

ICD 08241

Amateur Radio

SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1945
OCTOBER 1997

CQ

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On the cover: Don Moore, KB4HU, Smyrna, TN

THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL

10, 15, 20 Meters
 9 Elements on a 28 ft (8.6m) Boom
 Optional 2 Element 40 Meter Kit

BIG THUNDER SERIES

X9



10, 15, 20 Meters
 7 Elements on an 18 ft (5.5m) Boom
 Optional Driven Element for 40 M

X7

Boom to Mast Clamp



Element to Boom Mounting



The Performance Tribander for the DX Years Just Ahead

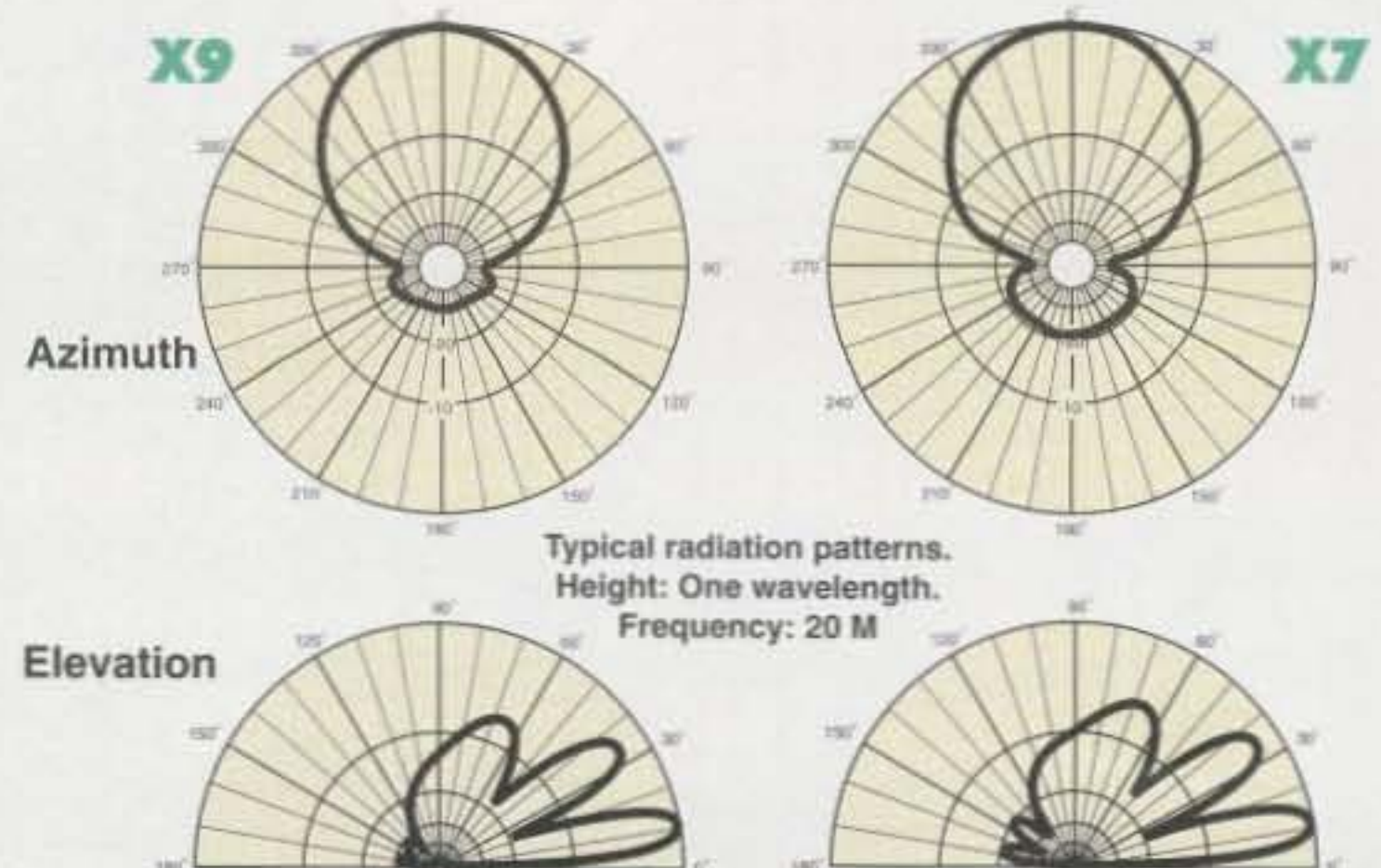
- ▶ New High Efficiency Computer Optimized Design for Maximum Gain and Ultra Clean Radiating Pattern
- ▶ 100+ MPH Construction for Best Reliability and Long Life
- ▶ NEW 4L Log Cell Driven Elements for better VSWR Bandwidth
- ▶ Trapless Driven Elements and Reflectors for Reliable Power Handling
- ▶ Interleaved Element Design for Mono-Band Performance
- ▶ Add-on kits available for 40 Meters

The new X9 and X7 Triband Yagis are geared to set new standards in both radiating performance and mechanical reliability. Cushcraft's product development team has employed the latest computer modeling technology

to achieve a superior electrical design as well as elegant new mechanical hardware and assembly techniques.

Each mechanical component was designed to 100+ MPH wind survival with a 1.25 safety factor. Traps were eliminated from the high current driven elements and reflectors using the new 4L Log Cell design, which yields virtual monoband performance and maximum power handling capability. Traps are employed only in the lower current directors for increased gain and sharper pattern. The result is a truly high performance antenna family which will easily handle the legal limit.

SPECIFICATIONS	X9	X7
Frequency Coverage (Meters)	10, 15, 20	10, 15, 20
Total number of Elements	9	7
Maximum Gain (dB)		
@ One Wavelength	20M 13.0 @ 14 deg	12.5 @ 14 deg
	15M 13.9 @ 12 deg	13.0 @ 12 deg
	10M 14.0 @ 15 deg	12.9 @ 14 deg
Maximum Front to Back Ratio (dB)	30	30
Number of Elements per Band	4	3
VSWR Minimum	1.1:1	1.1:1
VSWR 1.5:1 Bandwidth (KHz)		
20M	350	600
15M	450	750
10M	1500	1700
Longest Element, ft (m)	36.5 (11.12)	37.2 (11.33)
Turning Radius, ft (m)	21.7 (6.61)	20.0 (6.09)
Boom Length, ft (m)	28 (8.53)	18 (5.49)
Boom Diameter, in (cm)	2-1/2 (6.35)	2-1/2 (6.35)
Maximum Mast Diameter OD, in (cm)	2-1/2 (6.35)	2-1/2 (6.35)
Maximum Wind Survival, mph (kph)	>100 (>161)	>100 (>161)
Maximum Wind Surface Area, ft ² (m ²)	9.9 (.92)	7.9 (.73)
Windload @ 80 mph, lb (kg)	255 (116)	202 (92)
Maximum Power Handling (KW)	2	2
Weight, lb. (kg)	85 (38.5)	60 (27.2)
List Price	\$995	\$675



POWER & PERFORMANCE

Power...

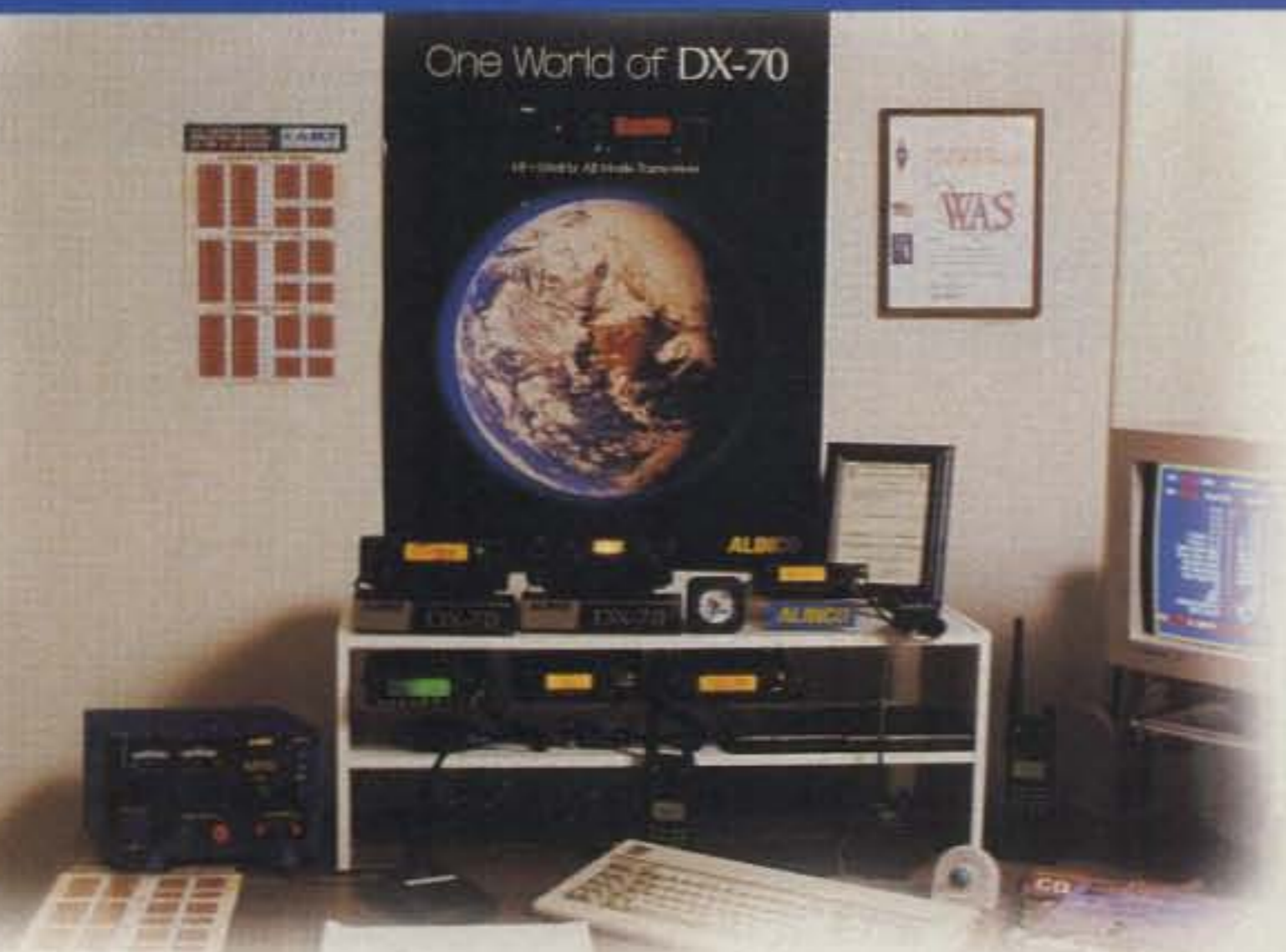
Powerful, **affordable** and adjustable to suit your needs, the new Alinco **DM-340MVT** power supply is a functional, compact and attractive addition to your ham shack or workbench.



- Adjustable voltage output, 0 ~ 15 volts DC
- Compact size and weight
- Up to 35 amps surge output, 30 amps continuous
- Dual meters included at no extra cost
- Convenient front-panel connectors and controls, including binding posts, spring clips and cigar lighter terminal, on-off switch and front panel fuse access
- Use for HF, VHF-UHF mobile/base transceivers, TNC, HT, laptop computer, cellular phone or workbench projects, including those that require 5 VDC or any other voltage within the range of the adjustable output.
- Affordable Quality - A great performer at an Alinco price, backed by a 1 year warranty.

EDX-2 Auto Antenna Tuner

- Tunes 160-10 Meters (40 foot wire antenna required for 160M, 9.8 foot minimum for others)
- Fully integrated with Alinco DX-70 radios
- Weather resistant housing, can be mounted outdoors
- Comes with 16 feet of coax and control cable (cables may be extended)
- Maximum input: 200 watts
- Perfect for mobile, marine, home or portable use
- MSRP under \$350



HF + 6 Meter Performance

The Alinco DX-70T and DX-70TH continue to earn solid reviews from operators around the world. In the "shack", on the road, in the field or on the water, DX-70 radios deliver terrific performance *at a price that puts a quality radio within your reach*. The DX-70 stands alone as the value leader in HF + 6 Meter mobile radios!

- 100 memories
- General coverage receiver 150KHz ~ 30 MHz and 50 MHz ~54 MHz
- Detachable faceplate, remote mounting kit available
- SSB, CW, AM, FM and Digital Modes, including 6 Meters
- Speech Processor, standard
- Separate antenna terminals for HF and 6M
- Selectable RF Gain and AGC
- CTCSS encode for 10M and 6M FM repeaters
- Narrow Filter, standard
- Selectable scan Modes
- Auto Power Off
- Multi-function control simplifies operation
- Full QSK, semi or automatic break in
- Quick offset for "split" operations
- DX-70TH features 100 watts output on HF and 6M
- DX-70T outputs 100 watts HF, 10 watts on 6M, MSRP under \$1000!



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Specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. Performance specifications only apply to amateur bands. Permits required for MARS/CAP use. Prices mentioned are MSRP. Dealer prices may vary.

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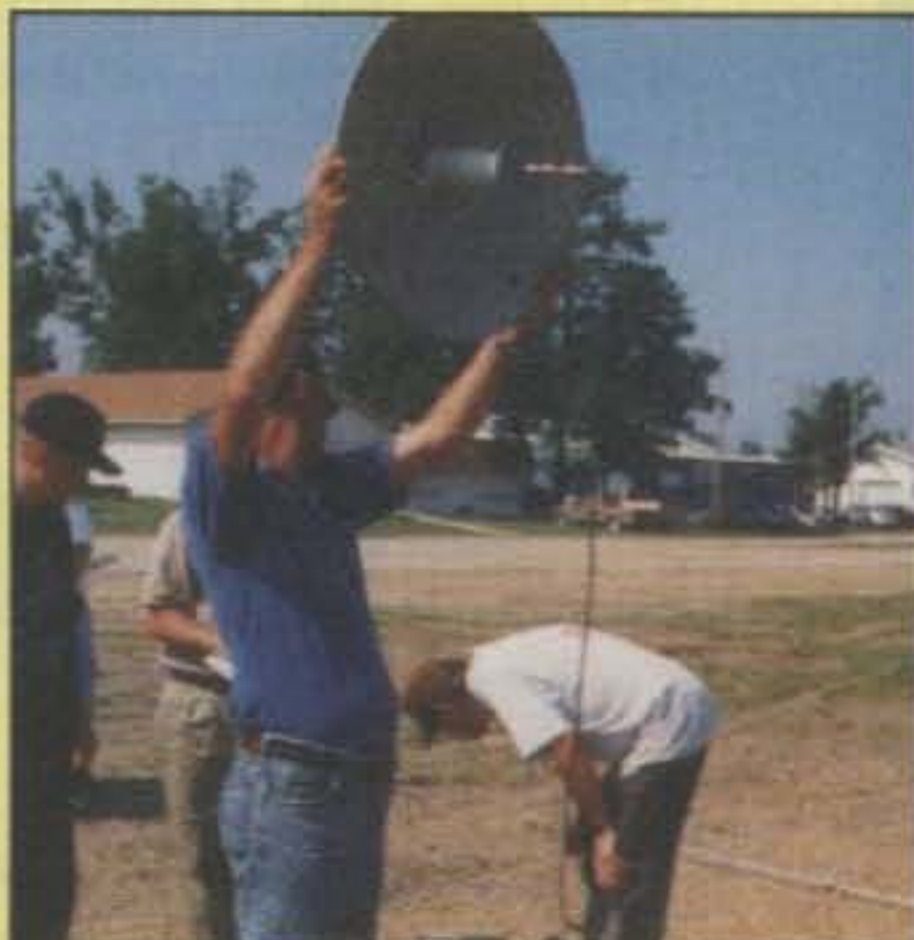
Ask your dealer about Alinco's 2-year extended warranty program

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ON THE COVER: Don Moore, KB4HU, Smyrna, TN.
 (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

Best Performance... Best Size...Best Price!

Sky Command Operating System
NEW!
(See your dealer for details)

Kenwood makes Digital Signal Processing technology available to everyone with the all-new TS-570D and TS-570S. Imagine a DSP radio that you can operate in the shack, the car, or on a remote DX island. These are the first DSP rigs that meet the needs of today's HF operator within a budget. From the first moment that you hear the incredibly clear and powerful audio and operate the new, common-sense ergonomic design, you will realize the TS-570D or TS-570S is the HF rig built for you.

The TS-570D and TS-570S offer the world's first CW AUTO TUNE feature which enables automatic zero-beating for CW operation. Advanced Kenwood design and features coupled with traditional Kenwood HF performance make the TS-570D/570S a masterpiece that you can proudly operate. If you have been waiting for a new DSP HF radio with performance at an affordable price, wait no more.

- The RCP-2 Radio Control Program also allows the HF operator to design and program multiple radios with custom settings while conveniently saving them to a PC file for future use.
- Kenwood's Sky Command System option allows you to operate your TS-570D, TS-570S or TS-870S remotely with special version Kenwood TH-79ADH handhelds.

Large LCD display features a 4-stage dimmer while the **7-digit alphanumeric sub-display** provides menu mode guidance, split frequency display and digital filter selection options. Easy-to-read **S/PWR/COMP/SWR/ALC** meters and an operating guidance feature help to greatly simplify operation.

16-bit DSP technology delivers superb audio quality on both transmit and receive. **Noise reduction** (line enhancer method and SPAC), **audio equalization** (voice/transmit equalizer and speech processor), **slope tuning** and **automatic IF filter bandwidth selections** can be operated with a touch of a button.

Power output can be set between 5 ~ 100 watts in 5 watt increments. 5 watt setting is ideal for QRP operation.

Preset auto antenna tuner with 22 sub-bands from 1.8 MHz - 30 MHz including 6M and memory for both antenna ports.

10-key direct frequency entry

World's first CW Auto Tune enables automatic zero-beating for CW operation.

Quick memory provides five channels for on-the-fly frequency control: **MIN** stores data, **MR** recalls it.

Electronic keyer provides speed settings of between 0 and 100 wpm and dual key inputs on the back - one for the paddle and one for the key.

Menu system offers 46 types of functions to assist novice thru extra class operators.

A wealth of scanning capabilities enhance operability. Scan speed is variable and can be set for time-based or carrier-based resume. Scanning can work across channels, groups of 10 channels, all except locked out channels, or it can be programmed to scan a frequency range between two channels.

- Mobile/fixed station size (10-5/8 x 3-3/4 x 10-11/16 in) • Heavy-duty design • CW message memories
- CW reverse mode • Full break-in and semi break-in • High-speed 57600 bps PC control • Dedicated packet port

TS-570D / TS-570S HF Transceiver HF + 6M Transceiver

With a half century of engineering and design experience to draw upon, Kenwood is changing the future of HF communications technology. High quality TX-RX audio reproduction with extremely effective DSP interference reduction delivers pleasing performance to your ear and over the air. You will also enjoy the large, easy-to-read LCD display with a built-in on-screen operator guidance system for simple operation.

Features like 10-key direct frequency entry with new "soft-touch" keys, auto-antenna tuner, 100 to 5 watt for QRP operation, variable scanning speed, built-in CW keyer, ANT 1-ANT 2 ports, IF shift control, RS-232C com-port, 100 memory channels, CW reverse, optional VS-3 voice synthesizer and DRU-3A digital recording unit make the TS-570D or TS-570S the radio for you.



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ZERO BIAS

AN EDITORIAL

Working DX is sort of like eating potato chips. Some folks can open a bag, smell the contents, and only eat one or two chips before closing the bag and putting it away. Others see satisfaction in devouring the entire contents and looking for more. Contesting can be just as "consuming." It all depends on your hunger and desire at the time.

To non-DXers and non-contesters all of the ensuing frenetic activity seems pointless, impersonal, and a potential waste of time, taking away from the pursuit of "real" amateur radio. As with many other forms of amateur radio expression, DXing and contesting are not intellectualizations. They are emotional reactions that generate a personal satisfaction from a given activity. Since it is emotional, there's really no point in asking why someone gets so excited over the activity or the possible (if any) benefit derived from spending hours (if not days) trying to exchange a simple signal report, or thousands of them. It really makes no sense unless you are part of the action or activity.

Making emotional sense out of contesting or DXing requires a leap of faith and diving in. It doesn't matter if you are any good at it; no one is at the beginning. It does matter that you listen for a while just to get the hang of it and a semblance of what's going on. Other than that, it's one big party, and the more the merrier. What you'll find in short order is that your adrenaline level is increasing, you're moving faster, and your excitement level is way up there. It's this strange, tingly, euphoric feeling that a lot of us call fun. There is no why; it just is. It's the same with potato chips.

Now before some of you one- or two-chip nibblers come back at me saying that this is nothing but a dalliance and a waste of time, energy, and especially spectrum, think about the skills developed as part of the process. Obviously, reaction time and cognition have to speed up. A person has to hear, interpret, and respond extremely fast. It doesn't take too long to go from a neophyte, wondering what's happening under all that noise, to having ears that even a bat would envy. Suddenly you realize that you can discern your call through a multi-layered signal stew, and somehow you instinctively know from a scrimpet of information what country, zone, and multiplier value it has. We're talking about acuity with a capital "A." Your family, friends, and neighbors are somewhat amazed as you glibly talk about countries that neither they nor some post offices have ever heard of. In fact, you may even get the urge to subscribe to *National Geographic* just to find out how big the world really is. The magazine also has great maps and atlases, which might help you learn a bit more about the planet we all inhabit.

Just as those potato chips quickly disappear from the bag (they're quite addictive, too), you may find that as time goes by sev-

eral typical amateur radio phrases trip off your tongue in a few foreign languages. It's not particularly sneaky; it's just playing the game—especially to win. Most of the time you don't even realize it's happening, but it all becomes a learning experience and motivates you to learn more. No, it's not the end all and be all of life, or something that even remotely puts food on your table, but it sure beats spending a half hour listening to someone describe what shape their prostate is in.

At the end of this month you have a chance to find out for yourself what contesting and DXing are all about in the 1997 CQ World-Wide DX Contest. It doesn't really matter what shape the solar cycle is in. We're all in the same boat, playing with the same conditions. Trust me; you won't either be ignored or bored. It doesn't matter if you are slow and halting at first as you get your feet wet. Yours is a new and unique call that everyone from the biggest gun to the littlest pistol would like to have in their log. Contests have been won or lost over a handful of contacts, so every one is important. Take a bit of time and dig out last month's issue and read through the CQ WW rules on page 110. This will give you a general idea of how the contest works. Some of it may be a bit confusing, as you may not have anything to relate it to, but enough will stick with you to see you through. In this month's "Propagation" column George Jacobs, W3ASK, gives a band-by-band breakdown of what to expect in the way of contest conditions. You might want to keep both the September and October issues nearby during the contest so you can refer to them as the time goes by. The rest is just listening, operating, and perseverance. Skill and expertise come with time and motivation.

You also might bear in mind that all of these activities are not restricted to just HF. There are plenty of other activities during the year, including many DX opportunities, that generate the same excitement on just about every piece of spectrum above 30 MHz. The fun, excitement, and satisfaction are in the doing, not in the grumbling about the way things should be, used to be, and could be. Whatever your license class may be, there are plenty of activities from which to choose. In each and every one of them your participation is just as "real" as the next guy's, and certainly welcome.

The main ingredient in contesting and DXing is enthusiasm. You know, the same feeling you had when you first heard about amateur radio and simply had to get that license. Most of us even remember that same feeling in the pit of our stomachs when we attempted our first contacts and wondered what we would ever talk about. It was us, in a sense, against the elements. Well, basically that's still what the hobby is all about. We all have come a very long way since it was befitting to simply call amateur radio a ser-

vice, a noble calling to altruism. Amateur radio is something you do, not something you reflect on. It's not like an old jacket we pull from the closet once a year and then put away after a bit of use. We may own the jacket and do with it as we see fit, but amateur radio involves very valuable spectrum space—a commodity—and we certainly don't own it. We just have the privilege of using it.

After all these years I really understand that a number of people do not like contests, DX-peditions, operating events, special event stations, and probably Field Day as well. Their normal phlegmatic lives are upset by tens of thousands of people suddenly descending on the bands, apparently all of them having a good time. This good time is at the expense of some smaller number of people who expect to always have open spectrum to do or not do something, thereby giving them a good time. Well, the tens of thousands are expressing and demonstrating enthusiasm, which may be hard to understand for some. Probably the only way to begin to understand it is to jump in and try it at least once.

We're coming out of the sunspot doldrums, and for most of us good times are ahead. Each new cycle has brought about changes in our technology, new business opportunities for the amateur radio industry, and a new crop of eager amateurs who want it all. I've seen four cycles come and go, and I eagerly anticipate my fifth. Over the years I've heard from numbers of naysayers who with trepidation say that all of this change is not "real" amateur radio and that the end is near. Well, through at least four cycles they've been consistently wrong. Amateur radio today, in 1997, is by far better and absolutely more fun than it was in 1953 when I started. The technology obviously is better, the challenges are bigger and more interesting, and the pace is infinitely faster. Maybe that doesn't go with being blasé or having a torpid life style, but it most definitely is "real" amateur radio. The long litany of things that were supposed to kill amateur radio, including SSB, has served to make it stronger instead.

So, at the end of this month when those tens of thousands of happy, enthusiastic amateurs are taking part in the CQ World-Wide DX Contest, think about joining in and having some fun yourself. Think about all of the amateurs who have taken part in this event for the past 49 years, and remember the excitement that brought you to amateur radio in the first place. Most of all, remember that bag of potato chips and how good they taste. You can go for the gusto, or you can have a couple of chips and put the bag away. You can spend your life grumbling about why people do this or that activity, or you can find out for yourself. All you risk is the time you'll spend wondering why you didn't do it years ago. Lighten up and enjoy yourselves.

73, Alan, K2EEK

Built for Speed

The new **R11**
Test Receiver...

...If there's RF, you'll catch it!

The **NEW** R11 is a Nearfield FM Test Receiver capable of sweeping **30MHz - 2GHz** in less than one second. The R11 can lock onto a **5 watt UHF signal** as far away as **500 feet** and demodulate the signal through its built-in speaker. A unique feature of the R11 is its ability to determine what band the frequency is transmitting in and display it on its LED indicator. When speed is an issue, reach for the R11 Test Receiver, **You won't find a faster nearfield FM test receiver anywhere.**

FEATURES

- Frequency Range: Analog FM, 30MHz - 2GHz (Cellular frequencies blocked)
- Locks onto 5 watt UHF signals as far away as 500 feet
- Easy to use keypad functions: Frequency Hold, Frequency Skip, Frequency Lockout, and the Shift key feature for Audio Mute, Enable/Disable Lockouts, and Lockout Clear
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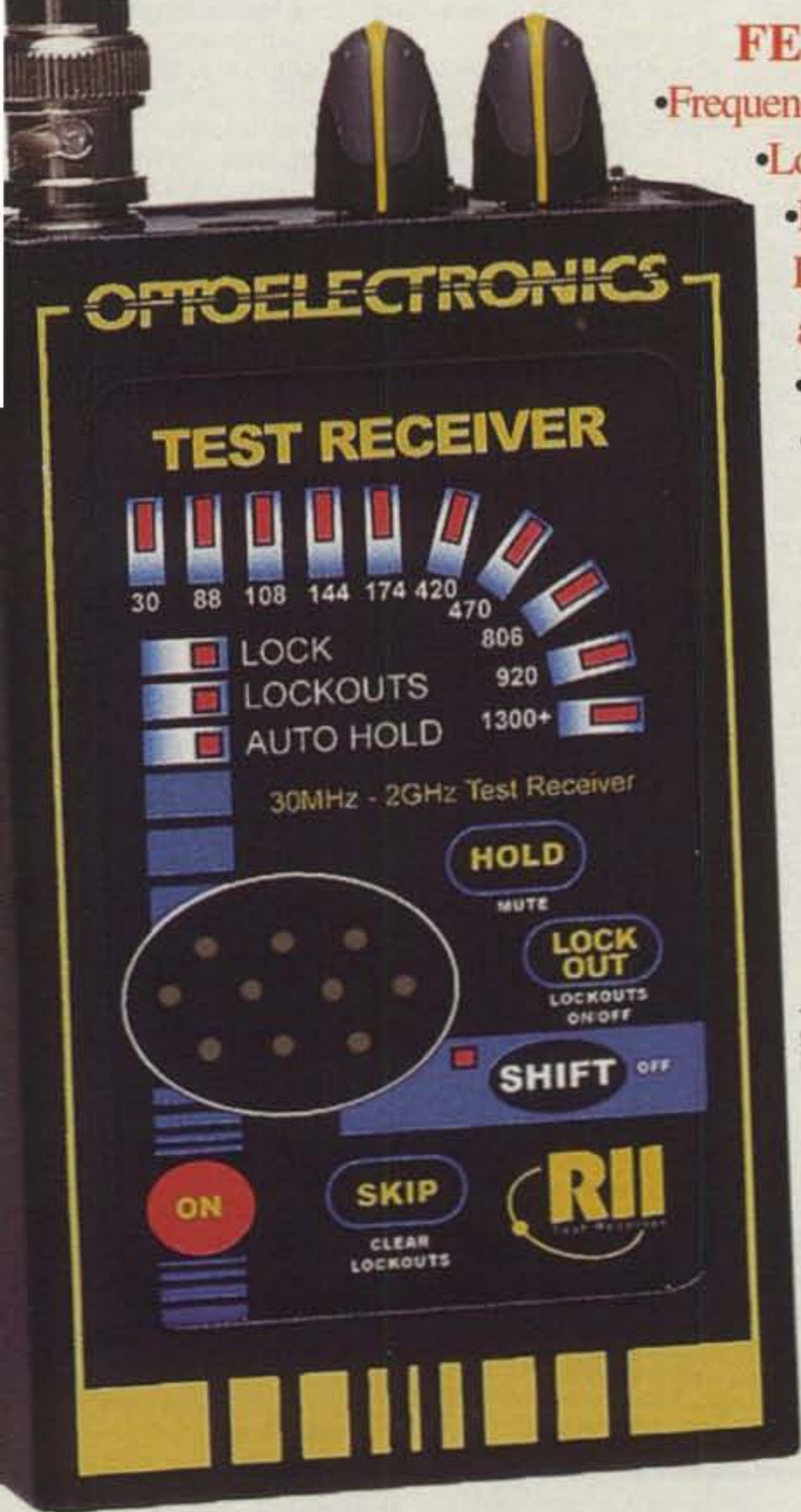
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Patent Number 5,471,408



ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS) Publication Contest.** ARNS will be conducting a publications contest aimed at recognizing superior performance in amateur radio journalism and evaluating club newsletters with suggestions for improvement. The contest is open to all amateur radio organizations. Membership in ARNS is not required. General circulation magazines and professional journals are not eligible. For application, write to Lee Knirko, W9MOL, Pres., ARNS, 11 S. La Salle St., Ste. 2100, Chicago, IL 60603-1302. Deadline for entry receipt is Dec. 31, 1997.

• **VE3ACK Ontario DX Assn. Meteor Tests** – The ODXA will conduct tests for sporadic meteor detection on 10 meters (29.050 MHz) each Saturday and Sunday morning in October at 0900–1100Z mainly CW. They are seeking signal reports from anyone who hears the signal. They will use standard meteor scatter procedure: 15 seconds transmit followed by 15 seconds receive. They will transmit on the first 15 seconds of each minute. Callsign: VE3ACK. Send reports to Philip Gebhardt, VA3ACK, P.O. Box 52, Greenbank, ON Canada L0C 1B0 or <pgebhardt@compuserve.com>. For more information or updates on the experiment check the ODXA web site at <<http://www.grove.net/~odxa/>>.

• **The following Special Events are scheduled for late September and October:**

W2GLQ, from the Nutley Red Cross Building, Nutley, New Jersey; Nutley ARS; celebrating "Annie Oakley Day"; 1400Z Oct. 18 to 2300Z Oct. 19; on 3.940, 7.240, 14.240, 21.375, and 28.375. For certificate, send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE to NARS, c/o Nutley Red Cross Building, 165 Chestnut St., Nutley, NJ 07110.

W3XX, from submarine *U.S.S. Requin*, docked at the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Breezeshooters ARC; 1400–2100Z Oct. 5; 40 meter Novice band, Novice portion of 10 and 15 meters, General 20 and 40 meters. For certificate and QSL, send QSL and 8 1/2 x 11 SASE to Jack Buzon, KA3HPM, 47 Grubbs Rd., Cheswick, PA 15024.

K4PNS, from Santa Rosa Island (IOTA-NA142); Serious Hams ARC of Pensacola, Florida; 1200–2000Z Oct. 11; operation on 40, 20, 15, 10 meters. QSL via N4MAD.

K4GSO, from Ocala, Florida; Silver Springs Radio Club; 50th anniversary of club founding; 1300Z Oct. 4 to 0100Z Oct. 5; on 3.930, 7.245, 14.270, and 21.370. For QSL, send QSL to Silver Springs Radio Club, P.O. Box 787, Silver Springs, FL 34489.

KE4ZIS, from Devil's Courthouse, Brevard, North Carolina; Transylvania County ARC; celebrating the 9th annual Halloween Fest; 1800Z Oct. 31 to 0200Z Nov. 1; on 7.237, 14.295, 21.305, 28.335, 146.25 MHz (±10 kHz). For certificate, send large SASE to TCARC, P.O. Box 643, Brevard, NC 28712.

K4OZK, from Ozark, Alabama; Dale County Emergency Management Agency; 24th Claybank Jamboree; 1600–2100Z Oct. 4; operation on all bands. For certificate, send SASE to Dale County Emergency Management Station, Box 817, Ozark, AL 36361.

NN4CIA, from CIA facilities in northern Virginia; 50th anniversary of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency; the month of *September*; operation on frequencies 50 kHz above lower band edge on CW and SSB. Special QSL cards will be available. Check DX bulletins for further information.

N9FWM, from 150th year of Unity Lodge #48 AF & AM, St. Charles, Illinois; 0100Z Oct. 28 to 2300Z Nov. 2; SSB alternately 28.400, 14.250, 7.150, 3.980. For certificate send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE (for unfolded) or business-size (folded) to N9FWM, 38W248 Joan Dr., St. Charles, IL 60175.

W0FUN, from Nowhere, Illinois; Iowa RadioSport Society; 1400–2100Z Oct. 18; on the lower General phone bands 40 and 20 meters. For QSL, send SASE to Iowa RadioSport Society, P.O. Box 68, Burlington, IA 52601-0068.

W0UK, from Nowhere, Kansas; Maple Leaf Festival and Midland Historical Railway Assn. train; 1400–2100Z Oct. 18; on 7.040, 7.240, 14.040, 14.240. For certificate send 9x12 SASE and QSL to Bob Drake, N0TFU, 3020 Rimrock Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047.

OS4CLM, Belgium; BAFARA (Belgian Airforce ARS), BMARS (Belgian Maritime ARS), BYLC (Belgian YL Club) and IPA (International Police Association); to commemorate the liberation of the town of

Knokke on Nov. 1, 1944; Oct. 31 to Nov. 7; operation on SSB 3.685, 7.045, 14.145, 18.150, 21.245, 28.545, 144.250; CW 3.515, 7.012, 10.118, 14.020, 18.087, 21.020, 24.897, 28.020, 144.020; FM 145.475; packet OS4CLM@ON1CED. The OS4CLM award QSL is available for \$5 (US) or 10 IRCs. For more information, contact Bob Dysserinck, ON1DKE (N1TBH), Vuurtorenstraat 12, B-8301 Heist aan Zee, Belgium.

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

Sept. 28, **BARCFest**, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, Colorado. For further information, call 303-673-0289 or e-mail <n0nls@aol.com>.

Oct. 3–4, **NWAARC Hamfest '97**, Jones Center for Families, Springdale, Arkansas. Contact Northwest Arkansas ARC, P.O. Box 24, Farmington, AR 72730; or call Bryan Spain, 501-789-2690. (Exams.)

Oct. 4, **North Central Indiana Hamfest**, Miami Co. Indiana Fairgrounds, near Peru, Indiana. Contact North Central Indiana Hamfest, c/o Cass Co. ARC, P.O. Box 1092, Logansport, IN 46947, or e-mail to <ccarc@netusa1.net>.

Oct. 4, **Bergen ARA Fall Hamfest**, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey. Call Jim Joyce, K2ZO, 201-664-6725 (before 10 PM). (Exams.)

Oct. 4, **York County ARS Hamfest**, Knights Stadium, Fort Mill, South Carolina. Contact YCARS Hamfest, 2129 Squire Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730; or call George Trunk, AB4BG, 803-327-4344. (Exams.)

Oct. 4, **1997 Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference**, Horsham Days Inn, 1/2 mi. above Willow Grove Exit 27, PA Turnpike, Pennsylvania. For more information, contact John Sortor, KB3XG, 1214 N. Trooper Rd., Norristown, PA 19403; e-mail <johnkb3xg@aol.com>; phone 610-878-5674.

Oct. 4–5, **4th Annual Bahia Shrine Amateur Radio Unit Hamfest & Computer Show**, Bahia Shrine Auditorium, Maitland (Orlando), Florida. Contact Gerry Skinner, K4LVZ, 3311 Ellwood Ct., Winter Park, FL 32792 (407-679-4244).

Oct. 5, **Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Hamarama**, Bucks County Drive-In, Warrington, Pennsylvania. For more information, contact Brian Taylor, 215-257-6303 (between 7 PM and 9 PM).

Oct. 5, **9th Annual Huntington County ARS Hamfest**, Police Athletic League Club, Huntington, Indiana. Contact Ray Tackett, P.O. Box 284, Huntington, IN 46750 (219-786-0057). (Exams.)

Oct. 5, **Chicago ARC Hamfest**, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Call George at 773-545-3622; or Dean at 708-331-7764; or write to CARC, 5631 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60634.

Oct. 5, **Southeast Iowa Hamfest**, Muscatine County Fairgrounds, West Liberty, Iowa. Contact Rob Boorman, KB0MRZ, at 319-351-3399; or Bud Pitt, WB0MEW, at 319-264-1788; on Web <<http://soli.inav.net/~icarc/>>. (Handicapped accessible; exams.)

Oct. 5, **The Hall of Science ARC Hamfest**, New York Hall of Science parking lot, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, New York. Call Arnie Schiffman, WB2YXB, at 718-343-0172 (eves. only).

Oct. 11, **North Color Tour Hamfest & Computer Fair**, Hinks Elementary School, Alpena, Michigan. For info send SASE to TBARC, P.O. Box 764, Alpena, MI 49707; or call Bill, N8YKG, at 517-354-8867.

Oct. 11, **Augusta Hamfest**, Evans Middle School, Evans, Georgia. For further information, contact Frank, KS4OC; or Rhonda, KE4DIM, 706-560-9600; or write to P.O. Box 3072, Augusta, GA 30914.

Oct. 11, **North Kitsap ARC Hamfest**, President's Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Bremerton, Washington. For more information, contact Susan Johnson, AB7MD, P.O. Box 1226, Poulsbo, WA 98370; packet: AB7MD@N7WE.#WWA.USA.NOAM; or e-mail: <sujohnso@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us>.

Oct. 11, **Egypt Temple ARA Hamfest**, Egypt Temple Unit Building, Tampa, Florida. Contact J.F. Strom, K9BSL, 813-822-9107; or send SASE to 233 34th Ave., N., St. Petersburg, FL 33704-2241.

Oct. 11–12, **MemFest '97, Greater Memphis Amateur Radio & Computer Show**, Big One Expo Center, Memphis, Tennessee. Contact John Lovett, KD4EUH, at 901-388-8745; or fax 901-937-8660; or send SASE to 1997 MemFest, P.O. Box 751841, Memphis, TN 38175-1841. (Exams.)

Oct. 12, **Maysville Hamfest**, Maysville, North

Carolina. For more information, contact Jo Ann Taylor, WD4JYR, at 919-393-2120.

Oct. 12, **1997 Nutmeg Hamfest & Computer Show**, Durham Fairgrounds, Durham, Connecticut. For info packet: W1KKF@W1NRG.CT.USA.NA; e-mail <sbicycle@connix.com>; for exam information, call Joel Curneal, N1JEO at 203-235-6932. (Exams.)

Oct. 12, **LCDRA & CMARC HamFair**, Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mason, Michigan. For more information, contact Chuck, N8CM, or Linda McNease, KC8DPZ, 517-694-2757; or LCDRA, P.O. Box 80106, Lansing, MI 48908. (Handicapped accessible.)

Oct. 12, **LIMARC Fall HamFair**, Briarcliffe College grounds, Bethpage, Long Island, New York. Call the LIMARC 24-hour infoline at 516-520-9311; or write to LIMARC, P.O. Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756; or e-mail <LIMARC73@aol.com>; or on the Web: <<http://www.aol.com/RaySk/LIMARC1.HTML>>. (Exams.)

Oct. 17–19, **Pacificon '97**, Concord Hilton Hotel, Concord, California. Call 510-932-6123; e-mail at <pacificon@designlink.com>; or on the web <www.mdarc.org>.

Oct. 18, **14th Annual Tri-Cities Hamfest**, Appalachian Fairgrounds, Gray, Tennessee. For more information, send SASE to P.O. Box 3682 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602.

Oct. 19, **Penn Wireless ARC Hamfest/Tradefest 1997**, Buck County Community College, Newtown, Pennsylvania. Call Steve at 215-752-1202; or e-mail <sewall@erols.com>; or SASE to PWA Tradefest '97, P.O. Box L-734, Langhorne, PA 19047. (Exams.)

Oct. 19, **MIT/Harvard Fleamarket**, Albany and Main St., Cambridge, Massachusetts. For more information, call 617-253-3776.

Oct. 19, **Centralia Wireless Assn. Annual Hamfest**, Salem Community Activity Center, Salem, Illinois. Contact Daisy King, AA9EK, 618-532-6606.

Oct. 19, **15th Annual Kalamazoo Hamfest**, Hazel Grey Bldg., Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Michigan. Call 616-657-4482; or send SASE to Al McNeil, K8CRH, 816 E. Michigan, Suite 102, Paw Paw, MI 49079-1215; or e-mail <amcneil@net-link.net>.

Oct. 19, **Foothills ARC Hamfest**, Hose Company No. 1, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Contact Al Compton, N3LQX, 555 Agnew Road, Greensburg, PA 15601; phone 523-3727; or check their Web site at <<http://dns.pulsenet.com:80/~ares/>>.

Oct. 25, **Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo**, St. Paul Civic Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, contact Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo, P.O. Box 5598, Hopkins, MN 55343; or call the Hamfest Hot-line at 612-535-0637. (Exams.)

Oct. 25, **Sumter ARA 11th Annual Hamfest, Computer Fair & ARRL State Convention**, Sumter County Exhibition Center, Sumter, South Carolina. For further information, contact Steve Bregger, KD4HTS, P.O. Box 52302, Shaw AFB, SC 29152-0302; phone 803-983-4251; or Dee Brown, N0ZTV, P.O. Box 52141, Shaw AFB, SC 29152-0141; e-mail <deebrown@sumter.net>; or phone 803-499-6315.

Oct. 25, **Swap-Toberfest ARES/ RACES Convention**, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. Contact Gary Zinn, KC7BSX, 503-838-2008; web <<http://www.teleport.com/~n7ifj/swaptobe.htm>>. (Handicapped accessible.)

Oct. 26, **RH Hill ARC Hamfest**, Sellersville Fire House, Sellersville, Pennsylvania. Contact Linda Erdman at 215-679-5764; or write to her at 2220 Hill Rd., Perkiomenville, PA 18074. (Exams.)

Oct. 26, **24th Annual HamFiesta and Computer Show**, Marion County Fairgrounds Coliseum, Marion, Ohio. Contact Karen Eckard, N8KE, 6583 South Street, Meeker (Marion), OH 43302 (614-499-3565); or Betty Krist, N8UDT, 132 N. Seffner Ave., Marion OH 43302 (614-387-3533 after 5 PM).

Oct. 26, **Hamfest Iowa '97**, 4H Building, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information, contact Randal Lees, N0LMS, 1575 Northwest 78th Street, Clive, IA 50325-1255; phone 515-279-4241; e-mail <rlees@raccoon.com>. (Exams.)

Oct. 28, **St. Peters ARC SwapFest**, St. Charles County Community College, St. Peters, Missouri. Contact Allen Underdown, N0GOM, 4136 Towers Rd., St. Charles, MO 63304 (314-939-9444); e-mail <wbroc@valuenet.net>; or SwapFest Homepage: <<http://lakers.cybercon.com/wurmborn/swap.html>>.

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Does Your Station Conform?

Editor, CQ:

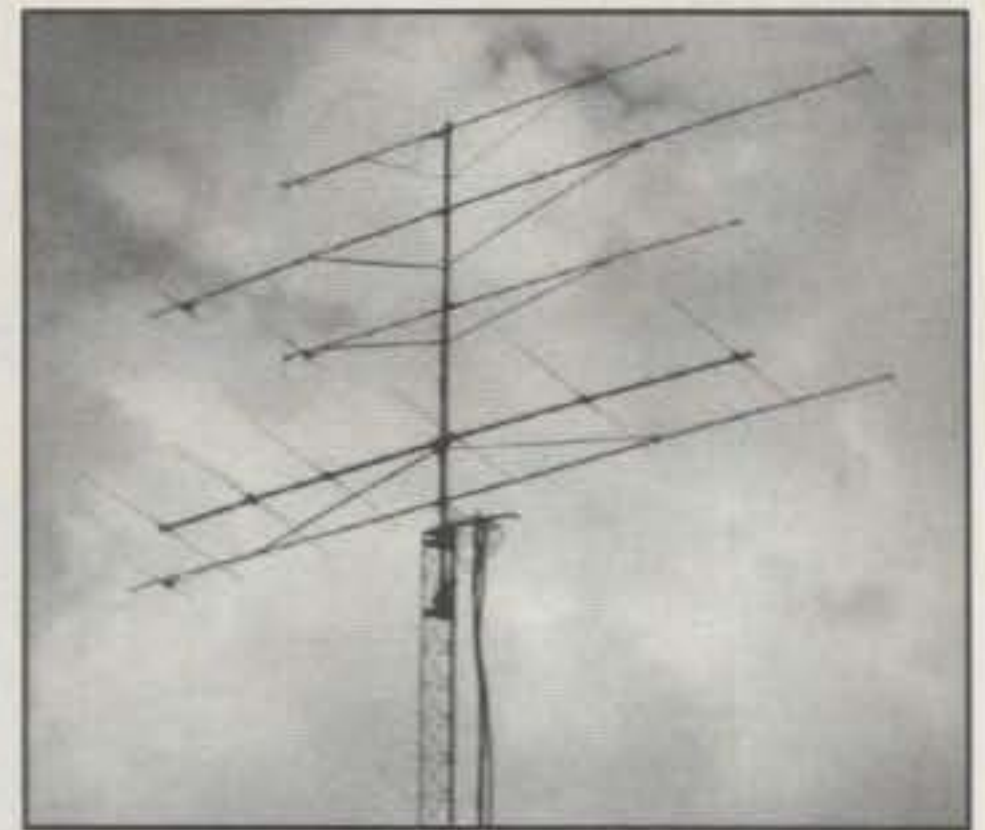
As I perused W5YI's June "Washington Readout" column on RFI, it is obvious to the few "old timers" out here in the "boonies" that our old field strength meters, etc. probably will not suffice to monitor the final radiation limits proposed by the FCC. However, FCC publication OST/OET Bulletin 65 was mentioned. Also on page 116 he mentioned the three ways amateur stations may determine compliance. The article indicated that type 3 will be the ones most hams will use. Will W5YI be extracting/publishing the FCC tabular charts, etc., mentioned on page 115 of the article? If not, can you supply me with the exact address/person, telephone number of the respective office of the FCC where I can order the information? Then I can share the data through a discussion group with members of our local amateur radio club (The Buzzard Roost ARC). Thanks.
Fred Hooper, W0BMT
Neligh, NE

W5YI's response:

Thanks for your inquiry on RF Safety. I have gotten quite a few of them! As of May 24, as this is being written, the FCC has not yet released OET No. 65. I spoke to the Office of Engineering and Technology last week and was told that the new bulletin and a supplement for amateur radio operators was in the works.

Actual measurement of RF in the environment and working the complex formulas are somewhat difficult and unnecessary. Wayne Overbeck, N5NB (a Ph.D.), has worked up a computer program by which (answering just four questions) you can determine if your station is in compliance. Another amateur (Ken Harker, KM5FA, a student working on his Ph.D. in computer science at the University of Texas, and who is president of their ham club) has put that computer program on the Internet. You can call it up from the following URL with any browser: <<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/kharker/rfsafety>>. It is a neat program and extremely easy to use. You merely type in antenna power (in watts), antenna gain (in dBi), distance (to area of interest), and frequency (in MHz). The program returns the calculation results and whether the station conforms to the Controlled and Uncontrolled RF guidelines.

The charts and booklets will be available shortly from the FCC. (They probably will be out by the time you read this—73, Fred, W5YI



The antennas of Dave Kosh, W3ZR.

Florida Gulf Coast USB Net To Reactivate

Editor, CQ:

Enclosed is a photo of the antennas of Dave Kosh, W3ZR, Ft. Myers, Florida (EL96). Dave is active mobile in Ft. Myers. I talk to him practically every morning on 144.2 USB while he is going to work. He is active as an engineer at TV station 20—WBBH, and for over 12 years he was an operator of 144.2 USB, the West Coast Florida Net. The net ran from 1980 until about 1993. Up and down the coast there were about 80 check-ins, and it ran from the center of Georgia to the end of the Florida Keys. Dave says he intends to reactivate running the Gulf Coast USB Net soon. He just moved and all antennas are set to go, so I'm trying to generate enough interest to make this possible. Dave is an ardent fisherman and has a fairly large boat in the gulf from which he operates a little mobile. He also operates from home. He is a deacon in a Ft. Myers church and so is fairly busy.

Me, I'm Hank Huth, WA4WKO (EL87), and I'm 10 miles north of St. Petersburg, 30 miles west of Tampa, at the end of the Lake Seminole area. I'm on 144.2 USB. I had been on ATV color and black and white, but there was so little going on. Hams either died, moved, or became disinterested in the low turn-out of this mode. I still have some stuff, though, and maybe enough to start again. Will let you know!

Am 88 years old and have had a few operations after falling from the ham tower. I enjoy CQ and used to be an active builder. I retired from the Army after 22 years. As an electronics civilian I ran up and down the coast servicing radar and missile sites, etc. I retired at the age of 60 and decided to enjoy the good life. 73, and thanks for a good magazine.

Hank Huth, WA4WKO
Seminole, FL

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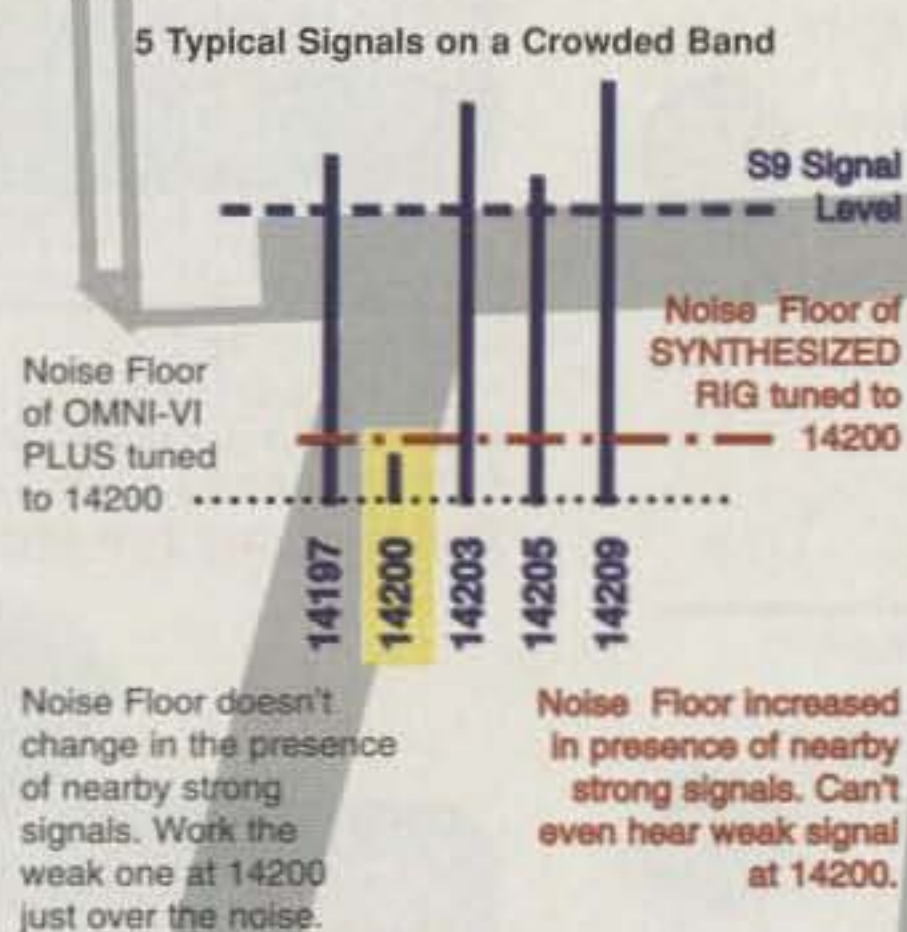
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Results of the 1996 CQ World-Wide DX CW Contest

BY BOB COX*, K3EST

If you looked at the sun during the 1996 CQ WW CW contest, your face probably felt a little warmer. The sun, a CQ WW enthusiast, emitted a solar flux of over 100 for the contest. As of this writing that was near the high for the last year! What a terrific contest. Except for 10 meters, sparks were really flying on all bands. After looking at the database, we can say with confidence that there were about 20,000 CW contesters who have mastered the code.

Many contesters decided that if the sun was not going to bring better conditions, they would go to better conditions. They packed their bags and headed to exotic lands. Their activity made for more fun for everyone. Just some of these travelers were VP2EEB, V26LN, C6A/N4RP, C6A/AA6EW, 8P9Z, T11C, 3E1DX, J87GU, V47KP, VP5EA, KP2A, WP2Z, IG9/IT9GSF, IG9/AC6WE, IG9/I2VXJ, 7X2RO, EA8EA, EA8/DJ1OJ, ED9EA, CT9U, CT3FN, CT9H, FH/F6HWU, 6W1AE, 3V8BB, YM2ZW, XX9X, XZ1N, A61AJ, GU/F5SHQ, CT8T, GIØKOW, KC6VW, V85HG, 9M6NA, P40W, CP6AA, HC8N, 8R1K, 9Y4H, PYØFF, C6A/K3TEJ, C6A/KM9D, ZF2RF, J6DX, V47VJ, FS5PL, 9U5DX, D44BC, 3C5A, CT3/DL5YM, JY8B, HSØAC, LX/DFØBK, KHØDQ, J39A, HH2B, 5V7A, J45T, and C21BH.

Single Operator High Power

The competition for the number one position in the highly contested high power all band category was fierce. All but two of the top ten finishers were DXpeditions. All the hard work of building a station on Aruba paid off for John, W2GD, the operator at P40W. John managed to find more multipliers than his rivals while maintaining a high QSO rate. The result was the coveted single op crown. Over on the Galapagos Islands Trey, HC8N (N5KO), finished in second place, while Jose, CT1BOH, keyed 9Y4H to third place. A very noteworthy accomplishment was the top ten finish of four zone 7 or 8 stations: 8P9Z (K4BAI), T11C (N6TJ), 4V2A (9A3A), and 3E1DX (DL5XX).

In hockey you have the hat trick, while in the CQ WW you have the gold microphone/key trick. Repeating his win on SSB, Randy, K5ZD/1, took the USA top slot on CW. This double win has only occurred a few times in the history of the CQ WW. Randy was followed by another YCCer, W1KM, while N2NT edged out fellow FRCer N2LT for third place.

The competition in Europe was real tough. After the smoke had settled, Dick, N6AA, operating at CT8T edged out fellow zone 14 oper-

*1816 Poplar Lane, Davis, CA 95616



An active QRP'er, Rogerio, CT1ETT, helped hand out the CT multiplier.

ator GIØNWG, who was keying GIØKOW to second place. With each having selective propagational advantages, it was the number of QSOs that won out in the end. Third place (and first place in zone 15) went to OM8A with OM3RM at the key.

Single Operator Low Power

Setting a new world record, Uli, DL2HBX, put 3V8BB on the air in big style. Traveling to 3V8 and offering encouragement to the radio club reflects what amateur radio is all about. Thanks to the leadership of the Tunisian ops at 3V8, activity has been outstanding.

The battle for second through fourth place took place in the NE Caribbean. AA3B racked up the number two position from VP2EEB, while VP5EA (WD5N) and WP2Z (KØDEQ) finished third and fourth, respectively.

In Europe, Franc, S59AA, who is always among the top QRP or low power finishers, ran away from the rest of the pack from his QTH in the suburbs of Ljubljana. And almost due north in zone 15, SP4EEZ edged out G4KIV for second place.

For the third year in a row, it was K2SG on top of the single op, all band, low power USA entries. Tony, with 2.1 meg, edged out N2BA, who had 1.9 meg, by leading Brook in QSOs,

Zones, and Mults. Also noteworthy is that in 1995 K2SG had only 1% unique/bad calls in his log—quite an impressive figure. In 1996, however, Tony did even better, cutting his rate almost in half!

All contesters can learn that it really pays to be accurate. As Tony and others have shown, it does not limit your ability to have the most QSOs in your category. Also, if you have any doubt about what a winning formula is in almost any category, you should look at all the low power results. KN4T, who placed third, had 27 more mults than K2SG, but was short about 350 QSOs. Fourth place went to KM1X (1073 QSOs and 378 mults), while fifth place went to K7SV/4 (898 QSOs and 427 mults). The same pattern continued with WT10 in sixth place (1022 QSOs and 365 mults) and NA2U in seventh place (845 QSOs and 386 mults). Clearly, if you're going to spend time doing something during the contest, it had better be making QSOs instead of chasing mults! It's also interesting to note W6JTI (ninth place SOABLP) had the most zones in the category (126).

QRP

In the QRP category it was ZX2X (PY2OU op.) taking world top honors. Jose had a clean log with only 1% unique/bad calls, which yielded a

TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR
World All Band
P4ØW (Opr. John Crovelli, W2GD)
 Donor: Albert Kahn, K4FW—W9IOP Memorial

World Low Power
3V8BB (Opr. Ulrich Ann, DL2HBX)
 Donor: Slovenia Contest Club

World Assisted
PYØFF (Opr. Ville Hiilesmaa, OH2MM)
 Donor: Snake River Contest Club

World QRPp
ZX2X (Opr. Jose G. Damello, PY2OU)
 Donor: Gene Walsh, N2AA

U.S.A.
Randall Thompson, K5ZD
 Donor: Frankford Radio Club

U.S.A. Low Power
Anthony De Biasi, K2SG
 Donor: North Coast Contesters

U.S.A. Zone 3
Kenneth Widelitz, K6LA
 Donor: Bill Fisher, W4AN

U.S.A. Zone 4
David K. McCarty, K5GN
 Donor: Dennis O'Connor, K8DO

Canada
Augustus Thomas Samuelson, VO1MP
 Donor: Canadian DX Association

Caribbean/C.A.
8P9Z (Opr. John Laney III, K4BAI)
 Donor: Chuck Shinn, W7MAP

Europe
CT8T (Opr. Richard Norton, N6AA)
 Donor: Edward Bissell, W3AU

Europe Low Power
Franc Bogataj, S59AA
 Donor: Scott Jones, N3RA & Tim Duffy, K3LR

Africa
3DAØNX (Opr. Koji Tahara, JM1CAX)
 Donor: Gordon Marshall, W6RR

Asia
Krzysztof Darbrowski, A71CW
 Donor: Chuck Shinn, W7MAP

Japan
Satoshi Hara, JH5FXP
 Donor: Japan Crazy Contesters Club

Oceania
Joerg Puchstein, YB1AQS
 Donor: Peahi Contest Club

South America
HC8N (Opr. Trey Garlough, N5KO)
 Donor: Venezuela DX Club

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND
World—28 MHz
Matias Vanni, LU9AUY
 Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World—21 MHz
Arturo Gargarella, LU6ETB
 Donor: Don Busick, K5AAD—N5JJ Memorial

World—14 MHz
ED9EA
(Opr. Juan Lucas Heredia Del Valle, EA7TL)
 Donor: North Jersey DX Assn.—W2JT Memorial

World—7 MHz
IG9/AC6WE (Opr. Andy Melanyin, UA3DPX)
 Donor: Alex M. Kasevich, VP2MM/4

World—3.5 MHz
EA8EA (Opr. Jorma Saloranta, OH2KI)
 Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World—1.8 MHz
CG1ZZ (Opr. Yuri Blonarovich, VE3BMV)
 Donor: Kenneth Byers, Jr., K4TEA

U.S.A.—28 MHz
Melvin Brafford, W4YV
 Donor: CQ Magazine

U.S.A.—21 MHz
Steve Sacco, Jr., KC2X
 Donor: Wayne Carroll, W4MPY

U.S.A.—14 MHz
Scott Detloff, N18L
 Donor: Northern Illinois DX Association

U.S.A.—7 MHz
Jeffery Briggs, K1ZM
 Donor: Jan Perkins, N6AW—W6AM Memorial

U.S.A.—3.5 MHz
Robye L. Lahlum, W1MK
 Donor: Bill Feidt, NG3K

U.S.A.—1.8 MHz
K8MK (Opr. James Hurt, K8LR)
 Donor: Peter Hutter, WW2Y

Canada (14 MHz)
VA7A (Opr. Ronald Kaye, VE7XR)
 Donor: Radio Amateurs of Canada

Carib./C.A. (7 MHz)
T1ØC (Opr. Carlos Fonseca, TI2CF)
 Donor: Snake River Contest Club

Europe—28 MHz
Arpad Berke, S51AY
 Donor: John Pryor, K4OGG

Europe—21 MHz
Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF
 Donor: Robert Naumann, N5NJ

Europe—14 MHz
Jiri Pesta, OK1RF
 Donor: Maud Slater—G3FXB Memorial

Europe—7 MHz
YT7A (Opr. Laslo Palfi, YU7GO)
 Donor: Ivo Pezer, T93A

Europe—3.5 MHz
N. S. Shirko, UA2FJ
 Donor: Frankford Radio Club—K3VW Memorial

Europe—1.8 MHz
Zbigniew Leszcynski, SP5GRM
 Donor: Pat Barkey, N9RV & Terry Zivney, N4TZ

Japan—21 MHz
Akito Nagi, JA5DQH
 Donor: DX Family Foundation

Japan—14 MHz
JA8YBY (Opr. Masaki Ohta, JO1DFG)
 Donor: Mitsuhiro Nishimura, JA7WME

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER
World
J6DX (Oprs. ACØS, K9JE, N8SM, N8NR, W9UI, W8QID, N9AG)
 Donor: Anthony Susen, W3AOH

U.S.A.
K1AR (Oprs. K1AR, K1EA, K1GQ, K1MM, K5ZD)
 Donor: Douglas Zwiebel, KR2Q

Canada
VE3EJ (Oprs. VE3EJ, VA3DX, VE3KZ, VE3IY, G4VXE)
 Donor: Eastern Canadian DX Assn.

Carib./C.A.
NP4Z (Oprs. AA5DX, K5GO, KP4BZ, KP3L, NP3A, NP3J)
 Donor: North Nevada DX Contest Club

Africa
D44BC (Oprs. D44BC, DK7YY, DL2OAP, DL2OBF, DL3DXX)
 Donor: CQ Magazine

Asia
EX9A (Oprs. EX2M, EXØM, EX8W)
 Donor: Steve Merchant, K6AW

Europe
OT6T (Oprs. ON5UK, DJ4AX, RA3AUU, UT4UZ, RW1AC, RV1AW, ON4UN, ON4MA, ON4JO, ON4AFZ, ON4PO)
 Donor: K3AO Memorial (Friends of K3AO)

Oceania
KHØDQ (Oprs. KHØDQ, JF1SQC, JI3ERV, JK3GAD, JR7OMD)
 Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America
LU4DRC (Oprs. LU7EE, LW9ETY, LW6EFP, LW1EXU)
 Donor: Tyler Stewart, K3MM

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER
World
5V7A (Oprs. KC7V, N7BG, K5VT, K7PN, K7GE, W6RGG, N7MB, G3SXW, GM3YTS, G4FAM)
 Donor: Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q—K2GL Memorial

World—SSB/CW Combined
9A1A: 30,238,989
 Donor: Alpha/Power, Inc.

U.S.A.
N2RM (Oprs. N2RM, WW2Y, K2WI, N2NC, N2AA, W2REH, WH2Z, N2NU, K2BM)
 Donor: Bob Ferrero, W6RJ—N6RJ Memorial

Europe
9A1A (Oprs. 9A5W, 9A2DQ, 9A9A, 9A6D, 9A3GW, 9A2SD, 9A2TS, 9A2EU, 9A3NR, 9A2R, 9A7R, 9A6A, S51R, 9A9AA, 9A3ZA)
 Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

Japan
JH5ZJS (Oprs. JA5BJC, JA5FDJ, JA5JCC, JH5RXS, JR5JAQ, JR5VHU)
 Donor: Ryozo Goto, JH3JYS

CONTEST EXPEDITIONS
World Single Operator
XX9X: (Opr. Pertti Simovaara, OH2PM)
 Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR
3C5A: (Oprs. N5AW, N6ZZ)
 Donor: Bill Schneider, K2TT

SPECIAL—SINGLE OPERATOR AWARD
World SSB/CW Combined
P4ØW (Opr. John Crovelli, W2GD)
 Donor: Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD

WORLD ALL BAND: UNDER 21 YEARS OLD
Kim Ostman, OI6KZP
 Donor: Chuck Shin, W7MAP

CLUB
World SSB/CW
Frankford Radio Club: 328,583,151
 Donor: CQ Magazine—W1WY Memorial

NON-USA SSB/CW
Bavarian Contest Club: 117,269,123
 Donor: Northern Calif. Contest Club
 N6AUV Memorial

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The AL-572 uses four rugged fully neutralized Svetlana Russian 572B tubes. Each tube has a heavy duty Graphite Anode, low loss white Ceramic Base, superior Titanium Getter and legendary Russian quality and ruggedness.

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Dynamic ALC™ doubles average SSB power

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A heavy duty power supply using a high silicon steel transformer delivers 2500 volts at 0.7 amps with good regulation.

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When you turn on your amplifier, a massive inrush current flows. Eventually this current will damage your amplifier.

Ameritron's **Step-Start Inrush Protection™** limits damaging inrush current to your power



AL-572

\$1395

Suggested Retail

supply and tube filament. This greatly extends the life of your amplifier components and tubes.

Pi/Pi-L Output Network

The AL-572 Pi/Pi-L output network gives you exceptionally smooth tuning, wide matching range, full band coverage and peak performance at all power levels.

Ball bearing vernier reduction drives on plate and load controls make tuning precise and easy. Detailed logging scales let you quickly return to your favorite frequency.

Tuned Input lets your rig deliver full output

A Pi-Network tuned input using slug tuned coils provides a good 50 ohm load for your rig. Even the fussiest solid state rig will deliver full power to your AL-572.

Whisper Quiet pressurized cooling

A whisper quiet internal fan draws in cool air over power supply components and pressurizes the tube compartment to remove heat for longest life.

Two lighted Cross-Needle Meters

Grid current, plate current and forward PEP output power are continuously monitored to tell you of improper loading and abnormal conditions.

A fourth scale switches among peak reflected power (and SWR), high voltage, ALC threshold and ALC output voltage.

Multi-Voltage Power Transformer

Ameritron's Multi-Voltage Power Transformer has a unique buck-boost winding. It lets you select from 14 primary voltages centered on 115 and 230 VAC.

You can match your AL-572 to your

AC line voltage so you'll get peak performance and long component life -- regardless of your line voltage.

QSK Compatible

For lightning fast QSK operation use the optional Ameritron *electronic PIN diode* QSK switch. Use the external QSK unit, QSK-5, \$349, or install the internal QSK-5PC board. Contact Ameritron.

Plus More!

An Operate/Standby switch lets you run barefoot, but you can instantly switch to full power if you need it.

Transmit LED; 12 VDC, 200 mA accessory jack; 12 VDC keying relay for solid state/tube rigs; tough, nearly indestructible Lexan-over-aluminum front panel.

Shipped with transformer installed and wired for 120 VAC. Draws 16 amps at 120 VAC. Compact 8 1/2"Hx15 1/2"Dx14 1/2"W.

Ameritron Warranty

In the unlikely event that there are defects in materials or workmanship, Ameritron will repair your AL-572 free for a full year. The Svetlana 572B tubes are covered by Svetlana's warranty.

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TOP SCORES

WORLD

SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER

All Band

P40W	12,742,731
HC8N	11,116,880
9Y4H	10,691,370
8P9Z	8,650,620
T11C	7,346,856
4V2A	7,007,128
3E1DX	5,922,267
8R1K	5,902,848
A71CW	5,895,043
CT8T	5,716,916

28 MHz

LU9AU	98,280
LU3HIP	86,268
S51AY	19,500
W4YV	12,285
G0AEV	7,150
K9OM	5,781

21 MHz

LU6ETB	1,554,092
CX6VM	724,200
TU2MA	469,860
G3TXF	444,050
JA5DQH	431,210
KC2X/4	391,572

14 MHz

ED9EA	1,429,673
IG9/IT9GSF	1,096,200
9Y4VU	1,009,849
CT9U	946,656
CE3F	885,360
YM2ZW	783,432

7 MHz

IG9/AC6WE	1,234,317
YW1A	1,060,355
ZS6P	909,200
RZ9UA	867,680
LZ5W	858,960
YT7A	875,716

3.5 MHz

EA8EA	1,175,550
IG9/I2VXJ	791,633
TI0C	791,208
CT3FN	500,220
UA2FJ	471,585
TK5NN	438,684

1.8 MHz

CG1ZZ	218,715
KP2A	203,300
SP5GRM	183,396
4X4NJ	158,916
EI7M	123,214
F6EZV	122,706

LOW POWER All Band

3V8BB	5,489,376
VP2EEB	4,921,360
VP5EA	3,094,236
WP2Z	2,951,910
S59AA	2,281,884
K2SG	2,158,728
4X7A	2,101,878
N2BA	1,919,598
6W1AE	1,908,253
UA0JB	1,725,705

28 MHz

LU5UL	256,520
LW4DYI	256,305
LU6MFD	105,450
VK4XA	54,372
PY1KS	53,680
EA6ZY	27,306

21 MHz

LU7FJ	657,850
PY1KN	396,845
ON4RU	335,832
PU2MHB	321,152
N8II	314,440
ZC4EE	268,488

14 MHz

LU3FSP	558,846
XO7A	547,575
Z39M	417,534
VK2APK	392,448
YU7BJ	369,600
OL7Z	369,264

7 MHz

LU1IV	916,776
EA8CN	540,870
VK6VZ	407,365
HI3JH	406,461
PA3AAV	292,410
Z32XX	264,550

3.5 MHz

Z31JA	186,030
IK4WMG	169,440
HA8PG	168,700
OH0MMF	151,619
9A4RU	148,798
ER3DX	125,672

1.8 MHz

HA8BE	121,408
OH4JLV	102,600
UA9CI	86,156
US7ZM	65,780
OM3OM	65,160
UN5J	61,172

QRP All Band

ZX2X	753,255
AA2U	549,450
K1RC	419,661
UT5UN	419,497
LY3BA	332,514
F6OIE	311,769
LY2FE	301,392
DL3KVR	298,718
K3DI	297,920
DL0QW	288,392

ASSISTED All Band

PY0FF	9,462,960
K1NG	4,979,632
W2UP	4,643,950
K3WW	4,541,412
W2XX	4,026,978
K2WK	3,719,668
K3MM	3,677,170
AA1K/3	3,613,776
K2TW	3,442,373
DK3GI	3,287,692

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

J6DX	11,493,255
D44BC	9,865,736
NP4Z	9,687,744
OT6T	8,765,744
K1AR	8,688,340
EA6IB	8,301,228

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

5V7A	26,916,240
9A1A	15,513,544
J39A	15,028,500
N2RM	14,563,269
W3LPL	13,941,174
K3LR	12,317,374

USA

SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER

All Band

K5ZD/1	5,461,830
W1KM	5,307,693
N2NT	4,794,086
N2LT	4,344,384
K4AAA	4,286,150
W2RQ	4,119,903
K3ZO	4,096,170
N6BV/1	4,045,252
KQ2M/1	3,717,277
W1WEF	3,673,972

28 MHz

W4YV	12,285
K9OM	5,781
W6KRV	5,002
W7USA	3,780
N2AU	2,088
K4JYO	1,563

21 MHz

KC2X/4	391,572
N5KA	318,360
N4BP	239,140
K6AW	209,430
W6YA	197,370
K7QQ	169,932

14 MHz

N18L	639,816
W4PA	570,564
K2KW/6	501,384
KB1SO	439,698
NU6S	425,941
W2II	425,858

7 MHz

K1ZM/2	593,850
W0UN	540,640
W7GG	493,570
N7DD	348,198
NX7K	273,420
K5TR	255,438

3.5 MHz

W1MK	329,278
K9DX	148,717
K4PI	137,124
N6AR/4	133,548
K8MFO	93,600
K2PS	91,584

1.8 MHz

K8MK	46,440
W4DR	36,757
K1UO	32,320
WB9Z	22,357
W2VO	20,382
K4TEA	19,856

LOW POWER All Band

K2SG	2,158,728
N2BA	1,919,598
KN4T	1,625,600
KM1X	1,065,582
K7SV/4	1,017,968
WT1O	963,600
NA2U	860,394
WS1E	799,890
W6JTI	762,010
WO4O	599,872

28 MHz

W3EP/1	2,752
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21 MHz

N8II	314,440
WB4TDH	163,064
WA1FCN	85,239
AI2C/4	60,604
W5ZO	51,146
KD4FAZ	41,040

14 MHz

N4MO	243,165
K2MFY	163,240
K7ZA	120,448
KI7DM	102,569
WB2ZMK	49,197
W6QJL	26,242

7 MHz

AA2SZ	88,689
W4HM	70,566
K0OD	68,655
N9AU	44,240
WW3S	42,925
K8UC	32,508

3.5 MHz

W1UK	46,729
N4TZ/9	35,200
W2ESX	16,500
WV1C	7,395
KO6IG	855

1.8 MHz

W4ONO	1,269
-------	-------

QRP All Band

AA2U	549,450
K1RC	419,661
K3DI	297,920
KA1CZF	259,831
K2PH/3	238,392
K5IID/8	211,641
KV8S	193,584
N1AFC	171,402
W8ILC	121,179
W4DEC	60,760

ASSISTED All Band

K1NG	4,979,632
W2UP	4,643,950
K3WW	4,541,412
W2XX	4,026,978
K2WK	3,719,668
K3MM	3,677,170
AA1K/3	3,613,776
K2TW	3,442,373
K2SX/1	3,129,628
N3AD	3,128,832

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

K1AR	8,688,340
K8AZ	6,127,915
K1ZZ	5,903,541
K0RF	5,225,584
W4WA	5,092,857
K8LX	4,301,868

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

N2RM	14,563,269
W3LPL	13,941,174
K3LR	12,317,374
KC1XX	12,295,033
K1KI	11,424,560
N3RS	11,182,599

EUROPE

SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER

All Band

CT8T	5,716,916
GI0KOW	5,652,738
OM8A	4,601,610
G4BUO	4,405,296
YT1AD	3,786,432
DJ6QT	3,064,320
G3ZEM	3,062,514
S53R	2,938,908
RN6BY	2,835,726
YU7AV	2,818,645

28 MHz

S51AY	19,500
G0AEV	7,150
UR7VA	3,078
UT1IA	2,665
OK1TW	1,925

21 MHz

G3TXF	444,050
9H0A	331,420
OI1AF	278,460
S50R	276,115
SP9HWN	208,299
RZ3BW	199,068

14 MHz

OK1RF	780,912
OM5M	722,936
S57DX	670,170
G3WVG	651,168
YU1ZZ	585,837
SL3ZV	537,000

7 MHz

YT7A	875,716
LZ5W	858,960
S50A	847,299
SP7GIQ	831,198
IR4T	780,057
9A4D	772,375

3.5 MHz

UA2FJ	471,585
TK5NN	438,684
OK2RZ	419,368
ES6DO	398,398
YT0T	384,970
LA9VDA	378,998

1.8 MHz

SP5GRM	183,396
EI7M	123,214
F6EZV	122,706
HA6NY	120,772
OM5ZW	117,393
9A2VR	116,667

LOW POWER All Band

S59AA	2,281,884
SP4EEZ	1,699,320
G4KIV	1,649,056
S51EA	1,527,532
OH0JJS	1,472,640
OH4YR	1,283,789
S51FA	1,278,870
DL8OBC	1,088,934
EA3CA	1,065,016
SP9XCN	1,035,948

28 MHz

EA6ZY	27,306
LZ2GS	21,080
EA3AFW	7,000
EA7BJV	5,676
T99T	4,752
YU1HA	3,192

21 MHz

ON4RU	335,832
F5PGP	268,380
Z31JA	249,232
S57J	230,971
EA1AK/7	204,525
EA7GTF	198,170

14 MHz

Z39M	417,534
YU7BJ	369,600
OL7Z	369,264
ES2RJ	358,028
EA2CLU	349,110
S58AL	317,687

7 MHz

PA3AAV	292,410
Z32XX	264,550
UR5FEL	260,311
S54A	210,826
S52SK	188,340
DK0MM	169,092</

BAND-BY BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs/Zones/Countries on each band

WORLD TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
P40W	380/15/60	1068/22/84	981/29/93	1475/36/111	1803/34/111	608/23/65
HC8N	334/16/50	711/26/81	1325/34/93	1234/31/101	1855/29/100	485/20/51
9Y4H	218/12/36	768/22/70	1884/32/97	1198/29/82	1870/31/95	484/17/40
8P9Z	311/14/46	751/19/76	1534/26/87	1663/31/101	1396/26/82	479/16/37
T11C	170/15/44	494/24/63	1488/27/84	1100/30/90	1796/33/100	383/16/35
4V2A	229/11/37	534/21/68	1561/33/94	1128/30/91	1651/25/77	190/14/35
3E1DX	153/12/33	317/18/57	1339/25/75	1156/33/99	1790/26/90	105/13/26
8R1K	103/13/34	426/18/68	1118/30/84	966/26/84	1077/25/76	209/16/38
A71CW	272/10/54	434/18/53	966/31/84	1216/31/99	1037/32/101	18/12/14
CT8T	283/16/52	714/21/75	818/24/75	1327/33/101	1356/28/92	86/16/44

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K5ZD/1	166/16/56	335/22/81	712/33/112	1102/34/109	721/27/95	25/12/16
W1KM	166/15/56	574/26/83	630/31/96	1040/32/104	729/26/89	14/8/13
N2NT	123/14/52	282/19/75	681/28/98	881/37/111	766/28/113	30/11/21
N2LT	64/12/43	208/18/72	530/32/101	1008/34/102	849/29/103	14/7/8
K4AAA	39/13/29	269/21/67	607/31/81	988/33/109	756/27/100	33/13/26
W2RQ	62/11/35	250/18/72	769/31/97	1041/33/102	663/23/85	6/3/3
K3ZO	51/11/35	399/25/84	620/33/100	953/35/113	429/28/95	25/8/18
N6BV/1	70/12/38	208/21/65	637/29/103	913/29/102	836/25/88	8/7/8
KQ2M	144/15/55	205/20/77	610/30/107	793/29/101	511/24/90	14/8/13
W1WEF	79/15/43	256/19/73	531/28/102	851/35/103	577/25/88	22/10/16

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
J6DX	94/14/57	646/21/82	2118/31/100	1676/32/110	2399/31/107	227/20/40
D44BC	154/13/52	732/20/70	706/24/77	1491/34/108	2245/28/102	156/20/56
NP4Z	84/9/36	776/27/94	1794/36/112	1264/35/118	1374/32/117	183/24/64
OT6T	219/32/101	763/32/116	1154/40/150	1363/38/139	873/36/127	69/14/46
K1AR	70/17/64	406/26/104	1071/39/147	1372/38/151	906/34/126	36/16/34
EA6IB	167/18/70	870/26/102	1517/34/127	1355/33/121	1374/36/126	78/18/51

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K1AR	70/17/64	406/26/104	1071/39/147	1372/38/151	906/34/126	36/16/34
K1ZZ	109/14/63	256/21/86	638/36/131	1063/39/146	663/32/124	47/17/38
K8AZ	45/14/42	309/29/100	502/37/134	1163/39/148	737/31/124	41/16/39
KØRF	59/16/28	324/29/83	1033/38/132	1166/38/143	350/31/97	69/14/30
W4WA	65/16/55	228/24/89	680/33/112	1231/36/129	480/31/116	37/17/35
K8LX	61/17/49	147/24/73	679/33/111	992/38/128	617/28/105	18/11/16

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
5V7A	507/18/60	1078/21/77	2528/33/109	4254/39/148	3260/37/140	442/19/79
9A1A	1043/22/83	1995/38/127	2598/38/148	2355/40/151	1436/39/140	168/19/59
J39A	313/13/59	1243/23/84	2222/31/106	2366/37/130	2202/33/110	866/20/53
DFØHQ	796/23/93	1518/35/121	2167/39/150	1650/39/132	686/37/125	150/16/47
VE9DH	577/17/63	1108/24/94	1305/32/114	1944/32/126	1420/28/112	61/8/18
LY5A	878/22/83	1776/35/126	1542/35/141	1512/39/136	1043/37/132	241/14/45

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
N2RM	368/18/80	803/30/108	1494/40/151	2035/40/155	1412/33/137	137/19/42
W3LPL	313/21/82	953/32/116	1314/39/150	2023/40/158	1134/34/138	135/19/45
K3LR	332/20/75	706/32/111	1251/39/153	1827/40/155	1186/31/134	109/19/46
KC1XX	313/19/77	790/27/102	1119/39/144	1987/39/151	1349/34/131	104/17/37
N3RS	148/18/70	503/27/99	1280/39/148	1979/39/154	1045/31/132	65/16/34
K1KI	306/20/75	541/24/97	1364/37/145	1639/40/155	1120/33/128	61/16/35

final score of just over 750k. Jose used the Index Lab's QRP-Plus hooked to 2 elements on 40; 7 elements on 20, 15, and 10; and a second 4-element Yagi on 10, all mounted on top of an 8 story building.

First place USA (and second place world) again went to AA2U. This was Randy's seventh consecutive USA win on CW—quite an amazing achievement. As usual, Randy had zero (0.0) percent unique/bad calls in his log! Second place USA (and third place world) went to K1RC, while first place Europe and fourth place world QRP honors were taken by UT5UN.

Assisted

What can you say about assisted from PYØ? Ville, OH2MM, traveled down to Brazil to visit his relatives and took in the CQ WW CW from the QTH of PYØFF. He took away the world trophy for assisted. The rest of the battles were in the States to see who could not look at their packet screens. As you have learned, QSOs are a big key to a high score. K1NG was piloted by K11G into second place world and the top score in the US. The power axis of YCCC-FRC-PVRC sure placed a lot of scores in the assisted category.

Roland, DK3GI, really has learned how to do it. He keyed his way to first place in Europe over G4PIQ, who definitely made good use of his special M6T callsign.

Multi-Single

What a job the crew at J6DX did! They not only took top honors in the highly competitive multi-single category, but set a new North American record in doing so. They sure were in the right spot, as their QSO total demonstrates.

Second place in the world went to the joint DXpedition team from the RRDXX and BCC. They joined forces to activate D44BC. Third world went to the new contest call of the Puerto Rico Contest Club, NP4Z.

Over in Europe first place was captured by OT6T operating from the QTH of ON4UN. John's team edged out the increasingly potent EA6IB group.

Here in the USA clearly the winner was K1AR operating from K1EA's QTH. They not only won for the US, but finished in the top six world box! That's a real accomplishment. The main competition was for second place. It went to K8AZ.

Tom's crew outdid themselves with a terrific effort. Third place went to K1ZZ. Dave's crew must have been influenced by his normally very low unique rate, since theirs was less than 2%.

Multi-Multi

The VooDoo Contest Club continued to put the rest of the world in a trance. They have settled on a "sort of" permanent QTH in 5V7. Their 20 meter QSO total was absolutely outstanding at over 4100 QSOs. The plan is to put 5V7A in many logs again this year.

The second place position went to 9A1A

TEAM CONTESTING

- 1. Neiger's Tigers:** 49,912,140. By CT8T (N6AA), P40W (W2GD), 9Y4H (CT1BOH), HC8N (N5KO), T11C (N6TJ).
- 2. Contest Club Finland:** 26,681,235. By 8R1K (AB6NJ), CP6AA (OHØXX), PYØFF (OH2MM), OI6YF, XX9X (OH2PM).
- 3. Team Handkey South:** 20,933,295. By K4AAA, 8P9Z (K4BAI), AA4S, N2IC, K5GN.
- 4. Team Handkey East:** 19,072,101. By W1KM, K5ZD, N6BV, W9RE, J3/WJ2O.
- 5. EU-MIX Team:** 19,319,351. By 3E1DX (DL5XX), 3V8BB (DL2HBX), 4V2A (9A3A).
- 6. Team Nippon:** 14,533,501. By 9M6NA (JE1JKL), JH7PKU, V85HG (JO1RUR), 3DAØNX (JM1CAX), 6Y6A (JE3MAS).
- 7. Yugoslavian Contest Team #1:** 11,805,886. By YU7AV, YT1AD, YU7BW, YU7CB.
- 8. SCC #1:** 10,563,613. By S50A, S51BO, S51FA, S53R, S59AA.
- 9. Team International:** 4,163,874. By OH8BQT, VE1GN, K6LA, ZX2X (PY2OU).
- 10. Team Tennebama:** 3,831,180. By K4NO, W4PA, KØEJ, K4RO, WO4O.
- 11. SCC #2:** 3,497,207. By S50R, S51EA, S57AL, S57U.
- 12. Yugoslavian Single Band Team:** 2,363,017. By YU1ZZ, YT1BB, YU7BJ, YT7A.
- 13. OH1AF'S Single Band Headbangers:** 1,464,587. By OH1EH, OH1NSJ, OI1AB (OH1NOA), OI1HS, OI1AF (OH1MDR).
- 14. Birzai Region Team:** 650,807. By LY3BA, LY3BU, LY3IW, LY3KB, LY3NJM.
- 15. Yugoslavian QRP Contest Team:** 526,424. By YU1KN, YU1EA, YU1LM.
- 16. Team Monobanders:** 401,661. By K6AW, GM6Z.
- 17. SCC #3** 293,083. By S51AY, S57J, S59L.

CLUB SCORES

USA

Frankford Radio Club	328,583,151
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	276,565,298
Potomac Valley Radio Club	130,778,491
Northern California Contest Club	49,382,025
Southern California Contest Club	43,712,359
North Coast Contesters	43,667,801
Society Midwest Contesters	42,302,523
Central Arizona DX Association	32,765,536
Southeast DX Association	30,861,712
Southwest Ohio DX Association	25,330,097
North Texas Contest Club	25,113,734
Willamette Valley DX Club (W7)	21,720,534
Mile High DX Association (W0)	15,402,845
Mad River Contesters	14,442,302
Oklahoma DX Association	11,191,897
Northern Alabama DX Club	10,654,992
Rochester DX Association	10,197,872
Central Texas DX/Contest Club	9,826,059
Carolina DX Association	9,142,023
Western Washington DX Club	8,739,752
North Florida DX Association	8,451,345
Minnesota Wireless	7,512,389
Clay County DX Association (W4)	7,065,307
Florida Contest Group	6,648,169
Southern California DX Club	5,866,046
Tennessee Contest Group	5,808,768
Texas DX Society	5,501,619
San Diego DX Club	4,564,027
Woodbridge Wireless (W4)	4,207,451
Kansas City DX Club	3,617,813
Kentucky Contest Group	3,495,192
Mother Lode DX/Contest (W6)	3,056,802
Hudson Valley Contest & DX (W2)	2,810,638
Western NY DX Association	2,364,873
Order of Boiled Owls NY	2,257,480
Eastern Iowa DX Association	1,863,247
Northern Illinois Dx Association	1,722,403
Grand Mesa Contesters	1,211,717
South Florida DX Association	1,106,658
Gloucester ARC (W2)	1,103,755
Redwood Empire Dx Association	1,043,147
Salt City DX Association (W2)	950,685
Mississippi Valley DX/contest	893,510
Hicks (W9)	875,166
No Dot Dxers (W9)	792,778
Northern Shenandoah DX Association	651,367
Schenectady ARA	623,647
Hanging Judge Contesters	589,370
Ca Central Coast DX Club	550,744
Northern Arizona DX Association	478,231
Roanoke Valley RC (W4)	402,343
Central Florida DX Association	291,948
Sturdy Mem Hospital (W1)	255,886
ARCECS	247,007
West Park Radio Ops (W8)	246,371
Northrop-Grumman RC (W6)	196,644
South Jersey Radio Association	152,130
Metro DX Club (W9)	149,559
Dayton Area Radio Association	73,168

DX

Bavarian Contest Club	117,269,123
Rhein-Ruhr DX Association	104,072,682
Contest Club Finland	69,055,808
Ukraine Contest Club	42,319,177
Marconi Contest Club (I)	39,203,250
SP DX Club	35,251,700

Croatian DX Club	35,010,784
LNDX (F)	34,960,092
Slovenian Contest Club	33,163,664
YU DX Club	31,312,526
Croatian CW Group	24,501,770
LYNX (EA)	23,852,062
HA DX Club	21,758,488
Chiltern DX Club (G)	20,718,283
Lithuanian DX Group	18,874,920
Low Land Crazy Contesters (PA)	18,794,225
Kaunas Technical University (LY)	17,138,458
LZ Contest Club	14,705,876
GPDx (CT)	12,839,453
Rosario (LU)	11,039,180
Crimea Contest Club	10,570,639
Japan Crazy Contesters	10,039,991
Pretoria DX Club	8,882,771
Kaliningrad Contest Club	7,168,518
Northern Lithuania DX Group	6,766,942
East Bavarian DX Association	6,205,487
Sao Paulo Contest Group	6,150,500
Sarejvo Contest Group	6,065,499
Kiel Canal Activity Group (DL)	5,679,805
Top of Europe Contesters (SM)	5,576,422
Cordoba (LU)	5,208,594
Taganrog Contest Club (UA6)	5,000,914
Kiev Contest Group	4,372,953
OZ9EDR: Club	4,294,496
Danish DX Group	3,757,383
Bavarian DX Group	3,371,759
Lyon DX Group (F)	3,101,800
Saone et Loire Contest Club (F)	3,009,805
Vojvidina Contest Club (YU)	2,989,363
British Columbia DX Club	2,804,434
GADX (LU)	2,794,701
French CQ Gang	2,723,532
East Canadian DXA	2,497,568
Shizuoka DX Club (JA2)	2,497,379
TuPY DX Gang (PY2)	2,496,866
Fox Contest Club (YU1)	2,244,276
Magic Island Contest Group (PY5)	2,112,422
Saipan ARC	1,447,712
QRL Kantou (JA1)	1,436,940
Koryazhama DX Company (UA1O)	1,427,778
SP Contest Club	1,413,965
Rostov on Don RC (UA6)	1,375,866
Radio Club Uruguay	1,261,764
OH3NE: Club	1,153,404
RCL (CT)	1,085,539
Puerto Rico DX Club	1,055,835
Perugia DX Club (I)	916,420
UFT (F)	899,122
SV2TSL:Club	897,795
Cadiz (EA7)	864,862
YO4KCA: Club	710,661
Southern Germany DX Group	663,123
Granada (EA7)	644,712
Globus Contest Club (UR5M)	614,008
Vologna (UA1Q)	598,907
Fukuoka DXA (JA6)	503,766
Czech Contest Club	495,584
Beemster Contest Club (PA0)	495,228
Alicante (EA5)	436,794
LU4AA: Club	423,013
Sudaca's Contest Gang (LU)	410,137
Geo DX Group (DL)	373,996
Hamilton ARC (VE3)	268,324
SN6O: Club	249,590
Amsterdam DX & Contest Group	235,556

THE VECTRONICS VC-300DLP . . . 300 WATT ANTENNA TUNER

- Multi48™ Inductor
- Cross-Needle Meter
- 8 Position Antenna Switch
- Built-in Dummy Load
- 1.8 to 30 MHz Coverage

VC-300DLP

\$159⁹⁵



The VECTRONICS VC-300DLP is the world's most versatile 300 Watt antenna tuner!

You'll get everything you've ever wanted . . . precise inductance control that rivals roller inductors . . . the ability to match any real antenna . . . full 1.8-30 MHz coverage . . . peak reading backlit Cross-Needle Meter . . . 8 position antenna switch . . . built-in 50 Ohm dummy load . . . finest components available and world class quality.

Precise Inductance Control

VECTRONICS' exclusive Multi48™ inductor gives you forty-eight inductance values -- you'll get precision tuning that rivals the most expensive roller inductors.

Tune any antenna 1.8-30 MHz

You can tune any real antenna from 1.8 to

2 kW Antenna Tuner

HFT-1500
\$459⁹⁵



You can tune any real antenna from 1.8 to 30 MHz for absolute minimum SWR.

The HFT-1500 is crafted of the finest components available . . . two heavy duty 4.5 kV transmitting variable capacitors and a high current roller inductor with a precision 5 digit gear driven turns counter. Gives you arc-free operation up to 2 kW PEP SSB.

Has backlit, peak-reading Cross-Needle SWR/Power meter, SSB Analyzer Bargraph™, 6 position ceramic antenna switch, 4:1 Ruthroff balun for balanced line. Scratch-proof Lexan front panel. 5.5x12.5x12 inches.

1500 Watt dry Dummy Load



DL-650M, \$64.95. Handles 100 watts continuous, 1500 Watts for 10 seconds to 650 MHz. Ceramic resistor. SWR < 1.3. SO-239 connector. DL-650MN, \$69.95 has N connector.

30 MHz, including all MARS and WARC bands. Use verticals, dipoles, inverted vees, yagis, quads, long-wires, whips, G5RVs, etc.

Has 4:1 balun for balanced line antennas.

Handles up to 300 Watts SSB PEP, 200 watts continuous (150 Watts on 1.8 MHz).

Peak Reading Cross-Needle Meter

The VC-300DLP backlit Cross-Needle meter displays SWR, forward and reflected power simultaneously. Reads both peak and average power on 30/300 watt scales. Meter lamp has front panel switch and uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with AC-12 adaptor, \$12.95.

Versatile Antenna Switch

The VC-300DLP eight position antenna switch lets you select two coax fed antennas, random wire/balanced line or built-in dummy load for use through your tuner or direct to your transceiver. Bypass position bypasses your tuner but keeps your SWR Power meter in line.

300 Watt Mobile Tuner

VC-300M
\$109⁹⁵



The VC-300M Mobile Antenna Tuner is compact, lightweight, easy-to-operate and is our most economical tuner.

It's compatible with any mobile antenna and any mobile HF transceiver and is compact enough to fit in the most compact car.

It can also be used at home with dipoles, vees, verticals, beams or quads fed by coax.

Backlit dual movement meter simultaneously monitors Power and SWR. Covers 1.8-30 MHz. Handles 300 Watts SSB PEP, 200 Watts continuous, (150 Watts on 1.8 MHz.). 7.25x8.75x3.6 in. Weighs 3.4 lbs.

Low Pass TVI Filter



LP-30, \$69.95.

Eliminates TVI by attenuating harmonics at the source. Plugs between transmitter and antenna or tuner. Handles 1500 watts.

Built-in Dummy Load

A built-in 50 Ohm dummy load makes tuning up your rig easy! Use it for testing and repairing your rig, setting power level, adjusting your mic gain and more.

World Class Quality

The finest components available and the highest quality construction gives you the best 300 Watt antenna tuner that you can buy.

A chemically treated aluminum case with durable baked-on paint and scratch-proof multi-color Lexan front panel looks great for years of dependable service.

Try any product for 30 days

Call toll-free 800-363-2922 and order any product from VECTRONICS. Try it for 30 days. If you're not completely satisfied return it for a full refund, less shipping and handling -- no hassles. All VECTRONICS products come with a one year warranty.

SWR/Power Meters



PM-30
\$79⁹⁵

PM-30UV
\$89⁹⁵



PM-30, \$79.95, for 1.8 to 60 MHz.

Displays forward and reflected power and SWR simultaneously on dual movement Cross-Needle Meter. True shielded directional coupler assures accuracy. Backlit meter displays peak or average power in 300/3000 Watt ranges. First-rate construction includes scratch-proof case/front panel. 5.3x5.75x3.5 inches. SO-239 connectors.

For 144/220/440 MHz, 30/300 Watt ranges. PM-30UV, \$89.95, has SO-239 connectors. PM-30UVN, \$89.95, has N connectors. PM-30UVB, \$89.95, has BNC connectors.

High Pass TVI Filter



HPF-2, \$24.95. Installs

between VCR/TV and cable TV or antenna lead-in cable. Eliminates or reduces interference caused by nearby HF transmitters.

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TOP SCORES IN MOST ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3

K6LA	1,731,660
WZ6Z	1,276,626
N7TT	1,077,359
XK7SZ	877,924
*WA7BNM/6	593,280
K6XX	514,048
W7SE	427,141
K6VX	402,052
WA5VGI/6	337,108
W7ZMD	307,560

Zone 4

K5GN	3,156,737
W9RE	2,975,280
N2IC/0	2,958,168
K4AB	1,956,864
K5MA	1,928,595
K5YA	1,888,952
K5YAA	1,764,447
K0EJ/4	1,593,651
W4XJ	1,432,698
K9AN	1,342,320

Zone 5

K5ZD/1	5,461,830
W1KM	5,307,695
N2NT	4,794,086
N2LT	4,344,384
K4AAA	4,286,150
W2RQ	4,119,903
K3ZO	4,096,170
N6BV/1	4,045,252
KQ2M/1	3,717,277
W1WEF	3,673,972

Zone 14

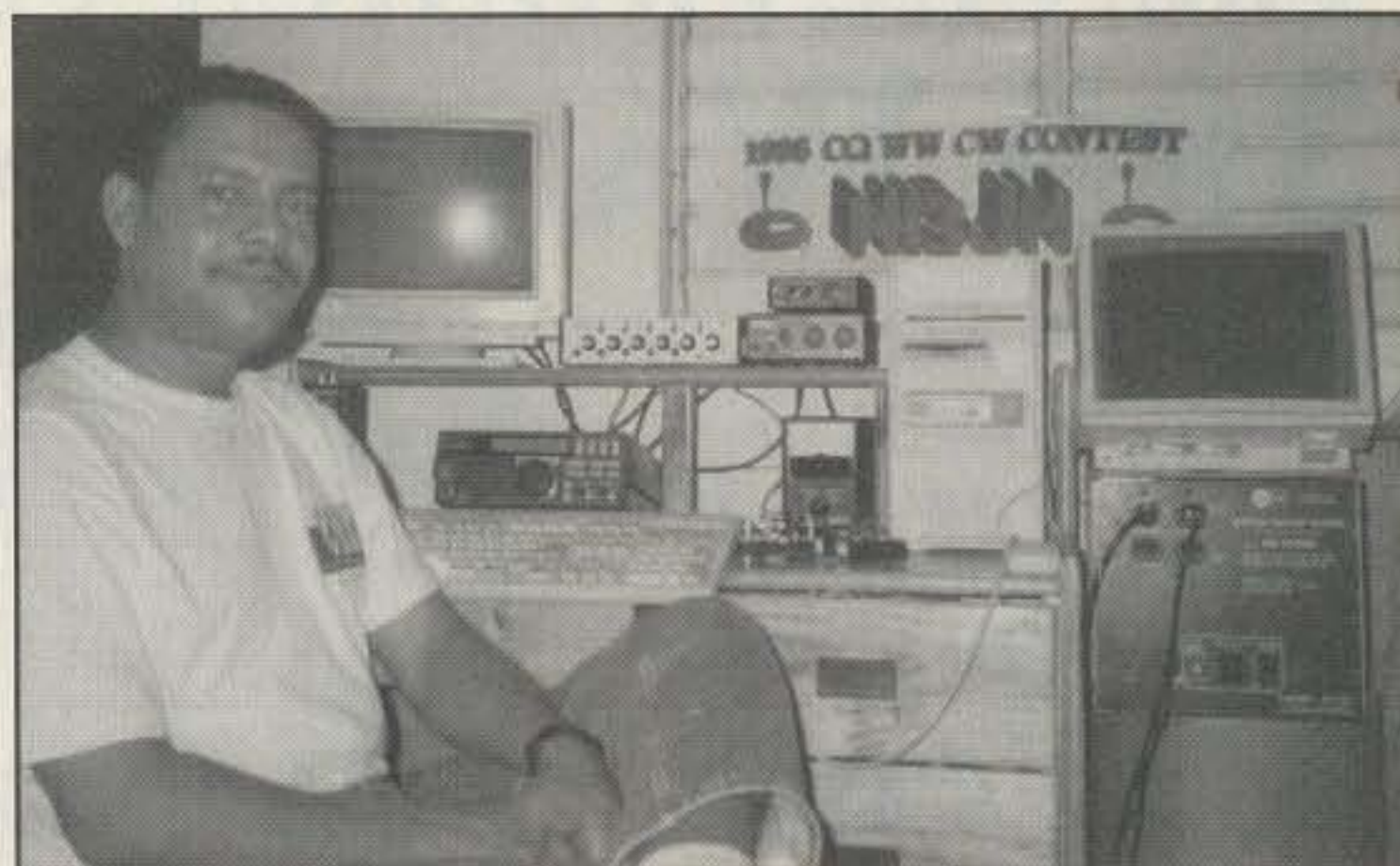
CT8T	5,716,916
GI0KOW	5,652,738
G4BUO	4,405,296
DJ6QT	3,064,320
G3ZEM	3,062,514
G0IVZ	2,646,140
DK8ZB	2,615,620
OZ1LO	2,195,564
EA2IA	1,918,008
OY1CT	1,813,686

Zone 15

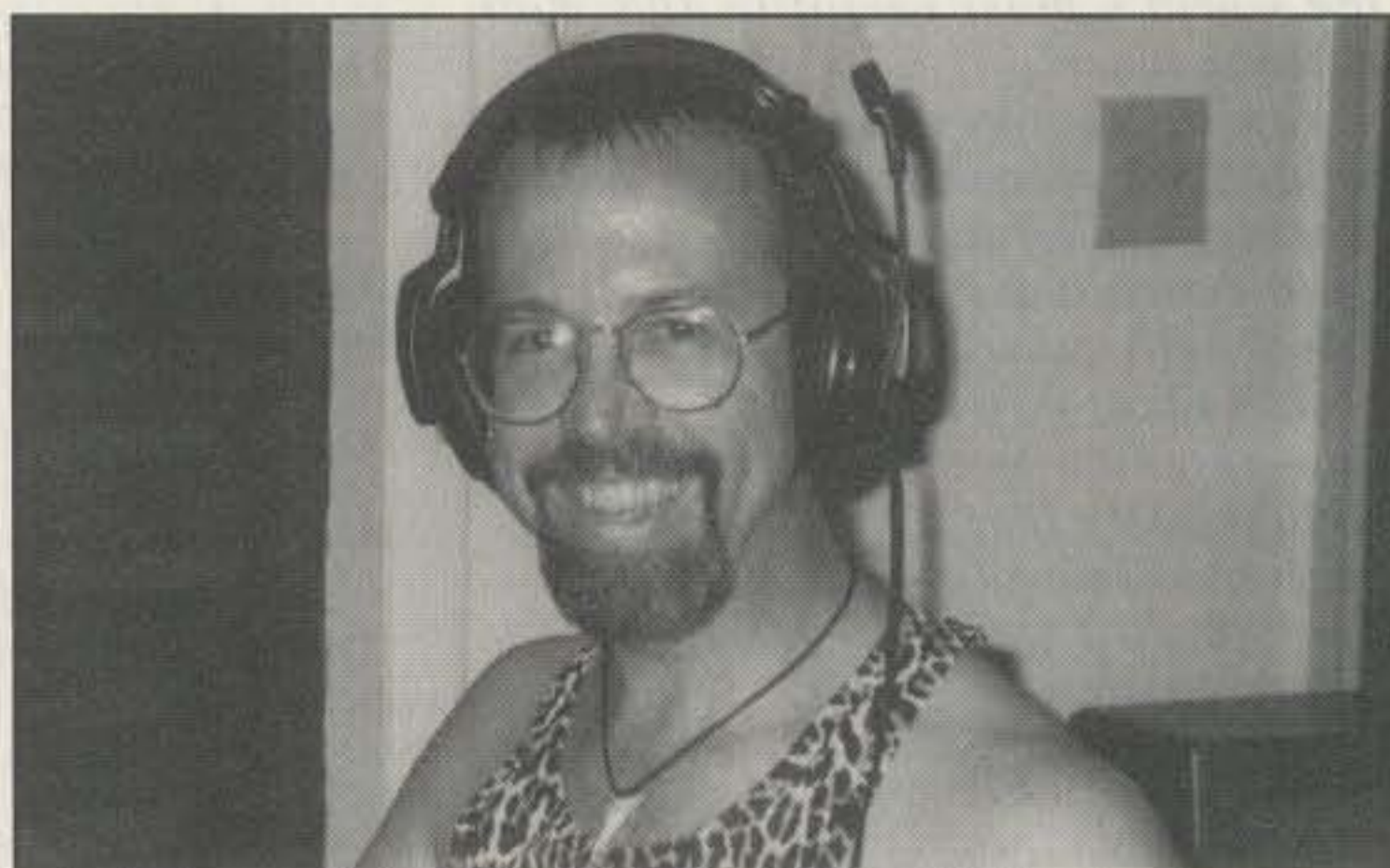
OM8A	4,601,610
YT1AD	3,786,432
S53R	2,938,908
YU7AV	2,818,645
OH1NOR	2,780,160
S51BO	2,696,872
YU7BW	2,653,717
YL8M	2,486,938
*S59AA	2,281,884
OI6YF	1,927,074

Zone 25

JH5FXP	2,917,488
JH7WKQ	2,203,248
JH7XGN	1,566,291
JA1IDY	1,417,687
JH0FUW	1,323,645
*JE0UXR	960,160
JA1JKG	934,929
JA9CWJ	856,654
*JE3HDD	734,080



Julio, HI3JH, put HI on the map.



VP5EA operated by David, WD5N.

from around the city of Zagreb. The ops of 9A1A are very dedicated to contesting and their score shows it. Third place went to the Yankee Clipper Contest Club DXpedition to J39A.

In Europe the top spot went to the already mentioned 9A1A. Second place was found at the quad farm of DF0HQ located in southeastern Germany. Club station LY5A finished a close third.

The boys from the FRC operating at N2RM's summer cottage took advantage of their skill and QTH to win first in the US. Second place went to Frank's crew at W3LPL, while third traveled out to western PA to the QTH of K3LR.

Team Contesting

Once again the team organized by Jim, N6TJ, took first place. Look at the scores and you can see that each team member averaged just under 10 million points! Since the overall all band winner had 12+ meg points, it is a remarkable job. Well done! However, if Neiger's Tigers had looked over their shoulders, they would have seen a real battle for second through fourth place. Contest Club Finland in its debut took second place honors. An interesting battle took place for third and fourth between two east coast USA teams. Team Handkey South just beat out their brethren from the Team Handkey East.

You don't have to make 10 million points to go for a team. The object is to have fun creating a competition in which the members can come from anywhere on Earth. Some of the teams choose to operate single band, while



Yuri, VE3BMV (left), and Jack, VE1ZZ.

others are QRP only. The goal is to interest others to form a competitive team. Find five contesters and join in!

Clubs

The battle of the clubs was especially competitive this year. The Frankford Radio Club held on to their crown over stiff competition from the Yankee Clipper Contest Club and a surging Potomac Valley Radio Club. In Europe the seesaw battle between the northern Rhein-Ruhr DX Assn. and the southern Bavarian Contest Club tipped to the south. The BCC took the DX trophy. They were followed by a club that every-

one will be watching in the future—the Contest Club of Finland. These six clubs accounted for over 1 billion points! Quite astounding.

The battle of clubs just below the giants was also quite interesting, with the NCCC edging out the SCCC.

New Records, Special Mention

The following stations set new world or continental all-time records:

World 3.5 EA8EA (OH2KI); LA 3V8BB (DL2HBX); L7 LU1IV (LW9EUJ); L3.5 Z31JA; Q1.8 ES1CW; A1.8 TK5EP.

USA LA K2SG; L14 N4MO; L3.5 W1UK; Q7 W0KEA; A14 K4AMC; A1.8 N2QT/4.

North America 1.8 CG1ZZ (VE3BMV); LA VP2EEB (AA3B); L14 XO7A (VE7SV); L7 HI3JH; L3.5 W1UK; Q7 W0KEA; A14 K4AMC; A1.8 N2QT/4; MS J6DX.

Africa 7 IG9/AC6WE (UA3DPX); 3.5 EA8EA (OH2KI); 1.8 EA8ZS; LA 3V8BB (DL2HBX); L7 EA8CN.

Asia L1.8 UA9CI; A1.8 JH4UYB.

Europe L14 Z39M (Z31CN); L3.5 Z31JA; L1.8 HA8BE; Q1.8 ES1CW; A21 EA5WU; A14 C31LJ; A1.8 TK5EP.

Oceania 3.5 9M6NA (JE1JKL); L14 VK2APK; L3.5 VK6LW; MS KH0DQ.

South America All P40W (W2GD); L21 LU7FJ; L7 LU1IV (LW9EUJ); QA ZX2X (PY2OU); Q28 LU9HUP; A14 PY2NQ.

A special mention must be made of the outstanding job done by the multi-multi effort of CY0XX. Their efforts made a lot of people happy. Way over in Myanmar, the single band

efforts of the XZ1N operators (see results) was a great idea. Each took a band and handed out the elusive XZ and zone 26 multipliers.

At the same time as the contest was occurring, another event was happening on C21. OH2BH had invited operators to this remote island for his 50th birthday party and to join in the contest fun. Martti has always been a promoter of ham radio, and he is to be congratulated for the fine score of the C21BH effort.

Thanks to the radio operators on ships. They recently have become more active in the contest. They provided the rare zone 34 in the 1996 contest. If you are on a ship, you can get in the contest. You count for QSO points and the zone through which your ship is sailing.

Comments

Get It Right! This year we ran across an ever-increasing phenomenon: incorrect packet postings. I operated as a member of the K3LR team last year on CW. On Sunday I had fun as a secondary contest watching people spot *wrong* calls and the band map fill up with bogus callsigns. During the log-checking procedure several of the log checkers noticed that bad callsigns were attracting many people who just worked what they saw on their packet screens—that is, they *never* heard the callsigns they worked. For example, the very active MM5V7A was spotted as HV7A. Fifteen guys all on the same packet cluster put HV7A in their logs! So not only did they get the call wrong, they gave themselves a good multiplier on top of it.

If there is any lesson to be learned from such information, it is that guessing is no way to work a QSO. The bad call/mults can easily be found by the computer and your score will be reduced. If you have any doubt, make sure you copy the call you have worked. Sometimes you have to stick around for a minute or more to get the call, but then you're sure of it.

Electronic log submission: This year we received 1056 electronic submissions on CW (disks or e-mails). Although we mentioned the following in the SSB write-up, it bears repeating: Even with that many submissions there were that many again computer paper logs with *no* disk or e-mail log! If you use a computer to generate your log, *please* take the time to send a disk plus a paper summary sheet or e-mail your log. It is cheaper for you to mail a disk than your whole log. E-mailing your log is the cheapest of all! Refer to Rule XI.5 for directions on how to submit a disk.

CW e-mail log submission <cw@cqw.com>: You can submit your log via the Internet. E-mail is easier for you and us. For e-mail we require **two files** to be included in your message: (1) A **summary sheet** in plain-text ASCII, and (2) Your **log**, which should be sent in one of two ways—as a plain-text ASCII file (for the most popular programs submit your CT: yourcall.ALL file, TR: yourcall.DAT; other fixed-column ASCII formats are acceptable) or as a binary file (acceptable examples for submission of files for the most popular contest programs; acceptable binary formats are NA: yourcall.QDF; OH2BQS). If you send a binary file, it will have to be encoded for transmission via e-mail. All popular encoding schemes are acceptable, including UUencode, Base64, and BinHex. Your software may automatically encode your log as an attachment.

If you must send the files in separate messages, be sure to put the **mode** and the station

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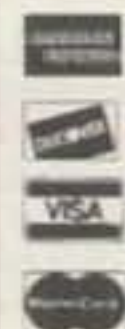
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Therefore, the e-mail addresses that you should be aware of for the CQ WW are (1) SSB Internet submissions <ssb@cqww.com>; (2) CW Internet submissions <cw@cqww.com>; (3) Non-award questions about the CQ WW <questions@cqww.com>; and (4) If you are missing a WW award <awards@cqww.com>.

Thanks

Thanks to the CQ WW log checkers who make sure that the CQ WW remains on the leading edge of log validation. Give a warm round of applause for K1DG, K3UA, K3ZO, K6NA, KR2Q, N2AA, N2NC, N3ED, N3RA, N5NJ, N5TJ, N6ZZ, N8BJQ, N9RV, W2RQ, W7EJ, and W9RE. Our DX advisors were very helpful in offering advice, providing information, and sorting out potential problems: CT1BOH, DL6RAI, EA3DU, G3SXW, I2UIY, JE1CKA, OH2KI, OH2MM, OK2FD, ON6TT, PY5EG, S50A, SM3SGP, UA9BA, and VE3EJ.

A special thanks to Dick, N6AA, who between trips to VK-land put in countless hours to make the CQ WW database the best in contesting. The CQ WW uses the software developed by N6TR to create the database. John, K2MM, set up and managed the CQWW.com internet site, and Larry, N6TW, was valuable in retrieving data from e-mail submissions. Thanks to the "voice," Gene, W3ZZ, for his efforts to decode problem disks. Thanks to Jim, N6TJ, for his editorial advice. And finally, thanks again to John, K1AR, for his advice and hard work to make the CQ WW so successful.

Congratulations to all the winners. Go to a club meeting, get a friend to join in the fun, or try a DXpedition. To participate is what contesting is all about!

73 and CU in '97, Bob, K3EST

DX QRM

Worked three "new ones" on 160! Unfortunately, I can no longer participate full time—doctor's orders! . . . PA0LOU. Good openings to Africa and Caribbean on 160. Heard HC8N . . . LA8WG. I have gotten DXCC this October and CQ WW DX contest was very helpful. Thank you CQ magazine . . . 7K1EQG. Would never had expected to work XZ in a 160 meter effort! . . . G3XTT. I operated from shed in the garden, -3 degrees, 3 inches of snow, wrapped in blankets and sleeping bag. Of course I enjoyed it! First time in CW. This is becoming addictive . . . G4KIV. What a difference between two years ago and this year. Did 40 as single band both years, and this year I more than doubled my QSO and scoring. Good condx to NA first night, but at the second morning I got so tired at sunrise that I had to go to bed earlier than planned (we're all getting one year older every contest!) . . . EA8CN.

I chose to do single band 10 so I could sleep normal hours (am an old timer, age 77). You had to be quick when the band did open . . . EA6ZY. Tks to OM LA7SL, Peter for QTH and hospitality . . . LA9VDA. An enjoyable event as usual. In fact, I haven't enjoyed a contest as much for ages. CQ WW brings out the rare ones—at least three all time new countries for me . . . G3WRR. Twenty years ago I was starting in CQ WW (1976) for the first time! . . . UA6NZ. Halfway through the first night my keyer battery went flat. 4:30 AM found me frantically searching for a spare! Conditions seemed quite good. I'll be back next year! . . . VK6VZ. Enjoyed the contest. Did not find XE or VE (zone 2) again this year . . . RW4AA. Had a week-end of very heavy gales and storms which made 80

hard going. It should be a rule that all "W" stations that are not in their call areas sign /current call area. It must be a nightmare for the judges checking through the logs to get the zones right . . . VK2AYD.

I have been QRVing on 160 meters in this contest for 15 years. The propagation between JA-EU is very, very good. Fantastic and mysterious! Even at 13z we JA can hear many EU stations on 1825-30 kHz. At this time we hear also many USA stations who were calling XZ1N. But they did not hear on 1910 kHz. So I strongly say to EU and USA stations: Please call "CQ Contest QSX 1910 kHz" many many times . . . JE1SPY. I am very joyful in this contest because I got a new country . . . JA1WHG. My second CQ WW CW entry. Last year I had my license only two days. This year I could multiply last year's score by 3.5! Great boost for my DXCC . . . ON4CAS. Sometimes the QRM was so strong, I couldn't hear my own signals through the QRK. Propagation was good for a sunspot minimum . . . PA3ASC.

The last time I sent my log was 1964. I enjoyed this 96 contest even much more . . . OE3TL. Very pleased to participate for the first time in this contest! It is a great contest! . . . CN8GB. Condx was very hard on 28 MHz. The noise changed into live Morse code! . . . JH6SQI. I love this contest! Thank you! . . . EU4AA. I'm excited for my first African on 160! . . . JI3KDH/3. I was on an 870 foot oil tanker returning to Valdez, AK having been to BY and HL land. For me the CQ WW CW test is the greatest of all contests. It is truly amazing how simple it is to break pile-ups when propagation is good . . . W7SW/MM (Zone 19). Next year I will be QRV from Central America . . . JA6WFM. I felt that 5 watts was not QRP! But I think I had weak signal. Thank you very, very much to all stations . . . JR9OPJ.

I would like to thank Fred (G4BWP) for letting me use his station and his XYL, Mandy, for putting up with yet another radio fanatic in the house! . . . G0KRL. It was my first attempt to work DX stations on top band. I enjoyed big pile-ups from EU stations . . . JH4UYB. Bands were overcrowded, making it difficult to get through. Who says that CW is dying! . . . G4ZME. Poor condx on 10/15 but lots of DX to work on the other bands. It was a great contest . . . F5MWW. We come to Lampedusa again and this year the propagation on 40 meters was not as good as in the previous year. See you all next year, from where? Do not know yet but maybe . . . IG9/AC6EW (Opr. UA3DPX). Forty meters was boiling. Enjoyed very much but east coast and West Indies did not come in . . . JA2NNF.

Not very many requests to change bands. Guess KL7's had Zone 1 covered . . . VY1JA. Better than SSB. My voice was OK on Monday! . . . SV1DET. Nice to be on again. Working HL3 and YB1 on 7 MHz with only two calls (25W) was great. It seems that search and pounce can bring in nice stations. Compliments to all the W's who managed to get my signals on 14 MHz . . . PA0MIR. Called all day, both days for contest stations finding none. In the evenings the overflow came to me . . . 2E0AOK. Operated from field-day location on the coast in Devon with good sea take-off to US, but also with the attendant typical late November gales that buffered the 80 ft. trailer-mounted 15 meter beam around somewhat . . . G3TXF. Many thanks for my first and FB WW DX. I'm on the air for 20 years and invalid for 2 years. Radio amateurs and contests are a good hobby! . . . LZ4RV.

Also with simple antennas (dipole and sloping dipoles) and 100 watts CQ WW CW is every year a great pleasure. Propagation is not so poor as numbers say . . . IK4EWX. Working Vietnam for the first time ever! . . . ZC4EE. I operated from superb seaside QTH. Great location, big signal, good conditions, but a shame about the operator! . . . G3WVG. This year's contest was extra tough, as I found the LF bands in poor condition. I only spent 32 hrs on the air but managed to produce good pile-ups in the last 8 hours . . . GD4UOL. It was very exciting working with only 5 watts and a simple wire antenna . . . F6CRP. This the best of the contests in the world . . . LU3DSI. Congratulations to the 5V7A group. Tks for 160 QSO! . . . ZD8DEZ. Worked Haiti for only the second time in 43 years! . . . GW3JSV. Great contest! Propagation was very poor until I had a 5 hour long JA opening Saturday night on 10 meters! First time I worked Antarctica and zone 39 on 10 meters . . . LU3HIP.

Terrific condx on all bands except 10 meters. What an enjoyable contest... *E14DW*. I don't know how you do it, but condx are usually good for contest weekends, and this one was by no means an exception. 21 MHz was the best of the year!... *VE3ST*. All my QSOs were with hand key... *BY4SZ* (Opr. *BZ4SCT*). I still give meaningful reports; seems *9J2BO* is the only other who does so!... *G3JKY*. I felt that band condx are going better. Nice contest as usual. I like it. N6TR program help me so much... *OK1ABP*. The St. Lucia DXpeditionary Force, a tiny division of the Southwest Ohio DXA. We started planning this year's trip in March, started packing in October, traveled 18 hours. After all that the contest lasted only 48 hours. Next year how about at least a week-long contest?... *J6DX*.

I had much fun! More than 10,000 points for the first time and 53 contacts with the USA... *DL4OBJ*. Excellent condx during last night! Thank you for new one, World-Wide Contest!... *UA0SR*. After seven airports and six airplanes, just being in the Bahamas at Treasure Cay on Abaco Is. was great... *AA6EW/C6A*. New callsign had to be repeated quite often. Hard work getting through in pile-ups... *M6C* (Opr. *G3KKQ*). Sixty-eight years old, ex-"Sparks" bit tired at end but still great fun. Cannot say no to this fine contest... *PA3GNO*. Excellent through North Pole conditions just before the end of the contest. Got many important double multipliers... *ES2RJ*. I am 16 years old and here in Sierra Leone with my Dad for the year. Power is somewhat unreliable and sometimes goes off in the middle of a pile-up. We do not mean to be rude but that is life here... *9L1MA*.

Enjoyed the contest and pleased to make the highest ever G score at the bottom of the cycle... *G4BUO*. I contacted many stations because many GREAT stations attended in the contest... *JH2NWP*. I started contesting in 1954 with the call *I1YCY* from Trieste, a country separate from Italy. Forty meters is always open, not many QSOs but still fun... *IK2AIT*. For me it was a very first WW DX on top band after 50 years of my ham activity! Hmmm—a noisy item!... *ES1CW*. Station was set up at friend's house on South Bimini. WWV sent flux 104 on Sunday and 10 turned to gold!... *C6A/N4RP*. Many USA ops could not believe my call. They kept asking for another letter... *G6T* (Opr. *G3NYY*). Operation limited this year but my CW skills are still improving. Another ten years practice and I might be good!... *VK5GN*.

Thanks to *AH6NJ* for calling in as only zone 31!... *O16KZP*. Took part in the contest to commemorate being in amateur radio for 40 years!... *TA2BK*. LW 12 meters long from balcony above the sea... *EAB/DJ1OJ*. I operated fully with N6TR for the first time and liked it very much... *LY2OX*. I tried to put up 80 meter antenna just before the contest but failed to do so. I wish I had because low band conditions were fantastic. CQ WW DX Contest is always great... *JL7PVR/1*. First time active from my new QTH. Used to be fairly active at my *OH6VR* QTH in the past few years... *OH2NQS*. Not one USA station heard on 160 except for *KL7* and *KH6*... *VK3IO*. I'm a med doctor and spent part of the contest in emergency service... *HABXX*.

No opening on 10. Excellent condx on 40. Hard job on 80 with 100 watts. I enjoyed it and I'll try better next time... *DL2HQ*. I used a GAP Titan DX vertical mounted 5 feet above ground and QRP. US east coast no problem. I was able to QSO US west coast, CW, JA, and V85... *HB9CBB*. Thrilling 7 MHz condx! Who needs sunspots!... *G3IGW*. We had two ops for the last eight hrs due to a severe snow storm which had the rest of the crew heading home early. Some had to drive 200+ miles!... *G6D*. This is fifth time I worked all the 40 zones during CQ WW. Great Fun!... *IG9/IT9GSF*. I have never been asked to QSY to other bands so much in my life!... *VQ9IE*. Bad QRM on 40 meters here in Europe. By the second day two cases of beer and one bottle of whiskey were not enough!... *DA0RP*.

What we will remember from CQ WW CW 96 are *XX9X*, *XZ1N*, *5V7A*, *CP6AA*, *PY0FF*, and those new K's, N's, and W's. Conditions were fairly good considering our location at 60 degrees N and the sunspot cycle... *O15N*. Great contest! Looking forward to the next CQ WW with our MS... *YB0ZBB*. First time to try low power. Nice to make DXCC on a single band!... *E16FR*. It was difficult to reach the QTH on 4000

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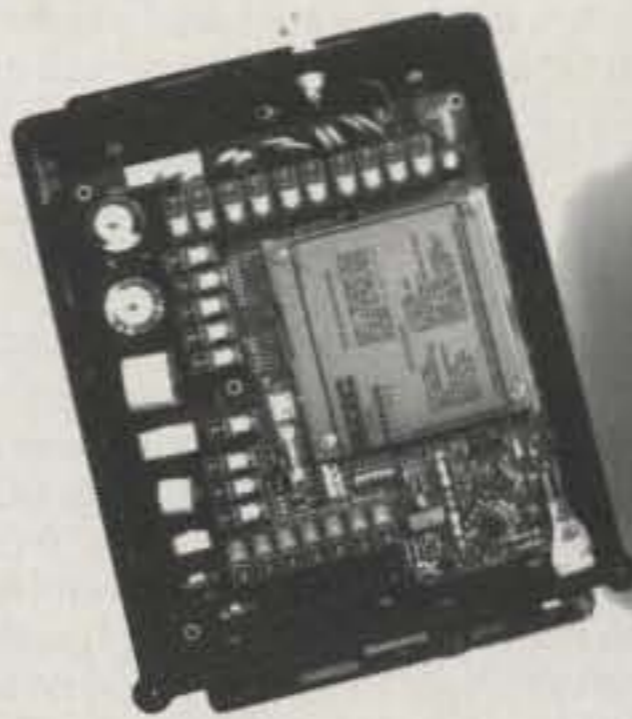
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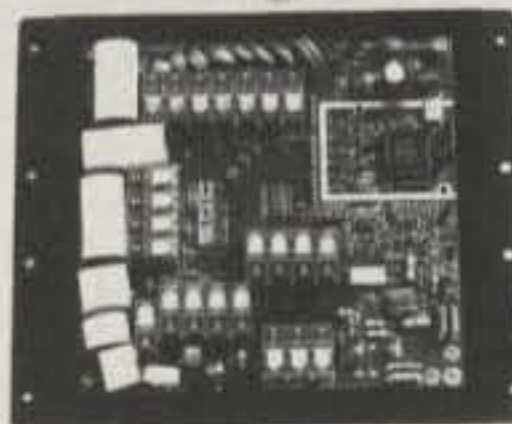
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J13KDH/3 surrounded by ten radials in the field for 160.

ft. asl in a heavy snow and wind, but then I enjoyed the contest very much. It was a plan to put the winter view of the location on the cover of *CQ Contest* magazine . . . S50R. Sorry my score is little but I am a new participant on your contest. Tnx Cu agn in 97 . . . YC3UUQ. My first entry into any major international contest. Great fun but many stations mis-read my call as G3VYO . . . G3VQO.

This is my 38th CQ WW and my 1881 contest log entry in all! . . . YU7SF. I am very happy. My second CQ WW CW and my score was doubled. I lost 2 hours due to loss of power from wind . . . CE3F (Opr. CE3FIP). Wow! XZ1N called me on 20! . . . VE7AV. I made my first QSO on 160 during the contest . . . LU1EWL. You can have a good result just with a vertical and 100 watts. How? Without sleeping! CQ WW is too short for sleeping! . . . IK0YVV. What great fun I had this year running a true pop-gun station! A lot of DX just doesn't get worked or even heard without a beam. But that just makes the magic moments even more special. 3C5A answered my CQ! . . . XE1/AA6RX. This time no opening to JA. Only 13 QSOs. But quite nice to NA. Both days K3LR was the last station to come through! . . . O11AF (Opr. OH1MDR).

Thanks to all the talented and patient ops who made 160 QRP possible . . . VA3JFF. For some reason, folks seemed very happy to work us! . . . 3C5A. DISASTER struck when after not even 2.5 hours contest some shortening occurred in the antenna. Something that could not be fixed before the real end of the contest. That was the shortest WW CW ever for me! . . . D25L. As always, I was very late in completing the antennas. This time got it running at 0330Z Saturday morning! This 4-element quad was the biggest antenna I ever operated with and sure liked it. On the other hand, still heard many stations that were louder. Thanks for all the work with the contest. I like the e-mail submitting. Saves a lot of work and money . . . DF4SA.

Thoroughly enjoyed it and glad it kept going. Next year maybe all bands. This is the first GW3YDX entry in the CQ WW Contest! Yes, this boy is a novice entrant! . . . GW3YDX. Last morning of the contest we had a big opening to North America. I really enjoyed the high rate QSO . . . JM4UQM. This was my very first activity on 160 meters. I was not really prepared to make such a good score. I was connected to our "local" DXcluster in Sardinia which did not help me a lot, 160 meter spots were rare, and our connection to the European net is poor. A real pity, because it seems that my score is not bad. I evaluate the numbers of DX worked thanks to the DXcluster about five to ten. Many DXs called me on my CQ frequency. As it was my first experience on 160, I can't say if condx were

good or not, but I had great fun working nearly a DXCC in one weekend. I hope I could help a lot of DXers with a new country on this band. I will be back on the top band! . . . TK5EP.

Had a great time again this year. Improved on my personal best by more than 700 QSOs. Would have made more contacts if I hadn't spent so much time in S&P looking for African DX and Zone 35 in particular . . . VK1FF. Enjoyed single band again, on 80 this time. The band was not as good as expected. Heard no Zone 5. Called many strong Zone 20 without success . . . 9M6NA (Opr. JE1JKL). We have to say many thanks to Julio for the use of his fine station. Although we had no beam on 10 and 40 meters and rotor of 15 and 20 meter beams were broken we had a lot of fun on all bands and made a surprising result. This was a cooperation between RRDXA and BCC . . . D44BC. QRM: Putting up three Beverages in the forest just for the contest is one thing. Realizing at 0200Z that your U.S. rate is very slow because your sloper has been removed by some very cold winter storm is another thing . . . DL1SBR.

My first attempt at the Single OP Low Power category was a lot of fun! I'd like to thank DJ5BA, DL1OCB, DL2HBX, and DL4OCL, who made this event possible for me. I could not possibly think of a better way of spending my 26th birthday, which was on the first day of the contest, than participating in the CQ WW Contest! . . . DL8OBC. Nice to have XZ1N bust through 40 meter pile-up! Bring on those sunspots! . . . FS5PL. This was a great contest. Propagation was pretty good, and all went as planned. Exceptions (aren't there always a few?): (1) The guy giving me a lift to the club managed to ditch his car in the snow, giving me an hour of wasted time with the adrenaline on top. (2) Suddenly on Sunday evening I found the band crowded. The only problem was that for almost two hours I couldn't find one single station that wasn't a dupe or a Swede! Meanwhile, I managed to QSY to 80 and play around for 80 min. and submit a single band entry (with a puny score, but still better than wasting precious contest time) . . . SL3ZV (Opr. SM3OJR).

USA QRM

Good conditions! Lots of activity! Terrible weather . . . W5CWQ. Signals were very good to excellent. Participation was great. Even little pistols could CQ on the second day! . . . N4MO. Most interesting event was working XZ1N on 160 without any pile-up . . . KV0Q. Managed to work 9Y4H on six bands, lots of

(Continued on page 92)

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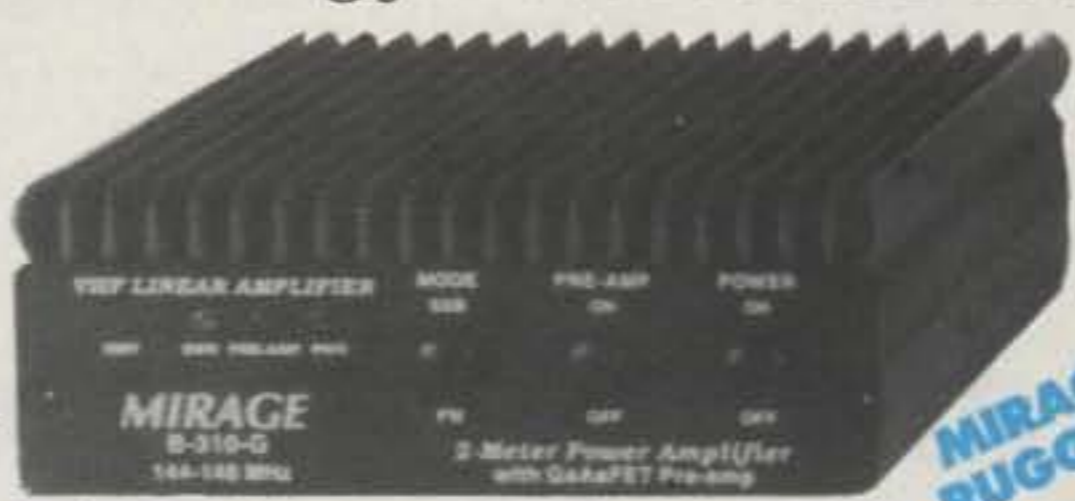
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Power Curve -- typical BD-35 output power

Watts Out (2Meters)	30	40	45	45+	45+	45+	45+
Watts Out (440 MHz)	16	26	32	35+	35+	35+	35+
Watts In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Add this Mirage dual band amp and boost your handheld to 45 watts on 2 Meters or 35 watts on 440 MHz!

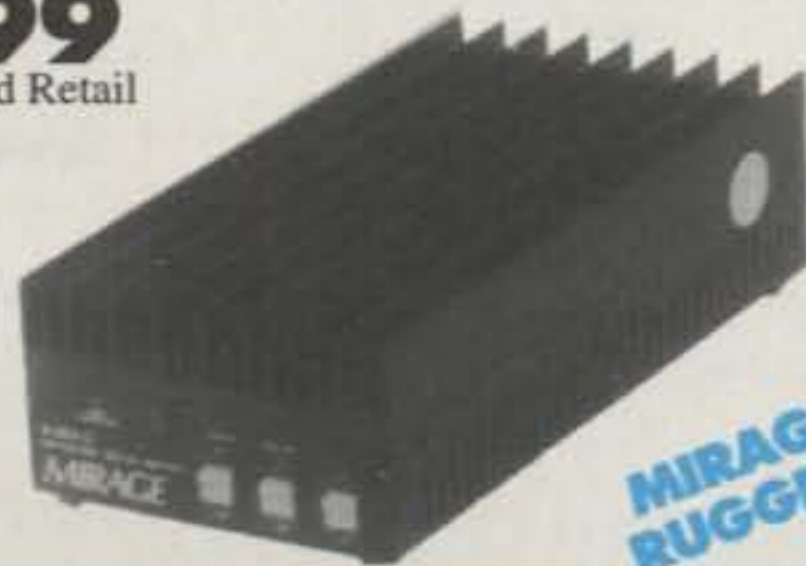
Works with all FM handhelds up to 7 watts. Power Curve chart shows typical output power.

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160 Watts on 2 Meters!

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Watts Out	130	135	140	145	150	155	160	165
Watts In	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55

The MIRAGE B-5016-G gives you 160 watts of brute power for 50 watts input on all modes -- FM, SSB or CW!

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Watts Out	18	30	33	35+	35+	35+	35+	35+
Watts In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

- 35 Watts Output on 2 Meters

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Versatility is the key word in this article. N4PC shows us how to really "increase the mileage" out of a 40 meter antenna.

My 40 Meter Double-Extended-Zepp Antenna Shows Its Versatility

BY PAUL CARR*, N4PC

It is not unusual to receive a telephone call from one of my readers with an antenna question. I enjoy talking to these people, and hopefully I am able to provide answers to some of their questions.

One often-asked question lately is what kind of antenna will work on the 160 meter band and will provide good results through 10 meters? I have also heard readers comment that they have tried a 160 meter dipole, but had trouble tuning the antenna on some of the higher bands.

Well, there is a fairly simple solution to this problem: Use a 40 meter antenna! Let me explain. The 40 meter extended double Zepp is the antenna to try. It is slightly shorter than a half-wave 160 meter antenna, and it eliminates some of the tune-up problems you may have encountered in the past.

Background

You don't have to listen on the bands very long to find out that one of the most popular wire

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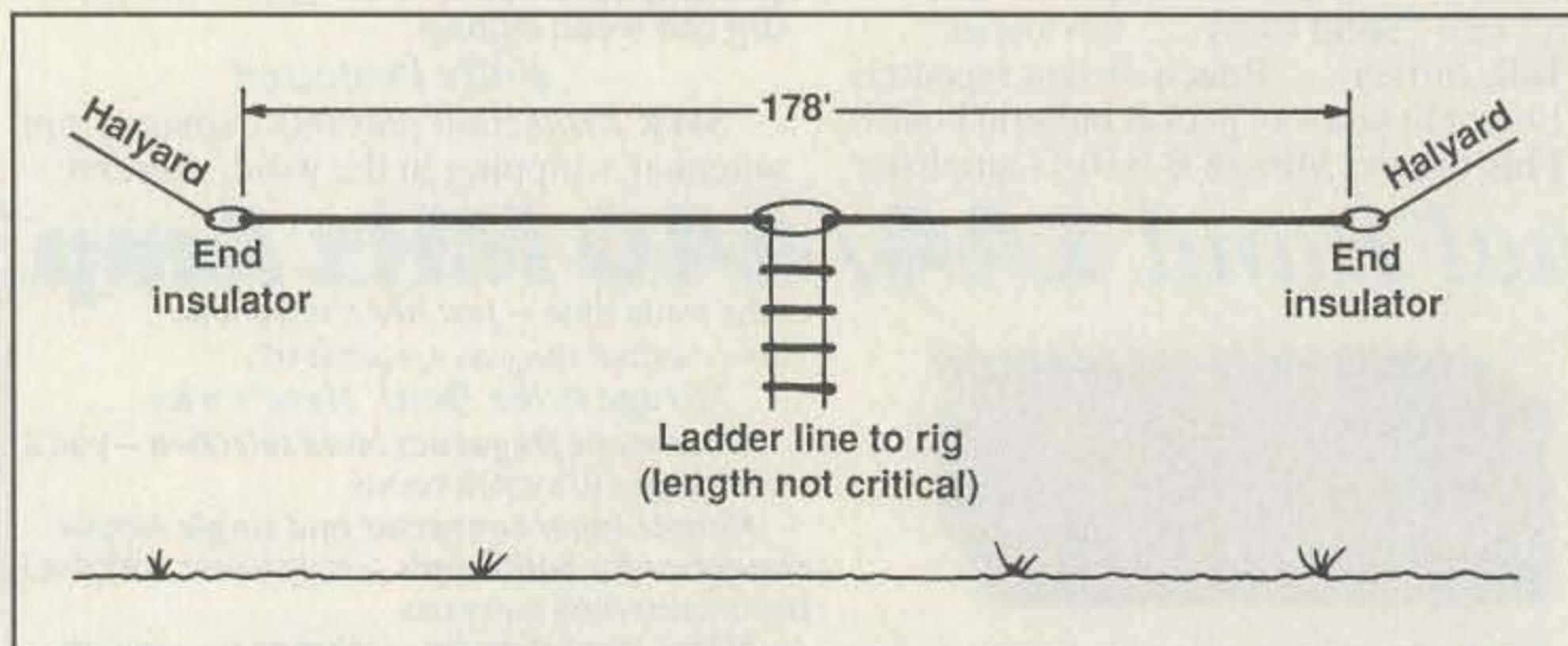


Fig. 1— Basic antenna configuration.

antennas in use today is the G5RV. That antenna is designed to be a three half-wave dipole cut for 20 meters. This makes the antenna 102 feet long, and the antenna is useful from 80 through 10 meters.

In recent years the double G5RV has made

an appearance. It is 204 feet long and is useful from 160 to 10 meters. This was the starting point for my research on this antenna project.

Although the double G5RV was about the physical length that I was looking for, a computer analysis showed the antenna produced

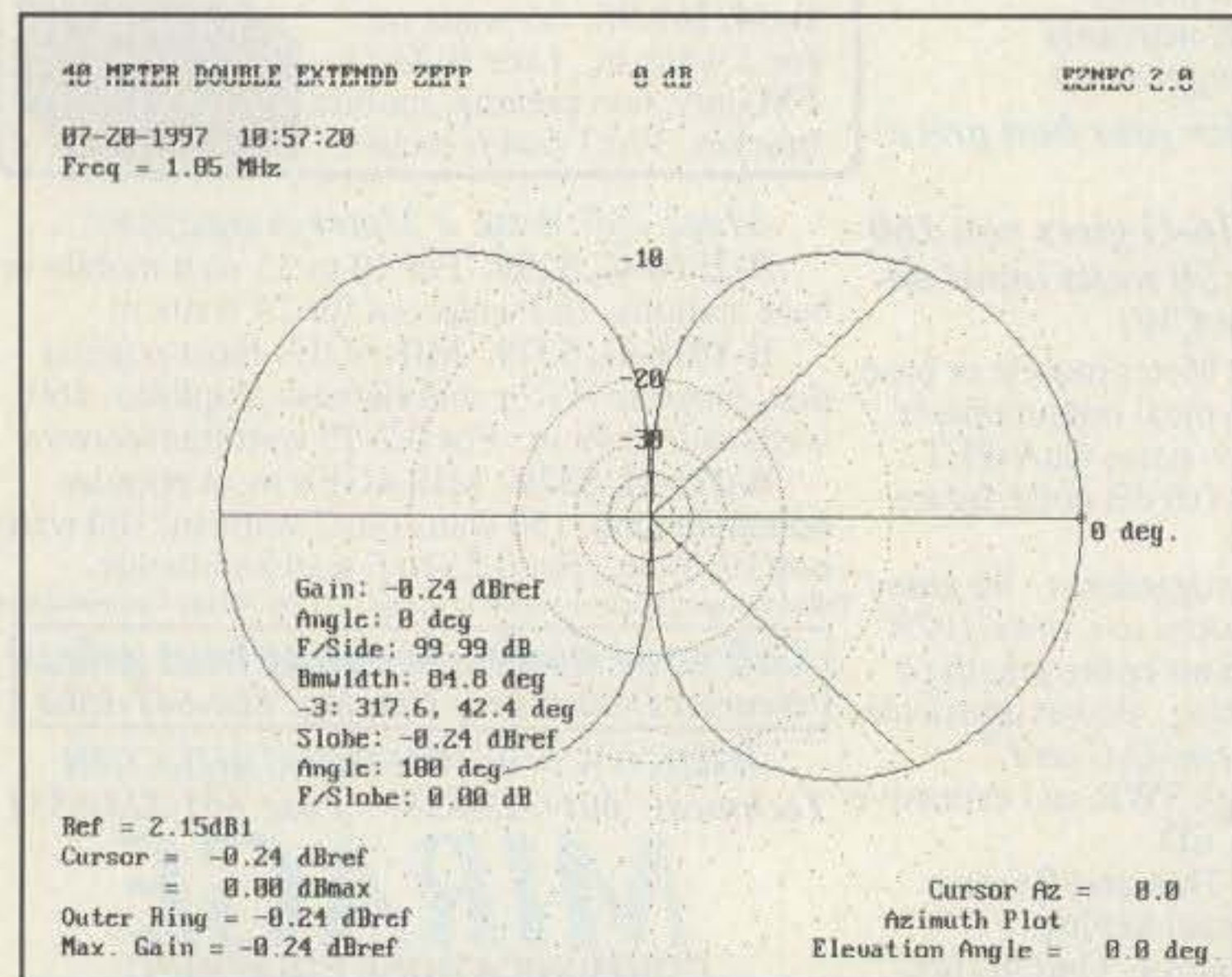


Fig. 2— Computer analysis of the antenna pattern on 160 meters.

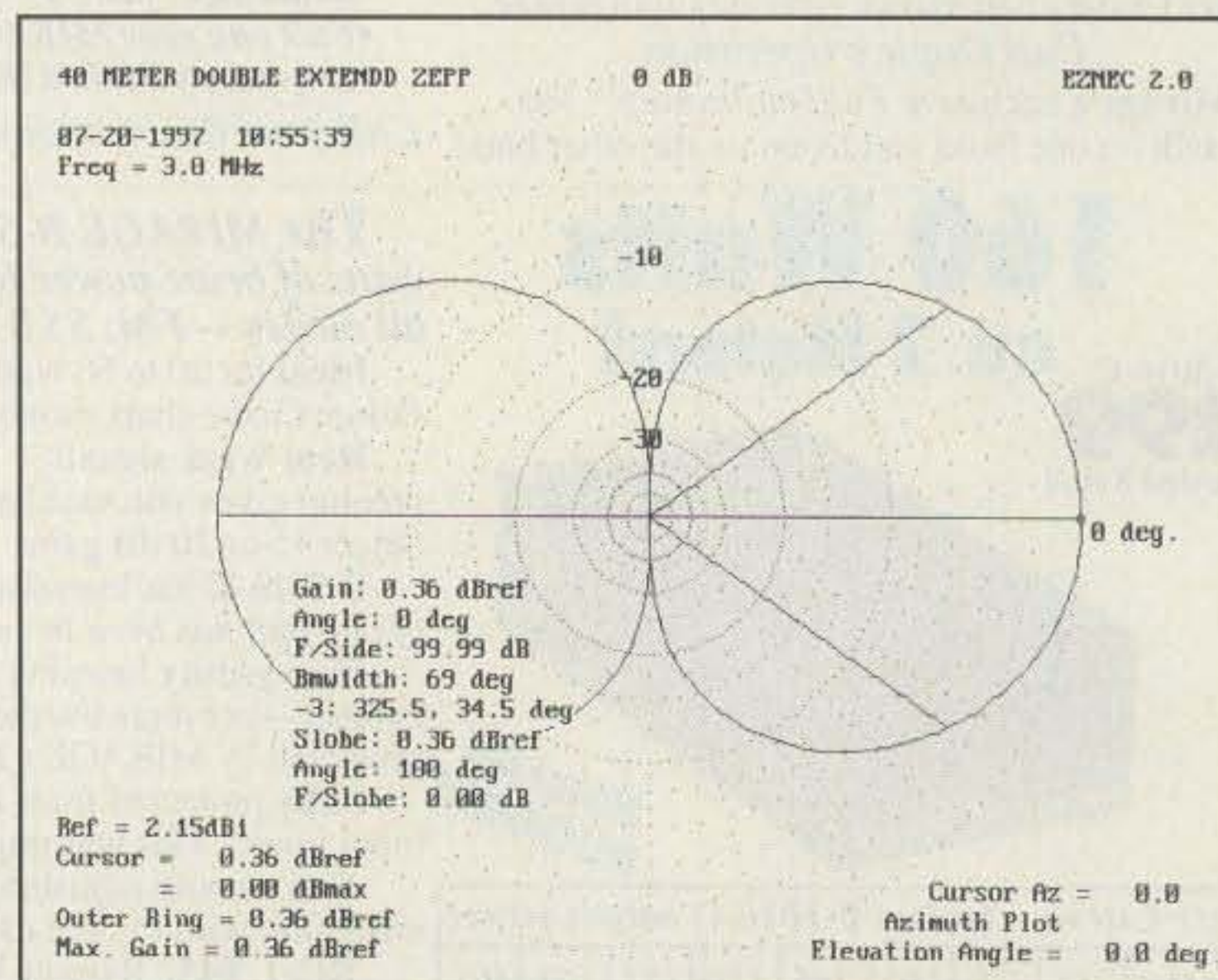


Fig. 3— Computer analysis of the antenna pattern on 75 meters.

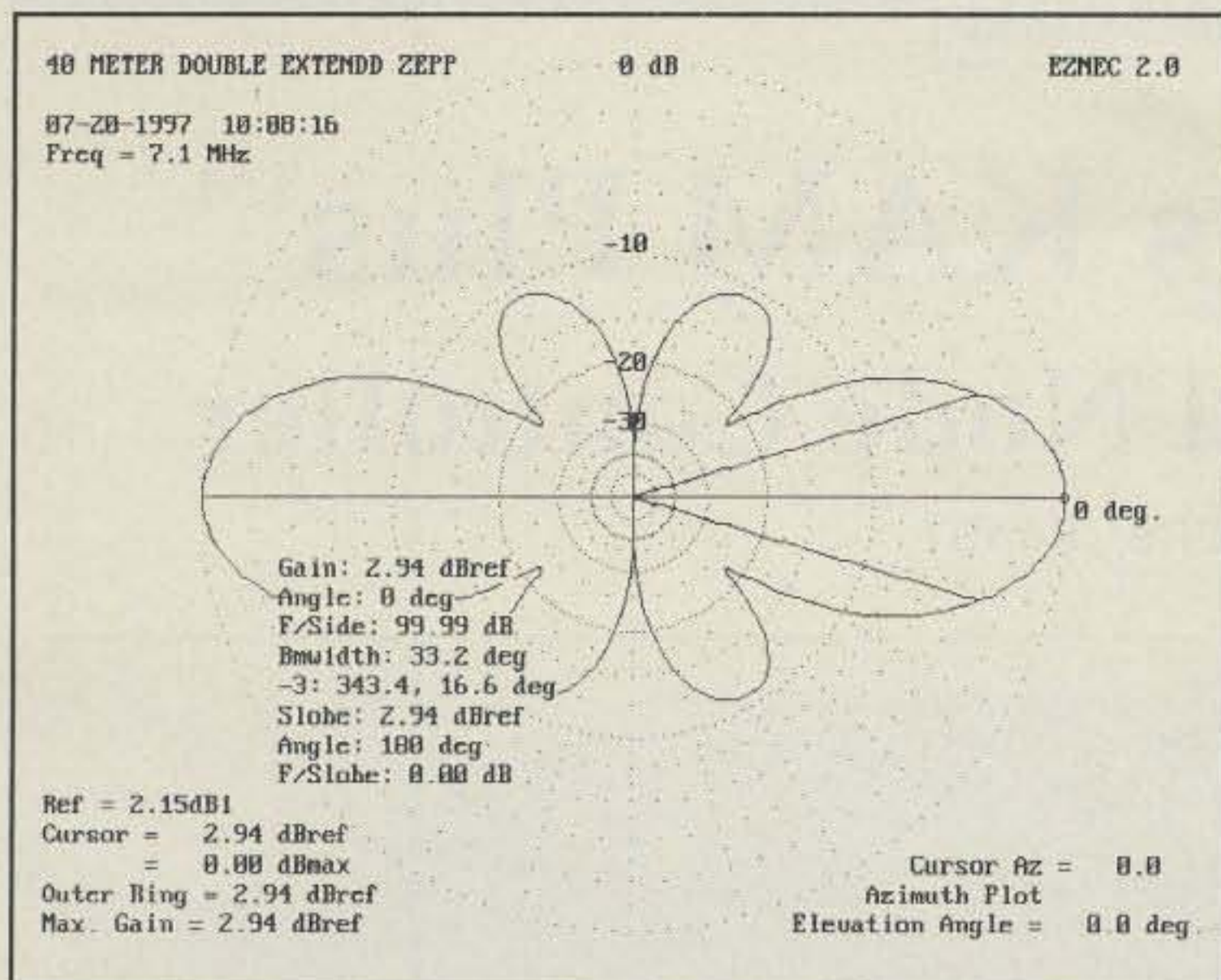


Fig. 4— Computer analysis of the antenna pattern on 40 meters.

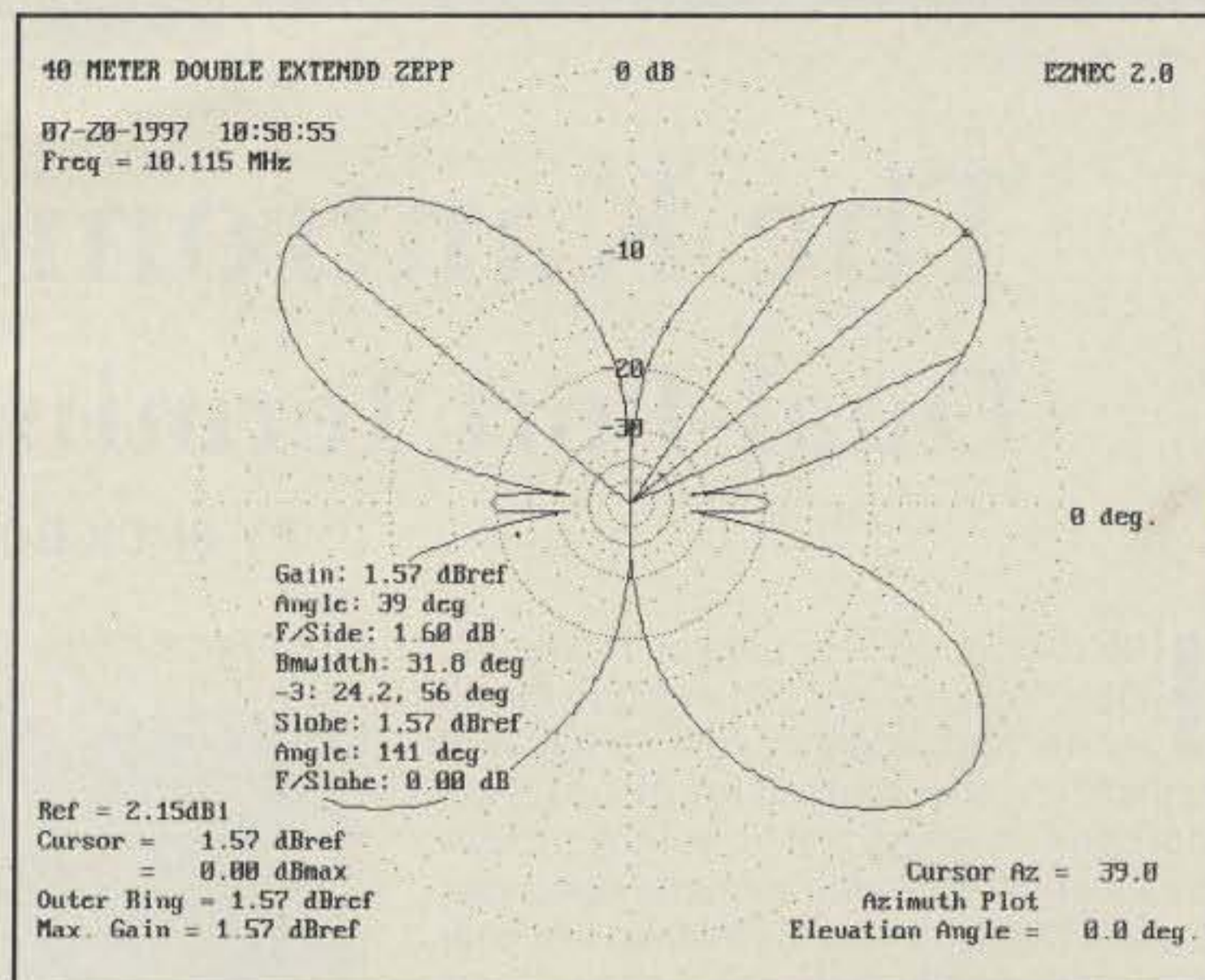


Fig. 5— Computer analysis of the antenna pattern on 30 meters.

a six-lobe pattern. I wanted to have the antenna produce a bit of gain on 40 meters, and the simple answer was to shorten the antenna to about 178 feet. This greatly attenuated two of the side lobes and provided about 3 dB of gain. Further computer analysis showed that the performance was not greatly affected on 160 and 80 meters.

I have generated free-space antenna patterns for this antenna for the 160 through 20 meter bands. I also checked the predicted impedance of the antenna on each band in question, and there were no weird values predicted. This initial analysis seemed to be sound, so on to the construction phase.

Construction

Basically, this antenna is nothing more than a long dipole fed with a balanced feed line. I built my antenna from No. 14 stranded, insulated wire. The overall length of my antenna is 178 feet, but that dimension is not critical. I cut a total of 180 feet of the wire, doubled the wire, and cut it in the middle. This gives two lengths of 90 feet. I attached the two pieces of wire to the center insulator, connected the ladder line that I was using for a feeder, and soldered the connections. Be sure these connections are well-made both mechanically and electrically. The performance of this antenna depends on the structural integrity. Subsequently, attach the end insulators and the antenna is ready to go into the air.

Placement

I placed my antenna in a normal "flat-top" configuration, since I have convenient trees on my property. It can also be installed in an inverted "Vee" configuration. The pattern probably will become slightly less pronounced as the ends of the antenna are brought closer to the ground, but I'm sure you would notice the difference on the air. Another option is to place as much of the antenna in a horizontal configuration as possible and let the ends hang vertically. Your choice of placement will depend on what's available to you.

Performance

I have been very pleased with the performance of the antenna on all bands 160 through 10 meters. My MFJ 989c transmatch was very happy with this configuration on all bands. Nowhere in the spectrum did I encounter matching difficulties.

The computer-predicted patterns for 160 through 20 meters are shown in figs. 2 through 6. The patterns on the bands from 17 through 10 meters are not included to save space, but the main radiation will become more closely aligned with the conductor.

Since this is a non-resonant antenna, it avoids the problem sometimes encountered when using a 160 meter half-wave antenna on 80 meters. Matching problems can arise when using a 160 meter half-wave anten-

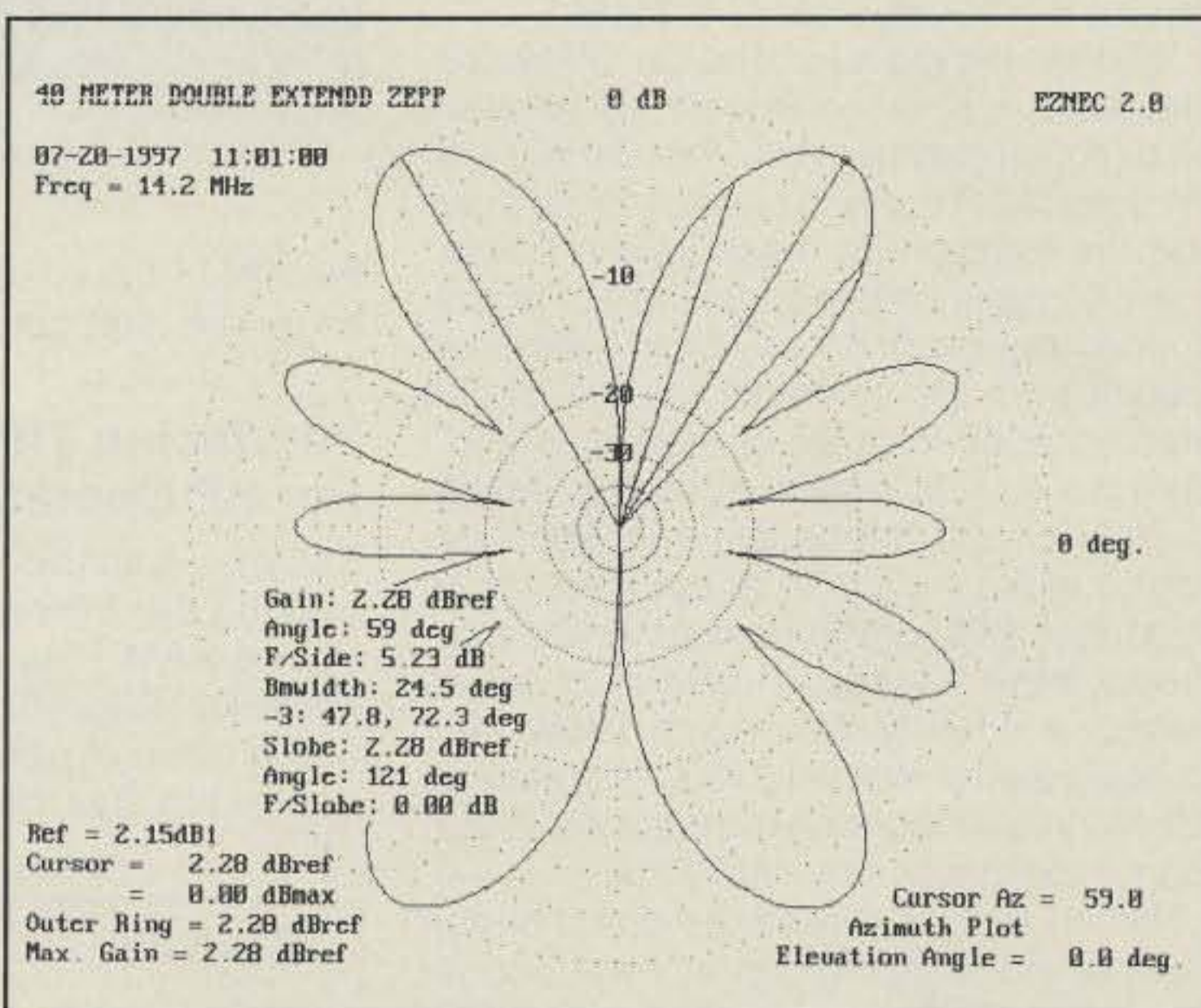


Fig. 6— Computer analysis of the antenna pattern on 20 meters.

na on 80 meters due to the fact that you are attempting to feed a full-wave antenna at a high voltage point. Since this antenna is not a full wave on 80 or a multiple of full waves on higher bands, the high-voltage feed problem does not exist. I have had no trouble matching this antenna on any bands from 160 meters through 10 meters.

I am often asked about bringing balanced feed line into the shack. Most times this presents no problems. If unwanted RF problems present themselves, I wind several turns of high-quality RG-8 coax around a 4 inch diameter piece of plastic water pipe and place the coil of coax outside my shack. I extend the coax to my MFJ 989c transmatch, and the problem disappears. My best advice is to use common sense.

This antenna has proven to be a very good performer, providing excellent results throughout the high-frequency spectrum. By the way, if you don't have room to place the antenna as it is described, you can cover the bands from 80 through 10 meters by cutting the dimensions in half. The computer plot for 160 meters will then correspond to 80 meters, and the plot for 20 meters will correspond to 10 meters. The tuning results should be the same as discussed.

Good luck, and I'll see you on the bands. I'm sure you will raise some questions when you tell people that you're using your 40 meter antenna on 160 meters!

The Kantronics KAM Plus™

Dual-Port Terminal Node Controller

BY BUCK ROGERS*, K4ABT

I like to operate VHF packet. However, I often have a craving to move to the HF bands and enjoy a few QSOs with friends on other parts of the globe. I have not been on HF packet for sometime now, as I lost my all-mode terminal node controller (TNC) in a curious mishap last year. It seems I had picked up a 5 amp, 12 volt DC supply at a hamfest, but it was *not* 12 volts DC. The box and markings indicated that it was a 12 volt supply, but when I connected the leads to the all-mode controller, it smoked—lots of smoke!

By the time I reached the On/Off switch, the controller had gone west—or whatever direction they go when you hit them with 37 volts DC. That was my fault for not having the foresight to measure the power-supply output before attaching it to my all-mode controller. By the time I removed power from the controller, all the smoke had escaped from the components and I had no way of replenishing the smoke supply in each component. I set about trying to make repairs to it, but after I realized that 85% of the devices in the controller were trashed, I gave it up as an exercise in futility. As a result, I now have a new Kantronics KAM Plus™. I have to fill you in a bit more on the surprise(s) that came along with the KAM Plus.

When UPS delivered the unit, I began to open the shipping carton. I was accustomed to the beige, or almond-colored, case of the early KAM, but to my surprise I found a new sleek, streamlined, modern, black, hammertone-finish unit.

The KAM Plus is a dual-port, HF/VHF, multi-mode TNC used for sending and receiving data by radio. With the KAM Plus, users can operate any HF mode (including G-TOR™) and VHF packet at the same time. Users can also send and receive mail, monitor the DX cluster and work DX stations at the same time, and more. The KAM Plus easily connects to an HF radio and a VHF radio (including a handheld) and to a computer or terminal. With features such as the NEWUSER command set and on-line help messages,

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e-mail buck4abt@inmind.com
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G-TOR is a registered trademark of Kantronics. Patent pending.



The Kantronics KAM Plus dual-port TNC.

the KAM Plus enables even beginners to enjoy this high-performance TNC.

Interfacing The KAM Plus For HF Operation

Saturday was the fun day, as I set about building the interface between the Kantronics KAM Plus and Jean Ann's (XYL WB4EDZ) Alinco DX-70TH. The interface was a piece of cake—nothing surprising. Kantronics has provided a manual that

explains all the KAM Plus features and many KAM Plus to transceiver interfaces. The first place to look for the HF interface port connections is, of course, in the table of contents at the front of the manual (page "1"). Here you will be directed to page G5, which explains the pin numbers and connection purpose. If you need the pinout of the 8-pin DIN connector, then look at the last three or four pages at the back of the manual under the heading "References/Wiring Diagrams."

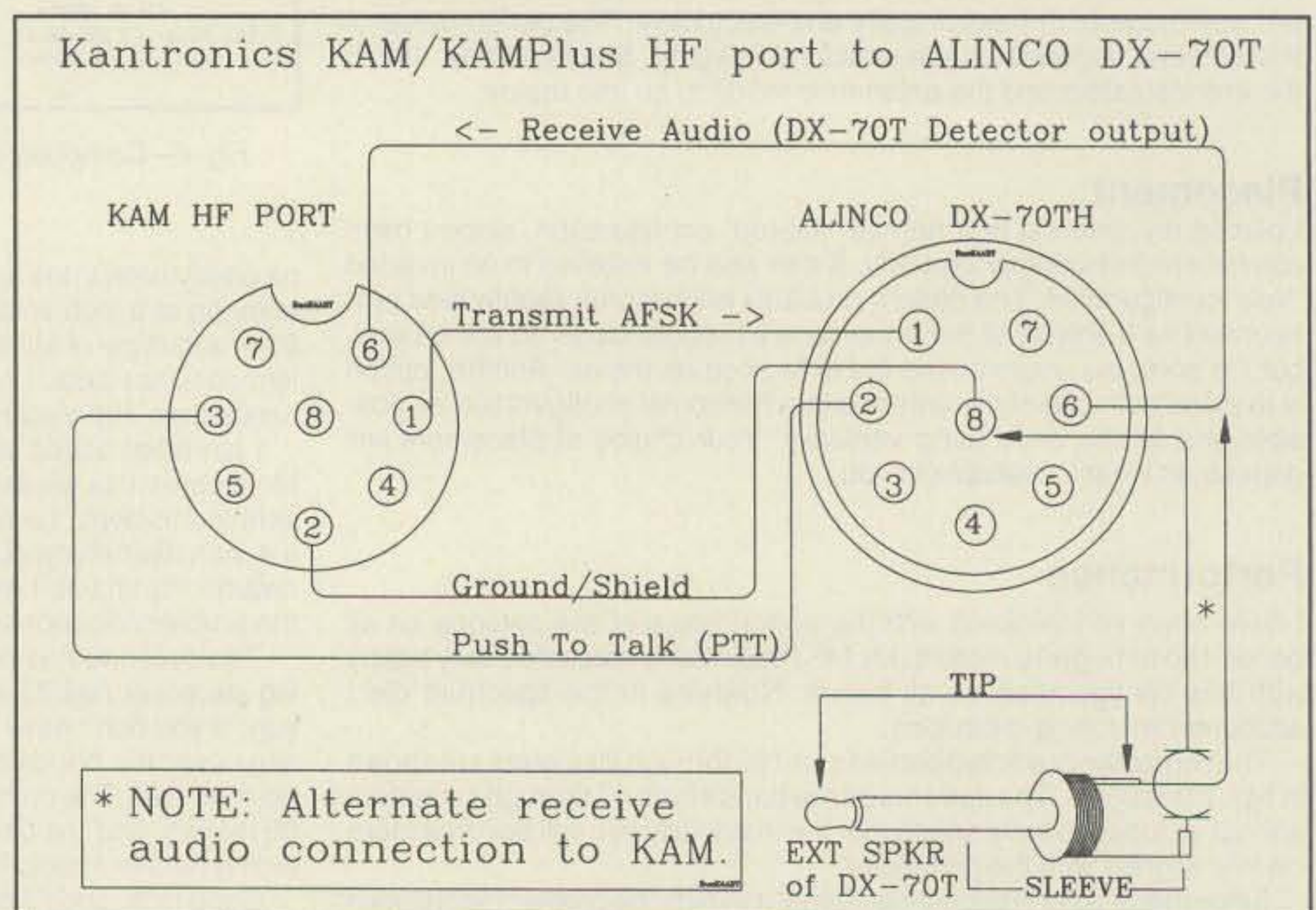


Fig. 1(A)—Interfacing the KAM or KAM Plus to the Alinco DX-70T.

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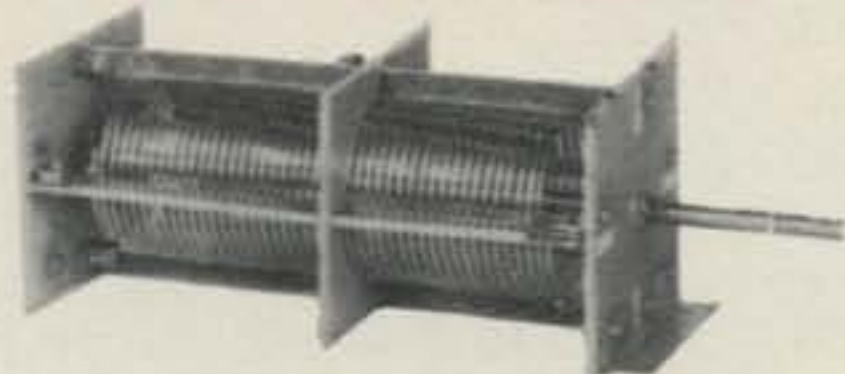
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Note: Don't try to wire the connector as if it were a standard 8-pin, screw-on microphone connector. That won't work! The 8-pin DIN connector has a funky numbering scheme that only applies to connectors that fall within the "DIN" standards format.

To make your life easy, I've drawn both an interface and the pinout of the Kantronics KAM Plus HF radio port. The idea is to keep a copy of this article close by while you are building the interface (see figs. 1[A] and 1[B]).

HF and VHF Simultaneous Operation

The KAM Plus is a true dual-port TNC that offers the most flexible HF/VHF operations with two radio ports. It allows simultaneous HF and VHF packet operation, even with a simple terminal program.

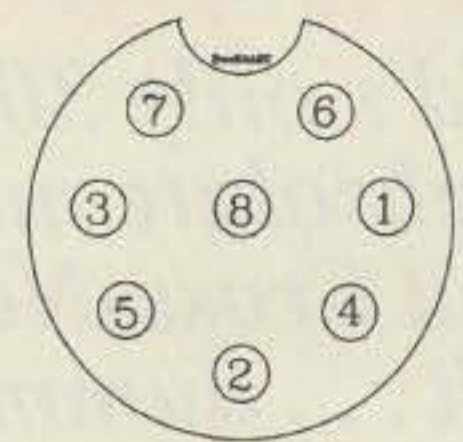
Using Host Master, multiple windows software, the KAM Plus supports operation of any HF mode and VHF packet at the same time. The two radio ports are capable of simultaneous operation, and switching between ports is accomplished with only one keystroke.

G-TOR

Here is a digital mode that excels as it provides maximum resistance to the effects of multi-path and interference. It is the fastest HF mode available in a stand-alone TNC. G-TOR operates at 300, 200, or 100 baud, automatically adjusting to maximize throughput based on the quality of the link. In addition, G-TOR offers full-frame data interleaving and Golay error correction, so any errors that may occur are quickly and accurately restored without multiple retransmissions. Now in version 8.0, the KAM Plus can monitor G-TOR QSOs and no separate software is required. Therefore, Host program users can monitor G-TOR QSOs and operate packet on VHF at the same time.

GPS Capabilities

Offering the most flexible Global Positioning System (GPS) operations available in a multi-mode TNC, the APRS-compatible KAM Plus can connect to a GPS receiver with a NMEA-0183 interface. The KAM Plus offers unique GPS capabilities such as multiple string parsing, where users select as many as four of the GPS unit's NMEA data strings. Once the data strings are selected, users can specify which of the four buffers should be transmitted and also the beacon start time as well as the amount of time between beacons for each of the buffers. Thus, multiple stations can report without collision. Since the KAM Plus's clock is regularly updated by the satellite-determined GPS clock, the transmission times and intervals are always accurate.



8 PIN DIN INDEX VIEW FROM SOLDER SIDE

- 1 = AFSK OUTPUT (WHITE)
- 2 = Ground/Shield (BLACK + SHIELD)
- 3 = Push to Talk "PTT" (BROWN)
- 4 = Key Out (GREEN) to CW key jack
- 5 = FSK OUT (RED) for transceivers that require RTTY keying
- 6 = Receive audio (BLUE) or shielded cable and 3.5 mm plug
- 7 = NC
- 8 = NOT normally required. (YELLOW) If needed, connect to squelch line

Fig. 1(B) - Pinout diagram of the KAM Plus (or KAM) HF radio port.

In addition, users can set up a tracking buffer, accessible via the KAM Plus mailbox, to store GPS data for later retrieval. The sysop may also reconfigure the GPS unit remotely by connecting to the KAM Plus and simply changing the parameters.

The PBBS

The KAM Plus includes the Kantronics PBBS (Personal Bulletin Board System). The mailbox space can be configured for more than 100K, and a mail waiting light on the front panel flashes to indicate that the user has unread mail. Accessible through either port, the PBBS offers enhanced forwarding and reverse forwarding to a full-service packet bulletin board, so users can automatically send and receive messages via the worldwide packet bulletin board system. With the ARQ BBS command, users can also access the mailbox via the HF port in G-TOR, AM-TOR, or Pactor ARQ.

The KAM Plus back-panel design allows for quick, easy connections to an HF radio, VHF radio, computer, and power.

Hardware Features of The KAM Plus

The KAM Plus features separate radio ports capable of simultaneous packet operation. It also features a host program required for dual-mode operation. It comes standard with 128K RAM (expandable to 512K), battery backed to save all parameters and PBBS messages. This is a mailbox that will hold all your mail while you're on vacation, etc.

The KAM Plus has a large 10-segment bargraph for easy tuning, and front-panel LEDs that indicate status for both HF and VHF operations. Also included are the 12-pole switched capacitance filter for HF port real-time, battery-backed clock, RS-232/TTL interface, compatible with PC,

Mac, or C-64, and the low-power requirement of 12 volts DC at under 300 mA.

Firmware Features

Included is firmware for G-TOR, Pactor, AMTOR (ARQ, FEC, SELFEC, CCIR 476 and 625), packet, CW, RTTY, ASCII, NAVTEX/AMTEX, and WEFAX Receive. Also included is:

- Enhanced GPS capability that is NMEA-0183 and APRS compatible; TOR Standby for easy operation in all TOR modes (G-TOR, Pactor, AMTOR); G-TOR monitoring within the unit. No separate software required.

- Extended RTTY and AMTOR character sets.

- Programmable mark and space tones.

- Enhanced CW operation: Farnsworth spacing, weighting, programmable filter bandwidth/center frequency, and audio tone transmission.

- Software carrier detect, allowing open squelch and weak-signal detection.

- Access all commands and change all parameters from another station using remote sysop access with password protection.

- Command sets for new and experienced users; on-line help messages for each command.

- User interface supports standard terminal, Host, BBS, KISS, and GPS modes.

- Bi-level WEFAX reception (special software required).

- PBBS: Enhanced forwarding and reverse forwarding capabilities; message editing; remote sysop access; mail-waiting LED; configurable to more than 100K.

And There's More . . .

Included with the Kantronics KAM Plus are a multi-conductor cable kit with DB-9 connector (VHF radio port) and 8-pin DIN connector (HF radio port), mm power jack for connection to the power supply, reference manual with schematic, and a quick-start PC terminal program on 3 1/2 inch disk. All you need is one radio (HF and/or VHF), one mic connector for each radio, a computer or terminal with RS232 cable (25 pin), and a 12 volt DC power source or Kantronics power adapter.

The Kantronics KAM Plus is small and compact at 1.75" x 6" x 9" (4.5 x 15.3 x 23 cm). Weight is 2.5 lb. (1.1 kg). As with all Kantronics packet controllers, the KAM Plus is made in the USA and comes with a one-year warranty.

Options include the Host Master terminal programs (PC and Macintosh), SuperFax II (WEFAX program for PC compatibles), and 120 VAC/12 VDC power adapter.

List price of the KAM Plus is \$349.95. For more information, contact Kantronics, 1202 East 23rd Street, Lawrence, KS 66046-5099 (phone 785-842-7745; fax 785-842-2031; e-mail <sales@kantronics.com>; web <www.kantronics.com>). ■

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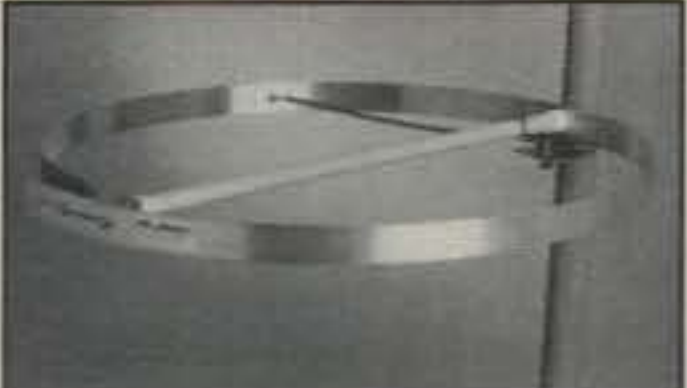
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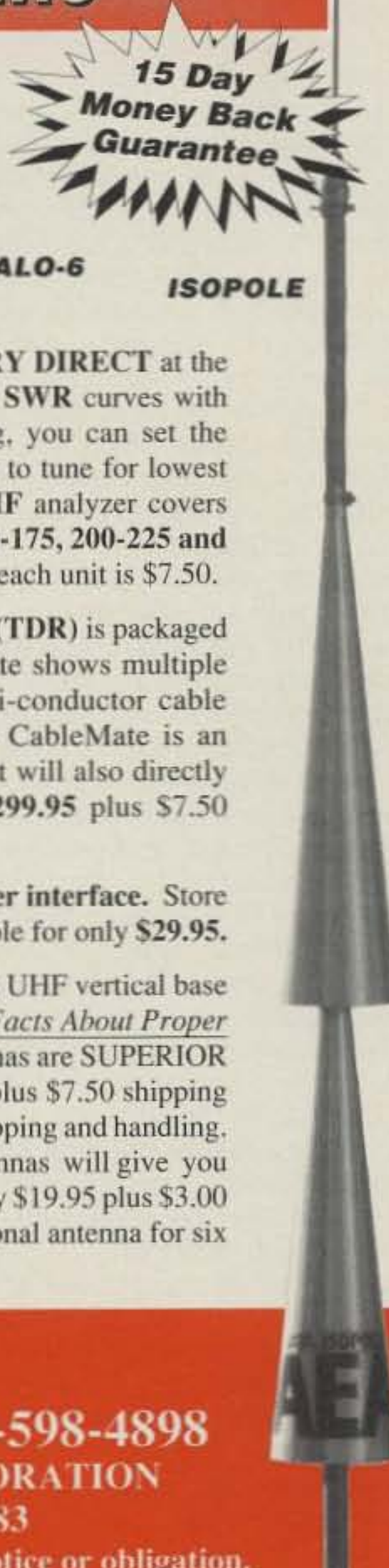
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With all the great cooking recipes, there's little room left for improvising using available materials. This school project began with a great idea and evolved much in the same way as a recipe.

Pizza, Brownies, and QRP

BY MISSY HOLLENBECK*, AAØOF

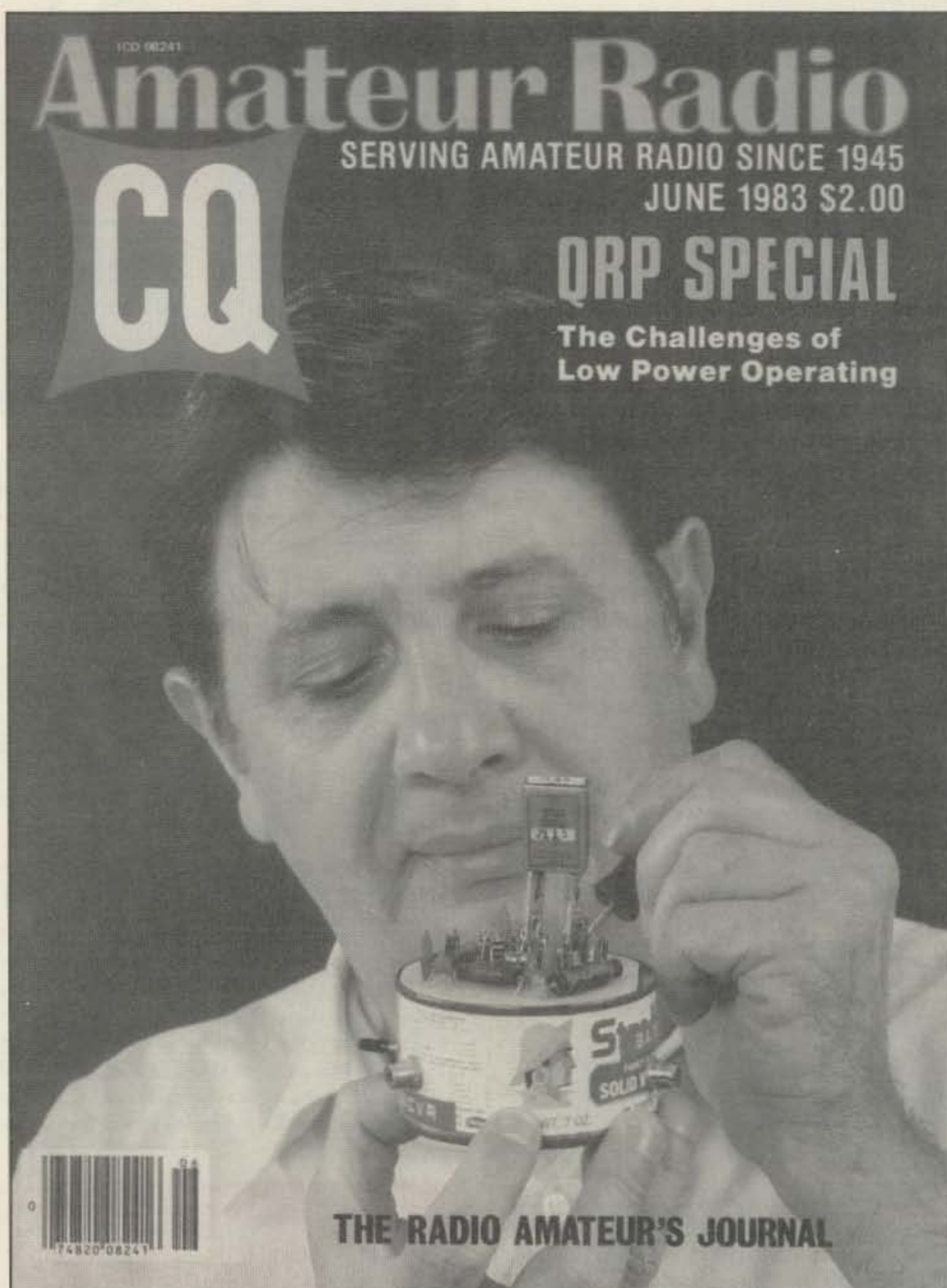
A major aim of the Andover School Amateur Radio Club (ASARC) is to encourage student "tinkering" and experimentation. As all educators know, there are only limited funds for student "hands on" projects. Additionally, educators strive to implement projects that are imaginative, creative, and challenging. As I learned, inspiration for unique electronic projects comes from a variety of sources, including older issues of *CQ*.

During the fall of 1996 the widow of a local amateur radio operator donated boxes of old *CQ* magazines to our school club. The magazines, covering a span of several years, intrigued my students. Especially eye-catching was the June 1983 cover of *CQ* depicting a transmitter built in a tuna-fish can. The issue, a QRP special, featured several articles about the "challenges of low power operating." Immediately my students determined that the cover of this issue, along with other delightful covers (one including the vintage Raisinette figurines), remain posted on the entrance to our school ham shack.

One day during class the students were chatting with a gentleman from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After the initial greetings, the amateur radio operator shared with the students that he was operating with only 5 watts. "Mrs. Hollenbeck," Alex declared, "he's using QRP! Hey, we could operate with 5 watts of power if we built those tuna transmitters!"

As an educator and amateur radio enthusiast, I'd tried my best to offer QRP as a fun, low-cost mode of operation. Until that moment I assumed that all my advice remained unheard. Apparently, the *CQ* cover sparked student interest in QRP. Thus, the Tuna-Tin Transmitter project developed into more than just an entertaining magazine cover.

Our first hurdle surfaced as the usual educational roadblock—funding. Luckily, the local Texaco Company provided mini-grant opportunities to teachers in our county. These mini-grants, designed for projects costing \$500 and less, arrived in my mail box at the right time. With an hour's work, my teaching colleague, Kurtis Boughton, NØUGJ, and I had a proposal ready to mail. Using the article in the 1983 *CQ* issue, we determined that ten tuna-tin



The 1983 cover of *CQ* shows the QRP project that sparked the interest of the Andover School ARC and led to their accomplishments.

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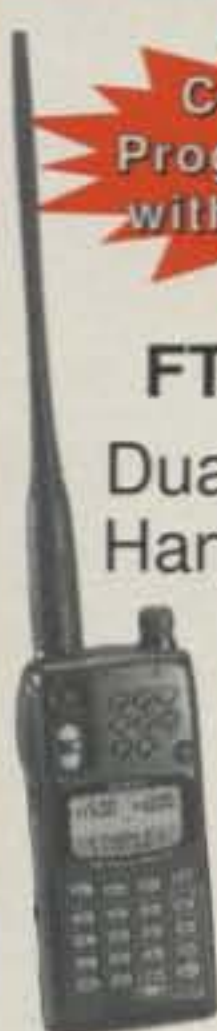
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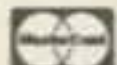
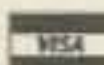
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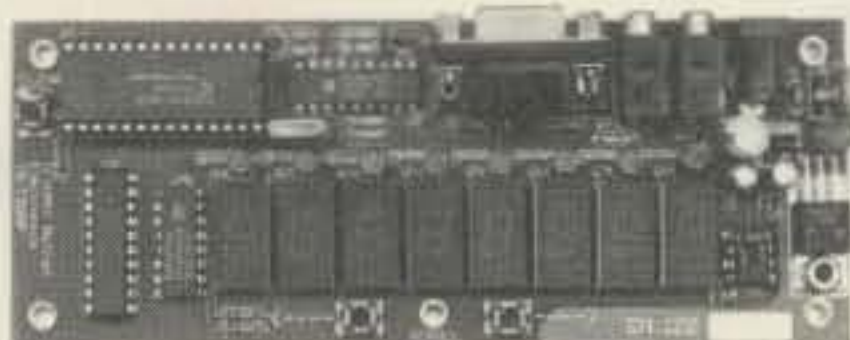
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CIRCLE 73 ON READER SERVICE CARD



Alex Roberts, KB0ZRM, displays a talent of eating brownies and soldering at the same time. (Joseph Haynes, KB0ZCA, is in the background.)

transmitter projects indeed matched a \$400 funding request.

Within a few short weeks a congratulations letter from Texaco arrived. Apparently, the grant competition generated 19 applicants, 6 of which received funding. Within the month a check for \$400 had arrived.

With the money in hand, I soon discovered a glitch in the Tuna-Tin Transmitter plans. I didn't realize that the electronic components, most of which were readily available from Radio Shack, had changed stock numbers since the 1983 article. All of a sudden my easy assembly project for middle-school students became increasingly more complex. Moreover, it was extremely important that my budding amateur radio enthusiasts have a successful project-building experience. I did not want an oversight of mine to cause frustration for my students.

Thus, the Tuna-Tin Transmitter project took step in another direction. Instead of ordering components separately, the students and I decided to order Ramsey 40 Meter CW Transmitter kits. While I filled out the Ramsey order form, the students determined the date and details of our "QRP Building Party."

Additionally, since the Ramsey kit circuit boards were larger than the area of a tuna-fish can, the students made plans for a variety of cases. The students offered solutions of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese boxes, old tennis shoes, oil-filter boxes, and oversized sardine cans.

The special day, May 2, 1997, arrived with student excitement. As I walked down the halls, students bombarded me with questions.

"Do we start right building right after school?"
"Mrs. Hollenbeck, are you sure you have enough solder?"

"Can I see the kits first?"

"Who gets to use the soldering irons first?"

"What if I don't know what a part is?"

"Is it okay if my mom and dad come, too?"

"Is it okay if my mom sends brownies?"

"How many pieces of pizza do we each get?"

We designed the QRP Building Party as a one-shot deal—meaning nobody was going

home until everybody completed the project. Of course, the normal middle school student's main concern was if there would be enough food. My main concern was that my middle school students build a working transmitter.

While some students wanted to work on their own, several students chose to work with a partner. And my answer remained firm: no soldering until all the parts are accounted for. Fortunately, the ten kits contained the correct components.

As teachers, parents, and students worked collaboratively on the assembly process, the burning question repeatedly surfaced: "Mrs. Hollenbeck, when can we order our pizza?"

"Oh, after a bit. Let's get some more work done before we order."

Before I knew it, 6:30 PM had arrived and pizza remained unordered. Failing to realize that Friday night was a busy night for the local Pizza Hut, our order could not be delivered until after 7:30. (Trying to solder with a group of middle school students can be a bit irritating when the subject of how hungry they are constantly rings in your ears.)

"Okay," I relented, "you may eat the brownies first." After a massive flurry of aluminum foil and brownie crumbs flying through the air, the edge of hunger ceased.

Soon thereafter the pizza arrived. Once again, I truly thought that I was in a room full of savage beasts. The students, parents, and I were surrounded by open pizza boxes, uneaten pizza crusts, brownie crumbs, half-drunk cans of pop, electronic components, circuit boards, schematic diagrams, and soldering irons. I reminded myself it was late in the evening, and surely no school administrator would view the mess before it was cleaned up.

Little did I know that my principal, Dr. Linda Hope, was conducting prospective teacher interviews. I also didn't know that she would be conducting tours of our school building.

"... And this is our communications technology room... and this is our amateur radio teacher, Mrs. Hollenbeck," I heard my superior



Andover School ARC's members make sure all components are accounted for.

say as she and an interviewee stepped into the room.

Nothing changed. The students and parents kept assembling their circuit boards as if nothing was wrong or unusual with the scene. Stumbling over my words, I found myself trying to explain and justify the messiness of the room. My principal, without missing a beat, beamed as she told of my students' accomplishments.

Later that evening three additional potential teacher candidates took the tour of our room. With each tour my principal related stories of student successes with amateur radio. As late evening approached, the messiness of the room continued. Something remained on my mind, however: "Will these QRP kits, built by middle school students, actually work?" After all, our initial prototype did work. (Our prototype was previously built by my dad, Gary Hoff-sommer, WØTI.) Our first contact's signal report from New Mexico indicated a slight "ripple" and hum, but it was perfectly readable.

As each student wandered to the ham shack for the initial "smoke test," a sudden hush fell upon the room. A local amateur radio operator, Carl Fisher, WØHIK, was waiting on the 7040 MHz frequency to give signal reports. Our first objective remained to see if we could get any signal out at all.

One by one each circuit board went through the "smoke test." Believe it or not, each unit worked the first time operated! Amidst cheers and shouts, the students celebrated their successes with their first project with each other.

Except for Matt. Matt, one of the students more concerned about the pizza delivery time, still wasn't quite ready to test. The students rallied around him and offered assistance. Slowly Matt strolled to the ham shack and handed me his circuit board.

"Okay, Matt," I reassured him, "the other students' projects worked the first time. I know yours will, too."

Matt plugged in the CW key and started to send a tone. Nothing. His face reflected defeat.

"Hold on. Let's take a quick look at your board," I offered.

I turned over the board. Of all things, Matt had forgotten to solder the DC power jack! With a few touches of the soldering tip, Matt, too, was on the air.

As 10:30 PM arrived, so did all the students' parents. Several parents and students stayed a few more minutes to reflect on the evening's excitement. Working together, the students and parents quickly tidied the room. The room, although obviously having the aroma of pizza, was presentable for the next week's classes.

Exhausted but pleased, I sighed as I glanced around the room. Surrounded by overflowing trash cans holding greasy pizza boxes, dirty napkins, sticky pop cans, and the proud glow of students' faces, I decided that the Tuna-Tin Transmitter project was a huge success.

Amateur radio is the natural way to bring students, parents, and teachers together—tinkering and experimenting. All technology projects don't have to be complex and costly. For a successful project, just don't forget the exceptional ingredients for an extraordinary project—pizza, brownies, and of course, QRP.

For more information about the kits and the grant, respectively, contact:

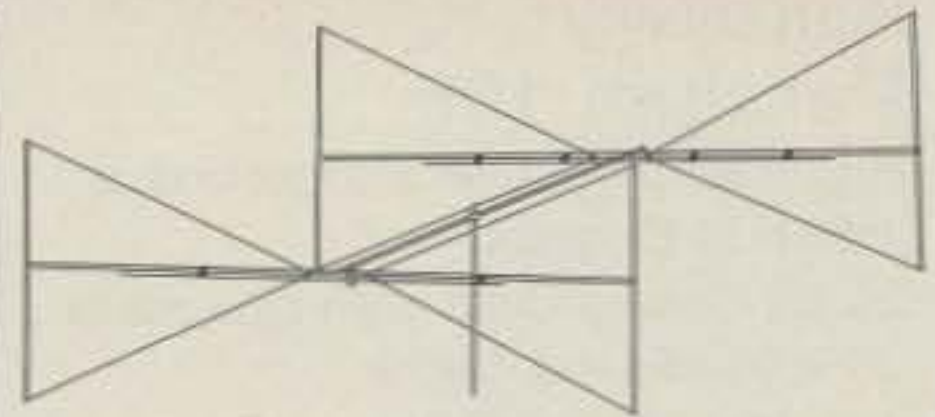
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(716-924-4560)

Texaco Foundation
2000 Westchester Avenue
White Plains, NY 10650

(Missy Hollenbeck, AAØOF, is a teacher and administrative intern at Andover Middle School, Andover, Kansas. She was named as Microsoft's 1996 Technology Teacher of the Year (Kansas) and recently received the school district's "Golden Apple Award" for her school amateur radio program. The Andover Middle School Amateur Radio Club's website is <<http://www.feist.com~aa0of>>.) ■

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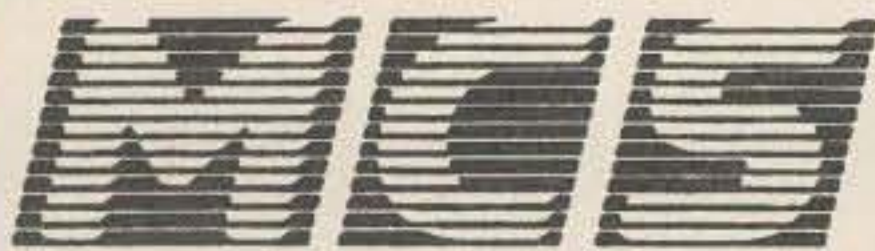
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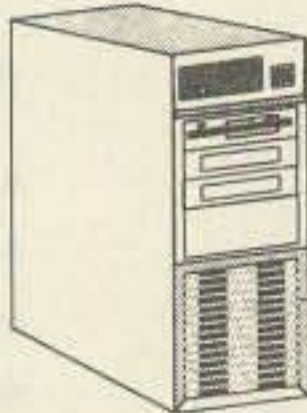
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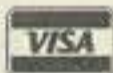
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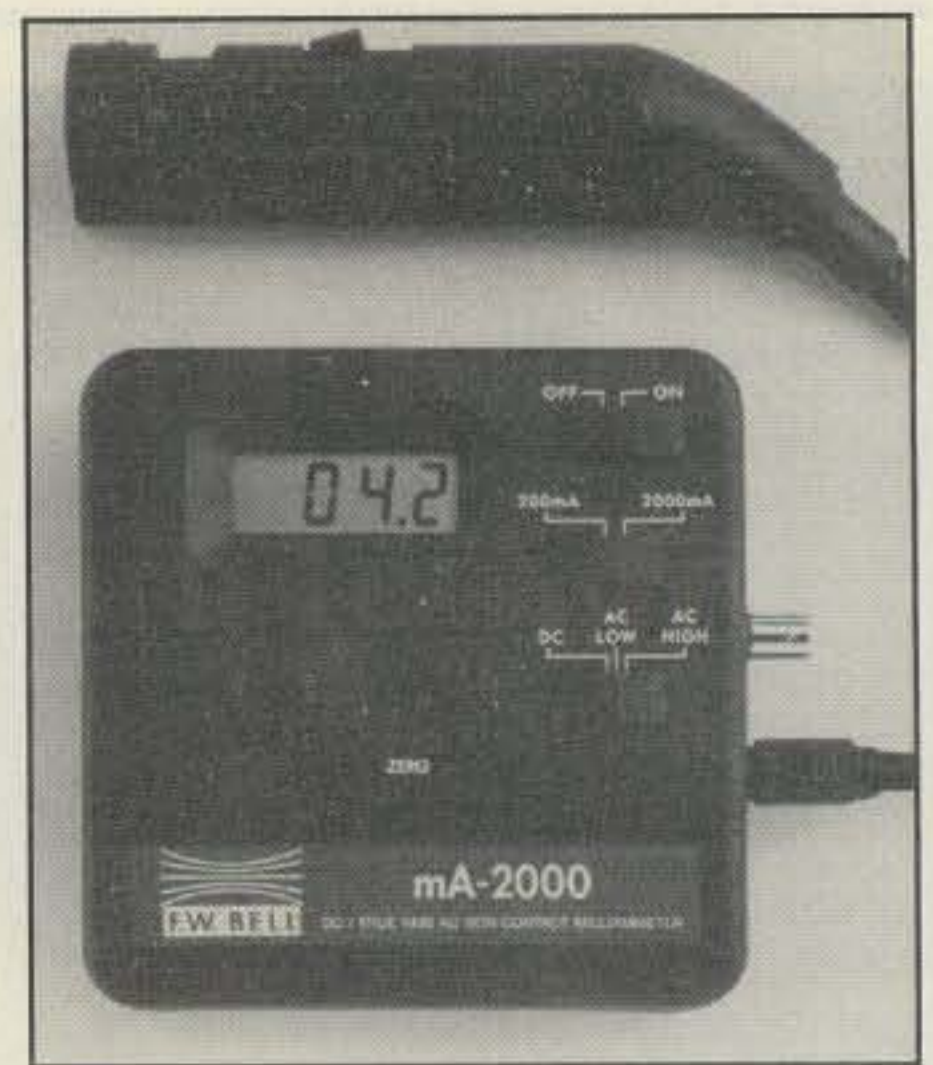
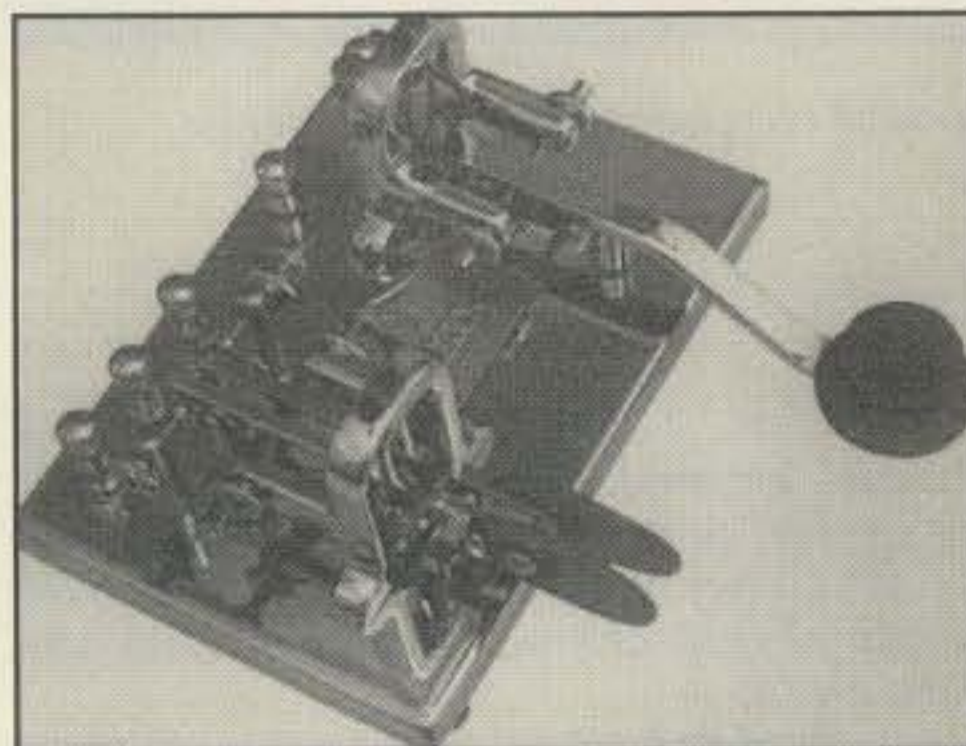


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For further information, contact The Vibroplex Co., Inc., 11 Midtown Park E., Mobile, AL 36606-4141 (phone 334-478-8873; fax 334-476-0465), or circle number 104 on the reader service card.



Jensen Tools Clamp-On Milliammeter

Jensen Tools, Inc. has a new clamp-on milliammeter from F.W. Bell. The Model mA-2000 eliminates the need for cumbersome in-line measurements and is suited to troubleshooting 4-20 ma control circuits or other very low current equipment. The mA-2000 comes with a hard carrying case and an AC adapter that saves the internal battery. The unit measures 5.2"H x 5.3"W x 1.5"D.

For more information, contact Jensen Tools, Inc., 7815 S. 46th St., Phoenix, AZ 85044 (phone 800-426-1194; 602-968-6231; fax 800-366-9662; or 602-438-1690; or technical Fax-Back® Service 602-968-6241 x 271; on the web <<http://www.jensentools.com>>); or circle number 102 on the reader service card.

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Frequency Coverage:
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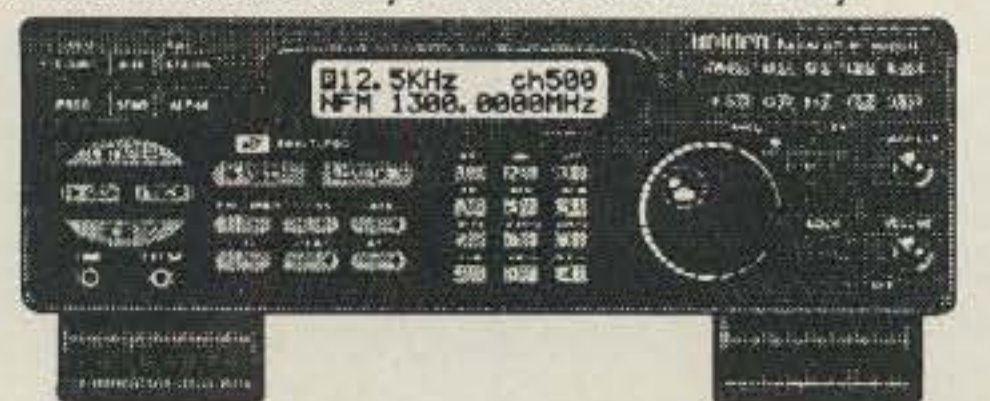
The Bearcat 3000XLT is the ideal handheld radio scanner for communications professionals. This handheld scanner scans at 100 channels per second and searches at a rate up to 300 steps per second. A selectable attenuator eliminates annoying intermodulation from adjacent frequencies in highly populated areas.

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The Bearcat 9000XLT is superb for intercepting communications transmissions with features like TurboSearch™ to search VHF channels at 300 steps per second. This base and mobile scanner is also ideal for intelligence professionals because it has a selectable attenuator to help eliminate annoying intermodulation from adjacent frequencies in highly populated areas and selectable AM, Wide FM and Narrow FM modes that allow you to change the default receiving mode of the BC9000XLT. Other features include **Auto Store** - Automatically stores all active frequencies within the specified bank(s). **Auto Recording** - This feature lets you record channel activity from the scanner onto a tape recorder. **Hi-Cut filter** to help eliminate unwanted static noise. You can even get an optional **CTCSS Tone Board** (Continuous Tone Control Squelch System) which allows the squelch to be broken during scanning only when a correct CTCSS tone is received. For maximum scanning enjoyment, order the following optional accessories: PS001 Cigarette lighter power cord for temporary operation from your vehicle's cigarette lighter \$14.95; PS002 DC power cord - enables permanent operation from your vehicle's fuse box \$14.95; MB001 Mobile mounting bracket \$14.95; BC005 CTCSS Tone Board \$54.95; EX711 External speaker with mounting bracket & 10 feet of cable with plug attached \$19.95. The BC9000XLT comes with AC adapter, telescopic antenna, owner's manual and one year limited Uniden warranty.



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Frequency Coverage:
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The Bearcat TrunkTracker BC235XLT, is the world's first scanner capable of tracking a selected radio transmission as it moves across a trunked radio system. Now it's easy to monitor fleets and subfleets in analog trunked radio systems. The BC235XLT can also work as a conventional scanner. This 300-channel, programmable handheld scanner provides scanner users with uninterrupted monitoring capabilities of Type I, II, III and hybrid trunking systems. One of the biggest obstacles in the scanner industry has been the increasing use of trunking radio systems in business and public service agencies throughout the United States and Canada. This makes it nearly impossible to track a conversation as it moves within a trunk system from frequency to frequency. According to Ken Ascher, WB8LIT, Chairman & CEO of Communications Electronics, "The Bearcat 235XLT is a revolutionary breakthrough in scanner technology. Now it's easy to continuously monitor conversations even though the message is switching frequencies." The BC235XLT comes with AC adapter, CRX120 battery charger, two rechargeable long life ni-cad battery packs, belt clip, flexible rubber antenna, earphone, owner's manual and one year limited Uniden warranty. Not compatible with AGEIS, ASTRO, EDACS, ESAS and LTR systems. Call 1-800-USA-SCAN to order your scanner now.



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CQ World-Wide DX Contest All-Time Phone Records

BY FREDERICK CAPOSSELA, K6SSS

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	IG9/IV3TAN('96)	441,252	1,203	24	102
3.5	IG9T('95)	816,959	1,938	33	110
	(Opr. IV3TAN)				
7.0	PJ9U('93)	1,199,968	2,637	34	120
	(Opr. OH1VR)				
14	PYØFM('94)	3,202,242	5,109	38	175
	(Opr. PY5CC)				
21	ZD8Z('94)	3,481,925	5,535	36	179
	(Opr. N6TJ)				
28	ZV5A('91)	2,984,166	5,154	37	156

AFRICA

1.8	IG9/IV3TAN('96)	441,252	1,203	24	102
3.5	IG9T('95)	816,959	1,938	33	110
	(Opr. IV3TAN)				
7.0	IG9A('95)	1,168,855	2,486	35	120
	(Opr. IT9GSF)				
14	ZD8Z('95)	2,356,065	3,925	38	167
	(Opr. N6TJ)				
21	ZD8Z('94)	3,481,925	5,535	36	179
	(Opr. N6TJ)				
28	ZD8Z('91)	2,341,866	4,521	33	141
	(Opr. N6TJ)				

ASIA

1.8	UG7GWO('87)	255,852	1,327	12	57
3.5	UW9AF('83)	222,192	554	19	53
7.0	H21A('92)	736,422	1,812	32	107
	(Opr. 4N4OO)				
14	4X6TT('95)	1,557,951	2,877	40	161
21	JAØJHA('92)	1,430,856	2,912	37	130
28	JH1AJT('88)	1,421,070	2,409	38	163

EUROPE

1.8	LZ2CJ('84)	107,818	1,319	13	61
3.5	HA8IE('90)	361,343	1,455	35	116
7.0	S59UN('92)	875,875	2,419	37	138
14	OH2BH('92)	1,870,170	4,008	39	154
	(Opr. OH2IW)				
21	CQ4A('90)	1,757,780	3,912	38	141
	(Opr. CT1BOP)				
28	YU3ZV('88)	1,541,603	3,219	39	134

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	CG1ZZ('96)	91,803	690	14	57
	(Opr. VE3BMV)				
3.5	TI1C('92)	498,037	1,695	31	108
	(Opr. TI2CF)				
7.0	TI1C('94)	1,108,140	2,882	31	134
	(Opr. TI2CF)				
14	KP2A('94)	2,255,250	4,810	38	156
	(Opr. KW8N)				
21	V26N('93)	2,159,460	4,623	36	150
	(Opr. KW8N)				
28	VP2ET('88)	2,423,880	5,137	37	143
	(Opr. K5RX)				

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6CC('85)	45,984	484	13	19
3.5	T32AF('85)	222,768	1,064	23	49
7.0	9M8R('95)	1,091,835	2,354	37	122
	(Opr. W7EJ)				
14	ZM1BIL('83)	1,334,232	2,635	38	136
21	AHØAB('82)	1,923,840	4,509	36	108
	(Opr. JA3DOC)				
28	KD7P/NH2('88)	2,309,304	4,885	38	123

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	P49I('95)	58,653	353	14	43
	(Opr. K4PI)				
3.5	P4ØR('87)	552,786	1,628	23	91
	(Opr. K4UEE)				
7.0	PJ9U('93)	1,199,968	2,637	34	120
	(Opr. OH1VR)				
14	PYØFM('94)	3,202,242	5,109	38	175
	(Opr. PY5CC)				
21	ZX5J('96)	2,976,190	5,091	36	169
	(Opr. PP5JR)				
28	ZV5A('91)	2,984,166	5,154	37	156

Single Operator/All Band

AF	CT3BH('90)	14,892,102	7,177	166	531
	(Opr. OH2BH)				
AS	H2ØA('94)	7,618,670	4,522	127	463
	(Opr. 5B4ADA)				
EU	S52AA('92)	7,134,192	4,378	151	473
NA	KP2A('93)	13,202,298	8,691	148	506
	(Opr. CT1BOH)				
O	YJ1A('90)	9,516,731	6,429	160	381
	(Opr. OH1RY)				
SA	HC8A('92)	16,316,568	8,318	160	508
	(Opr. N6KT)				
QRP	PJ2FR('87)	3,171,166	3,212	100	234
	(Opr. K7SS)				
Low Pwr.	TJ1GG('92)	5,925,760	5,052	96	298
Asst.	(Opr. I2VXJ)				
	P4ØW('94)	11,224,877	6,323	131	470
	(Opr. W2GD)				

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	125	11	25
HC8A	3.5	357	20	51
(Opr. N6KT)	7.0	638	28	74
(1992)	14.0	1,166	34	111
16,316,568	21.0	2,031	36	127
	28.0	4,001	31	120
Total		8,318	160	508

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

AF	EA8AGD('88)	17,172,672	8,203	157	547
AS	YM5KA('90)	15,056,664	7,609	164	548
EU	IQ4A('90)	17,255,700	7,253	183	717
NA	VP2EC('92)	16,287,152	7,434	183	685
O	KH2S('91)	11,095,392	7,086	145	387
SA	PJ1B('93)	22,596,570	9,386	164	646

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	111	10	24
PJ1B	3.5	937	25	94
(1993)	7.0	1,055	29	114
22,596,570	14.0	2,011	38	147
	21.0	1,829	32	139
	28.0	3,443	30	128
Total		9,386	164	646

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

AF	EA9UK('93)	37,140,597	13,547	179	744
AS	EW6V('82)	18,746,136	10,100	142	544
EU	LX7A('89)	26,578,978	14,947	175	751
NA	VP2KC('79)	37,770,012	17,767	175	677
O	KHØAM('90)	35,730,600	16,309	179	565
SA	PJ1B('90)	57,610,400	19,655	189	803

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	531	19	50
PJ1B	3.5	1,335	24	99
(1990)	7.0	2,104	31	117
57,610,400	14.0	4,860	38	179
	21.0	5,395	38	176
	28.0	5,430	39	182
Total		19,655	189	803

CQ World-Wide DX Contest All-Time CW Records

BY FREDERICK CAPOSSELA, K6SSS

Single Operator/Single Band

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

1.8	OH0MEP('95)	251,136	1,451	24	85
3.5	EA8EA('96) (Opr. OH2KI)	1,175,550	2,672	36	114
7.0	YV5A('95) (Opr. OH0XX)	1,364,465	3,095	35	122
14	P40V('91) (Opr. N7NG)	1,883,700	3,521	38	142
21	ZP0Y('93) (Opr. K4UEE)	1,869,978	3,627	35	139
28	CX0CW('90) (Opr. CX8BBH)	1,890,607	3,795	39	128

AFRICA

1.8	EA8AK('82)	75,768	385	15	51
3.5	EA8EA('96) (Opr. OH2KI)	1,175,550	2,672	36	114
7.0	IG9/AC6WE('96) (Opr. UA3DPX)	1,234,317	2,677	37	122
14	ED9ED('90)	1,444,436	3,063	37	121
21	CR3W('92) (Opr. DF5UL)	1,652,170	3,092	38	141
28	ZS6BCR('91)	1,397,658	3,209	34	112

ASIA

1.8	4X4NJ('95)	200,735	756	20	75
3.5	ZC4DX('87) (Opr. 4Z4DX)	430,560	1,318	29	88
7.0	C41A('93) (Opr. T93A)	1,307,944	2,972	34	133
14	7L1GVE('92)	1,181,937	2,255	40	139
21	4Z4T('91) (Opr. 4Z4UT)	939,900	2,240	36	120
28	4Z5DX('90)	826,759	2,003	39	120

EUROPE

1.8	OH0MEP('95)	251,136	1,451	24	85
3.5	ON4UN('95)	642,600	2,204	35	118
7.0	S59UN('92)	971,049	2,484	38	135
14	OH0BH('94) (Opr. OH2MAM)	1,003,353	2,957	39	130
21	OH6MCW('89)	775,620	2,208	37	102
28	9H1EL('92)	794,846	2,249	39	120

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	CG1ZZ('96) (Opr. VE3BMV)	218,715	898	22	83
3.5	NP4A('88) (Opr. K1ZM)	808,640	2,243	31	102
7.0	ZF2TG('92) (Opr. WQ5W)	1,087,862	2,985	31	111
14	KP2A('94) (Opr. KW8N)	1,332,460	3,115	38	132
21	V29W('90) (Opr. KD6WW)	1,110,512	2,829	37	115
28	J79DX('89) (Opr. AA5DX)	859,360	2,661	33	98

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6CC('93)	68,250	547	18	24
3.5	9M6NA('96) (Opr. JE1JKL)	231,480	876	24	66
7.0	ZL3GQ('94)	672,612	1,732	36	102
14	ZL3GQ('91)	1,148,418	2,396	36	126
21	N7DF/NH2('89)	1,205,776	2,977	37	99
28	KD7P/NH2('88)	1,037,608	2,456	38	105

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	YV3AGT('85)	147,588	591	21	63
3.5	P40J('95) (Opr. WX4G)	641,245	1,650	28	103
7.0	YV5A('95) (Opr. OH0XX)	1,364,465	3,095	35	122
14	P40V('91) (Opr. N7NG)	1,883,700	3,521	38	142
21	ZP0Y('93) (Opr. K4UEE)	1,869,978	3,627	35	139
28	CX0CW('90) (Opr. CX8BBH)	1,890,607	3,795	39	128

Single Operator/All Band

AF	EA8EA('91) (Opr. OH2MM)	13,225,295	6,490	171	514
AS	JY8VJ('92) (Opr. DL1VJ)	8,031,168	4,900	141	432
EU	ZB2X('93) (Opr. OH2KI)	6,129,904	4,606	147	491
NA	TI1C('93) (Opr. N6TR)	9,123,817	6,335	159	448
O	AH3C('90)	6,798,363	4,539	172	335
SA	P40W('96) (Opr. W2GD)	12,742,731	6,315	159	524
QRP	HI8A('91) (Opr. JA5DQH)	3,316,768	3,320	117	325
Low Pwr. Asst.	3V8BB('96) (Opr. DL2HBX)	5,489,376	4,425	94	328
	P40W('94) (Opr. W2GD)	10,288,950	5,541	155	460

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	254	14	57
EA8EA	3.5	567	21	64
(1991)	7.0	1,114	30	90
13,225,295	14.0	1,405	37	108
	21.0	1,374	36	100
	28.0	1,776	33	95
	Total	6,490	171	514

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.

AF	EA9EA('91)	13,096,080	5,854	170	582
AS	TA5KA('90)	13,915,044	7,201	175	527
EU	LZ9A('89)	9,962,386	5,342	200	626
NA	J6DX('93)	11,691,029	7,180	159	532
O	KH2S('92)	7,249,952	4,306	169	399
SA	HC8N('95)	14,302,820	7,252	162	503

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	374	14	46
HC8N	3.5	712	26	77
(1995)	7.0	1,770	36	115
14,302,820	14.0	2,128	37	119
	21.0	1,845	29	103
	28.0	423	20	43
	Total	7,252	162	503

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.

AF	CN5N('90)	33,659,256	14,179	178	644
AS	VS6WO('92)	17,799,960	9,841	190	570
EU	LX7A('89)	20,497,632	12,735	189	705
NA	KP2A('88)	32,325,150	15,198	191	631
O	KH0AM('92)	23,951,385	11,253	190	527
SA	PJ1B('88)	38,415,760	14,921	194	672

WORLD RECORD

Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	717	17	65
PJ1B	3.5	1,447	24	83
(1988)	7.0	3,119	37	133
38,415,760	14.0	3,791	40	140
	21.0	2,997	39	134
	28.0	2,850	37	117
	Total	14,921	194	672

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	K1ZM('95)	55,420	215	15 70
3.5	K1ZM/2('96)	292,100	952	27 100
7.0	KC7EM('95)	409,446	1,083	34 95
14	K1OX('85) (Opr. KC1F)	1,131,328	2,176	36 140
21	K3RV/4('88)	1,270,478	2,298	39 148
28	W0ZV('88)	1,145,368	2,158	39 142

Single Operator/All Band				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	24	10	21
K1AR	3.5	239	15	73
(1992)	7.0	311	26	88
7,810,446	14.0	969	39	133
	21.0	913	33	125
	28.0	1,292	32	119
	Total	3,748	155	559

QRP				
KR2Q('90)		1,246,974	1,069	106 305
Low Power				
N8II('92)		1,864,747	1,424	114 365
Assisted				
WM5G('92) (Opr. KR0Y)		6,631,513	2,800	171 662

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	32	12	30
K1AR	3.5	197	18	76
(1990)	7.0	154	26	95
11,193,606	14.0	1,370	39	167
	21.0	1,167	38	165
	28.0	1,517	37	170
	Total	4,437	170	703

Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	95	14	41
N2RM	3.5	485	23	98
(1992)	7.0	721	32	128
19,603,032	14.0	1,654	40	178
	21.0	2,367	40	178
	28.0	1,688	36	170
	Total	7,010	185	793

CW				
Single Operator/Single Band				
1.8	K1ZM('95)	142,358	470	23 83
3.5	K1ZM('92)	416,160	1,059	30 106
7.0	K1ZM('90)	839,520	1,783	34 125
14	KM1H('93) (Opr. KQ2M)	1,001,035	1,892	39 146
21	W7WA('89)	772,146	1,647	39 119
28	K1ZM('89)	732,564	1,447	37 134

Single Operator/All Band				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	34	13	27
N4RJ	3.5	170	21	65
(Opr. KM9P)	7.0	687	34	104
(1992)	14.0	696	37	114
5,851,152	21.0	709	35	107
	28.0	670	32	92
	Total	2,966	172	509

QRP				
AA2U('92)		1,188,000	938	118 332
Low Power				
K2SG('96)		2,158,728	1,601	118 363
Assisted				
K3WW('93)		5,056,464	2,499	160 547

Multi-Operator/Single Xmtr.				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	36	16	33
K1AR	3.5	313	26	75
(1989)	7.0	920	35	100
9,383,459	14.0	1,139	37	128
	21.0	773	39	123
	28.0	920	37	129
	Total	4,101	150	588

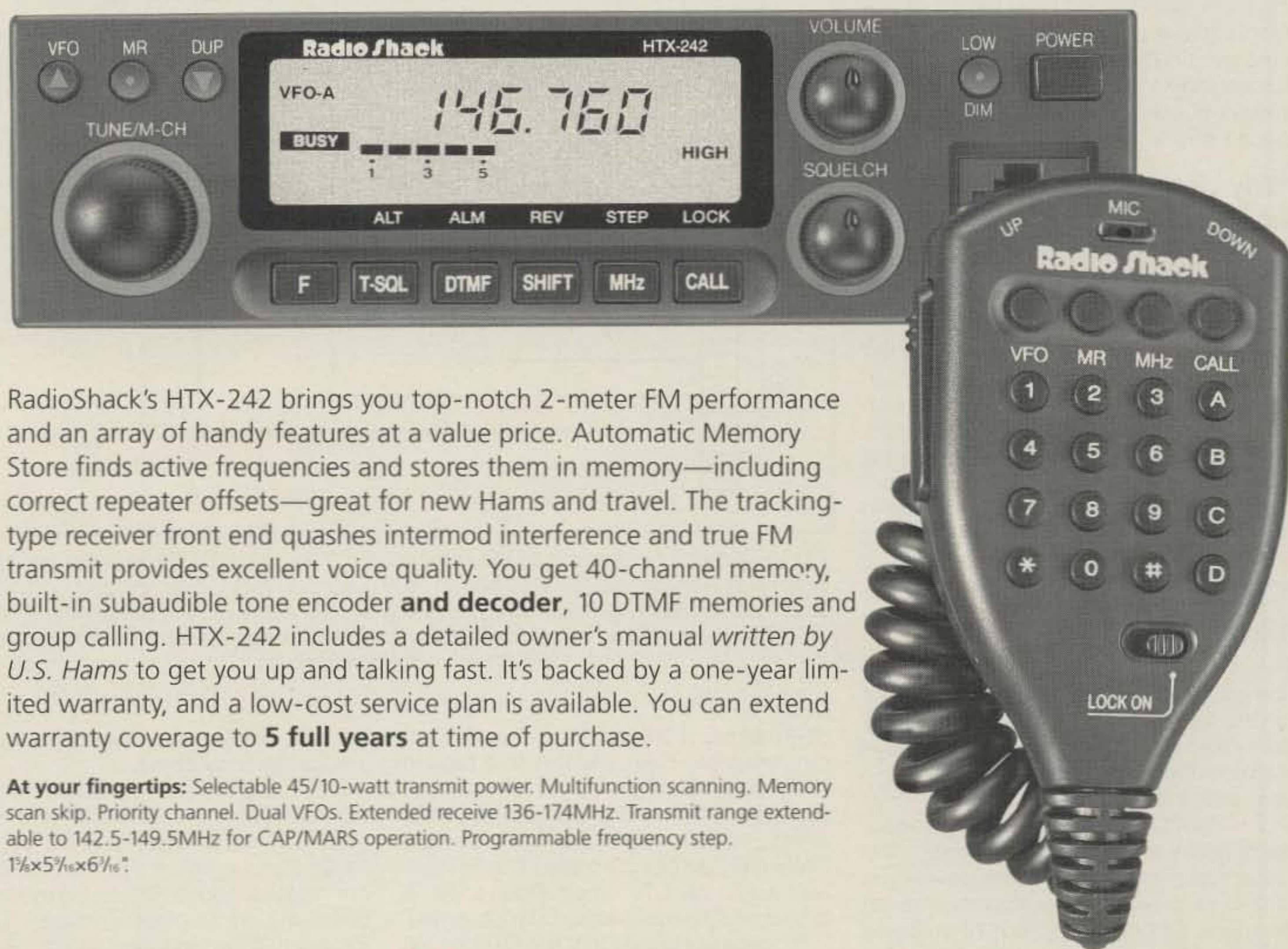
Multi-Operator/Multi-Xmtr.				
Station	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
	1.8	106	16	59
K1AR	3.5	726	29	107
(1992)	7.0	1,862	37	141
19,473,615	14.0	1,721	39	156
	21.0	1,584	37	154
	28.0	1,128	34	136
	Total	7,127	192	753

Club Record: Frankford Radio Club ('92) 389,564,535
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DOUG'S DESK

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, TECHNIQUES, AND THEORY

Remote Antenna Switching Made Easy

Various remote antenna switching devices have been described in the amateur literature, and some commercially manufactured switchers are available today. However, the amateur who is willing to heat a soldering iron and drill a few holes can build a fine antenna switch for very little money. This article recaps some previous work I did along these lines. The circuits shown here allow switching up to four antennas from a single feed line. There is provision for a 50 ohm resistive load (dummy antenna) as well. Inexpensive surplus relays are used in the interest of minimizing cost.

The first W1FB antenna-switch article appeared in *QST*.¹ Subsequent to its publication, an excellent *QST* Technical Correspondence item by KU7G described improvements for the relay logic.² Those modifications are included in the fig. 1 and fig. 2 circuits that follow. Information about packaging and general construction techniques is contained in the article referenced in note 1.

Why Use Remote Switching?

Quality coaxial feed line is fairly expensive. It makes economic sense to use one length of RG-213, RG-8, or hardline to feed more than one antenna on the tower or in the field. A remotely controlled antenna switch makes this possible. Furthermore, changing from one antenna to another (especially during a contest) is much more rapid when a remote switch is used. This requires the simple act of changing a ham shack control box switch position. I concede that a manual coax switch in the radio room provides the same convenience, but it can involve the added cost of several feed lines.

Circuit Notes

Fig. 1 contains a schematic diagram for the portion of the switcher that is installed on the tower or in the field. Although only four relays are shown, additional relays can be added to allow switching more than four antennas.

Relays K1 through K4 need to have contacts heavy enough to accommodate the maximum RF current for the power you are running, with some amperage rating to spare. A contact rating of 10 amperes minimum is recommended if you use a linear amplifier. For example, at 1.5 kw PEP there would be 273.8 volts RMS devel-

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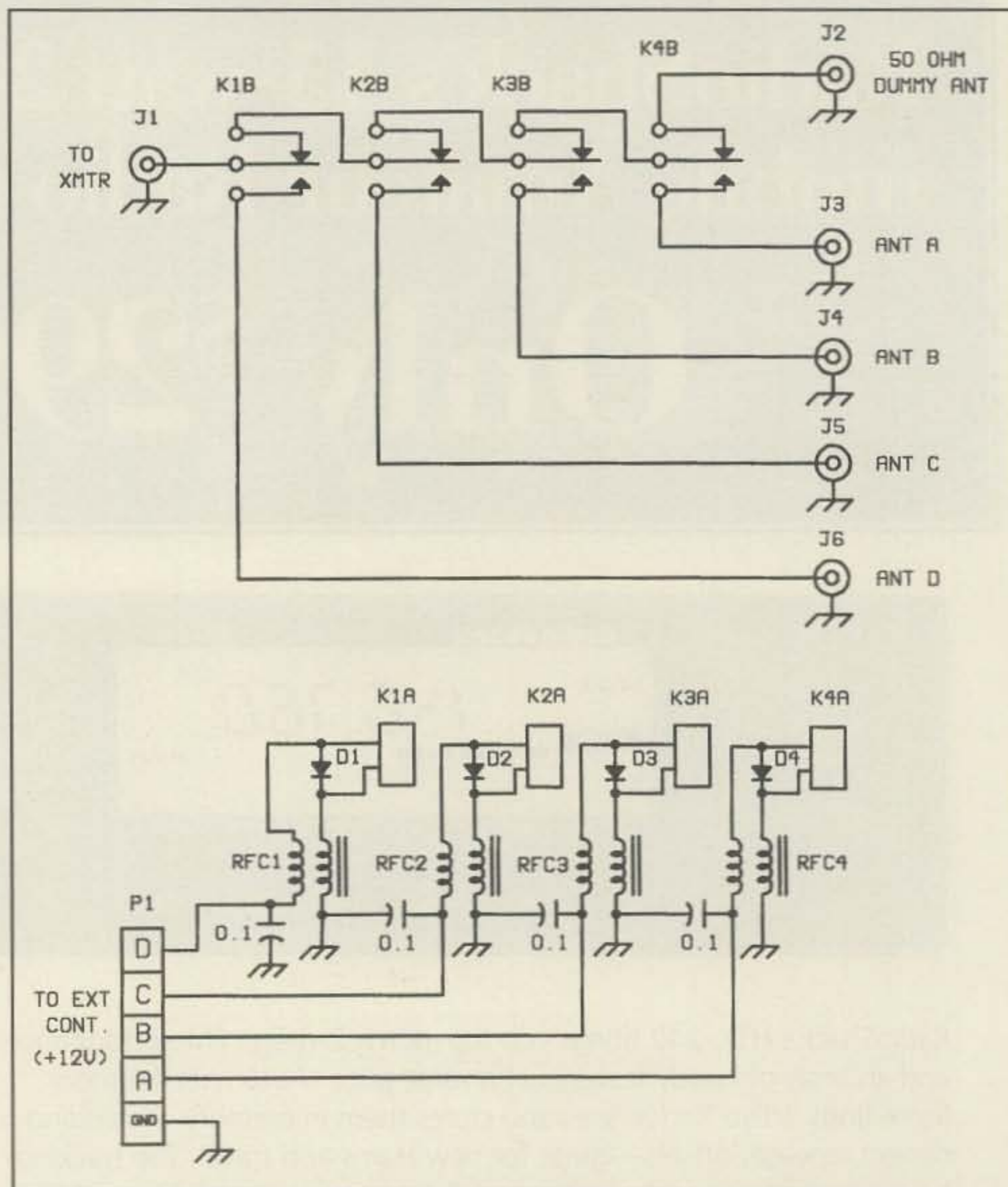


Fig. 1—Schematic diagram of the remote switching head. D1 through D4 are 1N914 small signal silicon diodes. J1 through J6 are SO-239 jacks. See text and notes 1 and 2 for data concerning K1 through K4. P1 is a male cable plug of the builder's choice. RFC1 through RFC4 have 18 bifilar turns of No. 24 enamel wire on Amidon Assoc. FT-50-43 ferrite toroid cores.

oped across a 50 ohm load. The RF current would be 5.47 amps. A less rugged relay will suffice if you do not intend to use more than 150 watts of transmitter output power. At 150 watts there would be 86.6 RMS volts across 50 ohms. The RF current would be 1.73 amps. Relays with 5 amp contacts would suffice in such a case.

It needs to be said that the fig. 1 circuit design is based on the use of antennas with a low SWR. Any SWR under 2:1 should be okay. High SWR at significant RF power levels can destroy the relays

because of high RF voltages that may arc across the relay contacts.

K1 through K4 are protected from arcing between their contacts and circuit ground. This is accomplished by using RFC1 through RFC4. The relay field coils are "floated" above RF ground by virtue of bifilar-wound toroidal chokes. "Bifilar" means that two identical lengths of wire are wound on a toroid core at the same time. I am often asked what bifilar means. The relays should be mounted on an insulating base, such as plexiglass or fiber-

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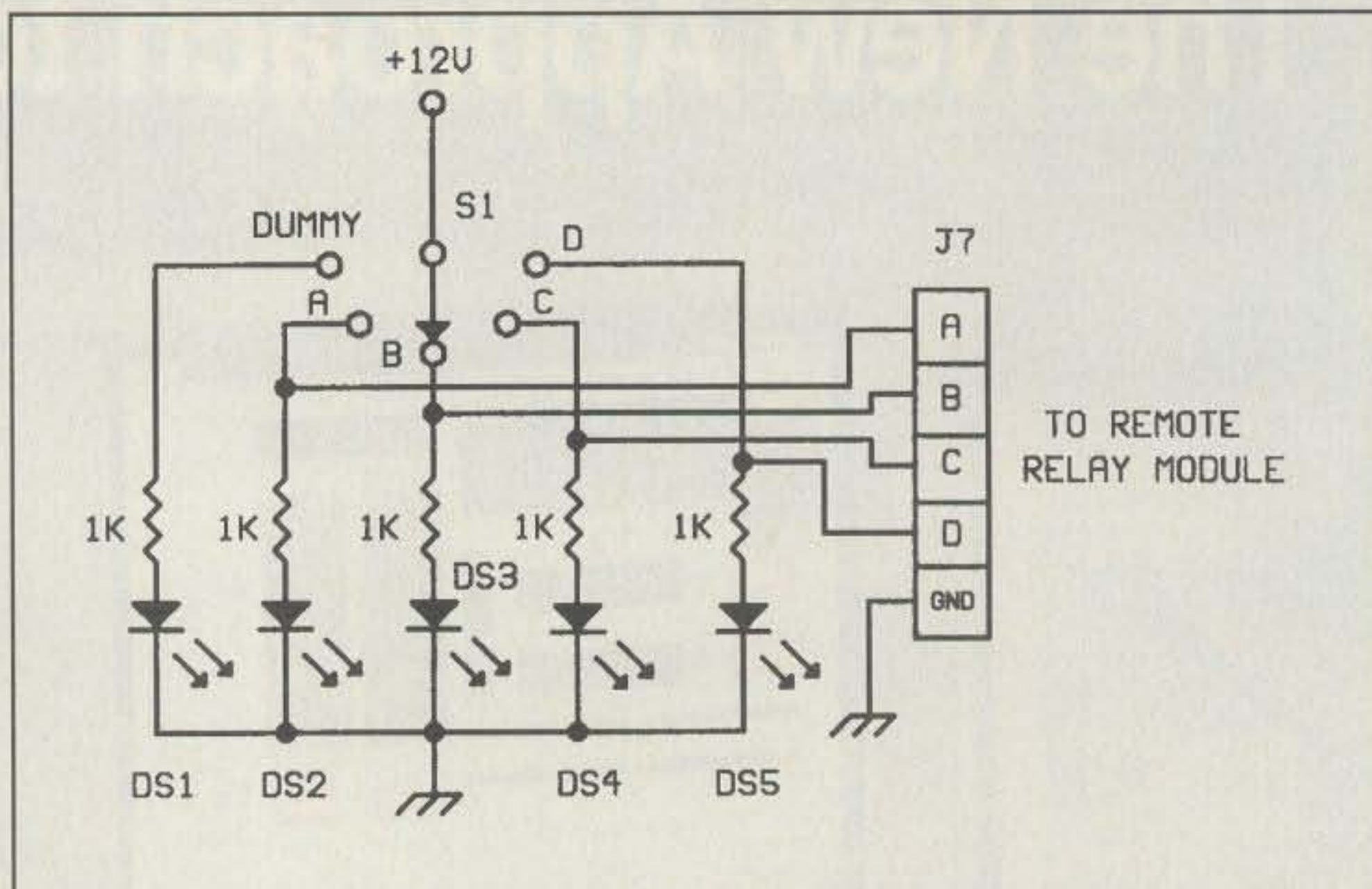


Fig. 2—Control box circuit for the antenna switcher. J7 is a female connector of the builder's choice. S1 is a single-pole, 5-position rotary wafer switch, phenolic or ceramic. A +12 volt, 500 ma wall transformer is sufficient to power the switcher.

glass, in order to isolate their frames from circuit ground.

Diodes D1 through D4 clamp on voltage spikes that can occur when the fields in the relay coils collapse. This prevents spikes from reaching the control box and 12 volt power supply. Each relay +12 volt line is bypassed with a 0.1 μ F, 50 volt ceramic capacitor to keep stray RF energy off the four control lines.

A 50 ohm dummy antenna may be connected to J2 of fig. 1 if desired. This would require a weatherproof enclosure for the dummy antenna, since it would be on the tower or in the field. The dummy antenna will ensure that the transmitter has a proper load if the +12 volt relay control voltage is absent for some reason when an antenna is chosen. Tune-up into the dummy antenna may be done by using the DUMMY position of S1 in fig. 2. This removes the operating voltage from the four relays.

Construction Notes

The relay box can be made of sections of PC board. An ideal enclosure would be a cast-aluminum project box, if you can justify the expense. In any event, once the circuit is built and tested, the box should be sealed with bathtub calking or a similar weather-resistant sealant.

The control-cable conductors need only be large enough to carry the relay current without causing a voltage drop. For example, if the 12 volt relay has a 100 ohm field coil, it will draw 120 ma. No. 22 conductors should suffice for average runs of control cable.

Two SPDT high-current 12 volt relays are suggested. One of them is an auto-

motive type with 1/4 inch spade lugs for the electrical connections. This is sold by MECI as part No. 480-0394. No. 480-0395 is the same type of relay, but it has 1/8 inch lugs. The contacts for both are rated at 30 amps. These relays sell for \$1.95 each.³ A suitable PC-mount SPDT 12 volt relay is available from All Electronics Corp. It is part No. RLY-149 and has 15 amp contacts. It sells for \$2.4

DS1 through DS4 of fig. 2 are LEDs. You may want to use red, green, blue, and yellow LEDs to help distinguish one S1 antenna position from the others.

Closing Remarks

There is nothing new or spectacular about this project. However, it is worth repeating the information periodically for the benefit of those amateurs who arrived on the scene in recent years. My previous work on this subject was published eleven years ago.

Building this antenna switch will save dollars and should give you a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Perhaps this can be your next weekend project!

Notes

1. D. DeMaw, "A Remote Antenna Switcher for HF," *QST*, June 1986, p. 24.

2. R. Schetgen, "An Improved Remote Antenna Switcher," *QST*, Sept. 1986, p. 51.

3. MECI, 340 E. First St., Dayton, OH 45402 (phone 1-800-344-4465; e-mail <meci@meci.com>.

4. All Electronics Corp., 14928 Oxnard St., Van Nuys, CA 91411 (phone 1-800-826-5432).



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MATH'S NOTES

WHAT'S NEW AND HOW TO USE IT

Good Things Come In Small Packages

In the 100 years or so since the "modern" electronics industry began, components have been decreasing in size almost in direct proportion to the complexity of the device. Large "G" vacuum-tube packages gave way to the "GT" style. Octal GTs gave way to 7- and 9-pin miniatures. Hearing-aid and Nuvistor type packages made a brief appearance, and then in the 1950s came the transistor. Of course, it did not stop there. The small 3- or 4-pin "pills" soon gave way to the DIP package, some containing hundreds of transistors. Now the surface-mount package "is among us," and the end is not in sight.

This month we will look at a couple of items being supplied in a variation of this package, the ultra-small MSOP, which measures roughly $1/8" \times 1/8"$. In addition to small size, however, the tremendous growth of the wireless marketplace has also prompted the design of lower voltage devices. The 3.3 volt "standard" is becoming more and more widely used, and chips that operate from this low voltage, ranging from op-amps to logic devices to complete FM receiver building blocks, are making their appearance.

Combining these two requirements, it is therefore no surprise that the power-supply component manufacturers would introduce ways of producing low operating voltages from readily available external sources such as batteries, and in keeping with the requirement of "smaller and smaller," begin to use the tiny packages as well. This is indeed the case.

One such component now available from Linear Technology is the LT1307, a switching DC-to-DC converter that is designed to take the output from a 1.5 volt battery and efficiently convert it to 3.3 or 5 volts. The chip is quite efficient and can work with any 1.5 volt cell, such as double A (AA) or even triple A (AAA) penlight batteries.

Fig. 1 is the schematic of the basic hookup. The LT1307 operates at a switching frequency of 600 kHz, which is high enough so that it only requires a small 10 μ F capacitor at the output for filtering. The high switching speed also assures that harmonics of the chip's internal oscillator fall outside the normal 455 kHz IF band used in many types of portable communications equipment.

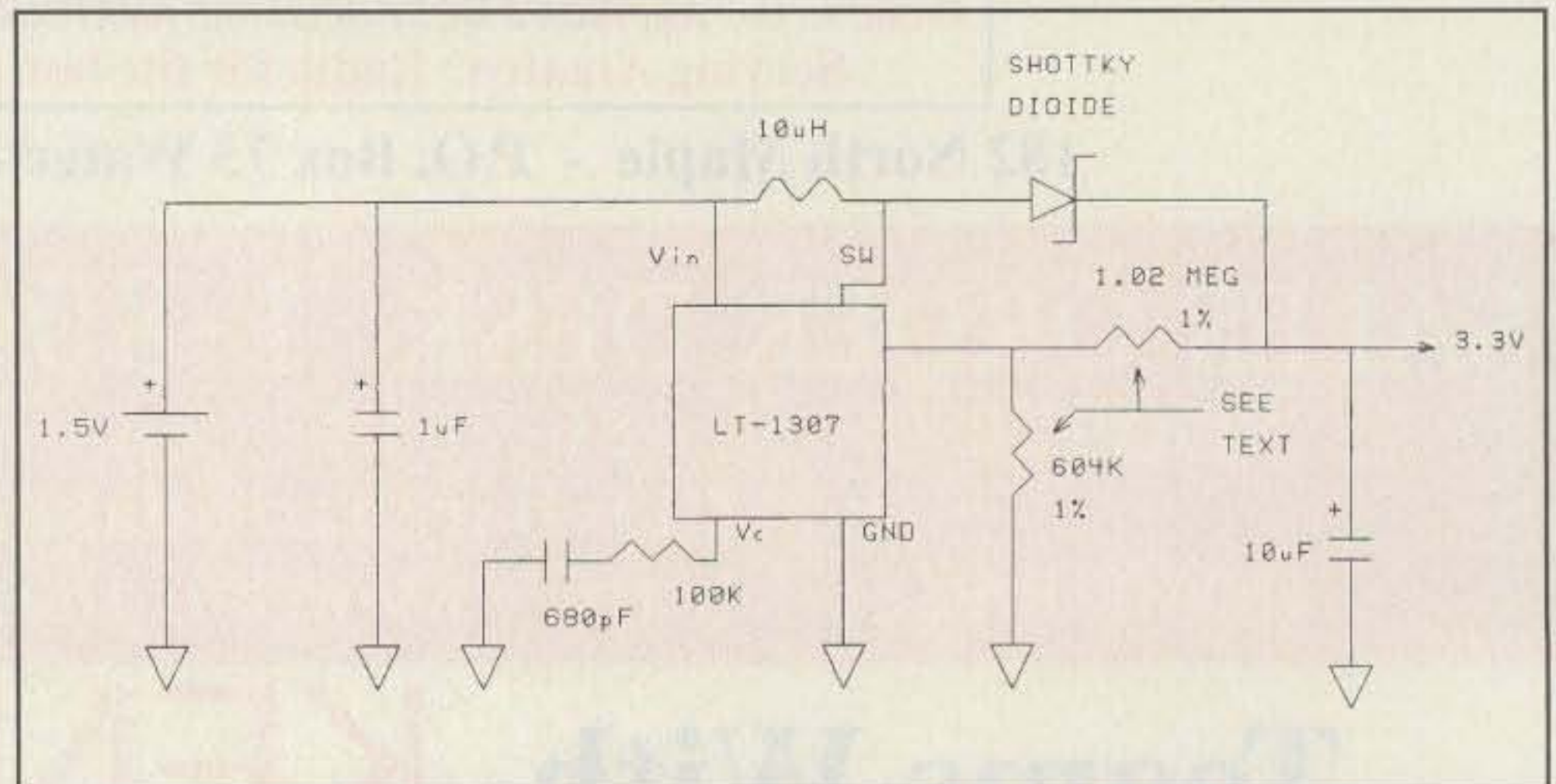


Fig. 1—Schematic of basic LT-1307 circuit.

The output voltage is controlled by a two resistor voltage divider that can easily be scaled to deliver higher outputs if desired. Output current is rated at 75 ma at 3.3 volts or 40 ma at 5 volts, and the chip itself only consumes 60 microamperes. The LTR1307 is designed to operate with as little as 1 volt input so you can really get every last drop of power from your battery. The chip comes in a surface-mount SO-8 package, a standard 8-pin DIP and of course, the micro MSOP package

which is so small that you probably can build a complete DC/DC converter that is one third to one half the size of the battery used to power it.

For more information on the LT1307, contact Linear Technology Corporation at 1630 McCarthy Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035 or call 1-800-432-1900. By the way, cost for the LT1307 is \$2.50 at 100 pieces for the MSOP package.

Another low-voltage device making an appearance in the MSOP package is a

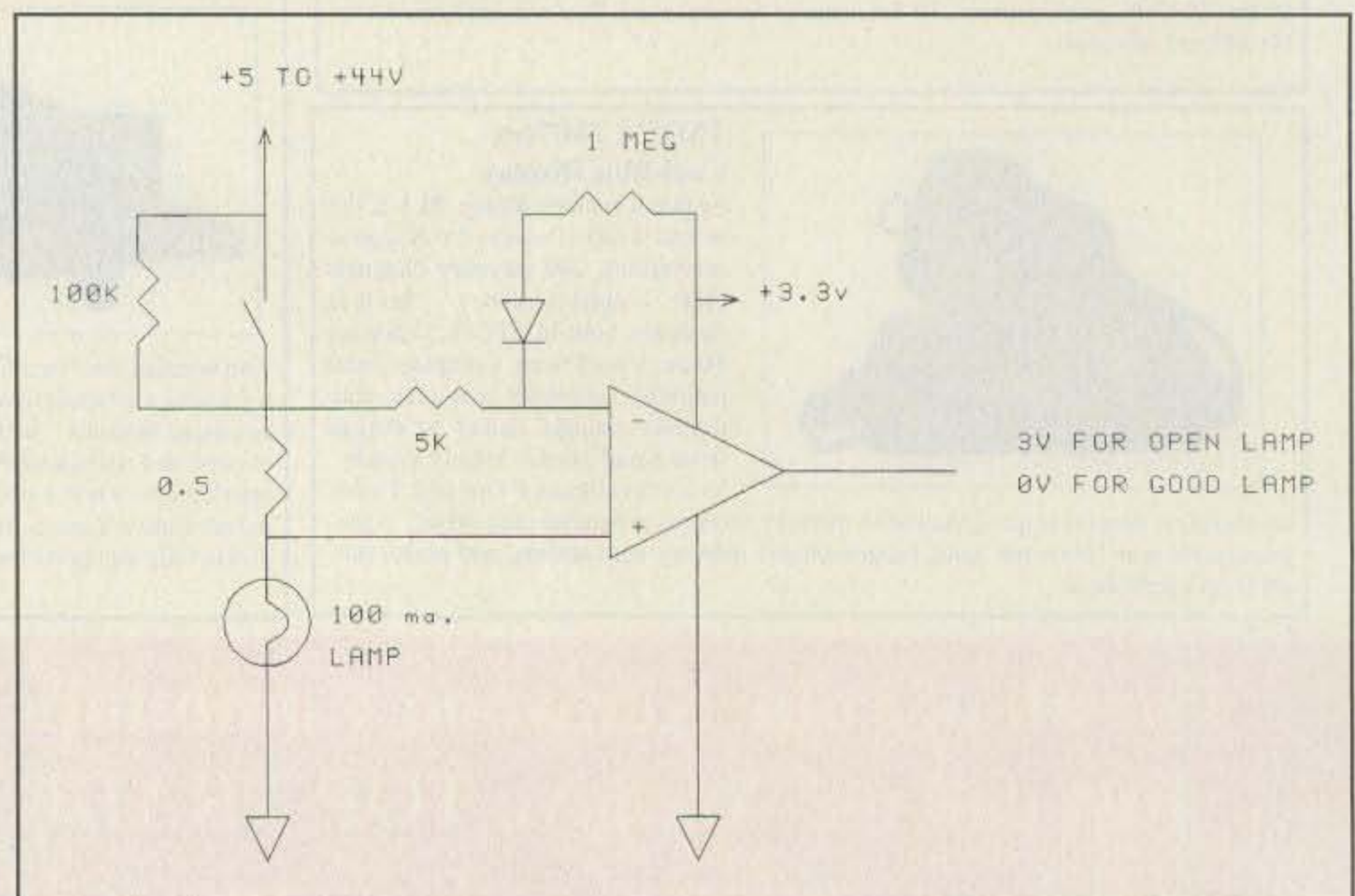


Fig. 2—Burned-out lamp detector circuit.

c/o CQ magazine

general-purpose dual op-amp, the Linear Technology LT1490. This device is a rail-to-rail op amp which will produce an output to within 25 millivolts of the power supply used to power it when driving light loads, and to within 30 mv of the power supply at output load of 10 ma. Since the device operates over a power supply range of ± 1.25 volts to ± 22 volts double ended, or 2.5 volts to 44 volts single ended, operation from any sort of power supply is no problem. Figs. 2 and 3 show a couple of advertised applications for the chip that may be of interest to the amateur. In fig. 2 a burned-out lamp is easily detected by measuring the voltage drop across a 0.5 ohm resistor connected in series with it. As you will note, the circuit is capable of working with lamps that operate anywhere from 5 to 44 volts. In fig. 3 the current drawn by a load is indicated by measuring the voltage drop across a 0.2 ohm resistor. This voltage drop should be low enough normally to not interfere with the operation of the circuit that is being monitored.

Two other features of the LT1490 include built-in protection from improperly connected power and the capability of withstanding voltages up to 44 volts above the negative rail or 22 volts below the negative rail. This is truly a rugged device. Cost for the LT1490 is under \$2.00 in thousand quantity and somewhat higher for small quantities. Contact Linear at the above address for more details.

Not to be outdone, Maxim Integrated Circuits is offering rail-to-rail op amps in the SOT23 package, which, by the way, also measure on the order of 1/8 inch square. The MAX4162 has a gain bandwidth of 200 kHz, a power-supply requirement of 2.7 to 10 volts, and a current drain of 35 microamperes for the chip itself.

For higher speed, their MAX4330 will also work from ± 1.35 volts (or 2.7 volts single-supply) and has a gain bandwidth of 3 MHz with a current requirement of only 275 microamperes. If you need still higher speed, the MAX4165 will give you a gain bandwidth of 5 MHz and a current drain of 1.4 milliamperes and still retain operation from ± 1.35 volts (2.7 volts single ended). Although requiring higher operating current, the device will deliver up to 80 ma at the output.

Finally, for the highest speed in a tiny device, look at the MAX4124. This baby has a gain bandwidth of 25 MHz, 2.7 volt single-supply operation, and less than a milliampere of power-supply current. Data for all of these is available from Maxim Integrated Circuits, 120 San Gabriel Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086 or from any Maxim distributor.

Considering the above selection, it will be interesting to see what types of products this micro-technology will produce.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

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CIRCLE 72 ON READER SERVICE CARD

THE DIGITAL DIPOLE

FROM SOFTWARE THROUGH ANTENNAS FOR THE SHACK

Fall Excursion '97

How the year flies! Already we've disposed of three-quarters of the year. By the time you read this, we will have marched into fall, which gives us the first signs of antenna season waning for another calendar year. In any case, let's begin our fall excursion by opening wide the antenna notebook.

Antenna Notes

SARtek-1 Universal Antenna Rotator Controller. In several columns we noted the LOGic™ series of full-featured loggers suitable for DXing, nets, paper chasing, and ragchewing and offered by Personal Database Applications (PDA) proprietor Dennis Hevener, WN4AZY. LOGic is up to Version 4 as this is written, having just gone through a major update of the prefix and awards tables, plus numerous other enhancements and bug fixes. LOGic is available in versions priced at \$79 to \$99 to support DOS, Windows 3.1, and Windows 95. A simplified \$39 version, LOGic Jr. V4, promotes easy introduction to PC logging; it offers most of the features of LOGic 4, but lacks the radio interfacing options.

Now Dennis offers a product that allows nearly anyone with a rotatable antenna to take advantage of computer-automated antenna rotation. The SARtek-1 Universal Antenna Rotator Controller was created by Al Parsons, VE6RFM. It's claimed to be the first and only such universal controller, and it works with most rotors, even those not originally designed for computer interfacing.

The package consists of a board that fits in a standard PC slot and a small relay board that mounts inside the rotor controller's cabinet; the unit plugs into a standard 9- or 25-pin PC serial port. It's microprocessor controlled, featuring dynamic feedback, automated brake control, heavy-duty relays, and easy installation. Operational accuracy is within ± 3 degrees.

Included is Windows 95-based software that provides point-and-click antenna aiming, or keyboard input of heading, grid square, or call-sign prefix. It displays short and long headings; return headings; distance; country; ITU and CQ zones; latitude and longitude; and local, UTC, and destination clocks.

For further information, contact Personal Database Applications, 1323 Center Dr., Auburn, GA 30011-3318 (phone 770-307-1511; Internet <pda@hosenose.com>).

Tube Mall Supermart. While most receivers and transmitters today are solid state, and many hobbyists thumb their noses at the idea of tubes in a solid-state world, some vacuum-tube era equipment still can do a creditable job, especially for starters. For many who qualify with old-timer status, there's a certain magic in the old sets the tube filaments of which glow brightly and warmly in the dark.

289 Poplar Drive, Millbrook, AL 36054-1674

One firm that's easing the tube availability problem is Typetronics, a Ft. Lauderdale mail-order firm I often see at hamfests in the southeast. Proprietor Fred G. Schmidt, N4TT, offers new and unused tubes in original boxes; no used or "pulls" are sold. Most of the tubes are receiving types, but his flyer also includes many transmitting, industrial, and special-purpose types. Also offered are tube socket connectors, extenders, and socket savers. The Typetronics flyer lists several hundreds of tubes for sale and also includes a tubes-wanted list.

For a tube flyer, contact Typetronics, P.O. Box 8873, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-8873 (954-583-1340).

Vectronics Catalog. In its move to come under the MFJ umbrella in Starkville, Mississippi, Vectronics has continued many of the products it featured while a subsidiary of Valor Enterprises, and it's added some along the way. The latest Vectronics™ catalog shows a variety of antenna accessories, new and old.

For a catalog, contact Vectronics, 1007 Highway 25 South, Starkville, MS 39759 (601-323-5800).

Cable X-Perts 1997 Master Catalog. In previous columns, most recently February '96, we highlighted the cable and cable-related products offered by Cable X-Perts. Some of the more notable products we profiled included a high-performance RG Mini 8(X) coaxial cable and the LMR series UltraFlex coaxial cable; the latter is for situations requiring low loss, double shielding, repeated bending, and installation in tight spaces.

While the firm's 1997 Master Catalog focuses on several groups of coaxial cable, a complete range of wire, transmission line, and antenna and cable accessories is offered. The Cable X-Perts catalog includes ladderline, rotor and control cable, coax switches, antenna wire and wire antenna kits, grounding braid, Dacron® rope, DC power "Zip" cords, computer cables, connectors and adapters of various types, dipole center and end insulators, baluns, lightning protection devices, bandpass filters, waterproofing materials, tools, and other accessories. Also in the 20-page catalog are charts showing coax attenuation and power ratings, as well as two pages of connector and adapter "how to" installation information.

For a current catalog, contact Cable X-Perts, Inc., 416 Diens Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090 (1-800-828-3340).

Stridsberg Engineering Update. In the May column we noted the antenna power dividers offered by Stridsberg Engineering, a manufacturer of RF and antenna devices. To recall, we indicated you can use power dividers of various types to stack or combine antennas. You can do this in conjunction with antenna arrays of two, four, or more units to increase antenna system gain and directivity. With power dividers' typically low loss and good phase bal-

ance, you can obtain maximum benefits from such stacking. To this end, John Stridsberg, NY5C, offers an extensive line of two- and four-port, VHF/UHF power dividers with wide bandwidth and low SWR.

John recently introduced a new line of receiver multi-couplers. These commercial-grade, passive multi-couplers are particularly suitable for multi-receiver monitoring applications for professional agencies and the serious monitoring hobbyist.

Stridsberg Engineering offers four passive receiver multicouplers in the MC series. They require no external power to operate and introduce only 3 to 6 dB signal loss, depending on the number of ports. Two- and four-port models which cover various ranges from 40 kHz to 1 GHz are available.

Pricing, information, and spec sheets on several other new products are available from Stridsberg Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 5050, Shreveport, LA 71135-5040 (318-861-0660).

Soft Stuff

The DELTACOMM™ I-9000 Communication Manager. In the August 1991 and December 1992 columns we highlighted the DELTACOMM Communications Managers from Delta Research. To recall, the DELTACOMM Communication Managers are PC-based communication managers for the ICOM IC-R7000, IC-7100, IC-R71A, IC-R72, IC-735, and IC-7100 receivers; prices range from \$299 to \$349. As we indicated, these products are designed with speed as a major goal. They offer sophisticated features including lockout of receiver birdies, complete priority channel monitoring while scanning, elimination of redundant logging of channels during search, file exchange with other software for custom report generation, user-friendly window-style screens, on-screen help, and a smart setup program.

Recently, DELTACOMM introduced the DELTACOMM I-9000 Communications Manager for the ICOM IC-R9000 receiver. The new \$499 product includes all of the features presently available with the company's existing managers, plus several enhanced features, including one known as "slave receiver frequency hand-off." With this feature you can control up to four ICOM (R71, R72, R7000, or R7100) slave receivers.

A related new product is the I-8500 Communications Manager for the ICOM IC-R8500 receiver, which optionally handles Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates at speeds over 2400 channels per minute. Still another offering is the DELTATONE 2.00 DTMF Repeater Controller Programmer. The DOS-based program allows unlimited 16-digit DTMF (Touch-Tone) generation for local or remote programming of your repeater controller.

For spec sheets and additional information



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- 6** IF BANDWIDTH FLEXIBILITY • Standard 2.4 kHz filter can be narrowed continuously to 800 Hz with variable Bandwidth Control (BWC). Narrow SSB and CW filters for 2nd and 3rd IF optional.
- 7** QRM SUPPRESSION • Other interference rejection features include Passband Shift (PBS), dual noise blanker, 3-step RF attenuation, IF notch filter, selectable AGC and all-mode squelch.
- 8** NOTCH TRACKING • Once tuned, the IF notch filter will track the offending heterodyne (± 10 KHz) if the VFO frequency is changed.
- 9** DDS PHASE LOCK LOOP SYSTEM • A single-crystal Direct Digital Synthesis system is utilized for very low phase noise.
- 10** CW FEATURES • Full break-in operation, variable CW pitch. built in electronic keyer up to 60 wpm.
- 11** DUAL VFOs • Two separate VFOs for split-frequency operation. Memory registers store most recent VFO frequency, mode, bandwidth and other important parameters for each band.
- 12** 200 MEMORIES • Memory capacity of 200 channels, each of which store frequency, mode, AGC and bandwidth.
- 13** COMPUTER INTERFACE • Built-in RS-232C interface for advanced computer applications.
- 14** ERGONOMIC LAYOUT • Front panel features easy to read color LCD display and thoughtful placement of controls for ease of operation.
- 15** HEAVY-DUTY POWER SUPPLY • Built-in switching power supply and a cooling system designed for continuous transmission at maximum output.



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"Proud parents" Michael Fletcher, OH2AUE (left), and Harri Leskinen, OH2JMS (right), pause during testing of their AMSAT Phase 3D 10 GHz transmitter and traveling wave tube (TWT) amplifier at the P3D lab in Orlando, Florida. The TWT, procured by AMSAT-DL for the project, delivered a clean 60 watts output while installed in the spacecraft. AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, adds that the "paint bucket" dummy load atop the 10 GHz feed horn worked well. He notes there's a block of carbon-impregnated concrete inside and stuck down into the horn's throat. The result was no leakage whatsoever, once they sealed the bottom with copper foil tape, providing a perfect match for testing. (AMSAT-NA photos courtesy Keith Baker, KB1SF)

on pricing, contact Delta Research, Box 13677, Wauwatosa, WI 53213 (414-353-4567, voice and fax).

Radio Era Archives CD-ROM Publications. Radio Era Archives offers a variety of older publications and documents on CD-ROM. Besides offering all the QST CD-ROMs, the firm offers four volumes called Radiophile, Vols. 1, 2, 3, and 4, at \$85 each. These volumes include many out-of-print books on old radio technology and troubleshooting. The Radiophile series disks also contain technical and data references, service manuals, schematics, radio encyclopedias, and other documents.

Also offered is the Amateur Radio Anthology, a large collection of important references (roughly 1929-1976) of special interest to the history buff (\$85); and Antique Radio Repair, at \$85, which includes over 2800 pages of antique radio information including references needed for troubleshooting and repair of old-time sets. If all this weren't enough, the classic Rider's *Perpetual Troubleshooters Manual* is offered on CD-ROM, which includes 23 volumes from 1915 through 1955. This makes the CD-ROM arguably the most comprehensive resource ever produced on repair schematics of old radios, although it's a bit pricey for casual workshop use, at \$450.

For a flyer, contact Radio Era Archives, 2043 Empire Central, Dallas, TX 75235 (1-888-EC-IMAGE; Internet <tsm@electrosys.com> or <<http://www.electrosys.com/rea.htm>>).

Quarterdeck WebCompass 2.0. Do you find the Internet fascinating, but have trouble really *finding* things on it? It's no secret that the Net, and especially the World Wide Web, can help you find almost anything or anyone. Many of the major "search engine" sites are almost magical in their uncanny ability to ferret out



After its successful journey from Japan, the metal shipping case containing JAMSAT's flight SCOPE camera experiment for the Phase 3D satellite was firmly buckled into the back seat of its transportation for the short trip from the Orlando airport to the Phase 3D lab. The P3D integration team took no chances on its being damaged enroute, considering the monetary value of the flight camera was about twice the value of the car in which it was riding!

information. Having, and knowing how to use, a good online search engine is like having a personal "genie" at your disposal, one whom you can ask any question and receive in return the answer you need.

Of course, real-world search engine genies aren't all that simple to use and interpret, and they often return a truly massive amount of information, much of which may not be useful to you. A better, hybrid approach may be for you to catalog the Web yourself using a "knowledge manager" program running on your PC.

One such product, WebCompass 2.0, can prove invaluable to anyone who gathers and analyzes information online, being billed by Quarterdeck as a "total Internet search tool." It makes the Web-cataloging task manageable by cataloging only your interests and needs. The program lets you organize your topic space in whatever way you like, and it automatically creates and updates a user-modifiable catalog of only those areas of the Web of interest to you, characterizing as much about the Web pages it finds as can be done automatically.

The new Windows 95-based program is \$49.95 (estimated street price). It is available from dealers or directly from Quarterdeck Corporation, 13160 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292-9705 (phone 1-800-282-0866; Internet <http://www.quarterdeck.com>).

From The Bookshelf

Antennas and Transmission Lines. MFJ Enterprises has announced another antenna book to add to its growing portfolio of publications dealing with antennas, packet radio, QRP, shortwave listening, mobile, nostalgia, technical subjects, and a variety of other topics. It's *Antennas and Transmission Lines*, by John A. Kueken. The new book represents a compromise between texts that are technical, quantitative, and theoretical, and those which are lacking in theory but are strictly anecdotal and construction-oriented. The text is direct and provides clear information.

The book has 37 brief but concise chapters divided into three sections. The first section covers basic antenna theory, the next deals

with transmission lines, and the final section covers a variety of specialized antenna topics. The book is well-illustrated with diagrams and graphics and is \$19.95 from MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (telephone 1-800-647-1800; Internet <mfj@mfjenterprises.com> or <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>).

Postscript: While you're checking out MFJ's Web site, peruse the Web page that gives a brief but illuminating capsule history of the firm's 25 years in "linking the world to your backyard," to use MFJ's own words. It's an interesting success story in an amateur radio marketplace in which it's become increasingly difficult to succeed in recent years.

The World Wide Web 1997 Unleashed. Several excellent (and rather thick) Macmillan books on the Internet and the World Wide Web have crossed my desk recently. In a recent column I shared my impressions of the monster-sized Sams.net *Internet 1997 Unleashed* (\$49.99, 1269 pages). This month I'd like to share another rather "weighty" book with you.

The new book is the 1997 followup to *The World Wide Web Unleashed, Second Edition*, which we covered in February 1996. The updated *The World Wide Web 1997 Unleashed* edition is a 1226-page, 44-chapter Sams.net book/CD-ROM combo by Web expert John December that aims to offer you everything you need to master the Web. It shows you how to connect to the Web, navigate and explore Webspace, set up a Web site, and much more.

The book also includes a CD-ROM that features a variety of useful Windows and Macintosh PC Internet software, including Web

browsers and over 150 development tools and utility programs. As an extra bonus, the CD-ROM part of the package includes an "electronic library" that has online hypertext versions of two popular Sams.net books, *Netscape 3 Unleashed* and *Microsoft Internet Explorer 3 Unleashed*.

The new Web book is \$49.99. For more information, contact Macmillan Publishing USA, 8219 Northwest Blvd., Suite 400, Indianapolis, IN 46278 (1-800-858-7674). If you're already online, check out the Macmillan Publishing USA Web site at <http://www.mcp.com>. You can download valuable Internet software tools from their Web site and also directly from the company's FTP site, at <ftp://ftp.mcp.com>. The publisher also hosts the Macmillan Computer Publishing Forum on the CompuServe (CSI) online service (GO PHCP to access the forum).

Short Bursts

AMSAT Phase 3D Satellite Update. There's some risk of being "OBE" (overtaken by events) in preparing a monthly magazine column, which must of necessity be prepared months in advance. Often, events you casually mention in the column writeup either don't happen at all, they happen in ways different than you anticipated, or their scheduled occurrence "slips." This kind of "egg-on-your face" OBE risk is particularly true with major events, such as the long-planned, much-delayed launch of the AMSAT Phase 3D satellite.

In any case, Keith Baker, KB1SF, AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President, sent me another



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COAX (50OHM "LOW LOSS" GROUP)

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
"FLEXIBLE" 9913 STRD BC CNTR FOIL + 95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz NC/DB/UV JKT.....	58/FT	56/FT	54/FT
9913 "EQUAL" SOLID BC CNTR FOIL + 95% BRAID 2.7 dB @ 400MHz UV JKT.....	43/FT	41/FT	39/FT
LMR 240 (8X SIZE) SOLID CNTR FOIL + BRAID 3.0dB @ 150MHz WP/UV JKT.....	47/FT	45/FT	43/FT
LMR 400 SOLID CCA CNTR FOIL + BRAID 2.7dB @ 450MHz WP/UV JKT.....	59/FT	57/FT	55/FT
LMR 400 "ULTRA-FLEX" STRD BC CNTR FOIL + BRAID 3.1dB @ 450 MHz TPE JKT.....	79/FT	78/FT	77/FT
LMR 600 (OD.590") SOLID CCA CNTR FOIL + BRAID 1.72dB @ 450 MHz WP/UV JKT.....	1.25/FT	1.22/FT	1.20/FT
LDF4-50A 1/2" "ANDREWS HELIX" 1.51dB @ 450MHz.....	25FT/UP	2.10/FT	
LDF5-50A 7/8" "ANDREWS HELIX" 0.834 @ 450MHz.....	25FT/UP	5.37/FT	

COAX (50 OHM "HF" GROUP)

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
RG213/U STRD BC MIL-SPEC NC/DB/UV JACKET 1.2 dB/2500WATTS @ 30MHz.....	36/FT	34/FT	32/FT
RG8/U STRD BC FOAM 95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JKT 0.9dB/1350WATTS @ 30MHz.....	32/FT	30/FT	28/FT
RG8 MINI(X)95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JACKET 2.0dB/875 WATTS @ 30MHz.....	15/FT	13/FT	12/FT
RG58/U 95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JACKET 2.5dB/400 WATTS @ 30MHz.....	15/FT	13/FT	11/FT
RG214/U STRD SC 2-95% SILVER BRAIDS NC/DB/UV JKT 1.2 dB/2500WATTS @ 30MHz.....	25FT/UP	1.75/FT	
RG217/U SOLID BC 2-BC SHLD NC/DB/UV JKT NOM OD .545 .70 dB/4000 @ 30MHz.....	25FT/UP	2.00/FT	

COAX (50 OHM "TEFLON" GROUP)

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
RG142/U SOLID SCCS 2-95% SILVER BRAIDS TEFLON JKT 8.2dB/1100WATTS @ 400MHz.....	25FT/UP	1.25/FT	
RG303/U SOLID SCCS 1-95% SILVER BRAID TEFLON JKT 8.6dB/1100WATTS @ 400MHz.....	25FT/UP	1.00/FT	

COAX (75 OHM GROUP)

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
RG11A/U STRD BC (VP-66%) 95% BRAID NC/DB/UV JKT 1.3dB/1000WATTS.....	42/FT	40/FT	38/FT
RG6/U CATV FOAM 18GA CCA FOIL + 60% ALUM BRAID.....	18/FT	16/FT	14/FT

LADDER LINE GROUP

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
450 OHM 18GA SOLID CCS (POWER: FULL LEGAL LIMIT).....	12/FT	10/FT	09/FT
"FLEXIBLE" 450 OHM 16GA COMPRESSED STRD CCS (PWR-FULL LEGAL LIMIT+).....	18/FT	17/FT	16/FT
"FLEXIBLE" 450 OHM 14GA COMPRESSED STRD CCS (PWR-FULL LEGAL LIMIT++).....	25/FT	24/FT	23/FT
300 OHM 20GA STRD (POWER: FULL LEGAL LIMIT).....	15/FT	13/FT	12/FT

ROTOR & CONTROL CABLES

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5971 8/COND (2/18 6/22) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 125ft.....	20/FT	18/FT	16/FT
1618 8/COND (2/16 6/18) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 200ft.....	35/FT	34/FT	32/FT
1418 8/COND (2/14 6/18) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 300ft.....	47/FT	45/FT	43/FT
1216 8/COND (2/12 6/16) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 500ft.....	78/FT	74/FT	70/FT
2206 22GA STRD 6/COND PVC JACKET.....	18/FT	16/FT	14/FT
1806 18GA STRD 6/COND PVC JACKET.....	23/FT	21/FT	19/FT

ANTENNA WIRE (UNINSULATED BARE COPPER)

	100FT/UP	500FT	1000FT
14GA 168 STRD "SUPERFLEX" (great for Quads & Portable set-ups etc.).....	12/FT	10/FT	08/FT
14GA 7 STRD "HARD DRAWN" (perfect for permanent Dipoles etc.).....	08/FT	07/FT	06/FT
14GA SOLID "COPPERWELD" (for long spans etc.).....	08/FT	07/FT	06/FT
14GA SOLID "SOFT DRAWN" (for ground radials etc.).....	08/FT	07/FT	06/FT
ROPE: 3/16" DOUBLE BRAID "DACRON" 770# TEST WEATHERPROOF.....	12/FT	09/FT	08/FT

TINNED COPPER "FLAT" GROUNDING BRAID

1 INCH WIDE (equivalent to 7ga).....	25FT	\$22.00	50FT	\$43.00	100FT	\$85.00
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CABLE & WIRE CUT TO YOUR SPECIFIC LENGTH • WE STOCK AND INSTALL CONNECTORS TOO.

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100FT "FLEXIBLE" 9913 FOIL+95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz.....	65.00/EA
50FT "FLEXIBLE" 9913 FOIL+95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz.....	35.00/EA
100FT RG213/U MIL-SPEC DIRECT BURIAL JKT 1.5dB @ 50MHz.....	45.00/EA
50FT RG213/U MIL-SPEC DIRECT BURIAL JKT 1.5 dB @ 50MHz.....	25.00/EA
100FT RG8/U FOAM 95% BRD UV RESISTANT JKT 1.2 dB @ 50MHz.....	40.00/EA
50FT RG8/U FOAM 95% BRD UV RESISTANT JKT 1.2dB @ 50MHz.....	22.50/EA
100FT RG8MINI(X) 95% BRD UV RES JKT 2.5dB @ 50MHz.....	21.00/EA

NOTE: Other lengths of the above stocked; 75FT, 25FT, 6FT, 3FT

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100FT "FLEXIBLE" 9913 FOIL+95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz.....	75.00/EA
75FT "FLEXIBLE" 9913 FOIL+95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz.....	60.00/EA
50FT "FLEXIBLE" 9913 FOIL+95% BRAID 2.7dB @ 400MHz.....	45.00/EA

FLEXIBLE 2/COND RED/BLK DC POWER "ZIP" CORD			
8GA (rated:40 amps).....	25FT \$16.00	50FT \$31.00	100FT \$60.00
10GA (rated:30 amps).....	25FT \$10.50	50FT \$19.00	100FT \$36.00
12GA (rated:20 amps).....	25FT \$8.00	50FT \$14.00	100FT \$26.00
14GA (rated:15 amps).....	25FT \$8.00	50FT \$10.00	100FT \$18.00

CONNECTORS Both connectors fit 9913 types and LMR400

PL 259 SILVER/TEFLON/GOLD TIP.....	10PC \$11.00	25PC \$25.00	50PC \$47.50	100PC \$90.00
"N" (2PC) SILVER TEFLON/GOLD TIP.....	10PC \$32.50	25PC \$75.00	50PC \$143.75	100PC \$275.00



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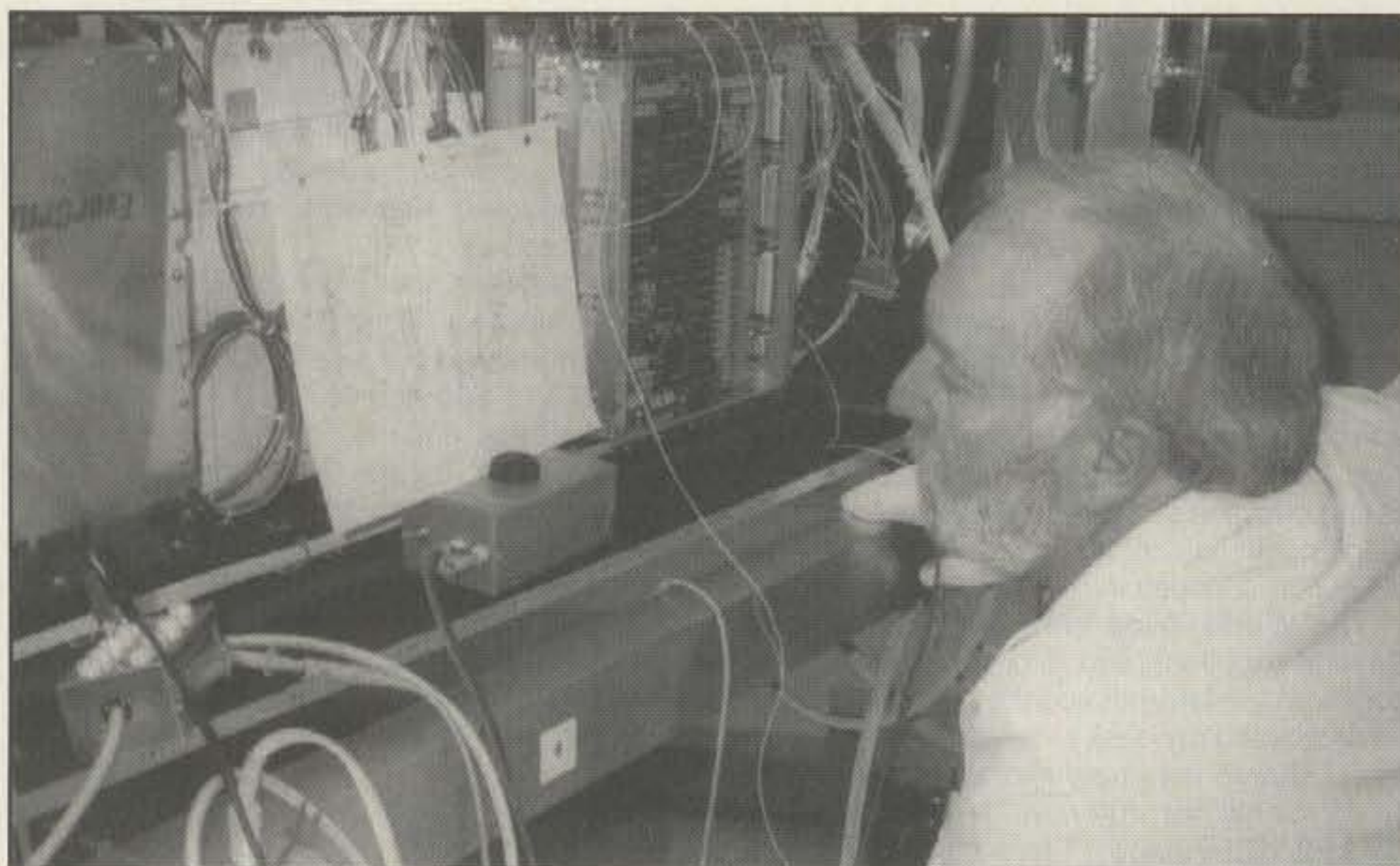
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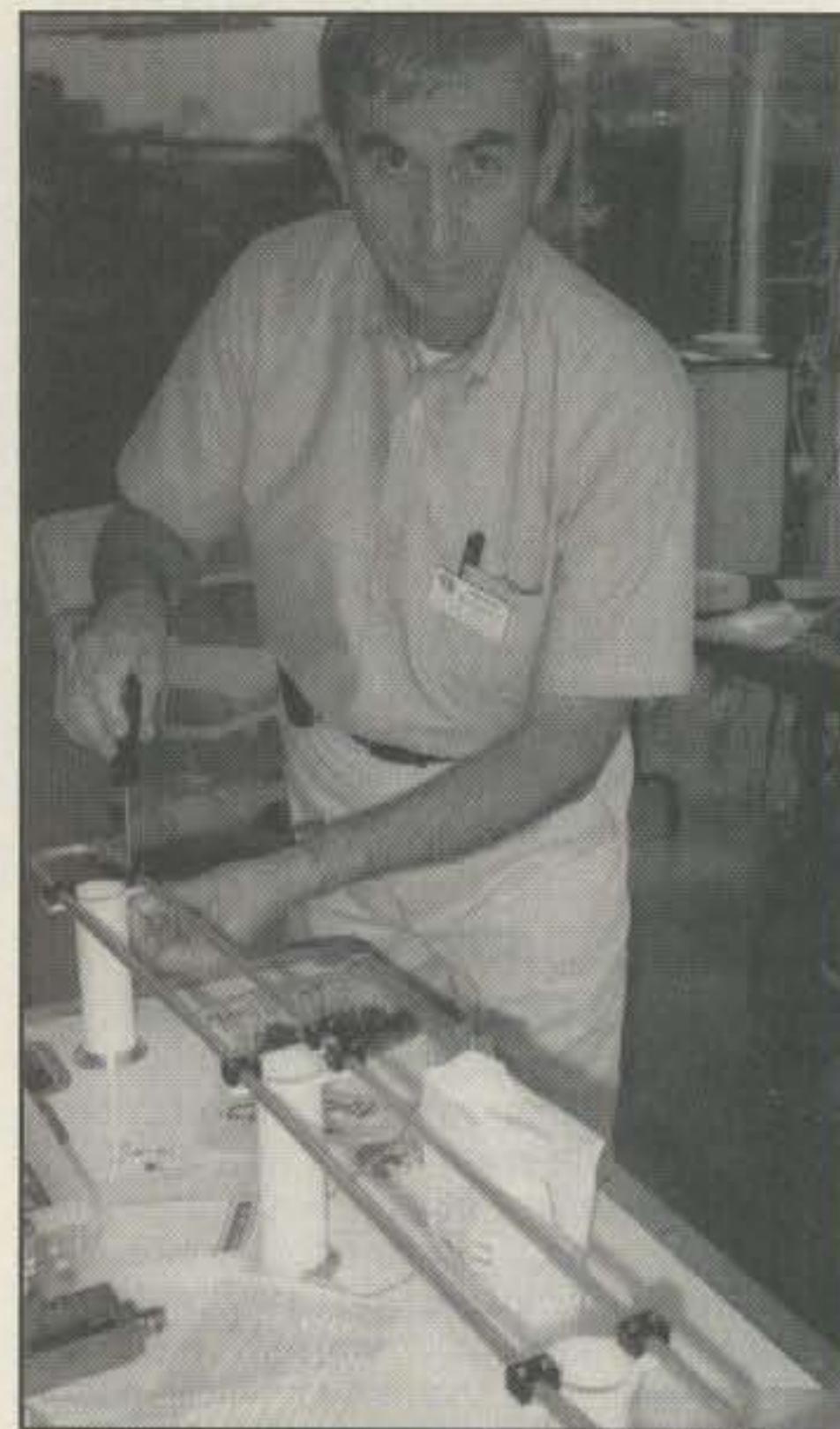
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In this photo AMSAT-NA Phase 3D Integration Laboratory Manager Lou McFadin, W5DID, rechecks the wiring and logic of the Phase 3D's Internal Housekeeping Unit just prior to activating and testing some of the satellite's installed transmitters and receivers.



Here AMSAT-NA Assistant VP of Engineering Stan Wood, WA4NFY, is shown putting the finishing touches on one of three V-band folded dipole flight antennas for Phase 3D in preparation for its installation on the spacecraft at the P3D lab in Orlando.

packet of photos showing more of the high-tech hardware details of the new satellite as it was being prepared for launch (see photos). As long as the launch was successful, or any delay is a short one, I won't mind being "OBE" at all. At least I've got my fingers crossed.

For more details on Phase 3D and other AMSAT doings, check out their revamped Web page. It contains a complete set of fact sheets about AMSAT, news releases, downloadable software, and late-breaking Phase 3D information. You'll find it at <<http://www.amsat.org>>.

For a bulletin of AMSAT software and publications and their pricing, contact AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, 850 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-589-6062).

Clocks from Canada. Two attractive, highly functional "Universal Time Clocks" (UTCs) are available from a Canadian firm, World View Time, Inc. The patented UTCs have undergone extensive research and were designed specifically by their developer, Dwight Darling, for amateur radio operators; shortwave listeners (SWLs) should also find them very useful.

The face of the UTCs is unique. It consists of a flat, circular south polar view of the Earth having all 24-hour time zones color coded on the land areas. Around the perimeter of the map are the 24-hour indicators corresponding to each time zone. Each time zone indicator is clearly labeled with a significant city from that particular zone for quick and easy reference at

a glance, and the time zone of the Greenwich meridian (UTC) is prominently highlighted. The world map face rotates under a military style time scale template, and the clock is driven by a precision quartz movement that requires a single AA battery.

The new clocks provide hands-free, easy-to-read, continuous world time at a glance. The second hand is a clear plastic disk featuring an airplane which rotates above the world map face, providing an interesting three-dimensional animated display. (It may, however, take some time to get used to the lack of conventional minute and second hands.)

The World View Time clocks are available in two different designs. One is contained in a high-quality plastic case for \$39.95 (U.S.). The other is in a very attractive walnut case for \$59.95. When ordering, include \$4 s/h (which includes import duty). Also furnish your call-sign, since each clock is personalized with your call-sign engraved on a small plaque mounted on the top of the clock case. Each clock order is accompanied by a free, 8 1/2" x 10" manual world time calculator. Visa cards, checks, or money orders are accepted.

For details, contact Dwight Darling at World View Time, Inc., P.O. Box 266, Brockville, ON Canada K6V 5V5 (613-345-1537).

Wrap-Up

That's all for this time, gang. Next time more topics of current interest. See you then.

Overheard: If there's one thing I've learned in this life it's that you're never, ever, too old to try something new.

73, Karl, W8FX



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Conn: BNC


 **NEW Z750** • Dual-band 146/446MHz w/fold-over • Includes COMET exclusive theft-resistant lock!
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 **NEW SBB-7/SBB-7NMO** • Dual-band 146/446MHz w/fold-over **NEW BLACK COLOR**
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 4.5dBi 6/8 wave • 446MHz 7.2dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • Length: 58" • Conn: SBB-7 PL-259/SBB-7NMO NMO • Max Pwr: 70W

 **NEW SBB-5/SBB-5NMO** • Dual-band 146/446MHz w/fold-over **NEW BLACK COLOR**
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 2.5dBi 1/2 wave • 446MHz 5.5dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • Length: 39" • Conn: SBB-5 PL-259/SBB-5NMO NMO • Max Pwr: 120W

 **CX-224/CX-224NMO** • Tri-band 146/220/446MHz w/fold-over
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 2.15dBi 1/2 wave • 220MHz 3.5dBi 5/8 wave • 446MHz 6.0dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • Length: 36" • Conn: CX-224 PL-259, CX-224NMO NMO • Max Pwr: 100W

 **B-20/B-20NMO** • Dual-band 146/446MHz w/fold-over
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 2.15dBi 1/2 wave • 446MHz 5.0dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • Length: 30" • Conn: B-20 PL-259/B-20NMO NMO • Max Pwr: 50W

 **SH-55** • Super Flexible 146/446MHz HT Antenna
Gain: 146MHz 1.5dBi • 446MHz 3.2dBi • Length: 15.5" • Conn: BNC • Max Pwr: 10W

 **B-10/B-10NMO** • Dual-band 146/446MHz cellular look-a-like • Gain & Wave: 146MHz 0dBi 1/4 wave • 446MHz 2.15dBi 1/2 wave • Length: 12" • Conn: B-10 PL-259/B-10NMO NMO • Max Pwr: 50W

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"Easy to operate, small, great price!"

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The foremost in top-performing, durable, dual band handhelds now includes the FT-50RD. Manufactured to rigid commercial grade standards, the FT-50RD is the only amateur dual band HT to achieve a MIL-STD 810 rating. Already a winner; the deluxe keypad makes this stand-out HT even better! Water-resistant construction uses weather-proof gaskets to seal major internal components against the corrosive action of dust and moisture. And, the rugged FT-50RD withstands shock and vibration, so throw it in with your gear!

Exclusive features set the FT-50RD apart, too. Wide Band Receive includes 76-200 MHz (VHF), 300-540 (UHF), and 590-999 MHz*. Dual Watch checks sub-band activity while receiving on another frequency, then when a signal is detected, shifts operation to

that frequency. Digital Battery Voltage displays current operating battery voltage. Digital Coded Squelch (DCS) silently monitors busy channels. Auto Range Transpond System™ (ARTS™) uses DCS to allow two radios to track one another. And, the FT-50RD is ADMS-1C Windows™ PC programming compatible, too. To round out the FT-50RD, it has four battery savers, and super loud audio—remarkable in an HT this size.

A reliable companion where ever you go, the FT-50RD is one tough little dual bander with all the features you want!

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100W of adjustable power output on all amateur bands from 160 through 6 meters, the FT-920 uses rugged, low-distortion MOS FET final amplifier transistors. SSB, CW, AM (25W carrier), AFSK, and FSK are built in, with FM, optional.

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FT-1000MP

This HF standout features a high-intercept front end design, EDSP, and built-in Collins SSB Mechanical Filter

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Phase 3-D Satellite Launch Delayed

On July 25 at the Central States VHF Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, AMSAT President Bill Tynan, W3XO, announced that the launch of amateur radio's latest satellite, Phase 3-D, would be delayed indefinitely. He then read portions of the following press release.

"Phase 3-D Launch Update: On Wednesday July 16 a meeting was held in Marburg, Germany between Dr. Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, the Phase 3-D Project Leader and AMSAT-DL President; Werner Haas, DJ5KQ, AMSAT-DL Vice President; and officials of the European Space Agency (ESA). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the launch schedule for Ariane 502, on which the Phase 3-D spacecraft is to fly. At this meeting, the ESA officials reiterated their intent to launch A-502 at the end of September and said that the launch campaign for this flight has already begun. They stated that as part of this launch campaign the Phase 3-D spacecraft must arrive in Kourou by August 10th.

"Earlier ESA had informed AMSAT that following analysis of data from the Ariane 501 flight, they had significantly increased their estimates for the acceleration and vibration environments which spacecraft riding on Ariane 502 are expected to encounter. As a result of this new information, AMSAT has been re-evaluating the structural capabilities of the Phase 3-D spaceframe. As a part of this effort, an independent structural engineer was brought in to review the spacecraft's design and construction. His conclusions were recently presented to Dr. Meinzer and AMSAT-NA people. His report stated that in order to be confident of surviving these increased launch environments, a number of modifications must be made to the spacecraft. Since that report was presented, substantial effort has been taking place at the Phase 3-D Integration Laboratory in Orlando, Florida to manufacture and install the recommended structural parts necessary to increase the spacecraft's vibration and acceleration capability.

"At the Marburg meeting Dr. Meinzer made it clear to the ESA officials that this work, made necessary by ESA's new environmental information, would prevent AMSAT from delivering the spacecraft to Kourou by the specified August 10th date. Thus, it was the conclusion of the meeting that as a result of these ESA specification changes, the Phase 3-D schedule and that of ESA for Ariane 502 are not compatible. Thus, unless, something changes, which ESA does not presently contemplate, Phase 3-D will not be able to be launched on Ariane 502. Furthermore, in order to maintain the planned mass characteristics of the Ariane 502 vehicle, AMSAT must supply a mass simulator representing the Phase 3-D spacecraft

VHF PLUS CALENDAR

Oct. 1	New Moon and apogee.
Oct. 3-5	West Coast Weak Signal Society VHF Conference (see last month).
Oct. 4	Mid Atlantic VHF Conference (see last month's column).
Oct. 5	Poor EME conditions.
Oct. 8	Lowest Moon declination.
Oct. 9	First quarter Moon.
Oct. 12	Poor to moderate EME conditions.
Oct. 16	Full Moon and perigee.
Oct. 18-19	First weekend of ARRL EME Contest.
Oct. 19	Moderate EME conditions.
Oct. 21	Highest Moon Declination. <i>Orionids</i> predicted peak.
Oct. 22	Last quarter Moon.
Oct. 23-25	Microwave Update, Sandusky, Ohio.
Oct. 26	Moderate to good EME conditions.
Oct. 29	Moon apogee.
Oct. 31	New Moon.

to be sent aloft on the flight. This must be in Kourou by September 5th.

"Despite this very bad news, Dr. Meinzer and other AMSAT officials expressed some degree of confidence the Phase 3-D may yet fly on Ariane 502. They based this on a number of activities taking place in the preparation of the launch vehicle that, they believe, could cause a slip in the currently published ESA schedule. The ESA officials attending the Marburg meeting said that if a slip should occur, which they do not currently contemplate, which results in the two schedules again becoming compatible, efforts would be made to substitute the Phase 3-D spacecraft for the mass simulator. Therefore, AMSAT is continuing in the work of com-



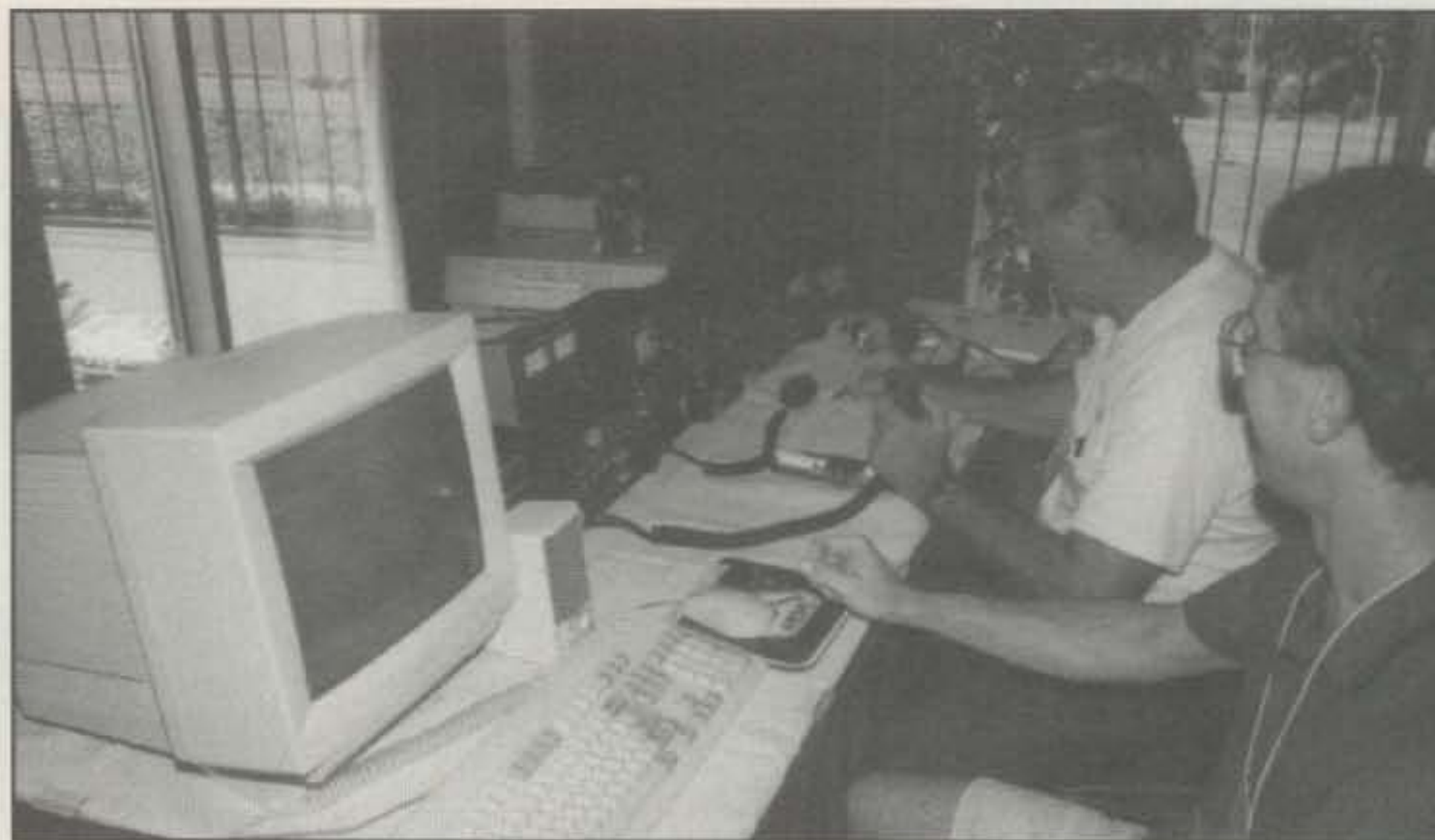
During one of the many forums at the 1997 Central States VHF Society Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Al Ward, WB5LUA, holds a two-band microwave feedhorn made from a soup can and a coffee.

pleting the necessary structural modifications to the spacecraft and conducting environmental testing.

"Keep tuned to AMSAT News Service for developments as they become available."

Shooting the Moon Amateur Radio Style

During the month of October there is an annual renewal of interest in moonbounce, or Earth-Moon-Earth (EME), communication. Although EME has been around since World War II, successful day-to-day amateur radio communication using this mode is relatively new. The first complete amateur two-way EME communica-



CQ OSCAR. Richard Raitt, WA5VKS (background), and Jon Jones, NØJK (foreground), work a pass of the AO-27 satellite from the AMSAT demonstration station at the Central States Conference.

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tions didn't occur until 1960, and it wasn't until the advent of the United States higher power limit of 1500 watts output and the arrival of GaAsFET preamps in the 1980s that EME communication became more popular.

Among the VHF/UHF bands 144 MHz is the most popular for EME communication. Although EME communication has been successful on 50 MHz, the size of the antenna arrays and background sky noise restrictions remain barriers for all but the most serious operators on that band. The higher the frequency, the higher the path loss; therefore, more elaborate arrays and power close to the legal maximum are required for successful EME work above 144 MHz. Accordingly, most operators start on 144 MHz, and if they find EME is for them, they try the higher frequencies later.

To gather information on this aspect of VHF+DXing I talked to five 144 MHz EME communication experts: Lance Collister, WA1JXN; Bev Cavender, W4ZD; San Hutson, K5YY; John Carter, KØIFL; and the dean of 2 meter EME, Dave Blaschke, W5UN. What follows is a compilation of their thoughts about EME communication on 2 meters.

Several factors affect EME communication. These include libration fading, tremendous path loss, noise (both Sun and background sky), Faraday rotation, and spatial polarization.

Because the Earth and the Moon wobble along in their orbits, signals emitted from Earth stations hit a target area on the Moon, rather than a bull's eye. Also, because the Moon's surface is very irregular, the reflected signal takes on that irregular shape. The signal that comes over your radio is a bit like what you see when you bob up and down while watching your image in a funhouse mirror at a carnival. The combined effects of the wobbling orbits and irregularly shaped signals cause fading and a certain amount of Doppler shift between stations attempting communications. This is called *libration fading*. When operating on 2 meters, you'll experience longer term peaks and valleys, where portions of a callsign will be heard clearly, followed by very weak signals. While these effects aren't nearly as pronounced on 144 MHz, the effect on 1296 MHz may be as high as 20 dB fading and 10 Hz frequency shift.

The Moon is located over 221,000 miles from Earth at perigee (the closest point to Earth) and over 252,000 miles from Earth at apogee (the farthest point from the Earth). Due to the shape of the Moon, only about 7 percent of the signal that strikes it is reflected. The remaining 93 percent is absorbed and lost for communication. The path loss is directly proportional to the frequency of operation; that is, the higher the frequency, the higher the path loss. Therefore, the path loss is around 252 dB at perigee and 254 dB at apogee on 144 MHz. For the low power station, the 2 dB difference between perigee and apogee may be just enough for a successful QSO.

Noise, caused by the Sun and the background sky, inhibits your ability to receive weak signals. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, communications generally aren't favorable the day of a new moon (you won't be able to see the Moon with the naked eye, except in an eclipse) or at times when the Moon is farther south in the sky. Communications are less favorable during times when the Moon lies more to the south, not only because of increased background sky noise caused by constellations in the southern sky, but also, Dave



Marc Thorsen, WBØTEM, records the gain measurement of a 432 MHz Yagi built by Ron Marosko, Sr., K5LLL (looking on in foreground), and his son, Ron, Jr., KK5DK (not pictured), in a homebrew Yagi contest at the Central States VHF Conference.

says, because of convention. The higher latitude European stations see less of the Moon when it's farther south; consequently, they don't get on the air. The most ideal time of the month, for northern hemisphere stations, tends to be when the Moon has finished its most northerly declination and is moving southward in the sky.

Faraday rotation is the polarization rotation of a signal due to the influence of the Earth's ionosphere on that signal. Some say this is the result of the effect of the Earth's magnetic field on the signal as it passes through the ionosphere. (Dave has noticed some correlation between what happens with Faraday rotation and what happens on HF propagation. It remains one of the mysteries of EME communication and deserves further study.) Faraday rotation affects the signal by causing it to go through a deep cyclical fade. This cycle changes in period, from shorter to longer, as the frequency is increased. It is estimated to have a period of approximately 20 minutes on 144 MHz. Dave says the cycle is more pronounced on some days than on others. QSO schedules are set up to accommodate this period. These schedules last typically for one-half hour to one hour on 144 MHz, with one hour for casual schedules and one-half hour for contest schedules. Although some contest QSOs operate on schedules (particularly low power stations wanting to work high power stations), most contacts are random.

Spatial polarization simply means that two stations at different locations on the Earth are aiming antennas fixed in the (horizontal or vertical) plane at the Moon. Using the mirror analogy again, if you were to look at something at an angle with a mirror, depending on how your head is tilted, that object may appear right side

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John Cress, KØGCJ, holds up a 2.3 GHz dish at the Central States antenna range, while Kent Britain, WA5VJB, bends over to read the gain measurement — +20 dBd.

up, at an angle, or upside down. If one of the stations has the ability to rotate the antennas through the plane between horizontal and vertical, some of the effects of spatial polarization can be overcome. However, rotating several antennas through this plane simultaneously, while maintaining phasing relationships between each antenna, becomes a bit of a

mechanical nightmare. Therefore, spatial rotation is often overcome by brute force. Adding more and more elements to an antenna array helps reduce the effects by increasing the array's dB gain. Also, Dave notes that Faraday rotation has a tendency to overcome spatial polarization during at least part of the scheduled period for a QSO on 2 meters.

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There are two other points to keep in mind concerning EME communication. First, on moonrise you'll experience Doppler shift of between 300 and 500 Hz above your frequency. On moonset the Doppler shift will be 300 to 500 Hz below your frequency. When the Moon is overhead, there is no Doppler shift. Those of you who have worked the satellites are familiar with the effects of Doppler shift and keep your hand on the tuning knob. Second, if you are able to hear your echoes, be prepared for a 2.3 to 2.7 second delay. That Moon is a long way off, and it takes time for your signal to get there and back.

CW is the preferred mode of communication on EME. It's the most reliable mode due to the weakness of the signal. The transmission is at a rate between 10 and 15 wpm. Slower CW can break up as a result of fading and fluttering, while letters transmitted using faster CW tend to disappear.

EME communication is similar to meteor scatter in one sense: Both are dealing with weak and irregular signals. Therefore, as with meteor scatter, EME communication has a protocol. However, because of the nature of the EME signal, the procedure is very different from the protocol used for meteor scatter.

The preferred frequency of operation for schedules is above 144.030 MHz. The preferred frequency of operation for random QSOs is between 144.000 and 144.030 MHz. If signals are loud enough to sustain SSB QSOs, the preferred frequency is around 144.150 and up.

There are some nets you can listen to for information on conditions and schedules. One net coordinates 144 MHz EME communication. It's hosted by VE7BQH and meets every Saturday and Sunday on 14.345 MHz at 1700 UTC, or as soon as the 432 MHz net is finished. Every Monday at 0230 UTC (Sunday evening local time) at 3.818 MHz (plus or minus QRM), a VHF/UHF clearinghouse net meets to exchange information and set skeds. At 0130 UTC Tuesday (Monday evening local time) another VHF/UHF clearinghouse net meets on 3.843 MHz for the same purpose.

Now let's look at a sample QSO. A sked is set between DL8DAT in Germany and N6CW in San Diego. The QSO is scheduled to last an hour and will start at 0000 UTC. The eastern station (relative to its position on Earth) transmits first. In this case it's DL8DAT. The transmission will last for two minutes. DL8DAT will send the receiving station's call followed by his own as follows: N6CW de DL8DAT, N6CW de DL8DAT, etc. At 0002 UTC N6CW begins an identical routine, sending DL8DAT de N6CW, DL8DAT de N6CW, etc. The two amateurs transmit back and forth every two minutes, until one station hears the other sending complete callsigns.

Once the receiving station copies complete callsigns, he starts the next phase of the sequence. He sends callsigns, as before, for the first 90 seconds of the two minute sequence. But during the last 30 seconds, he adds a signal report—the letter "O."

The signal report was once either a "T," an "M," or an "O." A "T" meant that the callsigns were just barely detectable. An "M" meant that portions of a call were copied. An "O" meant that complete callsigns were received. However, because the receiving station is looking for complete callsigns, any other report would be a waste of time in completion of the QSO. As a result, the signal report convention has evolved into the letter "O."

Let's assume that N6CW was successful in



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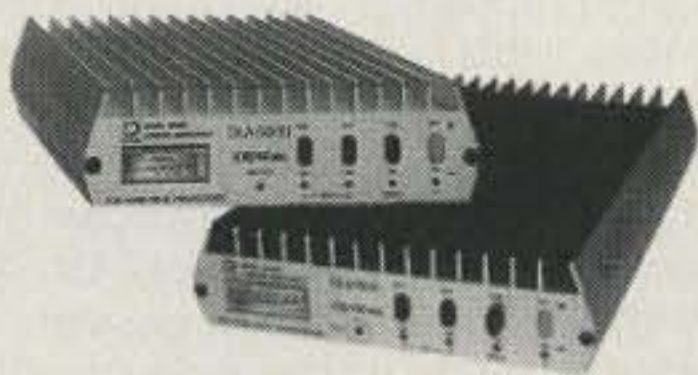
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Steve Kostro, N2CEI, of Down East Microwave, builds a WB5LUA-designed low-noise 2.4 GHz pre-amp. Steve built the amp on Friday afternoon, tested it at the noise-figure measurement session Friday night, and gave it away as a banquet prize on Saturday.

copying the callsigns and has initiated the second phase of the protocol. It's now up to DL8DAT to hear the signal report portion of the QSO (assuming he's already heard the complete callsign exchange). Once he hears the signal report, he sends "RO" throughout his entire two minute time period. This tells N6CW that DL8DAT has heard the signal report (the "R") and is sending a signal report of his own (the "O"). If his country requires him to sign his callsign at the end of every transmission, he sends N6CW de DL8DAT once at the end of the two minutes. Otherwise, no callsigns are sent.

When N6CW finally hears "RO," he sends only the letter "R" during his next two minute transmission. When DL8DAT finally hears the "R," he sends "73" or "73/SK" during his next two minute session—followed by complete callsigns at the end of the transmission (to comply with government rules pertaining to station identification). The QSO is considered complete when DL8DAT hears the "R" sent by N6CW. The honor system comes into effect here, because you are the only one who knows what you heard.

EME and QRP: What does it take to get "on the Moon"? San Hutson, K5YY, was able to complete his WAS, work 32 countries, and add to his grid locator total by spending just \$200 more than his initial outlay for his 2 meter station. He has an excellent write-up in the 1990 Central States VHF Society *Proceedings* (available from the ARRL for \$12, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling).

Ray Soifer, W2RS, has made over 20 contacts running only 150 watts and a single Cushcraft long-boom beam. He presented a very informative paper entitled "QRP EME on 144 MHz: How and Why" at the 1992 Central States VHF Society conference. His paper is part of the *Proceedings* for that year, which is also available from the League for \$12, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Both Soifer and Hutson's write-ups unlock some of the mystique of EME operation for the "little guy."

EME on Other VHF+ Frequencies: While EME has taken place on 135 cm, uncertainty has caused interest to wane in recent years.

Now, however, because of the FCC regulations that set aside a portion of the band for weak-signal (in the FCC's words, experimental) work, interest is picking up again. It remains to be seen, however, just how popular EME communications on that 135 cm will become.

Seventy cm is perhaps the second most popular band for EME work. It is both easier and harder to get on this band than on 2 meters. Assembling the right antenna array is one of the easier tasks. Steve Powlishe, K1FO, in the second part of his two-part article (Steve Powlishe, K1FO, "432-MHz EME 1990s Style, Part 2," *Communications Quarterly*, Fall 1991, pages 33-48. Part 1 can be found in the Premier Issue of *Communications Quarterly*, pages 29-39.) reported that a four-antenna array for 70 cm is typically 5 feet by 6 1/2 feet, whereas a typical array for 2 meters is 10 feet by 13 1/2 feet. Also, because of the higher frequency the 70 cm antennas are much shorter for the same number of elements.

Signal propagation is also a bit easier on 70 cm. While it still takes high power to make it to the Moon, factors described for 2 meters—such as Faraday rotation and sky noise—have far less influence on 70 cm. Here again the antenna becomes a consideration. Because the array used for this band is smaller, it's more practical to design polarization rotation into the antenna. This will help overcome Faraday rotation and correct for cross-polarization problems encountered when working a distant station.

As I said, however, there are some barriers to working 70 cm. While transceivers are available for this band, serious EME operators generally opt for transverters and sophisticated HF radios. Also, while the antenna construction is easier, feeding it is not. Because of feedline losses found in coaxial cables, hardline is often used. Also, you must use the correct low-loss splitters for feeding multiple Yagis in the array.

While there is some EME activity on 33 cm, the next most popular band is 23 cm. Here the antenna of choice is the dish. With a circularly polarized feed, antenna cross polarization and Faraday rotation almost become imperceptible. Additionally, sky noise is even less of a factor on this band than it is on 70 cm.

Above 23 cm most EME is experimental. Only a few operators operate regularly on 13 cm; fewer still operate on 9, 5, or 3 cm. While conditions are such that Faraday rotation and sky noise cease to be problems, other challenges crop up. Equipment availability is the chief difficulty. Learning how to operate with Doppler shift that takes place over tens of kiloHertz is another. If you're interested in pursuing these higher bands, you need to work with the experts. Paul Wilson, W4HHK, has one of the best stations in the U.S. on 13 cm. Jim Vogler, WA7CJO, is the leader on 23 cm.

It's important to note that sequencing on these higher frequencies is a bit different. Rather than lasting 2 minutes, your transmissions will be 2 1/2 minutes long. The last half minute is reserved for signal reports or nothing, depending on what you've heard from the other station.

Signal reports are also different. While the letters T, M, and O are the same, their meanings are a bit different. T means "I can hear something," M means "I have picked up fragments of callsigns," and O means "I have copied complete callsigns." While an M is sufficient on 2 meters, an O is required on 135 cm and above.

This said, there is an exception to these differing procedures. Operators on 135 cm tend

to use either the 2 meter or the 70 cm routines—depending on their background. Those who have operated more on 2 meter EME tend to stick with that method, while those who operate on 70 cm prefer that method. Consequently, when you set a sked on 135 cm, make sure that you and the other operator agree on the method of sequencing.

Current Contest

The first weekend of the ARRL annual EME contest is scheduled for 18–19 October. The contest period is the entire 48 hour period, beginning at 0000 UTC. The object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible "off the moon." Categories include single operator, single band, single operator, multi-band, multi-operator, and commercial equipment. Each contact counts as 100 points. Multipliers include each U.S. and Canadian call district and each DXCC country worked. Conditions are expected to be moderate during the contest weekend. Complete rules are in the September issue of *QST*. They also can be found on their web site at <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/97/eme.html>>.

Current Meteor Showers

According to the OH5IY meteor shower prediction software, the *Orionids* is predicted to peak around 21 October at approximately 0800 UTC. A characteristic of this shower is that it has several smaller peaks both before and after the main spike. The second major peak is expected about four days after the main peak. At

peak the zenith hourly rate (ZHR, the number of predicted meteors falling per hour) is predicted to be around 25. Look for activity associated with this shower for approximately 16 days beginning a week before the main peak.

Current Conference

1997 Microwave Update: The following is excerpted from the home page of Tom Whitted, WA8WZG: Hosted by Tom Whitted, WA8WZG, the 1997 Microwave Update will be October 23 to October 26, 1997 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Sandusky, Ohio (419-626-6671). Events include tours of A.R.E. Surplus in Findlay, Ohio; Fair Radio in Lima, Ohio; and CTR Surplus in Crestline, Ohio. Friday and Saturday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM will be Conference proceedings with speakers such as N1BWT, WA1MBA, WB5LUA, W5ZN, NJ2L, N6TX, N2CEI, WA5VJB, K9LNV, WB2VVV, K2DH, VE4MA, N6TX (SETI), KB8OIU, AB4CR, and more to come. Friday night will feature noise figure measurements and microwave flea market. (Ladies program will be offered.) Saturday night has scheduled a barbecue (ladies included) and EME demonstration at the QTH of WA8WZG, plus setup in building for more flea market "goodies." Sunday wraps up the conference and possibly includes a tour of the W8JK "Big Ear" at Ohio State University.

Tom will continue to update this page as more information becomes available. If you haven't registered for Update in the last two years, e-mail Tom with your correct mailing address so your packet can be sent.

If you register before October 2 the fee is

\$40; October 2 it is \$45. The fee includes one copy of the proceedings. Each additional copy is \$10. Saturday night dinner is \$18. For hotel reservation information call the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio at 419-626-6671 and mention that you are part of the Microwave Update Conference. For more information on what the area has to offer, contact the Sandusky/Erie County Visitor's Bureau at 1-800-255-ERIE, or check out their web page at <<http://www.buckeyenorth.com>>. A ladies program will also be offered.

For more info, or if anyone would like to be a speaker or write an article for the proceedings, contact Tom Whitted, 4641 Port Clinton East Rd., Port Clinton, OH 43452 (phone 419-732-2944; e-mail <wa8wzg@wa8wzg.com>).

And Finally . . .

You might want to check out the Moon this month. There are a few interesting events. Perigee and the full Moon are on the same day. There are two apogee dates, with the first being the same as the new moon. Finally, the ARRL EME contest is the middle of the month. If you are into Participation Pins, then you only have to work one person "off the moon" to earn one. Good luck!

Thanks again for all of your support for this, your column. I am back in school (hopefully for my last year). Therefore, time has once again become a premium. Nevertheless, I do enjoy writing about you and your accomplishments here. If you have input for this column, please let me hear from you. Until next month . . .

73, Joe, N6CL

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WORLD OF IDEAS

A LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND US

Goodies, Notes, and Ideas Galore!

So many fascinating goodies, ideas, and news items have surfaced during the last few months that even squeezing brief "update notes" into opening paragraphs of each month's column has become almost impossible. Rather than shifting all that terrific information forward until next time, this month's column features a collection of tidbits on a variety of subjects. I'm sure you will find our notes interesting and informative. Just watch out for whiplash between subjects!

Many of our notes are QRP related, but interest in QRP is growing by leaps and bounds. Why? Buying new models of big rigs can be rough on downsized wallets, wrestling high-power amplifiers into the shack is tough on the old back, and setting up large antennas in restricted neighborhoods strains the nerves. QRPers, however, are having a ball using inexpensive rigs, low-profile antennas, and accessories of all types (no TVI, either). Yes, and QRP circuit designs are getting more exciting every day. Variactor tuning is a good example of that fact. Modern concepts use a ten cent diode and fifty cent inductor in series with a crystal to yield a wide VXO tuning range with rock-solid stability. Using a potentiometer rather than a capacitor for frequency selection also permits laying out a front panel in any desired arrangement. Furthermore, we can add a switch and a second pot for "dual VFOs" (or three or four pots for triple or quadruple VFOs) or switch in span-limiting resistors for more bandwidth. The possibilities are endless. If we only had known of tricks such as this during our old Novice days!

Homebrewing and/or using the "hot rig of the day" (QRP Plus, 38 Special, SST, etc.) is another delightful treat. And building QRP rigs is like eating potato chips: It's difficult to stop with just one. There is always one more transceiver, tuner, or keyer we must add to our collection. Why not? All of it combined is a mere pittance compared to "super stations"!

Do QRPers really have more fun? Try it and then decide! Pardon the soapboxing, though. We have quite a bit of ground to cover and a limited amount of column space, so let's get started!

Mini-Rig Tips

First, thanks to everyone for making the 4941 Scenic View Dr., Birmingham, AL 35210

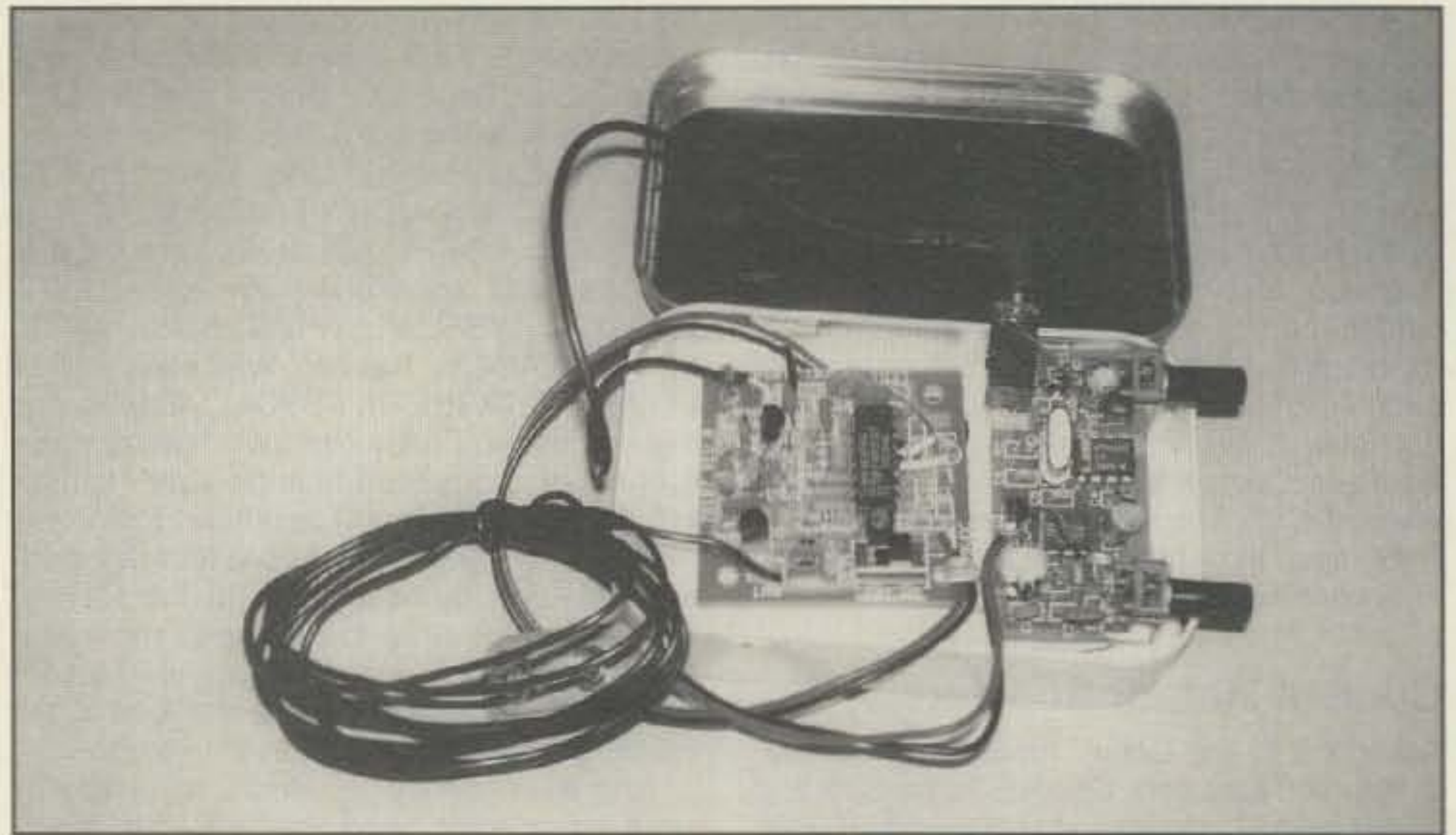


Photo A— Another Altoids tin to the rescue! This one will house K8IDN's miniature two-chipper receiver (right) and Ten-Tec's "Foxhunt" wireless FM transmitter module (left). The combo works well for monitoring amateur band activities on a regular FM radio in the home or car. (More details in text.)

tiny two-chipper receiver kit (available from Steve Bornstein, K8IDN) and my Micronaut transmitter kit (available from me, K4TWJ) so popular. The pair are now in shacks nationwide and on all continents! Full details on these mini-rigs, incidentally, were in our August column.

Want to have some real fun with the pair? Try these ideas. Squeeze them into a miniature "boom box" radio's cabinet to make a novel 9 volt powered "beach rig." Connect the Two Chipper's audio output across the (boom box's) volume control (a classic old trick, but it still works great),



Photo B— Check out this collection of goodies, gang. The 38 Special transceiver kit, San Luis custom enclosure, internal Tick keyer, and miniature Paddlette yield a complete QRP station for less than \$100. Even Monte Hall would appreciate a deal like that one!

and presto—room-filling audio! Add an off-board tuning pot to the "chipper," mount it in place of the boom box's variable capacitor, and you have a neat rig-to-go. Are gray boom-box type enclosures too bland and generic for your taste? Check out some of the terrific looking '30s and '40s replica radios that surface in variety stores this time of year. A amateur radio rig in a cathedral or kitchen radio cabinet is nostalgic class at its best. (If we had only saved those dear little Arvins, Emersons, and Fadas!)

Another idea: Connect the two chipper's audio output to a modified Foxhunt Transmitter Kit available from Ten-Tec, and then tune in band activity using a Walkman™ or any FM radio in or around the house (photo A). Slip the combo into your car, let them play through the car radio, and you have instant "surround sound" for mobiling. Details on modifying the low-cost Ten-Tec kit, incidentally, will appear in November *CQ VHF* magazine's "Project Corner." Watch for it! Now on to the next subject.

Have you noticed all the 38 Specials that are appearing on 30 meters recently? This 5 watt transceiver has become one of the hottest little rigs on the air today, and its popularity continues to expand. Indeed, over three-thousand 38 Special kits have been sold, and the count is still rising. Considering \$25 for the basic kit, another \$25 for a snazzy custom enclo-

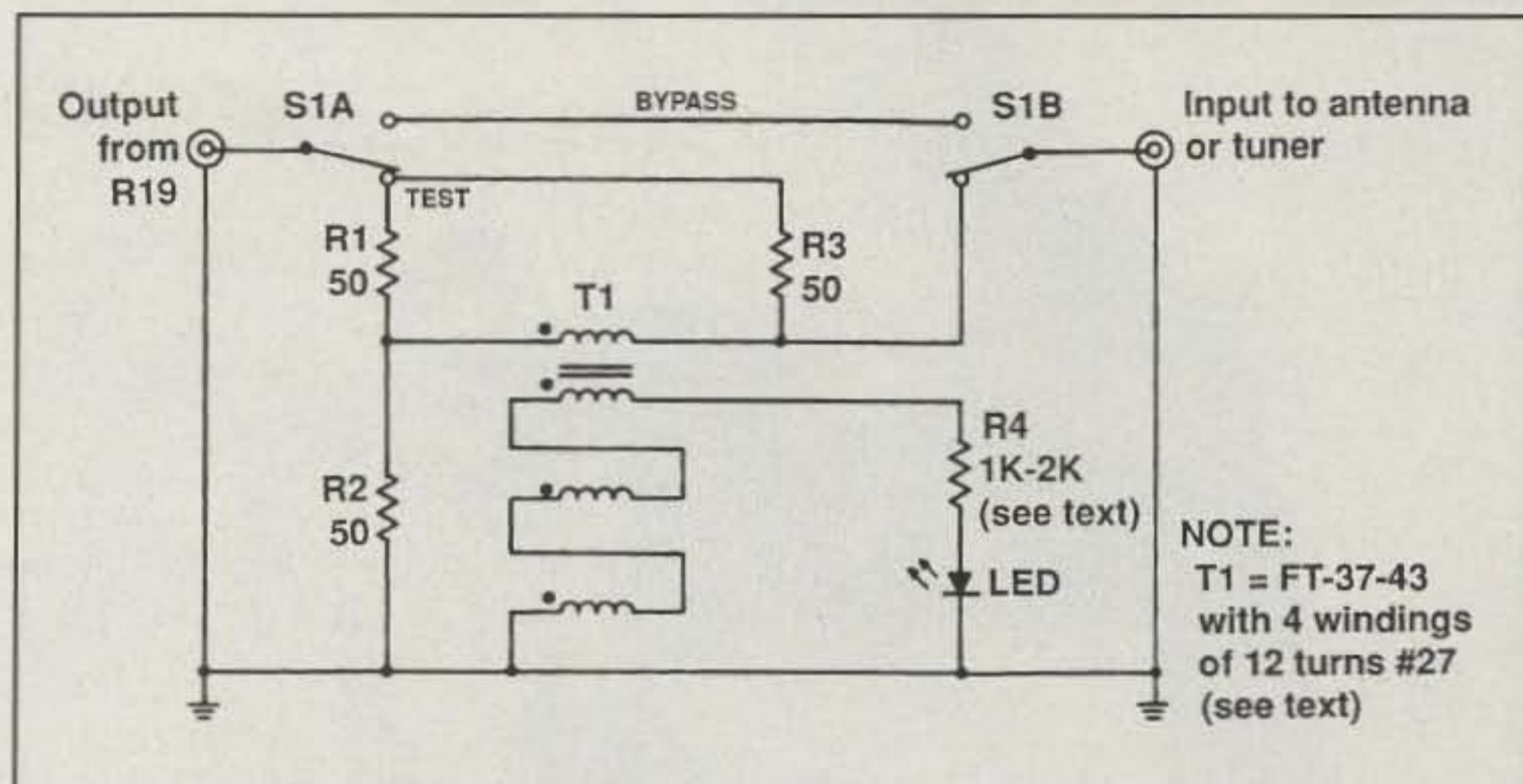


Fig. 1—Circuit diagram of N7VE's single LED SWR indicator. Pocket-size unit is good for home, portable, and mobile use. (Details in text.)

sure, \$5 for an optional Tick Keyer chip, and \$38 for a miniature Paddlette, a complete and hot "station of the year" such as the one shown in photo B can be yours for less than 100 smackers. Check last month's column for full details of the 38 Special *et al*, and join the fun of QRP "modern style"!

N7VE's One LED SWR Indicator

Next we have details on another quick-brew delight that could not be squeezed

into last month's column: N7VE's single QRP level SWR checker. Impossible, you say? Nope! It really works, and the parts count is so low that you can probably "embed" one right in your favorite QRP rig's case. Let's start with some background notes.

Dan Tayloe, N7VE, is a member of the Arizona ScQRPion QRP Club. He therefore named this "meterless meter" the ScQRPion Visual SWR Indicator. Details herein are condensed, but complete enough to homebrew one pronto. The

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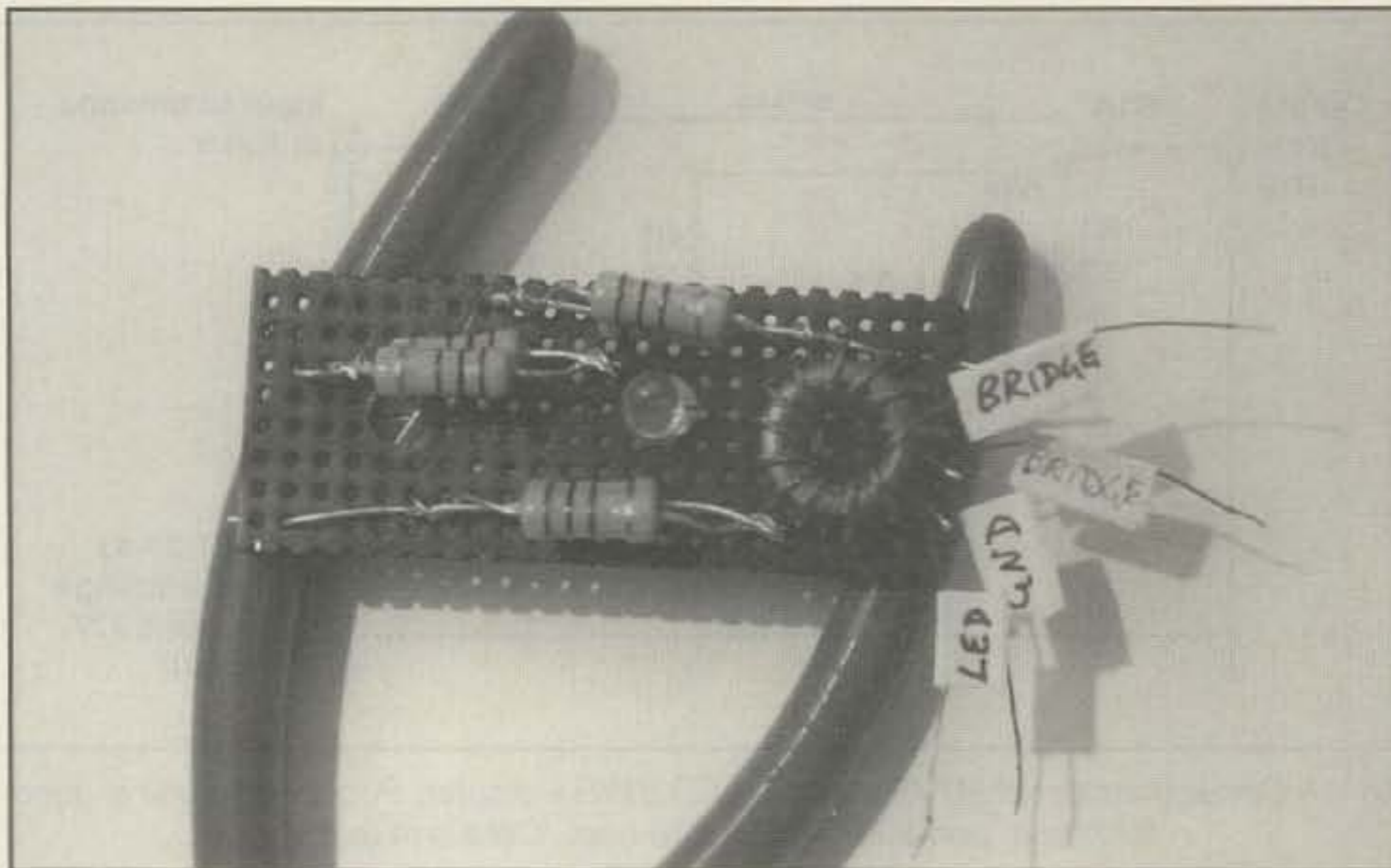


Photo C—“During assembly” photo of my single LED SWR indicator. Note wiring guides on toroid (and pretinned wire ends) for no-miss assembly. Although barely apparent in this direct top view, R1, R2, and R3 are each two resistors stacked atop each other.

former is zero and the LED does not light. If (and when) SWR rises, the LED's brightness increases accordingly. As a typical in-use example, the LED “fully extinguished” or “off” range is 45 to 55 ohms for 5 watts of power, 42 to 58 ohms for 2 watts of applied power, and 40 to 63 ohms for one watt of power. This concept may seem unusual or crude, but once you reference LED brightness to readings on a known, dependable SWR meter, it is surprisingly accurate and very easy to use. Furthermore, this Visual SWR Indicator is a super-handy pocket aid for tweaking a tuner or verifying that antennas used daily still exhibit a low SWR. There are a couple of minor drawbacks, however. First, the bridge absorbs approximately half of a rig's output and must be switched out of the line or disconnected after checking the SWR. Second, it works only at QRP levels of 1 to 5 watts. Lower power will not produce enough voltage to light the LED until the SWR is high (exactly how bright depends on power and SWR), and higher power will overload the LED plus burn out the bridge's resistors.

item's full story appeared in the North California (NorCal) “QRPP” newsletter/magazine for Spring 1997 (a great QRP magazine; see last month's column for more details on QRPP and NorCal).

The SWR indicator's circuit diagram is shown in fig. 1, and technical details plus assembly notes follow. First, notice this is

a resistive bridge with an antenna or tuner making up one leg of the bridge. A toroidal step-up transformer samples voltage due to an impedance mismatch (the antenna's SWR) and uses it to drive/illuminate an LED. When the bridge is balanced (when the antenna or load is 50 ohms and the SWR is 1:1), voltage across the trans-

Now pay close attention to the following discussion, gang. R1, R2, and R3 are each 50 ohm carbon resistors capable of handling half of your rig's output power (in watts). The resistors must be non-inductive (carbon composition, not wire wound) and exactly 50 ohms, or bridge accuracy

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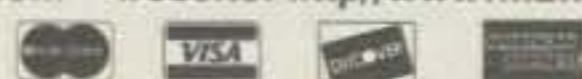
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Now imagine M² extreme performance at the end of YOUR feedline...that's not too exotic, is it?

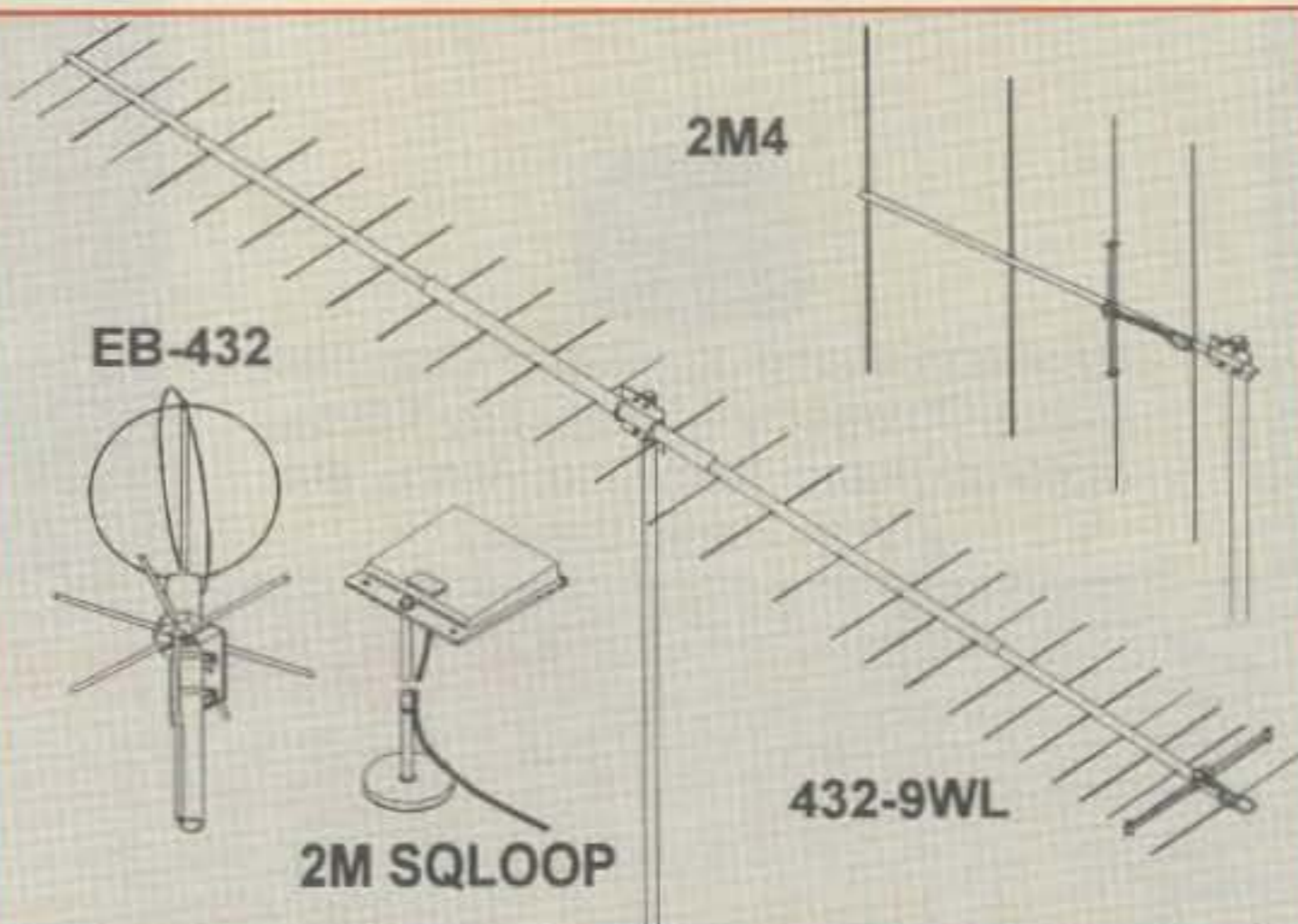




Photo D—Alinco's new micro-miniature, QRP-priced DJ-C1 two meter FM handheld. Unit is only three charge cards thick!

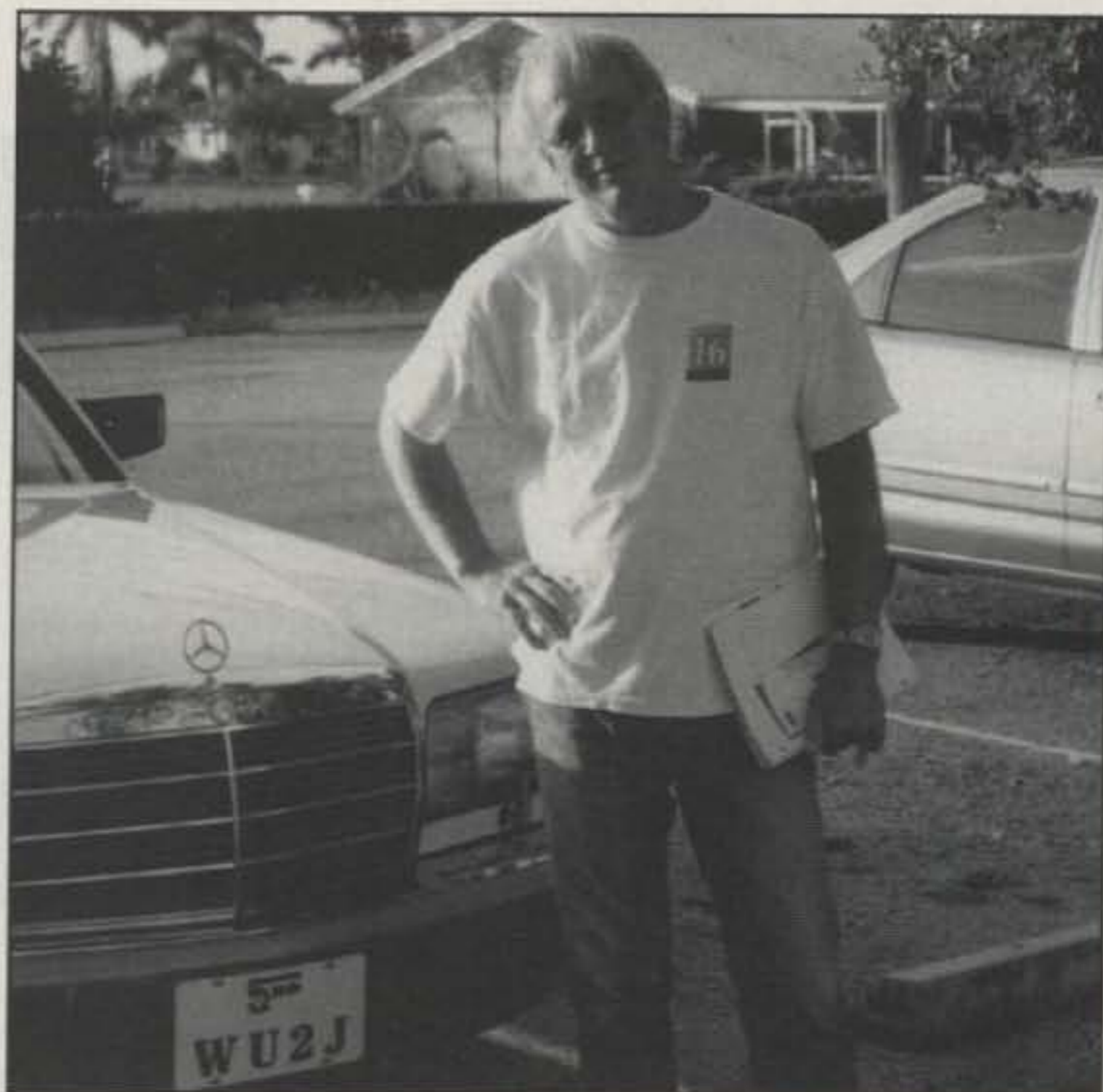


Photo E—Original "Sucrets rig" designer Byron Weaver, WU2J, has been discovered living in Florida and still actively involved in QRP. Don't throw out those old Sucrets tins. Send them to Byron as inspiration for more mini projects!

will be sacrificed. Dan wired four 200 ohm 1/4 watt resistors in parallel to "make" each of the 50 ohm resistors (R1, R2, and R3) and get one watt of power dissipation. Since resistor wattage can be "pushed" to double normal rating, Dan's bridge can handle 2 watts of power continuously, or 4 watts intermittently. I wired two 100 ohm 1 watt resistors in parallel to "make" R1, R2, and R3 and get a power handling ability of 4 watts continuous key down or up to 8 watts intermittently. I could have "squeezed by" using single 50 ohm 1 watt resistors for R1, R2, and R3, holding the key down only long enough to view the LED, but the closest available value (47 ohms) would make the LED indicator an LED "guesstimator." Get the idea?

The toroidal core (T1) is an FT-37-43 with four windings, three of which are connected in series to produce a 1:3 voltage step-up transformer. The coils are challenging to wind, but there is good news, gang: Dan will supply readers with pre-wound, ready-to-install toroids for \$3 each. Just send your request to Dan Tayloe, N7VE, 14240 S. Seventh Street, Phoenix, AZ 85048. I left marker tabs on mine and shot a "right before soldering" photo so you can see how neat Dan's toroids are (photo C). As an alternative, you might try "rolling your own" transformer by winding 36 turns of No. 28 wire on an FT-37-43 for the LED and then winding 12 turns over it for the bridge. Do not substitute a regular FT-50-2 or FT-37-6 for the FT-37-43 core, however; their inductance

is too low for this "transformer application."

Now two quick final notes. Use a clear LED for greatest visibility when barely lit, and try increasing the LED resistor (R4) if your lowest SWR is 1.15, 1.20, or 1.25 to 1 rather than exactly 1 to 1. I found 1700 ohms perfect for extinguishing the LED at 1.2:1 with 5 watts output. N7VE's one LED indicator is a treat. Build one! You're sure to like it.

New Micro-Miniature Alinco Talkie

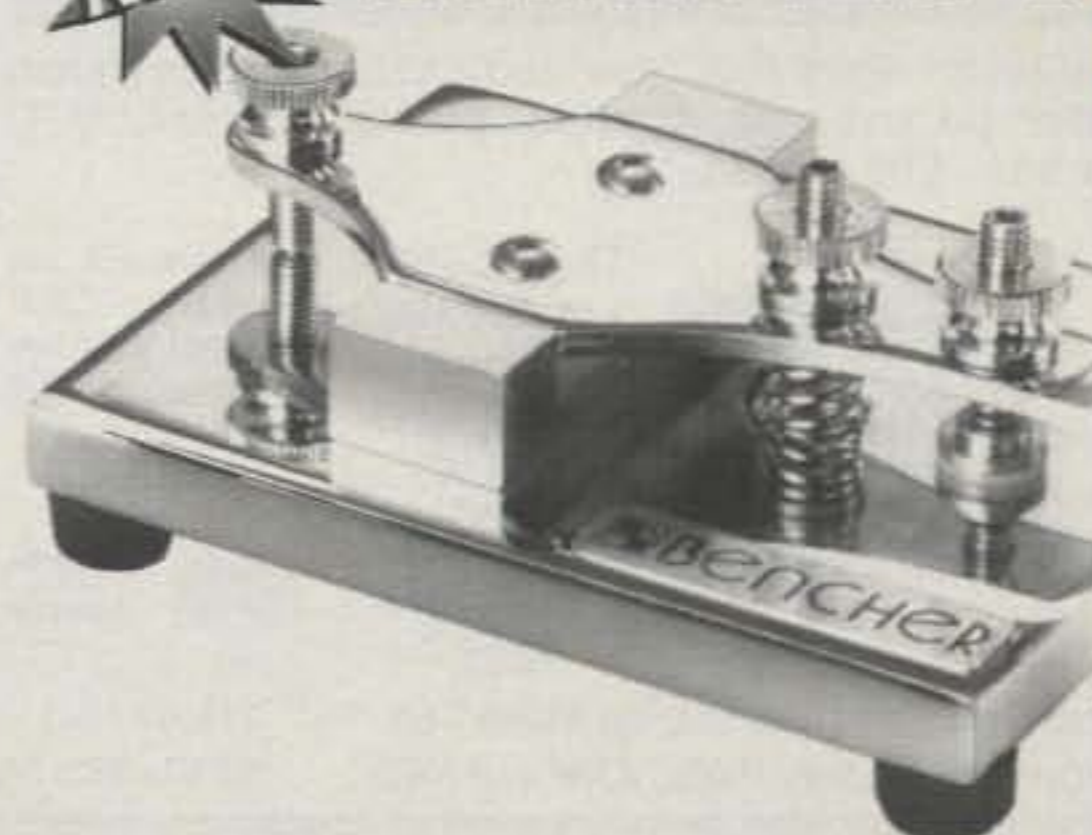
In the same way tiny rigs such as the previously highlighted 38 Special are generating widespread excitement on HF, Alinco's just-revealed DJ-C1 shown in

photo D is setting hamdom reeling and rocking on VHF. Even before acquiring FCC approval for sales in the US, DJ-C1s were selling like hotcakes in both Japan and Europe.

The little transceiver is only 3.5 inches tall by 2.2 inches wide, and get this, gang—0.4 inch thick! Stack three or four regular charge cards on top of each other, hold them in your hand, and you have an "authentic size mockup" of the DJ-C1! If you haven't been excited about QRP on 2 meters in the past, you will be when you see this rig.

If you are not blown away by the DJ-C1's size, check out its neat features. In addition to working 2 meters with selectable transmit offsets, CTCSS encoding,

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Photo F—SMT Technician Joanna Alford, KC5KZN; Vice President Steven Pan, KF5C; and President of MFJ Enterprises, Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, examining a sheet of Morse Code Tutor PC boards using surface-mount technology. This month MFJ celebrates 25 years as "the world leader in ham accessories." If you visit a hamfest this month, step up to their booth(s) and wish them a happy anniversary!

20 memories, scanning, auto shutoff function, and more, its extended receive range covers everything from the 118 MHz AM aircraft band to NOAA weather channels in the 162 to 163 MHz range. That makes the Alinco DJ-C1 doubly attractive, as it is also the world's smallest scanner. Power output is 300 milliwatts, which, as any QRP'er knows, is quite adequate for working through local-area repeaters and chatting with neighborhood amateur friends on "direct" frequencies. The DJ-C1 uses a

new-style rechargeable lithium-ion battery rated at 500 maH. Current drawn is 30 ma on receive and 240 ma on transmit, so operating time between recharges is very good.

Here's the real kicker: The DJ-C1 is also QRP priced and comes complete with battery, soft carrying case, and two hour desktop charger! With all that going for it, I would say the main challenge will be getting a DJ-C1 before dealers sell out. I'm sure everyone agrees with me in saying

Welcome to the QRP world, Alinco, and congratulations on producing a winner!

Weaver Found Alive and Well!

Remember our April 1997 column revisiting those classic little Sucrets rigs of the '60s? It opened a time continuum, revealing the Wee-Ceiver's original designer, Byron Weaver (WB2HAL in the '60s; WU2J in the '90s), is alive, well, living the good life in Florida, and actively pursuing QRP. Recently, England's well-known *Sprat* QRP magazine featured articles on Byron's "BLT" 20/17 meter SSB transceiver, mating mini-amplifier, and SWR/impedance bridge. Hopefully, Byron can be coaxed into sharing some of his views on antennas and QRP today through a "guest appearance" in this column or an article here in *CQ* in the near future. Maybe some QSLs and notes to Byron from friends who lost track of him over the years would prod him along. Photo E is a recent picture of Byron. His address is P.O. Box 2293, Marco Island, FL 34146.

Happy 25th, MFJ!

One of the most well-known names in amateur radio manufacturing is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month: MFJ Enterprises, Inc. This Mississippi-based company started out with one man and one product in 1972 and now, a quarter-century later, has grown into a 200 employee, four company, 500 combined product line empire. That, friends, spells success from any viewpoint! Like many "southern born and southern bred" amateurs, Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, "came up the hard way," struggling to survive, yet dedicated to providing amateurs with high-quality products at affordable prices. The rewards of his endeavors are undeniable, as at least one MFJ item is in almost every amateur station today. Remarkable!

Our column space does not permit telling the full MFJ story, but it is a real amateur radio inspiration generator and enthusiasm builder you will enjoy reading. Just drop a request for a copy of the story to MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Conclusion

We are right down to the closing line, and everything still would not fit into available space. Would you believe I originally planned this month's column as a double feature with the second part introducing a new area called "Survival Communications"? Maybe we can squeeze a few more notes and tidbits into the first part of next month's column.

Keep those good words coming, gang, and remember to include an SASE plus leave space for my replies on your letters. We'll meet you on 30 meters!

73, Dave, K4TWJ

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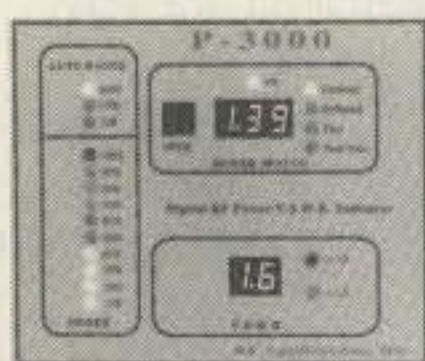
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CONTEST CALENDAR

NEWS/VIEWS OF ON-THE-AIR COMPETITION

The CQ 1997 Contest Survey—Measuring Contest Ethics

October's Contest Tip of the Month

Having recently moved (finally!), I've been thinking about the luxury I'll have to finally set up that new station the right way. While most of you may not be moving, we're always working on new antenna/equipment projects. You don't have to be involved in major station renovations to take on that next project with perfection in mind. Attention to detail (and a little luck) is what separates winners from losers in contesting. Bear in mind that fact the next time you want to skip soldering the coax connection on a dipole or improperly weatherproof your gamma match.

It's that time of year again, time for another CQ Contest Survey. Every year around this time I attempt to stimulate debate and interest in contesting by surveying your thoughts on topics that are both controversial and timely. Some of you may recall a survey topic that we ran several years ago—contest ethics. At that time the topic generated the most responses ever received from a CQ Contest Survey, and by a wide margin.

Most testers would like to think that their peers are fundamentally ethical and obey the rules. If this were not the case, then the entire purpose of contest operating would be severely compromised. However, there is a small part in each of us that truly wonders about the reality of contest ethics. Do top operators play the game the same way as other participants? How do we each manage the gray areas of rule interpretation? Are there a growing number of us who just plain cheat at every chance we get?

This survey will not answer these questions totally, but the time has come again to think. As we're about to enter a new solar cycle, it's fair for all testers to be introspective and think about how they play the game. I hope we get a huge level of participation in answering the questions posed in this survey. Even more, I hope the results show that we are fundamentally an honest lot who seek to enjoy contesting for the sport and not exclusively for the final result—especially at any ethical cost.

I challenge you to be honest in your responses. Feel free to submit your answers anonymously; I assure you that we have not hired any handwriting analysts. What does await us is an interested set of readers, including myself. In addition, your answers (and comments) are invaluable in helping guide the future editorial direction of this column. I encourage you to respond and pass along the survey to friends and club members. Feel free to include it in your next club newsletter. It will only increase participation and make this a better survey!

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e-mail K1AR@contesting.com
Compuserve ID: 71301,424

Calendar of Events

Sept. 27-28	CQ WW RTTY Contest
Sept. 27-28	Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest
Sept. 28-29	Heart of Dixie QSO Party
Sept. 28-29	Tennessee QSO Party
Oct. 4-5	California QSO Party
Oct. 4-5	XX Concorso Iberoamericano
Oct. 10	Ten-Ten October Sprint
Oct. 11-12	Pennsylvania QSO Party
Oct. 19-20	Illinois QSO Party
Oct. 25-26	Ten-Ten Fall CW QSO Party
Oct. 25-26	CQ WW SSB DX Contest
Nov. 1-3	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov. 7-9	Japan Int'l SSB DX Contest
Nov. 8-9	Worked All Europe RTTY Contest
Nov. 9-14	Peace Country ARC QRS Contest
Nov. 15-17	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Nov. 29-30	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Dec. 5-7	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec. 13-14	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Dec. 28	RAC Canada Winter Contest

As always, remember that the deadline for the January issue is November 1st, and please make sure you send your information to me on time (note my new address on this page)!

73, John, K1AR

California QSO Party

1600Z Sat. to 2200Z Sun. Oct. 4-5

This year's party is sponsored again by the Northern California Contest Club. The usual extraordinary effort has been made to activate all CA counties, making this the most successful of all state parties.

Operating time is limited to 24 out of the 30-hour contest period for single operator stations (multi-ops may use the entire 30 hours, but observe the standard 10-minute rule). Off-times must be at least 15 minutes and clearly indicated in the log.

The same station may be worked on each band and mode, and CA stations may contact other in-state stations for QSO and multiplier credit. CA mobiles may be worked in each county change.

Classes: Single Operator, Multi-Single, Multi-Multi, California County Expedition, Mobile, and Novice/Technician.

Exchange: QSO number and QTH. County for CA stations; state, province, or DX country for others.

Scoring: Two points for phone contacts; 3 points for CW.

Multiplier: CA stations use states (50) and VE call areas (8). Out-of-state entries use CA counties (maximum of 58).

Final Score: Total QSO points times the sum of the multiplier.

Frequencies: 160 meters through 2 meters, except WARC bands. CW—1805 and 40 kHz up from band edge. Phone—1815, 3850, 7230,

14250, 21300, 28450. Novices work 10 kHz up from edge of Novice bands and 28450; try CW on the half hour.

Awards: The CQP has more award opportunities than almost any other contest. Special CQP T-shirts are available for any entry with over 100 QSOs. Include your size and \$10 to order. A special award of a personalized bottle of California wine goes to the top 20 single operators in CA and out of state. There are a great number of certificates and trophies available to winners of every category. Check out the contest web site at <<http://www.contesting.com/cqp>> for complete details as well as official rules, logs, and CQP logging programs.

Include a summary sheet showing the scoring, etc., and a dupe sheet if you make more than 200 QSOs, with a large SASE for a copy of the results. Entries may be submitted in CT Ver. 8 or 9 format with a signed hardcopy summary sheet. Electronic logs may be submitted by e-mail to <cqp@contesting.com>. Electronic logs should be mailed with your call. Preferably all files should be zipped into one file with your call as the file name.

The mailing deadline is November 15th and entries go to: NCCC, c/o Al Maenchen, AD6E, 3330 Farthing Way, San Jose, CA 95132. A \$1.00 donation to help defray the costs of printing and postage is encouraged.

XX Concorso Iberoamericano

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

Organized by "Unio Radioaficionados del Valles Oriental" and by "CW Radio Amateur de Cetisa Boixareu Editores," this contest is sponsored every year the week before October 12th to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of America. This is a phone-only contest with emphasis on Latin-American areas. The objective is to work as many stations as possible during the contest period.

Classes: Single Operator and Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter; both Latin-American and non-Latin-American. Single Operator EC (EA novice), QRP less than 5 watts output, and SWL. Club stations are multi-operator.

Bands: All six bands, 1.8 through 28 MHz, SSB only.

Exchange: RS plus a progressive serial number starting with 001.

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. A station may be worked only once per band.

Multiplier: Latin-Americans use the DXCC list. Non-Latin Americans use the following country list: CE, CO, CP, CT, CX, C3, C9, DU, EA, HC, HI, HK, HP, HR, KP4, LU, OA, PY, TG, TI, XE, XX9, YN, YS, YV, ZP, 3C, and DXCC dependencies.

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

1997 CQ Contest Survey

Your Callsign (optional): _____

Contesting Experience (years): _____

Age: _____

1. In general, do you think leading contest operators use operating ethics similar to those of the "small guns"?
 YES NO
2. ZD8XXX calls you in the last 10 minutes of the CQ WW for a double multiplier. You give him his report and he doesn't reply. Would you log him anyway?
 YES NO
3. OH0AA is running Europe on 7045. Would you say to him "Listen for Stateside" on his transmit frequency?
 YES NO
4. Do you consider yourself the type of operator who loosely interprets rules, assuming that the log checkers will work out the details?
 YES NO
5. You have gone through your completed contest log and discover that you are only 798 points below a new category record. Would you add a few QSOs into the log to increase your score past the old record?
 YES NO
6. Do you have a different ethical standard in contests that are either smaller or known to employ poor log-checking techniques?
 YES NO
7. You have just discovered TT8ZZ on 14133. Would you work him, assuming no one will notice your QSO that far out of the band?
 YES NO
8. WB7XYZ, in Wyoming, just called you for a "clean sweep" in the ARRL SS contest with only 4 minutes to go. Unfortunately, you copied everything but his check. Would you write in something in your log to keep the QSO?
 YES NO
9. Would you knowingly take over someone else's frequency (i.e., a weak backscatter signal on the band edge that has a slower rate than you could generate)?
 YES NO
10. Have you ever used packet radio spotting and still claimed single operator?
 YES NO
11. You are tuning the bands and hear your friend running Europeans. Would you stop and ask him, "Hey, Joe, are there any good multipliers on the band?" or "What frequency is he on?"
 YES NO
12. Would you allow a friend to hold your frequency while you run up the band to chase a new multiplier?
 YES NO
13. You just passed 9Q5XX to 20 meters for a new multiplier. All you hear is a few mumbles that sound like him. Would you log him?
 YES NO
14. You are in the process of analyzing your Multi-Single log for 10-minute rule violations and find one that results in a lost multiplier. Would you change the time in your log to allow the contact to count?
 YES NO
15. Have you written in a few calls in your log during a big run, assuming that no one will be able to find them?
 YES NO
16. HA1XYZ just calls you on 20 meters for the fifth time. Would you change his call into a valid QSO out of frustration?
 YES NO
17. If there was absolutely no way that a contest administrator could determine that you have cheated in a contest, would you add points to your score from invalid/made-up QSOs/multipliers?
 YES NO
18. Would you look at a friend's log after the contest to find callsigns or other log information that you can correct in your own log after the contest?
 YES NO
19. Do you employ different operating ethics when operating in a Multi-Operator station then when you operate by yourself?
 YES NO
20. Have you ever changed the time in your log to extend your operating time limit?
 YES NO

Additional Comments (use extra sheets if necessary): _____

Return your survey responses to:

John Dorr, K1AR, 1997 Contest Survey, 2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087 USA

Deadline: March 1, 1998

SWL: Same rules apply to SWL entries. The same station cannot be logged more than 15% of the total logged. The same station can only be logged again after 5 other entries. Non-Latin-American listeners can claim 3 points per QSO when at least one of the two listened to stations is Latin-American.

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

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorers in each DXCC country. Participation certificates will go to Latin-American stations making 75 or more QSOs; non-Latin-American stations making 50 or more QSOs; and EC, QRP, and SWLs making 25 or more QSOs. There are plaques for overall winning scorers showing at least 4 hours of operation and 100 QSOs for Latin-American entries, 75 QSOs for non-Latin-American, and 50 QSOs for EC, QRP, and SWL entries.

Mailing deadline is November 30th and logs should be sent to Concurso Iberoamericano, Concepcion Arenal 5, 08027 Barcelona, Spain.

Pennsylvania QSO Party

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

This one is sponsored again 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.

Classes: Single operator-Low Power (150 watts), High Power, QRP, and CW-only 150 watts (only one signal on the air at one time); Multi-Single, Multi-Multi, Portable, Novice/Technician, and Mobile, and a new Rover class. The Rover division is intended for stations that cannot go true mobile, but would like to activate some rare counties by going to a state park or farmer's field and operate "field day" style. You must make 20 QSOs from each location to qualify for bonus points.

Exchange: QSO number and county (PA stations), ARRL/RAC section or DXCC country for others.

Scoring: One point for SSB/FM contacts, 1.5 points for CW, 2 points on 80 or 160 meters. PA stations multiply total by (ARRL sections + PA counties + 1 DX country) a maximum of 151. 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 (Rovers must make 20 QSOs). Mobiles on a county line give one QSO number but receive credit for 2 multipliers. QRP stations multiply their score by 2, Novice/Tech by 3. The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3SGJ, will be the designated special event station. Add 200 points for each QSO with this station. Bonus points are added after all other bonuses have been taken. Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

Frequencies: CW—1810 kHz and 40 kHz up from bottom of each band. SSB—1840, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28310, 50125, and 146550 kHz. Try 160 meters at 0300Z on Sunday.

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the top entries in all entry divisions plus single operator USA Time Zones, EPA, WPA, and others as warranted. Certificates will be sent to coun-

ty and section winners. A trophy and gavel will be given to clubs with the top aggregate score (unlimited and local class [75 members]).

Logs need to be postmarked no later than November 15th and should be sent to: Douglas Maddox, W3HDH, Nittany Amateur Radio Club, RD #1, Box 760, Petersburg, PA 16669. An information package is available for the contest by sending \$1.00 to help defray printing and postage costs to the sponsor's address. You can also check out their web site at <http://members.aol.com/dougHDH/paqsoparty/narcweb.htm>.

Illinois QSO Party

1800Z Sun. to 0200Z Mon., Oct. 19-20

This is the 35th anniversary of the Illinois QSO Party sponsored by the Radio Amateur Megacycle Society. It's a shorty, only 8 hours long. Note that 6 and 2 meter QSOs are also allowed this year.

Frequencies: 160 through 2 meters, excluding 30, 17, and 12 meters. Suggested frequencies are 3550, 7050, and 14050 kHz for CW, and 3890, 7290, and 14290 kHz for phone. Novices call 30 kHz above bottom end of Novice subbands for CW and 28390 kHz for phone.

Exchange: Illinois stations give RS(T) and county; others give RS(T) and state, province, or country.

Scoring: Count 1 point per phone QSO, 2 points per CW QSO. No repeater contacts. Stations may be worked once per band and mode, and once per band/mode/county for Illinois mobile stations. Each vehicle is considered one station and must use only one call. All parties which embark with a mobile must use the mobile's call exclusively for the duration of the contest. Contacts with/by stations at the border of two (or more) counties count as two (or more) counties and QSOs. Illinois stations multiply points by the sum of states, Illinois counties, VE provinces, and a maximum of 5 DXCC countries (W/K and VE included). Count additional DX as points but not multipliers. Non-Illinois stations multiply total points by the number of Illinois counties worked. All stations may earn one extra multiplier for every eight QSOs made with the same Illinois county. All stations may operate only one transmitter at a time.

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the highest scoring Illinois fixed station and mobile station. Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 IL fixed stations, the top 5 IL mobile stations, the top 10 county line portable stations, the highest score (reporting at least 5 IL contacts) in each state, province, and country, and the highest team/club aggregate score.

Entrants must submit a log containing UTC, the call of the station worked, RST, state or province, Illinois county, band, and mode. Circle new multipliers as worked. Illinois mobiles must indicate county changes in the log. Any station with over 100 QSOs must submit a dupe sheet. A summary sheet must also be submitted with every log. Entries must be postmarked by November 17, 1997. Mail your entry to: RAMS, c/o John Matz, KB9II, 7079 West Ave., Hanover Park, IL 60103. To receive a copy of the contest results, enclose a business-size SASE with your entry.

CQ World-Wide DX Contest

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

Complete rules were published in last month's issue. With the large number of entry categories, be sure to list your entry category on your summary sheet.

A few trophies have been eliminated, but there are many new additions which fill in quite a few of the category gaps from previous years. The detailed trophy list can be found in the rules announcement.

All entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 1997 for the SSB section, and January 15, 1998 for CW. All logs must be sent directly to: CQ World-Wide DX Contest, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA. **Be sure to indicate SSB or CW on the envelope.**

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PACKET USER'S NOTEBOOK

CONNECTING YOU AND PACKET RADIO IN THE REAL WORLD

Good News—We Thought

In June 1995 my column in *CQ* praised the ARRL and told how they had done a great job of procuring a group of frequencies that would enable us to build the "Packet Radio Super Highway" for the 21st century. This would be a system of nodes in a network that would allow coast-to-coast communications as fast as—and maybe faster than—the Internet!

What happened? Here's a portion of the information that was in that June 1995 "Packet User's Notebook."

From the FCC and the ARRL
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 17, 1995
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB025
ARRL025 Amateurs get 219 MHz

The FCC has released a Report and Order in ET Docket No. 93-40, allocating the 219 to 220 MHz band on a secondary basis to the Amateur Service for point-to-point fixed digital message forwarding systems. The allocation had been requested by the ARRL as partial compensation for the loss of the 220 to 222 MHz band.

When the new rules take effect, on a date that has not yet been announced, Technician and higher class amateur licensees will be permitted to use digital emissions of up to 100 kHz bandwidth and no more than 50 watts PEP output. The primary occupant of the band is the Automated Maritime Telecommunications Systems (AMTS).

To protect the primary occupant, the ARRL has been designated as the national contact point for all amateur operations in the 219 to 220 MHz band and is responsible for maintaining a database of all amateur operations in the band. All amateur stations must notify the ARRL at least 30 days prior to initiation of operations in the 219 to 220 MHz band. Amateur stations within 50 miles of an AMTS coast station must obtain the written approval of the AMTS licensee prior to operating. Amateur stations within 398 miles of an AMTS coast station must notify the AMTS licensee in writing at least 30 days prior to initiation of operations. The ARRL will assist amateurs in fulfilling these requirements. Amateur stations operating in the 219 to 220 MHz band are not permitted to interfere with, nor are they protected from, interference by primary service operations in and adjacent to the band.

The FCC action climaxes almost six years of effort by the ARRL.

End of ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025

211 Luenburg Dr., Evington, VA 24550
e-mail: buck4abt@inmind.com

So it took a while longer than they thought, but in any case we now have some basis for a set of nationwide backbone frequencies. The truth is that these frequencies are not going to be available to anyone and everyone who wishes to have one.

In addition to the requirements relating to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications Systems (AMTS), there are other considerations that must be taken into account. We can rest assured there will also be a time limit or period allowed for the applicant to install and have the node operating. Only a System Node Operator (SNO) who is ready to install a fully functional node on one of the frequencies will be granted coordination. Notice that I stated there would be a "time limit" allowed for an applicant to install a node once it was approved.

I'm still a bit confused, because I have yet to see, read, or hear about a node being approved for operation on these wonderful 100 kHz wide, 219 MHz frequencies. Does anyone have any insight as to what happened? Did the ARRL forget it? Did someone at the Internet threaten to commit "sideways" if the League went ahead with the move that would have given amateur and packet radio the greatest shot in the arm that has come along since the FM repeater?

Where Are We Now?

In 1995 I also said, "Without building the bridge before the trench is dug, I should point out that no action will be taken until the ARRL has a full and comprehensive listing of all AMTS stations and locations. Further, there will be no purpose to contact the League until they release the full analysis and associated band plans." How long does it take the ARRL and committee to work out the details?

So that you are aware of the frequencies we are talking about, following are the supporting frequencies for the ten wide-band (100 kHz) frequencies: 219.050 MHz, 219.150 MHz, 219.250 MHz, 219.350 MHz, 219.450 MHz, 219.550 MHz, 219.650 MHz, 219.750 MHz, 219.850 MHz, and 219.950 MHz. These are listed as "center frequency."

All Dressed Up, No Place To Go

So we have the platform for our packet radio "Limited-Access Information Super-

highway," but that bit of planning with regard to what vehicle we wish to use stopped. The manufacturers don't know what to build or how many to build, because we have yet to see the final game plan. Is it because the League has no equipment capable of operating at speeds above 1200 baud, or is it a problem for Harris to build another piece of gear for the League that the rest of us can't afford?

I'm willing to bet that a couple of amateur radio manufacturers are sitting on "ready" to build a 219 MHz, 25–30 watt, wide-bandwidth transceiver that would enable the amateur to talk (digital) voice or data, coast to coast, as fast any Internet provider. Or have I hit the very crux of the matter? Could it be that someone got to . . . naw, that would be unethical!

Gimme A Break

Where is that band plan? What happened to the comprehensive listing of all AMTS stations and locations? Why are we becoming stagnant in amateur radio while our hobby slowly migrates to other mediums that are presently available?

This is the way to preserve the future of amateur radio, yet we somehow have managed to drop the ball at the most delicate moment. Just look at the list of amateur radio distributors today and compare the list to only one year ago. The list continues to shrink.

I can see the mail now, but I have to say something. I have remained calm as long as I can. Please, someone up there who professes to provide leadership for the amateur, get off top-dead-center and let's go forward while we can. The amateur manufacturers are ready; just ask them.

Think about it for a moment. If we had this network in place, we would see the trend change and the masses return to amateur radio digital modes. This would create a new demand for VHF and UHF radios that would in turn open some of the closed doors all over again. The fun would resemble the heyday of the 1970s, when FM repeaters opened a new world of mobile communications for the amateur on the move.

For Openers . . .

Just for openers, where are all the transceivers that will pass 64 kilobits, or even 38,400 baud? Let's give it a break and try

for even 19,200 baud. Wow, now there's a real number we can deal with, although it's a bit slow for the proposed bandwidth that was supposed to be available for us—almost three years ago.

Somehow we've learned the rounded numbers in multiples of 64 kb, such as 128k, 256k, 512k, 1024k, 2048k, and so on, up to 64 kb. Or is it the other way around? In there somewhere lies the 56 kb that fits well into the scheme of things related to the 100 kHz band pass with which we *could* have worked.

For whatever it's worth, let's "get real" and try to fashion this packet band plan into usable spectrum. A move on this vital issue is imperative!

I hope the ARRL will hear from all of you, and I pray they will listen to the wisdom and judgment of those of us who remember what packet was like a decade ago. We need the relief, and they hold the key to making it happen.

There are some who wouldn't dare to make the following statement. I wish we could recall for a short period the days when packet radio first began. If, as in if we could, the first thing I would change or add is a rigid and unyielding band plan for our present-day packet networks. This is some of the "wisdom" to which I refer in the previous paragraph.

Now is the time, while the ten channels of 100 kHz spectrum are new, to apply the "right stuff." If we don't, then we may as well relegate these channels to the same archives as the 140 mile-per-gallon Tucker Carburator.

Packet Radio is Fun!

As a matter of interest, it was Kantronics and MFJ who came off top-dead-center and introduced some real 9600/19,200 baud (Kantronics) and 9600 baud (MFJ) data radios early on.

We are interested in having fun, in digital communications, in speed, so why hasn't some manufacturer come up with a decent transceiver that will deliver data beginning with 9600 baud, and up?

Without making more noise about the needs and requirements of the digital amateur, let's close this part of our quest by asking the amateur equipment manufacturers to plan for the next packet generation. (But you may have to encourage the ARRL.) Have a product ready to market when the inevitable happens—and at a price the SNO can afford.

Since 219 to 220 MHz is ready to harvest, while the amateur manufacturer is about it, let that wide-bandwidth, data-ready transceiver have an output power above 20 watts. Most of all, build it with the capability to cover all the frequencies available to the digital operator in the 219 to 220 MHz band. And just to sweeten the deal, maybe allow it to cover the 223 to

225 MHz band. Both the packet radio operator and the transceiver manufacturers will be served by this undertaking.

We Have The Clout And The Momentum

Having gathered the momentum and the numbers that give us the prominence to exert influence, it's time we make it known to the ARRL that we need them to move on the release of the band plan and the invitation to apply for the high-speed, packet backbone frequencies at 219 MHz. When the ARRL does their part, we will comply in turn!

So many times you, the readers, have written asking that I be a more vocal conduit for you. This column is attempting to do just that. I've been guilty of not saying the things the readers have been saying to me all along. If this month's column is not heard, then I've at least tried to make your letters, calls, and e-mails known. If the cry is heard and something good comes from it, then by all means, let the League know that you appreciate their action.

Happy packeting. Visit the SEDAN Packet Radio Networking Pages at <http://www.sedan.org> or e-mail me at <k4abt@sedan.org>.

73 de Buck4ABT

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- Dual 50Ω/1MΩ inputs. (F-2850 only)
- 16 segment RF signal strength bargraph (F-2850 only)
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Specifications
Input Sensitivity (Typical)

Amplifier	1MΩ (F-2850 only)	50Ω
Impedance	1MΩ (F-2850 only)	50Ω VSWR<2:1
Range	10Hz - 50MHz (F-2850 only)	1MHz - 2.8GHz
Sensitivity	<10mV @ 10Hz - 10MHz <20mV @ 10MHz - 50MHz (F-2850 only)	<1.5mV @ 100MHz <5mV @ 250MHz <5mV @ 10Hz <100mV @ 2.4GHz
Maximum Input	100Vrms (F-2850 only)	15dBm

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AWARDS

NEWS OF CERTIFICATE AND AWARD COLLECTING

This month we salute Jim Hoffer, KW8T, USA-CA All Counties #926. Jim adds this award to his list of amateur radio achievements, which include 9BWAS, 7BDXCC, and the CQ DX Honor Roll.

First licensed in November 1964 as WN8OVC, Jim is a pastor of the Seventh-Day Adventists, serving in southwestern



Jim Hoffer, KW8T, recipient of USA-CA All Counties award #926.

Michigan. He is also World President of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association. He served his church as a missionary in Uruguay and Brazil for six years, holding the amateur radio calls CX5AH (1970-1973) and PY5ZAF (1973-1976).

Jim's station consists of an ICOM 735, Heath SB-1000 linear, homebrew 11-element log periodic, and dipoles for 40, 80, and 160 meters. He is married and the father of four grown children. CQ and the amateur radio community congratulate Jim on his achievement.

Awards Available

Canadian QRP Award. With the rising popularity of QRP operation and homebrew and kit rigs, the Canadian QRP Award is designed to further encourage QRP operation. Working the twelve Canadian call districts is a significant achievement. With distant areas such as Yukon (VY1) and Newfoundland (VO1/VO2), the relatively small number of operators from

Box 76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453
e-mail wa3rty@epix.net

SPECIAL HONOR ROLL

James R. Hoffer, KW8T
USA-CA All Counties #926
July 25, 1997

Loren "Mac" McGinnis, WA0JCE
USA-CA All Counties #927
July 25, 1997

the Northwest Territories (VE8), and the small size of Prince Edward Island (VY2), this achievement is obviously even more significant for QRP operators. Information about the QRP award and its recipients can be found at the Canadian QRP Award Web site at <<http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/2572/QRP.html>>.

The twelve call districts of Canada and their prefixes are Nova Scotia (VE1/CY0/CY9), Quebec (VE2/VA2), Ontario (VE3/VA3), Manitoba (VE4), Saskatchewan (VE5), Alberta (VE6), British Columbia (VE7/VA7), Yukon Territory (VY1), Northwest Territories (VE8), Newfoundland (VO1/VO2), New Brunswick (VE9), and Prince Edward Island (VY2).

QRP is defined for the purpose of this award as not more than 5 watts CW or 10 watts PEP SSB. Contacts need *not* be confirmed by QSL cards; if the contact was made, it may be counted for this award. To receive the certificate, send basic log data for the twelve contacts to



The Canadian QRP Award, sponsored by VA3JFF, is offered to recognize the ability "to do more with less."

HONOR ROLL

500		2000	
KW8T	2976	KW8T	1107
N3TA	2977	WA0JCE	1108
WB9HIX	2978		
1000		2500	
KW8T	1443	KW8T	1035
N3TA	1444	WA0JCE	1036
1500		3000	
KW8T	1204	KW8T	943
WA0JCE	1205	WA0JCE	944

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3076. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$4.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$10.00. Initial application must be submitted in the USA-CA Record Book, which may be obtained from CQ Magazine, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA for \$2.50. To qualify for the special subscriber rate, please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. To be eligible for the USA-CA Award, applicants must comply with the rules of the program as set forth in the revised USA-CA Rules and Program dated March 1, 1997. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending an SASE to Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY, USA-CA Award Manager, Box 76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-0076 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

the address below. Include \$2.00 or 2 IRCs for each certificate requested. Endorsements are available for specific bands, modes, and QRPp power levels. Endorsements can be added to the original certificate order at no additional cost. Endorsement stickers are available at any other time for \$1.00 or 1 IRC. The full-color certificates are 8.5" x 11". They are numbered sequentially, as well as by country and province/state/call area.

There are no time and date requirements for this award, so check your logs to see if you meet the requirements. Send application with log data and award fee to: Canadian QRP Award, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 3399 Cardinal Dr., Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 3A6.

The Worked EI Counties (WEIC) Award. The WEIC Award, issued by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked 20 of the 26 counties of Ireland (EI/EJ). A list of the EI counties is given below. The award is also available to SWLs on a "heard" basis.

In accordance with IARU Region 1 rules, a claim for the WEIC Award must be accompanied by a QSO list and by a statement from the applicant's national DX awards manager that correctly filled in QSL cards are in the possession of the applicant. If this is not possible, the applicant must submit all relevant QSLs. Applicants in Ireland must submit QSL cards



The Worked EI Counties Award is offered for contacting 20 of the 26 counties of Ireland and is sponsored by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society.

with their claims. Contacts made only on or after January 1, 1982 are valid.

There is a charge of IR£3.00 or 10 IRCs for the award. Band endorsements are available at the time of the first application. A separate "All 26" sticker is available for confirmations with all 26 counties.

For applicants in EI only: All contacts must be made from the home station. Contacts made via repeaters or while operating mobile, portable, or from an alternate address are not acceptable.

Counties of Ireland: Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow.

Send applications to The WEIC Awards Manager, Irish Radio Transmitter Society, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9, Ireland.

Awards Issued

USA-CA 500: James R Hoffer, KW8T; David M. Barish, N3TA; Allen M. Levinson, WB9HIX.

USA-CA 1000: James R Hoffer, KW8T; David M. Barish, N3TA.

USA-CA 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000: James R. Hoffer, KW8T; Loren "Mac" McGinnis, WA0JCE.

On A Personal Note

We still haven't sold our house in Pleasant Mount, but we have purchased a home in Lebanon County. My wife is working for her son down there and coming home on weekends. We hope to sell before the winter. Any buyers?

We've made several visits to Lebanon and have renewed friendships with many of our old friends. It was like returning home, which in a way it is. On one recent Saturday I had the pleasure of having breakfast with the OWL group. It's a nice group of amateur radio enthusiasts and I'm looking forward to associating with them after our move.

73 Norm WA3RTY

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NEWS OF COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

Annobon Island

If all goes according to plan, a large, international group of operators will put Annobon Island on the air for ten days this month. The current schedule has the crew arriving on Annobon the evening of October 11 and leaving on the 21st. They will operate on all bands and modes under the callsign **3C0DX**. Operators include EA4BPJ, EA5GRC, EA7JB, EA3AOK, EA6WV, EA6BH, EA5AD, EA3BT, W9EVI, OH0XX, OH1RY, and CQ DX Hall of Famer DJ9ZB. This DXpedition was originally set for May, but had to be postponed when promised visas for the Spanish operators were held up by Equatorial Guinea authorities.

Annobon Island is one of the rarest, least visited inhabited islands in amateur radio. It is part of the country of Equatorial Guinea, but lies off the western Africa coast several hundred miles from the parent country. To find it on a map, locate the island of Sao Tome and go another 120 miles to the southwest. Annobon is only four miles long, with an area of seven square miles. About 1500 people inhabit the mountainous island.

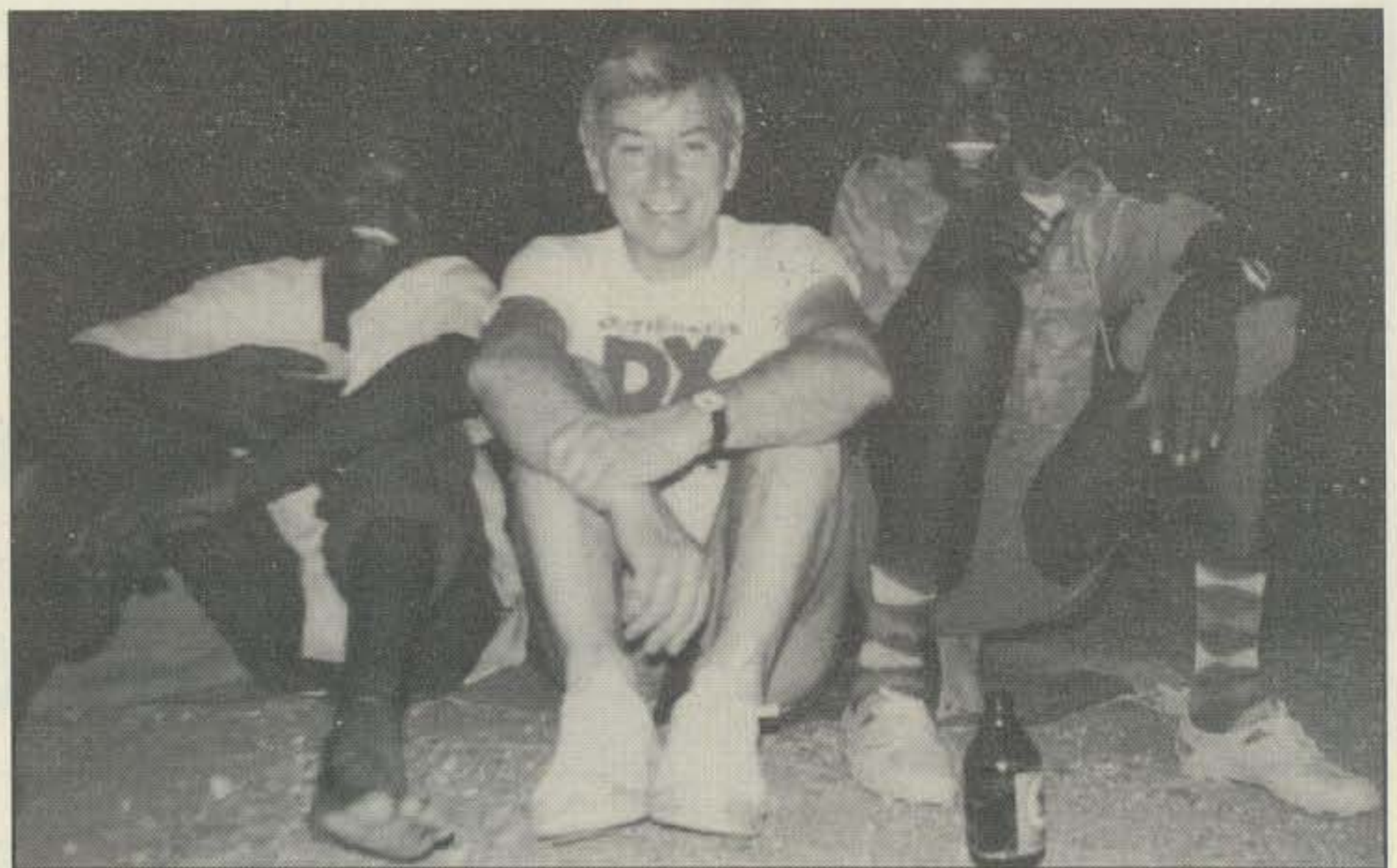
The parent country of Equatorial Guinea gained independence from Spain in 1968. The part of the country on the African mainland consists of a small area on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea wedged between Cameroon and Gabon, just north of the Equator. In addition to the mainland section, the country also includes six offshore islands, one of which is Bioko, site of the capital city of Malabo.

DXers quickly recognized that Annobon met the requirements for a separate DXCC country, based on its 450 mile distance from the rest of the country. However, Annobon proved to be a difficult country to put on the air. Both Don Miller and Gus Browning attempted to secure operating permission, but were unsuccessful. Annobon remained a potential DXCC country into the 1970s.

A 25-year-old energetic Finnish DXer then set his sights on Annobon. That DXer was Martti Laine, OH2BH, on his first of numerous efforts to put potential DXCC countries on the air for the first time.

Together with Ville Hiilesmaa, OH2MM, Martti travelled to Bioko to meet with Equatorial Guinea officials. Their first meeting with the Home Minister did not bode well. They received a flat no. However, showing the tenacity and diplomatic skills that would later propel him into the CQ DX

P.O. Box 50, Fulton, CA 95439



DX Hall of Famer DJ9ZB with some Southern Sudan assistants. DJ9ZB is on the 3D0DX Annobon Island DXpedition team.

Hall of Fame, Martti refused to give up. He went over the head of the Home Minister to the office of the president of the country. Martti made his case directly to President Macias. After nine trips to the Presidential Palace, Martti received operating permission.

As it turned out, getting operating permission was only one of the hurdles that had to be overcome to activate Annobon. The island is too far from Equatorial Guinea for a direct, nonstop flight in the size of plane that can land safely on Annobon's tiny, unimproved airstrip. The obvious solution of stopping at Sao Tome, midway between Equatorial Guinea and Annobon, was not possible for political reasons. Martti finally negotiated a flight from Gabon, and soon thereafter put Annobon on the air for the first time as **3C0AN**. Based on this July 1971 operation, the country of Annobon was added to the current DXCC country list, effective September 1, 1971.

Annobon, however, remained a Most Wanted country over the next 25 years. It has been in the top 50 Most Wanted almost every year, and had climbed to 20th position in the 1996 Most Wanted survey, with more than 30% of all reporting DXers saying they lacked a 3C0 confirmation. Because of its rarity, Annobon has been the DXpedition target of a distinguished collection of DXers. CQ DX Hall of Famers WB4ZNH and SM0AGD both have

operated from Annobon, as 3C0AC and 3C0GD, respectively. (More on WB4ZNH below.) DJ9ZB thus will be the fourth member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame to operate from Annobon.

Martti's operation was not without risk or adverse consequences. An American diplomat who assisted Martti in his license quest was later murdered in Equatorial Guinea, and both Martti and Ville contracted malaria during their trip. All this didn't seem to dampen Martti's appetite for putting New Ones on the air, an activity he continues in the 1990s. For more details on 3C0AN and many of Martti's other DXpeditions, read Martti's book *Where Do We Go Next?* A limited number are available from CQ for \$9.95 plus s/h (call 800-853-9797), or they are also available from KTE publications, 2301 Canehill Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815.

Stateside DXers looking for Annobon contacts should concentrate on the lower bands, as sunspot Cycle 23 is still in the doldrums (see below). West Coast DXers should try 80 meters during the mutually dark hours of 0130-0500Z. Forty meters should be useful into twilight hours, about 2330-0700Z. The often-neglected band of 30 meters should provide contacts between 2300 and 0630Z. On 20 meters the best time should be 2200-0100Z, just before the sun sets on the West Coast. Seventeen meters will also be useful in the 1730-2130Z range, just after local

The WPX Program

SSB

2648N9STL 2650EA3FYD
2649WA4JUK 2651DJ1YH

CW

2961WA4JUK 2964IK6MLI
2962EA5JY 2965F5OIU
2963F5YJ

Mixed

1787WA4JUK

CW: 350 EA5YU, F5YJ, IK6MLI, F5OIU, 400 EA5YU, F5YJ, F5OIU, 450 EA5YU, F5YJ, F5OIU, 500 EA5YU, F5YJ, 550 EA5YU, F5YU, 600 EA5YU, F5YJ, 650 EA5YU, 700 EA5YU, 750 EA5YU, 800 EA5YU, 850 EA5YU, 900 EA5YU, 950 EA5YU, 1000 EA5YU, 1050 EA5YU, 1100 EA5YU, 1150 EA5YU, 1200 EA5YU, 1250 EA5YU, 1300 EA5YU, 1350 EA5YU, 1400 EA5YU, 1450 EA5YU, 1500 EA5YU, 1700 11EEW, 1750 11EEW, 1850 VS2UW, HP1AC, 2950 WA2YQH, 3200 N4NO, 3250 N4NO, 3300 N4NO.

SSB: 350 DJ1YH, 400 DJ1YH, 450 DJ1YH, 500 DJ1YH, ON4BCM, 550 DJ1YH, ON4BCM, 600 DJ1YH, AA1KS, 650 DJ1YH, 850 AG4W, EA5KY, 2800 N4NO, 2850 N4NO, 2900 11EEW, 2950 11EEW, 3050 F2VX, 3100 F2VX, 3150 F2VX.

Mixed: 800 PA3AEB, 1050 KB5OHT, 2100 W9IL, 2150 W9IL, 2700 IK2ILH, 2750 IK2ILH, 3400 11EEW, 3700 N4NO, 3750 N4NO, 3800 N4NO.

10 meters: EA5YU
15 meters: EA5YU
20 meters: WA4JUK, EA5YU

Asia: EA5YU, KB5OHT
Africa: KB5OHT
No. America: EA5YU, KB5OHT
So. America: EA5YU, KB5OHT
Europe: EA5YU, KB5OHT
Oceania: KB5OHT

Award of Excellence: DJ1YH

Award of Excellence Plaque Holders: K6JG, N4MM,

W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GQ, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, W8RSW, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1BWS, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IIC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, WB8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, DK4SY, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, HA8XX, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POF, DJ4XA, IT9TQH, K2POA, N6JV, W2HG, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, YU2NA, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE0DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IV4GME, VE9RJ, WX3N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBP, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA8BM, DL1EY.

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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 airmail desired) to "CQ WPX Awards," P.O. Box 593, Clovis, NM 88101-9511 USA.

sunset on Annobon. If the sunspots cooperate, there is a chance for a 15 meter opening around 2000Z.

DXers on the East Coast share a longer mutually dark period, with correspondingly longer and louder low-band openings. On 80 and 40 meters 2200-0600Z should be available. On 30 meters try 2000-2400Z. The 20 meter path should be best 1700-2130Z, while 17 meters features a short opening around 1700Z. If the solar

flux kicks up above 90, 15 meters should provide contacts at about the same time.

DX Gatherings

The Magnolia DX Association will hold a breakfast meeting on Saturday, October 11 in connection with the MCARA convention in Mississippi. The meeting will be in the Lady Luck Casino at 7:30 AM. Cost is \$6 in advance to Floyd, N5FG. The pro-



Luc Glarey, 11YRL, operates CW out of this very sharp shack.



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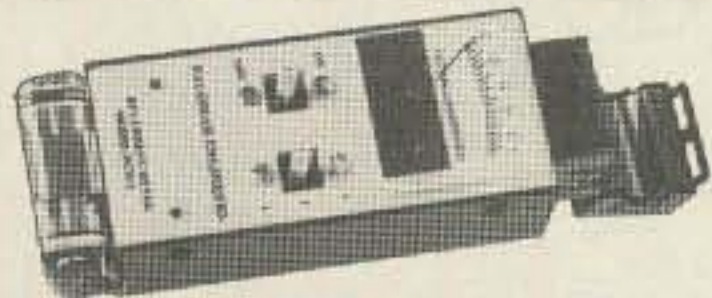


T1	Life's Too Short For QRP	(L,XL,XXL)
T2	Amateur Radio Spans the Globe	(L)
T3	CQWW The Contest	(L)
T7	TVI...What TVI	(L,XL,XXL)
T8	QCAO	(XXL)
T9	DX IS	(XL)
T11	Just Work It	(L,XL,XXL)
T12	No Waves Like Shortwaves	(XL,XXL)
T13	Radioman	(L,XL,XXL)
T14	How's DX	(XL,XXL)
T16	Viking	(L,XL,XXL)
T17	Hammus Sapien	(XL,XXL)
T18	Real Radios Glow	(XL)

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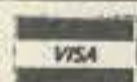
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272.....ZS6KR

ALL CW

103.....ND5S 104.....K1EPJ

RTTY

106.....N3KK, Mixed Band

107.....WB9EEE, Mixed Band

160 Meter WAZ

69.....N4JJ, 36 Zones Endorsement

All Band WAZ

SSB

4391.....EA6ABK

CW/Phone

7749.....HA1UF 7752.....DL5IAH

7750.....IK6MLI 7753.....W4VL

7751.....S50B

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Manager, Jim Dionne, K1MEM, 31 DeMarco Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$4.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$10.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. Questions regarding the WAZ Award may be sent to K1MEM with an SASE.

gram will be the K5YG/VP5 DXpedition. The DX forum at the convention will include Rick, K5UR, and Mike, W5ZPA, speaking on DXCC 2000. For info, contact Floyd at <floydgee@datasync.com>.

Sunspot Cycle 23

DXers have endured a long stretch of very low solar activity. It has been three years since solar flux has been consistently above 80. However, we are finally seeing some increase in sunspot numbers. The rate of increase of solar activity is widely expected to increase this fall, pushing solar flux above 100 by the end of the year. This is high enough to provide some good 10 meter openings (remember 10?).

Sunspot Cycle 23 began during the Dayton Hamvention last year. (Perhaps all that VHF radiation over Dayton did something to the sun. . .) Of course, scientists only specify the month of the solar minimum, not the day, but real DXers aren't restricted by such arbitrary limits. Early predictions of the growth of Cycle 23 suggested that smoothed solar flux would be above 100 by this past summer. DXers were disappointed in propagation this

5 Band WAZ

As of June 30, 1997, 463 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ Award with all 200 Zones confirmed:

HB9BLQ W1JR WA4FFW

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed, 80 meters):

N4WW, 199 (26)	F6CPO, 199 (1)
AA4KT, 199 (26)	W6SR, 199 (37)
K7UR, 199 (34)	S57J, 199 (2)
W0PGI, 199 (26)	W3UR, 199 (23)
W2YY, 199 (26)	KC7V, 199 (34)
W9WAQ, 199 (26)	UA3AGW, 198 (1, 12)
W1JR, 199 (23)	VO1FB, 198 (1, 12)
VE7AHA, 199 (34)	EA5BCK, 198 (27, 39)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	KZ4V, 198 (22, 26)
W9CH, 199 (26)	K4PI, 198 (22, 26)
AC0M, 199 (34)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	DK2GZ, 198 (1, 24)
JA2IVK, 199 (34, 40m)	KG9N, 198 (18, 22)
K1ST, 199 (26)	KM2P, 198 (22, 26)
AB0P, 199 (23)	GM3YOR, 198 (12, 31)
KL7Y, 199 (34)	DK0EE, 198 (19, 31)
UY5XE, 199 (27)	K0SR, 198 (22, 23)
NN7X, 199 (34)	K3NW, 198 (23, 26)
DL3ZA, 199 (31)	UA4PO, 198 (1, 2)
OE6MKG, 199 (31)	K5RT, 198 (22, 23)
HA8IB, 199 (2 on 15)	JA1DM, 198 (1, 31)
OH2DW, 199 (1)	OE1ZL, 198 (1, 31)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	9A5I, 198 (1, 26)
DF3CB, 199 (1)	

The following have qualified for the basic 5 Band WAZ Award:

9A5I, 198 Zones	WA4FFW, 200 Zones
WA4FFW, 200 Zones	ZS6KR, 189 Zones
WS1F, 158 Zones	OK1HCD, 158 Zones
9A1CAL, 175 Zones	

Endorsements:

N2NL, 180 Zones	N0FW, 197 Zones
HB9BLQ, 200 Zones	W1JR, 200 Zones

1055 Stations have attained the 150 Zone level as of June 30, 1997.

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Manager, Jim Dionne, K1MEM, 31 DeMarco Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$4.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$10.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. Questions regarding the WAZ Award may be sent to K1MEM with an SASE.

summer, however, as solar flux remained mired below 80.

DXers with good memories will recognize that this pattern of continued low solar activity for a year or more after solar minimum is not unusual. It is the regular pattern of sunspot cycles for solar activity to remain very nearly zero for 12 to 18 months after the minimum. Solar activity then begins to increase very rapidly. We should see this pattern emerging during the next few months. By next year we will be enjoying regular high-band openings.

Savvy DXers will be out ahead of the pack, constantly testing the higher bands. Amateurs tend to forget about the higher bands during the prolonged solar minimum. They lose the habit of regularly calling CQs on apparently dead bands to see if indeed propagation is there, despite the lack of signals. The natural tendency to scan quickly across a band and abandon

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB

2231VK3IR 2232VE7AX

CW

964YC2OK

SSB Endorsements

320VE3MR/328 300K6BZ/306
 320N4CH/326 275VK3IR/289
 320KD8IW/323 275YC2OK/286
 320VE4ACY/323 200VE7AX/240

CW Endorsements

320WA4IUM/327 200YC2OK/200
 320K4IQJ/327 QRPpYC2OK
 320K4CEB/327 1.8 MHzYC2OK
 310K6CU/319 3.5/7 MHzYC2OK
 310N4CH/316

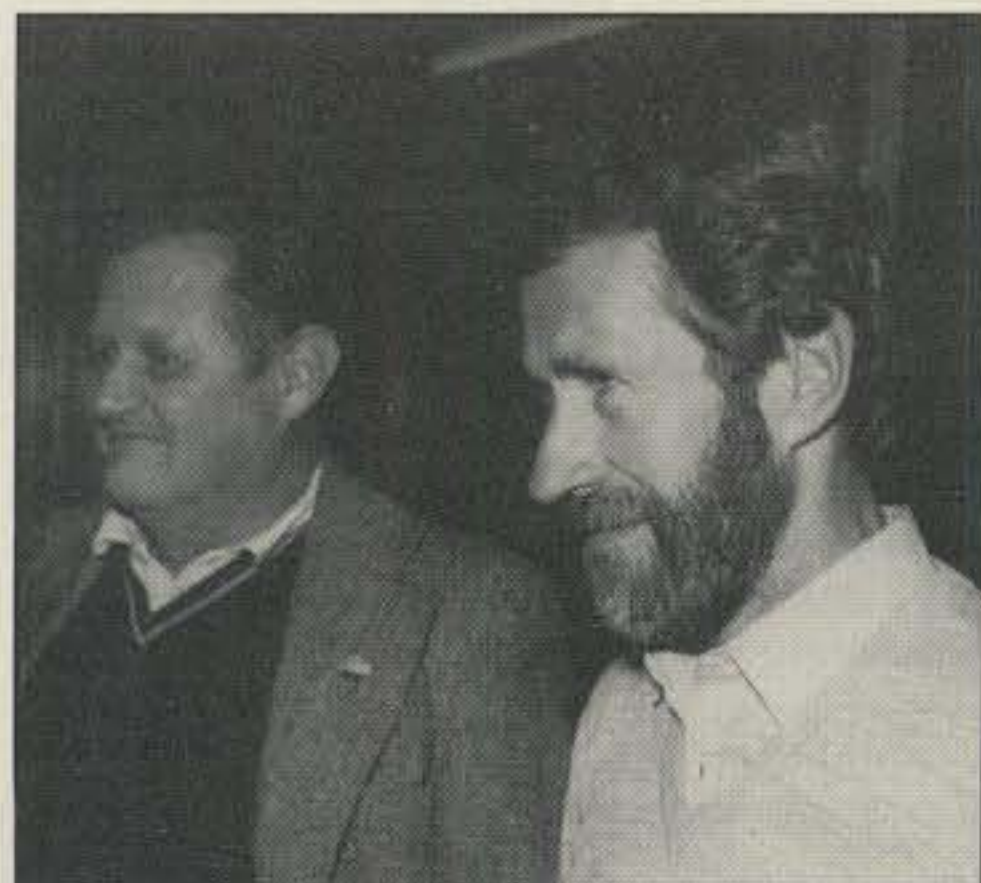
RTTY Endorsement

320K2ENT/324 275K3UA/287

Total number of active countries is 328. 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 SASE 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 airmail reply. Please make all checks payable to the awards manager.

it if nothing is heard is misleading. If everyone is listening and nobody is transmitting, the band will appear dead even if it is wide open. DXers should remember that long-distance propagation is best as close to the maximum usable frequency as possible. Thus, DXers will have the most DX success operating on the highest band that is open for long-distance communication.

There are two ways to ensure that you are on that highest open band. The first is to call CQ in a likely direction. That is to



Eric, SMØAGD, is another DX Hall of Famer who operated from Annobon, and is shown here to the right of Eric, W6DU.

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from Kenwood, a clasp on a gold bracelet for a YL ham from NJ, a few PL-259s, din plugs and other connectors for new rig owners, a cracked HT case, a pot metal toy gun for a budding cowpoke. One woman fixed a hole in her truck radiator so she could get home. THIS IS EASY!

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The table of QSL information is courtesy of John Shelton, K1XN, editor of The GOLIST, P.O. Box 3071, Paris, TN 38242 (telephone 901-641-0109; e-mail <golist@iswt.com>).

the southeast in the local morning and toward the southwest in the afternoon. ZS6EZ tells of calling CQ into a seemingly dead 10 meter band at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, with his beam aimed north. He would work a few dozen stations, and by the time he turned off his rig, the band would be filled with QSOs. The band actually was open on the north-south path, even at the solar minimum, but nobody was transmitting.

The other way to check open bands is with the worldwide multiband beacon network established by the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and by the International Amateur Radio Union

(IARU). This beacon network began operation with a single transmitter in California in 1979, and has since grown into a worldwide network of five-band beacons. Each beacon has a fixed time slot, coordinated through the Global Positioning System to ensure accuracy. Each beacon transmits on 14100 kHz for 10 seconds at various power levels, then QSYs to 18110, 21150, 24930, and 28200 kHz, repeating the pattern. DXers can tune to any of these frequencies and within the space of a few minutes tell which bands are open to what parts of the world and what signal levels can be expected.

Knowledgeable DXers already have

programmed five consecutive memory channels in their HF rig with these frequencies to make it easy to flip through the beacon channels. A multi-band vertical antenna is an excellent addition to beacon monitoring, to eliminate the need to change or rotate antennas as one scans the beacons. Again, a series of CQs in the direction of beacons heard may well result in DX contacts on a seemingly dead band.

Carl Henson, WB4ZNH

Carl Henson, WB4ZNH, was recently elected to the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Carl was first licensed in 1972, upgrading to General the next year. He currently holds

The WPX Honor Roll

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with CQ Master Prefix List. Scores are based on the current prefix total regardless of an operator's all-time count. Honor Roll must be updated annually by addition to, or confirmation of, present total. If no up-date, file will be made inactive. Lifetime Honor Roll fee is \$4.00 (U.S.) for each mode, with no fee for additions. ***MIXED files have not been edited for 1997 removals at this time.**

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SSB

4688.....F9RM 2855.....F2VX 2390.....EA3AQC 2189.....KF7RU 1664.....N6FX 1485.....CT1BWW 1332.....K5IID 1097.....SV3AQR 869.....N3ED	4141.....IT9TQH 2846.....EA2IA 2385.....I2MQP 2184.....I2EOW 1653.....K8LJG 1480.....W6OUL 1318.....G4OBK 1063.....LN4PYD 866.....HA9PP	4056.....I0ZV 2745.....OZ5EV 2349.....UA3FT 2174.....CT1AHU 1651.....YU7SF 1464.....K8MDU 1273.....NG9L 1038.....S51NU 837.....N1RT	3743.....VE1YX 2725.....I1EEW 2342.....WA8YTM 2169.....WF4V 1649.....EA5CGU 1434.....DK5WQ 1240.....I3UBL 999.....WT3W 836.....EA3EQ	3607.....ZL3NS 2707.....IY4NO 2296.....I8KCI 2124.....KD9OT 1639.....K2XF 1437.....K2EEK 1193.....LU5EWO 965.....DJ4GJ 823.....I2EAY	3311.....F6DZU 2658.....I4CSP 2274.....EA5AT 2063.....CX6BZ 1590.....KS4S 1437.....K3IXD 1155.....WA2FKF 954.....EA1AX 804.....AG4W	3309.....K6JG 2638.....N5JR 2267.....YU7BCD 2014.....EA1JG 1587.....KB0C 1415.....IK0EIM 1151.....K0IFL 953.....DF1IC 768.....N3DRO	3246.....I2PJA 2552.....PA0SNG 2265.....PY4OY 1809.....LU8DY 1494.....CT1EEB 1398.....IK2AEQ 1127.....EABAG 924.....EA1MK 740.....JN3SAC	2913.....CT4NH 2510.....I5ZJK 2251.....4X6DK 1716.....OE2EGL 1490.....AE5B 1396.....I3ZSX 1105.....DF7HX 912.....LU3HBO 641.....VE6BMX	2892.....N4MM 2404.....LU8ESU
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CW

4081.....IT9TQH 2817.....EA2IA 2240.....I2UIY 1889.....KF2O 1687.....I7PXF 1510.....KS4S 1341.....EA7AAW 1123.....AC5K 890.....KB5OHT	3746.....WA2HZR 2614.....YU7SF 2145.....W8IQ 1867.....S58U 1594.....W6OUL 1454.....EA5YU 1317.....N1IA 1066.....N3ED 884.....I2EOW	3389.....N6JV 2600.....K9QVB 2074.....S51NU 1854.....T14SU 1594.....I1EEW 1437.....JN3SAC 1293.....IK5TSS 1032.....W4UW 884.....PY4WS	3098.....UA3FT 2337.....N5JR 2058.....JA9CWX 1816.....SM6CST 1591.....G4OBK 1416.....9A3SM 1280.....ZB2EO 1017.....LU3DSI 727.....VE6BMX	3073.....N4NO 2326.....G4UOL 2035.....9A2NA 1804.....N6FX 1548.....DJ1YH 1411.....SM5DAC 1268.....DJ4GJ 984.....I2MQP 709.....K0IFL	3011.....VE7CNE 2314.....YU7BCD 1986.....KA7T 1795.....W1WAI 1539.....LU2YA 1389.....I2EAY 1230.....EA6AA 911.....HA9PP 690.....WT3W	2992.....YU7LS 2288.....N4MM 1927.....K8LJG 1777.....OZ5UR 1538.....IK3GER 1347.....IK2ECP 1178.....K5IID 896.....9A3UF 623.....LY3BY	2881.....N4UU 2286.....WA8YTM 1913.....HA5NK 1755.....K5UR 1529.....EA6BD 1346.....9A2HF 1133.....EA2CIN 894.....DF6SW 604.....AC6DD	2832.....K6JG 2247.....LZ1XL 1904.....VR2UW 1695.....K2XF
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an Extra Class license and is on the DXCC Honor Roll. He and his wife Martha, WN4FVU, have travelled to and operated from dozens of interesting and rare DXCC countries. Among Carl's successful DXpeditions are operating from Uganda as WB4ZNH/5X during a time of government turmoil, the Annobon Island operation mentioned above, Chad TT, and Aves Island as part of the 4M0ARV DXpedition. Among other countries on Carl's resume are Western Samoa 5W1BC, The Gambia C5ABC, Maldives 8Q7AF, Zaire 9Q5DH, Botswana A2, Swaziland 3D6, Equatorial Guinea 3C1BC, Mauritania 5T5BC, and many Caribbean islands. Carl and Martha also operated from Eritrea during the two years of transition time between winning the war with Ethiopia and internationally recognized independence. He's a frequent and entertaining speaker at DX events around the country. Carl is also one of the most outspoken DXers on the subject of DX nets. No, he's *not* in favor of them. Congratulations to Carl on his election to the CQ DX Hall of Fame!

Photos Wanted

My supply of photographs of DXers is running low. Please send any available photograph of DXers, DXpeditions, and DX operators to me at P.O. Box 50, Fulton, CA 95439, and you may see your photograph in the pages of CQ.

73, Chod, VP2ML

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4K-LIG Grounded, 4 KW, 160-10m	\$25.95
4K-LI Identical to 4K-LIG without direct grounding	\$19.95

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N/9913S As above but Silver & Teflon	\$4.25
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RG-213 Plus Enhanced, 96%+ super jacket	38¢
RG-213 Top Quality, 95%	35¢
ExtraFlex Flexible, 9913 type	59¢
R1 Rotor 8 conductor (2 x #18, 6 x #24)	SALE 20¢
R2 Rotor 8 conductor (2 x #16, 6 x #18)	SALE 35¢
#14 HD Stranded, 7 x 22 hard-drawn	8¢
#14 FlexWeave™ 168-strand, bare for any wire ant.	12¢
#12 FlexWeave™ 259-strand, excellent for longer runs	19¢
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450 Ladder New! #14 stranded cond. poly	28¢
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WASHINGTON READOUT

REGULATORY NEWS IN THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

Vanity Station Callsigns—Your Questions Answered

Obtaining an amateur station callsign where you choose the call letters and numeral has proved to be very popular indeed. So far over 14,000 vanity callsigns have been issued. Here are some answers to questions of general interest about the program.

• May I obtain a 2×3 amateur station callsign beginning with the letters NA through NZ?

No. The vanity callsign system is based on specified callsign "groups." Extra class amateurs are eligible for Group "A," which contains all K, N, and W-by-2 letters; KA-KZ, NA-NZ, WA-WZ, and AA-AL-by-1 letter; and AA-AL prefixed 2×2 callsigns. Advanced class amateurs may select KA-KZ, NA-NZ, and WA-WZ-by-2 letter Group "B" callsigns. The General class may choose any available K, N, or W-by-3 letter Group "C" callsign. And Novices qualify for Group "D" callsigns: KA-KZ and WA-WZ-by-3 letters. Any amateur may select a callsign from a lower class group. For example, an Extra class amateur may also select a Group B, C, or D callsign.

The Group Call-Sign System, which began on March 24, 1978, did not provide for the nearly 6.5 million possible 2×3 callsigns which begin with NA-NZ and AA-AL. The FCC recently approved the use of 1×1 format callsigns for "special event" use, so the NA-NZ and AA-AL-by-3 are the only callsign blocks that remain unavailable to the public.

• All the good 1×2 format callsigns are assigned. Is there a way I can get one?

Actually, new 1×2 callsigns are becoming available every month! It is possible to get one of them if you know how. Callsigns become available two years following license expiration or death of the grantee. A callsign is listed in the FCC database for two years beyond expiration to provide a two-year grace period during which the licensee may recoup the callsign.

There are many (possibly hundreds) available 1×2 callsigns currently listed in the FCC's amateur service database where the licensee has died two to twelve years ago. Check the Silent Keys listing

in *QST* for the period 1985 through 1995 to determine which callsigns may be available. Then check the FCC database listed on the Internet to determine which callsigns are still being carried as active.

There are many amateur posted callsign databases on the World Wide Web which you can locate with a search engine. The FCC also has one. At this point, access to this database is free, since it is still in the testing stage. To get to their Amateur Radio Database Query on the Internet, go to <<http://gullfoss.fcc.gov>> and then select (1) Beta Test Site, (2) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and then (3) Amateur Radio Query—Beta Testers.

The FCC will remove the amateur callsign of a deceased amateur from its database if you provide them with either an obituary from a newspaper or a copy of the death certificate. Mail your callsign deletion request and documentation to: FCC, Amateur Section, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. Then start checking the Amateur Radio Database about two weeks after you submit the deletion request. Once the callsign is deleted from the database, you may apply for it. But work fast. Someone else could beat you to the callsign.

• Are there any callsigns that are not available for assignment?

Certain combinations of letters are not assignable as sequential or vanity amateur radio station callsigns:

1. These combinations include KA2AA-KA9ZZ, KC4AAA-KC4AAF, KC4USA-KC4USZ, KG4AA-KG4ZZ, KC6AA-KC6ZZ, KL9KAA-KL9KHZ, and KX6AA-KX6ZZ. These are generally allocated to Antarctica and military stations.

2. Any callsign having the letters SOS or QRA-QUZ as the suffix. These are used for distress Q-signals.

3. Any 2×3 format callsign having the letter X as the first letter of the suffix. These are allocated to non-amateur "Experimental" stations.

4. Any 2×3 format callsign having the letters AF, KF, NF, or WF as the prefix and the letters EMA as the suffix. These are allocated to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for use on the amateur bands.

5. Letter combinations that prior recipients have found offensive are not as-

signed under the sequential callsign program. These can apparently be requested under the vanity callsign system. The FCC did not say what these offensive letter combinations were.

6. Callsigns having the single letter prefix (K, N, or W), a single digit numeral, and a single letter suffix are reserved for the special event callsign system. (The letter X may not follow the numeral.)

• Do I get my money back if I don't get a requested vanity callsign?

Yes, you do. You may choose up to 25 callsigns. If you do not get one of them, then your current callsign is not changed. You will be refunded your vanity callsign fee if you make a request by written letter to the FCC in Gettysburg. Note that the regulatory fee for a vanity callsign went to \$50 on September 15, 1997.

• What callsign prefixes are available to stations located outside of the continental United States?

Applicants with mailing addresses in the 48 contiguous states may not request a callsign from: Region 11, Alaska, which has reserved callsign prefixes AL, KL, NL, and WL; Region 12, Puerto Rico/Caribbean, which has reserved prefixes KP, NP, and WP; and Region 13, Hawaii/Pacific Islands, which has reserved prefixes AH, KH, NH, and WH.

• When can I file for a vanity station callsign?

Starting gates are being used to implement the system in stages. You may not file for a vanity callsign prior to that date.

Gate 1, opened May 31, 1996: Permitted previous licensees, club stations, and close relatives to obtain a previously held callsign.

Gate 1(A), opened July 22, 1996: Permitted clubs to obtain a memorial callsign of a deceased member, providing written consent is received from a close relative. The club must have held the callsign prior to March 24, 1995.

Gate 2, opened September 23, 1996: Permitted amateur Extra class operators to request a Group A, B, C, or D callsign.

Gate 3, opened August 6, 1997: Permitted Advanced class operators to request a Group B, C, or D callsign.

Gate 4, opening date not yet an-

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator,
P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101
(817-461-6443; e-mail W5YI@W5YI.org)

nounced: Permits General, Technician Plus, or Technician class operators to request a Group C or D callsign. A Novice class operator may request only a Group D callsign.

• **May I hold more than one vanity callsign?**

No. An individual amateur may hold one—and only one—station callsign. An amateur must trade in his/her regular callsign when he/she receives a vanity callsign. Four or more amateurs may form a club and apply for a club station callsign. One of the club members is eligible to be the station trustee. Strangely, a club may hold any number of station callsigns. The club trustee may only apply for a club call appropriate for his/her license class "group." In other words, a station trustee holding a Technician class license may only apply for a Group C or D callsign.

• **How does the FCC assign a vanity callsign?**

Applicants wanting a special callsign must submit either a paper FCC Form 610-V document or electronically file their application over the Internet. All requests are handled on a daily basis in order of receipt with electronically filed requests handled first. You may list up to 25 choices or may select as few as one callsign.

Upon confirming that you are eligible for the first vanity callsign on your list, the license data base as it then exists is searched by the FCC's computer. If the callsign is available for reassignment, your license is modified to show that callsign. The search is repeated using the other callsigns in your order of preference until a callsign is selected.

Should no callsign on your list be assignable to your station, the callsign that you vacated will again be shown on your license. Your vacated callsign does not become available for reassignment for a two year period. Since vanity callsign requests will be continually accepted and processed, there is no guarantee that a callsign that appears to be available on the license database will be available when your request is processed.

The FCC cannot provide current callsign status data. This information is available from the W5YI Group, however. Call 1-800-669-9594 for a computer disk which lists the assignable vanity callsigns for which you qualify.

• **How do I go about paying for a vanity callsign?**

Effective September 15, 1997 the fee for a vanity callsign is \$50. This fee may be paid by check, bank draft, money order, or credit card. The FCC does not hold your check until it clears before issuing the callsign. Do not send cash.

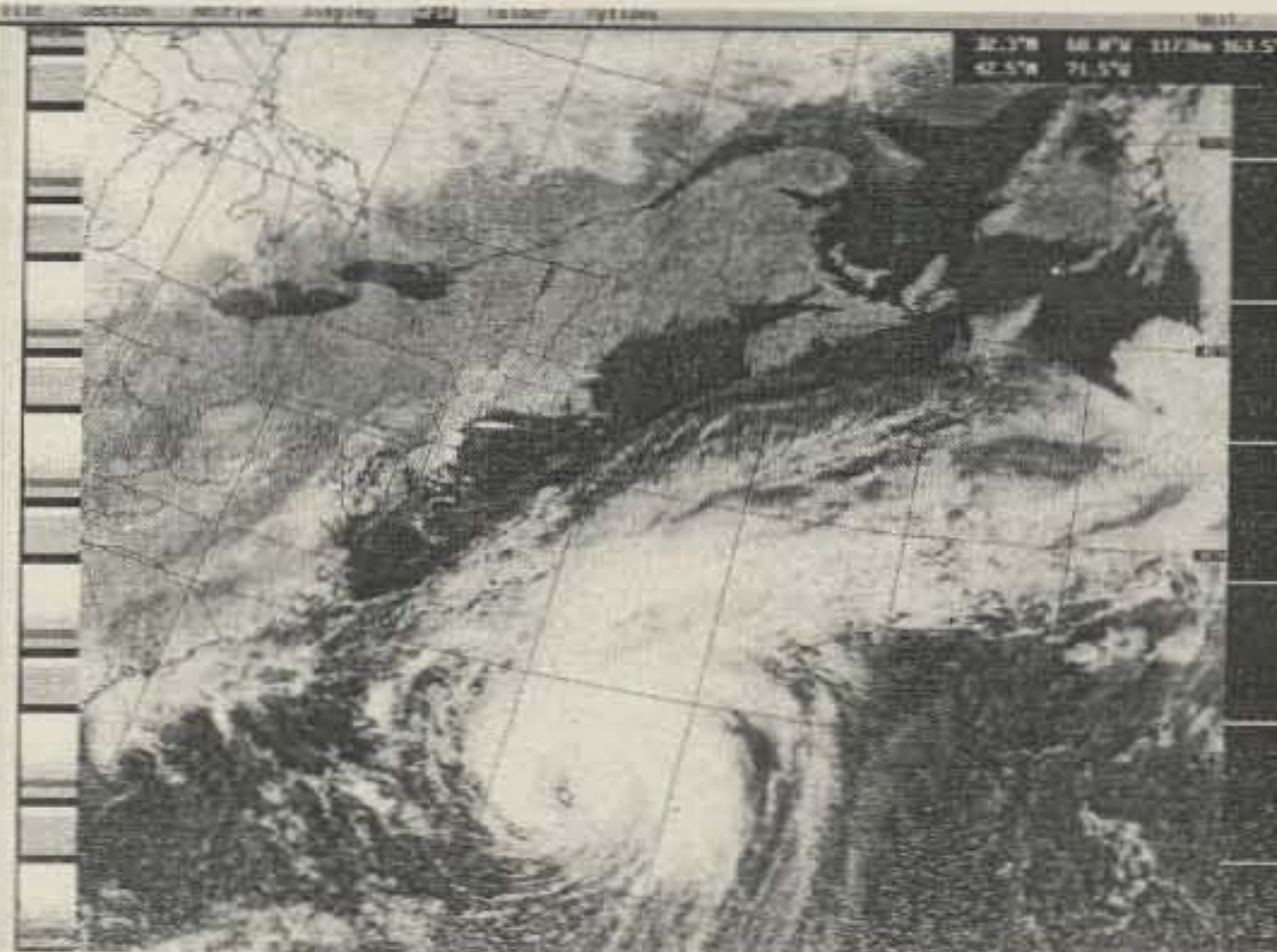
You must include an FCC Form 159, "FCC Remittance Advice," if you pay the fee by credit card. The four-letter payment-type code to be entered in Line No. 14A are the letters "W A V R." Only MasterCard and VISA are accepted.

If you file by mail, the Form 610-V vanity callsign application package and \$50 fee must be mailed to: Federal Communications Commission, Amateur Vanity Call Sign Requests, P.O. Box 358924, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924. Do not mail your request to the FCC licensing facility in Gettysburg, PA. It must go to Pittsburgh.

You may also file electronically by accessing the following URL on the Internet's World Wide Web: <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html>>. If you file electronically using the interactive vanity callsign request, the system will provide you with an FCC Form 159 which you should print out. This form must be mailed together with the fee or credit card information to: Federal Communications Commission, Amateur Vanity, P.O. Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994. It is important that it be received within 10 days.

This is a special box number set up to receive payments for electronically submitted Form 610-Vs. Do not send your electronic Form 159 to the regular P.O. Box 358924. Be sure to read and follow the electronic filing instructions carefully! Anyone who submits a bad check or a credit-card account number that can-

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not be charged will have his/her callsign assignment reversed.

• Where do I get FCC Form 610-V?

The FCC Form 610-V "Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request" application form is available from FCC Forms Distribution Center, 2803 52nd Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781. Their toll-free telephone number is 800-418-3676 (FORM). The document is also available on the Internet for downloading from <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or from the FCC's Fax-on-Demand system. Call 202-418-0177 from the handset of a fax machine.

• What is the special event vanity call-sign system?

This is the third callsign system about which we wrote last month. The 750 one-by-one format callsigns have been made available by the FCC for temporary use by "special event" stations. Special event station callsigns have not been available since March 24, 1978, when the Commission discontinued all previous callsign procedures and went to the Group call-sign system.

A 1x1 callsign consists of a single prefix letter (K, N, or W), the region number (through 9), and a single suffix letter (A through Z—except the letter X). A "special event" is an on-the-air amateur radio operation activated to call public attention to a self-determined event of special significance to the amateur community, such as a celebration, festival, anniversary, etc.

The callsign is selected by the station licensee from a list of callsigns shown on a common data base coordinated, maintained, and disseminated by the amateur station special event callsign data base coordinators. You do not need to hold any specific class of license to reserve a 1x1 callsign for up to 15 days. It simply allows an already licensed station to temporarily use a different callsign in the identification announcement to help attract greater attention to the on-the-air presence of the station. The special event station must also announce its regular FCC-assigned callsign at least once each hour during the operation so that listeners can determine the identity of its licensee.

The National Conference of VECs is providing the database located on the Internet at <http://ncvec.spindle.net>. The special event callsign is substituted for the callsign shown on the station license grant while the station is transmitting. The FCC has issued a public announcement requesting volunteer coordinators. The W5YI Group and the American Radio Relay League have already indicated that they will accept the appointment, and it is expected that special event callsigns will be available by the time you read this.

See you next month!

73, Fred, W5YI

PROPAGATION

THE SCIENCE OF PREDICTING RADIO CONDITIONS

DX Contest Special

The 1997 CQ World-Wide DX Contest, the 50th running of this most popular DX contest, will be held on the following dates:

Phone: 0000 UTC Saturday, October 25 to
2400 UTC Sunday, October 26
CW: 0000 UTC Saturday, November 29 to
2400 UTC Sunday, November 30

For the 47th consecutive year this month's propagation column is devoted to special forecasts and information applicable to both the Phone and CW contest weekends. The accuracy of the forecasts for the previous 46 contests is greater than 90%!

For Most of WW DX SSB— High Normal Conditions

At the time of this writing, early August, a long-range CQ day-to-day forecast based primarily on the 27-day recurrence tendencies of geomagnetic, solar, and ionospheric conditions indicates a high probability for Low Normal propagation conditions on October 25, at the beginning of the first day of the SSB contest weekend, improving to High Normal during most of October 26, at times increasing to Above Normal. See the Last-Minute Forecast on this page for additional information concerning expected day-to-day conditions for the entire month of October. An updated day-to-day forecast for the SSB contest weekend will appear as a bulletin at the beginning of next month's column. The November issue of CQ should reach most subscribers before the SSB contest begins.

Increasing Sunspots For 1997 Contest

While solar scientists have not as yet officially agreed upon the starting date for sunspot Cycle 23, it now appears almost certain that it began during May 1996 with a smoothed sunspot count of 8, and that the new cycle is steadily rising, albeit very slowly.

The monthly mean sunspot number for June 1997 as reported by the Royal Observatory of Belgium was 13.1. A high count of 22 was recorded on June 2, with but only a single day, June 30, spotless.

June's mean level results in a 12-month running smoothed sunspot number of 11 centered on December 1996. This is an increase of three during the first seven months of Cycle 23. Canada's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory reports a corresponding 10.7 cm solar flux level of 74 for June. This results in a smoothed value of 73 centered on December 1996.

A smoothed sunspot count on the order of 20 or greater is expected during the 1997 WW DX Contest period, with a corresponding solar

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for October 1997

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-2, 10, 14, 17, 21, 26, 29	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 8-9, 11, 13, 15-16, 27-28	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 4-6, 18, 20, 23, 25, 31	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 3, 7, 12, 22, 24, 30	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: 19	C-D	D	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 S9, with some fading and noise.

D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S6, with considerable fading and noise.

E—No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find the propagation index associated with the particular path opening from the 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 path opening for any given day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the Propagation Charts with a propagation index of 3 will be excellent (A) on Oct. 1st and 2nd, fair-to-poor (C-D) on the 3rd, fair-to-good (C-B) on the 4th through 6th, etc. Signal quality should be fair-to-good (C-B) on Oct. 25th, the first day of the CQ WW DX SSB Contest weekend, and excellent (A) on Oct. 26th.

flux level in the low 80s or greater. This would be at about the same levels that last occurred during the 1994 WW DX Contest periods.

If Mother Nature cooperates this year and there are no unexpected radio storms during the 1997 WW DX Contest periods, conditions should be noticeably better than during the past two years. If such is the case, expect better openings and higher scores, noticeably on 10 and 15 meters.

If you plan to participate in the 1997 World-Wide DX Contest, the DX propagation charts and other information appearing in this month's column are designed to help you stay sharp and informed, and to make the best use of the ionosphere for piling up as many contacts and points as possible.

General Conditions, Band By Band

The following is a band-by-band summary of DX propagation conditions normally expected from mid-October through mid-December and centered on the contest periods.

10 Meters: With increasing solar activity, a noticeable increase in 10 meter openings is now likely. During High or Above Normal conditions look for some openings towards Africa and Europe before noon, towards Central and South America from a few hours before until a few hours afternoon, and towards the South Pacific during the afternoon.

15 Meters: The new cycle will also bring an increasing number of openings on this band. This should be a fairly good band during most of the daylight hours. When conditions are Normal, the band should open to many areas of the world from shortly after sunrise through the late afternoon. Signals from Europe and Africa should peak an hour or two before noon, while signals from Central and South America, the Far East, and the South Pacific should peak during the late afternoon. During Below Normal or Disturbed conditions, 15 meter openings will be spotty and of very short duration.

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

40 Meters: The band is expected to open during the late afternoon hours, and remain open for DX to one area of the world or another until shortly after sunrise. Look for openings to Europe and Africa from an hour or so before sundown to about midnight in the MST and PST time zones, and to at least 2 AM in the CST and EST zones. Good openings towards Central and South America should be possible throughout most of the hours of darkness. Openings towards the South Pacific and the Far East are expected to peak during a two-hour period before sunrise. During most of the hours of darkness, 40 meters should be the optimum band for DX propagation. When conditions are Below Normal or Disturbed, openings will be spotty and considerably fewer in number.

80 Meters: DX propagation conditions are generally at their best on this band during periods of low solar activity. Some fairly good 80 meter DX openings are expected to several areas of the world during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. When propagation conditions are Normal, signal levels should be strong on many openings. Even during Below Normal or Disturbed periods there is a fairly good chance that some DX openings may be possible during the hours of darkness. Expect conditions normally to peak around midnight for openings towards Europe and Africa, after mid-

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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	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 I— Sample multi-band work plan for Eastern USA QTH.

night and before sunrise for openings towards Central and South America, and just before sunrise for openings towards the South Pacific and the Far East.

160 Meters: With longer hours of darkness, DX conditions on this band should improve. While DX conditions may not be as good 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 (and 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 UTC 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.

WARC Bands

While the WARC bands are not yet included in

the World-Wide DX Contest, expect 12 meter openings during the same time periods as shown for 10 meters, but with this band opening a bit more frequently than 10 meters. Seventeen meters should behave much as shown for 15 meters. Openings on 30 meters should resemble 40 meter openings during local sunrise and sunset times, but the band is expected to open less frequently than 40 meters during the hours of darkness.

Contest Work Plans

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

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

Table I 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 through-

out the day. Similar plans can be devised for other bands and for other locations.

Radio Storms

The forecasts discussed in this column are based on *normal* propagation conditions expected with a sunspot level in the low teens. 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 Mother Nature should play a trick and produce a radio storm during the contest period, expect conditions to drop to Below Normal or Disturbed to many areas of the world, depending on the storm's severity. The storm's influence will generally extend outward from the polar regions, the more severe the storm becomes. Under storm conditions expect considerably fewer openings on 10, 15, and 20 meters, with weaker signals, increased fading, flutter fading, and higher noise levels. Paths passing through the polar regions and the upper latitudes are often more adversely affected than signals coming from mid and lower latitudes.

Conditions on 40, 80, and 160 meters are likely to become erratic as well. During certain types of storms conditions may actually improve at times for openings on all bands towards southern and tropical areas, and on 40, 80, and 160 meters during the hours of darkness.

If a radio storm should develop, concentrate on working trans-polar paths on 10, 15, and 20 meters during the daylight hours. Check the 40, 80, and 160 meter bands for possible openings to some areas of the world during the hours of darkness.

Do-It-Yourself Forecasting

The age of computer bulletin boards has given way to Web pages. You now can obtain a wealth of updated and real-time solar, geomagnetic, ionospheric, and HF propagation data from several Web pages sponsored by well-known research organizations throughout the world. Having such information available would be of special importance during the 1997 CQ World-Wide DX Contest periods.

The one Web page that I find has a library of information and is linked to other useful Web pages as well, is sponsored by the Space Environment Center, NOAA of the US Dept. of Commerce, located in Boulder, Colorado. Its URL is: <<http://www.sel.noaa.com>>. This site contains a wealth of useful information and is well menued. Here is how you can use it to know what's going on with the sun, the geomagnetic field, and the ionosphere during the contest.

From the Menu page, under "Space Weather Products" hit the button "Radio Users." The Radio User's Menu is shown in fig. 1. On the Radio User's page look under "Today's Space Weather." Select "Joint USAF/NOAA Primary and Secondary HF Propagation Reports." This will give you in tabular form a summary of worldwide HF propagation conditions (which is updated every six hours), the latest value of 10.7 cm solar flux, and the latest geomagnetic indices. A sample of this report is shown in fig. 2. Other items on the User's Page will provide additional solar and geophysical information, current radio storm alerts and warnings, auroral activity, and detailed ionospheric data.

The NOAA site is linked under "Ionospheric




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Western Africa	10-13 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	07-10 (1) 11-13 (2) 13-14 (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)	20-00 (1) 21-23 (1)*
Southern Africa	09-12 (1)	07-10 (1) 10-11 (2) 11-12 (3) 12-13 (2) 13-14 (1)	21-23 (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)*
Southeast 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) 05-07 (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	12-17 (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	14-17 (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)*

Europe & North Africa	10-12 (1)	09-10 (1) 10-14 (2) 14-16 (1) 23-01 (1)	22-00 (1) 19-23 (1)*	18-19 (1) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (3) 18-20 (4) 20-22 (2) 22-02 (1) 02-04 (2)
Northern Europe & CIS**	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)*
Southeast 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) 20-22 (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	12-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	09-12 (1) 12-15 (2) 15-17 (4)	04-07 (1) 07-09 (3) 09-12 (2)	21-22 (1) 22-05 (3) 05-08 (2)
Zealand		17-18 (2)	12-16 (1)	08-09 (1)

Australasia	15-17 (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	08-10 (1) 10-14 (2) 14-15 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-11 (2) 11-13 (3) 13-15 (4) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	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	09-14 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-14 (2) 14-15 (4) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (1)	01-06 (1) 06-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 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	Nil	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 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.
For 12 meter openings interpolate between 10 and 15 meter openings.
For 17 meter openings interpolate between 15 and 20 meter openings.
For 30 meter openings interpolate between 40 and 20 meter openings.
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Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	08-09 (1) 09-14 (2) 14-16 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-09 (2) 09-14 (3) 14-15 (4) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	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) 05-06 (1)*	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	09-15 (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)

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		08-10 (2)	07-09 (2)	20-22 (2)

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Radio User's Page

Today's Space Weather

Recent Space Environment Reports

- [Joint USAF/NOAA Primary and Secondary HF Propagation Reports](#)
- [Report of Solar & Geophysical Activity](#)
- [Solar & Geophysical Activity Summary](#)

Current Space Environment Alerts & Warnings

Auroral Activity Estimated from NOAA/TIROS Satellite

Ionospheric Data Sets

- [Rice Magnetospheric Model](#)
- [Hiraiso Solar-Terrestrial Research Center](#)
- [Auroral Electrojet \(Birkeland Current\) Plot](#)
- [USAF Auroral Oval Display](#)
- [Current Total Electron Content \(TEC\) Data](#)
- [IPS Radio Space Services, Australia](#)

Summary & Medium Range Forecasts

- [Support for HF Radio in North America](#)
- [Weekly Summary and 27-day Forecast](#)
- [27-day 10.7 cm, Ap, and Max Kp Outlook](#)

Links to Other Radio Pages

Compliments of [Yahoo!](#)

Fig. 1—Radio User's selections from NOAA Space Environment Center Web page.

Data Sets" to the IPS Radio and Space Services site in Australia. This is another site which supplies a storehouse of useful data, including *real-time* HF propagation band predictions. These are called "Hourly Area Predictions" (HAP). They contain frequency predictions which are superimposed on area maps, given in UT, and upgraded every hour. HAPs are available in brilliant color centered on the following North American cities: Boston, Boulder, Montreal, New Orleans, San Francisco, Vancouver, White Horse, and Winnipeg. HAPs for North America can be reached from the NOAA "Radio User's Page" under "Summary & Medium Range Forecasts." Other IPS data can be obtained from the NOAA page by selecting "IPS Radio Space Services, Australia" under "Ionospheric Data Sets." This will link you directly to the IPS page. For direct access, the URL for the IPS Web site is: <<http://www.ips.gov.au>>.

If you do not have access to the Web pages, solar flux, geomagnetic indices, and ionospheric reports can be obtained by calling 303-497-3235 where a WWV recorded announcement is updated every three hours, or by calling the "on-duty forecaster" for a live report at the Space Environment Center 303-497-3171. WWV, Ft. Collins, Colorado has similar geophysical alert broadcasts 18 minutes past each hour on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz. Similar information is also carried at 45 minutes past

each hour on 2.5, 5, 10, and 15 MHz from WWVH, Kauai, Hawaii.

Fig. 3 can be used to determine the quality of ionospheric propagation by using the solar flux values and geomagnetic indices that are provided by telephone or radio.

VHF Ionospheric Openings

While the CQ WW DX Contest does not include the VHF bands, some interesting ionospheric activity is likely to occur on these bands during October. Some fairly good meteor-scatter-type openings should be possible on the VHF bands around October 20th, when the two-day *Orionids* meteor shower is expected to begin. This should be a major shower, with a maximum hourly rate of at least 25 meteors.

Auroral activity usually increases during October, and some corresponding auroral-scatter-type and sporadic-E VHF openings can be expected during periods of such activity. The best days to check are those expected to be either Below Normal or Disturbed on the HF bands. See the Last-Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for the days in October that are forecast to be in these categories.

CW Contest Forecast

This month's DX Propagation Charts are valid

SUBJ: HF RADIO PROPAGATION REPORT

JOINT USAF/NOAA BULLETIN PREPARED BY 55SWXS, FALCON AFB, CO.
 PRIMARY HF RADIO PROPAGATION REPORT ISSUED AT 02/0500Z AUG 97.
 PART I. SUMMARY 02/0000Z TO 02/0600Z AUG 97.
 FORECAST 02/0600Z TO 02/1200Z AUG 97.

QUADRANT

		I	II	III	IV
		0 TO 90W	90W TO 180	180 TO 90E	90E TO 0
REGION	POLAR	N5	N5	N5	N5
	AURORAL	N4	N4	N5	N5
	MIDDLE	N5	N6	N6	N6
	LOW	N6	N6	N7	N7
	EQUATORIAL	N6	N7	N7	N7

PART II. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HF RADIO PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

OBSERVED DURING THE 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 01/2400Z, AND FORECAST CONDITIONS FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

A. OBSERVED CONDITIONS: HF PROPAGATION HAS BEEN NORMAL.

B. FORECAST CONDITIONS: EXPECT NORMAL HF PROPAGATION.

PART III. SUMMARY OF SOLAR FLARE INDUCED IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES

WHICH MAY HAVE CAUSED SHORT WAVE FADES IN THE SUNLIT HEMISPHERE DURING THE 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 01/2400Z AUG. 97. NONE

PROBABILITY FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS: NIL

PART IV. OBSERVED/FORECAST 10.7 CM FLUX AND K/AP.

THE OBSERVED 10.7 CM FLUX FOR 01 AUG 97 WAS 072.

THE FORECAST 10.7 CM FLUX FOR 02, 03, AND 04 AUG 97 ARE 071, 071, AND 071.

THE OBSERVED K/AP VALUE FOR 01 AUG 97 WAS 02/08.

THE FORECAST K/AP VALUES FOR 02, 03, AND 04 AUG 97 ARE 02/08, 02/10, AND 02/08.

SATELLITE X-RAY BACKGROUND: LT A1.0.

THE EFFECTIVE SUNSPOT NUMBER FOR 01 AUG 97 WAS 27.8.

Fig. 2— Sample of "Joint USAF/NOAA Primary and Secondary HF Propagation Report" available from the NOAA Space Environment Center Web page.

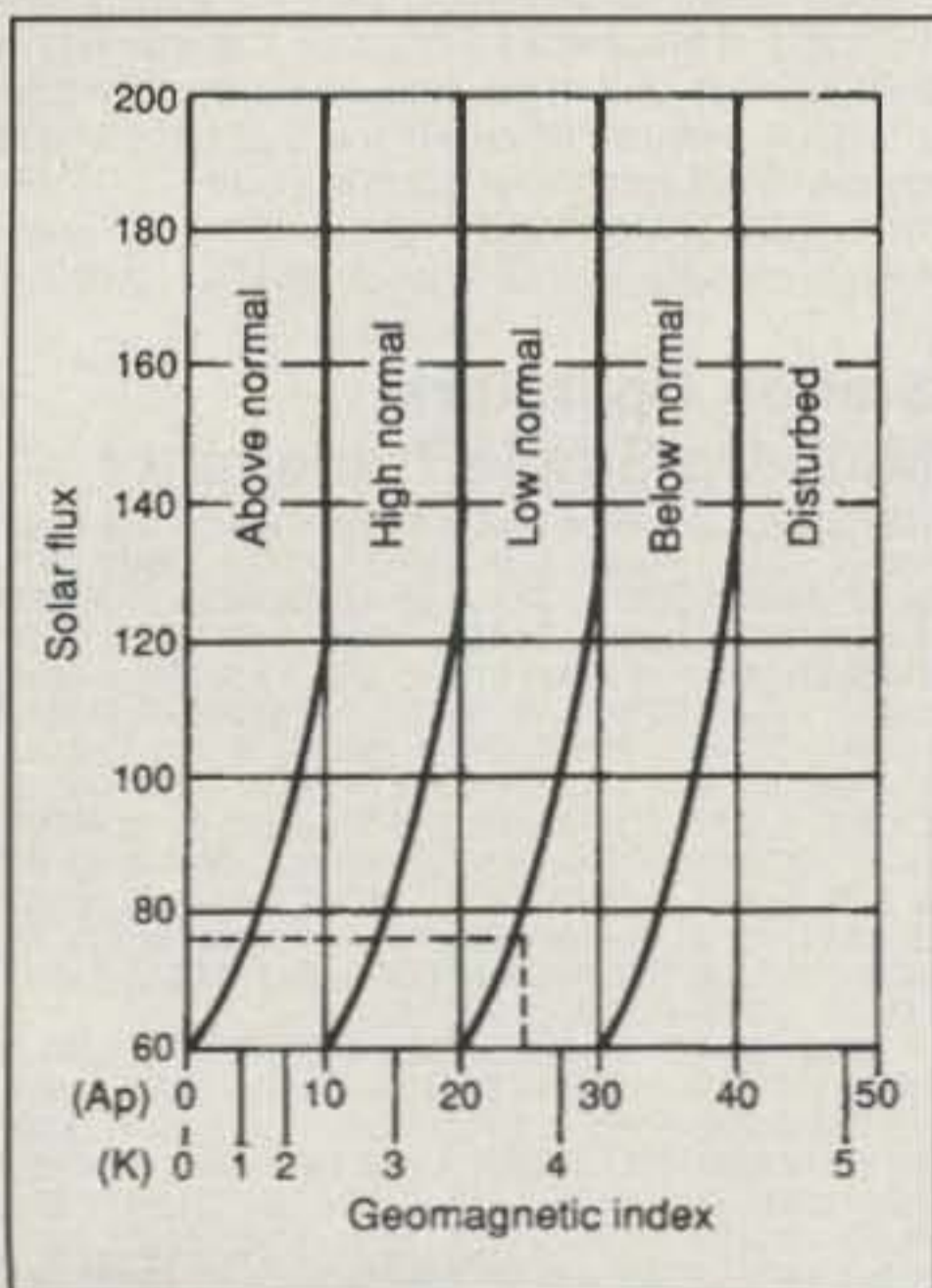


Fig. 3— Intersection of given values of solar flux and geomagnetic activity determine expected HF ionospheric propagation conditions. (Example: The solar flux is 75 and Ap is 25; therefore, expect Below Normal conditions.)

for both the SSB and CW sections of the CQ WW DX Contest. Be sure to keep them handy for use during next month's CW section as well. Short-Skip Propagation Charts for use during October appeared in last month's column.

The NEW Shortwave Propagation Handbook makes an excellent companion during the CQ WW DX Contest. It contains a considerable amount of additional information concerning propagation, radio storms, do-it-yourself forecasting, and computer propagation programs. Copies can be obtained from CQ by calling toll-free 1-800-853-9797 (for \$19.95 plus \$4.00 s/h).

Experience from the past 46 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 1997 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 20915, or via e-mail to <g.jacobs@ieee.org>. Good luck in this year's CQ WW DX Contest!

73, George, W3ASK

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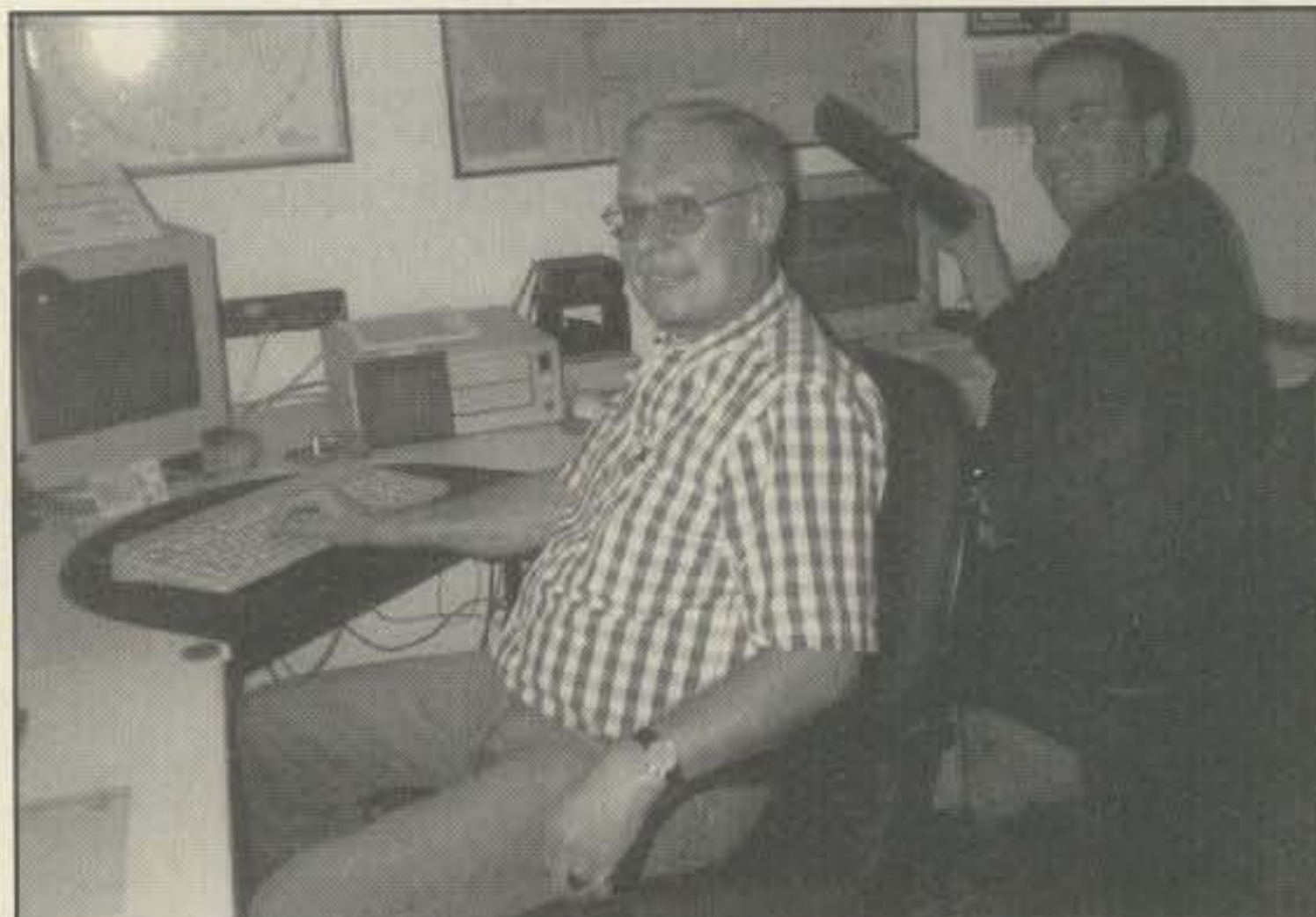
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Zone	Call	Score	Zone	Call	Score
1	NL7RK	477,092	21	A71CW	5,985,043
2	VO2/WB8Ytz	255,706	22	VU2MTT	1,183,821
3	K6LA	1,731,660	23	JT1BH	331,315
4	K5GN	3,156,737	24	XX9X	4,117,548
5	K5ZD/1	5,461,830	25	JH5FXP	2,917,488
6	XE1VV	941,488	26	XV7SW	330,718
7	TI1C	7,346,856	27	DU1KK	1,363,440
8	8P9Z	8,650,620	28	YB1AQS	3,628,008
9	P40W	12,742,731	29	VK8AV	1,231,452
10	HC8N	11,116,880	30	VK1FF	1,865,958
11	ZX2X	753,255	31	KH6CC	47,629
12	CE3F	885,360	32	KH8/N5OLS	1,276,845
13	LU6ETB	1,554,092	33	3V8BB	5,489,376
14	CT8T	5,716,916	34	YL3IZ/MM	800,112
15	OM8A	4,601,610	35	6W1AE	1,908,253
16	RN6BY	2,835,726	36	ZD8DEZ	3,091,968
17	RA9AE	1,242,108	37	No Entry	
18	RZ9UA	867,680	38	3DA0NX	4,399,889
19	UA0JB	1,764,990	39	VQ9IE	729,030
20	4X7A	2,101,878	40	JW5NM	451,560



JY8B was activated by Ulli, DL5MBY (left), Georg, DK3QJ, and Steve, K7SP (not shown).

other five banders. Thanks to all who stayed with me to get the call correct. Only way I can make a stronger 100 watt signal is to improve the antennas. Wore me out but lots of fun! . . . KJ9C. I worked 5V7A and several European stations when 20 meters opened up . . . K6GT (ex-AB6YL). Bottom of the cycle but condx were excellent on 20 and 15 . . . K3SA. Many stations were active. The band conditions cannot be as bad as we often think they are . . . W8FDV (ex-KA8OUT).

Condx seemed well down this year. Lots of mults, but very light volume into Europe . . . K1ZM. Great fun until the cold front came through with 6 hrs of thunderstorms and 70 mph winds. Then more great fun afterward but without 20m ant . . . K5GN. I had a great time even though I operated only 15 hours. Murphy struck in a big way just before the contest: my printer broke, I cut my finger repairing it, and 20 minutes before the contest my amp was lost. Fixed it and after that, I had a ball! Truly a great contest . . . N2JT. First time I have entered this CW contest. Great fun! . . . K4UK. Four and a half operators and a trainee for a MM equals no sleep and empty positions! At one time I was trying to cover three bands at the same time. We thought about doing a MS then decided to just have fun. That's exactly what we did! . . . K4VX/0.

The 40 meter propagation gods did not smile this time around. Biggest charge was working ZA1M for country number 100 as zero was fast closing! N6ZO/mm operating from Zone 34 helped out big time . . . W8PX. QRP even in the best of times is a challenge . . . K5IID/8. Having 5V7A pick me (Wow!) out of a fantastic pile-up put me in shock for a bit . . . WA3DMH. Best overall score in 46 years of contesting. Not bad for a tri-band beam on the higher bands . . . W9LT/8. Solar flux jumped to 100 on Sunday and all the bands were jumping in the final hours! . . . K1TH. Best moment was working C21BH for a new country on the first call . . . NK6F. This is my 50th year in this contest! . . . K4FW/8. Nice to have C21BH call me for a new one! First time with new call in the Mother of all Contests. This time more Qs but less Zs and Cs . . . WO4O (ex-WA6KUI).

Great contest! Awesome low bands first nite, QRN pits the second . . . K0EJ/4. Working 3C5A on 40 for a new one . . . WA2YSJ. The definite highlight for this low power, wire antenna station was having 3DA0NX answer my call on 80 meters! Plenty of juicy DX sunspots or not . . . KM2L. The best DX and most fun I've had in my ten months as a ham. Some nice openings to Europe and 19 new countries . . . KQ6ES. Breaking 100 QSOs and 10K! Working YB1AQS for first Indonesian contact . . . WA2OCG/7. I hate trap antennas! But sometimes you have no choice. But still nothing can beat a monoband Yagi. The question remains if I will have it next year? Maybe . . . W3UA/5. Really enjoyed contest. This was the first contest since winning the 1970 YV gold medal for North America. Will be back! . . . W4ONO.

Highlight was working HC8N (with my 4.5 W) 10 minutes before I left for work . . . WD9IAB. My sympathies to IG9/IT9GSF for tough call to work with during contest . . . K6BW. After playing with several state QSO parties, I decided to work some of the CQ WW CW contest. Had a great time listening to hundreds of "world class" operators. I no longer think that 20 wpm is fast! . . . K4NR. Happy to get C21BH, 3V8BB, and 5X4F. Thanks to them for being there . . . K3GW. Very first time on 160 contesting! What a challenge . . . K1UO. Worked everyone I heard on 10 and that was not much . . . K4JYO. Thanks for sponsoring this contest. It sure seems to bring out the world's best . . . K8UC. Released from hospital Monday after total hip replacement so couldn't make much of an effort, but still had to get my feet wet . . . W6NKR.

First contest with computer controlled radio + packet. What a blast! . . . NE3F. The CW speeds keep getting higher and higher. There are some really great operators out there. Wouldn't miss it for the world! . . . W8KTQ. Fifteen meters came to life with a nice opening to EU and Africa. Just another FB contest . . . K6VX. This was my 46th CQ WW entry for both modes and I have enjoyed every minute over the years. Keep them coming! . . . W5FO. Great conditions! I believe CQ has an in with the solar flux gods! . . . KS1L. First time with no packet in several years; it's great! I'm hooked on unassisted again. Forty percent more QSOs than last year when I used packet. Mults way down but I can work on that . . . WZ6Z. I had a fun contact when I was called by a NH2 and a LU at the same time. Sent both a report and both said "OK." Two for one QSO! . . . K7ABV.

High winds the afternoon before the contest created an intermittent at the 5-element 20 meter feed point. Kudos to N7QQ, who spent the day on the 20 meter tower and then took the night shift on 80 . . . W6BA. Great job by 5V7A team. Great signals 160-15 . . . K8RF. Our goal was 1000 QSOs and a million points. We were very happy that we passed that point. The entire multi station, from a desk to antennas, was built in two weeks. We worked on antennas, stubs, and switching right up to the last minute. We are very proud of our 12 year operator, KG2HV, who showed up at 5:30 in the morning to operate. He was able to run for us on 20 meters. Think we will up the goal next year to 3 million points and 2000 QSOs . . . N2FF. Thrilled by working Northern Ireland from central Texas on 80 meters with 5 watts! . . . NZ5A.

Eleven years since last contest. Wasn't sure what country I was working. Prefixes are so different . . . K6SE. I had an unbelievably clear freq during the EU run both days! Ran exactly 400 stations Saturday morning on the same freq in 4 hrs and 40 minutes, peaking at 111 with low power! . . . N8II. Did the contest from a laptop and telephone at home via a remote HF site on Vashon Island. All the comforts of home

with a saltwater antenna site! . . . K7SS/Remote. Wish A61AJ had listened for W's, but I guess it is more interesting to work Europe from A6! . . . N6AR/4. First time on 20 meters in any contest. Had a great time! First time I wrked JA—five of them . . . WA2VQV. Chemotherapy can interfere with a great contest. I will be back in 97! . . . NA2Q.

Amazing what can be done from an apartment with a mediocre antenna at the bottom of the sunspot cycle . . . N7RK. Thanks to all those big guns willing to listen and dig out my QRP signal. I worked hard for every contact my 5W got me. Enjoyed the contest . . . K8OUA. This is my second CQ WW CW. I was pleased to more than double my score from '95. Worked seven new countries including JA, immediately followed by my second, third, and fourth JAs! Used only 50 watts to avoid WAHE (Worked All Home Electronics). I used a 2-element X-beam in my townhouse attic fixed east. I also used a "stealth" vertical—a metal chimney liner 25 ft. high . . . N3UMA. Three IC-706's in car and mag-mount on the roof. The old K2VV 20 meter signal is in retirement until I get established in Missouri . . . K2VV.

Was it the new antenna farm or the snappy new 1x2 call that made this the most fun I've ever had in a DX contest, and at the sunspot minimum at that! . . . K6LA. With all the racket and a piece of wire in my apartment, I got 5V7A! There is a God . . . N7RAP. Working 3W5FM on 40 QRP. Was anyone else crazy enough to do 40 meter QRP single band? . . . W0KEA.

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3C5A: N5AW, N6ZZ. **4N6N:** YU6GB, Poleksic, Jovanovic, Spasojevic, Radovic, Vujovic, Popovic. **5X4F & N3BNA,** KE4EW. **9U5DX:** F5FHI, EA1BB. **A45ZN & SM0CXU.** **AA1LN & NV1U.** **AA2FB & K2QMF.** **AB2E & NU3Y.** **WA2JDT, WK2G.** **AC4HB & others.** **CI2ZP:** VA3ZC, VE2ZP. **CT3/DL5YM & DL1CW.** **D44BC & DK7YY,** DL20AP, DL20BF, DL3DXX. **DA0RP:** DJ0JE, DA2KW/K5VK, DH3PAJ, DA2KI/KB2SRS. **DF3CB & DL1MFL,** DL4MEH. **DK0EE:** DK20Y, DK6WL, DJ7CN, DL4MCF, DL4MDO, DL4MEH, DL4RCM. **DK0NT:** DJ6RN, DJ3TF, DK6NJ, DL5RDO, DJ5RE, DK1RP. **DK0TZ:** DL1SBF, DL4AAE, DF5EN. **DK0ZG:** DJ2RG, DJ5WG, DL6MPG, DL8CYG, DL8MUG. **DK1II & DJ7MG.** **DL0UM:** DL1EFO, DL1EFD, DK7ZT, DK7FP. **DL3SKF & DL4SKF.** **DL4SKF & DL3SKF.** **DL6RAI & DL2NBU,** DL4RDJ. **DL7AU & DL7BY,** DL7IO, DL7UBA, DL7URH. **EA5BY & EA5BXT,** EA5EU, EA5FID, EA5GRV, EA5KW, EA5SM.

EA6IB: EA3AIR, EA3AKY, EA3ALV, EA3DU, EA3KU, EA6ACC, EA6FB, EA6FO, EA6PZ. **EA7TH & EA7DPU,** EA7GYS, EA7KW. **EM7Q:** UR5QN, UR4QFE. **ES5Q:** ES5MC, ES5MG, ES5RN, ES5RY. **EU5F:** EU6DX, EW6MM, EV6Z, EW6AW, EV6M. **EW5P:** EW6DX, EW6CM, EW6AL. **EX9A:** EX2M, EX0M, EX8W. **F5JVP & F6CEL,** F6ENO. **F5KPG:** FA1ITF, FB1NZQ, F5AMQ, F5LJY, F5SMS, F5IQA, F5SDT, F6IFY, F6BGC, F6BNH, F5UHE, FB1CMF. **F5MWW & F6GYU.** **F6KEQ:** Club. **F6KLO:** F6JSZ, F5NBX, F6GRU, F1MCO, FB1IPH. **F55PL & K6CT,** K9VV, N7RT. **G6D:** G3LZQ, G3SJJ, G3WYW, G3ZRS, G4BYG, G4DRS, G4MVA, G4TSH. **HB9AA:** HB9ARF, HB9IAE, HB9AFV, HB9DCM, HB9IAL. **HG1G:** HA1TJ, HA1DAC, HA1AV, HA1BN, HA1DAE, HG1DAI, HA1AR. **HG5A:** HA5IW, HA5GF, HA5TI, HA5OM, HA5FM, HA5AWH, HA5BSW, HA5CCC, HA5CQA, HA7RY, HG5CNC. **HG5M:** HA5MY, HA5WA, HA5OF, HA5PP, HA5BVD, HA1DK. **HG6Y:** HA3NS, HA3NU, HA3OV, HA6OL/3, HA6DX, HA6OB,

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SS-30	25	30	3 ³ / ₄ x 7 x 9 ⁵ / ₈	5
SS-25M*	20	25	2 ⁷ / ₈ x 7 x 9 ³ / ₈	4.2
SS-30M*	25	30	3 ³ / ₄ x 7 x 9 ⁵ / ₈	5

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Table with columns for country codes, call letters, and numerical values. Includes entries like *011LEG, *0H8LC, *0H3MC, etc.

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Table with columns for country codes, call letters, and numerical values. Includes entries like HGM30, HA9BVK, HA6NL, etc.

Table with columns for country codes, call letters, and numerical values. Includes entries like LY20X, LY2BN, LY3BX, etc.

Table with columns for country codes, call letters, and numerical values. Includes entries like SP2IU, SP5CEQ, SP4EAK, etc.

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Table for KALININGRAD with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like UA2FJ, UA2FP, UA2FZ, etc.

Table for LATVIA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like YL8M, YL2KO, YL2MR, etc.

Table for LITHUANIA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like LY2PAQ, LY3BU, LY2KM, etc.

Table for MACEDONIA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like Z32KV, Z31JA, Z32XA, etc.

Table for MALTA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entry 9H8A.

Table for MOLDOVA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like ER0F, ER10A, ER2WD, etc.

Table for NETHERLANDS with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like PA0LOU, PA0GAM, PA0CDR, etc.

Table for NORTHERN IRELAND with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like GI0KOW, GI4SNC.

Table for NORWAY with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like LA9DFA, LA6PB, LA6HA, etc.

Table for PORTUGAL with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like CT8T, CT1DXT, CT1AOZ, etc.

Table for ROMANIA with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like YO3APJ, YO8FR, YR8A, etc.

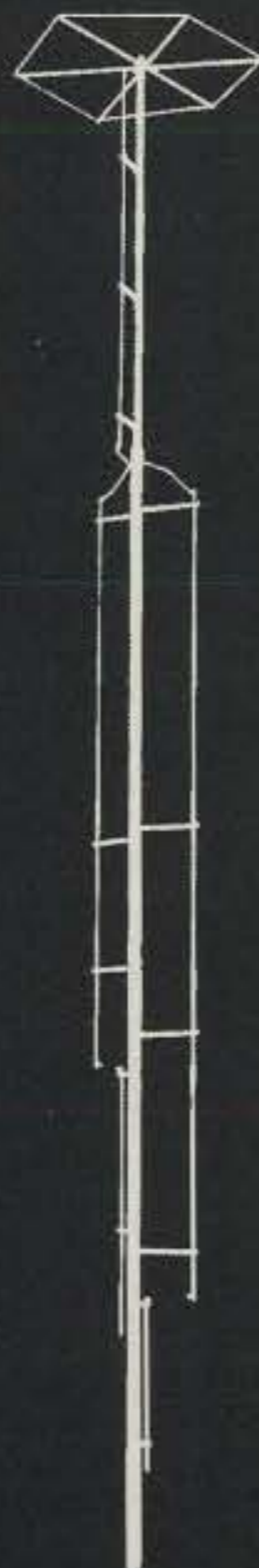
Table for POLAND with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like SP9DWT, SP2LNW, SP2JGK, etc.

Table for ROMANIA (continued) with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like YO3FF, YO2CJX, YO3BWK, etc.

Table for ROMANIA (continued) with columns for call letters and numerical values. Includes entries like YO4BBH.

GAP: THE PERFECT ANTENNA

We at GAP realize there isn't a perfect antenna. No singular antenna will scream DX on 80 and be the best for local nets on 10. If anyone tells you there is, beware! The perfect antenna does not exist, but the right one for you may. If you want something to bust the pile on the low bands, then consider the Voyager. Just starting out in ham radio and need a great general coverage antenna, the Challenger is easy to assemble and for little effort will yield superior performance, especially on DX. Maybe you knowingly or unknowingly moved into one of those "restricted areas" where the Eagle's limited visibility, but unlimited ability is desired.



Voyager DX



Challenger DX



Eagle DX

This chart helps you select the right GAP antenna. When comparing GAPs, bandwidth is not a concern. With few exceptions, a GAP yields continuous coverage under 2:1 for the **ENTIRE BAND**.

All antennas utilize a GAP elevated asymmetric feed. A major benefit is the virtual elimination of the earth loss, so more RF radiates into the air instead of the ground. This feed is why a GAP requires **NO RADIALS**. Just as elevating a GAP offers no significant improvement to its performance, adding radials won't either, making set up a breeze.

A GAP antenna has no traps, coils or transformers. This is important. The greatest sources of failure in multiband antennas are these devices. Perhaps you heard someone discuss a trap that had melted, arced or became full of water. Improvements to these inherent problems are the focus of the antenna manufacturer, while the basic design of the antenna remains unchanged. **GAP improved the trap by eliminating it!** Removing these devices means they don't have to be tuned and, more importantly, won't be detuned by the first ice or rain. The absence of these devices improves antenna reliability, stability and increases bandwidth.

Another major advantage to a GAP antenna is its **NO TUNE** feature. Screws are simply inserted into predrilled holes with a supplied nutdriver.

The secret is out and people in the know say:

CQ—"The GAP consistently outperformed base-fed antennas...and was quieter."

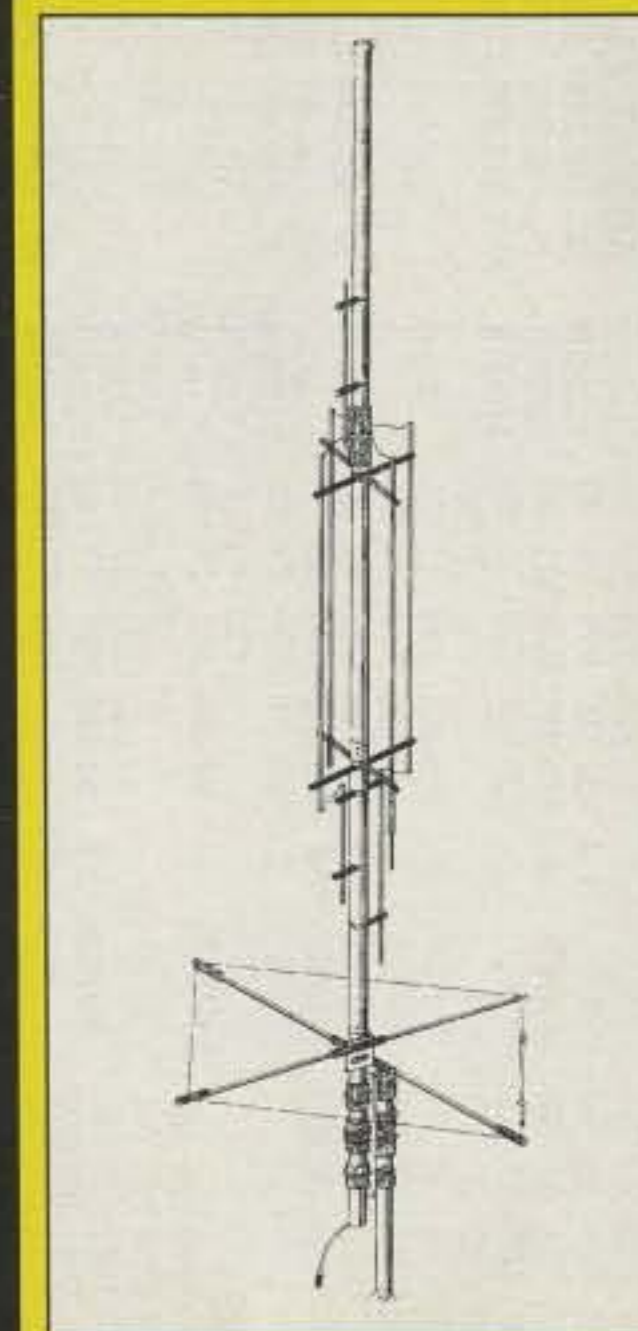
73—"This is a real DX antenna, much quieter than other verticals."

RF—"To say this antenna is effective would be a real understatement. Switching back and forth on 40m between another multiband HF vertical and the GAP, there was no comparison. Signals were always stronger on the GAP, sometimes by 5 units, not just DB's."

Worldradio—"These guys have solved the problem associated with verticals. That is, an awful lot of RF is wallowing around and dropping into the dirt instead of going outward bound. A half-wave vertical does need radials if it is end fed (at the bottom). But the same half-wave vertical does not (as much, hardly at all) if it is fed in the center."

IEEE—"Near field and power density analyses show another advantage of this antenna (asymmetric vertical dipole): it decreases the power density close to the ground, and so avoids power dissipation in the soil below it. The input impedance is very stable and almost independent of ground conductivity. This antenna can operate with high radiation efficiency in the MF AM standard broadcast band, without the classical buried ground plane, so as to yield easier installation and maintenance."

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Challenger DX	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■		31.5'	21 lbs	Drop In Ground Mount	3 Wires @ 25'	\$259
Eagle DX			■	■	■	■	■		■			21.5'	19 lbs	1-1/4" pipe	80" Rigid	\$269
Titan DX			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		25'	25 lbs	1-1/4" pipe	80" Rigid	\$299
Voyager DX							■		■	■	■	45'	39 lbs	Hinged Base	3 Wires @ 57'	\$399



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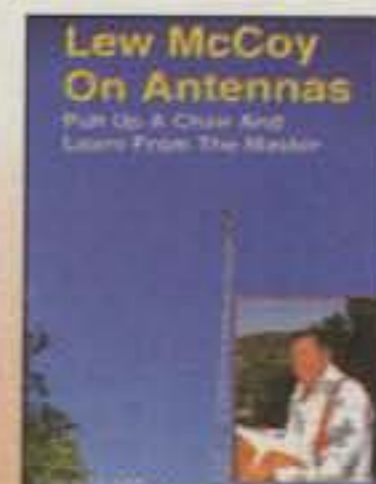


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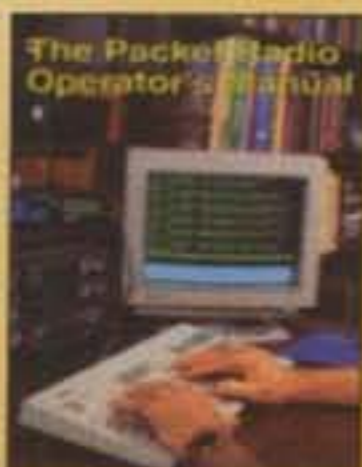


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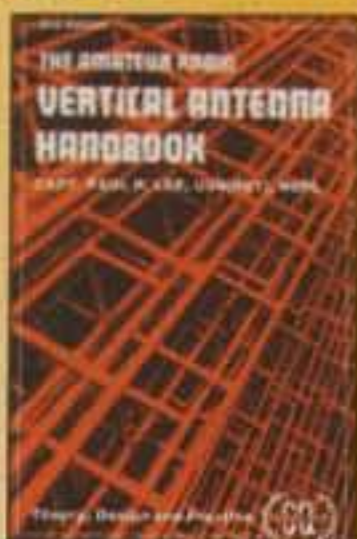


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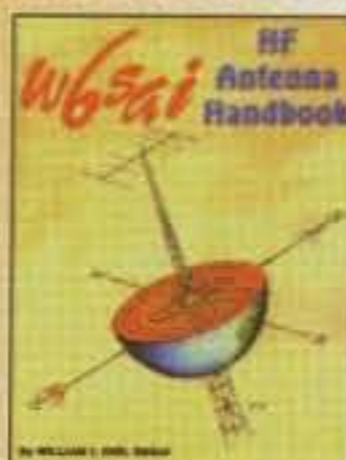


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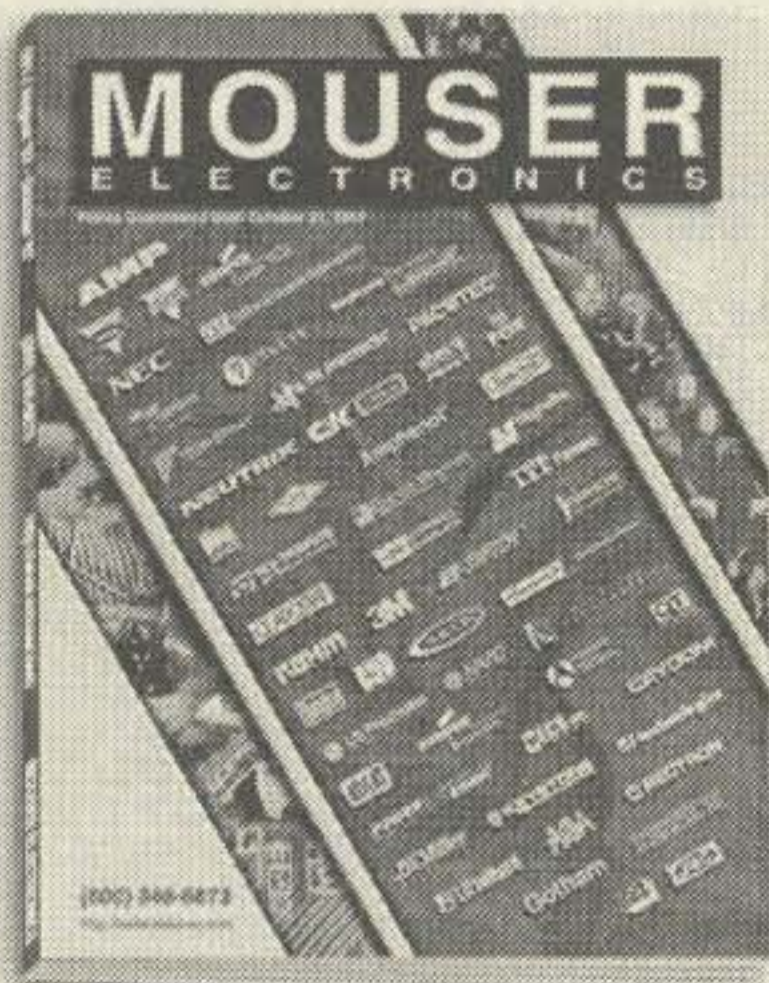
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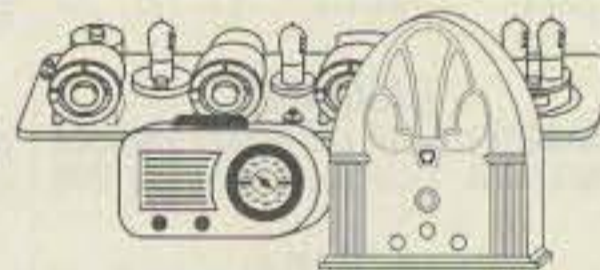
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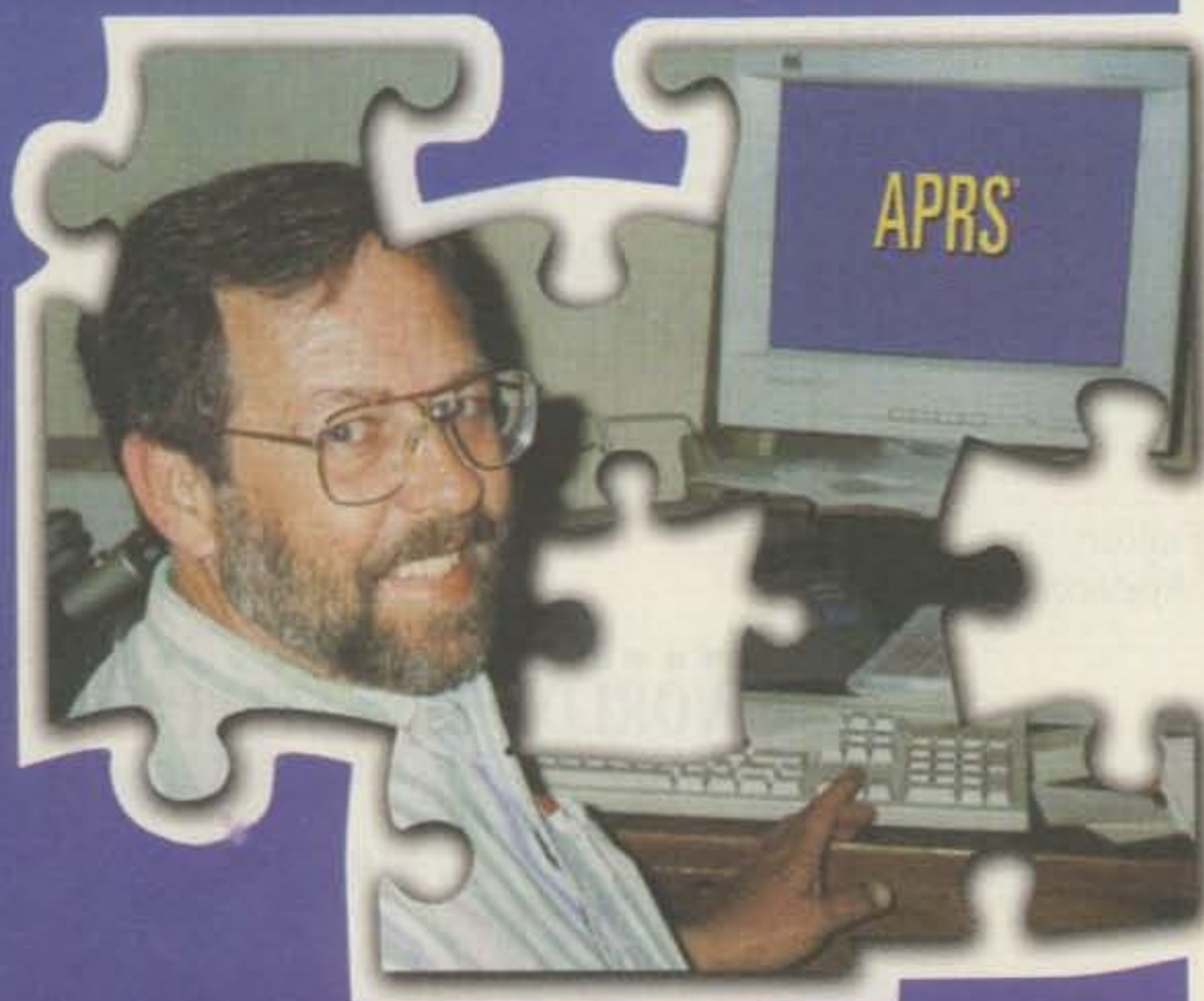
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