHK, 10923 Carters Oak Way, Burke, VA 22015.

The **Michigan QRP Club** was founded by Ralph Burch, W8LCU, back in 1978 as a bonafide 5 watt QRP organization designed to facilitate personal interaction of QRPers living within a regional area. The concept has had excellent success, although the membership list includes many QRPers from "foreign parts," with 33 new sign-ups listed in the June 1987 *The Five Watter*, the club's quarterly. New membership dues are \$7.00 with \$5.00 renewal yearly, to: Michigan QRP Club, 5346 W.

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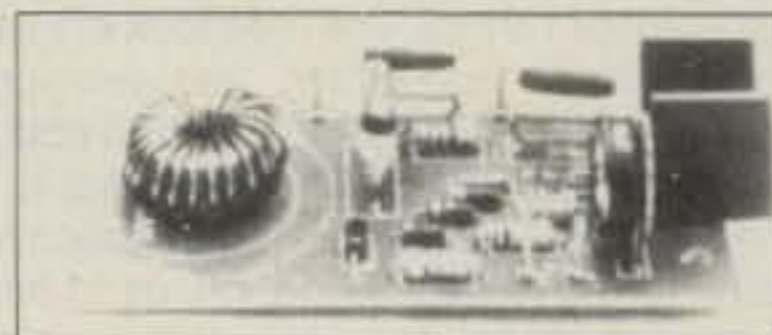
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Francis Rd., Clio, MI 48420. Membership includes a lifetime M-QRP-C number, an attractive multicolored cloth shoulder patch with the club logos, options to purchase club QSLs and pin-on name badges, and a subscription to *The Five Watter*. The quarterly has shown remarkable development during the editorship of Tom Root, WBBUJ. It runs about 20 typed pages (offset printing) with regular features by the president and the editor, net activity and first Saturday reports, and special reports on events such as the QRP gala at Dayton and the annual club meeting in Marshall attended by about 30 QRPers. Another popular feature is a biography of one member per issue in "The Ham Behind the Call."

Two new regular features include "M-QRP News at Large" covering happenings in the QRP world, and "M-QRP Club DX Reports," which I am sure will be quite popular with readers. For example, we learned in the June 1987 issue that Stan, AC8W, used a KLM tribander at 60 feet to snag goodies such as TJ1AO (Cameron), 5H3ZR (Tanzania), 9Q5KI (Zaire), SV1AEU (Greece), T77C (San Marina) on 20 CW plus a bunch of garden-variety DX. Larry, NU4B's HW-9 likewise snagged 9Q5KI, as well as D44BC (Cape Verde), 5T5XX (Mauritania), ZS6BCR (SW Africa), and HC8A. Several other items are included. If I'd have known about it, they could have included a few of my "goodies" such as 3D2DD (Fiji) and FO8JP (Samoa). Nonetheless, I'll be looking forward to this feature in future issues! The "meat" of each issue includes several articles such as "Using High Impedance Feed Lines" by Ralph Caryl, W8LHG, and "Simple Approximate DC Design of Common-Emitter Amplifier Stages" by C.F. Rockey, W9SCH, a former contributing editor of *The Milliwatt*. *The Five Watter* kind of reminds me of my old *National Journal of QRP*! Good job, WB8UUJ!

The club sponsors several types of activities. I noted details about the "First Saturday" meetings at the Regency Restaurant (SW corner of I-69 and Belsay Rd., Flint [Burton], MI, 1000 local time) in the previous column. The M-QRPC Net attracts a large number of check-ins on Tuesday evenings at 2100 EST or EDST (Wednesday, 0200Z or 0100Z) on 3535 kHz. An informal session usually occurs at 1900 EST/ESDT before the formal session begins. The major event sponsored by the M-QRPC is the annual CW QRP QSO Party scheduled in January. Three categories include 1 watt or less RF output, 1-5 watts, and over 5 watts. Multipliers include $\times 1.5$ for battery or natural power, and states/provinces/countries totals per band. Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring station in each section (s/p/c) in the QRP categories. Under consideration for 1988 are two new events. The WMA Contest will run throughout 1988 with the objective of working as many MI QRPC members as possible. The winner will receive a nice plaque, and certificates will be awarded to the top ten scorers. The club also is considering offering a QRP section and award in the annual Michigan QSO Party sponsored by the Oak Park ARC. Details are yet to be ironed out, but if successful, this event will take place in May 1988.

In addition to the events sponsored by the two U.S. QRP clubs, quite a few other QRP operating events are scheduled annually as seen in the accompanying calendar for 1987. Foreign QRP clubs sponsor several events in which U.S. QRPers participate, although not in great numbers. The Action Group CW in West Germany has long sponsored its winter and

summer QRP contests, which attract quite a few U.S. entrants. The G-QRPC, which we'll detail in the next column, sponsors the "Winter Sports Week" and "Summer Ramble Week," annually giving entrants a leisurely week to work QRPers. More recently the G-QRPC joined with the new OK-QRP Club in co-sponsoring a weekend contest in January. The YU QRP Club likewise is undertaking to sponsor an event. The fall contest by the VK C.W. QRP Club rounds out the club sponsored events.

CQ led the way in initiating a QRP section in its four major contests, and then the ARRL followed suit in its two DX contests. In each of these major DX contests QRPers compete with each other and not with the QRO boys, and receive recognition in their own "results" sections. Both the ARRL and CQ award certificates to high-scoring QRP stations in respective states/countries, and CQ awards handsome trophies to top scorers in its QRP sections. The results posted by QRP entrants are frequently quite impressive, even in the context of the big guns' scores, but many of us just get into the contests for the challenge and thrill and don't submit results. Perhaps we should! After all, the sponsoring organization goes through the trouble of putting together a contest, and the reward is in the amount of tangible activity which results. Let's try to submit results even if we've only worked 20 or 30 DX stations during the effort.

Finally, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) recently bestowed recognition on the world QRP movement by unilaterally initiating "World QRP Day" for this year, and adding a QRP section to its annual "Radiosport" contest.

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BY MAYER D. ZIMMERMAN*, W3GXX

Operating CW at high speeds or even just increasing your speed for purposes of upgrading is easy. It's just a matter of *practice, practice, practice*. What's the best way to practice? That's up to you.

There are several methods of practice, of course: CW tapes, W1AW, computer programs, etc. I have found the best way to increase speed and competence is by **getting on the air!** There is nothing like being in a QSO for incentive. Get on the air for at least two QSOs per day. That gives you much practice in the format of the examination and also gives you an incentive to copy what is being sent.

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Spend part of your practice time, whether on the air or with tapes, *copying faster than you can!* I cannot overemphasize the importance of trying to copy faster than you can! Even if you only get 50 or 60 percent copy at first, spend about 10 minutes a day trying to copy faster than you can. Your percentage of copy will increase daily.

Practice skipping letters you miss. Don't try to copy everything. If you linger over a missed letter, you may miss the next five or six letters. But if you leave a space on your paper for each letter you miss and go on to the next letter, missing a letter here and there won't matter.

Don't copy every single word on paper. If you hear "receiver," write "rcvr." If you hear "rcvr," write "R." You'll know what the word is, and you can use the ex-

tra time for a rest, or to determine what the receiver is, rather than to copy down the word "receiver."

Remember, **practice** is the name of the game. Practice daily. If you can't spend 20 minutes a day, spend 10 minutes. If you can't spend 10 minutes, spend 5, but *do it daily*.

You can improve your code speed easily. Let us summarize the steps you need to take. Get on the air; it gives you more incentive to copy. Practice copying faster than you can for part of your practice period. Don't write everything down! Use personal abbreviations. Leave spaces for missed letters. Train yourself to continue with the text when you miss a letter rather than struggling to figure it out. Follow these helpful hints and you'll be surprised how quickly your CW speed increases.

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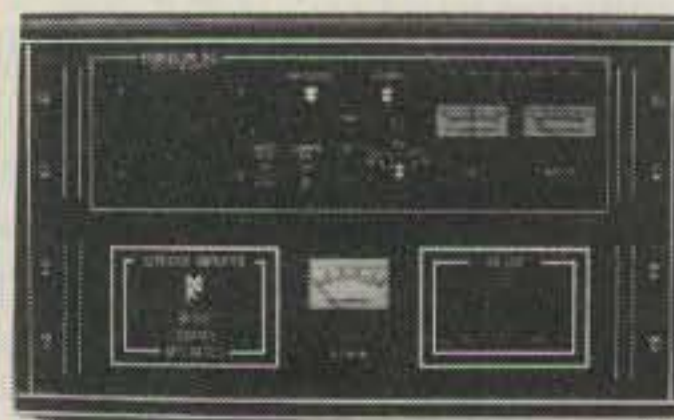
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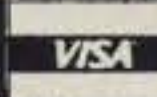
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NEWS OF COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

*We will not speak of years tonight
For what have years to bring?
But more and more DX to work
And DX songs to sing*

Some will say that there are advantages to a hillside QTH. Among the advantages noted are the chances to meet those on the way up . . . and those on the way down. It is sometimes a place where some come with their questions. But a hillside QTH will always offer a pleasant spot to rest from one's labors in the DX vineyards. The oaks cast a welcomed shade, and life is easy for a weary DXer seeking ease after a summer's toil in the DX fields. October is near, and already one can hear on the early morning's path the DXers singing: "Rest, for the World-Wide is coming . . ." It will be here the last weekend in October.

A couple of weeks back the Old Timer paused on his way down the hill and rested in the shade with us. He is always ready to talk about the Great Days of DXing, these being most anything ten or more years back. He was there talking about what might be expected from Cycle 22 when one of the Locals showed, walking the hill in the midday sun. He came with a question. Locals often do, but it is part of their learning process and they are always welcomed. Welcomed, that is, if they show signs of being among the Deserving.

"Tell me something," this Local said. "What the heck do they mean when they talk about the 'Mystery of the Ages'? Or sometimes I hear a DXer mention the 'Eternal Enigmas.' The other day I heard one old timer complaining about 'The Inevitable Fate of DXers.' What do they mean, anyhow?"

We traded glances with the Old Timer. We were tossing mental coins to see who would answer. As usual, the Old Timer won. He got the first chance to speak.

This was agreeable to the Local, so we settled down and the Old Timer spoke. All he said was "Marty's in town. Came in Saturday night on a polar flight." This got our immediate attention, but the Local hardly blinked at all.

We could see the Old Timer make a mental note, and then he continued. "I got a telephone call Saturday night from Pete, K6JG, down the central coast way. Pete was trying to reach Marty, having



Here is a DXer you will recognize. This is ZL1AMO, Ron Wright, who a few months back finished an operation at Vanuatu signing YJ0ARW. Ron has been on many DX efforts in the Pacific. Possibly by the time you see this he will be signing another DX call. Ron is a member of the DX Hall of Fame.

talked with him a number of times recently on 20 and knowing Marty's plans. Marty had planned to visit one of the venerable DXers down south, but subsequent to the QSOs the old timer had become a Silent Key." The Old Timer paused, leaned closer to the Local, and asked a question. "If K6JG had called you, what would you have done?" The Local shrugged.

"Darned if I know," he said. "Just what could one do?" The Old Timer leaned back on the bench. We noted that though the Local did not yet know the right answers, he wasn't asking any wrong questions . . . yet. The Old Timer continued.

"First I called Sam, W6TSQ, who usually knows everything. Sam first started to suggest that I call Bob, W6RJ, but then remembered that Bob was headed for Europe. So next I called Eric, W6DU, who usually knows most anything about DX going on and especially anything involving the local DX club. Eric knew that Marty was due in but did not know when. He suggested I try Rusty, W6OAT. So I called Rusty and found him sitting by his telephone waiting for a call from Marty on his arrival at the airport. The message from Pete, K6JG, was given to Rusty, W6OAT, along with Pete's telephone number. I reported back to Pete that all the hatches were nailed down and all he had to do was wait."

The Old Timer paused to let all this be absorbed by the Local. It was taking a bit of time. Finally the Local spoke: "I know what you said, but I'm not sure I under-

stand what it means." We had been expecting that, and the Old Timer moved to explain.

"Apparently you did not recognize Marty, OH2BH, out of Helsinki. He came in, some 5000 miles from home, yet most of the DXers hereabouts were attuned to his arrival. No one I queried was surprised about his visit, and it did not take long to run down information about him. But let us go a bit further. Tell me. Even though you did not understand all the happenings, did what I told you about Marty and the others appear logical and consistent?" The Local acknowledged that he could follow what was going on, that he did remember Marty now, and that everything seemed to be straightforward. The Old Timer even smiled a bit to hear this.

"Then let us go a bit further," the Old Timer said. "Have you ever traveled to a far land and a strange area, far from the familiar skies? And there have you felt alone and vulnerable, the stranger in the strange land? Everyone a stranger to you and a stranger to all? And you felt a longing for home and to be among those who know you and whom you in turn know? Have you?" The Local was not hesitant to say he did remember such instances and had known the feelings.

"So you do know," the Old Timer continued. "But have you ever traveled as a DXer? A traveler with friends all around the world. It does not matter whether you have ever met. All that is necessary is the fact that you are a DXer and they are DXers and you are not alone. Have you been DXing long enough to have had that experience?" The Local was beaming. This was obviously something he recognized.

"I sure have," he said enthusiastically. "Once I had a 4 hour layover at the Oklahoma City airport. Then I remembered the name of a DXer working in the FAA facility there and gave him a call. In 15 minutes he was at the terminal to pick me up. We spent the waiting time talking about DX and checking over all the electronic gear at the FAA buildings. It sure was interesting."

The Old Timer was actually smiling. "Good," he said, and we knew that things were moving in the right direction. "But tell me how you explain all of that. You had never before met this fellow, but the two of you had a nice visit. Apparently you were quickly at ease as friends and it was a memorable time. What's the explanation?"

We suspected that the Local might be stumped and we were right. He did think for a bit, finally protesting: "But this fel-

The WPX Program

Mixed

1289 LA9SN

SSB

1901 IK2FAD 1903 JR2TRC
1902 IK2FEO

CW

2452 EA4BWN 2454 W8FEM
2453 IV3PVD 2455 JH4JNG

WPNX

230 KA4STT

Endorsements

Mixed: 450 LA9SN, 500 W5AWT, LA9SN, 550 KY3V, W5AWT, NK2W, FM5WD, LA9SN, 600 KY3V, W5AWT, NK2W, FM5WD, LA9SN, 650 W9IAL, W5AWT, FM5WD, LA9SN, 700 W5AWT, FM5WD, LA9SN, 750 FM5WD, W5AWT, KS3F, 800 FM5WD, W5AWT, 850 FM5WD, W5AWT, 950 I1EEW, I2YWR, OE1KJW, FM5WD, W5AWT, 1000 I2YWR, NE6I, FM5WD, W5AWT, NE4F, 1100 YU1GR, 1150 AB90, 1200 AB90, 1250 AB90, AC2J, 1300 AB90, AC2J, 1750 K9BG.

S.S.B.: 400 NE4F, 600 KD9OT, 850 W5ILR, 700 WB4UBD, 850 IS0QDV, 900 IS0QDV, I1EEW, 950 IS0QDV, AB90, 1000 IS0QDV, AB90, 1050 AB90, 1100 AB90, 1150 NP4CC, 1250 KL7AF, 1500 NJ0C.

CW: 350 EA4BN, 400 EA4BN, 450 EA4BN, W9IAL, 500 EA4BN, 550 IS0QDV, 600 IS0QDV, IK6CGO, I5JRR, 650 IS0QDV, I5JRR, 750 K2SX, 800 K2SX, 850 K2SX, NE4F, 900 I5SMX, K2SX, 950 K2SX, 1000 K2SX

10 Meters: NE6I, FM5WD
15 Meters: IK6GCO, FM5WD, JH4JNG, IV3PVD, KS0Z
20 Meters: FM5WD, YB3CEV, KS0Z
40 Meters: I1EEW, FM5WD
80 Meters: FM5WD, IV3PVD
160 Meters: HI8LC, FM5WD

Asia: FM5WD, K2SX, KS0Z, JR2TRC
Africa: FM5WD, K2SX
No. America: FM5WD, YB3CEV
So. America: AB90, FM5WD, K2SX
Europe: FM5WD, KS0Z
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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.

low was a DXer, wasn't he?" The Old Timer shrugged.

"If you say so," he said, "but has it ever occurred to you that possibly there is something definitely noticeable that exists between and among DXers, something which you as yet cannot define? You know it but you don't know it. You meet a perfect stranger, strictly speaking, but you are friends. Why?"



Perhaps you are lucky if you enjoy a placid family life where there is but one of the Deserving. How would you like to sit at your dinner table and look at eight other licensed amateurs? In the front row, Julie Gates, KA7TXJ, Terri Monks, KA7VHV, Cheryl Gates, KA7UDV, and Sheryl R. Gates, KA7PYY. In the back from the left are Richard Gates, KA7QEC, Ron Gates, KA7TWK; Brad Monks, KA7VHW, Kenneth C. Gates, KA7UDU, and Jay C. Gates, KA7PVT. All are sons, daughters, wife, and in-laws of KA7PVT, all members of the Borderline Amateur Radio Club in Roosevelt, Utah.

When the Local was slow in answering, the Old Timer passed him on to us. But he first had a few words to say. "Keep in mind," the Old Timer advised, "that it is not wrong just because you do not yet understand. Nor does it mean that you will not eventually attain understanding of the Mysteries of DXing. You are close to the 'Mysteries of the Ages' and you will often be asking of yourself, 'Why are DXers different?' When you start answering the question, possibly from others, you will be close to understanding—closer and definitely more Deserving. DXers are always Deserving, some more so."

By this time we were wondering if the Local might be asking himself why he had been so rash as to ever ask such questions. But it was our turn, and the Local was looking at us. We were hoping that he was ready.

"Let us tell you about an incident we saw a couple of weeks back," we started in. "Maybe you will understand what happened." The Local was ready.

"It was out on one of the country boulevards back in the hills," we said, recalling the vivid incident. "We were cruising along on our mountain bike when a car raced by us at high speed. And right after it was a sheriff's patrol, red light flashing, siren screaming, and whistles blowing. The first car screeched to a stop, the sheriff right behind. We were coming up on them on our bike just as the deputy got to the driver's window. Only the driver was in the car. The deputy said a few words, stood up abruptly, and dashed back to the patrol car. The last we saw of them both cars were roaring down the boulevard at high speed. And through all of this, the only word we heard as we passed was something that sounded like

'Peter'' We paused, then asked, "What do you suppose was happening?"

The Local was long in thinking. We tried to help a bit by mentioning that the passenger car had amateur callplates. Finally the Local shrugged his shoulders and spoke, "I don't get it," he said. "What was happening?"

We were determined that he would bring this one out himself or he would not be Deserving. "Did you think anything significant about the word 'Peter'?" we asked. "And those amateur plates? Could that mean something? It did and suddenly the lights were turned on.

"Could that be Peter I Island?" the Local asked, and we nodded. "Then they both were DXers," the Local stated quickly, "and Peter I Island was on!" We not only nodded at this but had to smile. The steps to understanding of the Mysteries of the Ages come with understanding of how other DXers think and what motivates them. And some maintain that the Eternal Enigmas are not enigmas at all, but special qualities in DXing not understood nor appreciated by others. When they cannot understand, they feel it cannot be understood by anyone. Not by them nor anyone else. But DXers do understand, and some of the Eternal Enigmas have been revealed, but only to the

The WAZ Program

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How do you tell a DXer? Easily! Always there is the air of self-assurance, hard-won success, and easy relaxation in front of the rig. Here are a couple of true-blue types. On the left is Rudolf Klos, DK7PE, who continues to turn up in exotic DX spots all around the world. Here DL7KE visits with Mike Bowman on a visit to the Radio Association of Bahrain's club station A92C. Mike has signed A92MB, but was there visiting from England where he has signed G0FBY. (DK7PE photo)

Deserving. If you understand, you are Deserving. And always with a capital "D."

As certified resting DXers, the Old Timer and we were thinking that we had done a full day's work at this point. The Local was closer to understanding, but he needed some cooling down before being ready for the other Great Mysteries of the Ages, the Eternal Enigmas, or the Inevitable Fate of DXers. But the fire of the crusader always has burned within the Old Timer, and he could not pass up the chance to strike a few blows on the forge of DX understanding. He wanted to shape the understanding of the Local and to ensure that it stayed shaped.

"There are some things that you, as a DXer, must always learn because they are part of DXing. And one of the Eternal Truths of DXing is that DXers are the true internationalists of amateur radio. Remember that! The Second Eternal Truth, never to be forgotten, is that no DXer comes as a stranger! Never forget that!" The Local promised that he never would. The Old Timer was not satisfied yet.

"Maybe you'd better repeat those basic truths daily," he advised, "and always in the morning and the evenings before you turn on your rig. Promise?" The Local promised very fervently. This was one day when he might promise most anything. He was soon gone.

We sat there for awhile in the slow warmth of the late summer day, finally stirring ourselves to make a comment. "Haven't I heard you tell those things a number of times, tell those axioms to new DXers, those things about being the true internationalists and never being a stranger? Don't you suppose that most everyone, even those who don't DX, would know them by now?" It must have been an electrifying question from its effect, the Old Timer shooting to an upright position.

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2224	N4NO	1671	PY4OD	1291	YU7AJD	1025	WD4RAF	695	W5ASP
2169	N6JV	1665	IN3ANE	1283	K2POF	1018	DF6EX	679	K6UXO
2079	N9AF	1603	CT1LN	1278	3A2LF	1018	NE6I	578	W4WKQ
2072	I2PHN	1600	N5TV	1266	YU2CQ	1007	A16Z	670	YU1PJ
2069	N6CW	1593	I2MQP	1263	I1POR	1000	K13L	668	N3KR
2056	YU7BPQ	1537	N6AW	1249	W7CB	978	I0AOF	668	YT7WW
2006	K0BLT	1512	K7NN	1247	W5PWG	972	PY2DBU	652	G4OBK
2002	I8YRK	1484	SM3EVR	1246	YU1SZ	950	I1EEW	650	JO1BMV
1990	N2AC	1470	K8LJG	1234	SV1PL	914	EA1GJM	650	W9IAL
1944	YU1AB	1451	KL7AF	1227	WB8ZRL	901	W0JIE	637	F6HJM
1924	K5UR	1442	N6JM	1219	K2OLF	877	I1CZQ	633	Y44UI
1922	W8YTM	1420	EA9IE	1215	G4FAM				

SSB

2711	I0ZV	1661	PA0SNG	1201	I8KCI	984	W0ULU	779	CT1AW
2460	K2VV	1659	VE1YX	1200	KL7AF	981	K8LJG	759	K8ZZU
2330	ZL3NS	1638	K5UR	1143	W4UW	965	IK5ACO	752	K9BQL
2320	K6JG	1614	WF4V	1112	KK0L	962	W3GXK	716	IT9ONV
2210	K6XP	1599	I8YZP	1108	CT4UW	939	WA2FKF	710	N2AIF
2209	K2POA	1573	I2MQP	1106	AB90	936	W3GXK	702	I3ZSX
2291	I0AMU	1509	CT1LN	1095	K5RPC	935	N2CIC	698	I2KKL
2170	CT1UA	1483	NJ0C	1088	KC8CC	930	N4IB	698	G4KHF
2053	I2PHN	1479	W9NUF	1085	PY4OD	929	I8WYD	698	KC2FC
2047	N4MM	1470	WA4QMQ	1079	N2AC	914	I1EEW	694	A16Z
2005	I3ZKD	1457	CT1FL	1071	NN4Q	900	I2TZK	665	AB1U
2003	W0YDB	1431	I4CSP	1067	SM6DHU	892	I2EOW	661	VO1AW
1904	I4ZSQ	1412	W3ARK	1062	EA8AKN	871	EA4KK	659	I4UFH
1897	WD8MGQ	1406	KF2O	1060	CX9CO	828	W6OUL	657	KE6KT
1859	I2PJA	1399	W1NG	1048	I2UIY	818	IN3AHO	654	NE6I
1844	OZ5EV	1307	EA2IA	1048	PP2ZDD	813	WN5MBS	652	CP8HD
1781	W4BQY	1303	G4CHP	1047	EA3AQ	808	KK5P	652	W5ILR
1768	CT4NH	1300	N5TV	1035	WB8ZRL	798	K3IXD	642	OE5BGL
1765	I6ZJC	1293	AC2J	1030	F6BVB	792	YB3CEV	611	HR1FC
1761	I8YRK	1283	XE1OX	1020	SM0AJU	790	W8YTM	607	YB3CDL
1699	W9DWQ	1232	W2NC	1016	CT1BY	787	G4SDJ	605	VK9NS
1693	N4NO	1204	KC8YM	993	AG2K				

CW

2562	W2NC	1672	YU7BCD	1246	JA1KRU	915	AB1U	744	CT1LN
2365	K2VV	1593	LZ1XL	1210	IT9VDQ	904	NN4Q	711	I2EAY
2147	N6JV	1570	N4MM	1167	W1NG	904	YU2CQ	707	WB8ZRL
2110	WA2HZR	1525	K5UR	1131	KF2O	899	I2UIY	705	OE1KJW
1991	ON4QX	1502	VO1AW	1098	K2POF	897	W9PWM	700	N4IB
1989	K6JG	1476	W9NUF	1050	KL7AF	889	F6HKD	693	NE6I
1973	N6CW	1448	EA2IA	1026	K8LJG	875	T14SU	663	LA7JO
1947	W9DWQ	1428	PY4OD	1017	W1WAI	871	A16Z	659	KA1CLV
1924	N4NO	1414	N4YB	1001	AK2H	854	KN7K	655	K6UXO
1900	VE7CNE	1385	I1YRL	1000	I7PXV	827	VE1ACK	654	W0JIE
1880	K6XP	1300	N5TV	973	DJ1YH	823	G4FAM	644	JA2GCW
1858	W4BQY	1289	JE1JKL	969	LA9XG	813	VE4AEX	644	G3VQO
1845	G2GM	1280	KA7T	940	SM0AJU	800	I8YRK	634	OZ5UR
1836	W3ARK	1266	W8YTM	940	W6OUL	799	SM5DAC	625	W6YMH
1779	OZ5EV	1261	I2DMK	936	N2AIF	777	EA5QR	602	VK9NS
1751	N2AC								

"Look," he said, "most DXers come to the trade knowing that DXing is different and DXers are different. But they don't really understand why. They usually learn, but always they should learn first that understanding will not come until they learn, and learn well, the basic tenets of DXing. All this is needed to prepare them for understanding the Mysteries of the Ages. Certainly you know this!"

We did. The Old Timer was right. We understand! We believe! DXers are different. Different and Deserving!

Yemen QSLs

There always seem to be one or two DXers on a never-ending search for one of those rare countries which show sometimes once, sometimes years back, and never seem to show again. Those who need Yemen may recognize the scenario.

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5 Band WAZ

Standings as of July 1, 1987

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones worked:

148. JA1GTF
149. DL7AA
150. AA4LU

The top 10 contenders for 5 Band WAZ are:

1. N4WW, 199	6. SP6JCY, 199
2. K6YRA, 199	7. W2YY, 198
3. W8UVZ, 199	8. K7UR, 198
4. K9CEB, 199	9. K9GX, 198
5. DJ9ZB, 199	10. G4BWP, 198

421 Stations have met the 150 Zone level.

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 Haijsman, W4KA, 1044 S.E. 43 Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904. Applicants should include sufficient postage for safe return of their QSL cards. The processing fee for all CQ 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.

A few months back there was one of the Deserving still looking for a QSL all the way back to 1963, that almost a quarter-century. But hope should never die, and while we have not run down 4W1AA, we did pick up some indicators which might help others along the route.

Gunter Beuche, DL6AB, notes that the 4W stations active during that period in the early sixties were generally Swiss nationals operating while in Yemen working for the International Red Cross on humanitarian projects. Gunter notes that he worked 4W1H back then and this one QSLed to HB9ACD, Hans Blaser. He also worked 4W2AA and this one was HB9AET, Frederic de Bros and QSLed via W2GHK.

If you thirst for a long-overdue 4W QSL, this may be of some hope or help. DL6AB speculates that the Swiss Red Cross headquarters in Geneva might be of assistance, or even more if one can corner a DXer with connections.

Live in hope. All things come to him who waits long enough.

United Kingdom Licensing

Jerry Bliss, K6SMH, is living in England and signs G0CLY from his current station. Jerry notes that DXers visiting in the U.K. can get a reciprocal license, but it usually takes several months, requires advance application, and costs about 12 pounds. As a number of amateurs have stopped by to visit Jerry and practically everyone burns to be on the air, Jerry made some inquiries to the licensing authorities as to what might be done.

They advised Jerry that a Temporary Operating Permit can be issued for a stay limited to seven days or less. There is no charge and such permits have been obtained in about a week. What do you need? What will be your stops where you plan to operate, when you plan to operate, and the callsign of the station you will be visiting. Also a copy of your back-home license. Send this to: Radio Amateur Licensing Unit, Post Office Headquarters, Chetwynd House, Chesterfield, England, S49 1PF.

What more could you need? You might also think of dropping a line to Naoki Akiyama, JH1VRQ/N1CIX, at downtown Newington



How do you tell a top DX club? They always have a top DX club bulletin editor. Here is one of the best, Jack Bock, K7ZR, editor of the Western Washington DX Club's Totem Tabloid. Not only does the bulletin consistently have fine technical articles, but it also waves the threat of the Zombie's Revenge. Back in 1983 the Zombie's Revenge even caught up with Jack. He tried kicking a recalcitrant power lawn mower. He should have shut it down first.

should you need any information on operating overseas, off-shore, or across the borders. Naoki heads the International Programs Department and is making a career of supplying needed information to needy DXers not only in the U.K., but most everywhere else.

Barbados

October is the traditional opening of the DX season and it all comes with the CQ WW DX Test the last weekend of the month. From far Barbados the K3KG team will be signing 8P9HR during the DX test.

Not only will you be able to work 8P9HR on phone during the CQ WW, but you can catch them on CW before the contest, all the standard bands plus the new WARC bands. Listen for them on 30, 17, and 12 meters. You might also listen for 8P9HQ and 8P9HS. This will be a multi-single effort. K4BAI is the QSL route for the above and for 8P9HT below.

If you still need 8P-Barbados and manage to miss all this largess, there will still be hope. K4BAI will be in 8P-Barbados the last weekend in November for the CQ WW CW Test. He will be signing 8P9HT. And while some may consider the Caribbean local DX, there are some who have tried for years to work some of the common stuff. It is not common if you are a JA or Central Asia/Indian Ocean DXer. DX is relative; it always has been.

WNZ Award

The Worked Novice Zones is the newest award in the WAZ family, this one being available only if the zones are worked by a U.S. Novice or Technician class license. Contacts must be in the Novice 80, 40, 15, or 10 meter bands and use authorized modes and power. WNZ is available as a Mixed, CW, or SSB only award. Essentially, the rules are the same as the well-known WAZ award. All contacts must be made as a Novice or Tech, though application can still be made after one upgrade. You get the award for working 25 of the 40 WAZ zones and you submit the proof to W4KA. After you have upgraded, you can use all these contacts plus

the 15 additional ones needed for the regular WAZ award.

Turks and Caicos

Some strange VP5 callsigns have been showing at the T&C Amateur Radio Society, and Sheila Laing, VP5SL, would like it known that it is bothering their QSL Bureau.

In all of the Turks & Caicos there are currently but 35 VP5 licensees. That does not mean there are 35 stations. There are a number of VP5s in some families such as two in the Laing family, two in the Thomas family, three in the Shields family, two in the Dodson family, four in the Mills family, two in the Siegenthaler family, and two in the Ewing family. Sheila says that only the following suffixes are valid, these and none other: VP5AT, AB, AP, BAM, BIL, BD, DM, DG, EN, EE, FEB, GT, GBS, GLS, HM, HS, JB, LAJ, MES, ME, NM, PC, PAT, PS, RF, RR, RI, RW, SK, SL, TAO, TI, TW, WM. There in capsule form is the whole T&C callbook. These are good. Most anything else might be suspect. If you need more information, go to Box 202, Grand Turk, Turk & Caicos Island.

Tunisia

Craig Maxey, WB7FRA, plans to be in Nabeulu this October and to be signing 3V8FRA during the CQ WW DX Test. Craig will cover 80 through 10 meters, running the full legal power—100 watts. Recent word has been that there are currently no valid 3V8 licenses though some 3V8 stations are heard from time to time. Look for Craig starting around October 19th. He plans to run through October 27th, or a day or so beyond the CQ WW DX weekend. Possibly, the callsign might be TS8FRA.

Nicaragua

YN3ACZ is planning to be active during the CQ WW DX Test the last weekend in October. This station is located in Managua. Some of the local DXers there will be joining in a multi-single operation. YN3ACZ is in Nicaragua working for a religious organization doing humanitarian work. This one will QSL to Box 302, Managua, Nicaragua.

Aruba

N1GL will be active from Aruba during the CQ WW DX Test in October. Bill will be signing P40A. You might even look for him a bit before. You can also look for this one being a new country one of these days, but it does seem that until full independence is gained, it will just count as it always has. N1GL is William Ovca, usually found at 136 Knobloch Lane, Stamford, Connecticut 06902.

Fast Code

Some may think that it is a thing of the past, that skill with a straight key is a lost art. Years back there was a letter in one of the amateur magazines from a far-Pacific amateur bemoaning the sorrow felt when he could not find any with code skills matching his. There in black and white he advised that "... while he could send at 35 wpm, he could only receive at 5 wpm." Possibly the years have filled the need; possibly some of the newer devices help in the sending. However, receiving can still be a problem.

In August we updated the matter of the VR1 QSL bureau having problems with stacks of QSLs for bogus calls. We had quick notes from N2AU who publishes *Inside DX* and K1KI who

has the newsletter *USSR Tidbits*, noting that ability to read what was meant to be sent rather than what was sent would definitely help in identifying these vagrant VR1s as really 4K1s, Russians in the Antarctic. Familiarity with the current suffixes being used by the 4K1s also would help. We even got a note from G4UZN to help get things right.

But if you think that this was an isolated case with everyone pointing out the obvious once they realized the correct answer, how about that 9N7IX that showed back in May? And how do you QSL? Again, when you know the answers, you can understand the question.

You QSL to JA8RUZ. You ask for a QSL for your contact with 9N7ITU. All you had to do is read the suffix as .. - ..- and not .. -..- and you were home free. This knowledge comes from having read the long-gone operator sending at 35 wpm and receiving at 5 wpm. One learns, or one deduces.

San Andres

Jim Talens from Arlington, Virginia, is looking for some action out of HK0 San Andres during the CQ WW Test, but which one will mean some listening. It may be the phone test in October, or it could be the CW test the Thanksgiving weekend in November. Some of the frequencies on which you might find him are 14260 kHz and 14025 kHz. He could be found in other places. QSL to home QTH, which is 5916 North 15th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205. SASE or SAE/IRC requested.

Guatemala

Jules Freundlich, W2JGR, will be in Honduras the latter part of September, about the time you get this copy of CQ, and he will be signing TG9/W2JGR. He plans to operate from September 21st to 28th and will be using SSB and RTTY on all HF bands. QSL to his home QTH: 17 Nassau Blvd., Malverne, New York 11565. SASE would help.

The 22 Year Solar Cycle

You may have heard some mention of this and are prepared for the worst. Actually, even if they decide that the cycles are 22 years long, you would hardly notice the difference, and then only if you are a fine-tuned DXer who does nothing without consulting his solar chart. But for those who listen to WWV at 18 after the hour, as long as these reports are available they will continue to bring you the best "now" information, rather than the "well, maybe" long-range forecasts.

As for the 22 year cycle, the theory is that the magnetic areas associated with sunspots start in the very high latitudes and start sliding towards the solar equator. It takes them about a decade or so to slip down to the solar latitudes where sunspots are observed, this being up around the 40th or 50th parallel. For the next decade or so the magnetic areas are marked by sunspots as the magnetic areas near the equator. That is what we see, but at the same time the next cycle has started in the high latitudes, showing as high as 80° from the equator, and they start their long 22 year slide. The new thinking notes that this indicates an overlap, with each cycle running from 18 to 22 years but with sunspots visible only during the tail end of a cycle. Thus, you should continue to see the same picture. All that is changed is the operating instructions.

There continues to be a lot of study of the sun and solar phenomena, and more is being

learned each year. Often theories are formulated and then modified, possibly even abandoned when additional knowledge is gained or a new theory offered. You can consider the Howard and LeBonte currents which produce currents, the interplay between the general magnetic field and the differential rotation of the surface with the equator rotating faster than the poles. You can wonder about the eddy rolls which carry hot plasma to the surface. But then again, you can check WWV at 18 minutes after the hour and the Northern California DX Foundation sponsored beacons at 14.1 MHz. Actually this has been such a success (the NCDXF beacons) that the IARU at Buenos Aires last year moved to improve and update the International Beacon Project with 28.190 to 28.200 MHz being assigned to the beacon project.

While we are working that side of the street, it might be timely to note that the bottom of the cycle was last year in the August/September area, maybe one way or the other. If you have the long memory of a competitive DXer, you will recall that last July (1986) the Old Timer was saying that he thought we were then at the bottom. How about that! Those Old Timers know everything and they weren't even yet talking about 22 year cycles.

Mt. Athos

Nikos Giannoukos, SV0DK, has gone to a lot of trouble to supply documentation for the SV0BV operation of Robert Read back in 1985. License, police permit, authorizations from the Holy Epistacy—everything. A translation of permission from the Holy Epistacy reads:

"In reply to your letter dated 26/5/87 we would like to inform you that the Holy Commu-

nity, having received and taken into account the permit (protocol 80123/5/25/87) of the Ministry of Communications for the temporary installation of your amateur radio station on Mt. Athos, grant to you the required permission.

"So we extend our regards and wishes.

"All members and Superiors of the General Meeting of the twenty holy monasteries of Mt. Athos."

As as long as we are mentioning Mt. Athos, QZ DX reports that the operations by DL7FT/SVIA made from June 28 to July 1, 1985 and the one from March 26 to April 1, 1986 are valid for DXCC credit.

Some Short DX Notes

Jack Sproat, W4LCL, who signed YB0ACL up to 1983 is now in Jordan and should show on the air eventually. Jack is a water engineer and working on a project there in Jordan, being on a two year trip. His home CB address is always good for a QSL no matter where he is.

The Kansas City DX Club, noted for its hospitality room at Dayton, will have a similar effort from Belize during the CQ WW CW Test in November. All the DX you can handle, just give them a call.

St. Lucia is the site of the Southwest Ohio DX Assn. efforts in the CW go-round of the CQ WW CW test. They will be signing J6DX and are even thinking of 160 meters. VU2RBI, Bharathi, was in New Delhi a month or so back looking for the route to the Laccadives. The FCC is handing out KC4 callsigns in W4-land. This can be confusing until you remember that the Antarctic is only represented by a segment of the KC4 calls. From KC4AAA to KC4AAF, that's six calls, and from KC4USA to KC4USZ, that at the most would be a total of 32 altogether. Just

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310	VE3MR/317	275	KB7VD/278
310	ZL3NS/316	275	KA3HXO/276
310	YV1KZ/316	250	AB1U/266
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300	DL6QW/300	200	AB1U/202
275	F6CRT/285		

Total number of active countries is 317. 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.

learn those 32 KC4 calls in the Antarctic and anything else will probably be in Green Cove Springs in Florida or nearby. Simple, isn't it, when the problem is carefully analyzed.

An international group—Germany, France, and the U.S.—was looking for a Kingman/Palmyra operation this September. Things did not fall into place and the goal is now set for March 1988. The G-land DXers were able to use 50–52 MHz as of June 1st, this including Class B licensees. If you hunger for Kermadec, listen for ZL8HV on the VK9NS net at 14220 kHz from 0400Z. You could get lucky. Some YA stations have shown, but not the true-blue according to report. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the emergence of Surtsey Island out of the sea south of Iceland and the quick operation there by 4X4A, Slim. The H25 prefix, sometimes heard as an /H25 suffix, is on Cyprus. Never be confused by a strange prefix, suffix, or call-sign. Work 'em now; worry later!

Lyle Meek, WW6F, Bruce Butler, W6OSP, Dick Maddux, K6BWX, and Len Gerald, K6ANP, are aiming for the CQ WW CW Test where they will be signing VP5W from Provo. Vince, WL7K, wants it noted that it was Stone-wall Jackson that Barbara Frietchie was waving the flag at there in Frederick, not Robert E. Lee. Sure enough! It was.

Marion Island might be heard in 1988. *Inside DX* says that ZS6ME aims at March 1988 as the likely period. Besides ZS6ME, the other operators in on the planning are ZS6RM and ZS6BBY. This has become a bit of a difficult country to work. Years back ZS6MI on Marion had a W QSL manager and all one had to do was hang around the frequency of their weekly schedule. Possibly that's what is meant by "... the good old days." ZS8ME is the planned call to be used.

SP5EXA might still be found on Svalbard. He signs his own call with the /JW suffix. Back a few months there were regular appearances around 14024 kHz from 1130Z. Out on Guam N7DF has settled in for a tour and should be heard for another 18 months or so. Larry is planning trips to nearby areas as well as considerable contest action. Mostly CW, he also favors the lower frequencies, 40 meters and down. VK0GC will be on MacQuarie until Christmas. Another low-bander, Graham likes to look for the action around 1832 kHz or 3796 kHz, Mondays being the favored day and after 1130Z.

AK1E was with F6GXB and TR8CR in Equatorial Guinea in July. If you caught 3C1CW it QSLs to F6GXB; 3C2A goes to AK1E, and 3C2CR to TR8CR.

K6ICX was in Baja, California in late July signing XE2ICS. Mike worked the bands, 40 through 10, and his address in the CB has been good since 1976. Also south of the border, Don Daso, WA8MAZ, has a VHS video tape available on the XF4DX Revillagigedo effort of last year. The tape runs about 15 minutes and is available for \$20.00, it also being available in PAL, SECAM, or other standards on request. Write to WA8MAZ, Rt. 1, Box 246, Mt. Holly, North Carolina 28120.

George Vlahoupoulous, SV1RP, was in Rhodes in the spring for the CQ WPX Test. George signed SV1RP/SV5, and if you worked him QSL to Emm. Xanthou 6, Dasos, Haidari, Athens, Greece 124-62. You can also go via SV1NA.

Early report out of the last ARRL Board meeting (keep in mind we write a couple of months before you read it) was that there will be DXCC awards for higher frequencies, 6 and 2 meters, the format following that of the award for 160. There will be a bicentennial WAS Award patterned on the Golden Jubilee Award, and if you hold on long enough, there will be Diamond Jubilee WAS Award to mark the League's 75th anniversary.



Shown here at the DX Convention in Visalia in April are Ray Harper, N6DKP, right, winner of the W6AM Memorial Award, and Jan Perkins, N6AW, curator of the W6AM archives and memorabilia.

Father Moran was named as the second recipient of the Humanitarian Award, and the proposal to use the defunct Law of the Sea's geographical measuring points for DXCC country criteria was referred to the Advisory Committee, this in connection with DXCC possible restructuring.

The Board also declared that they think that the FCC is the one to handle the issuance of amateur licenses, but should they go ahead and decide to delegate that authority, a number of things should be clarified and provided for. These include the stipulation that only one entity should issue licenses, that any delegated authority for issuing licenses should be self-supporting under a reasonable fee system, and more things such as these. The ARRL constitution was revised, and come January the Canadian Radio Relay League will be autonomous. The board covered a lot of subjects, even the idea of a Political Action Committee (PAC). All the details are in the September QST should you have missed them.

Mark your calendar! Polish your rig! The last weekends in October and November are traditional DX celebrations, all activities reserved for and directed to DX. Let there be no doubt! These weekends mark the start of the Great Days of DXing in Cycle 22. Phone will be celebrated the last weekend in October, while CW will be celebrated the last weekend in November. Check the September CQ for the contest rules, read carefully the list of trophies available to you, and remember to get the needed contest forms.

Frank Anzalone, W1WY, expects every DXer to do his duty! None of the true-blue Deserving would think of doing anything less!

73, Cass, WA6AUD

QSL Information

Jim Lane, KN4F, is another noble DX type volunteering for duty. Jim is experienced. He was QSL manager for TU4BR. TU4BR is currently in 5U7 with tower, beam, amplifier, ambition, but no license. KN4F, 5104 Pilgrim Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38116.

All of the following has been compiled with a lot of help from those watchers of the lonely night W9NUF and W9LNQ.

A22ME to AK1E	YJBARW to ZL1AMO
A22TE to AK1E	ZK1XV to VK2BCH
A22CA to AK1E	XE1ICS to K6ICS
A24AS to AK1E	ZY0TC to PY1DFF
A240M to AK1E	ZY0TJ to PY2BTR
BVBAE to JA1UT	ZY0TM to PY1DFF
DU7PO to DU6DO	ZY0TO to PY1DFF
ED9EXP to EA7AIN	3C1CW to F6GXB
ED2PPP to UP1BZZ	3C2CR to TR8CR
EW6AA to UV6AM	3C2A to AK1E
FK8AW to F6BFH	3C8A to TR8JLD
G88SWR/mm to G4AAL	3D6BW to AK1E
H89LA/TF1 to F6HIZ	3V8FRA to WB7FRA
HS0C (July '87) to JA2KTP	8P9HR to K4BAI
I2NYN/IE9 to I2MQP	8P9HQ to K4BAI
JW6WD to LA5NM	8P9HS to K4BAI
KH7LF/KH3 to KL7VZ	8P9HT to K4BAI
K21BW/FJ to K21BW	AK1E to Dan Morehouse, 618
KX6BU (BII) to K8WCF	Leander Street, Shelby, NC
LZ8L to LZ1KCP	28150-6440
OD5FB to WA2QAU	C21XX to Ed DeYoung, Box
OK5YLS to OK2BBI	17, Republic of Nauru
P29FG to WA0GUD	EP2DL to Davod Alipour, Box
R3SP to UZ3AWR	17845/151, Teheran, Iran
T19M to T18CBC	ET3PG (Bekele-1980) to K6JYO
TV7GLC to F6DLM	G0CLY to Jerry Bliss, Box 19
TG9/W2JGR to W2JGR	MHS, APO New York 08210
TR8JLD to AK1E	YN3ACZ to Box 302, Mana-
TR8WCY to AK1E	gua, Nicaragua
TR1G to AK1E	7P8DX to Ed Douglas,
UA1C to RA3AR	P.O. Box 333, Maseru 100,
UA8S to UA9SIZ	Lesotho

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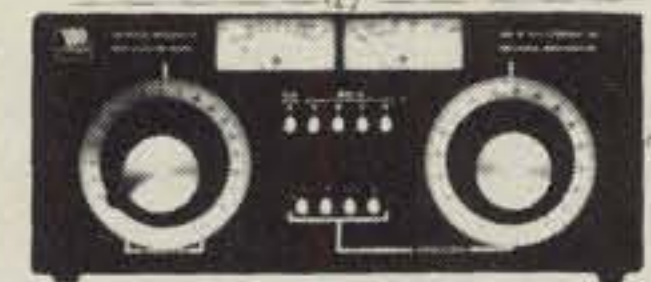
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DX Contest Special

The 1987 CQ World-Wide DX Contest will be held on the following dates:

Phone 0000 GMT Saturday, Oct. 24 to
2400 GMT Sunday, Oct. 25.
CW: 0000 GMT Saturday, Nov. 28 to
2400 GMT Sunday, Nov. 29

Continuing with the practice of the past 37 years, this month's propagation column is devoted to special forecasts for the contest periods, both phone and CW. Previous forecasts for the contest periods have achieved an accuracy in excess of 90%.

Solar Activity

It now appears very likely that the new solar cycle, Cycle 22, began a few weeks before last year's CQ World-Wide DX Contest. This resulted in a surge in solar activity during both the phone and CW periods.

The new cycle has been underway for a year. It began during September 1986 with a smoothed sunspot number of 12.

The latest available monthly mean sunspot number, as reported by the Royal Observatory of Belgium, is 17.5 centered on June 1987. This results in a smoothed sunspot number of 16 centered on December 1986.

A smoothed sunspot number of 28 is forecast for October 1987 and a level of 31 for November, as the new cycle continues to rise slowly.

A 10.7 cm solar flux level of 77.6 is reported as the median value for June 1987 by the Algonquin Radio Observatory at Ottawa, Canada. A median solar flux level in the upper 80s is expected during October.

As long as Mother Nature does not produce a radio storm during the 1987 World-Wide contest periods, propagation conditions during this year's contest should be as good as or better than any since 1983.

Compared to contests held during the past three years, expect improved DX conditions on 10, 15, and 20 meters, with conditions remaining about the same on the other HF bands.

Band-By-Band Conditions

The following is a band-by-band summary of DX propagation conditions nor-

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LAST MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for October 1987

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 5, 11, 23	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 10, 12, 17, 20, 24, 30	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 2-4, 9, 13, 16, 18-19, 21-22, 25-27, 29, 31	A-B	B-C	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 1, 6, 8, 14-15, 28	B-C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: 7	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 fair-to-poor (C-D) on October 1, good-to-fair (B-C) from the 2nd through the 4th, excellent (A) on the 5th, etc. During the CQ World-Wide DX Phone Contest good (B) conditions are expected on October 24th and good-to-fair (B-C) conditions on the 25th.

mally expected from mid-October through mid-December, and centered on the 1987 contest period.

10 Meters—Solar activity should be high enough for some 10 meter openings, particularly when conditions are High Normal or better. Fairly good openings should be possible to Central America, the Caribbean, and much of South America during the daylight hours. Other openings may also occur to Europe, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Australasia, and New Zealand. Conditions should peak towards the northeast, east, and southeast before noon, and towards the northwest, west, south, and southwest during the afternoon. If a radio storm should develop during the contest, expect few openings on 10 meters.

15 Meters—A considerable improvement is expected in DX conditions on this band during October and November. When conditions are at least Low Normal, good openings should be possible to

Bulletin

A long-range CQ propagation forecast based primarily on the 27-day recurrence tendencies of day-to-day conditions indicates that Low to High Normal conditions are most likely to occur during the CQ World-Wide DX Phone Contest weekend of October 24-25. See the Last Minute Forecast box in this column for additional information concerning expected day-to-day conditions during October.

one area of the world or another from an hour or so after sunrise to almost sunset. The band should peak to Europe before noon; to Africa at about noontime; to South America during the afternoon; and to the Pacific, Australasia, New Zealand, the Far East, and other Asiatic areas during the late afternoon, and possibly into the early evening when conditions are High Normal or better.

20 Meters—Although the band will close earlier than it did during the summer months, good DX openings should be possible to all areas of the world sometime between the sunrise period and the early evening hours. Openings to many southern and tropical areas may be possible to as late as midnight, particularly when conditions are High Normal or better. Signals should peak in all directions during a 2 to 3 hour window following sunrise and again during the late afternoon. All in all, 20 meters should be the best DX band during the contest.

40 Meters—DX openings towards Europe and in a generally easterly direction should begin during the late afternoon and improve with darkness. Good openings should also be possible towards the south during the hours of darkness. Openings in a westerly direction should peak during local sunrise in the USA, just before the band closes for DX propagation. Expect some good, strong signal openings on this band during the hours of darkness.

80 Meters—Expect fairly good DX propagation to many areas of the world during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. Conditions should peak around midnight on paths towards the east, shortly before sunrise on paths to the north and south, and during sunrise on openings in a westerly direction from the USA.

160 Meters—With longer hours of darkness, DX conditions on this band should improve. While DX conditions may not be as good as on 40 and 80 meters, look for openings to many areas of the world during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. Because of power limitations in force on this band in many areas of the world, signals are likely to be weak and noisy, especially on phone. The best time for 160 meter DX is when a path is in *complete darkness*. *Within this period conditions often peak just as the sun begins to rise at the easterly point on the path.* The best forecaster for 160 meter DX (40 and 80 meters, as well) is a set of sunrise and sunset tables. For example, if the sun is expected to rise at 0700 GMT in western Europe, then this would be the best time to look for 160 meter openings between western Europe and the USA, plus or minus a half hour. Conditions on 80 meters can often also serve as an indicator for 160 meter openings. The band will often open at the same time 80 meters seems to peak on a particular path. With these tips and some patience, it should be possible to work many DX areas of the world on 160 meters during the contest.

Contest Work Plans

The charts on the following pages show the times that 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 use of these charts are given in this column.

The information contained in the charts can easily be reorganized into several different types of operational work plans, or schedules, to serve as propagation guides during the contest period. Experience gained during previous contests has shown that such plans can be extremely useful in piling up a large number of points with a minimum of wasted time.

Table I is an example of one of the many types of plans that can be devised. For each three-hour period throughout the day it shows the areas of the world for which, in this example, 20 meter propagation conditions are expected to be optimum (a rating of 3 or higher in the charts¹). An eastern USA QTH has been chosen for this example, but similar plans can be devised for central and western locations and for other bands.

Table II is a typical *multi-band* operational work plan devised from the propagation charts for an Eastern USA QTH. The plan shows the times and bands when propagation conditions are expected to be optimum to various areas of the world for each two-hour period throughout the day.

Radio Storms

The forecasts discussed in this column

Time EST	Areas To Which Openings Should Be Optimum
00-03	A few northern and central South American openings, and perhaps to Antarctica, but not much else. Good time for some sleep.
03-06	Still not much except for some weak openings to Europe and Africa. If you didn't get some sleep in before, get it now!
06-09	Excellent period. Good openings in many directions: Europe, north and west Africa, Far East, Asia, New Zealand, South Pacific, Australasia, and South America.
09-12	Fairly good period. Openings to most of Europe, the Middle East, northern South America, and the Pacific area.
12-15	Fairly good period. Openings to most of Europe, the Middle East, some parts of Africa, northern areas of South America. Good time for lunch.
15-18	Fair openings to western and central Europe and the Middle East. Catch them now or you'll miss them. Good openings to most of Africa and South America.
18-21	Good period to pile up points. Openings to most of Africa and South America. Some also to the Far East and other Asiatic areas. Fairly good openings to the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, Australasia, and Antarctica.
21-00	Fairly good period. Openings to the Pacific and Australasia, South America, the Far East, and Antarctica.

Table I— Sample 20 meter operating schedule for Eastern USA QTH.

Time EST	Optimum Band Meters	Areas To Which Band Expected To Be Open
00-02	40	Most of Europe and Middle East; most of South America; a few African countries, possibly Antarctica.
02-04	40	Not much on any band. A good time to eat and catch up on some sleep. Some openings possible to the South Pacific, Australasia, the Far East, and other Asian areas, but generally not too good. Some fairly good openings to South America.
04-06	40	Still time to catch up on some sleep. Some openings to the South Pacific, New Zealand, and Australasia. Some also to northern and central areas of South America. A few Far Eastern and Asian, and perhaps Antarctica.
06-08	20	Good openings to most of Europe, the Pacific area, Australasia, Asia, and the Far East. Also to most of South America and parts of Africa.
08-10	15	Good openings to all of Europe and the Middle East and most of South America. A possible opening to the Pacific, Australasia, and perhaps parts of Asia.
10-12	10	Good openings to most of Europe, most of Africa, and most of South America. Catch them during this period or you will probably miss them!
12-14	15	Good openings to most of Africa and most of South America, and to the western and southern areas of Europe.
14-16	20	Good openings to most of Europe, the Middle East, most of Africa, northern and central South America, and possibly some long-path openings to Australasia.
16-18	20	Good openings to most of Africa and South America, with some also possible to the western and southern areas of Europe.
18-20	15	Fair-to-good openings to the Pacific area, Australasia, Far East, and other Asiatic areas. Good openings to central and southern South America, and a possible opening to Antarctica.
20-22	20	Openings to most of Africa, Pacific area, Australasia, Antarctica, and all of South America.
22-00	40	Most of Europe should be possible, as well as the Middle East; most of South America, and some openings to the Pacific and Australasia.

Table II— Sample multi-band work plan for Eastern USA QTH.

are based on *Normal* propagation conditions expected with a sunspot level of approximately 30. 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

¹In some cases a rating of (2) or (1) was selected when no higher rating was expected on the particular path.

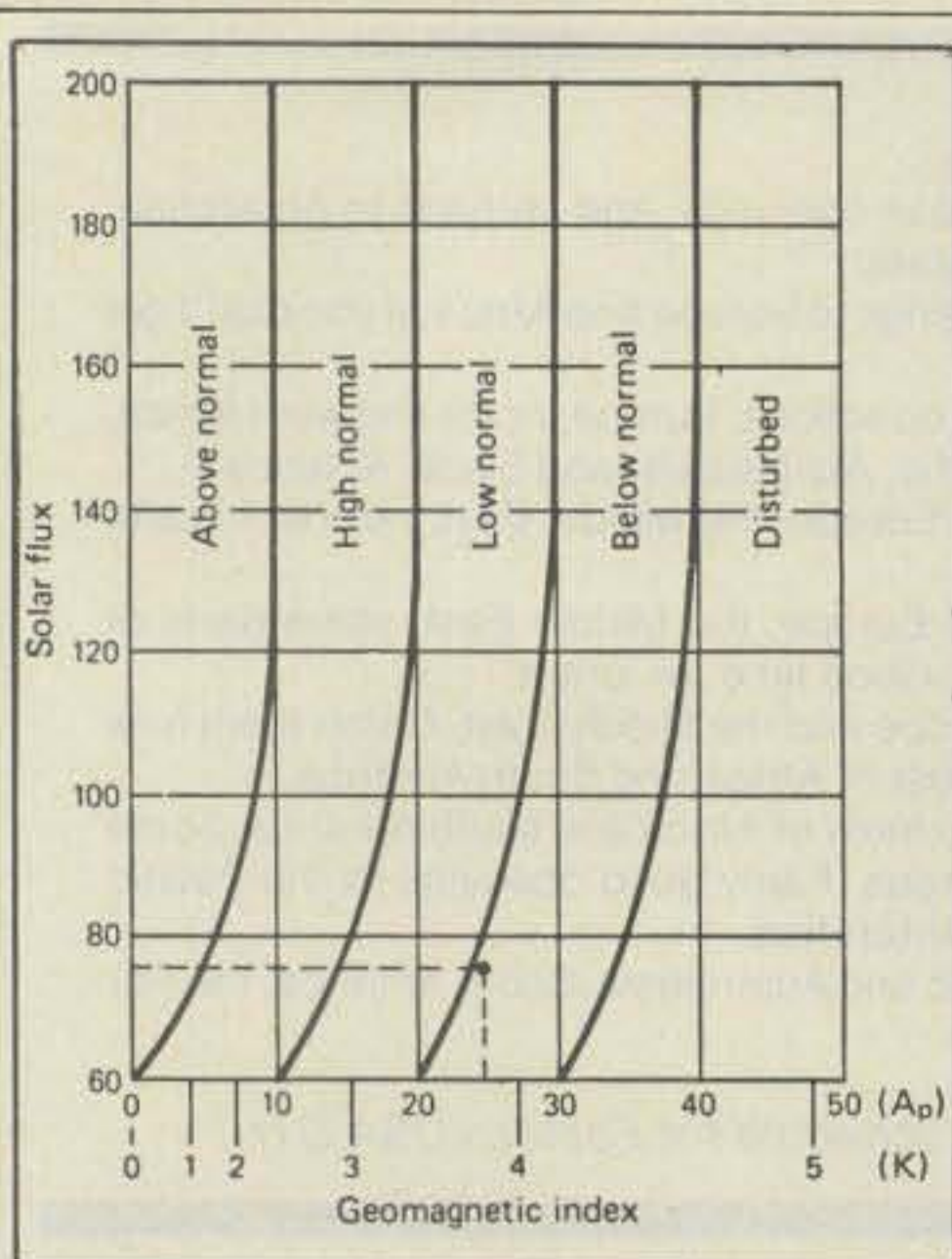


Fig. 1— Intersection of given values of solar flux and geomagnetic activity determine expected h.f. ionospheric propagation conditions. (Example: Solar flux is 75 and A_p is 25; expect Below Normal conditions.)

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. Fig. 1 can be used to convert the geomagnetic and solar data given on the WWV broadcasts into expected HF ionospheric 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. Direct inquiries to the duty forecaster at the center can also be made 24 hours each day, 7 days a week by calling (303) 497-3171 (collect calls will not be accepted).

If you have a modem-equipped personal computer, you can obtain updated daily summaries of solar and geophysical activity and a daily HF propagation summary and forecast (updated every six hours) directly from the NOAA Space Environment Services Center (SESC) in Boulder, Colorado. Information about a variety of other useful SESC services and products is also posted on the computer bulletin board.

The bulletin board is in operation 24 hours each day. Modem-equipped PCs can access the system by dialing (303) 497-5000. Either 300 or 1200 baud can be used. Protocol is the standard 8-bit data word with one stop bit and no parity.

There is no charge for the data that can be obtained from the SESC bulletin

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. A ** indicates the best time to listen for 10 meter openings; * best times for 160 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 Propagation 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. Time 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 7 hours in PDT Zone, 6 hours in MDT Zone, 5 hours in CDT Zone, and 4 hours in EDT Zone. For example, 14 hours in Washington, D.C. is 18 GMT. When it is 20 hours in Los Angeles, it is 03 GMT, etc.

5. The charts are based upon a transmitter power of 250 watts c.w., or 1 kw, p.e.p. on sideband, into a dipole antenna a quarter-wavelength above ground on 160 and 80 meters, a half-wave 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.

October 15 - December 15, 1987 Time Zone: EST (24-Hour Time) EASTERN USA TO:

	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	09-11 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-11 (3) 11-12 (2) 12-13 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-09 (4) 09-11 (3) 11-13 (4) 13-14 (3) 14-15 (2) 15-17 (1)	16-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 18-20 (3) 20-02 (2) 02-03 (3) 03-04 (2) 04-05 (1) 19-21 (1)* 21-23 (2)* 23-02 (3)* 02-03 (2)* 03-04 (1)*

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

	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	08-10 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-12 (2) 12-13 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-11 (1) 11-12 (2) 12-14 (3) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	17-18 (1) 18-20 (3) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1) 00-02 (2) 02-03 (1) 18-20 (1)* 20-00 (2)* 00-02 (1)*

Northern Europe & European USSR	09-11 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-10 (2) 10-11 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-10 (3) 10-13 (2) 13-15 (1)	17-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 22-01 (1) 01-03 (2) 03-04 (1) 19-21 (1)* 21-01 (2)* 01-03 (1)*
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	08-10 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-11 (2) 11-12 (1)	06-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-15 (3) 15-16 (2) 16-18 (1)	18-20 (1)* 20-00 (2) 00-02 (1) 20-22 (1)* 22-00 (2)* 00-01 (1)*
Western Africa	10-12 (1) 12-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-13 (3) 13-15 (4) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (4) 17-18 (3) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-02 (2) 02-03 (1) 20-22 (1)* 22-01 (2)* 01-02 (1)*
Eastern & Central Africa	10-13 (1)	08-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	07-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	20-01 (1) 22-00 (1)*
Southern Africa	10-12 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	07-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1) 22-00 (1)	18-19 (1) 19-22 (2) 22-23 (1) 19-22 (1)*
Central & South Asia	Nil	09-11 (1) 17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 19-21 (1)	05-07 (1) 18-21 (1) 05-07 (1)* 18-20 (1)*
South-east Asia	Nil	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 18-21 (1)	05-07 (1) 18-20 (1) 05-07 (1)*
Far East	Nil	16-17 (1) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-11 (1) 16-19 (1) 19-21 (2) 21-22 (1)	04-08 (1) 17-19 (1) 05-07 (1)* 17-18 (1)*
South Pacific & New Zealand	10-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-17 (1)	12-14 (1) 14-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-18 (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) 22-01 (1)	23-00 (1) 00-02 (2) 02-06 (3) 06-08 (2) 08-09 (1) 02-04 (1)* 04-06 (2)* 06-07 (1)*
Australasia	14-16 (1)	10-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-20 (1) 20-23 (2) 23-01 (1)	02-05 (1) 05-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 04-05 (1)* 05-07 (2)* 07-08 (1)*
Caribbean, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	08-09 (1) 09-10 (2) 10-12 (3) 12-13 (2) 13-15 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-14 (3) 14-15 (4) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	00-06 (1) 06-07 (2) 07-09 (4) 09-11 (3) 11-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-18 (4) 18-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-22 (1) 22-00 (2)	18-19 (1) 19-21 (3) 21-03 (4) 03-05 (3) 05-06 (2) 06-07 (1) 19-21 (1)* 21-01 (2)* 01-04 (3)* 04-05 (2)* 05-06 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	09-11 (1) 11-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 13-14 (2) 14-16 (4) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (3) 09-10 (2) 10-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (4) 18-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-02 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-04 (2) 04-06 (1) 21-23 (1)* 23-03 (2)* 03-04 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	Nil	08-10 (1) 13-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	16-18 (1) 18-19 (2) 19-21 (3) 21-23 (2) 23-00 (1) 06-08 (1)	03-06 (1)

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

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

*Indicates best time to listen for 80 Meter openings. Openings on 160 Meters are also likely to occur during those times when 80 Meter openings are shown with a propagation index of (2), or higher.

board, but the telephone call is not toll free.

Do-It-Yourself Forecasting

Besides the solar, geophysical, and ionospheric data available from WWV

and the SESC computer bulletin board, there are also available several excellent computer programs designed to be used for forecasting propagation conditions and band openings.

One such program is BANDAID™, produced by Base (2) Systems. It is intended for IBM and clone PCs, with color/graphic cards. At the heart of the program is the propagation forecasting module, which predicts ionospheric propagation conditions and band openings between any two points on earth. The results can be presented in either tabular or graphic form. The program calculates the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF, or frequency with 50% reliability), the Highest Possible Frequency (HPF, or frequency with 10% reliability), and the Frequency of Optimum Transmission (FOT, or frequency with 90% reliability). The program also produces the Lowest Usable Frequency (LUF, or the frequency below which communication is not possible). Distance and bearings between stations are also presented, as are sunrise/sunset times and grayline data.

The program also includes several other very useful features such as a UTC time-zone conversion, a list of 10 and 20 meter beacon stations currently in operation, a QSL databank, and a list of authorized amateur bands by class of license. The program also contains a world map that can be used to display the location of any station.

BANDAID is menu driven, can be customized for your location, and is easy to use. For a more complete critique of BANDAID, refer to Karl Thurber's "Antennas and Accessories" column in the July 1987 issue of CQ (page 74).

Base (2) Systems also produces a program called MUFPLOT™. This is intended for use with Commodore and Apple II computers. It contains a propagation module similar to the one used in BANDAID. For additional information and pricing for both BANDAID and MUFPLOT write directly to Base (2) Systems, 2534 Nebraska Street, Saginaw, MI 48601.

Another excellent program available for IBM and clones is MINIPROP.2™. This is an upgraded and revised edition of the popular MINIPROP.1™ program produced by Sheldon Shallon, W6EL. It produces a wealth of propagation data, including predictions for around-the-clock short- and long-path band openings between path terminals located anywhere in the world. The program also produces expected signal levels, sunrise and sunset times, great-circle distances and bearings, and grayline times and bearings. The MINIPROP.2 version also produces a "DX Compass." For any location, at any specific time, the program will show the MUF for every 30 degrees of azimuth.

The program is well prompted, self-explanatory, and easy to use. Required input data are latitude and longitude of path

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

	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	08-10 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-10 (1) 10-14 (2) 14-16 (1) 23-01 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-22 (2) 22-00 (1) 19-23 (1)*

terminals, date, and smoothed sunspot number or solar flux level. The MINI-PROP.2 program is user-supported, and details for its availability can be obtained by writing directly to Sheldon C. Shallon, W6EL, 11058 Queensland Street, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

Incidentally, by using the latest available solar flux data from WWV it is possible to obtain "real time" results from both the BANDAID and MINIPROP.2 programs.

Another excellent program available for Commodore 64 and 128 owners is the SUPER DX EDGE™. In addition to calculating the MUF and great circle bearings and distances between any two locations, the program gives detailed information concerning grayline propagation. It lets you see the shape and position of the grayline on keystroke command displayed on a high-resolution world map. At the same time you can see the area of the world that is in daylight and the area in darkness. If you do not have a computer, a slide-rule version called the DX EDGE™ is available. This version calculates the grayline, but does not produce propagation forecasts. For a more detailed discussion of the SUPER DX EDGE see "Antennas and Accessories" in the May 1987 issue of CQ (page 74).

For more information and pricing data for both the SUPER DX EDGE and the DX EDGE write directly to XANTEK, P.O. Box

834, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159.

Lee Wical, KH6BZF, puts out an excellent weekly newsletter full of interesting 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. Enclose an SASE for reply.

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 DX Contest *does not* include the VHF bands, some ionospheric activity should be possible on these bands during October.

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

Auroral activity usually increases dur-

ing October, and some auroral-scatter-type VHF openings are expected during the month, particularly during periods when HF conditions are either Below Normal or Disturbed. Check the Last Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for the days that are expected to be in these categories during October.

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 using during October appeared in last month's column.

Experience from the past 36 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 1987 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

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Contest Calendar

a monthly feature by
FRANK ANZALONE, W1WY

NEWS/VIEWS OF ON-THE-AIR COMPETITION

Add another contest expedition to our Phone Contest coming up at the end of the month. Ron Oates, AA4VK, will be on from Madeira (Zone 33) on all bands, 160-10 meters, propagation permitting. Ron is taking along a full assortment of gear which will permit him to operate with a full gallon. Call will be AA4VK/CT3.

The J6DX multi-multi group who was on in last year's WW CW Contest is going to give it another go in this year's contest. Most of the old crew plus a couple of new "hot shots," including our own WPX Contest Director, Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, will join the group and make an all-out effort to post a winning multi-multi score. (See photo in August Calendar.)

The Caymans will celebrate Pirates Week again this year, October 24-31. A special attractive QSL card will be issued to all stations sending a confirmation of contacting a ZF station during the above period. Also look for some WW Contest activity during that weekend. Send your QSL and two IRCs no later than December 1st to: C.A.R.S., P.O. Box 1029, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

I was saddened to read that our good friend Don Riebhoff, K7ZZ, has become a Silent Key. Don could always be expected to show up from a DX spot come WW Contest time. Last year he was back at CT4AT on 160 in the phone section. He had not put up all his antennas before his untimely death. Don was always an exciting person on the air or at conventions. He will be missed. Fred Laun, K3ZO, is sponsoring a memorial plaque for Don in the '87 WW Contest. The category will be announced in next month's Calendar.

Deadline for announcements for the January issue is October 15th, and November 15th for the February issue. Please send all material to my home address.

73 for this time, Frank, W1WY

VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest

SSB: Oct. 3-4 CW: Oct. 10-11
1000Z Saturday to 1000Z Sunday

This is the 52nd year of the VK/ZL contest. The following rules are for overseas stations.

A maximum of 12 hours operating time is permitted in the 24-hour contest period, to be taken in one-hour blocks based on the "even hour to even hour" (1000Z to 1100Z/1300Z to 1400Z, etc.) in mini-

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Calendar of Events

- * Oct. 3-4 California QSO Party
- * Oct. 3-4 Middle of the World Contest
- Oct. 3-4 VK/ZL/Oceania SSB Contest
- Oct. 10-11 VK/ZL/Oceania CW Contest
- Oct. 10&11 IRSA SSB & CW Champion
- Oct. 10-11 Ibero Americano Contest
- Oct. 10-12 Pennsylvania QSO Party
- Oct. 11 RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB
- Oct. 11-12 Illinois QSO Party
- Oct. 14-16 YLRL Anniv. CW QSO Party
- Oct. 17-18 Boy Scout Jamboree
- Oct. 17-18 Rhode Island QSO Party
- Oct. 17-18 ARCI QRP CW QSO Party
- Oct. 18 RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
- Oct. 24-25 CQ WW DX Phone Contest**
- Oct. 28-30 YLRL Anniv. SSB QSO Party
- Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 Maryland/DC QSO Party
- Nov. 7-9 ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- Nov. 14 ALARA YL-OM Contest
- Nov. 14-15 European RTTY Contest
- Nov. 21-22 MARAC Activity Contest
- Nov. 21-23 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
- Nov. 22 INORC Maritime Contest
- Nov. 28-29 CQ WW DX CW Contest**
- Dec. 4-6 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- Dec. 5-6 TOPS 3.5 MHz CW Contest
- Dec. 12-13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

* Covered last month.

imum periods of one hour. (SSB and CW are separate contests.)

Use all bands, 1.8-28 MHz, except WARC bands.

Oceania stations can work anyone. The rest of the world can work VK, ZL, and Oceania stations only. The same station may be worked on each band for QSO and multiplier credit.

Exchange: RS(T) plus a three-figure QSO number starting with 001.

Points: Two points per QSO for everyone.

Multiplier: Each VK/ZL/O prefix worked on each band.

Final Score: Total QSO points from all bands times the sum of the prefix multiplier from each band.

Awards: Special large, color certificates to top scorers in each country and to each continental winner. A participation certificate to all on request (1 IRC, please).

There is an SWL section. Only VK/ZL/O stations are logged. Call of station being worked and RS(T) being sent must be reported. Scoring same as above but both SSB and CW scores are combined for final score (maximum total of 24 hours).

Use a separate log sheet for each band and underline each new VK/ZL/O prefix as it is worked on each band. Include a



Jeff Stainman, KR0Y (top), and Ralph Bowen, N5RZ (bottom), were presented their CQ WPX CW contest plaque awards by Editor Alan Dorhoffer, K2EEK, and CQ Contest Advisor Bernie Welch, W8IMZ, at the North Texas Contest Club's Contest Forum during the '87 Dallas HAM-COM. (Photo by Walt Smith, K1DWQ)

summary sheet showing the scoring and other essential information, and the usual signed declaration that all rules and regulations have been observed.

This year logs go to the new WIA Contest Manager, Brian Beamish, VK4AHD, P.O. Box 254, Stones Corner, Qld. 4120, Australia. They must arrive no later than February 15, 1988.

Jock White, ZL2GX, manager of the 1986 contest, reported very poor conditions for last year's contest. Only three North American entries were received for the phone section (VE3CDX, K6SVL, and W0ZV) and only three for the CW section (W0ZV, K6NA, and AA6EE). After more than 40 years of service with the NZART, Jock has terminated his administration of the VK/ZL/O contest. (A job well done, Jock. The contest fraternity salutes your dedication—ed.)

IRSA World Radio Championship

Phone: Oct. 10 CW: Oct. 11
0000Z to 2400Z, Sat. & Sun.

This is the second time around for the International Radiosport Association's championship contest scheduled a week later this year in an effort to find a clear

spot in an already saturated month of October.

It's a worldwide-type contest with a wide assortment of multipliers. Phone and CW are separate contests on different days. Scores, however, can be combined for special awards in certain categories.

Single operator stations are limited to 22 hours out of the 24-hour contest period. The 2-hour off period may be taken in one or two periods. Multi-stations can operate the full 24 hours.

Use all six bands, 1.8–28 MHz (no WARC bands).

Classes: High power, 1000 watts. Low power, 100 watts. And QRP, 5 watts. Single operator, single and all band. Multi-operator, single and multi-transmitter. Club competition.

Exchange: RS(T) and a progressive QSO number starting with 001.

Points: Two for each completed contact in the phone contest. Three if it's in the CW contest.

Multiplier: Each DXCC country and call areas in the following countries worked on each band: USA, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Japan, USSR Europe, and Asia. Also one for each of the land, maritime, aeronautical mobile groups. Stations operating out of their call area must identify area of operation (i.e., VE3BMV/W2).

Final Score: Total QSO points from all bands times the total multiplier from all bands.

Awards: Certificates to winners in each category and power group, in every participating country, call areas, and mobile group. The station having the highest combined score from each country will receive a free one-year subscription to *Radiosporting* magazine. There are also a dozen championship plaques in several categories for both phone and CW winners.

Log Instructions: Phone and CW are separate contests and require separate logs. Indicate the multiplier only the first time it is worked on each band. Do *not* use a separate sheet for each band, except for multi-operator multi-transmitter stations, who should keep separate logs and QSO numbering for each band. Logs must be checked for duplicate contacts and multipliers, and off periods clearly marked.

There are many detailed operating instructions for the different classes. I strongly recommend that you send a large SAE and one "green stamp" or 3 IRCs for a sample contest-form kit (*Radiosporting*, P.O. Box 282, Pine Brook, NJ 07058).

You are encouraged to submit your log regardless of your score; they are useful for checking purposes. A one-year subscription to *Radiosporting* will be awarded to the 10 stations selected by a drawing from the logs received.

Logs must be received by December 31st by the Contest Chairman, Walt Mc-

Gugan, W3FG, P.O. Box 7, Odenton, MD 21113-0007 USA.

Iberoamericano Contest

2000Z Sat. to 2000Z Sun., Oct. 10–11

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.

Classes: Single operator and multi-operator, single transmitter; both Latin-American and non Latin-American. Single operator EC (EA novice), and QRP, less than 5 watts output.

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: X-Concurso Iberoamericano, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 594, 08007 Barcelona, Spain.

Pennsylvania QSO Party

1600–0500Z Sat.–Sun., Oct. 10–11
1300–2200Z Sun., Oct. 11

This is the 30th annual party sponsored by the Nittany ARC of State College, PA. The same station may be worked on each band and mode for QSO points. PA stations may also work other in-state stations for QSO and multiplier

credit, and mobiles in each county change. Novice stations must identify.

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 if on 80 or 160. Novice QSOs 10 points on CW, 5 points on SSB.

PA stations multiply total by (ARRL sections + PA counties + 1 DX country), total of 143 possible. (Remember West Texas is a new county.) Others use PA counties for their multiplier (total of 67 possible).

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

Novice and QRP stations multiply their score by 2.

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

Awards: In five classes—single operator, multi-single, multi-multi, mobile, and QRP (5 watt maximum). Certificates to winners in each PA county, ARRL section, DX country, 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 and 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 samples are available from W3HDH. Send 50¢ for a copy of the results (no SASE).

Mailing deadline for all entries is November 15th to: Douglas R. Maddox, W3HDH, 1187 S. Garner Street, State College, PA 16801.

RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest

0700 to 1900 GMT Sunday, Oct. 11

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 49 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 49 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.

Awards: Certificates to the three leading overall winners, and at the discretion of the committee, to the leading station in each country. Both for transmitting and SWL.

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 7th. 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. 18

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.

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 49 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 overall winners, and at the discretion of the committee, to the leading station in

each country. Both for 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 14th. This year they go to: RSGB Contest Committee, P.O. Box 73, Lichfield, Staffs. WS13 6UJ, England.

Illinois QSO Party

1800Z Sun. to 0200Z Mon., Oct. 11-12

This is the 25th anniversary of the Illinois QSO Party sponsored by the Radio Amateur Megacycle Society. It's a shorty, only 8 hours long.

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

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

Scoring: One point for phone contacts, 2 points if on CW, 25 points if with RAMS club station K9CJU. Illinois stations multiply total QSO points by (states + provinces + IL counties + maximum of 5 countries) worked. Additional DX QSOs count for points but not multiplier.

Others use IL counties for their multiplier (maximum of 102).

Illinois mobiles add 200 points to final score for each county from which 10 or more QSOs were made.

All stations earn an extra multiplier for every eight QSOs made with the same county.

Frequencies: CW—3550, 7050, 14050, and 30 kHz above bottom edge of Novice subbands. SSB—3890, 7290, 14290. Other bands may also be used.

Awards: Certificates to the top 10 scoring IL fixed stations, 5 IL mobiles, winners in each state, province, country, and the highest club/team aggregate score. A plaque goes to the top-scoring Illinois station. And each participant who submits a log will receive a commemorative 25th anniversary certificate.

Logs: Indicate band and mode, circle each new multiplier, and IL mobiles must indicate each county change. Stations with over 100 QSOs must submit a dupe sheet.

A summary sheet showing the scoring and the usual signed declaration is also requested.

Mailing deadline for logs is November 9th to: RAMS, c/o Joe LeKostaj, WB9GOJ, 9134 Ewing Ave., Evanston, IL 60203.

YLRL Anniversary Party

CW: Oct. 14-16 SSB: Oct. 28-30
1400Z-0200Z, Wed.-Fri.

This is the 48th 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 on each band* 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 200 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, 21135, 28195. SSB—3955, 7255, 14265, 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 district, 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 12th, and this year logs go to: Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, 504 Channel View Dr., Anacortes, WA 98221.

Scouts Jamboree On The Air

0001 Sat. to 2400 Sun., Local Time,
Oct. 17-18

This is the 30th annual Jamboree sponsored by the World Scout Bureau. This is not a contest, but an opportunity for Scouts or anyone interested in Scouting to get together on the air and exchange greetings and information.

Activity is worldwide, and this year the emphasis is on Australia, where the 16th World Scout Jamboree will be held in two months.

Scouts of course will set up their own stations, but amateurs can invite members of Scout units or individuals to visit

their stations or clubs to see how ham radio operates.

Any authorized frequencies may be used. The following frequencies are suggested as calling spots, and once a contact has been established, move to another frequency. CW—3590, 7030, 14070, 21140, 28190 kHz. Phone—3740, 3940, 7090, 7290, 14290, 21360, 28990 kHz.

No specific exchange, no scoring, and no logs are required, but participating stations are requested to send a report of their activity to their National Organizer. In the US they can be sent to: JOTA Coordinator, International Division BSA, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75038-3096.

Rhode Island QSO Party

1700Z Sat. to 0500Z Sun., Oct. 17-18
1300Z Sun. to 0100Z Mon., Oct. 18-19

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 oth-

ers 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.

RI stations multiply total QSO points by RI cities/towns, 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, 14050, 21050, 21110, 28050, 28110. Phone—1850, 3900, 7260, 14300, 21360, 28400, 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.

ARCI QRP CW Contest

1200Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Oct. 17-18

This is the fall edition of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International. This year's activity will be found on CW only. Participants are limited to 24 hours out of the 36-hour contest period.

Exchange: RST 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—× 2; 3 to 4 watts—× 4; 2 to 3 watts—× 6; 1 to 2 watts—× 8; less than 1 watt—× 10; over 5 watts check log only.

The following bonus multipliers are also available: solar or wind power—× 2; battery power—× 1.5. Must be used for duration of contest. And a new bonus on each band if homebrew equipment is used, 200 if a transmitter, 300 if a receiver, and 500 if a transceiver (maximum of 500 per band).

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

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

Frequencies: 1810, 3560, 7040, 14060, 21060, 28060, 50060. 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.

CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Phone: Oct. 24-25 CW: Nov. 28-29
0000Z Saturday to 2400Z Sunday

Complete rules were published in last

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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 65 trophies and plaques that will be awarded in the 1987 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. 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, 1987 for the phone section, and January 15, 1988 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.

Maryland/DC QSO Party

1800Z Sat. to 2100Z Sun.
Oct. 30 to Nov. 1

Sponsored by the Columbia ARA, this party is for single operator competition only. Each station may be worked once on each band and mode, and MD/DC can work other MD/DC stations for multiplier credit but no QSO point credit.

Exchange: Progressive QSO number and QTH. County for MD/DC; ARRL section or DX country for others. (*Note:* Baltimore city and county are two separate multipliers.)

Scoring: One point for phone contacts, 2 points if on CW.

Multiplier: ARRL sections, DX countries, and Maryland counties for MD/DC. Out-of-state stations use Maryland counties (28 MD counties, Baltimore city and Washington DC).

Frequencies: CW—60 kHz up from bottom edge of the 80–10 meter bands (no WARC). Phone—3950, 7250, 14290, 21390, 28490. Novice—10 kHz from bottom of Novice subbands.

Awards: Certificates to top scorers in each call area, including Novice/Tech. and each Maryland county.

Mailing deadline for logs is November 30th to: Jim Reske, NB3P, 8454 Church Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

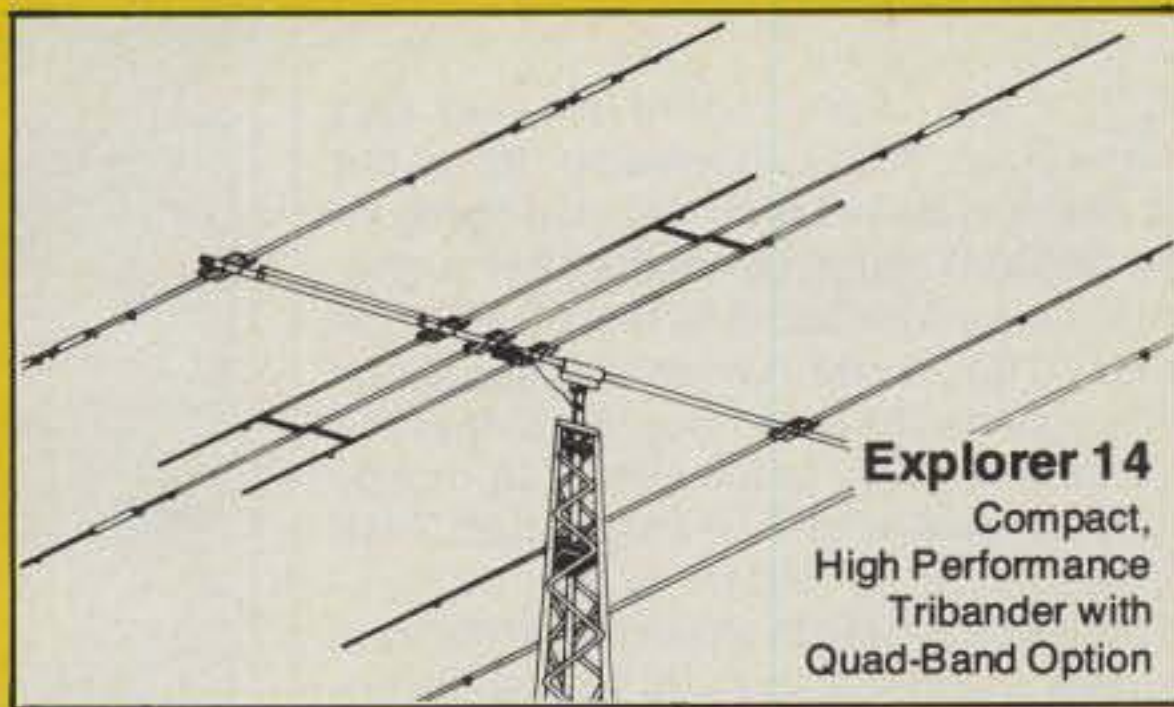
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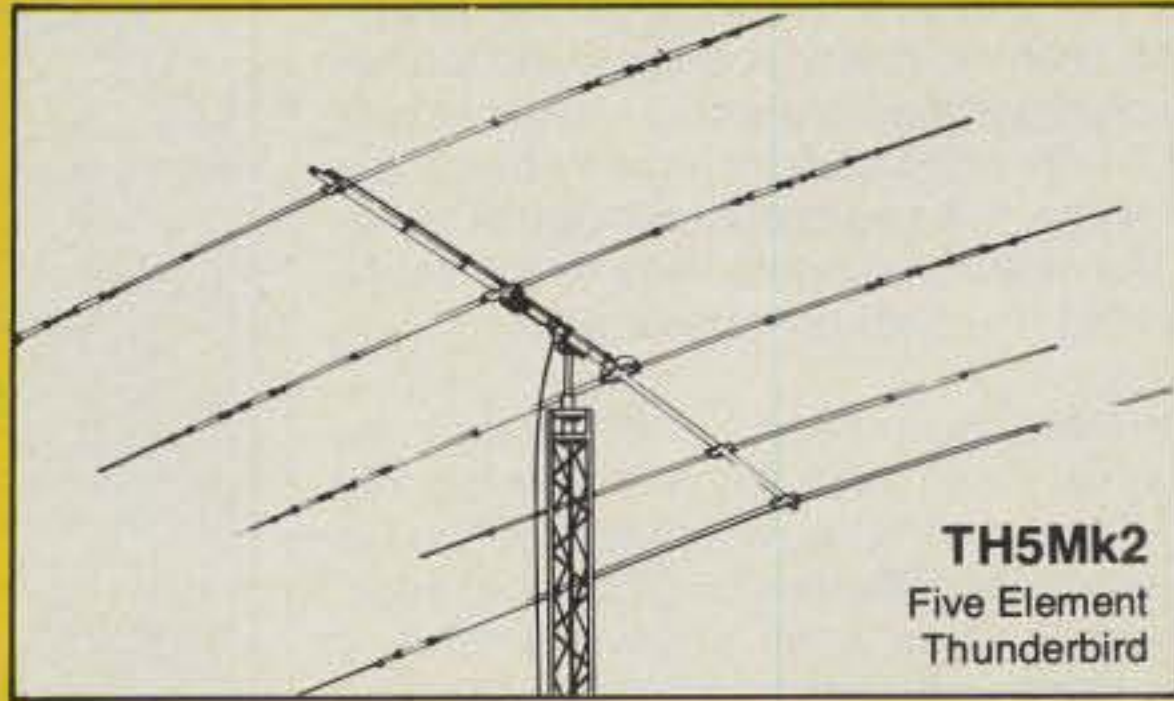
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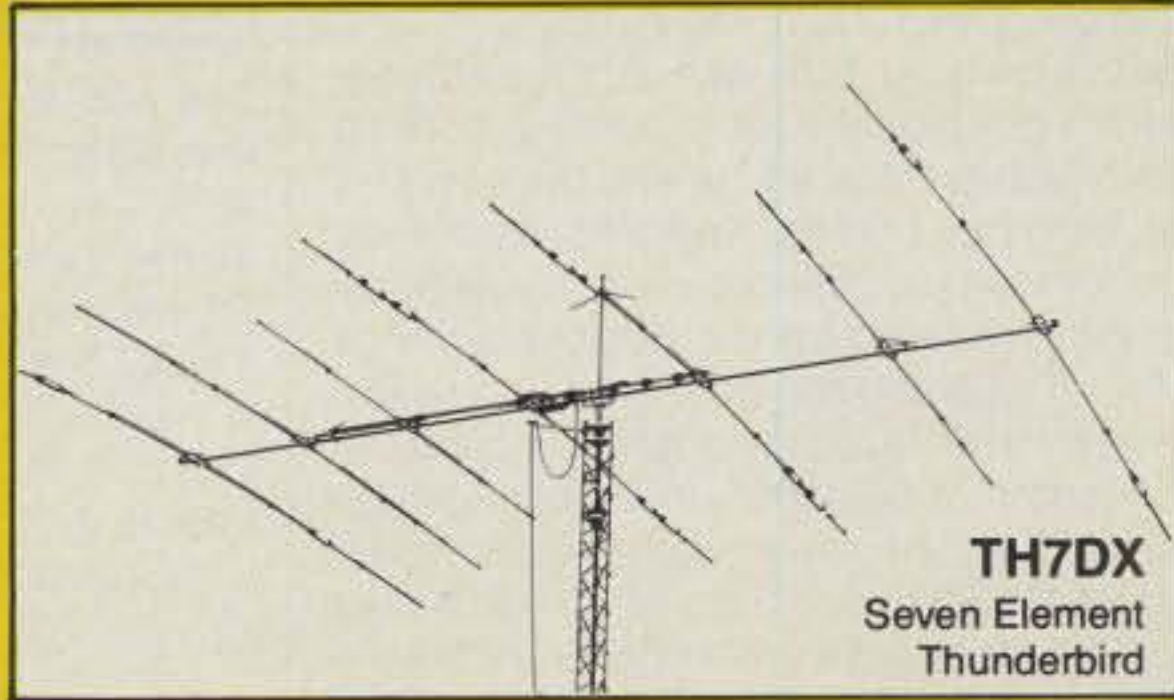
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PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND PROJECTS FOR THE VHFER

The Third Annual VHF WPX Contest

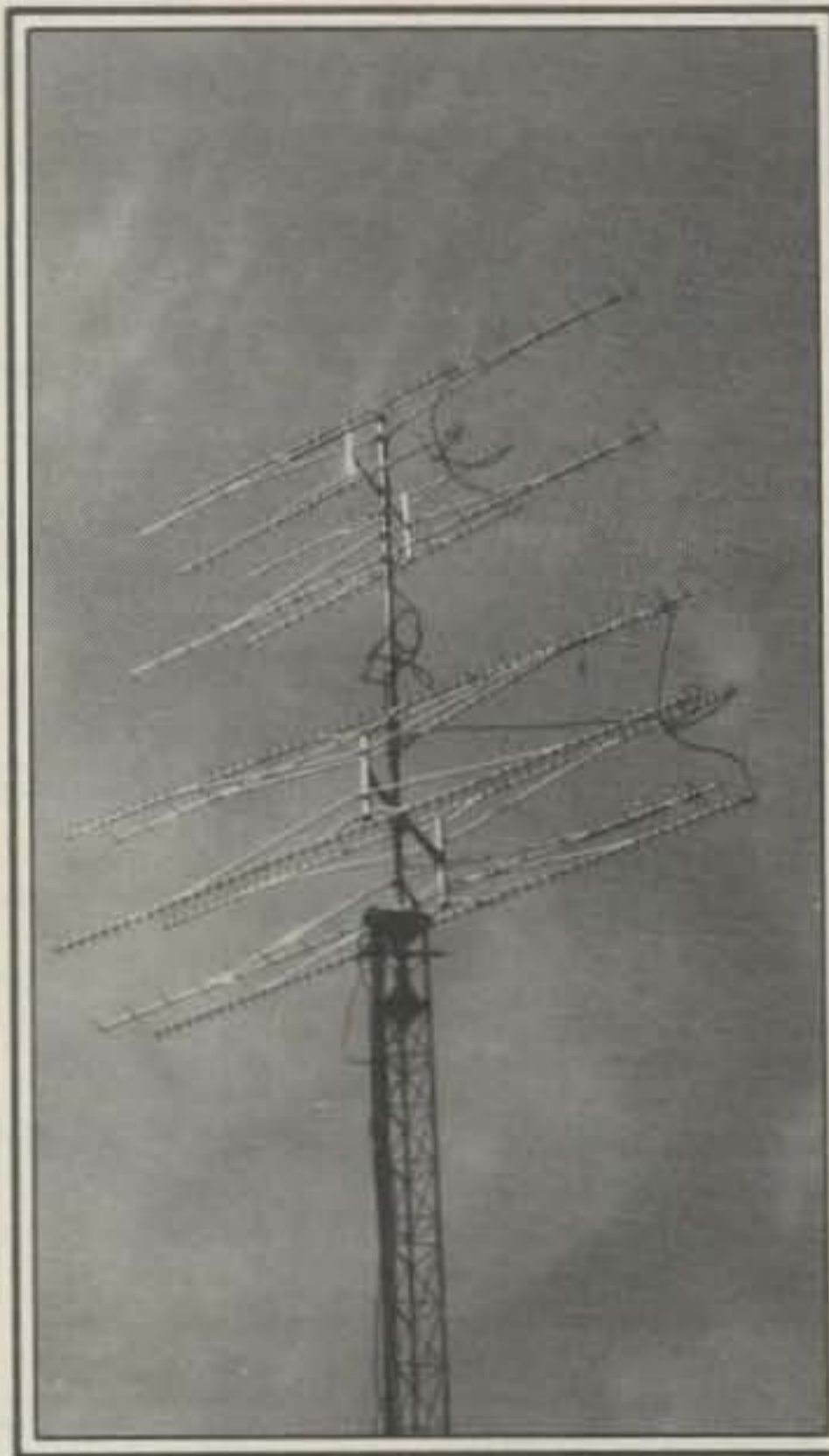
How did it go for you? From what we could tell, conditions were good and activity was up from last year, but you'd never know it by our score.

Murphy struck us pretty hard this year. Our small group at KT2B, operating from the KC2PX shack at Belle Mead, NJ, had some incredibly bad luck. First, our entire UHF antenna system—an interlaced array of 396 elements for 70-33-23 cm—which was supposed to be fully installed by the Friday morning of the contest, was not only uninstalled, but mostly still in boxes, remaining to be assembled. Then the 6 meter antenna system, a pair of 7-element Yagis which I had to assemble and install on the tower, was located so far from the operating shack that all attempts to get the rotator working seemed pretty hopeless. Indeed, all Friday night we operated with our beams stuck "west," until I had a brainstorm involving the use of some #14 two-conductor romex paralleling the motor and brake lines to the shack (performed this field surgery at about 1 a.m. Saturday).

Then the 6 meter beams didn't seem to be working very well, probably because the 200 feet of 75 ohm hardline, which was spliced to another 80 feet of Belden 9913 50 ohm coax, had taken in some water and was exhibiting serious losses. We finally ran a new 200 foot length of 9913 on Sunday morning.

Because Ivars, KC2PX, owner of the contest site, hadn't been on the air in a while, nothing was really set up. Pete, KT2B, and I lugged a lot of gear from our homes, and that, combined with a lot of stuff Ivars already had, made operational stations on six bands. But lots of things went wrong all along the way. A coax relay on the 2 meter KW failed and needed replacement. A length of 50 ohm 7/8 inch heliax which was run up the UHF tower wasn't working, so we resorted to 9913 on 70 cm (the other heliax runs for 903 and 1296 were okay). Probably the only thing that went right for us all weekend was that the 70-33-23 cm arrays once finally installed at noontime Saturday worked perfectly. Ivars spent a lot of time meticulously cutting the phasing harnesses for the three 4-bay systems, and his efforts paid off.

We decided to use Pete, KT2B's callsign for the unique prefix. This turned out to be a good idea, because I think we were the only KT2 on the air. However, our call was not nearly as unique as 4U1UN, the multi-op group who operated all bands from the roof of the United Nations building in New York City. After all, they were not just a new prefix, but a new *country* for most people. From what I could tell, they did very well—maybe better than anyone else. At KT2B we did catch some excellent tropo into the midwest Friday night and filled up a couple of log sheets with rare calls on 2 meters. Conditions were good up through 1296 MHz, but our antennas were in a state of mid-assembly



The 396-element interlaced array at KC2PX was used for 70-33-23 cm operations at VHF WPX Contest station KT2B. While the 4 x 23-element and 4 x 55-element arrays for 33 and 23 cm were conventional "H" frames (2 x 2 Yagis), the 84-element system for 70 cm used 4 stacked 21-element Yagis all on the same vertical mast. This takes up more vertical space, but offers the advantage of broader horizontal beamwidth for easier steering.

Friday night, so we missed our only opportunity to work the midwest on the higher bands. Murphy strikes.

Six meters was a disappointment. The band opened sporadically, producing very strong signals from the Gulf and even the west coast, but the openings were brief and not well populated. Some of the problem was on our end. Our GaAsFET front end blew out about one minute into the contest, so we limped along with an unaided transverter until Saturday, when we replaced the preamp. Plus, we did have that lossy feedline until Sunday, when we worked up the ambition to replace it. Still, however, the band was not what it was for the June VHF QSO Party. Murphy strikes another blow.

The contest produced more positive comments, either directed to us or overheard, than the previous two VHF WPXs. Folks seemed deliriously happy with the conditions and activity, and we received several reports of "Congratulations! You really hit it right this year!" Many big-gun VHFers and contesters were heard

participating, and there were more stations signing portable than I can recall hearing in any past VHF contest. I hope everyone had fun ... and mailed in his logs. We'll try to run a "top claimed scores" listing in the January issue.

In Other News . . .

Henry, N4HB, of Richmond, VA wrote to tell a bit about his experiences during the June VHF QSO Party and the sporadic-E session on June 29-30. Henry says, "It was the best opening I have ever been involved in" and that he worked six new states, including Wyoming on 2 meters, during the two-day session. N4HB is now operational on 220 MHz using a TS180S with an MMT220/28 transverter and a Cushcraft Boomer at 85 feet. Henry's fighting reverse-TVI from Channel 12, but is open for skeds and hopes to have an amplifier running by the time this is printed.

Reverse TVI? Sure. That's interference to amateur reception caused by TV broadcast stations. The 135 cm band suffers more than any other from this, since it is very close to Channel 13, a popular allocation around the country. There are various methods of reducing the interference. One of my favorites is to use high-Q tuned cavity resonators in the receive feedline. Fair Radio Sales (Lima, OH) sold sets of frequency-adjustable filters which tuned in adjacent frequency ranges throughout the VHF spectrum and were ideally suited for this purpose. Henry, you might contact the folks at Fair Radio to see if they still have any of these filters for the 220 MHz range. They offer about 20 dB rejection at 216 MHz when tuned to a center frequency of 220.

N4HB also has an intimate relationship with Murphy. He says that during the June VHF contest when he and Tom, WB4BVY, were operating from his home, he cut his hand wide open on a tin can top, requiring a trip to a hospital emergency room and seven stitches. Sorry to hear about that, Henry, but Murphy eventually gets us all.

Another report of the phenomenal 144 MHz E-skip opening of 6/29-6/30 came from Axel, N8AXA (OH), who mailed a copy of his log! N8AXA worked 33 stations in 16 grids during the two-day period, snagging a new state (Wyoming) in the process. Good work, Axel. Did anybody hear anything on 220 during that session?

Harry, KA3B, is gathering material concerning 6 meters for a possible book he's planning to author. He'd like to cover all aspects of 6 meter operation and examine the history of the band as well. Harry's asking for photographs of operators and their antenna systems, mobile installations, beacon stations, and DXpeditions. He writes, "I am also in need of any written material relating to 6 meters, such as old bulletins and newsletters, as I'm planning a chronology of events. Any material such as promotional literature for equipment of past years would be helpful as well. If there is anyone who can provide me with any of the above

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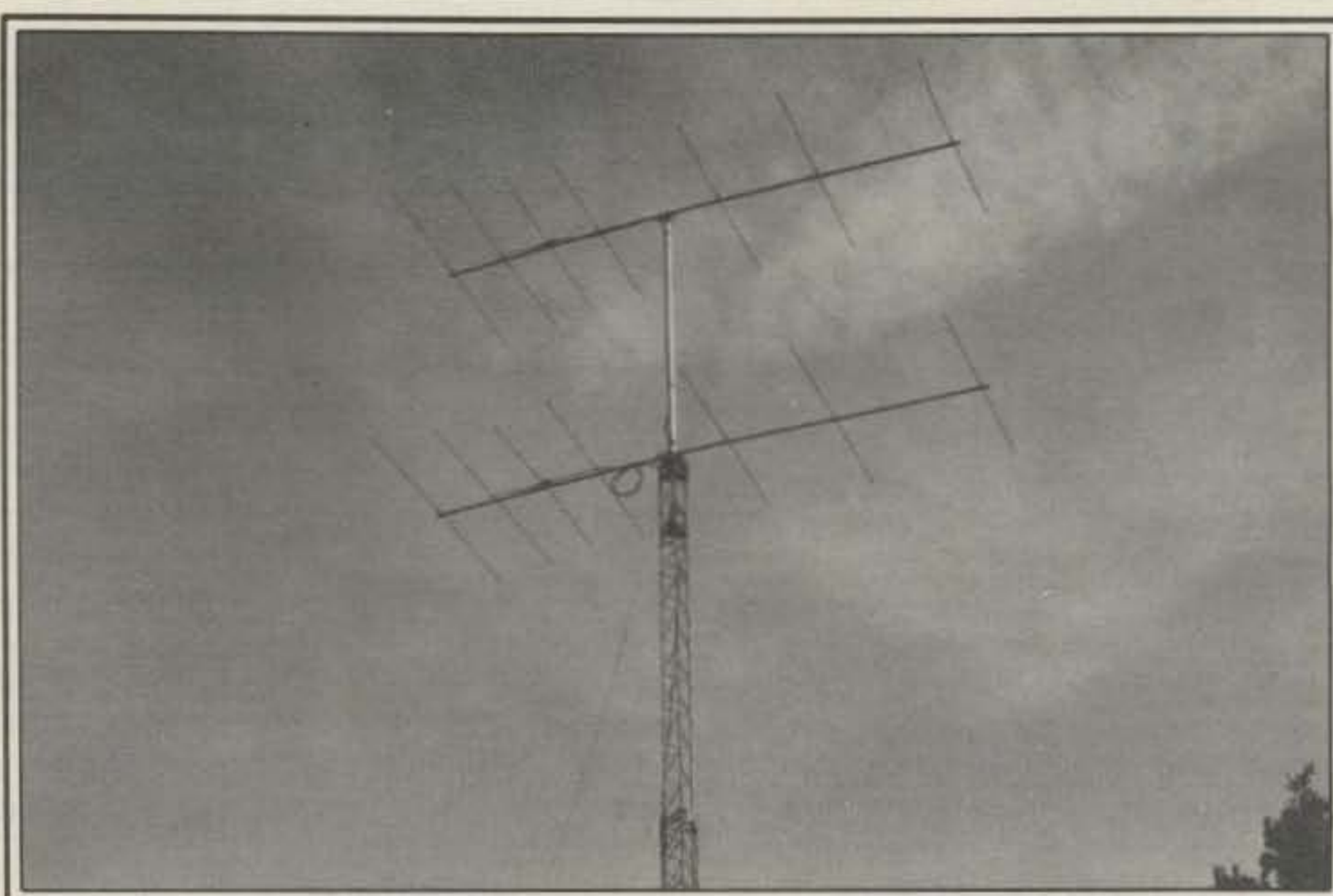
it will be greatly appreciated." Does this mean you want photos of my old Gonset G-50, Clegg Zeus, and Hallicrafters HA-6, Harry? Boy, am I dating myself.

KA3B also relates a bit about his experiences operating from AC3T in Delaware for the June QSO Party and the July WPX Contest. In June he made 400 Qs in 161 grids on 6 meters, including 47 states and five provinces. He says he was state #50 for three people and #49 for quite a few others. While setting up for the July contest, also at AC3T, he heard G3TKF on 50.110 CW at 2050Z on July 17. The UK station built in signal strength from S1 to S9+, which prompted Harry to move to 50.180 and call CQ. In the following hour he worked 18 Gs, 5 GWs, and EI9BG. Good work, Harry!

Anyone who can help out KA3B with the information he requests is urged to write Harry A. Schools, 1606 South Newkirk St., Philadelphia, PA 19145.

Remember FCC General Docket 87-14, which proposed the reduction of the 135 cm amateur allocation from 5 to 3 MHz? As of this writing, this issue still isn't decided. The response, however, was overwhelming, with more than 5000 opposing comments received by the FCC. And that total does not include reply comments, which relate to comments filed by other parties. If the Commission is deluged with comments, it may take several months for any decision to come about. Meanwhile, at least two commercial interests have already advertised the availability of ACSB equipment manufactured for the "220 MHz commercial band." Bah! Humbug! Of course, this all might work out well for us. Assuming we retain the entire 5 MHz as an amateur allocation, and these manufacturers have already built an inventory of commercial equipment for the band, the gear may become available for a song! Thanks to 220 Notes for information contained above.

Speaking of 220 MHz, a band where Novices now enjoy phone (voice) privileges, CQ is sponsoring a brand new award called the CQ Novice Century Club. The rules are simple: Novice operators need to work and exchange QSL cards with 100 different stations on any or all the Novice bands using any mode, then prepare a list of claimed QSLs on an award application form, have the listed QSLs verified by two higher class licensees, and mail it in.



The 14-element stacked array for 50 MHz at KC2PX was temporarily installed about 200 feet behind the operating shack for the VHF WPX Contest (KT2B), leading to rotor problems caused by excessive control-cable line loss. These 20 foot long Yagis were stacked just 12 feet apart—not optimum, but they worked well.

There's no application fee. Application forms are available from CQ, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. Successful applicants will receive handsome numbered certificates. What a wonderful idea! I hope CQ awards thousands of these certificates, as each will be a testimonial to an active Novice class operator. We all know that it's only the active Novices who go on to bigger and better things.

WBØDGF's editorial in the *Midwest VHF Report* for June discussed the age-old problem of domestic operators monopolizing the DX calling frequency for 6 meters, 50.110 MHz. W3XO has discussed this problem in his column in *QST*, as have I in these pages. Roger, WBØDGF, recommended we make suggestions on how to deal with the DX window, calling frequency, and other aspects of our 6 meter band plan and give them to N6TX, the ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee chairman.

I've been tentatively invited to speak as a panel member on this topic at the Mt. Airy VHF Club ("Packrats") VHF Conference this month (October). I hope the discussion comes off as planned, and maybe we can resolve something. But still, only actual convention will dictate what happens. If we are upset about domestic stations interfering with weak DX signals at the low end of the phone band, we each can help individually by resolving to not answer them! When operators ask me for 6 meter meteor-scatter skeds on 50.110, or even 50.120 for the matter, I usually ask them to call back after they've sobered up. With a band that is 4 MHz wide, why in the world would I want to set up a schedule in the DX window? I usually shoot for 50.175 or so—higher if the band is crowded.

Still, I'll admit that 50.200 as a calling frequency may not be the best choice. One reason is that those of us using rigs that only tune in 200 kHz increments (Collins S-line and the like) won't be able to QSY up any higher without changing band segments and a lot of retuning. This is a problem on 2 meters as well, though, and we seem to be dealing with it. Whatever the majority decides, I'll be happy to go along with it. There was initial resistance to 144.200 as the calling frequency, remember?

Where to put the mobile rig is neither an earth-shaking nor an age-old problem ('57 Oldsmobiles had lots of room), but we still encounter it daily. I just took delivery of a new Volvo 740 Turbo and had to move my little Alinco ALR-206T from the Cressida to the new Swedish machine. No sweat. I used the same mounting method in the new car, and that is to secure the mounting bracket to the passenger side of the center console, with the rig's panel facing me, the driver. Actually, the Volvo has a lot of interior room, and I'll probably add a 220 MHz rig as well.

Dick Waite, W6MJO, mailed in a letter and a couple of photos of his solution to the rig-mounting problem in a Datsun 200SX. He applied mating strips of "velcro" to the under-

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side of the rig and the side of his center console, and just sticks the rig to the console. That's so easy that I can't believe I didn't think of it first (being a very simple person). Dick says the velcro works fine, and uses just a single strip on the rig and the console. Dick's rig is also an Alinco, purchased after reading my review of the radio in this magazine. Good choice, Dick. My ALR-206T is still working flawlessly after about 60,000 miles of bumpy roads.

The bad news is that Q Products, Bozeman, MT is no longer carrying SSB Electronic VHF/UHF products. The good news is that Val Comm, Inc. of Albuquerque, NM is. Val Comm President Mel Pfeffer, W5LTR, says his firm is the authorized U.S. distributor for sales and service of SSB Electronic products and is presently importing all the product line, including preamps, sequencers, converters, and transverters. Of considerable interest to the VHF/UHF weak-signal community is the MV144 and MV432 series of masthead low-noise preamplifiers, and the LT23S (23 cm) and LT33S (33 cm) linear transverters. The LT33S especially is a hot item because it is the only commercially available, wired and tested linear transverter for the 33 cm amateur band, and literally every station I've worked thus far on 903 MHz is using one. So am I, and I intend to review this unit in the next couple of months.

If you're interested in SSB Electronic products, write to Val Comm Inc., 249-B Muriel N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123, or call them at (505) 292-7509.

Merle Rummel, W9LCE, of Richmond, IN, wrote to ask for information on the design of "cavities" for microwave amplifiers. He wrote, "Twenty some years ago I received info on a P-P 4X250B cavity amp for 432 MHz (since lost) . . . How does one design one's own? How do you locate the power tube/transistor in the cavity?"

Merle, I don't think anybody uses push-pull cavity amplifiers on 432 MHz. Actually, I've never seen a push-pull cavity amplifier. Every design I've seen is single-ended, with a single tube or tubes in parallel. And it is my opinion that the most attractive feature of a resonant-cavity power amplifier (very high Q and efficiency) is outweighed by the problems of tuning instability and thermal drift when used at frequencies as low as 432 MHz. I wouldn't recommend using a resonant cavity design until the operating frequency is high enough to justify backing away from conventional stripline construction—probably about 1 GHz.

Generally, the tube or other active device represents a lumped impedance loading one end of a coaxial resonant cavity, thus modifying its natural resonance. When the cavity is excited with the power generated by the tube, an intense e-field is produced in the resonant structure, allowing one to efficiently deliver power to a load from convenient pickoff point using either inductive or capacitive coupling. If you study the engineering formulas I've provided, you'll find a convenient starting point for resonant cavity design to be 70 ohms impedance. Rather than re-inventing the wheel, if you'll tell me specifically what band and power level you're interested in, I can probably find a construction article to suit your needs.

Well, that's about it for this month. Get your last-minute antenna work done this month, if you can. The weather, at least for those of us up north, is not going to be getting better for a while.

73, Steve, WB2WIK



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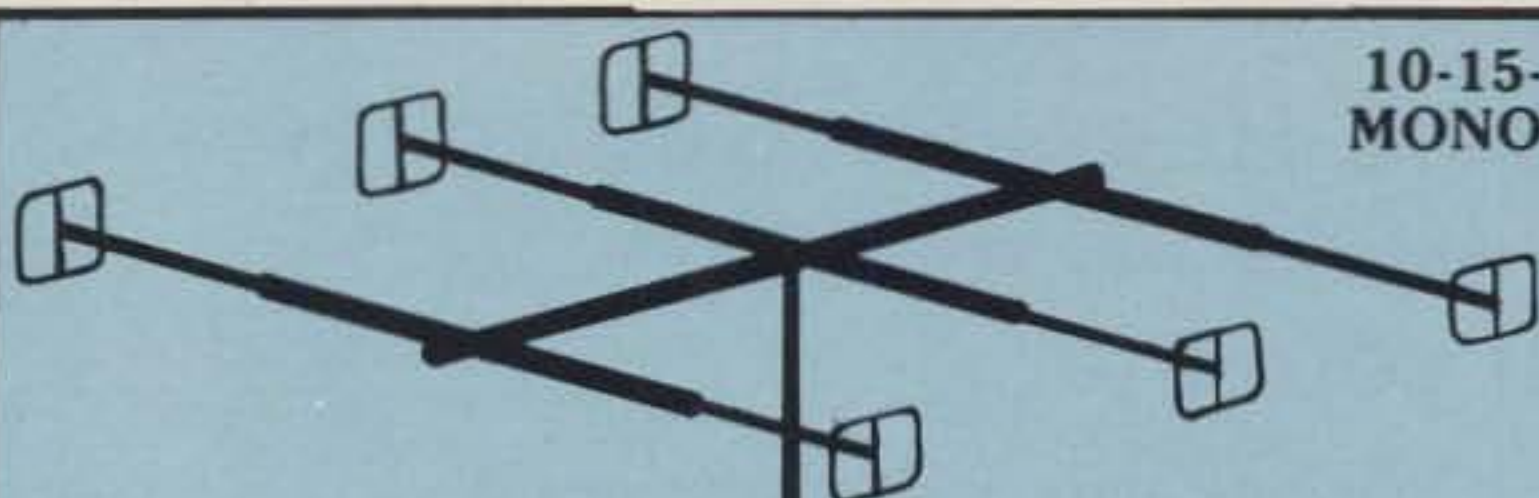


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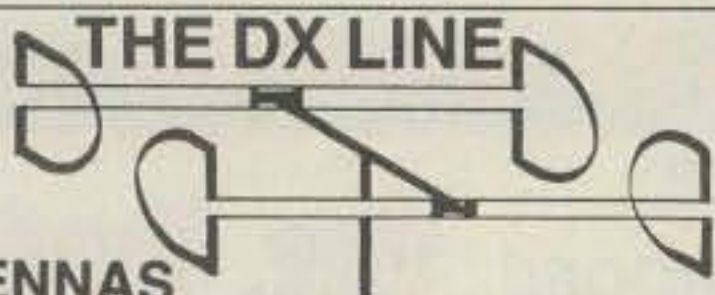
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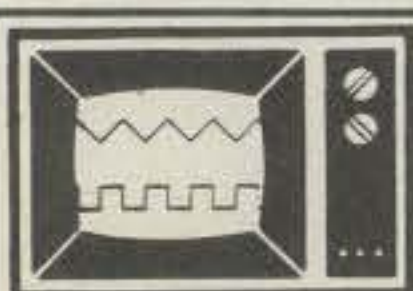
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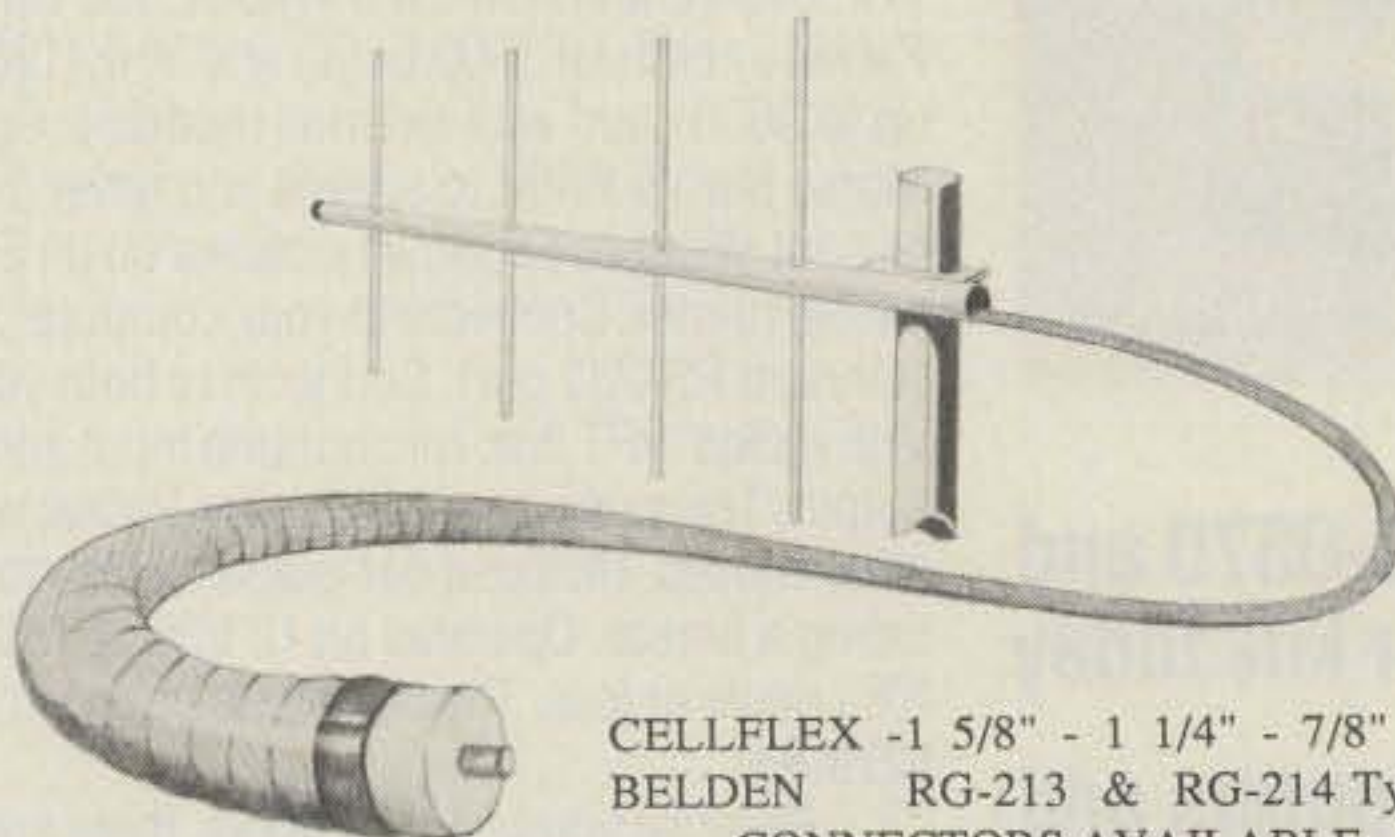
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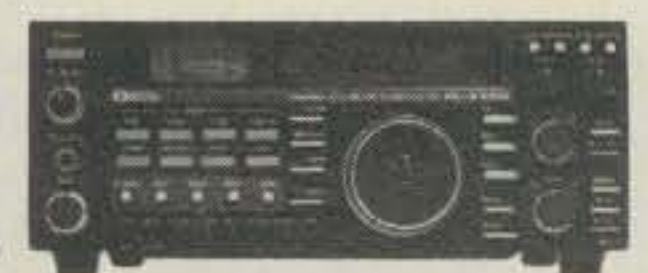


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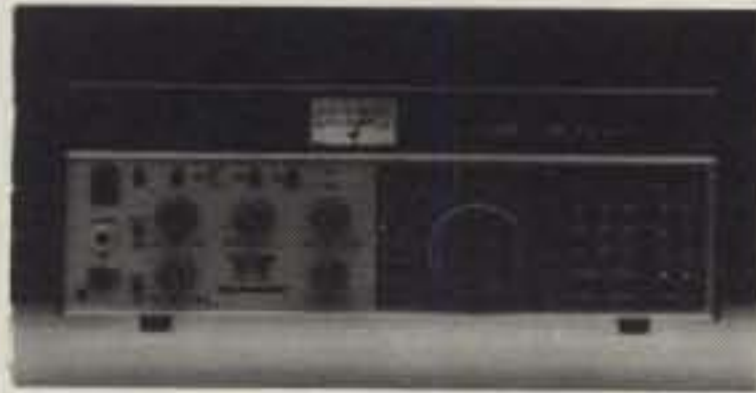


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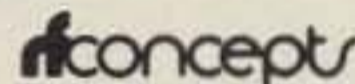
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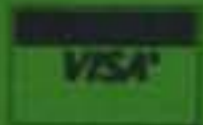
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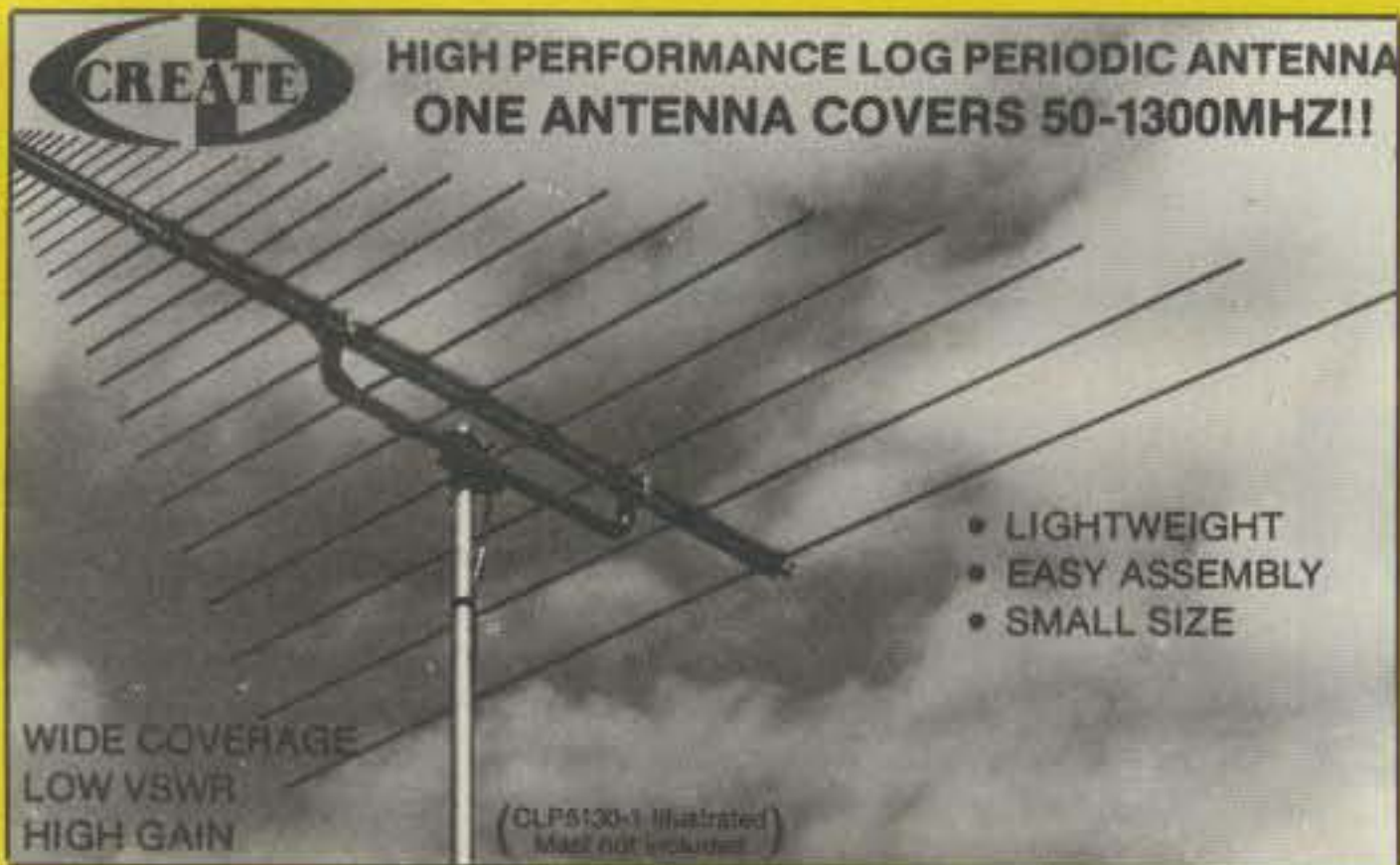
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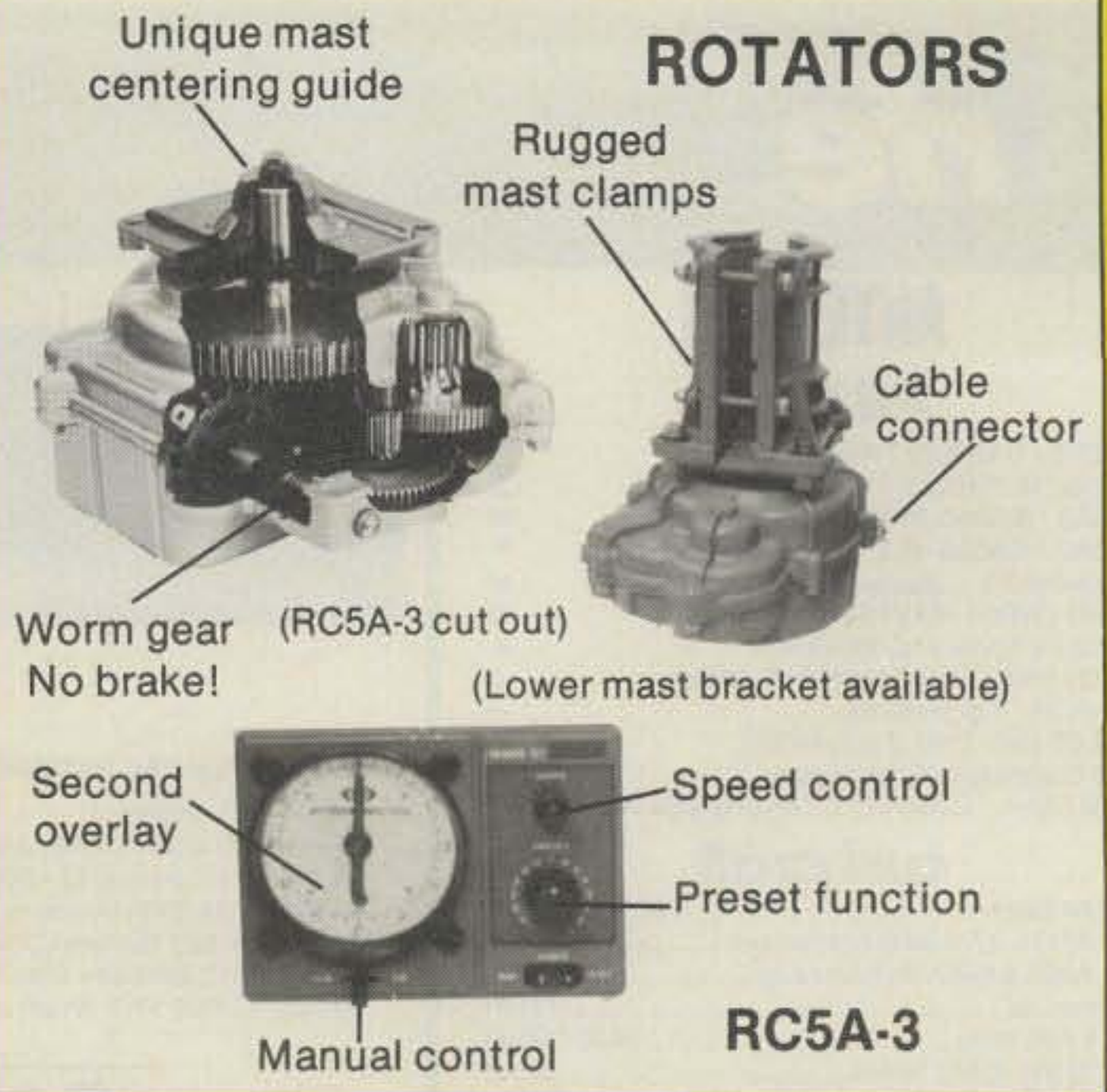
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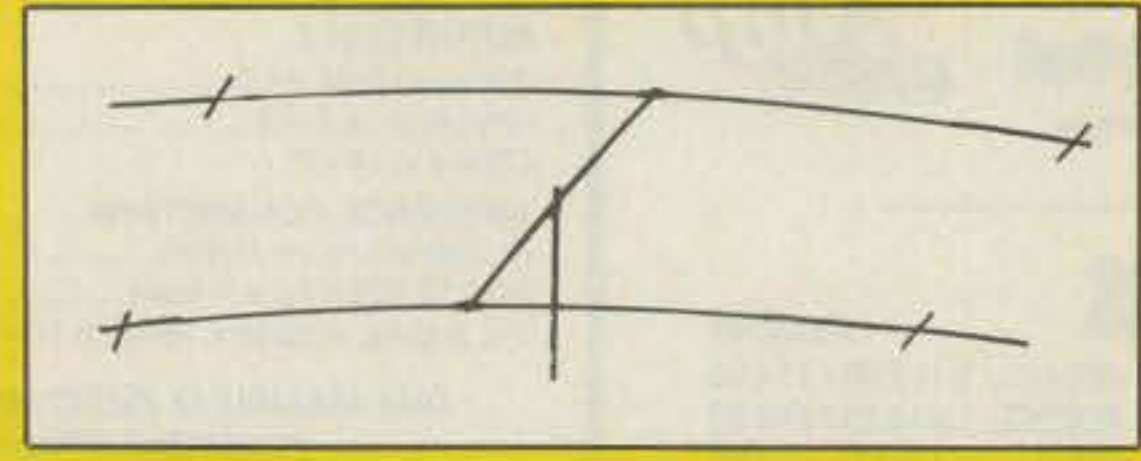


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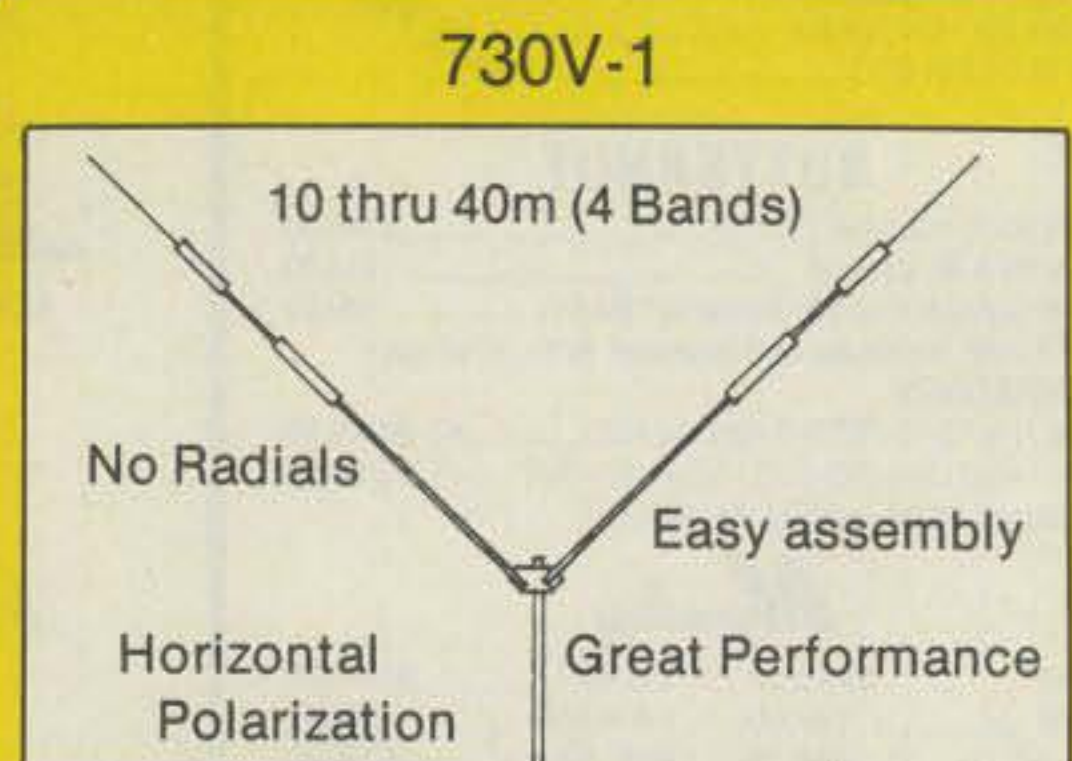
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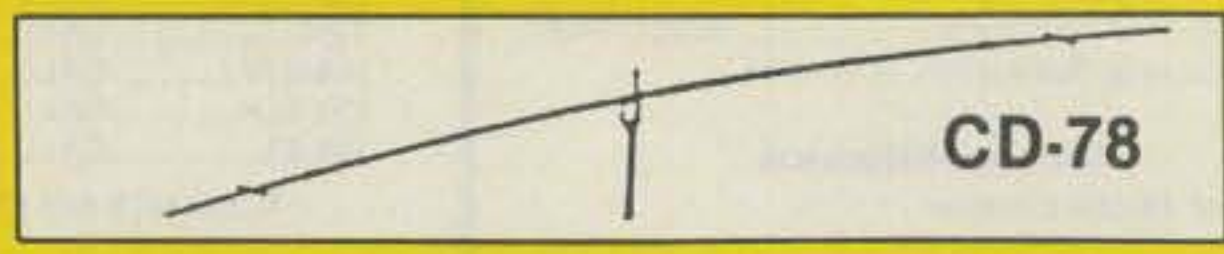


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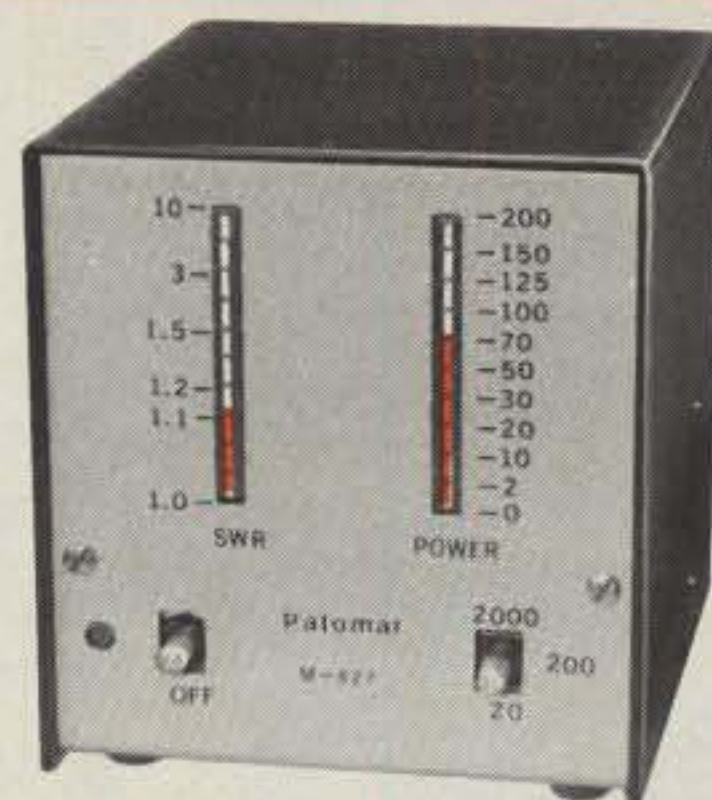


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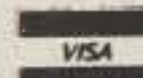
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- 160-10m w/General Coverage Receiver
- Solid-State Lightweight
- Dual VFO's

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PK-64A/HFM

- Morse, Baudot, ASCII, AMTOR and Packet
- Operates VHF and HF
- You Need Only Your Transceiver and a Commodore 64 or 128

SPECIAL! SAVE \$100.00

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Limited Supply

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FT-757GX/II

"CAT SYSTEM"

- All Mode HF Transceiver
- Dual VFO's
- Full Break-in CW
- 100% Duty Cycle

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FT-767GX HF/VHF/UHF BASE STATION

- Add Optional 6m, 2m & 70cm Modules
- Dual VFO's
- Full CW Break-in
- Lots More Features

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FL-7000

- Solid State Amp for 160-15M
- Built-In Power Supply
- Automatic Tuner
- 1200W PEP Input

ASTRON CORPORATION



Power Supply

• RS7A	\$48
• RS12A	\$68
• RS20A	\$88
• RS20M	\$105
• VS20M	\$125
• RS35A	\$133
• RS35M	\$149
• VS35M	\$165
• RS50A	\$189
• RS50M	\$215
• RM50A	\$219
• VS50M	\$229

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FT-109RH

- 220 MHz Handheld
- 5W Output
- Ten Memories
- Battery Saver
- Memory And Priority Scanning
- FT-209RH-2m
- FT-709RH-440 MHz

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FT23/73R

- Super "Mini" HT's
- Zinc-Aluminum Alloy Case
- 10 Memories
- 140-164 MHz, 440-450 MHz
- 2W Battery Pack or Optional 5W Pack

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FT-727R

- Two Affordable Radios in One
- 2m/440 MHz Handheld
- 5W on Both Bands
- Ten Memories
- Multi-Scan Systems
- Battery Saver

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Yaesu's FT-736R. Because you never know who's listening.

Why just dream of talking beyond earth?

With Yaesu's new FT-736R VHF/UHF base station, you can discover some of the best DX happening in ham radio. Via moonbounce. Tropo. Aurora. Meteor scatter. Or satellites.

You see, the FT-736R is the most complete, feature-packed rig ever designed for the serious VHF/UHF operator. But you'd expect this of the successor to our legendary FT-726R.

For starters, the FT-736R comes factory-equipped for SSB, CW and FM operation on 2 meters and 70 cm (430-450 MHz!), with two additional slots for optional 50-MHz, 220-MHz, or 1.2-GHz modules.

Crossband full duplex capability is built into every FT-736R for satellite work. And the satel-



lite tracking function (normal *and* reverse modes) keeps you on target through a transponder.

The FT-736R delivers 25 watts RF output on 2 meters, 220 MHz, and 70 cm. And 10 watts on 6 meters and 1.2 GHz. Store frequency, mode, PL frequency, and repeater shift in each of the 100 memories.

For serious VHF/UHF work, use the RF speech processor. IF shift. IF notch filter. CW and FM wide/narrow IF filters. VOX. Noise blanker. Three-position AGC selection. Preamp switch for activating your

tower-mount preamplifier. Even an offset display for measuring observed Doppler shift on DX links.

And to custom design your FT-736R station, choose from these popular optional accessories: Iambic keyer module. FTS-8 CTCSS encode/decode unit. FVS-1 voice synthesizer. FMP-1 AQS digital message display unit. 1.2-GHz ATV module. MD-1B8 desk microphone. E-736 DC cable. And CAT (Computer Aided Transceiver) system software.

Discover the FT-736R at your Yaesu dealer today. But first make plenty of room for exotic QSL cards. Because you *never* know who's listening.

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CIRCLE 59 ON READER SERVICE CARD



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Yaesu Cincinnati Service Center 9070 Gold Park Drive, Hamilton, OH 45011 (513) 874-3100.

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. PL is a registered trademark of Motorola, Inc. FT-736R shown with 220 MHz option installed.

THE IC-735 HF TRANSCEIVER



BUY YOUR HF FOR PERFORMANCE, NOT BY THE POUND

- All HF Band Transceiver/
• General Coverage Receiver
- HM-12 Scanning Mic Included
- 12 Memories/Frequency and
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- 105dB Dynamic Range
- All Modes Built-In USB, LSB,
AM, FM, CW

The IC-735 is a heavyweight when you compare features and performance. Other transceivers may weigh more than the advanced IC-735 compact HF transceiver, but inch-for-inch and pound-for-pound, the IC-735 outweighs them all.

Ultra Compact. Measures only 3.7 inches high by 9.5 inches wide by 9 inches deep and weighs only 11.1 pounds. Without question, the IC-735 is the best HF transceiver for mobile, marine or base station amateur operation.

All Amateur Band Coverage. It's a high performer on all the ham bands, plus it includes general coverage reception from 100kHz to 30MHz. May be easily modified for MARS operation.

12 Memories. Frequency and MODE may be easily stored and retrieved in the 12 tunable memories.

Exceptional Receiver. To enhance receiver performance, the IC-735 has a built-in receiver attenuator, preamp, and noise blanker. PLUS it has a 105dB dynamic range and a technologically advanced low-noise phase locked loop for extremely quiet rock-solid reception.

Simplified Front Panel. Controls which require infrequent adjustment are placed behind a unique hatch cover on the front panel of the radio. The hatch cover is designed to protect seldom used controls from being accidentally knocked off line, but also provides easy access. The large LCD readout and con-



veniently located controls enable easy operation, especially important for the mobile environment.

More Features. FM built-in, HM-12 scanning mic, program scan, mode scan and memory scan. Switchable AGC, automatic SSB selection by band and RF speech processor. Continuously adjustable output power up to 100 watts, 12V operation, 100% duty cycle and deep tunable notch filter.

Options. A new line of accessories are available, including the AH-2 mobile antenna system, AT-150 whisper quiet automatic bandswitching antenna tuner for base station operation and the PS-55 power supply. The IC-735 is also compatible with most of ICOM's existing line of HF accessories.

See the IC-735 performance heavyweight at your local authorized ICOM dealer.

CIRCLE 74 ON READER SERVICE CARD

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