

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2021

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

The intro to the last CX Newsletter (Winter 2021) began as follows: “Well, we somehow made it through the propagation doldrums of another CX – and still managed to have some fun”

For the Fall 2021 event, all I can say is Wow”! What a change! 20M And 40M were in superb shape. Several stations had 15M QSOs and at least one station reported 10M QSOs! Here's a partial list:

15M: WB2AWQ (NV) to K4WOP (PA).

VA7MM (BC) to AL7JK (AK), W0ITT (MO), VE7CA (BC) and VE7SL (BC) VE7CNF (BC)

10M: VA7MM (BC) to VE7CNF VE7SL and VE7CA

I think all of us had a lot of fun this time around. Let's hope things improve for the Winter 2022 event so we can see some more action on 15M and perhaps 10M !

The bonus for this CX was transceivers and it looked to be a very popular one. Since I work full time I don't have the time to go through everyone's log and find the most common radio used, but based upon my log and a spot check of others, Kenwood Transceivers were the most represented in this CX: TS-440S, TS-530S, TS-830S, and TS-520S. Heathkit put in a good showing with their line of SB transceivers along with the HW-8 and HW-16.

Thanks again to all of you that sent in soapbox comments and pictures. I'm sure everyone will enjoy them.

As always, Ron and I are always open for suggestions to improve the CX. We always struggle with coming up the CX Bonus – ideas ? Let us know what's on your mind.

73 Mark K3MSB
CX Newsletter Editor

The Sweet Chirp Awards!



Congratulations!

W7JMP Globe Scout

K3MSB TBW-5

W6MZ Meissner Signal Shifter

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CW Scores

4 Or More Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
N6KN	ROCCO	582,608	10,000	592,608
JA3KNB	KAZU	446,550		446,550
K2RP	RON	305,091	5,000	310,091
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	110,469	5,000	115,469
K4BSK	EARL	21,250	2,000	23,250

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
K3MSB	MARK	22,230	1,000	23,230
K9VKY	BRIAN	18,644	3,000	21,644
KF6C	BRIAN	18,518	3,000	21,518
JO3TAP	TOMO	17,100		17,100
W7OS	DOC	15,884	1,000	16,884
K4JYS	BILL	14,004		14,004
W6MZ	PAUL	6,925		6,925
VA7MM	MARK	5,512		5,512
VE7BGP	GERRY	1,638	3,000	4,638
KB8TL	BOB	3,534	1,000	4,534
VE7CNF	TOBY	3,723		3,723
N1QY	RON	1,890	1,000	2,890
N2DA	CRAIG	1,272	1,000	2,272
W2XS	JOHN	1,680		1,680
KG5IEE	RANDAL	500	1,000	1,500
A16SL	WOLF	440	1,000	1,440

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Phone Scores

4 Or More Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
JA3KNB	KAZU	543,071		543,071
K2RP	RON	214,656	9,000	223,656
VE7BGP	GERRY	9,256	4,000	13,256

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
JO3TAP	TOMO	22,610		22,610
W7OS	DOC	16,512	2,000	18,512
W6PQP	MAYNARD	700	1,000	1,700
KB8TL	BOB	82	1,000	1,082
VE7CNF	TOBY	438		438

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Mixed (Phone + CW) Scores

4 Or More Pairs:

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	CW BONUS	PHONE BONUS	TOTAL
JA3KNB	KAZU	446,550	543,071			989,621
N6KN	ROCCO	582,608		10,000		592,608
K2RP	RON	305,091	214,656	5,000	9,000	533,747
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	110,469		5,000		115,469
K4BSK	EARL	21,250		2,000		23,250
VE7BGP	GERRY		9,256		4,000	13,256

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	CW BONUS	PHONE BONUS	TOTAL
JO3TAP	TOMO	17,100	22,610			39,710
W7OS	DOC	15,884	16,512	1,000	2,000	35,396
K3MSB	MARK	22,230		1,000		23,230
K9VKY	BRIAN	18,644		3,000		21,644
KF6C	BRIAN	18,518		3,000		21,518
K4JYS	BILL	14,004				14,004
W6MZ	PAUL	6,925				6,925
KB8TL	BOB	3,534	82	1,000	1,000	5,616
VA7MM	MARK	5,512				5,512
VE7BGP	GERRY	1,638		3,000		4,638
VE7CNF	TOBY	3,723	438			4,161
N1QY	RON	1,890		1,000		2,890
N2DA	CRAIG	1,272		1,000		2,272
W6PQP	MAYNARD		700		1,000	1,700
W2XS	JOHN	1,680				1,680
KG5IEE	RANDAL	500		1,000		1,500
AI6SL	WOLF	440		1,000		1,440

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WB2AWQ/7 – Howie
Reno NV.

Howdy CXers!

This CX was one of the best in many years. Old Sol finally cooperated a little: 40 meters was terrific, 20 was in good shape, 80 was decent, and even 15 was open, and I made a QSO there. That hasn't happened in a couple decades for me. Activity level was very high, and I had the highest number of newcomers accidentally or otherwise (at least to me) at 10: K7NDE Gene, KH6AQ Dave, KW0J Gary, K6JJR Mark, W6MZ Paul, KD6BY Art, KI5CAW Dave, K4WOP Jim, W6VD Oliver, and K6KOI John. Welcome to CX gents!

I made 69 CW QSOs, a high for me. Of course, Murphy visited me during CX. My Viking Invader crapped out in the middle of its first QSO, and I've not found the issue at least on top of the chassis. (After-CX investigation revealed it was a filter capacitor in the LV DC supply, one which I had changed out about 14 years ago when I first got the Invader – lesson here, filter caps don't last forever! Not even modern ones! And my HB 1939 807 rig decided to get wires tangled up with others, and it went to the floor as I moved something. Naturally it didn't work after that. Just got my winter projects.....

For the first time since the early 90s I qualified one of my HB 1929-style Hartley oscillators. Surprisingly no one commented on its note, which is a tad less than stellar, a little chirp, a little drift down, and some AC on the signal. A pair of '10s in parallel. A hoot!



1929 Hartley Oscillator and HB 1932 RX

Only my Drake twins, the Invader, the 1939 HB TX, and two receivers I have weren't qualified, a Howard 435A, which is a lousy performer anyway, and a Hallicrafters SX-62A. I did manage to qualify all five of the transceivers I have, from my Dad's Gonset G76, to my only SS rig, a Kenwood TS-440S. Yahoo for the bonus!

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Swan 350 top, Heathkit SB102 bottom



Kenwood TS-440S



Gonset G-76, Yaesu FT-101EE

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Some rigs of note: K7HK's Heath SS-9000 transceiver (the last of the breed), not one, but two Eldico SSB100F transmitters (K2LMQ and W7OS), two sets of Kenwood twins T599 and R599 (K2LMQ and K4IBZ), W6MZ's really chirpy (more than my BC458A) Meissner Signal Shifter, and a ton of Drake gear, transceivers and twins. Plus a slew of common Heath stuff.

[Editor's Ramble: Around 2005 or so our club was given a non-working SS-9000 transceiver as the power supply was not working. I brought it home and took a look at it and found the issue with the power supply. It used some no-longer available parts but I was readily able to get them from the friendly folks on the Heathkit reflector. I powered up the transceiver and had very intermittent operation. I had to clean and re-seat just about every connector on those circuit boards and some of them had to be seated just the right way. I have a lot of photos of the SS-9000 on my web site (www.k3msb.com) if you're interested. It is an interesting radio. As Howie says, "the last of the breed"!]

All of this during the heaviest rainfall Reno has had in decades, making the wettest October on record. I measured 4.5 inches, just amazing for this area. Put a dent in a serious drought and put out some wildfires too.

Listened and called on 80, 40, and 20M on the CX phone weekend for a little while, no signals heard! Didn't spend too much time at it though, because that weekend was also the AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 party. Some things take precedence.....See ya all in the Winter 2022 CX! Thanks for all the QSOs!

73, Howie WB2AWQ

N2DA – Craig
Forest VA.

Craig writes:

I had fun getting my HW-100 back on the air. I built it just after getting my general license in 1970, and it's still running well. I think I replaced the 6146's once. Worked 12 CW stations but did not hear any SSB CX stations during the phone days. It was fun exchanging classic rig information - some great old rigs/boat anchors out there!

A picture of my station is attached. Thanks for coordinating the CX, I'm looking forward to the winter CX. May try using my BC-348Q and Knight T-60 (novice days) for part of that!

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73 Craig N2DA

K3MD – John
Winfield PA.

John writes:

Very successful CX this year. Everything worked except my 6AQ5 home design... it has intermittent solder joints. Best chirp was W7JMP Globe Scout on 20M. My KWM2A does chirp a very little bit, but nowhere near as much as when I used the HP23B instead of the Collins 516F2 power supply. I have the mod to fix it, but it looks a little bit dicey, as it requires a 3H choke, and there is NO room inside the case for this. The MT1 chirps. The ARC5 80 sounds good. The ARC5 40 has a T8 signal due to insufficient isolation between the VFO and final. This can be fixed... I just did not get around to it. Both ARC5's have a regulated non-keyed VFO, with keying changed to cathode keying instead of plate keying.

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Not too much activity on Tues. Many modern ops are very snobbish about a little drift or chirp... apparently they did not live through the 60's.

Thank you both for continuing the CX... this is wonderful. I have been participating since 1979.



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K3MSB – Mark
Airville PA.

I made 65 CW QSOs during this CX. I'm not sure if that's a record for me, but if it isn't, it has to be close! Conditions were nice – a definite improvement over last CX !

I entered the 3 radios or less category and made 22 QSOs on 40M and 80M with my WW II TBW-5 transmitter paired up with a Collins R-390A receiver. The small silver box in the photo is a HB TR switch with a typical P&B relay. The transmitter is in the left side of the power supply enclosure and was modified to use an 813 final. The transmitter will do well over 200W but I had the plate voltage reduced so the power output was about 125W.

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Of my 22 QSOs, I received seven "C"s with my RST. I think I qualify for the Sweet Chirp award! I used my J-38 key for this setup.

I started the CX on 40M around 1400Z with my TBW-5 / R-390A combo. I quickly qualified this setup by working Steve W1HFF running a Kenwood TS-440, John K3MD running an HT-37 and Drake 2C, and Jeff WN1MB running 2W from a Heathkit HW-8.

My second station consists of a recently restored DX-60B transmitter paired with my Drake 2B receiver. The HG-10B VFO is borrowed from Ken N3CU and this was the first time I'd driven the DX-60B with a VFO after finishing restoration. It performed very well. The bug in the photo is my 1919 Blue Racer, which is a lot of fun to use.

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I switched to my DX-60B / Drake 2B combo at 1613Z and qualified my setup in short order by working Doc W7OS and his Eldico SSB 100F and 75A-4, Ron W4DNQ/P running an IC-70H in a Parks on the Air (POTA) setup, and another QSO with Doc W7OS now running a Drake TR-4.

Between 1630Z and 2130Z I stayed on 20M (off and on) and worked Fox W7FOX on his Heathkit 1625 TX and 51S-1 receiver, Doc W7OS (again) running a DX-60B and R-388. This was followed with a pair of QSOs with Rocco N6KN running a B&W 6100 / 75A-4 combo and a 32S-3 / 75S-3S combo. A little later I worked Fritz K6EE running a 32S-3 / 75S-3 setup, Marc VA7MM on his DX-60B / HG-10B / Drake 2C setup, Jim W7JMP running a Globe Scout, 755 VFO, and SX-100 receiver. Next up Howie WB2AWQ checked in with his San 350. This was followed by a pair of QSOs with Mark W7ESN running a HB TX with a 2E26 final and a HB RX, and a HB TX with a 5894 final and a 2nd HB RX !! Then Ron KG5IEE worked me on his Yaesu FTDX-560 (and that may have been the first time I worked a 560 in a CX). Rounding out my 20M DX-60B / Drake 2B operations Sunday night was Fox W7FOX on an SB-101, Howie on his Heathkit HX-1681 TX and HR-1680 RX, Toby VE7CNF on his SB-102, Jim NN6EE with his DX-40 TX paired with an IC-7410, and Gene N5GW on an IC-7610.

Around 2130Z Sunday I went back to my TBW-5 / R-390A combo on 40M. Stations worked included Jon W3PD running a Heathkit HX-1681 TX and Hammarlund HQ-180 RX, Bill AA2MX on his Ten-Tec Jupiter. This was followed by Terry KA8EZT running 3W from an HW-8 and Mac WQ8U on his TS-380S. Next up were Ken N3CU on his TS-830S, Brian

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KF6C running a Kenwood T-599 TX and Racal RA-17 receiver, Ken N3CU on a TS-530S, Bill VE3AUI on a B&W 5100 / NC-303 combo. Before switching to 80M I worked Bob K0FHG on a Drake TR-4 and 'WC' W4BOI on his Knight T-60 and RCA-AR-88 receiver.

I returned the TBW-5 for 80M around 0100Z Monday and worked John K3MD using a HB TX with a 6MJ6 final and Drake 2C receiver, N1QY Ron running an HW-8 to a Ten-Tec 405 Amplifier for a nice 50W output, Don VE3IDS on a classic HW-16/HG-10B setup, WC W4BOI using an ARC-5 and AR-88. Mark W7ESN running his HB 5894 based TX and a HB RX closed out my Sunday night CX activities at 0419Z.

On Monday I returned Ken N3CU's HG-10B VFO and borrowed the TS-530S transceiver he had qualified on Sunday.



Tuesday the 26th I started off with the TS-530S on 40M around 1432Z and quickly qualified the radio by working Brian KF6C running his Palomar PTR103K, Earl K4BSK running a 32S3/75S3 combo, and Bob NV1X running an Eico 723 and NC-101XA.

I switch over to 20M around 1450Z and quickly netted Howie WB2AWQ running his GO-9 (The USAAF counterpart to my TBW) and SX-101A. This was followed by a pair of QSOs with Rocco N6KN running a T4XC/ 51J4 combo and a T4XC/ R4C combo. Next up was Bill K4IBZ using a TS-440S. At 2153Z I worked Gene N5GW on his HW-8, and three QSOs with Rocco N6KN running a T4XC / R-388 combo, T4XC- Drake SSR-1 combo, and T4XC / SX-100 combo. The well never runs dry at Rocco's place!

Around 2200Z Tuesday I drove the TS-530S on 40M working Lester W8BJO on his TS-530S

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and Ken N3CU on his HW-16 / HG-10B combo (... the HG-1B that I returned....).

I went to 80M around 2316Z and worked Brian K9VKY on his TS-530S, Earl K4BSK on his TS-440S, Bill K4IBZ on his TS-440S. Next up were John W2XS with a Drake T4XA/R4A combo, NV1X Bob using his Eico 720 TX and HQ-170A RX, and again Ken N3CU on his HW-16 / HG-10B.

Rounding out the CW CX were Howie WB2AWQ on 40M using the GO-9 and an HB RX and Ron NIQY on 80M using his HW-8 to drive a Ten-Tec 405 Amp for 50W out.

Interestingly I had two TS-530S to TS-530S QSOs on Tuesday.

73 Mark K3MSB

KG5IEE – Randall Marshall TX.

Randall writes:

Enjoyed the CX and hearing all the vintage rigs on the air. My rig was a Yaesu FTDX-560 with a Czech Army RM-31 SK. The rig is 50 years old.

73 Randal KG5IEE



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N5GW – Gene
Jackson MS.

Gene writes:

Here is my collection of toys: Top right, a home brew balanced L-network tuner for doublet antennas; to its left, a WM-2 QRP wattmeter used with the HW-8 below it; to its right is an MFJ Econokeyer II which allows direct keying of the Ten Tec Triton 544 or grid block keying of the Heath SB-102; below the keyer is a Calrad SWR meter used to tune the SB-102.



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KF6C – Brian
South New Berlin, NY .

Brian writes:

I found running EU stations with a modern or even a homebrew transceiver rather discouraging and not in the spirit of the event. I never really got back into the contest after one such run, but it did cause me to think seriously about what is fun for me in these events. I have since setup my RA17 and T-599 to act as a transceiver for CW with the AR88D, Eddystone EA12 and Drake 2B as secondary receivers. I have an Arduino, counting the frequency of the RA17 VFO and setting an Si5351 as the VFO for the T-599. For the next CX I will probably just use the RA17, AR88D and EA12 with the single Kenwood T-599 TX, with the goal of just having fun without worrying about the score.



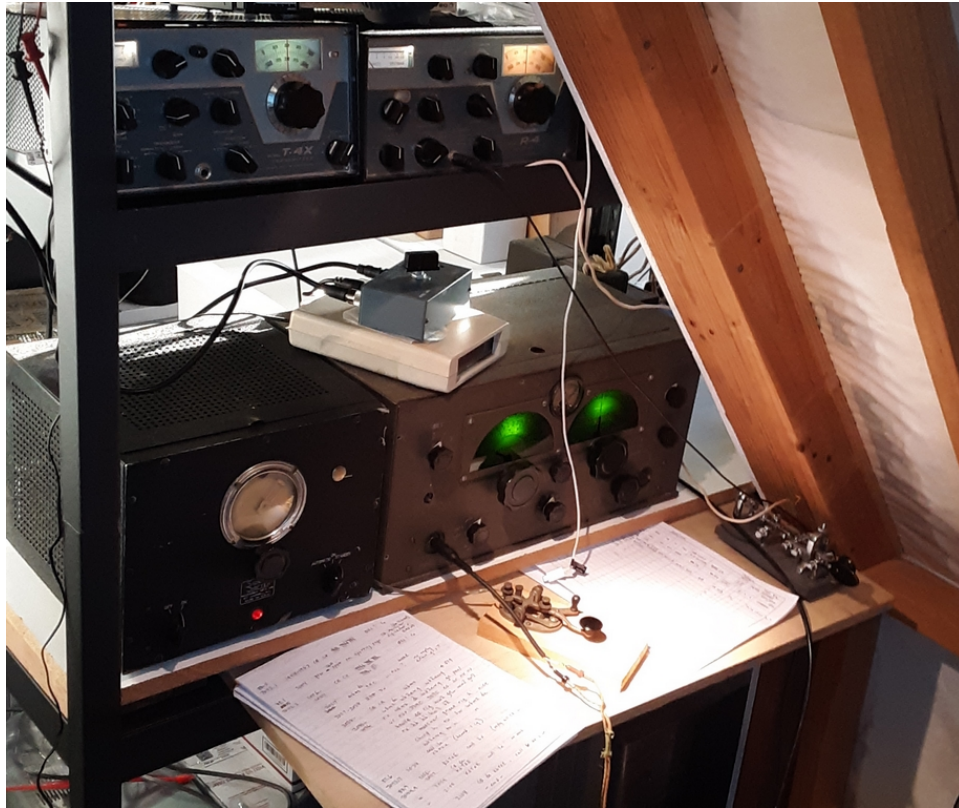
Brian's setup from left to right: RCA AR88-D receiver, Kenwood T-599 transmitter, Racal RA-17, Drake 2B, and Eddystone EA-12 receivers.

[Editor's Comments: You don't see very many Eddystone EA-12 receivers around. It was a product of the 1960s manufactured by Eddystone in Birmingham England and, according to one web site, was considered to be the "Rolls-Royce" of amateur band communications receivers. It is a double conversion receiver covering 1.8 to 30 Mc in 9 bands. It employs a product detector for CW and SSB and has a built in 100 Kc Crystal Calibrator.]

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W6MZ - Paul
Del Mar CA.

Here's Paul's tidy setup:



On the bottom shelf is Paul's late 1930's Meissner Signal Shifter and his 1935 RME-69 receiver.

Paul writes:

This Meissner is the "Standard" model, not the Deluxe or Turret version. It had no VR tubes as built (around 1938), but a previous owner added a single VR tube to it later in the rear filter capacitor hole and moved the capacitor. I guess with that upgrade it's "halfway" to the Deluxe version, so I'm calling it 1940 to be fair. 4W From the SS on 40M !

[Editor's Comments: The Signal Shifter (Standard) uses a 6F6 in an oscillator doubler stage and a 6L6 in an amplifier doubler / buffer stage.

On 160M, the 6F6 oscillator generates 1/2 of the output frequency. The frequency is then doubled in the 6F6 plate circuit and the 6L6 operates as a buffer stage.

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On the other bands, the 6F6 oscillator generates 1/4 of the desired frequency and again the frequency is doubled in the 6F6 plate circuit. On these bands, the 6L6 operates as a frequency doubler.



In the above photos from Paul, the 80 rectifier tube is behind the tuning capacitor. The tube nearest the power transformer is the 6L6 while the 6F6 is the metal tube.

To the right of the 6L6, barely visible, is a terminal strip for keying. One connection is to ground, and the other is to the cathode of the 6L6.

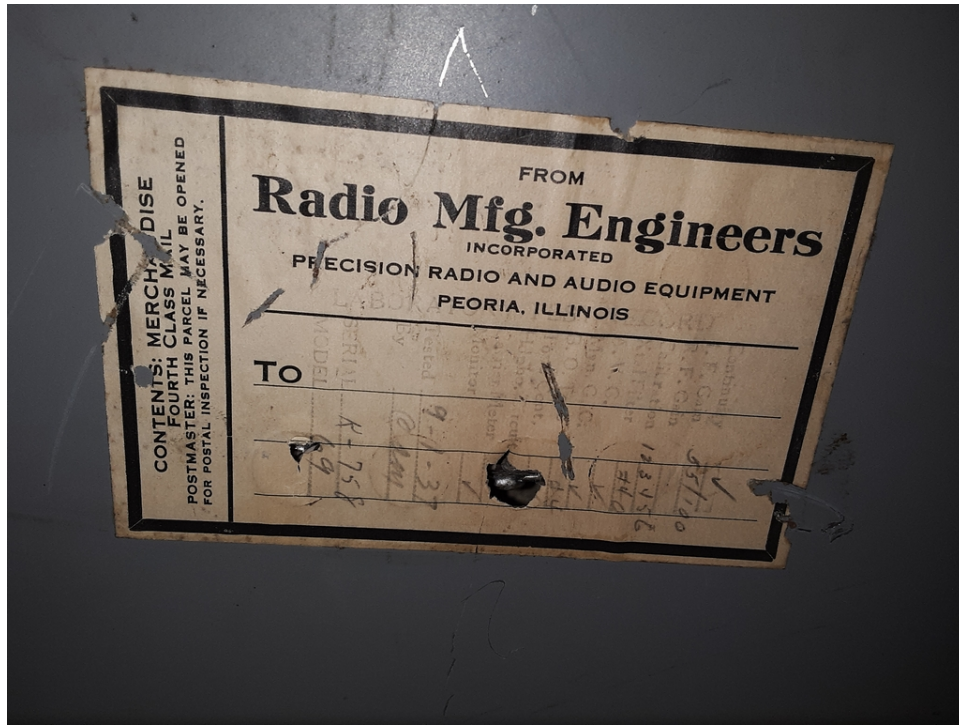
The light bulb is of course connected to the output for testing.

It should be remembered that even though Meissner marketed the Signal Shifter as a Variable Frequency Exciter, it was intended to act as a VFO for a subsequent amplifier, not a stand-alone transmitter!]

Paul continues:

The RME-69 is serial # K-758, production test 9-1-1937, as shown on a paper label underneath.

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Thanks to John K6KOI, Fox W7FOX, and Howie WB2AWQ for the contacts needed to qualify the Meissner Signal Shifter (standard model) and RME 69.

Those of us learning the CX ropes have to work hard to earn our 598, 459C and 339C signal reports!

-- 73, Paul W6MZ

**VE7CNF – Tony
Burnaby BC**

Toby writes:

Thanks to all who organize this event. It's great fun to activate the DX-40 and VF-1 and to get some practice on the Blue Racer bug. That equipment is older than I am.

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**VA7MM - Mark
Coquitlam, BC**

Mark writes:

Thank you for organizing another CX event. It was a great opportunity to dust off the classic gear and generate RF.

I was ambitious this time with 52 CW contacts made (43 crystal, 9 VFO). I found band conditions to be good and was pleased to have CQ's answered on 15m. No 10m activity this time except local QSOs.

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TX: Heathkit DX-60B and HG-10B. Collection of crystals, mostly HC-49 types retrofitted into HC-49 cases.

RX: Drake 2C and 2-CQ speaker and Q multiplier

Antenna: Multiband dipole at 30m above ground supported between tall Douglas fir trees.

73,

*Mark, VA7MM
Coquitlam, British Columbia*

**KB8TL - Bob
Belleville, MI.**

Bob writes:

Attached is my log of the CX, 19 CW QSOs and 1 measly SSB QSO.

[Editor's Comment: That's one more SSB QSO than I made.....!!]

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Pictured is a December 2020 build of a 1940's style push-pull 6L6 transmitter with "swinging link" output.



It was a pain to get working well and ends up being only about 65% efficient (class C), but its push-pull output has very low 2nd order harmonics. It was something to do and kept me out of the XYL's hair during last winter's virus lock-down.

Bob also qualified a single 6LB6 homebrew CW transmitter as well as a TS-830S. Very nice workmanship Bob!

**K9VKY – Brian
Fombell PA.**

Brian writes:

Hello to all the CX Crusaders---

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Band conditions were better than usual here on both 40 and 80 Meters (for a welcome change), so it looks like the sacrificing of goats and chickens has finally paid off. A special treat occurred when Ron, GW3YDX, stopped by to say hello on 80M late Tuesday night. In spite of the improved band conditions, it seemed to me that participation was down this time around, and I missed hearing a lot of the perennial old timers.

With the increase in transceivers for this CX, sadly the number of respectable chirping rigs was down. The tradition did not die off, though, as a number of transmitters formerly in uniform saved the day.

A special tip of the hat goes to Bob, N9HAL, for mustering his all homebrew station with the 6L6 oscillator and four tube receiver. John, N2BE, should be also be recognized for his primal 1964 2N697 100 mw QRPp set up. Rounding out the QRP troops were Bob, W8NNC, and Gary, WW8H who bravely went up against the Goliaths.

Several guys were interested in my AN/PRC-1 spy radio set which has a mysteriously cloudy history in WW2 Belgium and France.



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It's a self contained station all neatly packed into Samsonite suitcase. The receiver section is single conversion superhet and leaves a lot to be desired, but the transmitter puts out 12-15 watts with a 6V6-807 combination depending on the antenna loading.

*Here's hoping everyone keeps the faith and those filaments glowing throughout the year.
Cheers.*

Brian K9VKY