SHORT-WAVE Magazine

VOL. XXIV

MARCH, 1966

NUMBER 1

KW

ELECTRONICS

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OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR



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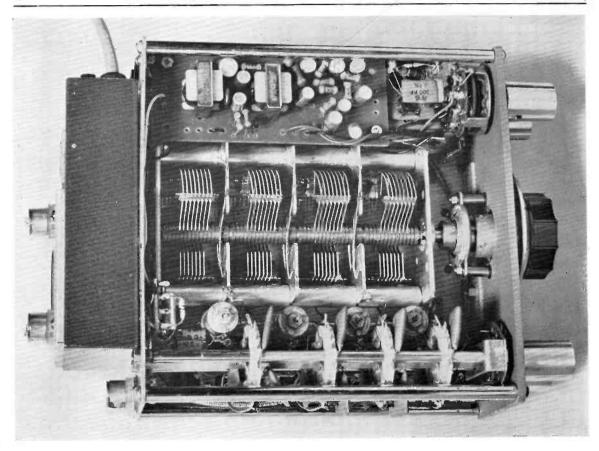
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*TMR-5/A.C. PSU (can also be used with any 12v.	£5.0.0	*Mk. V 4m. Solid state Converter	£10.0.0

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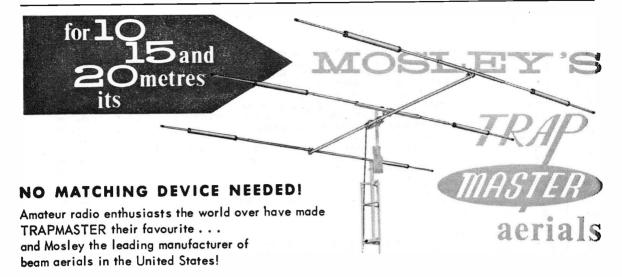
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	P.P. 7/6	19	10	0
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More details in January "Short Wave Magazine."

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Goystick

ANTENNAE SYSTEMS FOR TX AND SWL

The Joystick Systems really do work—much to the surprise of many people. Sceptics have tried to explain away the success stories by saying that it is just the feeder which is radiating. Have they tried working across the pond on just 8ft. of feeder? It is no good going on about it! We at Partridge Electronics are keeping 'mum' on why it works and our patent applications are firmly filed!

CQ Magazine, December '65

(extracts from readers' letters)

"I bought a Joystick antenna from Partridge Electronics Ltd., in England and believe you me, your recommendation wasn't far off. I live in an apartment complex in New York and I tried window verticals, an indoor doublet and a few other configurations. When I got the Joystick I was skeptical. But after hooking it up I was amazed. The other antennas I had tried in my particular location were far below the Joystick's performance. I was allowed to mount it on the top of the building (which I did with a special bracket I made) and when I hooked it up to the matching network also supplied by Partridge I was able with my KEM-2 to work Europe without the difficulty I had before..."

"If you are up high enough the antenna will operate (especially at 15-20) as well as the well known 3 element beam with which we compared it. The tests were operational not theoretical? We find that if we can hear 'em we can work 'em... and in most cases with a 100 watts input."

There is now a whole range of Joystick Systems—made to match your QTH, your rig and your pocket. The SYSTEMS cover TX/RX, SWL, indoor and outdoors, mobile and even a new JOYMAST! Made only in the finest materials the SYSTEMS are reliable and permanent. TRADE ENQUIRIES INVITED.

MORE JOYSTICK TRANSATLANTIC 160 METRE QSO'S

W2EQS sends these latest reports

Worked HB9CM (extract from QSL letter) "It was great to QSO you again this morning on 160 metres at 0635Z. When I was RST 569 I was using my half-wave inverted vee antenna. When I became RST 229 that wasn't QSB. I changed over to my English made Joystick antenna which is only 7½ feet long, 22 feet above ground.

- "... On the Joystick I also QSO'd G3RFS at 0755Z getting RST 329. On my half-wave inverted vee antenna I was RST 569...
- "... With this Joystick I've worked on 160 the following: W1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, Ø; VE1, 2, 3; 6Y5, VP2; VP9; G; HB.
- "Another one to list in my 160 metre DX with the Joystick. It is now 0730Z and at 0613 QSO'd G3PQA. On my half-wave inverted vee got RST 579 when in clear but bad QRM from fish Phone on 1799 and 1806 kcs. I was on 1803 5 kcs. On Joystick John got me RST 229 through this fish Phone QRM."

Here are a few more extracts from the letters we get every day:

WA5LEM—Henry Wilkins III, of Houston, Texas, writes: "The Joystick really surprised me; it really works like you said it would... I took all my dipoles down."

L. G. Rigden, Leighton Buzzard: "I cannot speak too highly of my internal Joystick which continues to give most excellent reception."

G3UGB.--A. Woffenden, Bristol: "I have used the Joystick for some months now and am more than pleased with its performance... extremely good reports on 160M and 80M."

Frank McAuley, Glasgow: "I am beginning to make quite a few contacts with my De-Luxe Joystick and tuning units on 80 and 160 metres using 8 to 10 watts. The Joystick is indoors using the 8 feet feeder and some of my contacts are quite surprised when they hear my Joystick is indoors. As you stress many times I have removed all other antennae and am finding quite a difference. Quite a few of the local amateurs are using the Joystick."

G2FMR—F. W. Broomfield, Nr. Leamington Spa. "Joymast... is giving satisfactory service on transmitting and receiving using DX100TX, \$SB100 adaptor and AR88."

G4PJ—William L. Honeywill, Salcombe. "I am still using the Joystick indoor, with 40 ft. feeder and getting results all-round on every band, needless to say I am very pleased."

K6MDJ—Fred Tulpin, California. "Early results are astounding. I've been using a trap dipole for 40-20-15. This Joystick out-performs the dipole 2 x 1."

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A superb receiver. Dual conversion with mechanical filter. 12 valves, crystal controlled osc., product detector, DEFO, A.N.L., S meter. Rock like stability. Brand new and guaranteed. 75 gns. S.A.E. for full details.

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7 valves — Rectifier, 4 Bands 550 kc/s.
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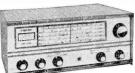


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EQUIPMENT

K.W. VESPA TRANSMITTER

10-160 metres SSB, CW and AM, £110. Power supply, £25.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

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PSU, £32 KW 2000 KW 600 Linear Amp., £115

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l	100-0-100μ	A27 /6	50mA 2		A DC		150v DC 22 /6	300v AC 22 /6
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A compact (9 x 8 x 16;in.) general purpose scope-T/B loc/s.—40 kc/s. Bandwidth I Mc/s. Sensitivity 40 mv./cm. Mullard DG7/5 22in. C.R.T. For operation on 200/250v. AC. Supplied complete with metal transit case, strap, test leads, and visor hood. Brand new and guaranteed, £22/10/-, carr. 10/-. Complete with instructions.



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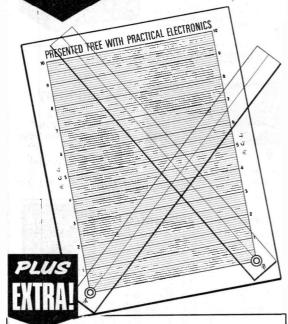
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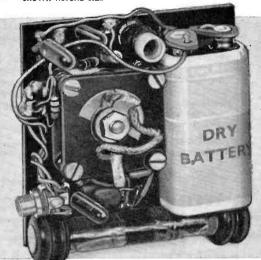
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SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE

(GB3SWM)

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EDITORIAL

All through the years—and that means since long before Hitler's War—there has been a sufficiency of licensed radio amateurs willing to give their time and apply their skill to some activity in the national interest. These services are given with neither hope nor expectation of any reward—merely because there are amateurs who would like to use their knowledge and ability to help some local organisation.

Many A.T.C. (Royal Air Force) squadrons are desperately in need of instructors in radio, radar and W/T. The Air Training Corps is the cadet force for the R.A.F. In most districts there is a squadron, consisting of youngsters up to the age of 17 or so, who are taught elementary aviation, gunnery, navigation, aircraft recognition and the use of instruments and apparatus.

They also learn that discipline involves not only the giving of orders but the accepting of them.

Most A.T.C. squadrons have their own social organisation—involving parents and friends—and there is an "annual camp" during which they spend some time on a regular R.A.F. station, with opportunities for flying. Officers of A.T.C. squadrons are almost always ex-R.A.F. types who take the job on as a duty to the Service. The fact that they are given local rank and draw certain small allowances is a secondary consideration—all officers of the A.T.C. give in time and effort far more than they get back in terms of payment for hours-put-in.

Squadrons of the A.T.C. are permitted to operate on the 5 mc training band, using their own callsigns and Scrvice W/T equipment. The difficulty for many of them is that they have nobody to teach them Morse or how to use the gear.

This means that there is an opportunity for licensed amateurs to give a little time—usually not more than a couple of hours on one evening a week—to instructing keen youngsters. You can make contact with the commanding officer of your neighbouring A.T.C. squadron by getting his name from the local newspaper and giving him a ring. If you are really keen to help, and cannot make contact otherwise, write to: The Air Secretary, Royal Air Force, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London, S.W.I, saying that you wish to be put in touch with the C.O. of your local A.T.C. squadron.

You will not get anything out of it, financially—but you will find that you are doing a worth-while job for the young, which will be a satisfaction for its own sake.

Aus hin bokoch,

AN LF-BAND TRANSMITTER

FOR TOP BAND AND EIGHTY
METRES — CIRCUITRY AND
CONSTRUCTION

F. G. RAYER (G30GR)

THE circuit used for this rig is basically that described in "Eighty Metres with a Top Band Transmitter" in the October, 1963, SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE. It is straightforward and reliable, running 8-12 watts on 1.8-2.0 mc and 3.5-3.8 mc. The cost of building is small and the finished appearance not unpleasing.

Fig. 1 is the transmitter circuit. VI is a 6AM6 or equivalent, and the VFO tunes 1.75-2 mc by means of VC1, through a small ball drive! To avoid any difficulty with the VFO coil, a Wearite PHF6 can be used. This is a fixed inductance coil, manufactured to a high degree of accuracy, and connections are made to it so that the two windings are in series. It is thus only necessary to adjust trimmer C18 for correct coverage. Other coils, modified to give suitable coverage if needed, could be used. But the PHF6 is an easy means of obtaining correct coverage without experiment. The VFO is operated from a stabilised 150v. supply.

A second similar stage acts as buffer/amplifier, and as doubler for 80 metres. L2 is broadly resonant at about 3.65 mc, and L3 at about 1.9 mc. The nuisance of home-wound coils or experimentation to obtain the correct coverage can be avoided by using Osmor QA5 (Blue-blue) coils in each position. For

160 metres, initially screw L3 core fully into the winding. Remove 31 turns from the other coil, for L2, re-solder the end, and set the core flush with the coil end.

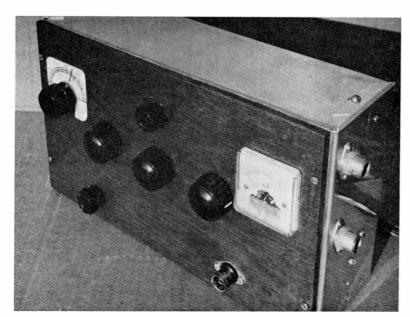
For the PA, V3, a 5763 is used, and grid current with the values shown was approximately 2 mA on 80 and 3 mA on 160 metres. This can be checked by placing a meter between R7 and chassis (positive to chassis). The usual pi-output circuit is employed, with a two-band coil L4; this consists of 70 turns of 24g. double-cotton-covered wire, side by side, centre tapped. Bandswitches S5 and S6 are separate, with small knobs, and both are rotated clockwise for 80 metre coverage.

Normal operating anode current for the PA is about 30-40 mA and a 0-100 mA or 0-50 mA meter will do. An 0-5 mA meter, shunted to read 0-50 mA, was actually fitted.

V4 is a high-gain two-stage amplifier, C14 and C15 being selected to lift response a little towards the higher frequencies. No gain control was provided, as modulation was about right with normal speaking into a crystal microphone, and it is not difficult to get accustomed to having the mike at a fixed distance.

V5 is the Class-A modulator, and the 6BW6 is adequate for this PA input. Any attempt to overmodulate causes bad distortion, not because of splatter but due to breaking the carrier. So reports of distorted speech indicate the need to get back from the microphone a little! The modulation choke Ch. can be an 80 mA or 100 mA mains pentode output transformer, with the secondary ignored. Temporarily connecting a speaker to the secondary is a good way to check the modulator section. (Keep the loud-speaker away from the mike.)

A 3-way switch provides for net (VFO and buffer on), receive (aerial switched to receiver) and transmit



General appearance of the 80/160m. Tx as built by G3OGR, which is only 10 inches on the maximum dimension. It is neat, compact and effective, and would be very useful as a No. 2 set, or for anyone just starting on the air.

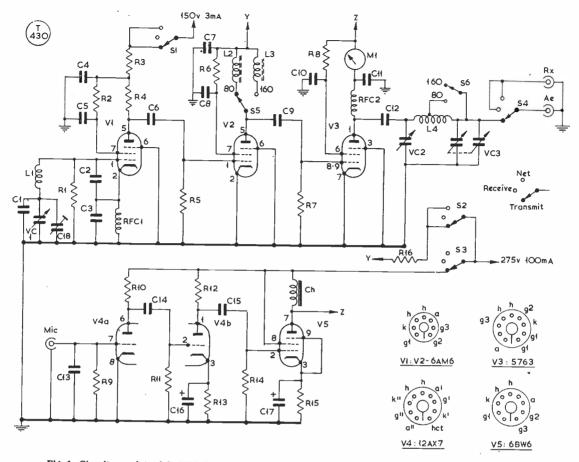


Fig. 1. Circuit complete of the VFO-BA-PA transmitter and modulator described and illustrated in the article. The PA (V3) is a 5763, a highly efficient miniature type, and the modulator (V5) is a 6BW6. The BA stage (V2) effectively isolates the VFO (V1) from the PA. With the exception of L4 (see text), commercial coils are used throughout. A transmitter built to this design would make a very handy job for 80/160m. working, or as a first Tx for a beginner starting on the air.

positions. Section S1 switches the VFO, S2 the buffer HT, S3 the modulator and PA, and S4 the aerial.

Chassis and Case

Fig. 2 is the layout on top of the chassis. A neat and inexpensive case is derived from a *Home Radio (Mitcham)* "universal chassis" measuring 10in. by 6in. by 3in. An extra 10in. by 3in. runner forms the chassis. Cut the corners of this so that it will fit inside the 6in. by 3in. runners. The chassis is bolted about four inches from the top of the panel. Most of the transmitter can then be assembled and wired. Cut and check large holes before matching any parts. A number of quarter-inch holes are also punched for ventilation and for leads.

[over p.14

Notes: Ch* can be primary of pentode-type speaker transformer. All resistors rated ½-watt except where stated. Meter can be miniature 0.50 or 0.100 mA, or 0.5 mA shunted. Case is 10in. by 6in. by 3in. universal chassis, with 10in. by 3in. runner (Home Radio).

Table of Values

Fig. 1. Circuit of the LF-Band Transmitter

C1					
$C1 = 56 \mu \mu$	F, 1%			1 megohm	
$C2, C3 = 001 \mu$	ιF, 1%	R10	=	220,000 ohm:	s
C4, C7,		R13	=	1,000 ohms	
$C8 = -01 \mu$	F	R14	==	470,000 ohm	
C5, C10,		R15	=	270 ohms, 1v	,
C11, C14 = $.002$	μF -	R16	=	4,700 ohms,	1 337
C6 C9		RECI	_	2.5 mH, mi	. w.
$C13 = 100 \mu$	"F	D EC3	_	2.5 mH, 60 m	11.
$C12 = .001 \mu$	F	KI-C2	_	DUTE W	LAL.
$C15 = .005 \mu$	F	12 12	_	PHF6, Wear	te
$C16 = 50 \mu F$	· · ·	L2, L3	=	QA5, Osmor	
$C10 = 30 \mu r$, 60.			see text	
$C17 = 50 \mu F$	5 30V.		=	100 mA chol	ke*
$C18 = 30 \mu \mu$	r trimmer	S1, S2,			
$VC1 = 30 \mu\mu$	F, tuning	S3, S4	=	4-pole, 3-w	av
$VC2 = 300 \mu$	μF, tuning			rotary	•
VC3 = 500 + 3	500 μμF, BC	S5		1-pole, 2-w	av
2-gan	ıg, load			rotary	,
R1 = 68,000	ohms	S6	1	SP on-off	
R2 = 47,000	ohms	V1. V2	=	6AM6, EF91,	8D3
R3 = 2,200		,		or similar	0173
R4, R7 = 22,000	ohms	V3		5763	
R5, R12 = 100,00	0 ohms			12AX7, ECC	102
R6 = 33,000		V4	_	6BW6	.03
R8 = 5,600		¥ 3	=	OD W CIO	
140 = 3,000	omus, ∠w.				

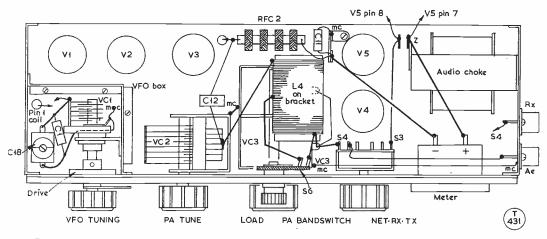


Fig. 2. Upper chassis layout for the transmitter described in the article. By using the chassis dimensions recommended and keeping fairly closely to this plan, a compact and efficient parts arrangement would be achieved.

VC2 can be about 250 $\mu\mu$ F to 500 $\mu\mu$ F and was a non-miniature air-spaced capacitor as used for receiver tuning. VC3 is a 2-gang capacitor with its sections in parallel; a 2/365 $\mu\mu$ F or similar condenser could be used, but occasionally the extra capacity given by a 2/500 $\mu\mu$ F condenser could be useful. With fairly large capacitors, and L4 switched, loading into most normal aerials or tuners is easy.

The audio choke (speaker transformer) is mounted to one side, which also carries two coax sockets, for aerial and receiver; these sockets were actually one over the other. A small tag strip supports C11. V1, V2 and V4 need cans. The use of cans on V3 and V5 seems optional.

VFO Box

The VFO screening box is essential for Top Band. It is bent from aluminium, and bolted to the panel

and chassis. VC1 is on a strong bracket. L1 is below VC1, a 6BA bolt through the panel going into its tapped hole. C18 is bolted to the chassis, and can be reached through a hole in the box top.

When the VFO is wired, bolt on the 6in. by 3in. side, which further strengthens it. A small plate is secured on top of the box with self-tapping screws. The ball-drive lug is bolted to the panel, and a small pointer travels over a scale, later calibrated.

Under the Chassis

Fig. 3 shows the under-chassis wiring. A tag strip provides anchorage for the power supply leads and some other items. The microphone socket connection did not need screening, but runs against the chassis. (The external microphone lead must of course be screened.)

The heater circuit, tags X, is wired first. Keep

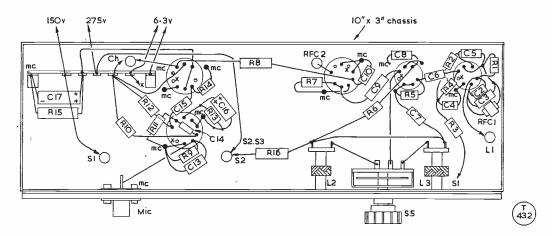
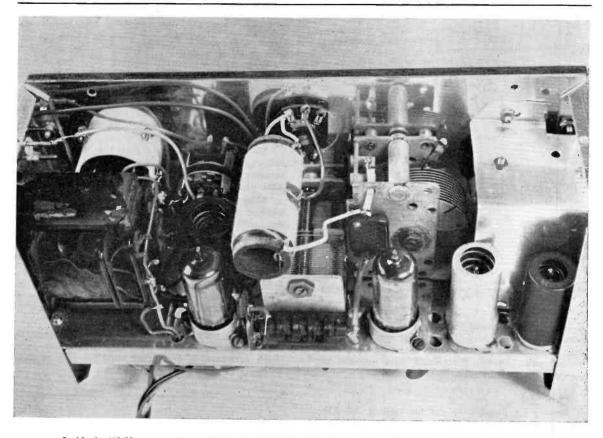


Fig. 3. Underneath the chassis, showing positioning of the coils L2, L3 and several of the minor components. If working to the layout exactly as described, this drawing and that at Fig. 2 identifies all parts, while the general arrangement and final appearance can be checked from the photographs.



Inside the 160/80m. transmitter, showing general layout and construction. The VFO section is in the screened compartment on the right, with the PA tuning condenser VC2 next in view. The valves visible, from right to left, are V1, V2, V3 (the RF section) and V5 (modulator)—see circuit diagram Fig. 1 and layout sketch Fig. 2. The iron-cored component at left front is the modulating choke, with the panel meter (white case) immediately behind. The switched coil L4 is the central winding, and the load capacity VC3 is immediately below.

these and HT connections against the chassis. C6, C9, and similar parts in the RF circuits are placed as directly as possible. The cores of L2 and L3 can be reached from behind. Small disc or tubular ceramic capacitors are most easily accommodated.

Adjustments

VFO coverage can be checked, but calibration is left until last. Accurate calibration is possible with a receiver and 100 kc crystal marker. With the switch at "net" the VFO is adjusted to zero beat at 2 mc in the receiver, with VC1 nearly open. This is achieved by rotating C18. Then 1.75 mc will be found at 3.5 mc on the receiver (VFO harmonic) with VC1 nearly closed.

Calibrate first at 1.8, 1.9 and 2.0 mc. Then 1.8 is also 3.6 mc, and 1.9 is also 3.8 mc. Tune the receiver to the 100 kc crystal marker beats at 3.5 and 3.7 mc, to calibrate the VFO for these frequencies. (The 50 kc points can be put in by tuning the receiver through 7 mc, etc.) The 10 kc points can be inserted by eye.

VC1 was the easily obtainable small SW type

of tuning condenser having 9 plates on the rotor. A 75 $\mu\mu$ F condenser was originally fitted, and plates were removed one by one until the coverage was 1·75-2·0 mc with a little rotation unused each end of the bands. The capacitor then had 5 moving and 6 fixed plates left, and was measured as approximately 30 $\mu\mu$ F.

Put a meter in between R7 and chassis. With the VFO at 1.9 mc and S5 at 160m., rotate the core of L3 for maximum grid current. Repeat with L2, with S5 set for 80m. and the VFO at 3.65-3.7 mc. Any grid current between about 2 mA and 3 mA is satisfactory. If necessary, the value of R6 can be changed to raise or lower grid current. This should not be necessary.

Panel

A varnished plywood sheet the same size as the aluminium panel was fitted to cover the numerous bolt heads. Knobs, microphone socket, and meter have to be removed. The panel is held by the meter bolts, mike socket, and the two bolts each side which go into the 6in. by 3in. members. Control bushes and nuts rest in clearance holes. The remaining

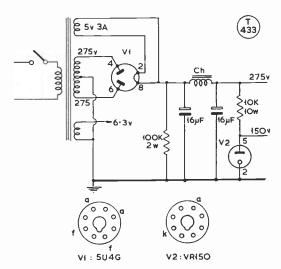


Fig. 4. A suitable power supply unit for the 80/160m. transmitter described by G3OGR in his arcticle.

panel bolts were round-headed, so depressions to suit were made in the rear of the panel with a countersink bit. Drilling positions can be found by putting ink or paint on the bolt heads, and pressing the wooden panel on to these marks.

Power Supply

It may be possible to use an existing 250-300v. pack. Heaters require 2·1 amps. at 6·3v. The VFO drain is under 5 mA, preferably regulated. Reasonable results can be expected with a 80 mA 250v. supply, but a pack maintaining the full 275v. or a little more, at 100 mA, allows a larger input.

If the HT supply is a little meagre, a radiofrequency output meter will show that RF tends to fall off when loading raises the PA anode current above 30 mA or so. With an adequate HT voltage, RF output continues to increase. Insufficient grid drive (low grid current) gives a similar effect. Maximum input for the 5763 is 50 mA at 300v. (15 watts) but an input of between about 8 watts and 12 watts seems most satisfactory.

PA input is, of course, Anode Voltage x Anode Current. So 30 mA at 300v. would be 9 watts, while 40 mA at 250v. is 10 watts. Top Band input loading should not exceed 10 watts.

Fig. 4 shows a suitable power supply. The VR150 could be an OA2. A transformer and choke of adequate rating help to maintain the voltage on load.

Operating Notes

A newly-licensed operator may welcome a few working details. A first test can be made with a 15 watt 200/250 volt household lamp connected across VC3, or to the aerial socket by a spare coax plug. A short aerial lead from the receiver can be placed near the lamp.

S5 and S6 must always be set for the same band. With the switch at "net" find the carrier on the

receiver. Then with the switch at "transmit" and VC3 closed, rotate VC2 for a dip in anode current. Open VC3 progressively, restoring the dip with VC2, until the meter shows the required input (30-40 mA). This is best done with two hands. The bulb should then light fairly brightly.

With the receiver RF gain well back, speech in the microphone should be clearly heard in the speaker. (Avoid feedback to the mike which will cause "howling round the loop.")

Working into an aerial involves the same procedure. Some 75-ohm coax with a plug connects the receiver to the transmitter Rx socket. A dipole for 80m. can be plugged directly into the aerial socket.

Many random length end-fed aerials can be worked directly from the transmitter. Load up into the aerial in the same way as described with the lamp. A good earth is helpful with end-fed aerials. End-fed wires can be used on either band. Should an ATU be employed, fit a short coax lead from the transmitter to this.

The "net" position is used either to tune the VFO to a clear channel found on the receiver, or to allow the VFO to be set up on the frequency of another station, to which a reply is made.

A solid metal plate back must not be used on the case. But a back cut from expanded metal, small mesh wire-netting, or similar material, can be fixed to the back with self-tapping screws.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL CLUB

One of the best pieces of advice for anyone with ideas about starting in Amateur Radio is "First of all, become a member of your local radio club group or society." It is by contact with active members, already on the air or keen SWL's, that most can be learnt and help obtained on the practical side. Indeed, it is fair to say that no amount of reading will get you going sooner than making the most of your opportunities as a club member. To find whether there is an active group in your locality, look through the addresses of Club Secretaries as given on p.52 of this issue—but remember that because all secretaries do not report every month for our Clubs' feature, you need to check the address list over a period of about three issues (months) to cover them all. Of course, this advice is of no help to anyone right out on a limb, away from the main centres of population where no local radio club group exists. In such a case, it is then reading (which anyway is essential to get a good grasp of radio amateur theory and technique), combined with regular listening on the amateur bands, which is the only way to get on. The most useful books at present available are A Guide to Amateur Radio (5s. 7d.), The Radio Amateur Examination Manual (5s. 9d.), Radio Amateur Operator's Handbook (5s. 6d.), and the Amateur Radio Handbook (550 pp., 36s. 6d.). All these are available from stock through our Publications Dept., at Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Prices are post free.

RTTY Topics

DX NOTES AND OPERATING
NEWS—B.A.R.T.G. SPRING
CONTEST RULES AND SCORING
— TUNING FORK FREQUENCY
STANDARD

W. M. BRENNAN (G3CQE)

This feature normally appears bi-monthly (that it was not here in the last issue was due to unavoidable circumstances) and deals with the technical interests and on-the-air activities of radio teleprinter operators on the amateur bands. Our contributor is himself an outstanding exponent of the mode, and is well placed to provide reliable technical information for his feature as well as up-to-date news coverage.

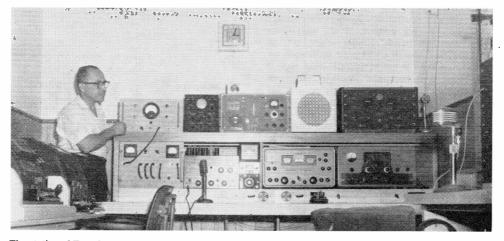
—Editor.

Aappeared has produced a fair pile up of news and so it's straight down to happenings in the RTTY world.

On the DX side, there are a number of new-comers and as usual, some of them are real collector's pieces on any mode. In Korea, amateurs are now permitted to use RTTY on all bands and two stations there that are rapidly digging themselves in on 14090 kc are HL9KG and HL9TM. They expect to be joined by HL9TT very shortly. Another rare one due to appear in the near future is FB8XX (Kerguelen Island) and his appearance on 20m. is

guaranteed to create a monumental pile up at any time; late afternoon and early evening here is the time to watch for him. Another addition to the list of starters is XU2EN (Cambodia) and although this country does not appear on the ARRL "Official Countries List," it does not appear to have greatly reduced the demand for QSO's with him. Still another country to join in on RTTY is Uganda, 5X5FS being the callsign to watch for—again on 20m. Many stations have reported working this newcomer recently. Also from Africa, EL2F (Liberia) has been spending many hours on the air trying to keep pace with the country hunters. The operator at EL2F is W9GEK when back home in the U.S.A. RTTY also appears to be catching on pretty well behind "The Curtain" with both Hungary and Czechoslovakia now being available, represented by HA5KBP and OK1KUL respectively. In the Ukraine we have both UB5AC and UB5UN. From Estonia there is regular activity by UR2BK and UR2KAX, whilst UA4KN and UA4KED are on from European Russia. It is good to hear of activity building up from these directions since it was only a few months ago that many RTTY operators had grave doubts about there ever being any hope of such QSO's due to the difficulties of different alphabets, let alone the language barrier.

Difficulties are also caused by "non-standard" licensing regulations for RTTY operation in some countries. Belgium is a case in point, where originally RTTY was limited to a speed of 50 bauds only. This restriction tended to confine the ON4 stations to 80m. and 2m. operation only, since on the HF bands the speed used, almost without exception, is 45.5 bauds. The situation has now been resolved by permission for Belgian stations to use both speeds. Japan, on the other hand, is still an "odd one out" country since over there RTTY is confined to the 10m. band. However, both KA2RJ and KA2LD are looking for DX QSO's in the neighbourhood of 29 mc. This information comes from W6CG who mentions that



The station of Tom Serur, P.O. Box 2309, San Marcos, Texas, who has an interesting array of equipment and is a keen RTTY operator. The teleprinter gear is along the bench on the left. He also works CW and Sideband phone and is well heard on the DX bands.

there is a Japanese beacon station (JA1IGY) on CW on 29 mc and listening for this can be a useful guide for 10m. openings to Japan. It does seem as if 28 mc might be producing such openings. Both KA stations are there regularly at weekends.

ZL1WB's FSK and CW signals have been heard in Australia on 432 mc via the Oscar IV satellite and, according to W6CG, a recent bulletin from the ARRL Hq. station W1AW announced "K2MWA and K2GUN have reported their own FSK signals through the satellite Oscar IV for continuous periods and they say that the translator can capture continuous inputs such as FSK (RTTY)." It certainly looks as though the first RTTY QSO via a satellite may not be all that far off. This is, of course, an instance where automatic tape equipment will come in very handy indeed.

A nice example of some more normal DX working was a recent contact between VK2EG and W6CG over the long path. This works out to an actual path length of 17,374 miles—which must be something of a record for RTTY. Any advance on this mileage? VK2EG and VK3KF have spent a lot of time operating recently; the latter can be found on 40m. most mornings around 0800z looking not only for 40m. contacts but also for RTTY'ers willing to give it a whirl on 80m., too!

Other new callsigns noted from recent mail are: KP4CMK, KP4CMP, JA8RUL, ZS6BCT, HB9ET, HB9IT, PY2ON, YV3LD, and W8NTZ/VO2 (Labrador). The latter callsign is quite a handful for the keyboard but it is worthwhile reminding readers that VO2 counts as a separate country during the three RTTY Contests and so may be worth the struggle! Another longish call reported recently is HB9XJ/MM aboard the m.v. Arania; the gear on board includes an HT-32 Tx, a 51J4 Rx and an American Navy CV57 T.U.

B.A.R.T.G. Spring RTTY Contest

The event of the coming month is undoubtedly the RTTY Contest sponsored by the U.K. RTTY society (The British Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group) and open to all comers. With conditions improving on the HF bands almost daily, this is a chance to see how the RTTY gear performs on DX with plenty of RTTY QRM just to help give it a real going-over! Not everyone wants to, or even can, operate for the full 48-hour Contest period but if everyone puts in a few hours of operating it will add to the zest of the occasion and give other contestants something to chew on. At the same time you will most likely be able to add to your list of countries worked. The rules are as follows:—

- The contest starts at 0200 GMT 12 March and finishes at 0200 GMT 14 March 1966,
- (2) Bands to be used are 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 mc.
- (3) In order to qualify for points the messages exchanged must contain the following: Message Number, Report

- (RST), Time in GMT and Country of origin,
- (4) Countries will be as per the ARRL Country List with the exception that KL7, VO, and KH6 will count as additional countries,
- (5) Stations may not be worked more than once on any band but additional QSO's may be made with the same station on each other band.
- (6) Scoring:—All two-way RTTY contacts with stations in one's own Country will earn two points,

All two-way RTTY contacts with stations outside one's own Country will earn ten points.

All stations will receive a bonus of 200 points per Country worked, including their own.

(7) Final Score: (A) Two-way exchange points times total Countries.

(B) Total Country points times Continents worked.

Add the results of (A) and (B) together for final score.

Example :-

- (A) Exchange points (302) xCountries (10) ... = 3,020
- (B) Country points (2,000) x Continents (3) ... = 6,000
- (C) Add (A) and (B) scores ... = 9,020

Total score is 9,020.

(8) The Contest will be divided into two sections, one for single-operator entries and the other for multiple-operator stations. The transmission of RTTY on more than one channel at a time will be disallowed.

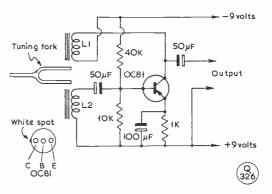


Fig. 1. Simple audio tuning fork standard suitable for checking the various frequencies used in amateur teleprinter equipment. Details for the coils L1, L2 are given in the text, and the general construction shown in Fig. 2.

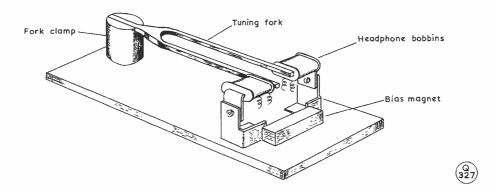


Fig. 2. Mechanical arrangement for the tuning fork oscillator discussed by G3CQE in his article. The essential requirement is to get the fork firmly clamped at its root. The fork is driven by the coils (removed from old headphones) which are themselves energised by the oscillator circuit shown in Fig. 1. The result is a highly stable and reliable AF source, enabling RTTY equipment to be accurately adjusted. While it might be supposed that the 50-cycle AC mains would provide a suitable frequency standard, in fact not only does this frequency vary too much (under overload and compensation conditions) but it is possible to obtain, from a good musical instrument shop, forks very near to the frequencies required—see text.

(9) Logs and score sheets should be sent to:—

The Hon. Secretary, B.A.R.T.G., A. Walmsley, G2HIO, The Woodlands, Bath Lane,

Moira, Nr. Burton-on-Trent, Staffs., England.

In order to qualify, they should arrive not later than 1st May, 1966. N.B. It would also be of great interest to have check logs from SWL's able to print on RTTY.

With the exception of the ruling on multioperator entries, it will be seen that the rules for this Contest are the same as for last year—but it is worth noting that in some details they are different from those for the Worldwide RTTY SS Contest.

Tuning Fork Audio Frequency Standard

For several years now the writer has relied upon either tape recorded tones or a simple two tunedcircuit AF discriminator with a channel level indicator as an aid to the setting up of the 850 c/s carrier freq. shift required for FSK operation. Of the two systems, the recorded tapes were the most accurate, the original tones having been taken from a calibrated AF signal generator, whereas the discriminator circuits, although of high-Q by most standards, are still flat enough on their peak response to mask a tuning error of some tens of cycles. Even the tape recorder is somewhat dependent on the frequency of the mains supply and this can be a variable factor. During periods when the Supply Authorities are reducing excessive load the mains frequency falls somewhat and later the frequency is increased above the normal 50 c/s in order to bring electric clocks back to the correct time. The final blow to both systems came when during a contest an Italian station reported that the shift was about 30 c/s short and this in spite of careful checks having been made prior to the contest! As the tape recorder

was fished out to the sound of several exotic RTTY signals emanating from the Rx, it was decided that an accurate frequency standard would have to be produced. Of course, with the advent of 170 c/s shift it becomes even more essential to have accurate standards available and accordingly it was decided to build one or two simple audio frequency tuning-fork oscillators, preferably driven by transistors in order that they could be self-contained units.

Tuning fork oscillators as frequency standards are by no means a new idea. At least two other circuits have been published for use as RTTY standards and before the advent of the xtal oscillator, tuning fork oscillators followed by several stages of frequency multiplication were used to provide the RF drive for radio transmitters.

Fig. 1 shows a simple oscillator which is quite adequate for RTTY purposes. Originally, the writer experimented with a more complex circuit incorporating a limiter stage for controlling the amplitude of the fork vibrations in order to produce a pure sinewave output. However, it was found that providing circuit values were carefully chosen and it was accepted that the oscillator would take a few seconds or so to build up to its full output, the limiting circuitry was unnecessary. The freqs. normally used by RTTY stations running at a carrier shift of 850 c/s are 850, 2125 and 2975 c/s. The two higher frequency tones are those fed to the terminal unit from the receiver and are of course the tones produced by the receiver BFO from the 850 c/s shift at signal frequency. These freqs. are all harmonics (2nd, 5th and 7th) of 425 c/s and therefore this frequency was chosen for the standard.

Construction of the whole unit is more of a mechanical problem than anything else and Fig. 2 is a sketch of the layout. The end of the fork must be solidly clamped to the baseboard and how this is effected depends upon the actual cross-section of the fork. In the writer's case this section was square and

so the mount consisted of a piece of 3in. diameter brass rod with a slot slightly smaller than the width of the fork "handle" cut into it. The fork was simply hammered into the slot and this gave an extremely rigid mounting. Incidentally, operations on this end of the fork have only a slight effect on the fork's resonant frequency. The bottom of the brass rod was drilled and tapped to take two 4BA brass screws and these secure the fork mounting to the baseboard. The excitation coils were removed from an old headphone of the 2,000-ohm impedance variety. (There are four such coils in a pair of headphones and so each coil is of about 500 ohms.) The two coils are removed from the single headphone along with their original armatures and each coil is mounted with the business end of its armature parallel to and about 1/32in, away from the tines of the fork. A pair of brackets had to be made to carry the coils and their armatures. The gap between the two mounting brackets must be such that with the addition of a small permanent bias magnet they form a complete magnetic path from one fork tine to the other. In this particular application most of the small Eclipse magnets (generally available from ironmongers and tool merchants) are rather too powerful unless the reluctance of the magnetic path is increased by introducing an air-gap or a piece of some non-magnetic material such as paxolin between the magnet and the armature brackets. This gap can be between 1/16 and 1/8in, and is not critical.

From an electrical viewpoint, the circuit requires little explanation. It can be looked upon as a transformer coupled oscillator, the transformer having a core which is highly frequency selective and therefore performing only as an effective transformer at the resonant frequency or a harmonic of the core. i.e. the tuning fork. The transistor used was an OC81 but almost any small transistor will do. Provided that the collector current is held down to 1.5 to 2 mA by a suitable base bias, the output waveform is reasonably sinusoidal. To adjust the base bias, alterations can be made to the value of the 40K resistor shown in the circuit. The oscillator starts quite readily and its output is sufficient to give a good signal into a pair of high-impedance phones, or to the Y-amplifier on an oscilloscope for frequency checking. An additional AF amplifier can be added if it is desired to use a speaker.

The tuning fork itself was obtained from a local musical instrument shop and here it is best to tell them what frequency is required since there appear to be several different pitches for a given note. (The shop usually carries a catalogue which gives the frequencies.) In fact, it seems that there is not an exact 425 c/s fork available but the nearest frequency will do since the final output frequency will depend to some extent on the mounting of the fork and its coils and will have to be adjusted to the desired frequency anyway. Once the fork is working satisfactorily, it can be brought to its final frequency by filing the tines an equal amount if the frequency is too low, or by filing the crotch if the frequency is too high. Having produced a unit which is capable of maintaining a high degree of stability it

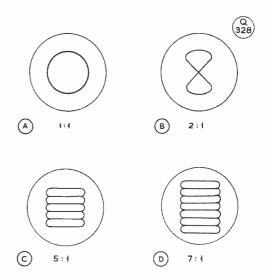


Fig. 3. Lissajous figures as obtained on a CRO when a 425-cycle tone is fed to the Y-axis, showing (A) 425 c/s, (B) 850 c/s, (C) 2125 c/s, and (D) 2975 c/s, on the X-axis of the oscilloscope.

is worthwhile going to a lot of trouble to obtain the use of some instrument such as a frequency counter as an aid to setting it up accurately.

Results

The combination of the standard and an oscilloscope will permit extremely accurate freq. checks to be made using the type of oscilloscope display known as Lissajous figures. Readers who are not familiar with such measurements may find it useful to read up the subject in the appropriate chapter in one of the *Handbooks*. The output from the fork is fed to the Y-amplifier of the oscilloscope and the frequency to be checked is fed to the X-amplifier (if one is available) or direct to the X-plates if not. The normal timebase is of course disabled. The actual 'scope displays that will be obtained for the fundamental, second, fifth and seventh harmonics are shown in Fig. 3 (A), (B), (C) and (D) respectively.

For example, to check carrier shift, the station receiver audio output is fed to the X-plates of the 'scope and with the transmitter in the "net" condition, the mark signal is tuned to zero beat on the receiver. The FSK keyer is then held over to space and the shift adjusted until the 'scope shows the Fig. 3 (B) trace. This exercise may then prove to be a surprising demonstration of the poor short-term stability of the Tx/Rx combination!

An extension of the frequency checking facilities at the writer's QTH is the provision of another fork standard for 170 c/s and harmonic amplifiers which provide a direct output from the 425 c/s stage of 850, 2125 and 2975 c/s at a high output level via a switched AF amplifier. This can be used as an alternative to checking with an oscilloscope, allowing a quick reference to be made using audio beat—but

more about this another time.

Finally, a further reminder about the B.A.R.T.G. Contest: Please put in an hour or so of operating at least, preferably on both the Saturday and the Sunday. Twenty should be busy most of the day and evening but 15m. can produce equally good QSO's with a great deal more comfort. The European stations will be available on 80m. almost day and night and there should be some DX available on Forty if you can beat the QRM! Ten cannot be ignored either—it has a habit of springing surprises these days. Jump in, get your feet wet, enjoy yourself and when it is all over please send in your logs to G2HIO even if you only had time to make a couple of QSO's.

73, and see you in the Scramble—de G3CQE.

THE MORSE TEST AT G.P.O. HEADQUARTERS

(The piece following is based on a contribution by G3UXA to the January issue of the Echelford Amateur Radio Society "Newsletter". It is reproduced here for the guidance and information of those who have yet to take a Post Office Morse Test.—Editor)

It is hoped that these notes will be of interest to those who will be taking the official Morse Test; they are based on the writer's recent experience.

At Union House take the lift to the 6th floor and in Room 603 ring for service; you will be provided with a form to fill up. You may then have time for a cup of G.P.O. tea (at 3½d., but bring your own cup!).

The examiner will appear at the appointed time and conduct you to the Examination Room on the ground floor. Do not be alarmed at the array of marine Tx and Rx equipment—it is there for candidates for the P.M.G.'s 1st and 2nd class certificates, who have to pass at speeds of up to 25 w.p.m. and show how to carry out emergency repairs.

Your interest will be in the two Morse keys screwed to a table in the centre of the room. You are allowed one or two practice runs, and then you're off! First receiving, and then sending. The writer was checked out at $11\frac{1}{2}$ w.p.m. Easy, you say? It didn't seem so at the time, in spite of the fact that 14's could be copied word-perfect before attempting the official Test. So the writer advises the following:

- (a) Even if you are not normally a nervous type, you may be when it comes to the Test. So get some practice in beforehand with a comparative stranger, preferably someone who regards 15-16 w.p.m. as just idling,
- (b) Practice sending with a heavy brass key, never faster than 12 w.p.m., aiming to be perfect in character formation and spacing,
- (c) Since the audio oscillator used for the Test

appears to have enough output to drive at least a hundred pairs of phones, if you object to being deafened, make up and take along an attenuator. This can consist of a P.O. jack-plug across a 50K potentiometer, with a jack-socket across the slider and one side of the potentiometer; you can then adjust the audio level to suit yourself. (You can also take your own headphones, if you wish.)

(d) And do arrive at the appointed hour, if possible with a little time in hand. A dim view is taken, and rightly, of candidates who arrive late and upset other people's appointments.

The officials concerned are invariably courteous and helpful, they know you may be nervous and you are given time to get settled. The only thing you have to do is to show them that you do know the Code, at up to the required standard.

Editorial Note: The official requirements for the Morse Test, and all other regulations affecting the issue of a U.K. amateur licence, are laid down in the G.P.O.'s own pamphlet How to Become a Radio Amateur, obtainable free on request to: Radio Services Dept., Radio Branch, Hq. Building, General Post Office, St. Martins-le-Grand, London, E.C.1. Much practical information covering the licence examinations in general is contained in A Guide to Amateur Radio, price 5s. 7d. post free from: The Publications Dept., Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.



The new Burgess instant-heat soldering gun produces full heat in 5 seconds, and is equipped with 8 inter-changeable tips to suit the work. The instrument is well balanced, fully insulated and control is by trigger action. The price complete is £3 19s. 6d.

OSCILLOSCOPE FOR THE AMATEUR STATION

CIRCUIT CONSIDERATIONS

FOR ADEQUATE

PERFORMANCE—AND A

PRACTICAL DESIGN

Part I

C. BOWDEN (G3OCB)

Our well-known contributor has produced a very nice design for a CRO, suitable for home construction, with a wide variety of applications. First, he discusses the theoretical aspects and the choice of values for the Y-amplifier—the most important factor in the design for good wide-band performance. Part II will follow to complete the circuitry and construction.

—Editor.

THE Oscilloscope is undoubtedly one of the most useful "tools" ever invented, and the owner of one can greatly increase his enjoyment of Amateur Radio. There are several good 'scopes available on the market these days but they are still rather expensive to buy and the constructor can build his own at quite a saving in cost—and he can often obtain better performance than from 'scopes in the medium-price range.

Many constructors fight shy of building an oscilloscope, in the belief that it is beyond their ability. Very few published circuits try to provide a very exciting performance and there is seldom any discussion of wideband-amplifier techniques.

When the present 'scope was designed it was decided to keep the circuitry simple so that the construction would be straightforward without unduly sacrificing performance. As the whole project depends on the Cathode Ray Tube and Y-amplifier circuit, we will, with the Editor's permission (granted—Ed.) go into the design of this part of the equipment in some detail. This will enable the constructor to alter the design to suit his own requirements, (It will be assumed that the reader has some knowledge of valve amplifier and cathode ray tube circuitry.)

The ideal oscilloscope will be one in which the deflection of the spot will be the same for a given input whether the frequency is zero (DC) or thousands of megacycles. However, it is very difficult to design an amplifier with a level response over such a wide range as this.

If we look at the circuit (Fig. 1a) we see that in addition to the physical components, there are hidden stray capacities C_S due to the wires and valve electrodes forming capacitors. At medium frequencies

(from about 100 c/s to 10,000 c/s), the circuit amplifies very well (Equation 1 in Appendix, p.28).

As the frequency is lowered the reactance of the capacitor C1 will rise and a potentiometer will be formed as shown in the circuit (Fig. 1b) and the voltage reaching the grid of the valve will be reduced causing a drop in gain. At DC, the reactance of C1 will be infinite and the gain will be zero. Also, as the input frequency to the amplifier is lowered the increasing reactance of the condensers Csg and Ck will result in ineffective decoupling of the screen and cathode. This will cause negative feedback and loss of gain.

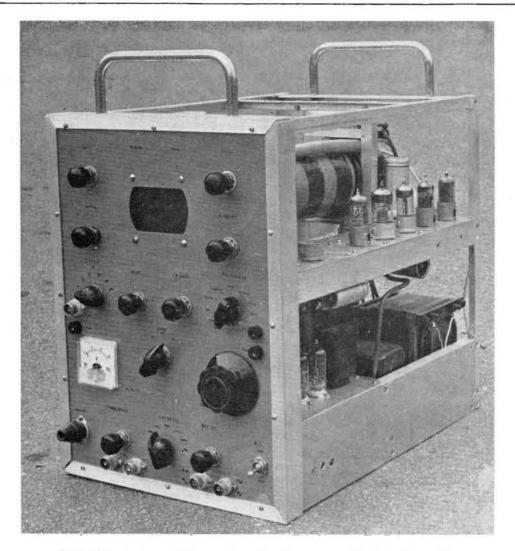
The amplifier can be made to give constant gain down to zero frequency by the use of DC coupling between stages, and by other low-impedance circuitry. But to make the amplifier give this sort of performance would require circuit complexity out of all proportion to the benefit obtained. It is rare for the amateur to need to amplify and display DC levels. However, careful design will ensure a level response down to a few cycles, which should be adequate for all normal purposes.

Reference to the diagrams (Fig. 2a and 2b) shows how the effect of Cs is felt at high frequencies, Cp is the power supply smoothing capacitor and as its reactance, and that of C1, are very low at high frequencies they can be ignored. Thus we see that Cs is in parallel with RL and Rg. In an audio amplifier typical values would be RL=100K, Rg=2M, $C_S = 30 \mu\mu F$. The reactance of 30 $\mu\mu F$ is about 95K at 50,000 c/s and hence the effective anode load of the valve is due to the 100K and 2M resistors and the 95K reactance, all in parallel. The effective load impedance is thus only about 68K. Hence, the gain at 50,000 cycles will come out at 70 per cent or so of its value at medium frequencies, i.e., 3 dB down, and will be even lower at higher frequencies. (The bandwidth of an amplifier is the range over which the gain is within 3 dB of its gain at medium frequencies.)

In order to make use of our oscilloscope for analysis of TV signals, SSB signals, IF alignment, etc., we will require a level response up to 10 mc or more, with useful gain to even higher frequencies. It is thus obvious that we need to consider our circuit more carefully with a view to removing or overcoming the effects of capacitance at high and low frequencies.

High Frequency Performance

The basic method of improving the high frequency response of an amplifier is by reducing its anode load, thus ensuring that the reactance of Cs cannot appreciably shunt RL until a higher frequency is reached. This is all very well, but as RL is reduced the gain at all frequencies is reduced. To compensate for this we must use valves with a higher mutual conductance in our amplifier. Thus, two circuits may both exhibit a gain of 20. In one case we may employ an RL of 10K in conjunction with a valve having a Gm of 2 mA/v. and in the other case we may use an RL of 2K and a Gm



General appearance of the Amateur Oscilloscope described in the article.

of 10 mA/v. The second amplifier will have a level response to a frequency some five times greater than the first amplifier.

A popular method of counteracting the effect of Cs is to place a coil in series with the anode load resistor. If the coil is correctly chosen, its rise in reactance with frequency will offset the fall of reactance of Cs up to a certain frequency, above which the gain will fall off even more rapidly than before. This circuit is better avoided in home-built equipment because the required value of inductance will depend on the value of Cs, which is difficult to measure or estimate accurately. Too large a coil will give rise to "ringing," which may distort high frequency components of the display, while too low a value will have little effect at all.

The use of negative feedback is also useful as a measure to overcome this problem, but any increase in bandwidth is always accompanied by some loss of gain. Negative feedback can be useful, however, as it reduces distortion in amplifier stages operating at high signal levels. One common way of introducing negative feedback is to omit the cathode bias condenser. This results in loss of gain at all frequencies (Eqn. 7) but overcomes the main shortcoming of the normal cathode by-pass capacitor, i.e., the rise in reactance of the by-pass capacitor at low frequencies which results in negative feedback at LF only.

For example a cathode bias capacitor of $10~\mu\mathrm{F}$ would start to lose its decoupling effect at several hundred cycles when a bias resistor of 300 ohms is in use. At 50 c/s there would be a noticeable drop

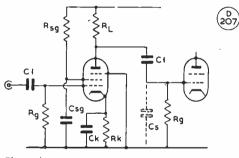


Figure 1a

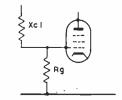
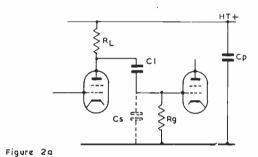


Figure 1b



R_L C_s R_q

Figure 2b

At HF Xcp = Xcl = O

in gain while at 5 c/s the capacitor would be ineffective. When the capacitor is omitted this variation in gain is not apparent but the overall gain of the circuit is reduced.

It is possible to shunt the bias resistor with a very small condenser which starts to decouple the cathode resistor at the same frequencies at which the stray capacitances in the anode circuit begin to reduce the gain. In this way the frequency at which the gain falls by 3 dB can be considerably increased. Too large a capacitor in this case can result in excessive gain at the higher end of the response curve which can cause distortion of the display, so

care must be exercised when applying this sort of compensation. The circuit finally described does not use cathode capacitive or anode inductive compensation—see Part II.

There are other circuits which can be considered, such as the anode follower and the long-tailed pair (Fig. 3). These circuits are slightly more complex making it most difficult to obtain a satisfactory performance over a wide frequency range. The long-tailed pair has certain advantages, however, especially as far as the application of shift voltages is concerned and is very popular. Normally, anode compensation is used with this circuit in order to obtain a good high frequency performance. In view of this fact and also that it is difficult to obtain a well balanced output over a wide frequency range the circuit will not be dealt with in any detail here.

There is another way in which the undesirable capacitance effects can be overcome to some extent. This is by the use of cathode followers. The cathode follower stage has three peculiarities, all of which are of extreme importance and usefulness in wideband circuits:

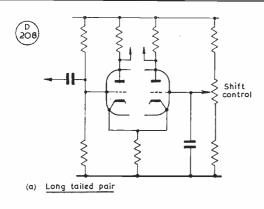
(1) The input resistance is very high, (Eqn. 2); (2) The input capacitance is very low, (Eqn. 3); and (3) The output impedance is very low (Eqn. 4). In addition to these features the gain of the stage is never greater than unity (Eqn. 5). Usual values range from 0.5 to 0.99. This point is not so attractive but the other features are so useful that we can afford to ignore the loss of gain.

Let us consider how we can make use of these

(1) High input resistance. If we refer to Ean. 2 we see that the actual physical value of Rg wired in the circuit (Fig. 4) appears to the preceding stage as a resistor (1/1-A) times larger (where A is the gain of the stage). As an example, if we assume A = 0.8 and that the actual resistor wired in circuit is 2 megohms, then as far as the preceding stage is concerned the actual resistance looks like: 2.0 (1/1-0.8) M=10M. Thus, the effect of the increase in reactance of C1 (Fig. 4) will not now become effective until the frequency is five times lower. Consequently, the higher input impedance of the cathode follower helps to improve the LF response. Conversely, we could use a value of C1 five times smaller for the same LF response as we had previously; this would be a smaller condenser physically, thus helping to reduce the value of Cs (Fig. 1).

(2) Low Input Capacitance. The input capacity of most valves is in the region of 8-20 $\mu\mu$ F, when used as a normal amplifier. When connected as a cathode follower however, the effective capacity is reduced by a factor of (1-A) times. If we assume that the input capacity of the valve is $10 \ \mu\mu$ F then the effective input capacity will be: $10 \ (1-0.8) = 2 \ \mu\mu$ F.

Thus, there is a considerable reduction in input capacitance. The average output capacity of the preceding stage will be about 2-3 $\mu\mu$ F and by careful layout wiring strays can be kept to about 3-4 $\mu\mu$ F making a total stray capacity (Cs) of about 8-10 $\mu\mu$ F compared to some 16-20 $\mu\mu$ F in the case of two



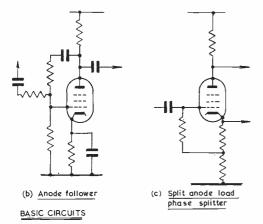


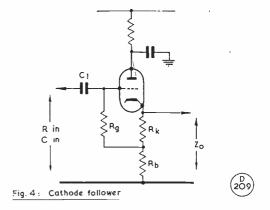
Fig. 3,

amplifying stages coupled directly together. This effective halving of the stray capacity results in a doubling of the bandwidth at the HF end of the range.

(3) Low Output Impedance. The output impedance of a cathode follower stage is quite low. An average value would be about 120 ohms. This, despite the fact that the actual resistors wired into the circuit (Rk and Rb in Fig. 4), may total thousands of ohms. The input capacity of the next stage, together with strays, may total 20 $\mu\mu$ F or so. The frequency at which the reactance of these strays falls to 120 ohms is so much higher than the "3 dB" frequency of the preceding amplifying stage that its effect on the overall response curve can be neglected.

The fourth factor—loss of gain—must be allowed for by designing the amplifiers to have a little more gain than would have been required in the absence of the cathode follower stages.

It should be realised that when stages are connected in cascade, *i.e.*, one after the other, then if they are identical and each has a bandwidth of say 10 c/s-mc, then the overall bandwidth will be less than this. With n stages the response at these frequencies will now be 3ndB down and the bandwidth will be reduced. If in fact we wish our amplifier to have a bandwidth of from say 2 c/s to 20 mc, then



with n stages the gain of each stage must be not less than 3/ndB down at these frequencies (Fig. 5).

Low Frequency Performance

Strays have no effect at low frequencies but as already mentioned the reactance of coupling and decoupling capacitors cause loss of gain. In addition to the use of cathode followers there is another method by which the gain at low frequencies can be improved. (Fig. 6). As shown in the diagram it is normal practice to decouple the HT supply to the anode of an amplifying stage; Rd and Cd are the decoupling components. At very low frequencies the reactance of Cd increases and the capacitor becomes ineffective as a decoupler. The impedance formed by

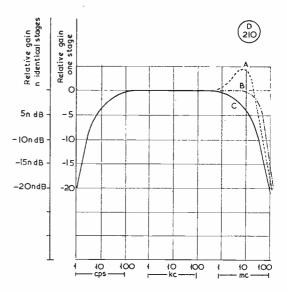
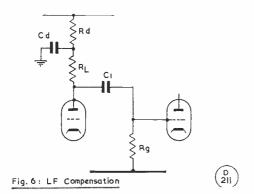


Fig. 5. General bandwidth characteristic of an RC amplifier. At (A) is the general effect of excessive inductive or capacitive compensation: (B) shows correct compensation; and (C), the effect of no compensation at all. LF compensation would show similar effects at the LF end. Curve is taken with approximate values of Cs, 10 \(\mu \mu \mathbf{F}; \) Cg, 0.1 \(\mu \mathbf{F}; \) RL, 1.5K; and Rg, 150K. See text for discussion.



Rd and Cd in parallel increase the effective anode load and this results in an increase in gain. If the frequency at which this effect occurs is chosen (Eqn. 6) to be the same as that at which loss of gain due to increase in the reactance of the grid capacitor occurs, then the effect is compensated to some extent.

As with the other forms of compensation mentioned application of the wrong amount can cause distortion due to an uneven gain-frequency characteristic. It is, however, easier to calculate the performance of an amplifier at low frequencies since the capacities are known values, so compensation can be more accurately applied.

Non-Sinusoidal Inputs

So far we have only considered the behaviour of an amplifier when *sine* wives are applied. But it is often necessary to view square or pulse waveforms, e.g., TV signals, multivibrator outputs, and such. We must therefore consider how our circuit responds to such waves.

A square-wave consists essentially of a sine wave combined with an infinite number of odd harmonics added in phase. We thus require that the bandwidth of our amplifier is wide enough to accept these harmonics. One important consideration is the *time* involved for the leading or trailing edge of a pulse waveform to rise or fall. Rise time (Tr) is commonly taken as the time it takes for the wave edge to rise or fall from 10 per cent to 90 per cent of its full value (Fig. 7).

If a square-wave is applied to the grid of a valve the anode current will follow this change of state instantly. The anode voltage, however, is controlled not only by the resistive load, but by the stray capacities present. Hence the anode voltage cannot follow instantly, but only as fast as the strays can charge or discharge through the anode load resistor (if we ignore the grid resistor which is effectively in parallel with the strays but is much larger than the load resistor).

It takes a time of about 5CsRL secs. for a capacitor fully to charge or discharge through a resistor (where Cs is the value of the stray capacitances and RL is the load resistor in this case). For example

if we assume a load of 1,000 ohms and strays of $10~\mu\mu$ F then $Tr=5~x~1,000~x~10~x~10^{-12} secs.$ —which is about 50 milli-microseconds. Any wavefront rising or falling faster than this at the grid of the valve will emerge from the anode circuit with its wave-front slowed to this figure.

Due to their low output impedance cathode followers are much better in this respect. In the case above if we assumed an output impedance of 100 ohms in place of the load of 1,000 ohms then Tr would now be only 5 milli-microsecs. However, the overall rise time of an amplifier cannot be faster than the rise-time of its slowest stage. As cathode followers are so much superior in this respect it is usually the amplifying stages that determine the overall Tr. It should be noted however that if the fall-time of the negative going edge of any waveform is faster than the time constant of the cathode circuit of a cathode follower, then the grid will fall much faster than the cathode can follow. The valve will therefore cut off and the time constant of the cathode circuit will increase as the output impedance is no longer 1/Gm but is Rk+Rb in series (Fig. 4). This could result in distortion of very high speed waveforms if the performance of the amplifiers were extremely wideband or where a cathode follower input stage is used.

The rise time of an amplifier can be related to its bandwidth by the expression Fh. Tr=0.4, where Fh is the high frequency 3 dB point and Tr is the rise time. For example, if an amplifier has an upper 3 dB point of 15 mc, the rise time will be about 26 milli-microseconds. Such a performance should be sufficient for all normal amateur requirements. As the latter formula implies, if the Y-amplifier is designed for a wide bandwidth then the rise time will automatically be short.

The final performance factor which concerns us is the effect that the LF response may have on a square wave. It is this factor which determines the amount of "sag" in the "top" of the waveform. Whereas it is the stray capacitances that effect the performance as far as the edges of the waveform are concerned, it is the effect of the coupling and decoupling condensers that cause the droop in the top of the waveform.

If a square wave is applied to the grid of an amplifier the leading edge will cause the valve current to rise or fall and the anode voltage will then

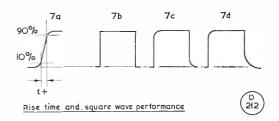


Fig. 7. (A) illustrates rise time. (B) a perfect square wave. (C) poor HF performance results in inferior rise time. (D) effect of cathode follower cut off by negative-going edge.

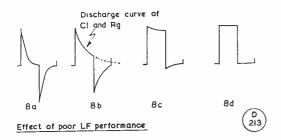


Fig. 8. (A) very poor response. (B) effect of increasing C1 or Rg, Fig. 1. (C) fairly good LEF performance. (D) the ideal condition.

follow as fast as the anode time constant will allow (or at the speed of the waveform if this is slower). The coupling capacitor C1 (Fig. 1) had until the arrival of the wavefront been charged to a voltage equal to the anode voltage of the valve, as its one end is grounded (via the grid resistor) and the other is connected to the anode. After the waveform edge causes a change in anode potential due to change of valve current, the plates of the condenser connected to the anode follow the anode voltage as it changes. The capacitor cannot alter its original charge instantly because it takes a finite time to charge or discharge through the circuit resistances. Since the capacitor cannot change its charge instantly, it follows that the voltage on the plates on the grid side must respond instantly by the same amount as did the anode plates and in the same direction, i.e., more positive or more negative, depending on polarity of input waveform.

The capacitor then begins to charge or discharge through Rg so as to return the voltage on the grid side to zero. It is this change of charge that causes the "droop" of the waveform. If the trailing edge of the pulse is a long time coming the coupling capacitor may have completely discharged through Rg before it arrives. When it does arrive the charge again cannot change instantly, resulting in the grid now being taken in the opposite direction. The resulting waveform is shown in Fig. 8A. The remaining diagrams (Figs. 8B, C, D) show the improvement in performance obtained by increasing C1 or Rg, i.e., increasing the time it takes for C1 to discharge through Rg.

From Fig 8B it can be seen that the droop is really the first part of the charge or discharge curve of C1 through Rg. If these components are large enough, the trailing edge of the pulse will arrive before appreciable droop occurs.

Over the first part of a C-R discharge curve, the rate of change is almost linear. At this rate of change the time that would be required for a complete discharge would be CR secs. (Fig. 9). Let us consider the minimum value of C and R required such that a 50 c/s square wave would be passed with only 1 per cent droop. (The droop of each stage will add to make the overall figure even worse.) The time between successive leading and trailing edges

of the wave is '01 sec. Thus, the charge on C must not change by more than 1 per cent in 01 sec. If this is a linear rate of discharge then the capacitor would be completely discharged in one second. This is therefore the CR required, and we could use either 1 μF and 1 megohm, or 0·1 μF and 10 megohms, or a similar combination.

The Cathode Ray Tube

We have now considered quite fully the behaviour of the Y-amplifier. Before we can finally design our circuit, however, we must look at the performance of the CR tube itself.

Unfortunately it takes quite a considerable voltage to give a reasonable deflection of the spot on most cathode ray tubes, and to obtain such a large deflection demands that we use output stages with high anode load resistors. This is what we wish to avoid in order to preserve a good HF response. The only course open to us is to select as sensitive a tube as possible and to use high-gain, high-current output stages feeding into low anode loads.

As the anode voltages on a tube are reduced the deflection sensitivity increases but the focusing and brilliance are usually poorer, and it becomes more difficult to eliminate the effects of stray fields. A 3BP1 and also a VCR-138 were available and some comparisons were made. It was found that minimum acceptable performance was obtained with a final anode voltage (relative to cathode) of about 1,000 volts with the former tube and about 900 volts on the latter. Under these conditions the focus and brilliance of the 3BP1 was superior but the VCR-138 was far more sensitive. The VCR-138 gave a deflection of one inch when 5 volts r.m.s. was applied to each Y-plate, but the 3 BP1 required about 18 volts r.m.s. to each Y-plate for the same deflection. (It is considered that a deflection of one inch is about the minimum acceptable in a high-performance 'scope.) In fact, the VCR-138 is one of the most sensitive tubes available on the surplus market. A larger tube could be used but as those available as surplus are no more sensitive it is impossible to obtain a greater deflection without undue sacrifice of HF performance.

Undoubtedly, one of the more modern PDA tubes could be employed; the focus and brilliance would be superior and the sensitivity would probably be better in most cases, but a much higher EHT

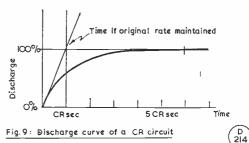


Fig. 9: Discharge curve of a CR circuit

voltage would be required. The tubes are also rather expensive.

The performance of the VCR-138 is quite adequate for general purpose work and if the brightness control is kept down quite a good focus can be obtained, although under these conditions some screening of the tube becomes desirable in bright locations, especially at fast time base speeds.

The VCR-138 unfortunately has rather high input capacitances to the deflection plates (about 25 $\mu\mu$ F) but by using cathode follower driver stages the bandwidth can be kept quite high.

The chosen tube requires a drive voltage of 10 volts r.m.s. to one plate, or 5 volts

r.m.s. in push-pull to both plates. The latter is a better choice for the following reasons: If an anode load of say 1,000 ohms is to develop 10v. r.m.s. in one driving stage, then only 500 ohms will be required by two push-pull stages. If the bandwidth of the single stage using 1,000 ohms is in the region of 10 mc, then it will be about 20 mc in a stage using 500 ohms. The overall bandwidth of two stages in push-pull, each with a bandwidth of 20 mc, will be about 14 mc. Thus, in the push-pull mode we obtain a better bandwidth and any tendency to trapezium distortion or deflection defocusing is eliminated.

(To be continued)

APPENDIX

Eqn. 1 Gain of RC Amplifier when RL is small compared with Ra:

A = Gm.RL.

where A is the gain Gm is the mutual conductance in mA/v. RL is the load resistor in K ohms

Eqn. 2 Input resistance of cathode follower:

 $Rin = \frac{Rg}{1-A}$

where A is the gain Rin is the effective input res. in megohms Rg is the grid resistor in megohms

Eqn. 3 Input capacitance of cathode follower:

Cin = Cgk(1-A) + Cag

where A is the gain Cin is the input capacitance in $\mu\mu$ F Cgk is the grid — cathode cap. in $\mu\mu$ F Cag is the anode — grid cap. in $\mu\mu$ F

Eqn. 4 Output impedance of cathode follower:

 $Zo = \frac{1}{Gm}$

where Zo is the output impedance in K ohms Gm is the mutual conductance in mA/v.

Eqn. 5 Gain of cathode follower:

 $A = \frac{u.Rk}{Ra + u.Rk}$ and u = Gm. Ra.

where Ra is the anode res. of the valve in K ohms u is the amplification factor Gm is the mutual conductance in mA/v. Rk is the cathode resistor in K ohms

Eqn. 6 For compensation at Low Frequencies:

C1. Rg = Cd.Rd.

where C1 is the coupling cap. in μ F Cd is the anode decoupling cap. in μ F Rg is the grid leak in megohms Rd is the decoupling resistor in megohms

Eqn. 7 The gain of an amplifier with unbypassed cathode resistor:

 $A = \frac{Gm.RL}{1 + Gm.Rk}$

where A is the gain.

Gm is the mutual conductance in mA/v.

RL is the anode load in K ohms

Rk is the cathode resistor in K ohms (unbypassed portion)

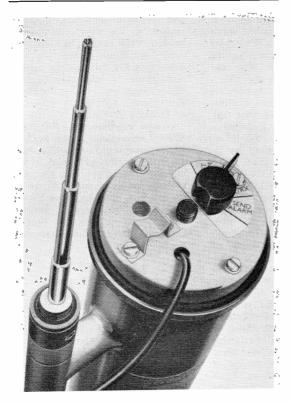
THE SMALL ADVERTISING

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saying that it is no use offering worthless junk; that your price must be fair; that you must be ready to come to terms as regards despatch or delivery; and that if a prospective buyer calls, you must be prepared to show that what you may be offering will do its stuff on the air. While we do not guarantee either results to an advertiser or a satisfactory bargain for

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The well-known firm of K.W. Electronics, Ltd., manufacture for other fields besides Amateur Radio. Here is their new K.W. "Safcom" emergency R/T beacon, the only such unit so far to obtain G.P.O. type approval for a safety device that is soon to become compulsory equipment on every sea-going fishing vessel or auxiliary craft over 60ft. long. The beacon operates on 2182 kc (the small craft distress channel), weighs only 9½ lbs., floats and will withstand the severest conditions. It is simple to operate, works from mercury cell batteries giving a long life powering a solid-state transceiver, and has a telescopic aerial. It is complementary to the rubber life-raft which recently became mandatory in small craft, has passed the most stringent tests, and its B.o.T. certificate is pending.

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In order to give better sales service to the customers of K.W. Electronics, Ltd., a number of selected local agents have been appointed, who will carry stocks of K.W. apparatus and will be in a position to give after-sales service. Following is the list of agencies so far arranged:

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Many of these names are already well known in the Amateur Retail trade, with years of experience of catering for the radio amateur market. At any of these addresses, you will find keen and expert interest in K.W. products, with a full range of K.W. equipment available for inspection and discussion.

AWARD OF "THE FARADAY MEDAL".

One of the most sought-after distinctions in the fields of radio and electrical engineering is the Faraday Medal, bestowed annually by the Institution of Electrical Engineers in recognition of some outstanding contribution to the progress of the art. The 44th Faraday Medal goes to J. A. Ratcliffe, CB, CBE, FRS, now retired and until lately Director of the Radio and Space Research Station, Slough, Bucks., at which much of his work was done on the physics of the ionosphere and the related problems of radiowave propagation on the LF bands. It should be mentioned that the annual Faraday Medal awardcommemorating one of the founders of electrical communication—is not confined to I.E.E. members or even to citizens of the U.K. The award is made purely for "conspicuous service rendered to the advancement of electrical science." It is this that makes it such a signal honour.

VHF BANDS

A. J. DEVON

FIRST of all, of course, your A.J.D. must apologise for last month's non-appearance — which some readers, at least, did notice! —and since the reasons would take too long to explain here, it can only be said to have been due to "circumstances unexpected and unavoidable."

In fact, there has not been much in the way of operating interest to report-with the possible exception of the advent of Oscar IV, with rather indifferent results. Launched just before Christmas, Oscar IV was a crossband translator, accepting signals on 144.1 mc and re-transmitting them on 431.9 mc, power being about 3 watts. The satellite also radiated a beacon signal (still audible at the time of writing) on 431.9 mc. The cross-band feature enabled an operator to check whether he was, in fact, coming back on 70 cm. Unfortunately, shortly after the orbit had been established as being at inclination of 26.35°, with a periodicity of 9 hrs. 50 mins., an apogee (maximum distance out) of 20,600 miles and a perigee (minimum height) of 127 miles, the communication system started to play up. The malfunctioning then became progressively worse until by about January 10, even G3LTF could barely get recognisable callsigns through. The failure took the form of the CW being returned badly broken up, with a marked intermittency which gradually became more pronounced, until finally the translator failed altogether. This must be a great disappointment to the "Project Oscar" boys-and not the first one they've had-as the cross-band idea was a very good one and the system had been rigorously tested. However, it is probably just not feasible to guard against all the eventualities of a rocket launch. In spite of this early failure of Oscar IV, there was an opportunity for some very interesting 144/432 mc cross-band DX to be worked. G3LTF was particularly successful in that he heard (or was heard by)

a number of DX stations, including K2MWA, but no full two-way contact was obtained due to this malfunctioning. In other words, the signals were there all right, and would otherwise have been quite workable.

Yet another amateur airborne device is the German translator balloon (ARTOB), which receives between 144.08 and 144.10 mc for CW only, and 144·10-144·12 mc for SSB, with re-transmission over 145.88-145.92 mc. The equipment belongs, in fact, to DJ4ZC, and has already made several successful flights, with good translator results. But there are certain practical difficulties involved: When it can go up and in what direction the balloon drifts depends entirely on the Wx; there are considerable problems in the recovery of the gear after the balloon bursts, though the equipment includes a signal beacon on 145.95 mc; and for obvious reasons, it is desirable that any flight should take place during a weekend, either a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, as by a simple system of monitoring, it is easier to alert the VHF fraternity. The next ARTOB flight is planned for some suitable occasion during April-May, from the Aachen area, when the met. condition forecasts a drift from west to east, up to a height of about 30 km., roughly 25 miles. However, even at this height, on such a course the transponder would be of little use to anyone in the U.K. (with the possible exception of G2JF and others in the south-east district). Such a device can only be really effective for those right in its fall-out area.

Lastly, on the general subject of satellites and emanations from space, it is of interest just to add that those remarkable picture and telemetry signals from *Luna 9*, on the Moon from 1845z on February 3, were centred on a frequency of 183.5 mc.

Convention Time

This has now come round again, and the first is the big London affair, the VHF Convention at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, W.C.1, on Saturday, April 2, when there will be a lecture programme and an exhibition, winding

up with the dinner in the evening. which is the highlight of the event. All-in cost (Convention Dinner) is 32s., with tickets obtainable from: Frank G3GMY, 48 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts. The London convention is always one of the big events of the VHF year, and should on no account be missed if you can possibly get to Town on April 2-and book straight away, as the dinner sitting is limited.

Up in Scotland, their annual VHF convention will be held at the Mill Hotel, Rutherglen, on Saturday, April 30, starting at 3.0 p.m. with an exhibition (SWL's and younger amateurs specially invited, as the show will feature modern VHF gear). The all-in cost—for exhibition, talks, tea and dinner—is 27s. 6d., but the exhibition alone is open for 2s. 6d. Tickets and any further information from: GM3PMB (QTHR), or GM6ZV (OTHR).

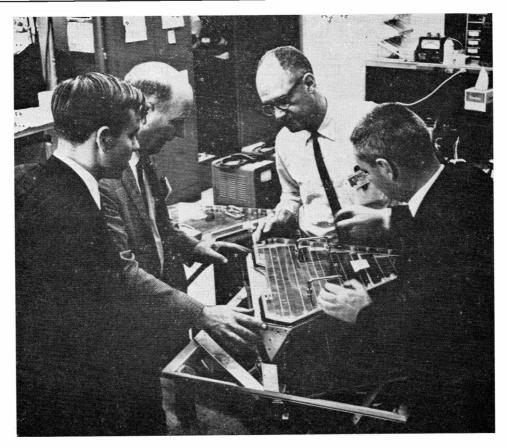
A new venture is the Midlands VHF Convention, to be held at Wolverhampton on Saturday, May 14, with assembly at 1.0 p.m., chairman of proceedings Tom Douglas, G3BA, and of course, a dinner in the evening. The inclusive charge is 30s., and tickets can be obtained from F. T. Smith, 5 Pinfold Crescent, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs.

Band Plan

This has been thrown into the melting-pot again, and will be coming up for discussion and decision before this appears in print. It is not the intention here to prejudge the issues nor to attempt to give advance information—but to make it clear that whatever Plan does emerge will have been worked out by collaboration between the Magazine and the RSGB, and the agreed draft will be published by both journals.

Tabular Matter

Space only to show the Three-Band Annual this time—and please read carefully the *small print*, under the Table on p.32. For the first time, we are trying multipliers (*see small print*), and though at first sight it may look as if the two-metres-only types will be left



The ''Oscar IV'' satellite in the final stages of assembly. Left to right are: K6MWR, responsible for the design of the receiving side; Dave Moore, who undertook the mechanical design; W6ZPX, who did much of the final electrical assembly and check-out; and on the right, W6RTG who was associated with the system engineering involved in ''Project Oscar.'' The work is under the control and direction of members of the TRW Radio Club, Redondo Beach, Calif., with W6NLZ as project manager, and W6SAI as president of the Club and ''Project Oscar.'' All the work is done by Club members strictly in their amateur capacity; much of the equipment has been donated by American manufacturers in the radio and electronics field, and the cash outlay so far (met from Club funds) is less than £70.

far behind, in fact there are ways of compensating for that and, in any event, the Two-Metre Annual is being kept running.

All claims made for the various Tables have been carefully entered and it is hoped to make space, in an early issue, for another spread of all the current ones.

Set Listening Period

It will be remembered that this was set for four metres, over two periods on January 16 last—when, by the immutable Law of Murphy, conditions went off and activity fell low. However, several logs were received, mainly listing a few locals only, together with the rather more successful results obtained by SWL Pete Cayless

(Exeter), who heard a dozen different 4-metre stations, with GC3OBM as best DX; and by SWL Trevor Brook (Leatherhead, Sy.), who turned in a log listing nearly 20 different stations, though none at any great distance. It is interesting that both these SWL's make the same remark-to the effect that though the activity was disappointing compared with what it can be under good conditions, little or nothing would have been heard by either if the SLP had been held even a few months ago, so much has occupancy and activity increased on the 70 mc

So we will plod doggedly on, and set another SLP for 4-metre CW and Phone, on Sunday, April 10 (Easter Sunday), periods as before: 1000-1300z, and 1500-1900z. Your A.J.D. looks forward to seeing some rather fuller logs for this one, and transmitting operators are reminded that, in the knowledge that there is an SLP on, they should transmit as much and in as many different directions as possible.

General News

There have, of course, been some flashes of good conditions during the last few weeks, when the Wx pattern showed the signs clearly enough. The benefit during the early part of January was in the southerly direction from the southern part of the country, down into France—for instance, G2JF

THREE-BAND ANNUAL VHF TABLE September 1965 to August 1966

Station	FOUR METRES Counties Countries		TWO METRES Counties Countries		70 CENTIMETRES Countries Countries		TOTAL pts.
G3EDD	25	2	49	17	15	4	112
G3HRH	23	2	44	12	14	2	98
G3FIJ	18	2	36	12	19	4	91
G3OWA	22	2	33	7	13	1	78
G3RST	8	1	49	17	_	_	75
G3TLB	8	1	50	13	_	_	72
G2AXI	14	2	. 36	10	7	1	70
G5UM	15	ī	27	7	16	2	68
G3AHB	_	-	34	10	20	3	67
G2CIW	. –	_	14	9	32	6	61
G3LAS	17	1	31	8	1	1	59
EI6AS	9	5	29	7	4	3	57
G3KQF	_	· —	23	7	21	2	53
G3FNM	2	1 .	33	8	_	_	44
G5FK	20	2	7	3	10	1	43
G3UCS	_	-	34	5	_	_	39
G3UFQ	_	-	28	8	_	_	36
G3EKP	8	5	6	3	5	2	29
G3HWR	10	1	8	1	8	1	29
GW3CBY	2	2	19	4	_	-	27
G3UFA	_		22	4	_	_	26
G8ACB	_		_	-	22	4	26

Scores are since September 1st, 1965, and will accrue until August 31st this year. Position is shown by last-column total, as aggregate of all scores. Own county and country score as one each. Entries may be made for a single band, any two, or all three. From time to time, multipliers will be announced (with at least one month's notice) to give a loading in favour of some particular band. Points so earned will be taken into the aggregate and carried right through till the end of the VHF year. N.B. Multipliers Announced: With effect from April 1st until May 31st, all aggregate 4-metre scores can be multiplied by two and all 70-centimetre totals by three. As an example, at his present standing in the Table above, G2AXI could claim 32 points for the 4-metre column and 24 pts. on 70 cm., making (with his x 1 two-metre score of 46), a total of 102 points. New entrants on either band within the April-May period may claim multipliers accordingly.

worked F9NL in the Pyrénées, a nice 600-mile contact. The January two-metre contest missed good tropo. conditions by just 24 hours (old Murphy again)—and, of course, the weird Wx since has been all against anything in the way of stable EDX, or even GDX, conditions developing.

Inevitably on the VHF bands, conditions are always up-and-down, and it is this mysterious propagation factor that lends enchantment to VHF. You, as a new boy, could come on two metres with your bit of a rig just at the time the band is wide open

for EDX-and how often that happened—only to have to wait months before you can work a few more U.K. counties. You can have been on the band for years without ever having encountered an Auroral opening stupendous experience); Sporadic-E manifestation or a Tropospheric occasion - taking you into, say, Scandinavia or Mittel-Europa. Or you can just be perfectly happy working locals on a band without TVI problems (provided you have arranged your multiplier sequences correctly!).

During the Easter vacation,

which means towards the end of March, the Cambridge University Wireless Society will be mounting an all-band expedition to GD; skeds for 70 mc and two metres can be arranged by getting in touch, as soon as may be, with P. K. Cripps, G3SKT, 61 Devonshire Road, Cambridge. (We hope that ON4FG makes the necessary arrangement and succeeds in getting through!)

The 70-centimetre (430 mc band) boys are working hard and doing well. G8AKQ (Barnsley) lists no less than ten 70-cm. stations in that area, all regularly worked or heard-and as G6ABK/T he exchanges A/TV pictures with G6ABN/T (Tadcaster). G3RND and G8AAN take pictures from him. The G6ABK/T Tx runs 35w. on 432.57 mc for sound, and 436.07 mc vision. (A picture of his aerial system appeared on p.677 of our January issue.) A job in hand at the moment at G6ABK/T-G8AKO is the converting of a UHF TV tuner to 23 cm. Another to write in is G8ACB-G6KQJ/T (Wolverhampton), whose beam is a pair of 14-ele Yagi's on a telescopic tilt-over tower, swinging up to 50ft. In the last five months, he has heard, and mainly worked, more than 100 different Midlands stations on 70 cm. His bench project is a 150-watt Tx, and in the meantime he is trying to separate the local ITA/BBC-2 signals from his 433-4 mc mixer diode, as they produce a very objectionable bunch of birdies; a high-Q break and a tuned emitter circuit give some relief but also attenuate signals.

Developing on 23-cm. are G3HWR and G5FK (Wembley), who have made a few contacts. G3DBF (Mansfield, Notts.) says he has built the 5-transistor twometre converter described by G3JAM in our June. '65, issue—having heard about 50 stations on it, he has been converted to VHF and is now at work on a Tx.

So that must be it for this time. Your A.J.D. hopes to get into gear again, with more space next month, for which the closing date is: Friday, March 18, addressed to VHF Bands, SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham. 73 de A.J.D.

COMMUNICATION and DX NEWS

L. H. Thomas (G6QB)

NONDITIONS from mid-January to mid-February were pretty disappointing, with all bands below par for much of the time. Spring, it seems, will be a little late this year. And the general dullness was not so much a matter of the MUF, or the behaviour of one particular layer-it applied to all bands, so that One-Sixty, which is so often extremely good when the others were bad, fell in with the general depression. So here we all sit, waiting impatiently for a sign that the sunspots are about to do their stuff.

The CQ Top-Band Contest missed the boat by just one week, after catching it brilliantly last year. This year, the weekend of January 29-30 was nothing to write home about, but the previous weekend was very interesting. W1WY says that at this time (January 23) he was actually passing over all the G's he had worked before, in order to look for new countries. During that one night he raised 9L1HX, DL1FF, OL1AEF, OK1ANG, HB9CM, PAOPN and three or four new G's.

The contest weekend was most peculiar as regards conditions. Over here one could hear W8's, 9's and 5's working each other; very few W's or VE's working Europe; and the old faithful W1's and 2's were notable by their absence. There's no doubt about it—something has gone wrong somewhere!

Sun-Spotting

G2TA sends some information from the January 15 issue of Nature, in which D. G. King-Hele discusses the prediction of dates and intensities for the next sunspot maxima. You will remember that the last maximum (1957-58) reached the highest figure ever recorded, not far short of 200. Two schools of thought grew up,

one predicting that the next might be higher still, and the other suggesting that we were in for a period of very low maxima. Well, the writer referred to has evolved formula for predicting the maximum from various recorded figures, and he suggests that the next two peaks will approximate to the figures of 140 (January, 1968) and 110 (May, 1978). The minima, according to the formula, should occur in July, 1974, and March, 1985. So this makes it seem that 1957-58 was an exceptionally high peak; and it also gives a certain amount of authority to the pessimistic American prediction that the 10-metre band might not be fully operational again (in the sense of its 1947 and 1957 performances) for the rest of this century.

Perhaps it is just as well that the 1947 peak was only observed by a small fraction of the operators now on the air! That was the year when, with 100 watts and a rudimentary aerial (in your conductor's case, a 33ft. Windom) one could work the whole of the Pacific on Ten practically every morning, to say nothing of Japan, China, Hong Kong, North Australia, Papua and the like. Yes, a pair of 807's, breadboard layout, and a piece-ofwire brought in more real DX that year, on Ten, than most of the succeeding years have yielded on all bands put together. And we say it is just as well that only a few tasted those joys, because there would be an awful lot of disappointed DX'ers otherwise!

Pounding Brass and Tinkling Symbols

The CW fraternity are coming to life—not on the air (they have never been otherwise) but in the mail, in defence of their chosen way of life. Their "outmoded form of communication" is rivalled in

popularity by all this new-fangled SSB stuff, it seems; but one comment that we enjoyed was that "SSB is rapidly making Phone almost as efficient a mode of communication as CW has been for the last fifty years"!

Certainly it behoves the Phone boys to keep quiet about their antipathy to CW... if all CW operators were to change their spots and appear in the Phone bands on AM or SSB, what a mess that would be. Another comment that crops up in the mail so frequently that it almost looks like a plot, is "I prefer CW because people using it don't talk such a load of tripe as the preachers on Phone."

Ah, well, we've no intention of starting a war, but it does seem to us that most of the Phone brigade's jibes concerning CW are off the beam, and read as if they have no real knowledge of what CW is all about. What would be valuable would be a letter from someone who has attained real proficiency in the art of CW, but nevertheless has decided that it isn't good enough, and changed to Phone . . . we have never yet had such a missive. It seems that all those who decry CW are those who have at some time tried to master it, but have failed. A touch of the sour grapes, could it be?

The Overseas Mail

VO1FB (St. John's) found Top-Band conditions only fair during January, with high static levels and only short openings. He made only 17 European QSO's during the Contest, as against 64 last year. An interesting sideline—during MCC, in November (actually between the hours of 1930-2000 on the 14th) he logged G3AFT, 3AMW, 3GRS, 3SVC, 3TLM, 3TRF, 3UOK, 3UQD and GM3RCS. And Joe is hoping that his contact with

ZB2AJ (January 8) was an official "first" for VO/ZB2.

9V1LP (formerly 9M4LP) worked some W6's and W7's during the Top-Band contest, also DL1FF for their very first QSO after three years of trying. And during this contest Bob says he heard VK5KO calling CQ for two hours, but he couldn't make a contact. Many G's have been heard and worked in Singapore; sometimes the band is open for two hours, around 2230-2300 onwards, and sometimes for a few minutes only.

VS6BJ writes to say that he is leaving Hong Kong in April for London, after which he will be resident on Ascension Island, ZD8, ZC4KF reports that he is active, mostly on Fifteen CW and AM, and always on the lookout for G's: on Sundays he has a try on 28200 kc. ZC4LK is also on the same bands. Conditions on Fifteen have been very good, but Ten has produced nothing, so far.

WA2WOR, who is also W4WFL, comments on G8ON's outspoken criticism last month of worthless SWL reports. Morgan writes "I still possess with pride and pleasure the cards from my old SWL days. The QSL's, so many with thoughtful words of advice and encouragement, will always have an honoured spot on my wall . . . I have received my share of reports in the vein mentioned by G8ON, but fortunately they have been insignificant in number, and where possible I have tried to pass along a few words of advice to put them on the right track."

6Y5XG, who has been globetrotting now for many years (VU2XG and 4S7XG, remember ?) is leaving the Diplomatic Service in May, and hopes to "grow some roots" in England, reverting to his original call G3HVG. He says he has become "a real Top-Band fanatic" while in Jamaica, and though success came rather slowly he has been having a good time this year. On January 22 he worked HP1IE, and for the 29/30th his list runs like this: HI8XAL, HK4EB, VP7NY, KV4CI, DL1FF, VE2UQ and 2LI, VO1FB, 6Y5FH. G3RPB, and all W call areas (in 19 States)! Until he leaves at the beginning of May he will be pleased to work any G who wants

a snappy QSO and cares to breakin on his skeds with "Dad" (G8VG), which are at 1200 GMT, 14080 CW, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. (It will have to be snappy, as he has to get off to the office and can't hang around.)

Peter adds "Of course, as G3HVG I shan't attract the attention I am used to, but at least I'll be able to renew old friendships and enjoy long ragchews—something which is almost impossible when one holds a DX call. It's easier for a G or a W to hold a DX ragchew, or indeed to raise a rare DX station, than for a 6Y5... the lids invariably break up contacts, or when I hear some juicy DX they VFO on the frequency and call me." (But that's not unknown, even in G-land.)

VP2VD (Tortola) is Dave Gynn, G3SPB and ex-5N2RDG, running an SR-150 to dipoles on all bands from 1500ft. up on a mountain. He hopes to sign G3SBP/KV4 shortly—awaiting FCC permit at present. His VP2 operations are weekend affairs, the rig being put in a suitcase and taken for a two-hour boat trip and a half-hour ride up the mountain in a Land-Rover. Then it's "start the engine, put up the antennas and we're in business... some people have it too easy."

9H1AA asks us to mention that his QTH is now "234 Signal Sqdn. (Malta) Club Station." There was some confusion because the original licence was issued to an individual who has now left the island, but the licence is being re-issued as above. The present operator is W.O. II B. W. Thomas.

FIVE-BAND DX TABLE

(All Time)								
Station	21 mc	14 mc	7 mc	3.5 mc	28 mc	Countries Worked		
GW3AHN	302	330	71	21	151	336		
G2DC	291	316	169	112	170	328		
GI3IVJ	263	319	103	83	181	325		
G3NOF	192	266	33	39	132	283		
G3LZQ	113	117	54	26	53	169		
G3KMQ	99	212	101	55	10	237		
G3UML	84	168	31	20	31	182		
G3IDG	70	54	27	18	60	101		
VP8HJ	56	169	25	11	6	174		
GM3RFR	53	88	37	15	7	106		
G3RJB	26	113	50	2	11	120		
G3PQF	24	39	56	40	7	82		
G3UBI	20	69	9	29	10	95		

(New Cycle)

Starting Date: January 1, 1966

Station	21 mc	14 mc	7 me	3.5 mc	28 mc	Countries Worked
G3UDR	10	14	0	10	1	30
G3LZQ	4	45	10	12	0	57



Although licensed as G5UZ pre-war, this call being relinquished prior to 1939, Harold Leonard of 47 Windsor Road, Westbury Park, Bristol 6, found that by 1962 all his old enthusiasm had been revived — so he took the R.A.E., passed the Morse Test again, and the G.P.O. (by virtue of his old-timer status) helpfully issued him with G4UZ. A founder-member and official of the Bristol Amateur Radio Club, G4UZ now runs a 10-160m. Vanguard, with an Eddystone 680X as receiver, and has a variety of aerials for operation on all bands. His favourite modes are telephony on 80/160m. and CW on 20 metres, with DX worked as it comes, as typified by the QSL's in view. One of his regular CW skeds is with KIYCS of Bristol, Maine. The car-plate type callsign plaque was presented to G4UZ by members of the Club.

From Russia With Love

G3KPT forwards a letter from UW3HR (Moscow) concerning Top Band, on which he has heard the following: G3KKO, 3PQA, 3RAU, 3SDX, 3PEZ/A, 3LIQ, 3OIT, 3LOQ, 3NXZ, 3RJH, 2FT, 3RSD, 3SYS, 3ORA, 3ORH, 5AQ, 3HJG, 3REM, GM3IGW/A, GM3SDZ and GW3HUM. With only a few exceptions, all were logged at 579, mostly between 1900 and 2300z.

G3SOP sends some interesting information from UQ2-land, via UQ2KFG, who wants British amateurs to know that in Latvia they are only allowed to work SSB between 3600 and 3650 kc. George and the other club operators would like to work more U.K. stations, and hopes they will listen in this

part of the band.

Apparently the Italians are also restricted on this band, where they are only permitted to use 3613-3627 kc and 3647-3667 kc (though they have been heard off these frequencies, calling DX).

Around the Bands

G2DC's admirable bandsummary reveals that even Jack has not found much to enthuse about this month. He still laments the dullness of the 0730-0830 periods on Twenty, where even VK and ZL have been quite scarce and "a CQ only brings back a single JA, whereas not so long ago they would come back in hordes." Fifteen has produced some nice surprises, though, especially during the afternoons, when "anything from the Caribbean area is likely to pop up with a thumping signal out of an apparently dead band." For the other bands, G2DC dismisses Ten as spasmodic, with nothing new or exciting on it . . . and he admits to having neglected Eighty and Forty, having heard little worth while.

This leaves Top Band, and devotees will be interested to hear that G2DC has been using a baseloaded 45ft. vertical for some time, on which he can raise anything in Europe with ease, including ZB2, but could never get across the pond. So, although he had decided that he had finished with long wires, he strung up a simple end-fed half-wave (only 22ft. high). This brought in a 579 report from VO1FB! So some

re-thinking is going on concerning Top-Band aerials.

G3NOF has, as usual, been round the three HF bands, and reports practically nothing on Ten except for one single morning, when ZE2JA and ZS9G were both S9, AM Phone, on an otherwise dead band. Fifteen was patchy, but with occasional VK's around 1000 and the East Coast W's in the afternoons. Several of the latter were worked on SSB, as well as TL8SW, ZD5R and 9Q5FV.

Twenty has shown unusual conditions at times, with some strange re-openings after the band has apparently died. For instance, ZL2JO was worked at 1920 with the beam due South, and VE7PV as late as 2125. KR6UL, VK's, ZL's and sometimes JA's have been active on the long path up to about 1000, and then the short path to the same area has been open until 1300. W6 and 7 signals have been heard weakly around midnight. Best contacts, all SSB, have been CR4AJ. FG7XX, VU2CK, VKØGW (Mawson), VP2AA, 2AC, 7Q7PBD, M1B and OY6ML. ZD8HL, operating from Montserrat as VP2ME and 2MG, was heard several times, though weakly, around 2100.

G3LZQ (Hull) runs a Swan 400 with two VFO's for split-frequency working, a ground-plane for Twenty and Fifteen, and a "very bent trap dipole" for Eighty and Forty. He is back on the air after nearly six years of QRT except for short spells, and thinks he may hold some sort of record for the fewest QSO's (only 2,100 in nearly eight years). However, full steam ahead now, and a couple of days on Twenty CW fetched in VP8HJ, 9V1NM, 9J2AB, OY4R, VK, ZL, VE6 and 7 and so on. He has joined both Five-Band Tables and is obviously intending to make a mark therein.

Forty Metres

G3RRF (Epsom) says a few words "in defence of Forty," where he finds the QRM bearable compared with the frightful noises on Eighty after dark. On Forty he has worked VK4SS, CR7IZ, HZ3TYQ/8Z4, OD5EK and sundry W's. He also remarks that some of the Europeans on the band are

really good operators. He welcomes SWL reports (from outside Europe!).

Country Status

Last month we quoted a CQ Editorial about the iniquitous business of "buying QSL's," and DX in general. We didn't mention at the time that K2MGA continued this theme to deal with the absurdity of "inventing" new countries, and suggested that no place should be granted DXCC status unless it possessed a resident amateur.

Colin Squires, who compiles the Saltash A.R.C.'s excellent Tamar Pegasus, forwards us his own comment, written quite independently of the CQ tirade, in which he says very much the same thing. He suggests that the time has come for a complete re-think concerning country-status, and that the Amateur Radio world should stop making itself ridiculous in the eyes of outsiders by giving the word "country" a completely false meaning. As he says, all these little islands and

rocks would still remain available for chasers of WPX and, of course, the Islands-on-the-Air Award, and they would qualify in many of the international contests. The situation has become farcical . . . if someone were to land on Rockall from a helicopter, work one single American station and send him a QSL, Rockall would thereupon become a "country"—even if it had no inhabitants but sea-birds for the next century.

EI Sortie

There will be no "country" nonsense about this one, but an ordinary honest expedition to the Skerries is being run by G3UOL (Coventry), who will be signing E16BB from thence, April 14-22, Top Band CW and Phone. He will be using a Codar AT5, a G3ROD all-transistor receiver, and a long wire. All reports welcomed, including SWL's.

Top-Band Contest

Grafton's Annual Top-Band Contest is now a well-established



"...Oh, I've chucked the AM gear right out of the window here ..."

event, and it will be held this year on March 26 (CW) and April 2 (Phone), between the hours of 2130 and midnight each day. The usual exchanges of RST (or RS) and serial numbers will take place. but the serial numbers may begin at any figure between 001 and 100 -thus enabling crafty ones to fox the enemy! The numbers for the two sections will follow continuously. Certificates for 1st and 2nd place go to the leaders on total score, with further ones to the winner of each section separately.

More Contests and Awards

We are reminded by CQ that their Worldwide SSB Contest will take place this year on April 16

ТОР	BAND COUNT	TIES
Station	Confirmed	Worked
	Phone and CW	
G2CUZ G2NJ GM3KLA GM3IKD	98 98 98 98	98 98 98 98
G3PLQ	92	95
G3SED	82	82
G3NTI	80	80
G3SWH	70	80
G3PPE	67	80
GW3PMR	. 66	75
G3UBW	59	77
G3SVW	57	75
G3IDG	55	59
G3SHY GW3TLW	53 53	71 65
G3TSS	43	53
G3KPT	41	70
G3UVR	35	58
G3SQX	34	64
	Phone only	
G2NJ	61	61
G3PLQ	55	58
G3MDW	44	64
G3RTU	35	37
removal fi	report for three mor com this Table. N n be made at any tim	ew claims

Reporting the HF Bands

and 17, with rules and times exactly as last year.

Gus Browning, W4BPD et al. in conjunction with 73 Magazine. is at work on a new DX Award which will be known as "WTW" (Worked the World). Ideas for this have not yet been correlated, but Gus savs that his chief hope is to evolve something that allows for no doubts or ambiguities. It will be based on a list of "countries." and opinions are being sought from all over the DX world on how they should be defined. Perhaps here is a chance to avoid some of the nonsense that now besets the country-chasing craze? Although we must admit we would sooner see some of the old awards scrapped than the mere addition of new ones.

However, let it not be said that we can't see both sides of the argument. G2DC writes "Once again you are slating the poor old DX hunter! If you mean the owner of a high-powered commercial rig who will do almost anything to get up one more rung of the Honor Roll, then I agree with you. However, as you know, I'm an ardent DX-hunter and a keen contest worker-at least in the major events which one can enter in a keen spirit of competition and have the satisfaction (if all goes well) of knowing that one's efforts in building and improving equipment and antennae have been worth while.

"While I also like a good ragchew, I do think a lot of the waffling one hears is an awful bore. Listen to some of those so-called 'nets' on Sunday mornings . . I would sooner sit and meddle with an old crystal set, hoping to get something new. I also like to see how others are doing, and one can only do this through tables, ladders and DX notes."

So says G2DC, and we agree with every word. But read on . . . a new source of complaints is with us. It has been so for a long time,

but it's only recently that the chorus of resentment has begun to swell.

The DX Net

G3UDR comments "The top end of Eighty is becoming more and more ridiculous. The 'big boys' and their net just control the frequency, and unless you are one of the privileged ones there is no hope of working DX. So much so, that at the time of writing they take up the whole of the top end. thus making this slice of the band absolutely useless for anyone else. I think many people are getting very angry, and I have already heard some very rude words being voiced over the air. Though they may be in the right, this is not true Amateur Radio . . . if only you can mention it often enough they might see the light. This doesn't happen on any other band-why should it happen on Eighty?"

Well, we have mentioned itbut we don't expect any drastic change to result. There are some who will argue that the formation of a net, all listening for and trying to work any DX that comes on the frequency, is a space-saver -although it does result in the continuous occupation of one frequency. What spoils the whole idea is the fact that some people can't net accurately; that all members of the group are not getting similar signals, either from the DX or from other members: and that nine-tenths of the time is apt to degenerate into pointless "waffle." The end-result is very often a short and very scratchy OSO with a DX station, and the information passed is little more than a signal report.

Top Band Topics

G3LIQ (Hull) is incensed by the types who talk about One-Sixty as "Grandad's Band," and invites any of them to visit him for

a weekend and see for themselves whether they are tough enough to take it. Part of the agenda: Digging 6ft. holes (perhaps three in an afternoon); climbing trees up to 140ft., in total darkness and with a biting wind blowing: throwing a small weight, with cord attached, up to 60ft.; raising a dinole with 160ft, of feeder attached: splicing two 30ft, telegraph poles together, topping them with a lighter 30-footer, and erecting the whole 85ft. pole with 600ft. of ½in. hawser. (As an afterthought, they might try erecting 34 other different aerials and supports, all around the 75ft, height, with feeders up to 500ft. long.)

O.K., Grandads? Your help will be most welcome. Then we come to the results, which, one feels, would have to be pretty good to justify the hard labour described. Well, out of 40 DX stations heard on 160 metres during January, 28 were worked. WØVXO W9YYG were raised on the morning of January 9, and a long list of W's in the late evenings. G3LIO finds that between 2130 and 2335 the W signals are very weak, but they will give him good reports; in the mornings they pour in but one can barely raise them. He has worked WIJJS thirty times between the evening hours mentioned, the longest OSO being forty minutes with solid copy.

His present aerial follows mobile whip practice, being a 75ft. vertical with three 60ft. wires fastened to the top and sloping outwards to form a very large "capacity hat"—so large that a series condenser has to be used to resonate the system. The whole is backed up by a good earth system—four 20ft, copper tubes sunk vertically and soldered together with automobile-battery cable, together with four 132ft. radials, two 150ft. fences, an aluminium pre-fab and a 12ft, square of aluminium plates.

Go to it, Grandads—you have nothing to fear but your lumbago. For the rest of the Top Band news, the DX claims are a bit short, many of the regulars having been discouraged by substandard conditions, it seems. GW3PMR (Bangor) tried to get a "mammoth aerial" up to the top of a cliff, but the wire broke,

and he is awaiting a new drum thereof. He worked LZ1ARN on the band, and would like to know whether he is believed genuine or not. He found the contest conditions disappointing, also the operating standards which, as he says, are normally excellent. However, at one time the whole of Europe seemed to be calling the DX on its own frequency.

G3RRF mentions that one night he heard four or five W's, including two W8's, calling a certain G3T -- station, who heard none of them and went on calling CQ DX. Perhaps he fancies himself as a beacon? G3RRF himself raised OE1ZVW/5 and VO1HN.

G3TXZ sends in one of the very few entries for the new Top-Band Ladder (and we hope to see many more next month). He uses a 132ft. inverted-L with a 45ft. vertical section, "draped round a garden 25ft. by 95ft." A homebrew all-band SSB transceiver is on the way, and meanwhile CW is the main enthusiasm.

G3UBW (Sevenoaks) was very pleased to work VO1FB in the First-Timers' Test on February 6, and now hopes to raise his aerial (and his signal-strength). Cards arrived recently from ZB2AM and OE1FLW.

Tragic DX-pedition

At the time of writing it seems only too certain that Chuck Swain (K7LMU) and Ted Thorpe (ZL2AWJ) perished in the Pacific hurricane at the end of January. They left Wallis Islands in the 38ft. ketch Marinero, bound for American Samoa, and disappeared without trace. Four or five other boats and about 68 people were reported missing, and a full-scale search went on for many days, in the hope that they were out of fuel and sheltering at one of the many small islands in the area. K7LMU was personally known to many DX'ers the world over, and stood for much more than just another rare prefix cropping up from time to time. It is a great tragedy that the yearning for rare DX should have been the indirect cause of the loss of these two amateurs, together with the captain of the boat and two other crew members.

TOP BAND LADDER

(G3T-- and G3U-- stations only)

Starting Date, January 1, 1966

Station	Counties	Countries		
G3UBW	48	12		
G3TXZ	44	10		

General Chat

VK2AWH (ex-VKØWH, Macquarie) is looking for an amateur in the U.K. with whom he can make a regular sked, preferably on Twenty SSB. Anyone willing is asked to write him direct (Harold Wright, 75 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah, N.S.W.). Thanks to SWL John Woodham, Bristol, for this note.

G3RFH (ex-VP8HF and /MM) is now serving in H.M.S. Hermes, at present refitting in Plymouth. He will not be signing /MM on his next trip, because of "difficulties and extra hazards aboard an aircraft carrier," but he will have plenty of listening time.

G3IDG brings up the interesting point-how old is an Old Timer? The term is a comparative one, of course, and back copies of the Magazine constantly remind one of events already halfforgotten. For instance-do you remember when Top Band was 1715-2000 kc and was known as the 1.7 mc band? Or when Forty was three times its present width? Not to mention the compulsory vear on CW and the extra fee for /A operation. All these things date back less than twenty years, but to some of the pre-war amateurs they seem quite recent.

If nostalgic reminiscing continues, G3IDG comments that the present G3U -- types will be able to say in the distant future "Why, I remember when the W's couldn't get a permit to transmit in the U.K." (A nasty streak in our nature suggests that a good gambit might be "I remember when Top Band stations used 10 watts.")

Non-Aerial Antennas?

R. T. Dale (Exeter) sends in an account of his short-wave listening with a coax-fed "aerial" consisting of 60-70ft. of bare wire

lying on the ground. Long-wave reception was excellent, Canadian broadcast was heard on mediumwave, and Top Band reception was possible up to 350 miles. Right down to Fifteen metres, strong signals from most parts of the world were heard on occasions. Signals may have been weaker than with an elevated aerial, but it is claimed that noise was reduced even more, giving an improved S/N ratio. A lowresistance earth connection is highly desirable, and various ineffects have been triguing observed, such as varying DC voltages between different earths (due, presumably, to electrolytic action of various kinds).

SWL Dale reminds us that an early textbook (pre-1914) states that a scientist in 1881 measured "a spontaneous EMF of 120 volts" in a line 220 miles long, and was presumed to be due to electro-magnetic induction (no overhead HV lines in those days!) A very possible line of research here for keen SWL's who want to study a new field.

Late Flashes

MP4BFO (c/o I.A.L., Box 144, Manama, Bahrain) came on the air in January with 150 watts "thrown together"—CW only on Twenty and Fifteen. No G's worked until January 28, when

a string of them were contacted on Fifteen, which is "definitely the band for G." MP4BFK is also around on Twenty and Fifteen CW, with 25 watts to inverted-V dipoles, and he keeps an eye on Ten. MP4BEU uses an S-line and ground-plane, but is moving to a block of flats and hopes to be using a Quad before long. Others, also active, are MP4BFH, 4BBL and 4BBA, but roughly 15 attend monthly club meetings—a much higher average than at home! (MP4BFO says that activity is high—there's little else to do.)

6Y5XG sends a late note to say that he worked OK1ADM and 1AEZ on Top Band, February 6. A new country for him and, he hopes, a "first."

9M2DQ now runs a Drake TR-4, which gives five times the output of his old rig. On Twenty he finds most of Europe coming in well, but not G-land. Fifteen is a better bet, but still difficult. He is very sad about the loss of Chuck, K7LMU, who was a personal friend, very popular out there, and organised the S.E.A.

DX Shorts

If you hear an IC1 during March, it will be I1KDB operating from the Isle of Capri... VQ9HB will probably be on soon from

Desroches Island, but not from Farquahar until late April . . . 9M8PH is ex-VS5PH and DJ6PH, and works on 14325 kc SSB at 1500.

VP5AB (Caicos Is.) is operated by W1WQC . . . ZD8HL will return to VP2M (Montserrat) later in the year . . . PX1YR is said to be QRX on 3790 kc SSB, Saturdays at 2330 . . . PJ5ME (Sint Maarten) will be activated by a team of W's during the ARRL Contest, March 26-27.

HKØ (Malpelo Is.) will be operated by a gang of HK's during June . . . G3HS is considering a round-the-world expedition, and already has been issued with the calls 6Y5HS and VR1H . . . W's licensed to operate from the U.K. under the reciprocal arrangement will receive three-letter calls beginning with G5 - -.

Sign-Off

We could go on much longer, but space won't allow. So we must close with the usual reminder that the deadline for next issue is first post on March 14, with everything addressed to "Communication and DX News," SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham, England. Let us have some more entries for the two new tables, which are only in the embryo stage this month. Good Hunting, 73 and—BCNU.

RECIPROCAL LICENSING

Readers in this country who are in the category of "foreign nationals with whose administrations reciprocal licensing has been agreed" are reminded that they can obtain U.K. amateur transmitting facilities on application to: Radio Services Department, Radio Branch (Amateur Licensing Section), Headquarters G.P.O., St. Martins-le-Grand, London, E.C.1. In the first instance, do not apply for the licence itself, but for the form which you have to complete to get it. In the main, of course, this facility applies to U.S. licensed amateurs who are in the U.K. for business or on Service appointments.

Conversely, if you hold a U.K. licence and will be in the States for employment or on a protracted visit, you should apply to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington D.C., 20554, for Form 610-A, allowing at least two months to complete the formalities.

Any amateur, on either side, obtaining a reciprocal licence is invited to let us have the callsign, with full details. A great deal of effort has gone into the

arranging of these facilities, for which credit is due to the RSGB.

"BECOMING A MEMBER"

Every now and again, we have a letter asking "How do I become a member to get the Magazine?" The answer is, of course, that no qualification or membership fee is involved. All you have to do is one of three things: Either (1) You order SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE at a reliable local newsagent for regular monthly delivery, or (2) You send us a remittance for 42s., covering a year of copies sent monthly through the post, or (3) You buy a 4s. postal order on the Tuesday before the Friday of any month, and send it in to us, with a note saying simply "Next issue, please." We publish on the first Friday of any month, and all direct-subscriber copies are posted (for the U.K.) on the morning before the day of publication. The address for all cash transactions is: Circulation Dept., Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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SHORT WAVE LISTENER FEATURE

MORE ABOUT SLP LOGGING—PREFIXES
EXPLAINED—QUOTES FROM READERS—TOP
BAND COMMENTS—DX/TV NOTES—NEWS
AND VIEWS—HPX LADDER

ONE of the pleasant things about writing this feature is that its readers are certainly not shy about saying what they think. And of course we welcome criticism of all kinds, since without it we would be working completely in the dark.

One thing that has emerged, over the last two years or so, is that most of our readers want this to be more of an informal chat than a series of technical snippets about "SWL". They seem to prefer reading about other SWL's problems (even personal ones) to being harangued on the technical side.

This is as it should be, for SWL's are now being served exceptionally well in our pages. In the February issue alone, for instance, there were articles of SWL interest on pages 717 (the 52 Set). 719 (the HRO), 723 (IF Amplifier), and 751 (S-meter circuit). In January they had articles on the HRO and the S.640 as well as this feature. And there are frequently dissertations on subjects, e.g. Aerials, which are of both transmitting and receiving interest.

So, as the small number of letters asking "Why don't you say more about converting surplus?" or "When are you going to write about ATU's again (or aerials, or crystal filters, or what have you)?" are heavily outnumbered by those who write and say "Don't change 'SWL'—it's already the way we like it," we intend to do just the latter, and leave it alone.

At the same time we should like to hear of readers' ideas and tips, whether on modifications to old receivers, original designs, or gadgetry in general. Don't hide your light under a bushel, if you have done anything in this line. Either tell us, for inclusion in this feature, or send it to the Editor, in the form of a short article, or D-Y-K-T item, which he may be able to use. Then everyone will be happy. . .

More About SLP's

Concerning the last SLP (and for a few new readers we have to explain that the letters stand for "Set Listening Period"), there have been quite a few comments. They are equally divided between those who write to say "What a shocking lot those listeners must have been" and those who claim that the fault lies to a large extent with the transmitters, who don't use correct phonetics.

Colin Beale (Twickenham) points out that "F" and "S" are easily confused (as they were in some

cases) but that "Fox" and "Sugar" could not possibly be. In particular he blames the man who rattles everything off too fast, the one who calls CQ twenty times and gives his call once, and the type who meticulously spells out his country prefix and then slurs over his callsign. He quotes an imaginary "G3YYO" who might sound like "Gee Three Whoa", and adds "however good the equipment which follows the microphone, the first and most important step occurs before the microphone is reached."

Andrew Niblock (Ilkeston) puts up the same point of view, and says he has heard many contacts in which the operators themselves have got the calls wrong, and no one has spotted it. D. H. Foster (Rainham) says much the same, and suggests that some transmitters need to brush up their "Alpha, Bravo" technique. He thinks that careless SWL's are possibly in a minority.

On the other hand Pete Cayless (Exeter) maintains that he always strives for accuracy and has no time for those who "scribble down anything and hope for the best, just to fill the log"; and James Brown (Llandaff) was sorry to see that so many of the "spider brigade" sent in such bad logs. Colin Squires (Saltash) suggests that people would be more careful if their loggings were printed together with their names!

Ah, well ... and when it comes to the *next* SLP, we have so many different suggestions, all cancelling each other out ("Any band except 20" . . . "Make it 20 on a Sunday afternoon" . . . "Don't choose an afternoon, it's all W's . . . and so on) that we feel like instituting an SLP for 160-metre CW from midnight to 2 a.m.! But we promise not to do that . . .

Prefixes Again

We are continually having to keep up with new readers who don't understand the prefix situation. B. Macklin, Winchester, surprised us by sending in his very first list with the handsome figure of 402, but then we found that they were callsigns, not prefixes (we have explained to him!). For the benefix of others . . only one DJ5, only one G3, and so on. Disregard the actual callsign letters, which come after the numeral, or, in the case of these 4X4-type calls, those which come after the second numeral.

Other newcomers include Andrew Marriott (Bishops Stortford), with a Lafayette HA-230 and a score of



The SWL station of R. G. Preston, 42 Freshfield Close, West Earlham, Norwich, who has recently acquired a Geloso amateur-band converter to improve his reception facilities.

222 to join the ladder; and Anthony Jones (Crewe), who says he is now a "fully-fledged SWL" with an HE-30 and a liking for Eighty and Top Band.

Oldest Reader?

In contrast to these relative novices is the veteran T. W. Moss (Exeter), who has just passed his eighty-first birthday! He has spent a lot of his years of listening in chasing elusive SW broadcast, and has many verifications from really rare ones. Nearly 30 years back he received a card from VPD2 (Suva, Fiji), using 400 watts in the 31-metre band; this station was heard on a two-valve home-brew battery receiver. He's still as keen as ever, and is setting about improving his S.640 on the lines suggested on p.672 of our January issue.

Similarly engaged is P. Freeman (Chessington), who has several faults in his, and is now engaged on improving it, with the help of the same article. He reports a 10-metre opening during December, when he heard a CN8 and a CX2, very unexpectedly.

Life's small tragedies flow through our post-bag... here is Andrew Niblock (Ilkeston), writing "I was sitting in front of my CR-100 when I noticed a smell of burning and felt grease dripping on to my knee. There is now one receiver less in existence!" But surely it's not so bad when there's an obvious clue... it's when they pack up with no smell, no dripping, no apparent overheating, that the fault can be such a devil to find.

Which Mode?

We have always known the SWL as the kind of person who revels in achieving the impossible, and who thrives on difficulties (even if of his own contriving). So we were not surprised to hear from Pete Cayless (Exeter) that he has been gathering prefixes for a new entry on the Ladder—by copying AM Phone only. With this mode he comes in at the 221 level, and admits that he's never been too en-

thusiastic about SSB, anyway.

If anyone else is voluntarily sticking to one mode (SSB, or AM) we will annotate their Ladder entry accordingly. If no comment is attached, we will take it that they are "mixed".

Ouick Ouotes

"Modifying my superhet to double-conversion with crystal-controlled second oscillator, Q-Multiplier, and so on" (B. J. Turner, Westcliff) . . . "Would be very interested in more information about what sort of aerials people have—for instance, what B. Curnow used on 40 metres, where he always seemed to be hearing the more elusive DX" (J. R. Daws, Leeds) . . "Best time for DX, I think, is around 1900 GMT on 20 metres, when I have heard ZS3B, ZS3L, ZL3DX, XW8AX and 601AU, also many South Americans" (David Rollitt. Navenby).

"I am now nail-biting, awaiting the result of my R.A.E., and have been 'brass-pounding' with the aid of G3TQK and G3THZ, to whom many thanks" (Wilfred Smith, West Bromwich) . . . The borrowed S.640 has been returned to its owner, and I am back on my BC set, which keeps conking out. Now

SET LISTENING PERIOD Sunday, March 20, 1966 21 mc Band, Telephony Only 1500-1800 GMT

Listen to everything you can hear on Phone (either AM or SSB) during this period, and send in your list of stations heard with your next letter to "SWL". Do not log Europe, or the East Coast of U.S.A. and Canada. Logs should include (a) Time GMT; (b) Station Heard; (c) RS Report; (d) Station being called (or CO).

Mark the log plainly "Second SLP" and address it to "SWL," SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham.

the only cure I know (a bang on its side) doesn't work" (Trevor Pinch, Plymouth) . . . "What would be the point of hearing rare DX without all the lids, creepers and Heavy Brigade? The main satisfaction is picking it out from all the clutter" (James Brown, Llandaff).

Top-Band Interest

There are some who look on Top Band as "kid's stuff" and "old hat"; on the other hand some find that it has a fascination of its own. For instance, D. H. Foster (Rainham), when he was surprised to log two ZB2's-ZB2AJ was R4, S6 on SSB. And Steve Wilson (Ossett) says "I am so interested in Top Band that I am getting rid of my old gear and completely rebuilding. New receiver (probably CW only and 160m. only), new aerials, a new ATU, and then I shall be building a Tx, too, as R.A.E. comes up in May." He has an idea for the receiver of using an IF of 1630 kc, with four crystals in cascade to give a really sharp notch. (This really sounds like business for CW only . . . he has already logged ten W8's, two VO's, one VE, two ZB2's and about 50 OK's, together with many other Europeans.) Yes, Top Band can really become an obsession, once you get in tune with it. Unfortunately so few of our readers can cope with CW that a Top-Band SLP would be a waste of time and only attract about six entries, one fears. What a good thing it would be if the authorities brought back the rule which kept new licensees on CW only for the first twelve months. (And now we'd better build a shelter to retire to when next month's mail comes along.)

Steve Wilson also brings up the subject of blatant pirates on Top Band, including a "VK" at 599, and EA11K, calling himself "Radio Madrid," running 14 kW and refusing to work amateurs. In true Spanish style, he called them "twits" and would not move off the frequency!

Nine-Hundred Plus

The 900 figure has been broken at last, and on top of the HPX Ladder is Terry Popham (Exeter), now with 909. He reports that "the 21 mc band is terrific, especially for African DX, at most times of the day—in particular the late afterncons." A lot of the Exeter local activity has been transferred to Four Metres, so he has now got to get busy down there; and the local club is looking forward to a lecture on D/F Operating, so that's another line to pursue.

John Fitzgerald (Great Missenden) is now at Birmingham University, which curtails his listening hours, but the University Radio Society's station, G3IUB, is being renovated and . . . need we say more? He found (from home) that Fifteen was excellent, and noted the way VK2NN gets through when no other VK's are around (he has a rhombic set for the U.K., by the way). SWL Fitzgerald also reports that the stations in the Algerian Sahara now have a separate prefix and sign 7XØ instead of their former 7X3.

DX-TV Results

The real rip-roaring season for sporadic-E, tropospheric and other abnormal forms of propagation is not yet with us, of course, but there have been some freak VHF conditions which have enlivened DX/TV reception. Frank Smales (Pontefract) made good use of the opening on December 11, and logged, among others, Tallinn (Estonia) on Channel R2; Stalingrad (R1); West Germany—various stations—(E4); TVE-Espana (E2); Stockholm (E2); Ostrava (Czechoslovakia) on E3; and a "mystery" station on E2, later identified as Cyprus. As Channel E2 corresponds with a BBC sound channel (48·25 mc), this is a little difficult!

On January 6 there was also some good reception from Europe on Bands III, IV and V. Frank Smales now has a UHF pre-amp, kindly sent him by fellow-enthusiast Roger Bunney (Romsey), so is

hoping for interesting things to come.

Meanwhile Dennis Boniface (Ripon) also used the December 11 opening to cover much of Europe, and received the BBC from Crystal Palace on UHF, also Lille on Channel 27. For UHF he has a 23-ele aerial through a two-valve tuner into a Bush TV-53. He has logged 79 stations in 21 countries. Final word—"If any SWL's want to start up on DX/TV,

HPX LADDER

(Starting January 1, 1960)

Qualifying Score 200

SWL PREFI	XES	SWL PREFI	XES
PHONE ONLY		PHONE ONLY	
T. R. Popham (Exeter) D. Douglas (Dundee) P. A. Cayless (Exeter) A. W. Nielson (Glasgow) S. Foster (Lincoln) R. G. Preston (Norwich) E. R. Chilvers (Lydney)	909 842 812 719 667 552 542	R. Hooper (London, N.16) H. M. Graham (Harefield) W. Angerson (Leeds) G. Case (Widnes) J. Dixon (Barrow-in-Furness) A. Papworth (Over)	314 311 306 305 303 303
A. Huggett (Lamberhurst) D. Poulter (Morden) P. J. Lennard (Wartling)	528 528 490	D. Ewards (Coalville) C. Warburton (Sale) G. Christie (Gainsborough)	296 295 294
K. C. Staddon (Stroud) J. E. Hart (Leeds) C. S. Taylor	483 479	C. Freeman (Nuthall) C. P. Martin (Chertsey) A. Hardwick	290 287
(Wolverhampton) P. Baxter (Winchester) D. Rollitt (Navenby)	470 460 460	(Burton-on-Trent) M. Silverstein (London, N.W.7)	278 277
J. P. Fitzgerald (Great Missenden) C. Sparrow (Mill Hill)	449 440	R. J. Basford (Nottingham) D. Nichols (Bristol)	275 263
W. Smith (West Bromwich) W. Moncrieff (Hampton) C. Pedder (Preston)	439 435 432	P. Freeman (Chessington) Mrs. Janet I. Davis (Strood) T. Pinch (Plymouth)	258 250 225
C. Squires (Saltash) A. Niblock (Ilkeston)	422 422	D. Thomson (Hamilton) A. Marriott (Bishops Stortford)	223 222
W. Chaffer (Edgware) A. Parker (Chesham) S. W. Edwards (Warwick)	393 391 389	P. A. Cayless (Exeter) AM only	221
W. Felton (Lincoln) P. D. G. Milloy (Doncaster) D. G. Evans (Neath)	376 375 368	R. T. Sutton (Birmingham) S. Shaw (Stockport) K. Walker (Halifax)	219 209 208
S. Hardisty (Accrington) A. G. Scott (Liverpool)	367 363	CW ONLY	
J. Butler (Bargoed) D. H. Foster (Rainham) P. Crust (Loughborough) D. E. Fitzgerald (Dublin) S. Wilson (Ossett) B. J. Turner (Westcliff) R. Coates (Lancaster) D. J. Mortimer (Gloucester)	363 361 357 333 332 328 321	P. J. Lennard (Wartling) C. Harrington (Hounslow) S. Wilson (Ossett) D. Douglas (Dundee) D. H. Foster (Rainham) R. De Buis (Felixstowe) M. Woollin (Leeds) P. Etheridge (Hull)	573 565 412 407 384 373 336 303

(Note: Listings include only recent claims. Failure to report for two consecutive issues of "SWL" will entail removal from the table. Next list, May 1966 issue—deadline April 1.)

the time is now. Don't wait till the season starts, or you will miss some good DX. All that's wanted to start with is an old five-channel BBC-only set, and a single dipole." And letters to him on this subject, at 11 Holmefield Road, Ripon, Yorkshire, will be welcomed

Yet another recruit to this branch is *Trevor Brook* (Effingham), with a renovated Sobell T-278 and a 4-metre beam, which proved its worth on January 4 and 5 with stations from all over the country on Channels 2 to 13, and a French station on Channel 7.

Plenty on Twenty

Wilfred Smith (West Bromwich) reports quite a lot of rare prefixes on Twenty during the past month, and adds "last weekend I heard 28 JA's, 13 KA's and 34 VK's, so that area has been excellent." And now he's all set with a two-valve preselector. D. J. Mortimer (Gloucester) likewise has a goodly list on Twenty SSB, but says his future projects include a preselector to improve his CR-100 on Fifteen and Ten—and also an attack on the CW problem—but with finals coming up in June, he's subject to heavy QRM.

P. D. G. Milloy (Doncaster) parted with his old receiver to a school friend, and now is landed with an HRO with only one coil—and Top Band at that! Others are on the way, though, and hopes of more DX. John Daws (Leeds) has swapped his S.640 for an AR-88LF, and has put up a dipole for 7 and 21 mc. On 7 mc he has heard 4X4, UL7, SU, ZC4, PY's and W1-4, which makes a good start; this is on CW, of course, and he remarks "Forty is certainly not the beginners' band for CW". Although he says he is quite happy as an SWL, he is "gradually turning towards R.A.E." and may have a go this year, A-Levels permitting.

Deputation

Three SWL's, Dave Bailey and Bill Baker (Dagenham) and George Mansbridge (Basildon) write a joint letter, mainly to make a plea about commercial QRM and the need for action by all amateurs. They say "Sort out those stations from countries who were in the Geneva Convention, and complain unceasingly about their piracy. And then use the power of numbers." They also suggest that Forty might well be made a CW-only band—as CW all over the band might cause a few head-scratchings about the pirates. (We rather doubt this, though—they are mostly listened to in areas where their signals are overpoweringly strong, and a couple of hundred amateurs on CW would be only a fleabite). But keep on griping—that's the main idea of their plea!

(They also ask whether the dates of the regular meteor showers are available, for the benefit of SWL's who are keen on Two Metres . . . we have not got these to hand in time for this instalment, but will dig them out as soon as possible.)

Finally, two sad complaints from James Brown (Llandaff): First, "I took my first paddle into Twenty last week, with an RF-24 unit . . . I quickly went

SET LISTENING PERIOD Sunday, March 20, 1966 21 mc Band, Telephony Only 1500-1800 GMT

Listen to everything you can hear on Phone (either AM or SSB) during this period, and send in your list of stations heard with your next letter to "SWL. Do not log Europe, or the East Coast of U.S.A. and Canada. Logs should include (a) Time GMT; (b) Station Heard; (c) RS Report; (d) Station being called (or CQ).

Mark the log plainly "Second SLP" and address it to "SWL," SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham.

back to Eighty." Secondly, the old, old story: "Although I am drenched in Amateur Radio, I find other people rather unsympathetic . . . I've just lost a girl-friend through my continual nattering about a new type of tripole I've invented!"

The Second SLP

We have fixed the next Set Listening Period for the afternoon of March 20, since that date allows plenty of notice after this issue has reached you, and also ample time for your logs to catch the deadline of April 1.

The band chosen—and we only hope it will be well open by that time—is Fifteen Metres, and the time 1500-1800 GMT. Phone stations only, whether AM or SSB, anywhere in the band. As before, no East Coast U.S.A. or Canada, and no Europeans.

Please send your loggings on a sheet separate from your letter—this is important—with name, QTH, and list of stations heard in alphabetical order of prefixes, giving time, RS report and station (or CQ) being called.

We hope the choice of time and band will work out successfully, but remember—mediocre conditions are liable to make it more interesting than just a wide-open band on which everyone logs scores of DX calls.

So with that we leave you once again. Remember the date for the SLP (March 20) and for the next deadline (April 1), and may all the bands turn up something interesting for your listening. Good Hunting!

Next appearance of this feature—May 1966. All correspondence and photographs (of SWL stations and equipment) by April 1, addressed to Editorial Department, Short Wave Magazine, Buckingham, England. Head the letter "SWL."

MARITIME MOBILE LICENCES

We are informed by the Post Office that /MM permits are now available for the 10-15-20-40m, and two-metre bands. Applicants must hold a current U.K. licence, and all enquiries are dealt with through the Radio Services Dept., G.P.O.

AMATEUR RADIO IN THE U.S.S.R.

From Notes by G3KPT

FOR a period of 44 days during August-October of last year, G3KPT was in Moscow on business and managed to make contact with a number of local amateurs. A visit was paid to the Moscow City Radio Club and the QSL Bureau, the famous "Box 88."

Like radio amateurs the world over, the Muscovites answered as well as asked questions quite freely and openly. G3KPT found himself very warmly received, and some 15 or so licensed operators in the Moscow district were met personally, and much information exchanged.

Amateur licensing conditions differ considerably from those obtaining in the United Kingdom, and some details are given herewith.

Licence Groups

Ultra Short Wave Operators from 16 years old; 28 mc and all amateur frequencies above; three classes of licence: Class 1—200 watts on 28 mc. 40 watts on 3·5 mc SSB, 5 watts on 144, 430, 1296 mc. Class 2— 40 watts on 28 mc, 6 watts on 28 mc, 7 watts on 144, 430, 1296 mc. Class 3—5 watts on 144, 430, 1296 mc. Class 3—5 watts on 28, 144, 430, 1296 mc only. All telephony only. Short Wave Operators from 18 years old: Class 1—200 watts on all amateur bands for A1, A3 and SSB, 5 watts on USW (144 mc up), RTTY on specified bands. Class 2—40 watts on 80-40-20m., A1, A3, SSB on 80m., 5 watts on USW, RTTY on specified bands. Class 3—10 watts on 80 and 40m., SSB on 80m. 5 watts on USW. Club Ultra Short Wave Operators from 12 years old. Club Short Wave Operators from 14 years old.

The Moscow City Radio Club has approximately 2,000 members; around 7-8 per cent are females. It is divided into four sections: USW, SW, D/F and Construction. Test equipment and apparatus are donated by Soviet institutes and the Services.

All would-be amateurs are examined in theoretical knowledge orally and in a written paper by a group of licensed amateurs. The Morse test is also conducted by licensed operators. Three-letter calls starting with K are club stations.

Other three-letter calls are those issued under the USW group. Two-letter calls are those issued in the SW category. All SWL's may be registered after the age of 12 years.

You may hear U.S.S.R. stations working between themselves using a different CW code; this of course is essential if they wish to converse in Russian.

UW3HR and UW3AX intend to apply for Top band permits. Apparently this is possible—and a word of warning here: The Russians lost 160 metres because of lack of activity!

VE3UC, VE3BUL and VE3BZA were also in Moscow around the same period, and they also managed personal contacts with the Russian boys.

There is no commercial Amateur Radio equipment available in the U.S.S.R., so the accent is on home brewed rigs. The standard of design and construction appears to be pretty good, too.

It would seem that radio periodicals sent direct to private persons in the U.S.S.R. are accepted as they stand, although the writer understands that those entering through official channels (for libraries and technical schools) are photostated selectively and a selective distribution is made. Advertisements tend to disappear in this process!

G3KPT

RUSSIAN CALL AREAS

UN1, UA1, UW1, UV1	- N.W. Area U.S.S.R.
UA2, UP2, UQ2, UR2, UC2	- Baltic Sea Coast and
	White Russia
UA3, UW3, UV3	— Upper Volga, central
	districts of Europe
	and U.S.S.R.
UA4, UW4, UV4	 Central Volga district
UB5, UT5, UY5, UO5	Ukraine, Maldavia
UA6, UW6, UV6, UF6, UD6,	 Astrakan Region,
UG6	Caucasus, Georgia,
	Azerbyjan, Armenia
UL7	- Kazakistan
UJ8, U18, UM8, UH8	— Central Asia
UA9, UW9, UV9	Urals
UAØ, UWØ, UVØ	— Siberia and Far East
UN, UA, UW, UV	Russia
UB, UT, UY	— Ukraine
UC	BeloRussia
UD	— Azerbyjan
UF	— Georgia
UG	— Armenia
UH	— Turkoman
UI	— Tajikistan
UJ	Uzbekistan
UL	Kazakistan
UM	Kirghistan
UO	Maldavia
UP	— Lithuania
UQ	— Latvia
UR	— Estonia
UA1KAE	— Mirny Antarctic
UA1KED	— Franz Josef Land

NOTE: There are further sub-divisions, by the figure in the prefix, within Regions.

INDEX-Vol. XXIII

Every copy of this issue, the start of a new Volume, should contain, as a free Loose Supplement, the Index to the Volume just concluded. Any reader who may find his has been missed can obtain one on request with a large stamped addressed envelope.

ORITTIARY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the passing of:

---James Norman (Jerry) Walker, G5JU, of West Heath, Birmingham, on January 30, at the age of 60. His death came as a great shock to his many friends and colleagues, not only in the amateur context, but also in the radio industry-for, as Eddystone's technical sales engineer for 20 years, he was a well known and welcome figure all over the country. As an amateur, G5JU was keen and active in the whole field of Amateur Radio, from Top Band to VHFindeed, he was one of the handful of pioneers on five metres in pre-war days-and he will also be remembered as a prolific contributor to SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE. He was typical of the keen and intelligent "professional amateur"-because radio communication was part of his being, he was able to do a firstclass job as a business man, and at the same time he could use his amateur interest as a relaxation. Jerry Walker served in the R.A.F. during Hitler's War, and came out as a squadron-leader, having had considerable responsibilities as a Signals officer concerned with radio-countermeasures—and by the time he left the Service he had 500 operational hours in his log-book. His widow, his daughter, his three sons, and his brother G2WO (Stevenage) will have the sincere condolences of all who knew G5JU. And for nearly 40 years he was a good friend of the writer of this memorial.

——William Squires, GW3IYI, of Bryn, Llanelly, on January 6, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Squires, of 53 Penllwyngwyn Road, Llangennech, Llanelly, Carms.

—Norman Jones, G3JVI, of Bishop's Stortford, Herts., a founder member of the Harlow & District Radio Society, who had been blind since boyhood. He died on January 15 after a long illness.

—Anthony Stimson, G3RKY, of Harrogate, Yorkshire, on January 17, at the age of 61. He was an engineer with wide interests, from radio to music, and during Hitler's War was commissioned from the ranks. At his death, he was an official of Harrogate Corporation, in a post he had held since 1939.

—Edward Moor, G2CIP, of Southport, Lancs., aged 46 years. He was a keen member of the Ainsdale Radio Club and came of an Amateur Radio family, in that he was the son of G2AG, Bournemouth.

—Peter Birks, G3FBQ, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., who died suddenly on February 10, at the early age of 37 years. He was in the radio/TV business in the Newcastle, Staffs., district and had helped many locals to get their licences.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THOUGHTS ABOUT MOBILE RALLIES

SYLVIA MARGOLIS (xyl/G3NMR)

Our authoress is well known as an enthusiastic worker on the social side of Amateur Radio. With a nice style of her own, she has succeeded in making the Amateur Radio Mobile Society and her "Mobile News" quite a factor on the contemporary scene. Asked to comment on how we now stand in the Mobile Rally context—after ten years of |M rallying—what she says here, on the opening of the new season, will be of interest not only to those responsible for Rally organising, but also to those who attend them.—Editor.

JUST over a hundred years ago a mathematician named Charles Dodgson, lazing on a river bank near Oxford on a hot Summer's day, improvised a story to entertain three little girls. Did he know, when he first sent Alice down the rabbit hole, that he was to write the most famous of all children's books?

And in that same Alice-in-Wonderland Oxford, in 1955, did the man, who thought that a gathering of "mobile" radio amateur enthusiasts might be amusing, know just what he was starting?

They chose the Perch Inn at Binsey—just outside Oxford. This was such a very small, esoteric group that only a very small room was booked for tea. For little could come of this new bizarre technique! (It was reported in the November, 1955, issue of Short WAVE MAGAZINE, and was the first /M Rally report ever published, in any Amateur Radio periodical.)

The tenth anniversary of that first mobile rally was celebrated with another Rally last summer in Oxford. How far had we come since 1955?

The location for the Anniversary Rally was pleasant and efficient. There was little organised entertainment. But those who came—and many came—did so in the spirit of nostalgia, rather than seeking diversion. Expecting little, they went away quite happy at the end.

Ten years is a hefty slice of Amateur Radio's fifty-odd and this had been as hectic a decade as it had ever known. Since 1955 we had seen the evergrowing interest in mobile operation, the increasing popularity of SSB, great strides in VHF and satellite techniques and, just as significant, the inexorable advent of commercial equipment. Each innovation generated its own chain reaction of pontification, dogmatism and pompous burblings.

In 1965 an attempt was made to round up as many possible of the original amateurs who had been at Binsey, to photograph them. A little greyer, a little heavier than before; slightly sheepish, for the Englishman is mighty embarrassed at any public display of sentiment. If this had been France there

would have been processions, flags a-flying, kissingson-both-cheeks, a military band and wine. None of that here, except for the wine—raffle prizes of Spanish Sauternes, heaven help us! There was a lot of shuffling to be decently inconspicuous, the inevitable jokes about breaking the camera and QSY-upthe-frequency and the image was recorded.

How will that picture look in another ten years' time? Rally organisers are continually asking Where Do We Go From Here? Rallies have become huge, sophisticated events, lavish with entertainments. They vie with each other to provide more elaborate attractions and unusual locations. Service bases, airfields factories, stately homes, with all manner of films, lectures, competitions, exhibitions and demonstrations—so far no Amateur Radio event has taken place in Wemblev Stadium, nor in a Royal Park, but the peak must surely have been reached last year when the Amateur Radio Mobile Society collaborated with the Red Cross on an occasion which drew several thousand people, where a pageant with a cast of over 150 players was only part of a programme which included three bands, Scottish dancing, Army displays, flower and baby shows. tombola, bingo, dancing and a barbecue!

Shape of Things

Organisers agree on only one firm principle. Experience proves that the British radio amateur deplores competitive events, particularly when they entail further driving after the ordeal of negotiating Summer-Sunday roads. This is vividly, and shamefully demonstrated when G's have attended Continental events.

European rallies nearly always involve fierce technical and achievement contests, on the car-rally plan, no holds barred, where the competitors play to win. British visitors inevitably come at the bottom of the list because they will not go to a rally to work. They want to enjoy themselves.

So the London SSB Dinner, when people flocked in from 27 countries to attend an evening which had to cost nine or ten pounds a couple, was a huge success. Large numbers of Britons, too, attended the 1965 nosh-ups at Knokke and Geneva, both sophisticated and expensive. But whether the radio amateur is drinking Bollinger '59 or Truman's Brown is immaterial. The wonderful annual Barnet Party, six bob and a buffet supper thrown in, is always crowded. There are no contests, no concours d'elegance, no safety or building competitions—all that is provided is an excuse for people to get together and talk.

Lately there has been a tendency to run these purely social occasions. The reason for their success is two-fold.

Of all hobbyists the radio amateur is, by the very nature of his hobby, immensely articulate. He likes to talk. Some, of course, who prefer CW, like to tap. When he goes to a rally where little is demanded of him except to enjoy a pleasant location, he can meet his cronies and rag-chew in peace, putting a face to a voice that has been only a callsign for years.

Proof of this is to be found at Woburn, Barford,

Longleat, Derby, all big events. At Barford, with an attendance up in the second thousand on a fine day, the technical contests which the organisers feel ethically bound to provide attract, perhaps, a dozen entries.

The social event scores, in the second place, over the purely technical event, because of its appeal to the amateurs' wives, who can imagine they are at an ordinary party, not a symposium on advanced electronics. And, let's face it, women are here to stay.

First, then, an attractive location. And local knowledge, which is an immense asset if our rallies are to improve and not regress—the committee member who is a Rotarian or local big-wig can put the black on those who can provide all kinds of attractions. Another gimmick is to hitch your waggon to a bigger star, like that Red Cross event. All you need is to set up your talk-in stations—and bingo!

Publicity Factor

A great asset, which can now be exploited to the full, is reciprocal licensing. Judicious publicity at U.S. Bases and in overseas publications can bring not only an increase in attendance, and the resultant lolly, but spices up the mixture-as-before with overseas visitors.

Publicity, of course, is one of the main secrets of the successful rally and an element which is sadly neglected by the inexperienced. The Amateur Radio press will collaborate, provided they get the information in good time and that it is properly presented. A few, illiterate, scrawled words on a page torn from an exercise book is hardly likely to induce a professional Editor to give space to a Coming Event. The voluntary periodicals are usually only too glad of the extra copy that a detailed write-up will provide. Local newspapers will help and most public libraries will permit the display of posters. A note (competently written, too, please) to the nearest British or American Service base—addressed to the Entertainments Officer—often gives gratifying results. Local schools and youth clubs are glad to be kept in the picture.

All this assumes that success depends on large attendance. We once went to a dreary, never-repeated affair in Kent. They foolishly asked what I thought of it and I told them, but prettily, and they said that their rally had never been intended to attract a big crowd, but to appeal to a small, select group of experts! (Go away—this is my pub and I'm going to drink all the beer in it!)

One clear fact emerges and the organisers who ignore it might just as well go home and look for Don Miller. All the fierce effort put into Mobile Rallies is destined to attract and please that capricious, terrifying, omnipotent, demanding and sinister figure, who hovers continually in the radio amateur's conscience, ready to pounce and make him feel guilty—his Wife!

What do these fearful women really want? Recently I wrote in Mobile News:

"Engage the Beatles and the Royal Marines Band, give a Rolls Royce as a prize and hold the thing in the gardens of Buckingham Palace—and somebody will be bored, offended, peeved or won't be able to find the lavatory. . . "

I talked to them at Oxford. One woman had come along for the ride. A harassed Mum was determined her husband shouldn't dodge his Sunday chore of taking the kids off her hands; so the whole family had come, enjoying this Sunday afternoon like a wet Monday morning. One woman thought there should be a cookery demonstration. I invited her to work with me on a committee and, herself, get the demonstration laid on. She disappeared, sharpish-like. Another wife wanted to know why her spouse no longer came home every night. Was it my business to tell her?

The same characters appear at every Rally. The faces may change but the dialogue and action don't. There is the type who comes not only prepared for boredom or personal slight, but who goes to look for it. Ostentatiously detached, she reads her newspaper. Then there is the Never-let-it-be-said-l'm-not-a-staunch-companion-to-him Brigade, bringing to the rally that same joyous enthusiasm that they would contribute to a cervical smear session. And there is the "nit-picker." If there's a raffle, she wants a tombola; she saw the beauty demonstration at last week's Rally; she can't go in for the fashion competition because she left her glasses at home and that police dog has a nasty look in its eye.

But there are, too, those precious few sensible wives who admit that Amateur Radio is the finest of hobbies—that with it their husbands are happily and healthfully relaxed—that there are far worse ways for a man to spend his spare time and that Amateur Radio is as rewarding a social sphere as any. They enjoy the Rallies. They meet their friends, gossip, make gentle fun of those eternal boys, arrange to have dinner together at the Communications Exhibition, and who is that gorgeous man over there?

To rally organisers—find a couple of these unique females, appoint them to your committee and you are home and dry.

THE MOBILE RALLY PROGRAMME

The dates are filling up rapidly, and below is the latest listing. As in previous years, we shall give some general information (where it is supplied) about each event, and organisers are specially asked to get their paper-work through to us in proper time—by March 12 latest for the April issue.

March 20: RSGB booking (no details).

April 24: North Midlands Mobile Rally, at Trentham Gardens, near Stoke-on-Trent, on the A.34, with Bob Palmer, G5PP, as chairman of the organising committee. This is always one of the biggest Rally events of the year, with an exhibition section, closed-circuit amateur TV, an RTTY demonstration, fully licensed catering, ample parking on hard standings, and plenty of covered accommodation in case of bad weather. The talk-

in will be by G3GBU/A on 160m. AM; G3COY /A on 80m. SSB; and by G3MAR/A on two metres. For any enquiries or further details, write G5PP, QTHR.

April 24: RSGB booking (no details).

May 8: Thanet Mobile Rally.

May 22: Annual A.R.M.S. Rally at Barford St. John, near Deddington, Oxon.

May 30 (Whit Monday): Saltash Mobile Rally, Cornwall (details later).

June 12: RSGB booking.

June 26: Hunstanton (Norfolk) bucket-and-spade party. Details from J. G. Taylor, G3SAW, 42
 Station Road, Heacham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

July 10: Wessex Amateur Radio Group Mobile Rally at Hurn Airport, near Bournemouth, in conjunction with the British Aircraft Corporation Radio Club. There will be plenty to see and do, as this is also the B.A.C. Open Day. For information apply: W. G. West, G3MKN, 23 Palmer Road, Poole, Dorset.

July 10: South Shields (Co. Durham) Mobile Rally (details later).

July 17: Worcester & District Amateur Radio Club Mobile Picnic (details later).

August 29 (Bank Holiday): Peterborough Mobile Rally.

September 11: RSGB booking.

September 16-18: International Amateur Convention and Mobile Rally at Knokke, Belgium, with three-day programme of meetings, demonstrations, parties and tours, at all-in prices. Further details later. U.K. amateurs can obtain full information in due course from: J. C. Foster, G2JF, Wye College, near Ashford, Kent.

September 25: Harlow Mobile Rally.

SPECIALLY ON THE AIR

This space is available to Amateur Radio groups and societies intending to put a station on the air for the public gaze. This is always an important and worthwhile undertaking, because one of the things we have to do is to explain Amateur Radio to the mass of the people. Please set out your notice in the general form shown here, with full details.

GB3LRS, April 20-23: At the Hobbies Exhibition, Granby Halls, Leicester, where the Leicester Radio Society will be operating an AM/SSB station on 15-20-80 and 160 metres. The QSL address is: J. Ball, 45 Bryce Road, Leicester.

GB3PAS, July 19-21: At the Peterborough Agricultural Show, running 80m. and other bands as conditions allow. Address for QSL's and other details: D. Byrne, G3KPO, Jersey House, Eye, Peterborough, Northants.

NEW QTH'S

This space is available for the publication of the addresses of all holders of new U.K. callsigns, as issued, or changes of address of transmitters already licensed. All addresses published here are reprinted in the U.K. section of the "RADIO AMATEUR CALL BOOK" in preparation. QTH's are inserted as they are received, up to the limit of the space allowance each month. Please write clearly and address on a separate slip to OTH Section.

- EI4BB, B. Daly, 20 Captain's Avenue, Crumlin, Dublin, 12.
- EI6BB, W. F. M. Hahn, Skerries, Co. Dublin. (QSL to G3UOL, QTHR.)
- GW3SHP, W. J. Weaver, 52 Llanmiloe Estate, Pendine, Carmarthen.
- G3SSE, R. Trevitt, 28 Delves Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- G3UHM, F. E. Futcher, Maughold, Buckshaft Road, Cinderford, Glos.
- GW3UVD, E. G. Thomas, 3 Landor Avenue, Killay, Swansea, Glam.
- GM3UWU, W. Mansfield, 7 Carnegie Hill, East Kilbride, by Glasgow.
- G3UYD, E. T. Clarke, 34 Pitman Close, Basingstoke, Hants.
- G3UYM, H. J. Groves (ex-ZD2HJG/5N2HJG/VP7NV), 76 East Road, Langford, Biggleswade, Beds.
- G3UZF, A. J. Green, (ex-G8AEK), 178 Long Chaulden, Chaulden, Hemel Hempstead, Herts
- G3UZL, F. A. Cook, 120 Hulham Road, Exmouth, Devon.
- G3UZM, C. P. Haddock, 12 Seymour Road, Exmouth, Devon.
- G6SSE/T, R. Trevitt, 28 Delves Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- G8AKI, J. T. Eden, 14 Broadwell Road, Solihull, Warks. (Tel. SHE 7321.)
- G8AMF, K. W. Fowler, 30 Somerset Avenue, Draycott Park Estate, Rugeley, Staffs. (Tel. Rugeley 2074.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

EISP, P. J. Fitzsimons, 27 Sweetmount Park, Dundrum, Dublin, 14.

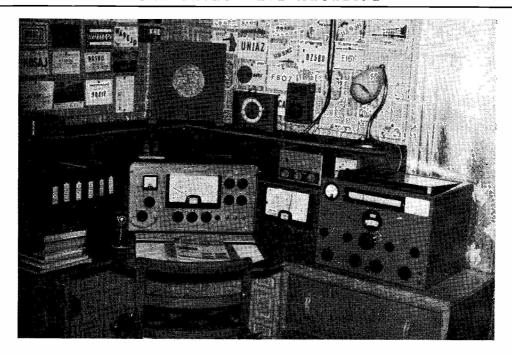
- G3AGF, R. L. Edginton, (ex-ZC4GF/5B4GF), 8 Springfield, Ashby Gardens, Kegworth, Derby.
- G3BG, N. M. Button, 31 Gold Street, Hanslope, Wolverton, Bucks,
- GW3BOC, H. M. Synge, Plas Draw, Ruthin, Denbighshire. (Tel. Ruthin 2917.)
- G3CMI, J. A. Scott, 24 The Grove, Potters Bar, Herts.
- G3DPJ, A. E. Smith, Westering, The Drive, Ifold, Loxwood, Sussex.
- G3EDD, B. D. A. Armstrong, 39 Angle End, Gt. Wilbraham, Cambridge.
- GD3ESV, Rev. F. Ness, 24
 Bowling Green Road, Castletown.
- G3HLW, D. A. Pilley, 27 Oxted Rise, Brocks Hill, Oadby, Leicester. (Tel. Oadby 4714.)
- G3IOA, A. B. Langfield, 201 St. Mary's Road, Moston, Manchester, 10. (Tel. FAllsworth 5406.)
- G3IZJ, M. Faulkner, (ex-VP8AZ), 35 Abbey Way, Farnborough, Hants.
- G3JWZ, A. Rowley, 6 Woodrow Way, Ashley, Market Drayton, Salop.
- G3LB, A. R. Yates, Kangel Acre, Littlethorpe Road, Ripon, Yorkshire.
- G3MKU, A. F. Bower, 82 Anson Road, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics.
- G30AZ, J. Akehurst, (ex-DL2VM | 5A4TZ | DL2BC |GW30AZ), 2-A Downs Avenue, Eastbourne, Sussex.
- G30HX, I. Jackson, 9 Lothian Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex.
- GW3PEX, L. France, 15 The Green, Trefechan (Breconshire), nr. Merthyr Tydfil, Glam.

- GM3PIP, P. I. Park, Kranji, South Street, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire. (Tel. Mintlaw 319.)
- G3REA, C. F. Peers, 21 Abbotsbury Gardens, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex. (Tel. PINer 6959.)
- G3RFB, F/Sgt. R. W. Lanchbury, 10 Hornet Road, Thorney Island, Emsworth, Hants.
- G3RFH, K. J. Randall, (ex-VP8HF), 6 Mortimer Close, Woolavington, Bridgwater, Somerset.
- G3RGA, P. J. Toynton, Wildhern, Old Mead Lane, Henham, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
- G3RLF, D. J. Price, 8 Newland Road, Droitwich, Worcs.
- GW3RSI, I. Trays, (ex-GM3RSI | G3RSI | 5A3CAD | ZC4AK | 5A2CV, 2 Sqdn., 5 Flight (Radio), No. 32 Maintenance Unit, R.A.F. Station, St. Athans, Barry, Glam.
- GW3TRW, D. H. White (ex-DL2DW/G3TRW), 13 Ar-Y-Bryn, Pembrey, Carms.
- G3TYG, B. D. Winslow, 18 Sycamore Drive, Twyford, Reading, Berks. (Tel. Twyford 335.)
- G3UAP, P. Parker, 23 St. Michaels Close, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.
- G3UOI, J. C. Firby, 7 Salisbury Avenue, West Lane, Baildon, Shipley, Yorkshire, W.R.
- G3UQV, D. M. Cliff, 49 Derby Road, Belper, Derbyshire.
- G5UQ, P. H. Trafford, 32 Queens Road, Banbury, Oxon. (Tel. Banbury 2283.)
- G60G, F. Gee, White Croft, Dean Swift Crescent, Lilliput, Poole, Dorset. (Tel. Canford Cliffs 79460.)

AMENDMENT

GC8MF, T. de Putron, Green Acres Hotel, Les Hubits, St. Martin's, Guernsey.

[&]quot;Short Wave Magazine" covers the whole field of Amateur Radio, has been established for nearly 30 years, is independent and unsubsidised, and circulates in 80 countries outside the U.K.



THE OTHER MAN'S STATION

G3RLI

THE station of G. W. Lawrence, G3RLI, is established at 44 Elizabeth Road, Learnington Spa, Warwickshire. Himself an ex-operator, Royal Signals, he says he wishes he had taken out an amateur licence long ago, and "regrets the lost years".

Basically, the equipment consists of a K.W. Vanguard for 10 to 80 metres, with a CR-100 as receiver. The latter has been considerably souped-up by the addition of an S-meter, a Heathkit Q-multiplier, a converter for the amateur bands, and a facility for sidetone monitoring. The ancillaries include an SWR meter, a Raymart band checker/monitor, a band-edge marker with 100 kc crystal oscillator, a straight pump-handle key, and a Jap xtal microphone.

Outside, the aerial system involves a full-size multi-band doublet, a Mosley trap vertical, a 20-metre ground plane, and a Quad for 10 and 15 metres.

Naturally enough, the operating preference at G3RLI is for CW on the HF bands, but telephony is worked on 80 metres at weekends. Though G3RLI says he would like to go QRO, he feels that the right line to take is to improve the antennae to make the most of the power he has got. Eventually, of course, he will be going SSB. In the meantime, he has a neat and effective station.

Readers who follow this feature are reminded that we are always glad to see suitable contributions—the primary requirement is a good, clear photograph accompanied by full descriptive notes.

This means not only a run-down on the equipment in view, but also such personal details as are acceptable for publication—what your amateur operating interests are, what you do for a living, how much (if any) of your gear has been built from SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE articles, when you were first licensed, and how you acquired your first interest in Amateur Radio. All this can be expressed in "own words". We write the story round the picture, and payment is made at full space rates, on publication. We do not mind whether you are an old timer or a new timer, or whether you have been licensed for 30 years or three months. What we want to know about is the gear you use and your personal interest in Amateur Radio, and how you got started. Send your story, with a good picture, to: Editor, SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham.

CORRECTION NOTE—"Control Circuit for Quick Change-Over

In this article in our February issue, it should be pointed out that the relay RLB ought to have been specified as "with two normally-closed contacts and four normally-open," and that in the circuit the contacts RLB/4 should be shown as normally-open it might also be added that multi-contact relays can usually be adapted (by alterations to the contact mountings) to give any motion required.

THE MONTH WITH THE CLUBS

By "Club Secretary"

(Deadline for April Issue: March 11)

(Please address all reports for this feature to "Club Secretary," Editorial Dept., SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE, Buckingham.)

NE of the most remarkable features of the Club scene, noticeable over the last five years or so, has been the enormous growth in the number of Club publications reaching us each month—every local group now feels that it should be putting out some sort of a newsletter. They come in all shapes and sizes, and one often wonders whether one can judge the nature of the Club itself from that of its published effort.

On reflection, this seems improbable, since so many of these newsletters-cum-magazines depend so very much upon the effort of one individual, or a small group of members. Among these, certain Clubs may even have a local professional journalist who helps the thing along as a labour of love, while others are unable to free themselves from the slavery of an ancient hand-duplicator (which has seen better days) and a few willing but inexperienced amateurs who feed in the material.

Taken all in all, between them they cover much of Amateur Radio interest, and one who had the time to read and collate every word in every such publication would indeed be a real gen-man.

This whole manifestation is a very healthy feature of the Club movement, and long may it continue. We can only hope that those who spend much time and trouble in the production of local newsletters are duly appreciated. On the average, we should say that for every one enthusiastic and dedicated Club member, there are between 20 and 50 more or less apathetic types who are just willing to "go along," without being keen to take any active part. (However, without their subscriptions most Clubs would be in a bad way, so they have their uses, too!)

A Club periodical is surely a useful way of getting at these non-productive members, and we are glad to see that this is becoming recognised more and more. So—if you run any sort of publication—don't be afraid to come out with some strong opinions. Nothing is as interesting as controversial stuff, nothing as boring as platitudes on which everyone agrees.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Basildon report a most interesting talk by G3DGN on Communications by Light at their February meeting; on March 24 they will hold a Junk Sale in the restaurant of the "Van Gogh," Paycocke Road, Industrial Estate, Basildon, first lot to be

auctioned at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Clifton hope to have a demonstration of a transistor SSB exciter on March 11. Recent meetings have included a Junk Sale and a talk on Air Traffic Control (with slides and recordings) by G3TR of the Crawley Club. Acton, Brentford & Chiswick held their AGM and elected G3IGM chairman, G6RC vice-chairman, and G3GEH secretary, treasurer and press agent—he is the chap who does the work! On March 15, 7.30 p.m., there will be a discussion on Power Supplies (at 66 High Road, Chiswick).

Mid-Warwickshire, at their AGM, reported a very successful fourth year of activity, but they enter their fifth determined to increase the membership and improve the financial basis thereby. On March 7 they have a Mullard Film Show, and on the 21st G3LJW will talk on Using an Oscilloscope. April 4 is booked for a visit to the Leamington Telephone Exchange.

Basingstoke held their Annual Dinner on January 29, and report that it was enjoyed by all present. On March 12 (at 7 p.m. in the Immanuel Hall, Wote Street), G3MED will be talking on SSB. York also held an AGM, and elected new officials (see panel for new secretary's QTH). They now meet every Thursday, 8 p.m. at the British Legion Club, 61 Micklegate, York.

Bedford, yet another AGM and another new secretary (see panel). This Club meets at Westfield School on the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday at 7.30 p.m. (except during school holidays and half-terms). West Kent will discuss NFD plans on March 11, and will hear a progress report on the Club's constructional project on March 25. April 15 is the date of their AGM. They will welcome new members "especially youngsters who are just getting interested." Local SWL's and beginners take note.

Chester have a full programme for March, with a Net Night (160 and Two) on the 8th; a lecture by Mr. Gray of the G.P.O. on the 15th; a Junk Sale on the 22nd; and a talk on the "Two-metre Quick-starter" by G3UWV on the 29th. All meetings are on Thursdays (except the first in the month) at the YMCA, Chester, 8 p.m.

Weston-super-Mare will be meeting on March 4, 8 p.m., for some instruction in Model Control. On April 1 (same time) the subject will be Hi-Fi and Stereo. Bristol will be hearing about Receiver Alignment from G3OUK on March 24—7 p.m. at 41 Ducie Road, Barton Hill, Bristol, 5.

Chiltern will be conducted "around the shacks" on March 31—not by car or on foot, but through slides shown by members, who will describe their own equipment—British Legion Club, St. Mary Street, High Wycombe, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Dorking drew up a full programme for 1966 at their AGM, and contemplate forming a special section in the Club for junior members.

Civil Service, meeting in the Science Museum, will hold an Informal get-together on March 15. On March 1 they were due for a lecture by Mr. A. Nash (Cosmocord, Ltd.) and demonstration on Piezo-Electric Devices. Echelford will hold their main meeting on March 30 (at the Links Hotel, Fordbridge Road, Ashford, Middx.), when Mr. B. Ayres will be demonstrating the HRO-500 and other receivers. This event will start at 8 p.m.

A new Club, known as the **Dynamics Group**, has been formed among employees of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Ltd., Coventry. They hope to have a station on the air shortly, and projects include Amateur TV, satellite working, and moon-bounce communications—quite a programme! But then, they have the facilities.

Derby will have an Open Evening and Committee Meeting on March 9; on the 16th there will be a Film Show; and on the 23rd a group of members will visit the local Telephone Exchange. They held their AGM on February 2, and the Annual Dinner and Dance on February 12.

Loughborough announce a Junk Sale on March 11, a Film Show on the 18th, and a Night on the Air on the 25th. Torbay will have their Annual Dinner and Social on March 12, at the Telplestowe Hotel, Torquay.

Magnus Grammar School have arranged their programme up to Easter, and report that G3UVT and G3UYU (a newly-licensed member) will have the Club station G3PAW on the air most lunch times. Arrangements are in hand for a visit to see an industrial computer in action. Incidentally, in last month's report, p.756, the "G3TWB" should have read G3UWB. Apologies to both.

Reading, at their AGM, elected G5HZ chairman, H. Hindle vice-chairman, and G2FQR secretary. In view of his past services as secretary over a long period, G3EJA was elected the first honorary member of the Club. Meetings: March 15 (G8AAG on Unusual Tools) and 29th (Wobbulators and 'Scopes). Luton, on March 8, will have a talk on SSB by an invited speaker. On the 16th (Wednesday) they will spend an evening at Tektronix (U.K.) Ltd., at Harpenden. On the 2nd a two-metre converter using surplus valves will be described (with the Shefford Club as visitors) and on the 29th there will be a Junk Sale. The Constructional Contest will take place on April 5.

North Kent will meet for a Hi-Fi Demonstration by Broadway Radio on March 10—Congregational Church Hall, Clock Tower, Bexleyheath, 8 p.m. Oxford University Radio Society will join forces with the Broadcasting Society on March 6 for a lecture on Informational Broadcasting (what on earth is this?); on the 9th there will be an end-of-term

talk and discussion, the subjects being low-cost Hi-Fi and Radio Control.

Purley will have a "general natter" with the four-metre Tx on the air on March 4, followed by a Junk Sale on the 18th; April 1 will be another "General Natter" evening. Southgate held an Extraordinary General Meeting in February to vote on their new constitution, full details of which have been circulated in their Newsletter. Future meetings have not yet been confirmed, but there are plans to cover Aircraft Radio, Electronics in Medicine, Licence Regulations and the (inevitable) Junk Sale. All meetings will now be at Parkwood Girls' School, Wood Green, at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday.

Spen Valley are having a talk on Transistorised Transmitters, by the University of Sheffield Radio Society, on March 10; the meeting on the 24th is "to be arranged." Surrey (Croydon) had talks on an amateur-band receiver and a transistorised SSB exciter at their February meeting. The March event, on the 8th, will be a Junk Sale. Cash and/or surplus gear will be needed for full participation, members are warned. The AGM will be on April 12, which all members should attend.

Swindon will be meeting on March 9 and 23—no details yet, but the venue will be The Deer's Leap, Penhill Drive. Wakefield report 53 names on their roll, but quite a number do not attend the meetings (and where have we heard that before?). They have an R.A.E. Course, a constructional class, and a full programme up to the time of their AGM in July. Thirteen of their members hold callsigns. Sessions are on alternate Tuesdays (March 15 and 29) at the Ings Road School, Wakefield.

Worcester continue their meetings every Saturday, 8 p.m. at 35 Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road. They



"... Could we put the old aspidistra in the junk sale, please, Fred ..."

report a successful Club Dinner, and announce their Constructional Contest on April 23, and a Mobile Picnic on July 17. Full details from the hon. secretary—see panel.

Shefford report a number of lively discussions sparked off at their Open Evening at the end of January; on February 4 G3RXW gave a talk on a transistor receiver, and other items of home-built gear. Meetings continue every Thursday, starting with Morse practice at 7.45 p.m.

Plymouth have appointed a publicity officer (G3SGV) to relieve their hard-working secretary (G3UKI) of some of his load, and incidentally, to let him get on with his "A" levels! They report that their GB2USA operations brought them some good publicity in the local press, and also that activities over the last two months have been very successful. Their March programme includes an RTTY demonstration by G5ZT, G3LMG and SWL Colin Jones.

Peterborough, at their February meeting, saw some of the latest colour films on micro-circuits, transistors and electronics. A special-activity station (GB3PAS) will be run at the Agricultural Show on July 19-21, and their annual Mobile Rally is fixed for August 29. Pembroke will be taking the air on Two Metres from the top of the Preseli Mountains on March 5-6, in the contest. Special QSL cards are being prepared.

Barnsley attracted an attendance of 65 for the Annual Dinner and Dance, a very successful event organised by G5KM, who will also be talking on Stabilised VFO's on March 11. Then, on the 25th, G6LZ will discuss Recent Developments in SSB. Both meetings at the King George Hotel, Peel Street, 7.30 p.m.

Harrow held their AGM in January, and G2TA was elected secretary (see panel for QTH). The March programme includes two Practical Nights (on the

Names and Addresses of Club Secretaries reporting in this issue:

ACTON, BRENTFORD & CHISWICK: W. G. Dyer, G3GEH, 188 Gunnersbury Avenue, London, W.3.
A.E.R.E. (HARWELL): V. J. Galpin, Building 347.3, A.E.R.E., Harwell, Didcot.

AINSDALE: N. Horrocks, G2CUZ, 34 Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Lancs.

A.R.M.S.: N. A. S. Fitch, G3FPK, 79 Murchison Road, London, F10 BARNSLEY: J. A. Ward, G4JJ, 44 Northgate, Barnsley.
BASILDON: C. Roberson, G8AAO, Milestone Cottage, London
Road, Wickford. Road, Wickford. BASINGSTOKE: P. J. Sterry, G3CBU, Ashley, Orchard Road, Basingstoke.
BEDFORD: K. Hatton, 49 The Briars, Kempston, Beds.
BRISTOL: E. J. Davis, G3SXY, 72 North View, Westbury Park, Blackpool 6.

CARDIFF: E. F. Taylor, GW3SQX, University Hall, Penylan, Cardiff.

CHESTER: P. J. Holland, 19 Kingsley Road, Great Boughton, Chester.
CHILTERN: G. Leonard, 13 Priory Road, High Wycombe.
CIVIL SERVICE: G. Lloyd-Dalton, 2 Honister Heights, Purley, Surrey.
CLIFTON: J. Rose, G3OGE, 63 Broomfield Road, Beckenham, Kent. CORNISH: M. J. Harvey, Oak Farm, Carnon Downs, Truro. COVENTRY: W. F. M. Hahn, G3UOL, 11 St. Patrick's Road, Coventry.

CRAWLEY: R. G. B. Vaughan, G3FRV 5 Filbert Crescent, Gossops Green, Crawley.

CRAY VALLEY: S. W. H. Harrison, G3KYV, 30 Plaistow Grove, Bromley.

DERBY: F. C. Ward, G2CVV, 5 Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby.

DORKING: J. Greenwell, G3AEZ, Eastfield, Henfold Hill,
Beare Green, Dorking.

DYNAMICS RADIO: J. Wall, c/o Hawker Siddeley Dynamics
Ltd., Whitley Works, Coventry.

ECHELFORD: A. G. Wheeler, G3RHF, 88 Village Way,
Ashford, Midds.

EDGWARE: G. S. Fitton, G3RAA, 16 Beverley Drive, Edgware,
Middlesey. Middlesex.
GRAFTON: A. W. H. Wennell, G2CJN, 145 Uxendon Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex.
GREENFORD: J. A. Hedges, G3MMQ, 35 Ferrymead Avenue, Greenford.
HARROW: R. C. Ray, G2TA, Wintons End, Springfield,
Bushey Heath.
HUDDERSFIELD: R. Higton, 5 Brian Avenue, Datone, LOUGHBOROUGH: D. Winters, G3IPL, 52 Walton Street, Leicester. LUTON: A. W. Morgan, G8ADS, 97 Victoria Street, Dunstable. MAGNUS: R. Wallwork, B.Sc., Magnus Grammar School, Newark-on-Trent.
MAIDENHEAD: E. C. Palmer, G3FVC, 37 Headington Road, Maidenhead. MID-WARWICKSHIRE: K. J. Young, 180 Northumberland Court, Leamington Spa.
NORFOLK: A. Marcantonio, G3TLC, 10 Hellesdon Mill Lane,
Norwich, NOR.21.L.

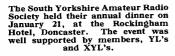
NORTHERN HEIGHTS: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy NORTHERN HEIGHTS: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy Cabin, Ogden, Halifax.
NORTH KENT: P. T. Baber, 64 Latham Road, Bexleyheath.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: A. J. Garratt-Reed, Brasenose College, Oxford.
PADDINGTON: A. E. Copperwaite, la St. Mary's Mansions, St. Mary's Terrace, London, W.2.
PEMBROKE: K. E. Godfrey, Kimberly, Ludchurch, Narberth, Pembroke PETERBOROUGH: D. Byrne, G3KPO, Jersey House, Eye, Peterborough PLYMOUTH: B. J. Curnow, G3UKI, 112 Mount Gould Road, Plymouth.

PURLEY: A. Frost, G3FTQ, 62 Gonville Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon.

R.A.B.C.: Mrs. F. E. Woolley, G3LWY, 331 Wigan Lane, Wigan.
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REIGATE: F. D. Thom, G3NKT, 12 Willow Road, Redhill.
SALTASH: D. Bowers, 95 Grenfell Avenue, Saltash, Cornwall.
SHEFFORD. G. R. Cobb, G3IXG, 75 Ampthill Road, Shefford, SOUTHGATE: R. E. Wilkinson, G3TXA, 23 Ashridge Gardens, London N.13.
SOUTH LONDON MOBILE: B. Negri, G3LXN, 17 Voltaire Road, London, S.W.4.
SOUTH EUNDON MUBILE: B. Negri, G3LXN, 17 Voltaire Road, London, S.W.4.
SOUTH SHIELDS: D. Forster, G3KZZ, 41 Marlborough Street, South Shields.
SPEN VALLEY: N. Pride, 100 Raikes Lane, Birstall, Leeds.
SURREY (CROYDON): R. Morrison, G3KGA, 33 Sefton Road, Addiscombe, Croydon.
SWINDON: D. J. Goacher, G3LLZ, 51 Norman Road, Swindon.
TORBAY: Mrs. G. Western, G3NQD, 118 Salisbury Avenue, Barton, Torquay. VERULAM: G. Slaughter, G3PAO, 5 Leggatts Wood Avenue, Watford. WAKEFIELD: E. Price, G3TQV, 23 Elmwood Grove, Horbury, WARRIEUL.
WELWYN GARDEN CITY: J. Hum, G5UM, Wyldes, Burnham
Green Lane, Bulls Green, Knebworth.
WEST KENT: R. Trevitt, G3SSE, 28 Delves Avenue, Tunbridge WESTON-SUPER-MARE: A. E. Seymour, G3GNS, Manor Farm, Hillend, Banwell, Weston-super-Mare.
WIRRAL: A. Seed, G3FOO, 31 Withert Avenue, Bebington, Wirral. WORCESTER: B. A. Jones, 12 Woodside Road, Larkhill, Worcester.
YEOVIL: D. L. McLean, G3NOF, 9 Cedar Grove, Yeovil.
YORK: J. A. Rainbow, 14 Temple Road, Bishopthorpe, York.

Overseas

AERONAUTICAL CENTER, OKLAHOMA: Post Station 18, Oklahoma City, Okla., U.S.A. EX-G RADIO CLUB: N. F. Thompson, W8YHO, 1368 Roslyn Avenue, Akron 20, Ohio, U.S.A.





4th and 18th), a Junk Sale on the 11th and a Film Show on the 25th. All meetings are on Fridays, 8 p.m. in the Science Lab., Roxeth Manor School, Eastcote Lane, South Harrow.

Paddington held their AGM on January 19 and elected Mr. D. S. Jewiss president, G3NOZ chairman, G3JDP vice-chairman and A. E. Copperwaite hon. secretary (see panel). On March 16 there will be a talk by G3MHQ on Crystal-Grinding for Crystal Filters, and the Club net continues every Friday, 11 p.m. on 14·2 mc. Meetings are held every Wednesday, 8 p.m. at the Beauchamp Lodge Settlement, Warwick Crescent, London, W.2.

Coventry have now acquired a permanent clubroom at the Civil Defence Headquarters, Drapers Fields (off Foleshill Road), where they will gather every Friday at 7.30 p.m. New members and old friends welcomed, and they hope to provide an interesting programme.

Crawley will be meeting for G6QB's "Mixed Bag" on March 23. On Friday, March 18, they will hold their Sixth Annual Dinner, with G2BVN as guest. Yeovil heard a tape on Musique Concrete (by G2BCX) on February 2, and saw a Mullard film the following week. Latest additions to Club equipment are a BC-221 and a Taylor valve tester. Members'

home-built apparatus has been on show, including G8AFA's QRO Tx for 432 mc, and a 60-watt 12/300 volt transistor inverter by G3TTC.

Northern Heights have had a talk on The Layout of an Amateur Station (G3FDC), and a Junk Sale (the proceeds of which went to the Club Tx fund, which is growing nicely). Future talks: "On Safari among the Kilowatts," by David Howell, on March 16; NFD Arrangements on March 30; and the AGM will be on April 13.

Reigate held their AGM and re-elected most of their officials. Their membership is now 46, including 30 callsigns, and they have gained a fine reputation for contest work during the past year. Next meeting, on March 17, will be a Film Show, to which YL/XYL's are invited, at the George and Dragon, Redhill.

Saltash will meet on March 11 for a talk by the local "legendary character, G9BO," and a general natter. March 25 is their Film Night, and their Mobile Rally is fixed for May 30. The recent Constructors' Competition was won by SWL Jack Martin with his receiver.

Greenford continue to gather at the Community Centre, Oldfield Lane, and their March meetings are on the 11th (Junk Sale) and 25th (Mobile Evening



Table at the recent dinner of the Worcester & District Amateur Radio Club, for which the total attendance was 28 members and friends.

on One-Sixty and Four). Maidenhead have March 15 booked for a talk and demonstration of VHF working, by G3MEV; it is hoped that some two-metre contacts will be made during the meeting. The Club reports good progress, increasing membership, and a welcome for any newcomers, whether licensed, SWL or "just interested," at their meetings on the third Tuesday in the Hall, East Berks. College, Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead.

Welwyn Garden City report some interesting sessions, one of which dealt with the Development Corporation's edict concerning "TV and other Aerials" on housetops (!). Their annual Constructors' Competition will be judged by G6LL and Mr. A. H. Beattie at the March meeting.

South London Mobile Club, at Clapham Manor Baths, will be holding a Junk Sale on March 12, and a talk on 70 cm. operation on the 26th. The AGM will be held on April 23. All timed 8.0 p.m. South Shields meet in the Trinity House Social Centre, Laygate, on Friday evenings and occasional (advertised) Thursdays. On March 3 their Constructional Competition was to be judged by G3BIK and G3SFL. Among the entries were a communications receiver, a transmitter, a transceiver, a two-metre converter and a pre-amp.—which just shows what a Club can do.

Wirral, having had a D/F Lecture on March 2, will hear a talk on Communications Receivers on the 16th, and G2FOS's discussion on Transistory (Part III) on April 6.

Up in Ainsdale, they have their annual "Hot-Pot Night" (and what an occasion that can be!) on the evening that this appears, when plans will be discussed for the year's activities—to include /P gear for the HF bands. They are already fully transistorised on VHF.

Down in Wales, the Cardiff Radio Contest Club will foregather at the Griffin, Lisvane, on March 7 at 8.0 p.m., when all locally will be welcome. They have plans for a /P expedition, come the summer.

From Edgware it is reported that their Club Net on 1875 Khz (the hon. secretary remarks that he read p.734 of our February issue!) at 2100z is proving useful for local amateur publicity and recruitment. Next meeting is on March 14, when

G3SJE will give the first of two demonstrations on The Oscilloscope.

One of the most active London Clubs is Grafton, with meetings arranged for March 11 (SWL Corner, by G3KRH); March 18 (Introduction to Amateur TV, by G6ABA/T); and March 25 (Easter Junk Sale). Visitors are most welcome, the evening programme starts at 8.30 p.m., and the place to find them is Room 35, Montem School, Hornsey Road, N.7.

Huddersfield have now got themselves two rooms at the YMCA, St. Peter's Street; one will be used for regular fortnightly meetings and it is intended that the other shall be equipped as a workshop with Tx gear for use any night of the week.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following Club Publications. (Latest receipts only are mentioned):

Coventry (CARS Newsletter); AERE, Harwell (QAV, January); ARMS (Mobile News, January); Cornish (Cornish Link, February); Cray Valley (QUA, February); North Kent (Newsletter, No. 96); Norfolk (NARC Challenge, Christmas); Purley (Splatter, January and February); RAIBC (Radial, January); Surrey (SRCC Monthly News, February); Swindon (Wiltshire Hams, January-February); Worcester (Newsletter, February); Saltash (Tamar Pegasus, February); Reigate (Feedback, January); Echelford (Newsletter, January); Wirral (Newsletter, January); Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma (Collector and Emitter, January); Ex-G Radio Club (Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 6); Southampton Group (QUA, February); and Verulam (News Sheet, February);

GETTING THROUGH THE R.A.E.

A very useful practical article for those taking the next Radio Amateurs' Examination, in May, appeared in the April, 1965, issue of SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE. We would recommend all aspirants to read and re-read this contribution, because it gives the sort of advice and information that serious candidates would find both helpful and encouraging.

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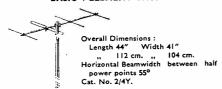
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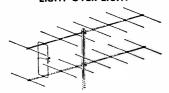
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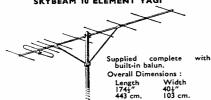
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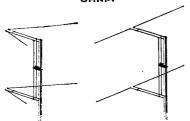
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Bidirectional Omnidirectional Can be used as an omnidirectional or a bidirectional aerial. Incorporates coaxis balun.

Supplied complete with 6' x 1\frac{1}{2}" o.d. mast. Length of dipoles 37". Spacing between stacks 42"

""" 94 cm. """ 107 cm. Cat. No. 2/0V.

PRICE LIST JANUARY 1966

	Dan-d	dR asia	Cat. No.	Price
Туре	Band	dB gain over a	J 140.	
All aerials available with 75 or 300 ohm fe	ed .	dipole	4150	E2 /
3 El. Yagi	4 metre	5·7	4/3Y	52 /- 68 /-
4 El. Yagi	4 metre	7·0 7·0	4/4Y 2/4Y	68 /- 30 /-
4 El. Yagi	2 metre	7·0 8·7	2/4Y 2/6Y	30 /- 42 /6
6 El. Yagi	2 metre	8·7 10·0	2/6Y 2/8Y	42 /6 55 /-
8 El. Yagi	2 metre 2 metre	10·0 13·2	2/81 2/10Y	55 /- 126 /-
10 El. Skybeam Double 2 Slotbeam	2 metre 2 metre	6.7	2/101	45 / -
Double 2 Slotbeam Double 4 Slotbeam	2 metre 2 metre	10.0	2/8	70/-
Double 4 Slotbeam Double 6 Slotbeam	2 metre	11.7	2/12	95 /
Double 8 Slotbeam	2 metre	12-6	2/16	120/-
Plus 2 Unit	2 metre	+1.7	2+2	12/6
Plus 4 Unit	2 metre	+3.0	2+4	25 /-
Omni V	2 metre		2/07	75 / -
Halo Head only	2 metre		2/HO	15/- 19/6
Halo with mast	2 metre	12.2	2/HM 2/I0XY	19/6 168/-
X10 Moonbounce	2 metre 70 cm	13·2 10·0	2/10XY 70/8	168 /- 46 /-
Double 4 Slotbeam	70 cm. 70 cm.	10·0 11·7	70/8 70/12	46 /- 63 /-
Double 6 Slotbeam	70 cm. 70 cm.	11·/ 12·6	70/12 70/16	76 /-
Double 8 Slotbeam 10 El. Skybeam	70 cm. 70 cm.	13.2	70/10 70/10Y	63 / -
IO EI. Skybeam I4 EI. Skybeam	70 cm. 70 cm.	16.0	70/14Y	90 /-
14 El. Skybeam 24 El. Skybeam	70 cm.	17.5	70/24Y	161 /-
X 4 Moonbounce	70 cm.	16-0	70/14XY	153/6
		Band	Cat. No.	. Price
75 ohm Balun		6 metre	6/75B	45 /
Balance/unbalance transformer		4 metre	4/75B	39 /-
with coaxial socket		2 metre	2/75B 70/75B	31 /- 25 /6
		70 cm. 6 metre	70/75B 6/TW2	25 /6 71 /-
75 ohm TW2		6 metre 4 metre	6/TW2 4/TW2	71 /- 59 /-
Balun with 75 ohm screened twin		2 metre	2/TW2	57 / -
Phasing and matching harness to stack two balanced feed aerials		70 cm.	70/TW2	42 /-
75 ohm C02		6 metre	6/75C02	30/-
Coaxial matching and phasing harness to stack coaxial feed aerials		4 metre 2 metre	4/75C02 2/75C02	29 /- 28 /-
to stack coaxial feed aerials				
Note: Type C02 with two type TW2 Will match and phase 4 aerials		70 cm.	70/75C02	0/-
Three type C02 and 4 type TV	V2			
Note: Type CO2 with two type TW2 Will match and phase 4 aerials Three type CO2 and 4 type TW Will type CO2 and 4 type TW Will match and phase 8 aerials	2			
vviii match and phase 8 aerials		6 metre	6/PH2	20 /-
300 ohm PH2		6 metre 4 metre		
Q Bars only to match two 300 ohm aer		2 metre	4/PH2 2/PH2	15 /- 9 /6 6 /-
		70 cm.	70/PH2	6/-
300 ohm PM4		6 metre	6/PM4 4/PM4	54 /- 53 /-
Phasing and matching harness to stack		4 metre 2 metre	4/PM4 2/PM4	53 /- 52 /-
four 300 ohm aerials Note: Type PH2 with 2 type PM4 wi	31			
match and phase 8 aerials		70 cm.	70/PM4	32/-
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10ft. x 2in. 18 s.w.g. galvanised steel				28 /- 31 /-
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15ft. x 2in. 18 s.w.g. galvanised steel	maste		JBL10	41 /- 6/-
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Universal mast clamp to 11n. tube Universal mast clamp to 1\pm_in. tube			JBL63	5 /6
Universal mast clamp to 12 in. tube Universal mast clamp to 14 in. tube her	evy duty		JBL73	10/
lin, mast clamp to lin, tube	,		JLB55	3 /-
Stand off wall brackets 6in.			JBL6	8 /-
Stand off wall brackets 18in.			JBL 7	33 /-
Stand off wall brackets 24in.			JBL 7a	36 /- 56 /-
Stand off wall brackets 24in, heavy dut	ty		JBL 8 JBL 4	56 /- 27 /6
Chimney lashing double (2 wires)			JBL 4 JBL 3	27 /6 20 /6
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WHAT IS ACSE 2A10

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SELLING: Geloso VFO 4/102V, £5. Green & Davis two-metre converter, 4 to 6 mc IF, £5. Woden UM1 mod. xformer, 30s. AR88LF general coverage Rx, £30. Hallicrafters S.27, offers? Codar PR-30 Preselector, with PSU, £5. All in working order and offers considered.—G3TXA, 23 Ashridge Gardens, Palmers Green, London, N.13. (Tel. PAL 4592.)

WANTED: Super-Pro, BC-779 Rx, with manual. SALE: HRO dial, new, boxed and with fitting instructions, 35s. HQ-140X manual, 25s.—Box No. 4243, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

WANTED: Radio Set Type 122 (miniature combined transmitter-receiver, ex-S.A.S.). Will pay up to £20 for model in good condition.—M. Gee, 11 Whitehorse Lane, Stepney, London, E.1.

SALE: Two-metre converter, £5. Two-metre preamp. with PSU, £3. Dependapac transistor PSU, £10. T.W. Fourmobile, £20. Minimitter 10-80m. converter, £6. Command Rx, 6 to 9 mc, £3. Also valves and meters (send s.a.e.).—Kidder, G3NZO, 44 Ingatestone Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

FOR SALE: Postal Course for R.A.E., £6. Also Sony 8-transistor portable radio, 530 kc to 22 mc, as new, with tuning indicator and service data, £12.—Box No. 4246, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55

as new, with tuning indicator and service data, £12.

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HA-350, 75 gns. HA-230, 33 gns. KT-340, 25 gns.

The HA-350 has become very popular—quite rightly so. Best value-for-money hambander on the market. The HA-230 although not particularly inspiring, I don't think you'll get any better at the price. The KT-340 (kit version of the HA-230) at 25 gms. must be classed as a best by O.K., so it drifts a bit—III sell you a voltage regulator for 6/-1 And 6 you're really keen, gently inser a Lafayette Mechanical filter (at 29/19/6 ex stock) just next to the mixer).

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KW2000, £173. A.C. p.s.u., £32. Only 90 watts p.e.p. but a sweet little rig.

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Carrying the National, KW and Swan in stock gives you the opportunity to see 'em all at one time, so if you are in the market for a transceiver why not call in one evening or week-end and look 'em over. Even if I don't sell you one we can always shoot the bull about DX and stuff. I personally like the NCX5 best, but by and large you get just about what

Codar AT5, £16/10/-. A.C. p.s.u., £8. D.C. p.s.u., £11/5/-, a little gem. 1 like it.

Codar PR30X, £7 /4 /-. A preselector to give that old Rx some poop. Codar PK.JUA, £7/4/-. A preselector to give that old RX some poopElectroniques: Qolipax valve hambander, £12/12/-. Just the thing for
that really top notch Rx you're going to build one of these days (show
Art Collins a thing or two, eh, laddie?). Having taken the plunge I will
pester you to buy my Electroniques 85 kc/s. I.F. s, HSO 1-6, HSO 350 and
HSO 85 all at 12/6 each. By this time you're hooked, an addict! They
come to my door at all hours begging for a "fix"—unshaven, trembling,
the soldering iron dangling from nerveless fingers, bleary-eyed. "Bill
they crosk furtively, "Can you fix me up with another 1-0 base—please,
Bill, I gotta have it—"Holy Smoke, I get carried away a bit don't I.
Probably a Freudian urge for self-expression—psychotic Bill, the nut
on the hill!

Collins 75S3B demonstrator, £275. Won't pick up the Light programme but otherwise is as a Collins should be.

SECOND-HAND

Eddystone 840A. Mint. Magnificent dial and beautiful cabinet enclosing practically nothing. £25.

Star SR550 Double conversion hambander 160-6m. as new. Not bad,

Eagle RX80. Again mint. Not a very good Rx, £35.

Lafayette HE80 mint. About as good or bad as the RX80 (about the same price too !!), £35.

Eddystone ECI0 virtually new. Much better than the Collins 'cos it gets the Light programme. Similar to the HR0500 (they both use transistors). If carry on like this maybe ['Il get a buyer at £38 or v.n.o. BC348. A good old clunker in excellent shape, £15.

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52 Set power supplies 12v. 110v. and 250v., £2/10/-, carriage paid. Power cables to connect the above to the 52 set, 7/6, post free. Money refunded if not satisfactory (mind you, I usually reply "Dear Sir, your money is perfectly satisfactory, Yours faithfully."). Oh boy! it always amazes me that I ever sell anything!

In addition to the new equipment which I keep in stock, I have a constant stream of trade-ins so that in general I have as fine a collection of venerable old clunkers as you are likely to meet. If you are in the market for a Rx or Tx why not just drop me a line — s.a.e. will get you the latest stock amongst which you may well find what you are looking for at the right price.

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SALE: TW2 two-metre station, Tx, converter, PSU, coax relay; also Labgear Topbander.—J. Brown, G3LPB, Marlborough Farm, Falmouth, Cornwall. SELLING: Transmitter TCS-12, modified as "Short Wave Magazine," £6. Bendix MN-26C Rx, mains PSU, 150 to 1500 kc, IF 112 kc, used as Q5'er, £5. TN18/APN4 tuning unit, 300 to 1000 mc, IF 30 mc, £5. Range Calibrator 4807, with 23 valves including tunable klystron, mains, rack mounting, with 3-cm. to tunable klystron, mains, rack mounting, with 3-cm horn, new, £6 10s. All carriage paid.—D. Spence, Dept. of Physics, The University, Newcastle-upon-

OFFERING: National NCX-3 Transceiver with NCX-A PSU, in excellent condition throughout, superb porformance, £130 (all letters answered).—Box No. 4244, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Street, London, S.W.1.

WANTED: Eddystone EC-10, also 12v./300v. PSU.

SALE: HRO-MX, with 9 coils, two BS, and PSU, £14; BC-348R, external PSU, £12; both excellent condition.—G2VO, Underhill, Glanbyon Drive, Keighley, Yorkshire.

SALE: Class-D Wavemeter, £3 5s. American matching ATU, 20s. Both brand new. Postage extra. Offers?—Stephenson, 82 Morris Lane, Leeds, 5 Vorkshire.

extra. Offers?—Stephenson, 82 Morris Lane, Leeds, 5, Yorkshire.

WANTED: Very early copies of "QST," prior to 1931; "CQ," prior to April, 1948; pre-war "Short Wave Magazine" and "Radio"; and any copies of "73."—G5LY, 33 Downs Road, Langley, Bucks.

OFFERING: An HRO, with PR-30 preselector, complete set of nine coils plus 40m. bandspread, PSU, speaker and spare valves, in excellent condition, £18 o.n.o.?—G. Hart, Lyon House, Bruton, Somered Somerse

WANTED: 80/160m. crystals, 10X type preferred. Frequencies and price to.—Box No. 4247, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London,

SALE: KW-76 receiver, 10-160m., with mains PSU, S-meter, Eddystone speaker, and Heathkit Q-multiplier, in mint condition. The lot for £27.—Yeo,

Bothwell Street, Edinburgh, 7.
SELLING: K.W. Vanguard, 10-80m.; simple 160m. modification kit available; unmarked as new. Price £35, no offers.—G3OLY, 6 Wheathill, Letch-

Price £35, no oners.—Gooli, o natural, 2001, worth, Herts.

SALE: Receivers S.36, 27 to 146 mc, £16. BC-342, £11; R.107, £10. All in excellent condition. Taylor 45C Valve Tester; two Evershed Ohmmeters; CT53; Hunt signal generator; and other gear (s.a.e. details). Offers? WANTED: Marine radiotelephone.—Box No. 4248, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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LICENSED Amateur requires AR88 and Panda Cub, or similar types Rx/Tx. Faulty gear considered if repairable. Can collect 50 miles Lancashire.—Box No. 4245, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

SALE: Heathkit RA-1 receiver, little used, £30 (51278). Middlesey

Change: Eddystone S.740 receiver, 600 kc to 30 mc, in good condition FOR a VHF Rx, such as S.27, S.36 or similar. Consider faulty specimen.

—Chatterton, 88 Maple Road, Priory Estate, Dudley, Worcs.

FOR SALE: An AR88LF, in good condition, £30 o.n.o.?—Clarke, 119 Brodie Avenue, Liverpool, 18. (Tel. Allerton 3123.)

WANTED: Tuning unit for Hallicrafters S.27, or u/s S.27 complete.—Senior, 1 Bedale Close, Carleille, (2002). Delegators Coalville (2088), Leicester.

SALE: AR88D receiver, with R.C.A. manual, £40 o.n.o.? Minimitter MR44, with manual, £30. Both mint condition.—GW3LSB, Holcombe, Vicarage Avenue, Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, North Wales.

POR SALE: Eddystone 840C receiver, in good condition, 14 months old, £45 o.n.o.?—Morphew, 17 Upland Road, Ipswich (77242), Suffolk. SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS, READERS-continued

SALE: AR88D receiver, in excellent condition, £35. (H.P. possible.) QY3-125's, £2 each.—Bonnett, 28 Dale Park Road, London, S.E.19. (Tel. LIVingstone

SELLING: Geloso VFO 4/102, unused, soiled, valves but no dial, £2. Swinging choke, 5/25 Hy at 250 mA, 25s. Shrouded 8 Hy 250 mA choke, 15s. Fully potted oil-filled xformers: 500-0-500v. 250 mA, £2; 400-0-400v. 180 mA, 5v., 3/6·3v., 25s.; 360-0-360v. 150 mA, 5v., 4/6·3v., 20s. All plus post/packing. EXCHANGE: BS40 HRO coil for BS80, National make only.—G3RFB, 10 Hornet Road, Thorney

Island, Emsworth, Hants.

POR SALE: Crystal Calibrator No. 10, with mains PSU; also SWR bridge. Both in stove-enamel cases. £13 o.n.o.? Carriage paid.—GISSOO, 79 Prehen

Park, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Park, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

SALE: B2 Transmitter, with extra frequency formers, £5. Pair torque transmitters, 48lb.-in., 230v. 50 c/s, size ¼rd h.p. motors, £7. Wilcox-Gay master oscillator (VFO), with 2½in. PA formers, £4. Type 114 Tx/Rx complete, with handbook, lined up on 70 mc, ready to go, only needs xtal, £6. Brand new BC-453, Q5'er, £5. Cowl-gill motor, 30s. Set six Eddystone 1½in. 6-pin coils and one 2½in. Eddystone PA coil, 20s.—G3LIA, QTHR. (Tel. Hatfield 4149 after £6.0 nm.)

SALE: Hallicrafters SX-140 receiver, coverage 6 to 80m., xtal calibrator, S-meter, with handbook, mint condition, £25. National SW-54 receiver, 500 kc to 30 mc, £8. Three RF ammeters, 0.5, 0.1 and 0.3 amp., 6s. each.—Gorman, 7 St. Anthony Road, Cardiff,

South Wales.

FOR SALE: Power Unit Type RA34,

cabinet 18in v 20in 11 12 cabinet 18in. x 20in. x 19in., input 115/230v. AC, output 1200v. at 400 mA and 14v. 3 amps. DC, both fully variable and metered, also 14v. 12 amp. AC. Fully relay operated, incorporating thermal delays and four circuit breakers and using 866 registers. and four circuit breakers, and using 866 rectifiers. Push-button control, with indicator lights. Several spare valves, cables, etc. Weighs 48lbs. and must have cost £100 to build. Price £15, carriage extra.— G5FH, QTHR.

WHAT IS ACSE 2A10

FOR SALE: BC-342 Rx, with S-meter, for 250v. AC, £18 10s. Transmitter, 35-watt, Geloso VFO/807 PA, 10-80 metres, separate 160m. Tx, £20. ATU and monimatch, 20s. Chassis punch kit, 30s. Numerous valves, speakers, etc. Offers and enquiries.—G300W, 102 Highbury Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, 14. (Tel. Highbury 3280.)

DISPOSAL: Echophone EC1B communications receiver, 560 kc to 30 mc, with bandspread and limiter for AM/CW, price internal speaker, noise limiter, for AM/CW, price £10 10s. WANTED: Signal Generator.—Garth, Stagbury Avenue, Chipstead, Surrey. (Tel. Downland 54130.)

SELLING: Phasing-type SSB Tx for 20 and 80 metres, 6146 PA, with Vox and PSU built in; matching four-band Linear, 2/TT21, incorporating PSU; £40 the pair. Also G2DAF-type Rx, coverage 10-160m., with S-meter, noise limiter, etc., in CR-150 cabinet; fine performer and looks good; price £40. TCS-12 Tx, £8. LM-14 Frequency Meter, £16.—Short, 13 Lumley Avenue, Skegness (1623), Lincs.

WANTED: Drake-2B, preferably with Q-multiplier, speaker, etc.—GM3BQA, 19 Edinburgh Road, Cockenzie, East Lothian, Scotland. (Tel. Port Siton 331.)

WANTED: "Short Wave Magazine" for August 1958; buy, borrow or hire. SALE: Postal Course for R.A.E. (cost £10), price £4; gram. deck, with mic. and pre-amp., £3.—Box No. 4259, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.



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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS. READERS—continued

WANTED: Collins 75A type receiver, and DX-100U transmitter, or similar. SALE: AR88LF, £18; BC-348L, £10.—Beaumont, 8 Ashfield Avenue, Morley.

Leeds, Yorkshire.

SALE: Hallicrafters HT-37 Tx, SSB/CW/AM, as new Leeds, Yorkshire.

SALE: Hallicrafters HT-37 Tx, SSB/CW/AM, as new in original packing case, cost £215, price £115. Collins 75-A1 Rx, 3·1 kc mechanical filter, with autotransformer, speaker and handbook, in FB condition, £110. Shure 444 mic. and base, £5. Woden mod. transformers: U.M1, 20s.; UM2, £2; UM3, £3. SCR-522 mod. xformer, 15s. Class-D Wavemeter, 50s. Wattmeter, AF No. 1, laboratory instrument, £25 (write for details). DC voltmeter, 0-3500v., £2. "Short Wave Magazine," QST, "Bulletin," 1945-65, 1s. each. Meters, valves, transformers, components, all cheap to clear.—GM3BQA, 19 Edinburgh Road, Cockenzie, East Lothian, Scotland. (Tel. Port Siton 331.)

SALE: New Q5'er, £5. Huge Hallicrafters power unit Type PE-110, with auto-transformer, £10. Taylor 47A Valve Tester, £10. Signal Generator, £4. TV Sig. Generator, £4.—Box No. 4249, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

WANTED: Buy or borrow, manual for Receiver Type RAY-5, model PR7NA.—Smail, 2 Bright's Crescent, Edinburgh 9, Scotland.

WANTED: Grey 840A (£15 offered); 840C (£30 paid); 870A (£12 given); 940 (£60 offered).—Box No. 4250, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

SELLING: R.C.A. AR88D, with S-meter and manual, in excellent condition, price £40, carriage extra, R.A.E. postal course, with answers and Morse LP record, £10.—G3RCU, Japonica, Abbey Road. Sandbach, Cheshire.

Sandbach, Cheshire.

FOR SALE: A 45ft. Tower, price £20. Buyer pays carriage.-Dutfield, Overton Grange. Shropshire.

Shropshire.

SELLING: BC-348 Rx, with PSU, £15. Command Receivers: 500 kc to 1.5 mc, £4; 3.0 to 6.0 mc, and 6.0 to 9.0 mc, £2 10s. each. B.44 Mk. II, modified for 4 metres, £7. WANTED: Four-metre converter, IF 28 to 30 mc; receivers AR77 and 770R; CDR rotator.—Knight, G2FUU, Homefield, Upper Nazeing (2274), Essex

SALE: Hallicrafters SX-24 Rx, completely rebuilt, with product detector, BFO, variable AGC, S-meter, amateur bandspread, ANL, coverage 540 kc to 44 mc, in FB condition, £12 o.n.o.?—Keeping, 11 Falcon Close, Langley Green, Crawley, Sussex.

FOR SALE: Racal RA-17L, 500 kc to 30 mc. R.C.A. AR-8516L, triple conversion, 80 kc to 30 mc. mint condition, £140. Collins R-278B, 220 to 400 mc. Transmitter T-216. Modulator/PSU MD-129A. Labgear LG,300. Hallicrafters S.27LA, 120 to 220 mc. CR-100, £18 10s. HRO, £18 10s. Two-metre converter, £5 10s. New AR88 spares: Dial, tools, gearbox, crystal, manual, etc. G.R. Sig. Generator, 7 mc to 330 mc, £12 10s.—Wright, 249 Sandy Lane, Hindley, Wigan (55948), Lancs.

FOR SALE: Codar CR-45 short-wave receiver, with all colls, plus speaker, £5.—Marriott, 21 Thorley Hill Bishop's Startford (4706) Howte

all coils, plus speaker, £5.—Marriott, 21 Thorley Hill, Bishop's Stortford (4796), Herts.

WANTED: Eddystone 750 Rx, must be in good condition and reasonably priced; full details, please. SALE: New 30-watt modulation transformer. 30s.—Kellow, St. Dominic, Callington, Cornwall.

WANTED: VHF Receiver Type R.216, complete with PSU.—Whitty, Fourways, Morris Lane, Hal-

sall, Lancs.

WANTED: For historical record purposes: G.P.O. candlestick microphone; Ericsson headphones, 1939-'45 period; Admiralty B.34 receiver (Eddystone Type 358X). Working condition not important.— Box No. 4251, Short Wave Magazine, Ltd., 55 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

WANTED: Receiver, either G2DAF, G3HTA, HRO, CR100 or similar.—G3UMV, 5 Highfield Crescent, Blackheath, Birmingham.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS, READERS—continued

WANTED: Woden UM1 mod. xformer. SALE: HRO bandspread coils, 10-20-40-80m., 15s. each. Also 50-100 kc and 100-200 HRO coilpacks at 10s. each. Round meters, 3in., 100 microamp., 15s. each. Xtals: 9025 kc, 1600 kc, on HC6/U base, 3s. 6d. each. Valves: U19, 5U4, 5s.; R17, 2s. 6d. Please add plenty for post/packing, will refund balance.—Taylor, G3NNW, 162A Birch Road, Rochdale, Lancs.

SALE: Mullard 5-10 RC amplifier, £14; ditto 3-3 RC amplifier, £10, or offers? Both brand new. Carriage paid.—Jones, 261 Richmond Road, Sheffield, 13, Yorkshire.

riage paid.—Jones, 261 Richmond Road, Sheffield, 13, Yorkshire.

MUST SELL: Green & Davis Linear, in mint condition, not a scratch; overhauled not long ago by makers.—G3STL, 145 Benfleet Road, Hadleigh, Essex. (Tel. Southend-on-Sea 559246.)

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