



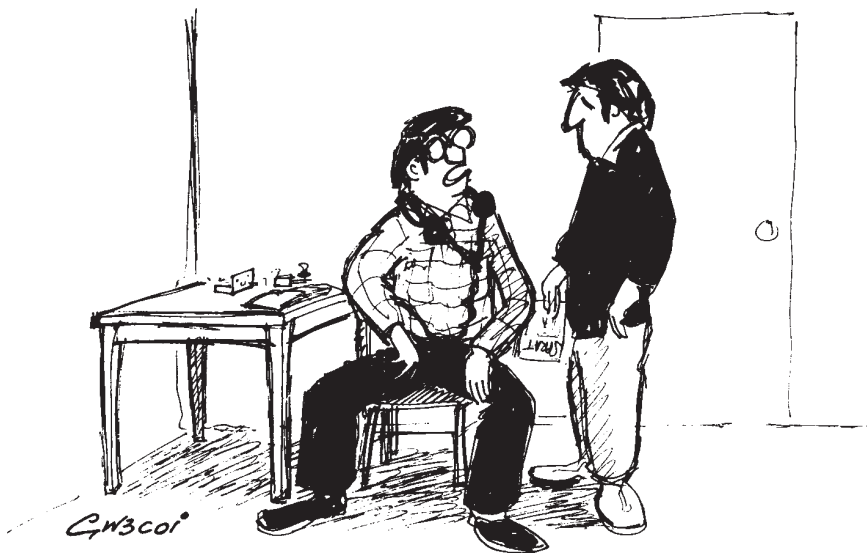
SPRAT

THE JOURNAL OF THE G-QRP CLUB
DEVOTED TO LOW-POWER COMMUNICATION

ISSUE NR. 34

© G-QRP CLUB

Spring 1983



*THE XYL MADE ME MOVE IN HERE
BECAUSE THE RIG WAS OBTRUSIVE.*

*G3GWI HF Transceiver. Argonaut on 160m. Cheap 10FM
Straight Receiver. Twinnysset. TOT30. Phoenix Valve TX.
Keyer. Skelton Cone Antenna.
Award, SSB, VHF & QRP News....*

SPRAT The Journal of the G QRP CLUB



Rev. George Dobbs
G3RJV
17. Aspen Drive,
Chelmsley Wood,
Birmingham.
B37 7QX. 021-770
5918

Dear Members,

Tony's (G4FAT) article in PW, my bit in Amateur Radio and the letter in RadCom seemed to do the trick! Since Christmas I've had over 300 enquiries about the club and over 200 new members and they are still rolling in! It took the club 7 years to reach member 1,000 and has taken 2 years to go from 1,000 to 1700. The interest in QRP and Home Construction seems to be taking off, I thought I had talked to most Radio Clubs within convenient range but so far this year I am booked for 12 more club talks.

One wish is that increased membership will mean increased activity. Dont go on the bands without a listen first, then a call on the calling channels: 1850,3560,7030, 14060,21060&28060 on CW.

This issue brings the last two entries in the RJV Twenty competition. We now call upon the judge, G3KFE, Paul of the Short Wave Magazine to pronounce and I will announce, the winner next issue. It has generated a lot of fun and interest.

The rally season begins, so get out and find those bargains and cheap components. Look out for club members at these events too. I hope to be at Drayton Manor, Derby, Droitwich and Alvaston Castle this year.

We still require calling channels for the new bands...do you listen on them, work them. If so have you got nay suggestions. Quiet spots where we could locate a suitable calling channel perhaps with the 030 or 060 pattern?

hpe cu qrp 73 fer nw.


G3RJV

Subscriptions

Renewal (Rates now £3.50 or \$9 US) to Alan Lake, G4D VW, 7 Middleton Cl. Nuthall, Nottingham. NG16 1BX. PLEASE QUOTE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. Cheques to 'G QRP CLUB'. European members may use Giro Cheques. A reminder will automatically be stamped in sequence onto copies of SPRAT, if you have already paid ignore this notice.

Due 91-120 201-222 272-292 393-418 522-572 772-833 1082-1157 1315-1375

Overdue 0-90 178-200 254-270 351-392,466-524 619-771 1000-1081 1257-1314

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Just a reminder that your subs are due when your Membership Number Appears in the SUBS DUE Notice in SPRAT. This will (usually.) be accompanied by a stamped reminder on your copy.

Please dont worry if you have already paid - the stamping is done automatically on a block basis.

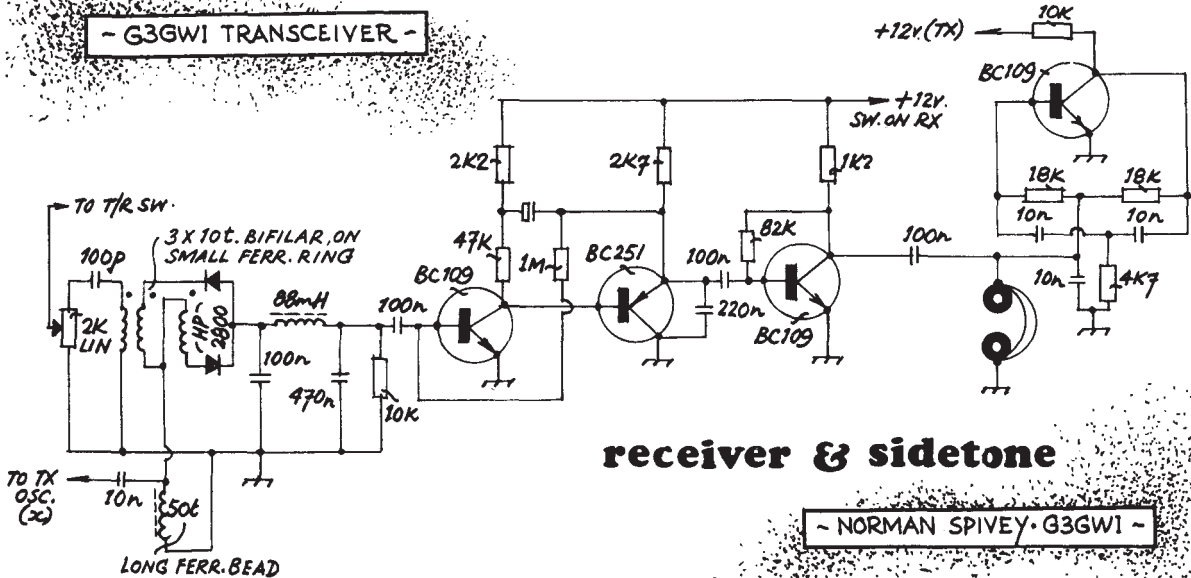
DO NOT count on a further reminder - these are not automatic and require quite a lot of extra work and might get missed.

Unfortunately, if you then find yourself dropped from membership there is no guarantee that we can supply back issues of SPRAT!

The moral is.....PAY UP ON TIME, PLEASE! G4D VW.

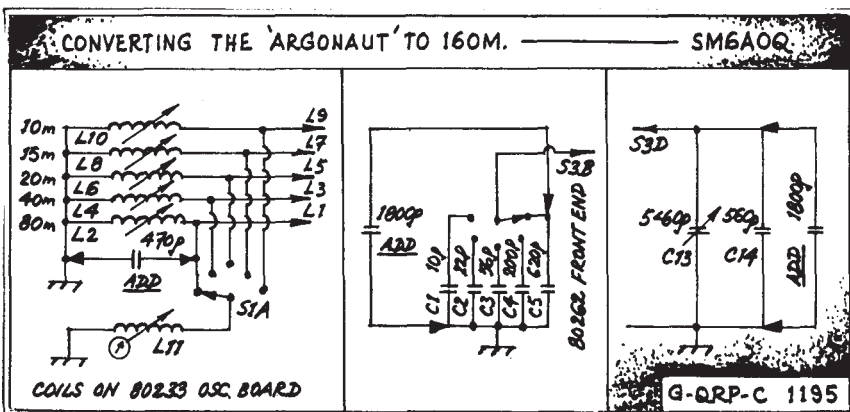
Please note the correct QTH for G4D VW is Middleton CLOSE not Crescent as printed in the QRP Guide last issue.

- G3GWI TRANSCEIVER -



receiver & sidetone

- NORMAN SPIVEY G3GWI -



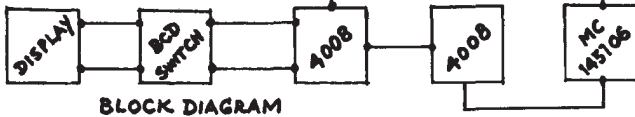
Midnight the 1st of April 1982, was a remarkable moment for Amateur Radio in Sweden. A small part of the top band was then released for SM-stations for the first time after World War II. When I got the first news some two weeks before "zero", I looked around in my shack to see if there was anything I could possibly modify in a simple way for the new band. The Ten Tec Argonaut might be the right choice for a solder exercise, I thought.

I examined the diagram and found, that the final stage should be broad enough, the manufacturer claims, that it works properly down to 1.5 MHz. The circuit between mixer and driver looks more like a low pass filter (that is on eighty of course), and would probably operate even at lower frequencies without modifications. Apparently, the only thing we have to do to get the transmitter on the air on top band is to change the VFO frequency.

The Argonaut is a single conversion affair, and there is no premixing of the VFO frequency, which makes it simple. On 80 meters the VFO frequency is doubled from 6.25 - 6.4 MHz to 12.5 - 12.8 MHz. In order to get output around 1.8 MHz, we have to lower VFO frequency to about 5.4 MHz resulting in 10.8 MHz after doubling. The most simple way to do that, turned out to be a capacitor across the tuning coil, and with 470 pF the "Swedish" portion of the band (1.83 to 1.845) came right in the middle of the scale between .30 and .31. The band pass filter in the VFO has to be slightly retuned, and just a few degrees of turning on the two trimmer capacitors will give enough injection signal to the mixer. Check the signal voltage at 10.83 MHz and 12.8 MHz which is the lowest and highest frequency the band pass filter should work on. Even if the HF-voltage is slightly lower at these edges than the manufacturer recommend, the mixers will certainly work properly. With a test with dummy load I got about 2 Watts of output, and frequency turned out to be correct. Consider that the built in low pass filter will let the 2nd harmonic pass through, so an extra low pass filter is advisable. However, I had an "on the air" test with my friend SM6ZN who supposedly have an accurate S-meter, and the 2nd harmonic on 80 was about 40 dB down in comparison with the fundamental 160 m signal without any extra low pass filter.

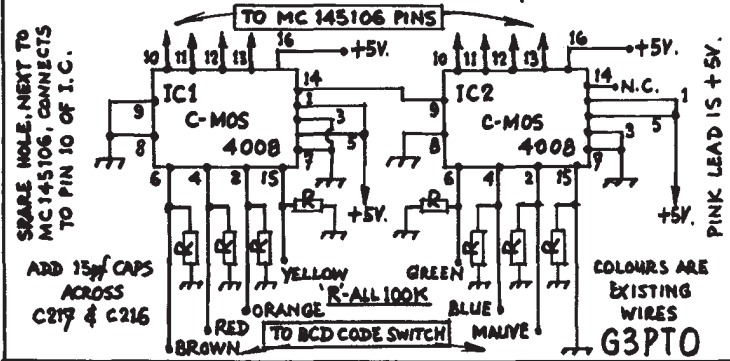
To get the receiver on 160, the resonance has to be changed in the front end circuits. In the Argonaut the tuning on different bands is performed by changing the inductance with the cores in the coils in combination with a change of circuit capacitance with the band switch, thus getting the same L/C relationship on all bands. This would require double value of both the inductance and capacitance in the eighty meter position to get on 160 maintaining correct L/C. A rough method is to make the capacitance four times the value on eighty, which means an additional capacitor of about 1800 pF in parallel with the existing one. The L/C relationship will not be correct of course, but the performance is good enough for reception of most signals.

ICOM ICB-1050 MOD.



PUT A CHEAP
CB RIG
ON 10FM

CCT. TO BE ADDED BETWEEN CODE SWITCH & MC145106



G3PTO

ICOM ICB-1050 TO COVER 10 METRES FM By Chris Morcom, G3VEH and Clem Tabor, G3UGR - compiled by John Reynold, G3PTO

To cover 29.300 to 29.690MHz in 40 steps (10KHz) requires adding 170 to the binary output of the switch. This can be achieved by adding two CD4008 four bit adder chips.

The VCO coil has to be adjusted to its new frequency (T202) of 18.75MHz. This can be either measured with a counter or by monitoring pin 7 of MC 145106 so that the voltage on receive reads one volt. This indicates the PLL is in lock. It is necessary to peak T201 for maximum 10.24MHz, monitor at IC202, pin 4. This adjustment can also be done on transmit by tweaking for maximum power output, it is very critical.

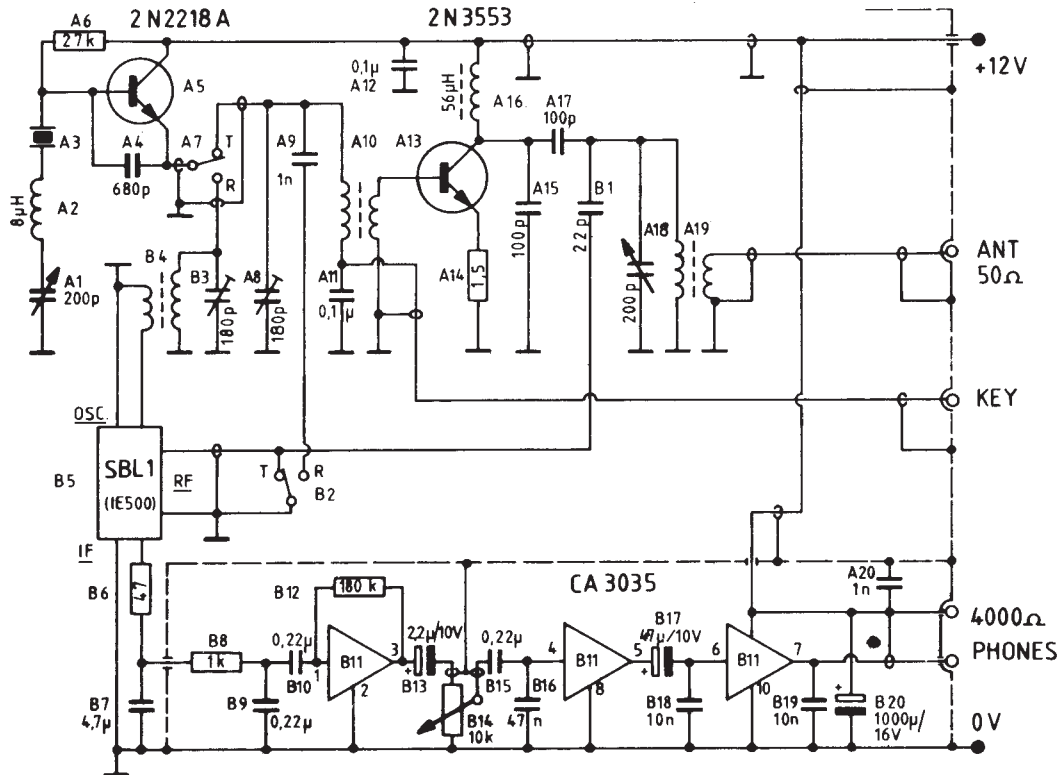
The next step is to peak T101 and T102 for maximum receive signal. NB - 29.6MHz is equal to Channel 31 and the Maryland Repeater is Channel 33.

In transmit mode connect a power meter and dummy load to the antenna socket. Using either a monitor receiver or RF probe and high impedance meter, peak T208 and T209 for maximum output. It is also necessary to peak T207 (in all cases the cores are about 1/8" out of the coils).

At this point a reading should be seen on the power meter and it is then only a matter of peaking T301, T303 and T307 for maximum output. About 3 to 4 watts output should result.

This CB rig is widely available for about £25 and with the mods which cost approximately £1, makes an excellent 10 metres FM transceiver. At present there are approximately 20 stations in the South West of England using them, with more each week. My own results have been three simplex QSOs with the U.S.A. in one week-end of operation during very average conditions, and just using a dipole at 35 feet. Also I have had a QSO with a WB9IBQ/M whilst mobile myself, the antenna being a modified CB whip.

All of the research for these mods was carried out by Chris, G3VEH and Clem, G3UGR to whom I am grateful for their assistance.



DJ1ZB's TWINNYSET

DESIGN AND BUILD A TRANSCIVER FOR THE 20M. BAND USING NO MORE THAN 20 COMPONENTS IN THE TRANSMITTER AND 20 COMPONENTS IN THE RECEIVER AND SUBMIT A LOG OF 20 DXCC COUNTRIES WORKED WITH THE EQUIPMENT..... (A COMPETITION TO MARK TWENTY YEARS OF THE G3RVJ CALLSIGN)

G3RVJ TWENTY COMPETITION

THE TWINNYSET TRANSCEIVER By Ha-Jo Brandt, DJ1ZE

DJ1ZE's solution for The RVJ Twenty Trophy. (In the dialect spoken along The North Sea coast of Germany, where the author lived during High School, Twunny means Twenty.)

Design Guidelines - It was a real challenge to design a transceiver with so few parts which had to be useful in practice. From the beginning, a direct conversion concept was regarded the only solution for the receiver section. Experience gained with The HW7 indicated that the mixer should be balanced to minimize AM detection, but all the configurations using mixer ICs or the CA3046 array would have needed too many parts. Besides this, there would be no parts left for a good receiver preselector, so a mixer with a large dynamic range seemed necessary. Finally a diode ring mixer was chosen, remembering W7EL's "Optimized QRP Transceiver" (See Sprat Autumn 1980 and QST August 1980), and the use of the SBL-1 mixer in The "Bren" (See Sprat Autumn 1981).

Without any amplification in or ahead of the mixer, a three stage AF amplifier was needed for high impedance headphones (4000 ohms). The CA3035, not too popular but well known to all HW7 owners and still in the RCA programme, offered the necessary amount of amplification with the least number of external parts.

For the transmitter section, a VFO was tried on paper, but too many parts would have been needed, leaving too few for the buffer and PA design. A VXO-PA was the final choice, using the 2N3553 in the PA to achieve maximum output with minimum drive, as in The Lagos QRPeter (See Sprat Summer 1980).

The Circuit - All components are designated with the letter A for the transmitter and B for the receiver section. A5 is the VXO transistor. The emitter circuit A8 - A10 is adjusted for best PA drive, but must remain on the capacitive side of resonance to sustain oscillations. The PA tank is tuned by A18 for best output to a 50 ohms load. VXO excitation may be controlled by varying A6. Keying is accomplished in the emitter path of the VXO (about 20mA). PA emitter current is limited by the data sheet to 330 mA (0.5 volt at PA emitter resistor. The 2N3375 with 0.5A current limit may also be used).

If A8 is not adjusted properly, the transmitter may show parasitic oscillations. Therefore the output should be checked by a separate receiver, or by a dummy load connected to a video detector and an oscilloscope. The scope must show pure DC voltage, perhaps some residual RF, but no low frequency oscillations.

During receive, the circuit B3-B4 is connected to the VXO, feeding the mixer local oscillator port (0.5 to 1 volt). By listening to a separate receiver B3 is adjusted so that the VXO frequency is the same as in transmit operation, preferably slightly detuned by 500 to 1000Hz so a beat note will be produced if transmit and receive frequencies are exactly the same. A station must be tuned in on the right side of zero beat of course, as with the original HW8.

During transmit the mixer input is short circuited by B2. In the receive position the PA tank serves as a broad preselector. Resonant circuit A8-A10 must be detuned from resonance to prevent reception via A13 and the oscillator input.

B6 represents the IF output termination of the mixer for all RF frequencies, and in combination with B7 forms the first section of an RC low pass filter with a cut off point of about 700Hz. As the pin 1 input impedance of the CA3035 is rather high a good match cannot be obtained here (in contrast with W7EL's receiver). However, this allows the second RC section to be designed at an intermediate impedance, thus improving selectivity due to less loading of both RC sections.

For easier understanding the CA3035 (E11) is shown as three separate amplifiers (ground connections simplified). It is not recommended to place the AF volume control at the input, otherwise the noise of the first stage will be heard. B16 and B19 reduce the gain at higher frequencies, stabilising the amplifier at low and medium audio frequencies. B18 was needed to avoid saturation of the

final amplifier due to RF pickup from the VXO on the same PCB. The high value of B20 is recommended because the three stages of the CA3035 are operated on the same supply line without internal decoupling (danger of motor boating). The hot output line of the CA3035 is shielded to avoid stray coupling to the input which would cause instability. The leads to the volume control potentiometer are also shielded.

A20 is the first capacitor to prevent RF harmonics from leaving the metal case of the transceiver and causing TVI. More capacitors and ferrite beads would have been needed at the keyer and positive supply jacks to solve this problem completely (see Lagos QRPeter). As a substitute shielded cables were used for these connections.

The whole transmitter was built into a Teko 4/B aluminium box (137 x 70 x 40mm), most parts being arranged on a single PCP. For the capacitors A8, A18 and B3 mica compression trimmers maybe used, or those foil trimmers manufactured by Dau (A-8563 Ligist, Austria, up to 500pF!). The CA3055 amplifier circuit however had to be additionally shielded, and in future designs a separate PCB will be employed for it, enclosed in a small metal box.

Using a HC-25/U crystal of 14065KHz substituted by DL7MAM, the VXO had a pulling range of about 15KHz, with 7uH for A2. This flexibility in frequency enabled the author to work the 20 DXCC countries needed within about two weeks. Several QRP stations were also worked in this period including GM3RKO, G8IB, ON6QE, G8PG and GM3OXX.

Final Remarks - The most important experience with this receiver was its immunity to AM broadcast stations. Using a 21 metres end-fed wire tuned to 50 ohms, (LC network in low pass form), it never was necessary to insert any attenuation into the mixer input line. As the oscillator power for such a mixer (5mW or more) is easily available from the transmitter section of a direct conversion transceiver, this solution is highly recommended, especially for European receiving conditions. It should also be possible to improve the popular HW7 with such a mixer, tapping the oscillator frequency from the collector of Q4 via a buffer and an amplifier.

The cut off frequency of the RC network maybe lowered to about 500Hz. Without component limitations more AF selectivity may be added including active filters between the CA3035 amplifiers.

Finally it should be mentioned that the VXO pulling range shows two irregularities, where the frequency does a sudden jump. This effect is caused by the emitter resonant circuit, which on the other hand is necessary to obtain optimum power transfer to the PA input. A separate VXO with resistive loading, as in The Lagos QRPeter, will not show this problem, enabling an even larger pulling range.

To make future use of the PCB and the transceiver construction, it will be converted to the new 10MHz band, employing a separate VXO, pi network output and CW monitor. A RIT will also be tried.

RF Coil Data - A2 molded RF choke, 7uH

A10 Amidon T50-6, 15 turns, PA link 4 turns.

A19 Amidon T50-6, 10 turns, output link 5 turns.

B4 Amidon T37-6, 16 turns, mixer link 2 turns.

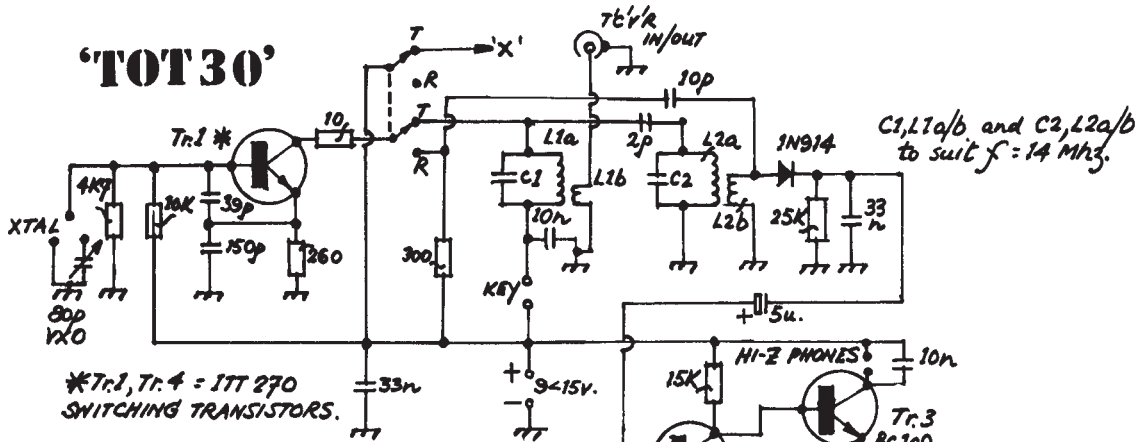
NEWS FROM WJFB:

Doug DeMaw writes to tell me he is to take early retirement from the ARRL to his farm in Michigan (do you need a chaplain, Doug!!) This is sad in many ways because under Dougs steering the QST has become a valuable magazine for QRP home constructors. But the good news is that Doug will still write for QST and plans to market QRP Kits and is working on a QRP Handbook. We are look out for it now! Solid State Design For the Radio Amateur of which Doug is joint author has become the standard text book for all constructors in QRP.

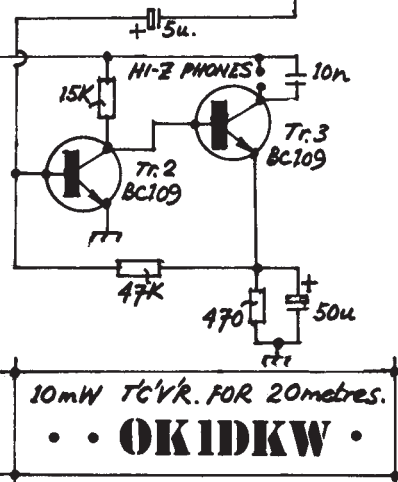
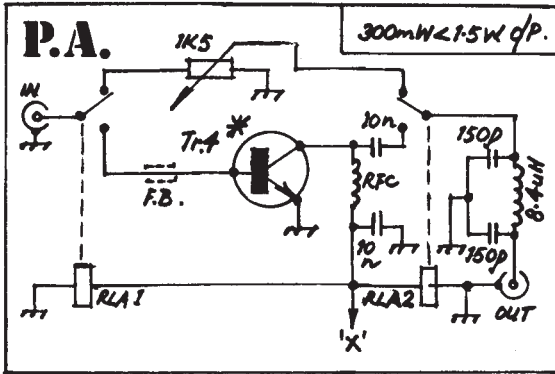
SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS:

TIMESTEP ELECTRONICS LTD (Egremont St. Glemsford, Sudbury. Suffolk) have offered a 10% discount for all G QRP Club members. They stock a useful range including kits for the famous Timothy Edwards MK2 144MHz Preamp. Please send a stamp or SAE when asking for their lists.

'TOT30'



*Tr.1, Tr.4 = 1T 270 SWITCHING TRANSISTORS.



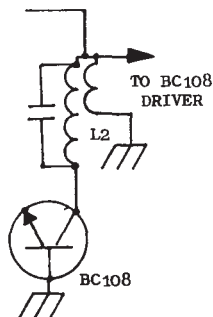
An RV Twenty Circuit

THE TOT 30 TRANSCIVER By Petr Doudera, OK1DKW

The basic unit, which is placed in an aluminium box is a three transistor transceiver with thirty components with about 10mW output. T1 serves as VXO or CO in transmit mode, it can either operate alone as a QRPpp transceiver for local QSOs or it drives the PA. In receive mode T1 is a local oscillator for the DC receiver. From antenna, the signal goes through a two circuit bandpass filter to a one diode mixer with 1N914 and then to a two stage AF amplifier with two BC 109s. The supply voltage is 9 to 15 volts, and a good compromise for both the transmitter and the receiver is 12 volts.

The PA is in a separate screened box, T4 is with a heat sink, it is connected with the transceiver by a thin coax cable. By simply connecting the points "X" the transceiver will operate with the PA while in receive mode it uses the pi-net and attenuator which is very important for reducing the AM breakthrough.

The receiver is very FB. To my surprise I found it very sensitive considering the number of components. Measured absolute sensitivity was around 2uV. On the band performance was also very good, two-way QRP QSOs with two stations speak in favour of the receiver. I worked I5QHV/2W and G8IB/5W. At my fixed QTH I used my low inverted vee 20 metre end fed antenna and at the /P QTH in Eastern Bohemia, I had a dipole the centre of which was only about 4½ metres high and the ends just 2½ metres high. I have been enjoying both the constructing and operating of this little transceiver. I had a few very interesting QSOs and chats with OH5AD and SM5CBC for more than an hour. I often got words of surprise from the other station, e.g. when I told PA0GVL I was using a 40 component four transistor rig which takes 15 x 15 Cms on the kitchen table running from battery and using that low dipole, he told me "it is unbelievable that you can have a chat with me with such a rig - here is a box full of transistors and ICs."



From "Wee RIG" by GM30XX in SPRAT 33.

L2 was incorreccted shown and has a link winding as shown which goes to the driver stage

COIL DETAILS:

WFO Coil: 21t. 0.71mm Enal on T-68-6 (tap by adjustment, as low as possible) C1 is about two vanes in an airspaced variable, cut to suit coverage.

L2: 18t. 32swg on 5mm coil + core and can. Link: 4T.

L3: 15t. 32swg " " " "

L4: 12t. 24swg on T-50-6

FOR SALE: B2 SPY TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER, Full set coils, Circuit and spares, in mint condx. £40, or exchange for Mk 128 or W.H.Y.

WANTED: HRO Coil Packs 7.00-14.4 & 14-30 MHz and HRO dial knob and any spare valves (UX bases) Adrian, G4GDR. Swindon 762970 (QTHR)

WANTED: FRG-7 (with fine tuning control) at reasonable cost. No mods pse. Must be good cosmetic and electronic condx.

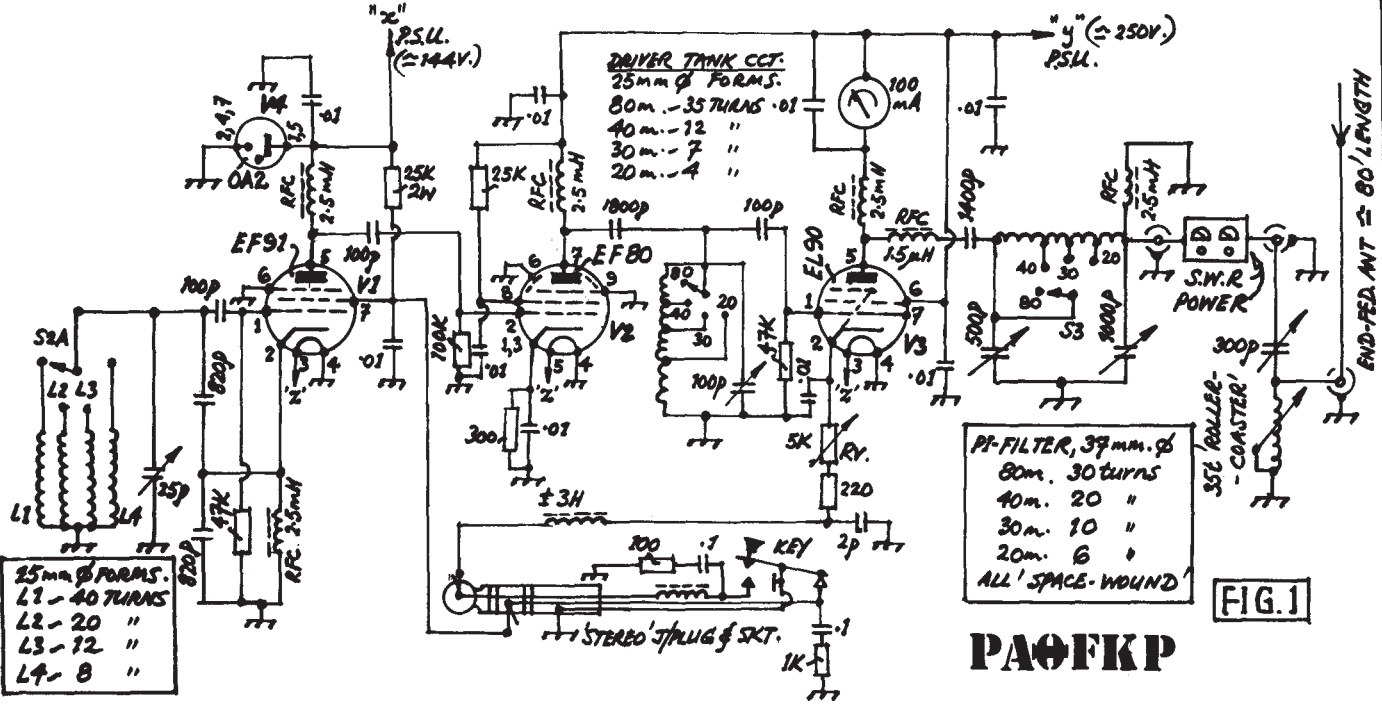
Mk 123 Sets for 2 fellow QRPers, Also 128 Set, Tubes for 123/128 sets. These rigs will have a good home. Interested in all accessories for 123/128. Rich Arland (G5CSU) 29 Highclere Cl. Studlands Park, Newmarket. (Nwmkt 667055)

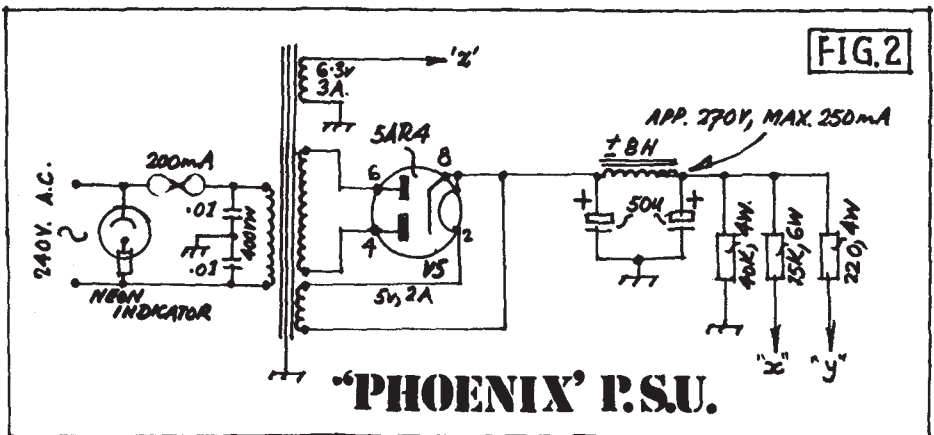
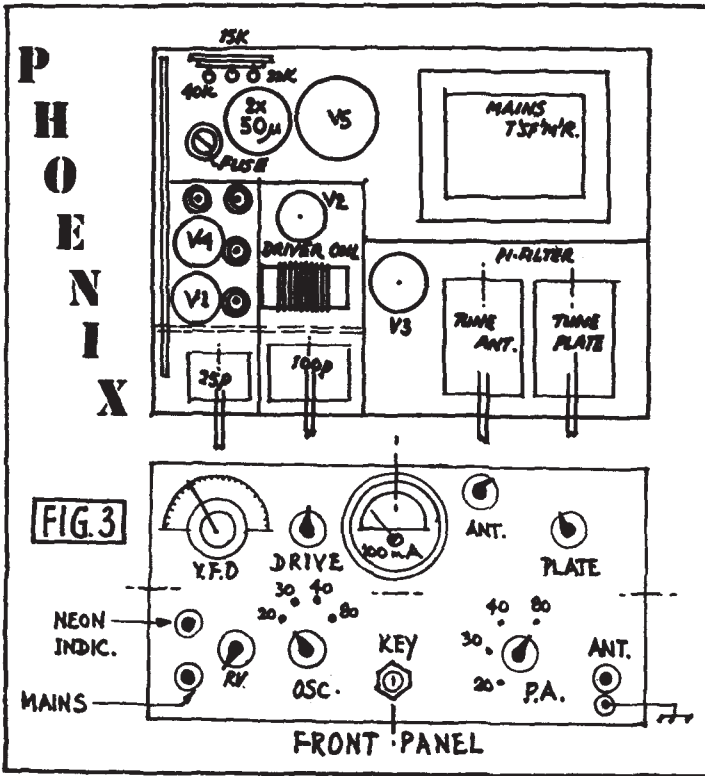
WANTED: Burndept Epicyclic Slow Motion Dials (Pre-1930 pattern) or Igranic Indigraph Dials. Ring or write: G3SSJ (Alresford 3816) 'Badgers' 37 Nursery Road, Alresford. SO24 9JW.

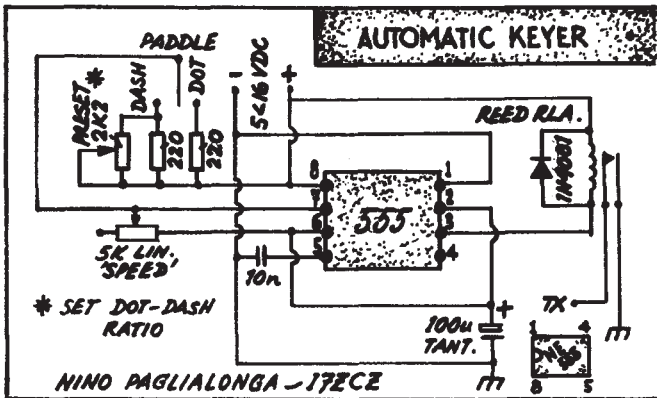
Anyone want a spare cabinet for an AR88 or S36, Ring G2CAV: 0234 711273.

In line with the recent increasing interest in valve equipment we offer a complete VFO controlled QRP Transmitter. The circuit originally appeared in the journal of the BENELUX QRP CLUB. The complete circuit diagram and suggested layout should provide enough information for members wishing to attempt this circuit. We thank Colin, G3VTT, for translating the notes from the original Dutch.

'PHOENIX' C.W. QRP TX

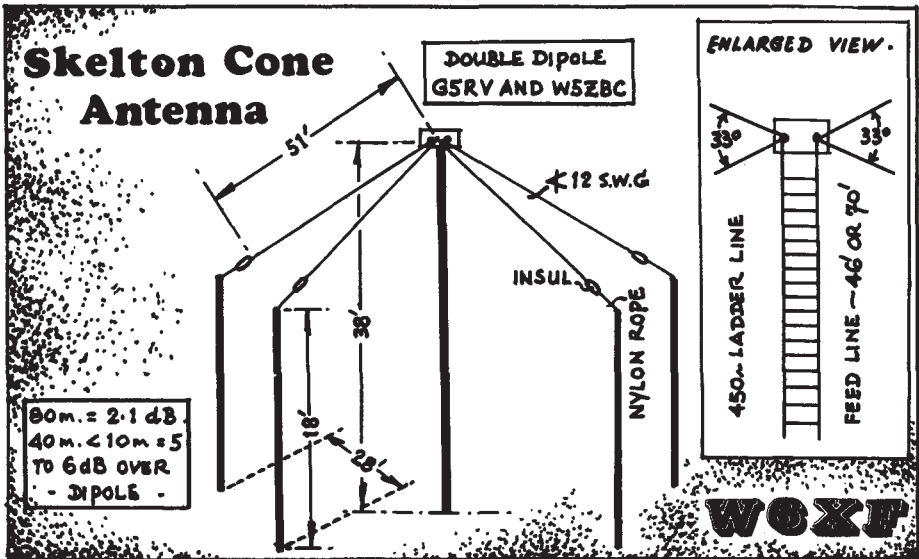






From: NOTIZIARIO QCA QRP CLUB
 A KEYPER WITH ONE 555 I.C.
 Set up on meter on Ohms $\times 10$ range. Make dots and adjust speed to flick needle 50%. Makes dashes adjust preset to read 75% FSD.
 Power: 5 volts at 15mA
 Speed: 20/200 characters per minute.

Note unusual pinout order which follows the Italian circuit drawing.



The basic idea of the Skelton Cone comes from The R.S.G.B. Handbook (3rd edition), and has claims varying between 2.1 to 7dBs gain over a dipole on all bands. It has a 1:1 SWR over all bands, is used with an antenna tuner and seems to have a pattern of 360 degrees.

Bob Spidell, W6SKQ (355) has been using a Skelton Cone for some time on the 40 and 80 metres bands. It is suspended from his tower at a height of 38 feet and is fed with 300 ohm twin lead to his homebrew Ultimate Transmatch. The ends of the antenna are 14 feet above earth instead of the designed 18 feet, because of physical limitations at his QTH. Bob has worked JA, UA and KH6 with it and feels it should do well in The U.K.

Bob says that the gain figures are fairly high, but his antenna out performs a 130 feet inverted vee at 38-45 feet above ground, so he is sticking with it. For 160 metres he suggests one could tie the feeders together and operate top load or umbrella fashion.

George, G3RJV describes the antenna as two G5RVs, and it has been his standard antenna for the last two years.

QRP News:

THE A.R.C.I. SPRING QSO PARTY

This Annual event organised by our friends in The A.R.C.I. QRP Club in the U.S.A. is from 1200z 23.4.83 to 2400z 24.4.83 with a maximum of 24 hours participation. Exchange RS(T), followed by State/Province/Country. ARCI members give their Club number and non members their output power. Stations maybe worked once per band and mode (CW and SSB) for QSO credits.

Multipliers depends on your output power as follows :- 4 to 5 watts CW or 8 to 10 watts PEP X 2, 3/4 watts CW or 6/8 watts PEP X 4, 2/3 watts CW or 4/6 watts PEP X 6, 1/2 watts CW or 2/4 watts PEP X 8, and less than 1 watt CW or 2 watts PEP X 10

Scoring is the total of QSO points (made up of 5 points for QSOs with members, 4 points for non-member QSOs outside USA and VE, and 2 points for non member QSOs in USA or VE), multiplied by the total of States/Provinces/Countries worked on each band multiplied by the power multiplier.

Use a separate log sheet for each band, and send entry to be received by 21st May to William W. Dickerson, WA2JOC, 230 Mill Street, Danville, Pennsylvania, 17821, U.S.A. Certificates to highest scoring stations in each country.

This is a very popular QRP contest in the U.S.A. and comes at a time of the year when the Spring conditions are usually still holding up. Many ARCI members are also members of G-QRP-CLUB and this is a good opportunity for you guys who complain that you never hear the USA members of our Club on the bands, to get on 28060, 21060 and 14060 for the CW buffs and 28885, 21385 and 14285 for the SSB types.

WANT SOME REAL CW ?

All members of EUCW organisations are invited to take part in the SCAG Straight Key Day on June 25th, 1983. This event is for those using straight keys, not el bugs. It is not a contest, but a friendly meeting on the air. Times are 0600 to 1800 GMT and frequencies 3550-70, 7030-40, and 14050-70 KHz. A list of stations worked, together with a vote for best fist, would be appreciated. Send it to G. Lilja, SM6AWA, Gardesvagen 14 B, S-43500, Molnlycke, Sweden.

CRYSTALS - Any frequency 3 to 120 MHz made to order in 8 - 9 weeks.
Prices from £4.50 each (inclusive). SAE details.

CRYSTAL FILTERS - Many types including: 455 kHz, 9, 10.7, 21.4 MHz etc.
10.695 MHz Monolithic Crystal Filters, HC18/U, 7 kHz Bandwidth.
Necessary to improve most CB rigs (whether modified or not).
Price £4.00 each (incl.).

SPECIAL 'SPRAT' OFFER to G-QRP CLUB Members.

QRP Calling Channel Crystals. Price £3.00 each (incl.).
3560 7030 14060 kHz HC25/U, Fundamental, 20 ppm, 30pF.
21060 28060 28080 kHz " 3rd Overtone, " "
1850 kHz HC25/U, £4.75 May be several weeks delivery.

Now also: 14030 14040 14050 kHz. Crystals for other bands will be added when suitable frequencies have been decided.

Useful wire-ended MPU crystals that are in, or will multiply to, amateur bands: 1843.2 3579.5 5068.8 14318 kHz.
Price £2.75 each (incl.).

P. R. GOLLEDGE ELECTRONICS

MERRIOTT

Telephone 0460 73718

SOMERSET TA16 5NS

G3EDW Ex- D2DW, VQ2W, 9J2W

Award News

New QRP Master

Congratulations to GM4ELV on qualifying for the Master Award.

QRP WAG

AJ1Q (first ever for 7 MHz only), G5GSU.

QRP Countries

175 GM3OXX, 50 AJ1Q (all 7 MHz), 25 EA2SN.

Worked G QRP Club

220 GM3OXX, 100 G4JFN, I7CCF, 60 GM4ELV, GM3RKO, 20 G4GDR, G4IKR.

Two-way QRP

10 GM4HBG, Y02SB, G3JKB.

1983 - Year of Technical Development

This is the year of WQF technical development. ALL our members are asked to build a piece of equipment, try some antenna experiments, or do some propagation research. We then want a short report on your efforts. We are also interested in knowing how many of our members use stations at least 50% home brew. If you are in this category please drop a card to G3PG with brief details.

G QRP Club CW NOVICE AWARD

The European CW Association has declared 1983 to be the Year of the CW Novice. As part of this programme, the G QRP Club are offering a special Award for newly licenced operators who use the CW mode. Details of this Award are:

1. Eligibility. The Award is only open to stations licenced on or after 1st June, 1982.
2. Period of Award. All contacts claimed for the purpose of the Award must be made during the year 1983. Contacts may be made on any amateur band for which the applicant is licenced; tne, must all be on CW.
3. Required contacts. For the purposes of the Award the applicant must have contacted 50 (fifty) other amateur stations.
4. Classes. The Award will be issued in two classes. For the Class A Award all contacts must have been made when the applicant was using a dc power input not exceeding 5w (five watts). For the class B Award any power not exceeding that for which the station is licenced may be used.
5. Award applications. Applications shall consist of a list of the stations contacted, including date and band used. The list must be signed by the applicant and countersigned by one other licenced amateur who has seen the log entries. For Class A the applicant must also include a signed statement that his dc input did not exceed 5 watts when making the contacts claimed.
6. Application fees and address. UK applicants must send 50p in UK stamps with their application. Overseas applicants must send 3 ircs. All applications must be received not later than 31st March, 1984. Applications must be addressed to: Communications Manager, G QRP Club, 37, Pickerill Road, Greasby, Merseyside, L49 3ND England.

HELP A VICAR!! I am attempting to build a radio telescope for a fellow local clergyman who is an astronomer. We require a cheap chart recorder, ideally in should have input Z of 2K, but who's fussy. However it must use available chart paper. Got any ideas or sources...as cheap as possible! G3RJV.

ZX81 PROGRAMMES: If any members have programmes of interest for the ZX81, WOUN and KL7BT would like to try them. Programmes of Radio or QRP interest. Route them via G3RJV...my xyl has a ZX81 and might run them for me!

I think it should be 'program' but why ruin English!

SSB News

Ian Keyser G3ROO.

A quick one this month, deadline is early. I've had very little news from members and only two comments on the proposed short contest, so will leave it until the autumn.

News in brief: Sked Changes from daily 14333 to Saturday/Sunday 1430z on 14285 + QRM, listen for per (SM0FSM), Rod (G4MIJ) and myself as regulars. The change is because of lack of QSOs on 14333. I hope we can re-activate the sked to the previous level.

By the time this is in print the Marconi Contest will be history, we only hope there is more activity than last year...no British entry at all!

Let us try another idea to promote activity, based upon an idea by Rod (G4MIJ). Most of us use CW for the majority of our contacts. When in QSO with a fellow QRP'er, ask for an SSB QSO and QSY to the SSB freqs. There may be another QRP'er listening who might join you.

For anyone who wishes a QSO with me, I monitor 28.500 at all times I am in the shack and also tend to listen on 3560 or 7030 (cw) while I'm building gear.

Please write with your news, others want to hear it and where to find you and it only takes the time of one QSO to write!

73 fer nw Ian (G3ROO)

P.S. My latest rig 'The Whitfield' is about to be published in the Short Wave Magazine - Its SSB and QSK CW for 160/80M.

VHF News

My first job as VHF Manager is to introduce myself. I am the sort of character that tends to innovate rather than complete anything, so it is very rare if I get past the stage of proving that an idea actually works, though this occasionally happens. The last VHF Manager felt as though he was banging his head against a wall because of the lack of response to VHF from the membership. Well VHF is alive and well in New Zealand at least. Michael, ZL1ABS (1065) dispels the idea that VHF means two metres. He has been active on 6 metres and promises to send his design for the 750mW version of his 50MHz set in time for the next issue.

What about the other way though? I am currently building a 10GHz transceiver, or rather rebuilding it! It went off on about 11.5GHz the first time!

I am also trying to prise out of a C.A.R.S. member, G4HRY Dave, something on paper for his 70cm transverter which I know works very well. He tends to work like me - build the thing first and then work out what the circuit is!

If anyone is interested I have a limited number of ex-radio control crystal transmitter boards, which gave out about 100mW of RF at 27.125MHz. By changing one capacitor they can be made to run at 45.1 to 45.3MHz (5th overtone of crystal).

I have used one such item as a self oscillating mixer to listen to 4 metres using an HRO tuned to around 25MHz, but it has occurred to me that they could be quite interestingly used on the 6 metre band. A DC transceiver, operating at about 5MHz and a mixer is all that would be necessary. (An existing 80 metre transceiver could be modded.) See the block diagram. I have about ten of the above units available at £2 each, including U.K. postage. My QTH is 14 Hollow Crescent, Radford, Coventry, CV6 1NT.

(NOTE FROM G3RJV: It would be possible for HF fans to use these units to convert or transvert from 10 metres to 160 metres - 28.925 to 29.125MHz)

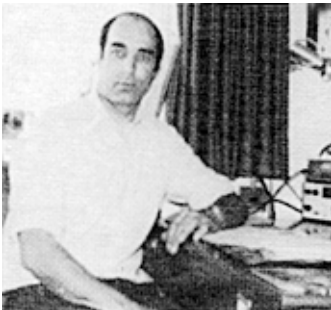
TWO METRE SSB SKEDS REQUIRED BY GERMAN MEMBER:

Fredrich Fabri, DF10Y, (Mallinckrodtstr. 52, 4790 Paderborn. W. Germany.) has worked 5 x GW, 6 x GM, 51 x G with 3w pep to 16el yaqi but only G4DHF from the club. He wants more skeds, contact direct or via G8SEQ, our VHF Manager.

A SPEAKER REQUIRED: Chesham and District ARS (c/o J.Alldridge, 15 Whichcote Gdns, Chesnam. Bucks) would like a talk on QRP. Can anyone help? I could supply the club talk file and/or a set of slides. (G3RJV)

CALLING THE BRISTOL COMPUTER MEMBER: Sorry I've lost my notes and hence who you are! You offered to put G QRP Club membership on your extensive system. Could you contact me again please. G3RJV.

Members News:



Chris Page
G4BUE

By the time this is published the R.S.G.B. HF Convention at Birmingham will be a thing of the past. At the time of writing (13 Feb.) it is something to look forward to. Staying with George (G3RJV) and his family is always a pleasure, but to have the added attraction of GM30XX, G3VTF and G5CSU staying there as well, what more can one ask for? Add to that the members who will be at the convention, and it is indeed a week-end to look forward to.

Talking of GM30XX, George recently celebrated his silver wedding with a big shindig in Edinburgh. He also worked ZS3BI for country number 186 to celebrate further. I heard a whisper that George has other talents besides being a DXer, he recently completed the Edinburgh Marathon in the very fine time of 3 hours and 48 minutes - not bad for someone celebrating his silver wedding, must be something to do with the air north of the border!!

The Winter Sports seems to have been another success, although conditions were not as good as in previous years. G8PG worked UB5CI who was also running QRP, and G3DNF and GM4ELV also report two way QRP QSOs with the UB5 station.

How about a W.A.S. with QRP in 13 days? Brice, W9PNE did just that on the 10MHz band when it was recently opened to U.S. amateurs. Brice mentions that he cannot raise any DX though - who should worry with W.A.S. in 13 days! Listen for big signals from Brice as he now has a TH5 on a 52 feet tower. GW4IED is now working in SU, but has not tried for a licence due to the official problems. Bob has a FRG7 to a long wire for receiving but says the RF noise has to be heard to be believed. There is no suppression on anything and nothing is earthed.

DXCC totals are continuing to rise for members, CT4CH is now 102 confirmed, G4EBO is 99/75, GM4ELV is 180/132, and PY2TU 115/79. K9PNG is 107/73 and mentions 3B8FK as the last new one worked. Jim worked Ian, G3R00 on 28MHz. Ian was actually calling CQ QRP on CW (steady Ian!!). Jim told Ian that he promised him he wouldn't tell me that Ian was working CW, but couldn't resist commenting on Ian's dexterity with the old key. Jim says "we call that bait and switch, hi". G4KKI is looking for information for a circuit diagram or handbook on the receiver Eagle Star SR550 Bill will pay any costs involved.

Congratulations to Dave, GM4ELV who has just received the Ade Weiss QRPP DXCC Trophy No. 41. Ben, CT4CH asks me to point out that if you hear SM6YF/MM on 21060, it is CT4CH at work on his ship running two watts input. Moser, PY2TU offers a tip to Argonaut 515 owners. Recently his went weak due to a big storm. The PA transistors needing replacing, but it was difficult to get them in Brazil. They were replaced with NEC C1306 K19B transistors, and Moser says the result was five watts output instead of the usual 2/3 watts.

G4GDR has recently been working in the U.S.A., in Texas and Louisiana to be exact. Adrian offers a tip for members visiting the U.S.A. and who want to obtain a permit, (G3RJV take note). Contact Dale Cliff, WA3NLO at A.R.R.L. He got Adrian's permit through in two weeks. On a different tact Adrian wants a Command receiver for 7MHz. It must be in good condition and Adrian can be contacted on Swindon 762970 if anyone can help.

G3YCC has been following your scribe's footsteps with milliwattling! Frank has been trying out 100mW input. The result was VE1RV on 21MHz with his Argonaut. Your scribe tried his 100mW input out in The A.R.R.L. 28MHz Contest in December. On the Sunday I worked 19 States including W6 - who says the present sunspots have gone!! G4JFN is on 66/58 at present, and is also QRV on 144MHz. He would be pleased to hear from other members who would like to try some QRP skeds on that

band. Bob was pleased to see John, F6FZL as a newmember of the Club, as John introduced Bob to QRPing back in August 1980. G4KLQ reports a short session with a vertical on 14MHz from a canal boat with a 50 feet steel hull, amongst the hills around Rugby. Edd received a 579 from New England to show the system was working.

Not so much news on what members are building this time -obviously keeping it all secret for the week-end at Birmingham! G8PG has built the OXO on a small tag-strip 2½x1½, with 800mW output from a 2N3053. In addition to working around Europe with it Gus has shown it to his RAE class to illustrate what real amateur radio is. Gus wants to take it with him to VE6 in the Summer. G3VFP says he has always been a active homebrewer, and at present is also using a version of the OXO transceiver. David uses a 2N3866 and obtains an output of just over one watt. A 559 from a USA station testifies that it is working. G4JJN is another who has built the OXO, in addition to the Ben and Super OXO. Alan also runs a TS120V and FRG7 as his main station. G4MIJ, Rod is also another using a Super OXO.

Iain tells me of a QRP get-together in the middle of January in East Scotland. He says that himself, GM4HBG, GM30XX and GM3RKO have all built a one valve vintage rig and are having a little competition between themselves to work the furthest with them Iain adds that membership of the Club and interest in QRP is fast growing in East Scotland. That is very true Iain, as I noticed the other day that there are more GM holders of Ade Weiss's QRPP DXCC Trophy than there are G members.

GM4JJG whilst telling me of his endorsements to his certificates add that he doesn't like the word 'endorsement'. Ronnie says "it is a nasty word and has connotations of driving offences"! I had to chuckle about his remarks, being in the profession I am in, although it is a different department, hi. Ronnie says his brother, Club member G3IGN is now licensed as EA7DWK in Malaga. Ronnie adds a tip for anyone who cannot afford a PCB drill. Tandy are selling what looks like a toy wheel brace, miniature and made in plastic with a brass collet chuck and two drills for £2. It works very well for drilling small holes in PCBs.

A Christmas card from OK1DKW tells me that Petr is hoping to be back on the air in October when his military service is finished. Those of you who want to work Delaware for W.A.S. listen out for Robert, N3CUD who is QRV with a HW8 to a dipole. He hopes to obtain a vertical shortly. KH6CP is on 112/101, and back in his homeland of W3 he is 73/7 with 0.72 watts output. Zachary agrees with the comments of N4FLC in the last issue of Sprat about the difficulty of working members of the Club on two-way QRP. He says that two-way QRP is quite easy up to 2,000 Kms distance, but after that it gets much more difficult unless there is excellent propagation. A glance at the map will tell you that even within 2,000 Kms on Hawaii, there is not a lot to be worked! Zachary mentions that he has not heard of any members of the Club outside Europe or Africa winning the basic Worked Members Award. I know there are several close to it.

Zachary's comments about the difficulty of working members of the Club, brings me nicely to the first Activity Week-end of 1983, over 19/20 March - details in the last edition of Sprat. This is the week-end when QRPers all over the world will be listening for each other, and it should cut out some of those long odds of working two-way QRP around the world. For instance in the Winter Sports, GM30XX worked ZS6AOU who was running three watts. In previous week-ends two-ways with JA, KL7, VK and ZL have been accomplished, so it can be done. Being QRV on the right band at the right time is half the secret. Following the CW week-end is a SSB week-end on 7/8 May, details in last Sprat, and results to Ian, G3R00 please. In between them is the R.S.G.B. Low Power Contest on 3.5 and 7MHz on 17 April for U.K. and European members.

KC5EV, Leo tells me (or rather his XYL Sharon tells me) that plans are well ahead for the A.R.R.L. National Convention which is being held in Houston at the beginning of October. A two hour QRP forum is planned on the Saturday with W1FB from ARRL, K8IF from QRP ARCL, W0RSP from CQ and our own G3RJV. Anyone lucky enough to find themselves in Texas at that time should make a point of going as it promises to be the QRP event in the U.S.A. this year.

That's it again, space has beaten me, hope to CU at Birmingham. Let me know how your Spring goes, by 20 May please, together with any QSLs to be sent out with Sprat.

best 73,

Chris

SPRAT: The journal of the G-QRP-CLUB

Editor: Rev. G.C. Dobbs G3RJV

Artwork: A.W. McNeill G3FCK

Text-type: C.J. Page G4BUE



Membership Info: New System

In the past we have printed full details of each new member in the club in SPRAT. As from this issue we will only print: NUMBER-CALLSIGN-NAME USED ON AIR (if known) and QTH TOWN. This will serve most members needs for QSO information. Complete records of all membership details are about to be stored on computer. For members who require further information we will soon be able to provide a variety of membership details and lists, probably:

a) Callsigns in order, with numbers b) Numbers in order with callsigns
c) Complete lists, including full QTH sorted by either callsign or number.
This information will be completely updated each quarter year and members will be able to receive their requirements for the cost of a printout.
We hope to announce full details in the next issue.

.....if we had continued as before, the new members for this issue would have filled five pages!

QRP GUIDE CALLSIGN LIST CORRECTIONS:

ADD: G3CIN, G4BJZ, G4ENW, G4HNF, I9SKK, HB9AK, ZL4HX,
CORRECT: G44ELV (not EVL), G4GIK (not FIK), PA3BWB (not BDB), DK5KD (not AD)
DL7MAM (not MAN), 1572 is G4KNU (not KNW), 1464 is G4JXX (not KXX)

NEW CALLSIGNS:

121 now G4OKO (ex G8IGZ) 616 now G6HYJ 634 now G4PQF 830 now G4RMC (ex G8ZNC)
918 now NB50 (ex KC5YY) 1185 now G4PUU (ex G6DQV) 1300 EI9EW (ex EI5ATB)
1312 now G4RKT (ex G6GKN) 1316 now G4RAW 1347 now G4SCT 1364 now G4OHR
1369 now KV9K (ex KA9KDR) 1455 now G4RAU 1505 now G4FXD (ex G6KDV)

New Members:

1564 G4NPQ Geoff, Selby
1565 G6MDA Alistair, Tamworth
1566 PA6ADZ Kees, Ren
1567 WA5BUC Fred, Houston
1568 DL6YBQ Ludwig, Tegklenburg
1569 PA6HEL Helmich, Delft
1570 G4GWE J.Martin, Stoney Stratford
1571 G8TUV A.Jones, Birmingham
1572 G4KNU A. Torrance, Hastings
1573 G4FNH George, Preston
1574 G4MVL Alan, Sheffield
1575 G6ILX Barrie, Southport
1576 G8ZYY David, Basildon
1577 PA6KJF J.Keim, Middelburg
1578 G6MHB R.Miller, Bristol.
1579 G3MMB G.Kinnaird, Yateley
1580 SWL W.Poupard, Lytham

1581 SWL Hanes, East Kilbridge
1582 G4LKP Ken, York
1583 G4LXH David, Berking
1584 G4PVG Sydney, Stroud
1585 G6GRT Alan, Rochdale
1586 SWL R.Key, Derby
1587 G4HTS Walter, Manchester
1588 GI4OHI G.Irvine, Newtown Abbey
1589 G6OQW Gordon, Preston
1590 WA3UAX Sam, Pittsburgh
1591 G6OJY Ernie, Crawley
1592 G3AER George, Lowestoft
1593 G4NPG Peter, Birmingham
1594 G6NOA Brian, Burton-on-Trent
1595 G6ITG Wallie, West Wickham
1596 G6PWX Maurice, Dereham
1597 SWL Henry, Leeds

1598 SM0DWX Al, Soderthalje
 1599 G8XBS Bill, Stanford-le-Hope
 1600 G4MYE B.Chase, Taunton
 1601 G4OST Peter, Chorleywood
 1602 G6MLV Keith, Wembley
 1603 G6BAF Bill, Grimsby
 1604 SWL Jeffrey, Chessington
 1605 SWL Percy, Leeds
 1606 GI3VQ Ken, Belfast
 1607 G6GQL John, Seaford
 1608 G3TFV Ed, Earl Shilton
 1609 G3WLW Jack, Doncaster
 1610 SWL Eric, Whitstable
 1611 G6AZW Alan, Hatfield
 1612 EI3ED Dermont, Shankill
 1613 G4PNX David, Nottingham
 1614 G8TRD Tom, Nelson
 1615 G6JGY Gordon, Romney Marsh
 1616 SM3AKG Einar, Mellansel
 1617 G4PSJ Roger, Newport
 1618 SWL Keith, Fareham
 1619 SWL Terrence, Leeds
 1620 SWL Ian, Wirral
 1621 G4FKC Les, Slough
 1622 GI4HQF Hugh, Belfast
 1623 SWL William, Wells
 1624 GM4OMW Bob, Huntley
 1625 G4GDP John, Kingston
 1626 GM6IPI Peter, Tillicoultry
 1627 SWL Sean, Lincoln
 1628 G3FRM Maurice, Consett
 1629 G6I2C Neil, Swinton
 1630 G3BMO Bert, York
 1631 GM3ITE Ron, Glasgow
 1632 G3TLH Ian, Bracknell
 1633 GM4JEH Arthur, Edinburgh
 1634 G4BIC Eric, Hadfield
 1635 SWL N.Henderson, Dundee
 1636 G3TRU Harry, Wellington
 1637 SWL Simon, Wellingborough
 1638 G2FKS David, Cambridge

1639 SWL T.Ashburner, Barnard Castle
 1640 SWL Geoffrey, Ipswich
 1641 SWL Alexander, Bristol
 1642 SWL George, Rochdale
 1643 SWL A.Snell, Huntingdon
 1644 G3OWS Arthur, Scunthorpe
 1645 SWL Jonathan, Stourbridge
 1646 G4IWO Nick, London
 1647 G6MCH Tony, London
 1648 G4DTO Alan, Castelford
 1649 G4RTG Gordon, Thetford
 1650 SWL Norman, Truro
 1651 G4RRY Bruce, Castleford
 1652 G4NPD Graham, West Wickham
 1653 G4NEY Jon, Huntingdon
 1654 G6KAL Bob, Blyth
 1655 G3UTX R.Ridley, Western
 1656 WA5UIL Tom, Dallas
 1657 G6LGT Ray, Thornaby
 1658 G6FZZ Steve, Leicester
 1659 GW6ITR Ian, Penarth
 1660 G4RCP Collin, Peterborough
 1661 G4JXH J.J.Herbert, Chelmsford
 1662 SWL Ron, Kings Lynn
 1663 SWL Michael, Wanstead
 1664 G4EIM John, Hull
 1665 G4FQP Bob, Burton Stather
 1666 G4ILA John, Lymm
 1667 G6LEB Tony, Crawley
 1668 SWL Michael, Bradford
 1669 SWL Peter, Adelaide
 1670 WB6CKH Thom, Sacramento
 1672 SWL Laurence, Jersey, USA
 1672 HS1ANU Dick, Bangkok
 1673 G6ISE Brian, Colse
 1674 G4NIL R.Henshall, Taunton
 1675 G3OMU Alan, Basingstoke
 1676 G4MQP Pat, Swindon
 1677 GM4MKR Richard, Helensburgh
 1678 G3JMB Roger, Burwell
 1679 G4PGP Les, Haywards Heath

1680 SWL Albert, Liverpool
 1681 G4LJB John, Bordon
 1682 G3OMC Albert, Oldham
 1683 GM6RVE Jim, Edinburgh
 1684 SWL Douglas, Woodstock
 1685 G3EFZ John, London
 1686 G6RZZ Michael, Taunton
 1687 G4GMZ J.Alder, Congleton
 1688 SWL B.Tibbs, Gosport
 1689 G4KQR Keith, Bedworth
 1690 GW6MWE Ken, Swansea
 1691 G6CSW Dave, Cheltenham
 1692 SWL Denis, Billericay
 1693 G4RBP Brod, St.Albans
 1694 G4RCY Andrew, Bath
 1695 GI4PCY Frd, Ennickenkillen
 1696 SWL Hugh, Biggar
 1697 SWL Bob, Wiggan
 1698 ZC4RP Ron, BFPO 58
 1699 DL6BBE Michael, Melle
 1700 SWL Douglas, Wakefield
 1701 G6OUN Stuart, London
 1702 SWL John, Stockport
 1703 SWL Trevor, Sheffield
 1704 G6LVH Cyril, Penzance
 1705 G3RJU Peter, London
 1706 G4KKG John, Yeovil
 1707 G8ADA John, Liverpool
 1708 G3GMU Ernie, Christchurch
 1709 G4OJP Ray, Cannon Pyon
 1710 G3SYG Bruce, Bognor Regis
 1711 SWL Mike, Selsey
 1712 G4MWQ Chris, Preston
 1713 SWL John, Beaumaris
 1714 G4OWU Robin, Wetherby
 1715 VE2NK Jim, Quebec
 1717 G3ULH Roy, Bath
 1718 G4LDE Fred, Blackburn
 1719 G8FRB Alan, Nottingham
 1720 G6NGR Peter, Rochdale
 1721 VP3VUI Mike, Port Stanley
 1722 G3NVP Bryan, Northampton

1723 SWL William, Cork.
 1724 KX6GO Walt, San Francisco
 1725 G3AZI Derek, Hythe
 1726 SWL Bernard, Layle
 1727 G3TSR Peter, Watford
 1728 G4RFU David, Nailsworth
 1729 SWL B.Carlidge, Sheffield
 1730 SWL Fred, Brentwood
 1731 G8DMV Don, Prescott
 1732 KA5ETU Al, El Paso
 1733 Time Step Electronics
 1734 G4PWY Paddy, Derby
 1735 G2HIT John, Manchester
 1736 G4LQM Tom, London
 1737 G3SGH John, Ashford
 1738 G4RNV Victor, York
 1739 G6CVI Collin, York
 1740 G4IZM Jack, Rugby
 1741 SWL John, Galloway
 1742 SWL Waive, Greenford
 1743 G6OTP Michael, Cheltenham
 1744 SWL Collin, Rochdale
 1745 SWL John, Kings Winford
 1746 G6MBS Ken, Rodeheath
 1747 SWL Raymond, Birmingham
 1748 SWL Bill, Swansea
 1749 N7NV John, Reno, Nevada
 1750 G3MWZ Paul, Tavistock
 1751 G4IFB Gary, York
 1752 G3LHS Len, New Romney
 1753 G4INV Harry, Liverpool
 1754 G3GXR Allan, Wigan
 1755 G3UXH Peter, Rochester
 1756 G3ZSF Alfred, Grimsby
 1757 G4ICN Peter, Lincoln
 1758 G3DII Jo, Lincoln
 1759 SWL Dennis, Lower Bredbury
 1760 G6CSY Graeme, Orpington
 1761 DF4SQ Matt, Ludwigsburg
 1762 SWL Hamid, Tehran
 1763 G4PMR Frank, Stafford