

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

Greetings one and all!

I knew it was time to get the newsletter out for the Winter event held in January and February 2019 as I'm sitting here with the air conditioner running to keep the July heat at bay! Regardless of how hard Ron and I try to get things pulled together in a timely manner, life has a habit of getting in the way.

Lots of interesting gear was used in the past CX, and I think you'll enjoy reading about it. Once again, thank you VERY much for your commentary and photos; it really helps me in putting the newsletter together.

Band conditions. I thought not as good as the September 2018 CX but I'll leave propagation comments to the individual soap boxes. The guys and gals "in the know" seem to be agreeing that fall 2019 / winter 2020 will be the start of cycle 25. I hope so! I have fond memories of CX's gone by working stations on 15 and 10 CW! Let's hope!

Several CXers mentioned making QSOs with non CX stations. There is nothing wrong with that, as long as both stations do the CX exchange. I'm a member of SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) and I always get several SKCC members calling me. Good cross-pollination!

As always, and always sincerely, Ron K2RP and I want to thank all of you for participating in the CX! See you in September 2019!

73 Mark K3MSB

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

4 OR MORE PAIRS

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	AM SCORE	SSB SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
N6KN	ROCCO	285076		444210		729286
JA3KNB	MATSAMURA	300348	80820	215808		596976
K2RP	RON	158256		52998	3500	214754
W8KGI	JIM	143385			500	143885
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	62190		350	1000	63540
K4BSK	EARL	26364				26364
K3MSB	MARK	20460			1500	21960
K3MD	JOHN	18167				18167
N3TE	STEVE	5376			500	5876

3 OR FEWER PAIRS

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	AM SCORE	SSB SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
JO3TAP	TOMONORI	14774	12816	8010		35600
K4JYS	BILL	20628			2000	22628
K9VKY	BRIAN	13600				13600
N5GW	GENE	7616				7616
W8KM	GARY	6290			500	6790
K3JZD	JODY			5978		5978
VA7MM	MARK	1632				1632
K9HF	PAT	1305				1305
KB8TL	BOB	1275				1275
W3BBO	BOB	1200				1200
N7TM	TOM	627				627
K6MZ	PAUL	432				432
WD8RIF	ERIC	424				424
K4BSK	EARL			90		90
KC0GXX	TOM	84				84

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

WB2AWQ – Howie (Reno, NV)

Howdy CXers!

No thanks to advancing age, and regardless of the time goof for this CX, I was up at 5 AM PST - not on purpose - for the beginning of CX. Too bad no one else was, at least here in the west. Propagation, which was pretty good for the NAQP the day before, didn't hold up on Sunday. With the stormy conditions especially in the east, that made for less than ideal conditions. So CX started for me on 40M at 1800Z, with a run by N6KN and K2RP, 6 QSOs in 11 minutes.

My goal was to qualify all the rigs I had that were air-worthy, but with conditions that prevailed on Sunday I had my doubts. I did manage to get 32 QSOs and most gear qualified, with a few QSOs on 20 meters, and an almost even split between 80 and 40. Conditions on Tuesday were far better, and I did manage to qualify the rest of the gear I wanted to, even with the far lower CX participation. Several QSOs were with people who were not intentionally in CX. I'll take 'em where they come from! Even with the better conditions, though, most of the contacts were within 750-800 miles of Reno, with the sole exceptions of Art NS7E in Kansas (1250 miles or so) and Perry W8AU in Ohio (1900+ miles).

One non-CX participant QSO of note was with N6KR on 80 meters. For those of you who don't know him, Wayne Burdick, N6KR is the co-founder of Elecraft and Wilderness Radio, and designer of a number of Elecraft and other QRP radios. He was running a home-built QRP transceiver.

The quality of most CX signals were pretty good. The one which stood out the most was W8KGI's CBY 52209 (part of the ATA group of Command sets). Nice pleasing chirp, a little drift, a signal with character! Nice thing about these oldies is, you KNOW it's not a YaeComWood radio.

[Editor's Comment: So true Howie! But an OO didn't agree with that a few years ago and sent me a "QSL" card for my "character-ful" 40M ARC-5 signal! I'm not sure he would be happy to know I felt honored by it!]

Rigs worked were pretty much across the board with all the major makers represented. Drake and National were the most often worked, followed by Johnson and Heath. No really unusual pieces, at least not that I worked. Surprisingly, not one Knight piece was worked, and that was one of the bonuses.

After CX I finally got my ATA transmitter CBY52208 working well. Got rid of the "porker squeal" and now it sounds like a decent (for a Command set) transmitter! Took a simple bypass cap on the PA cathodes. Easily reversible, guess the rack that the TX would have been in on an aircraft might not have had that problem, but my key line sure did. Kind of a "duh!" moment. But too late for the CW CX. But there's always next year.

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

I did manage to work a few QSOs Sunday morning in the SSB/AM portion of CX. Four on 20, and one on 40. Tried a repeat on Tuesday morning and afternoon, but heard zilch on CX freqs. Bands were open, as I heard other stations, but no CX. Only one of the five phone QSOs were with actual CXers, but all were on the CX center freq and provided the necessary info.

One station on SSB, W6MWS, Marshall in Texas was running a Kenwood TS-511S, Kenwood's second-earliest transceiver. Hadn't heard of it, he says it's the predecessor to the TS-520S. So he wins the prize for a rig of distinction! Now of course I had to google it.....made 1971, 80 thru 10 non-WARC, a pair of 6LQ6s, 500W PEP input, sort of comparable to the Swan 500CX. Lots of punch.

Wow! More voice contacts than I've made the last three years total. And probably more than for the next three years....

There were no nasty surprises this CX – no heavy ozone smell, or burnt transformer tar, or smoked resistors, not even a blown fuse. I must have been doing something wrong.....See ya all in September!



WB2AWQ mil gear GO-9, WW2 HRO, BC348Q, R388

73, Howie WB2AWQ

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

K3JZD – Jody (Trafford, PA)

I just became aware of this event after finding it on the WA7BNM Contest page. Not in time to work the CW portion, but in time to work the SSB portion. It gave me an excuse to exercise my older rigs (Swan 350, KW TS-520S and Ten-Tec Scout 555). They are not as old as some rigs I heard during the event, but they have all been kept alive and ready for events like this.

I worked a lot of folks who seemed to be regulars in this event but also ended up working a lot of non-participants that had more modern rigs - many with call-signs that made it look like they were old timers who would recognize whatever I was using at the moment - but many were new folks and had no idea. So, I got to do a little educating on my older stuff.

All my contacts were on 40M and 20M; I did not hear any CX SSB activity on 80M at all. I will have to keep an ear to the wire and try to do the CW portion next time - but as I recall my Swan 350 receiver is pretty horrible on CW.

[Editor's Comment: Welcome to the CX Jodie! When working non CX stations I always try to tell them what the CX is and to let them know they are welcome to participate regardless of the rig they are using.]

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



K3ZGD

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

K3MD – John (Winfield PA)

Here's some nice photos from John's shack. John writes: "Have since sold the AT-1 and NC-270 and purchased a 2-B and KWM-2A. KWM-2A took 3 weeks to get working after PM2 power supply bit the dust. Converted an HP-23B... it took 2 tries."



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

K3MSB – Mark (York PA)

I Started off Sunday morning on 40M and quickly qualified the 40M TX (BC-459 A) and RX (BC-455 A) of my dynamotor powered SCR-274N. One of the stations I worked was Brian K9VKY running a Ranger and 75A3.



SCR-274N



General Electric Dynamotor

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

I then switched over to my T-22 and BC-348R for some more 40M fun, working Eric WD8RIF on his Drake 2NT/2C, Ron W8KYD on his DX-40 / Drake 2B, Bill K4JYS on his Viking 2 / SX-71, WC on his Home-brew 810 and SB-303, Earl K4BSK on his Drake TR-3, and finally Bunky K4EJQ on his AT-1/VF-1 and R-4B



T-22 and BC-348R

The home-brew box below the BC-348 does several things. It provides a “HV ON / Spot” switch for the transmitter and metering for the plate voltage, and plate, screen, and oscillator currents. It also has a battery powered keying circuit so only 1.5V goes across my key (and we should all know why this is nice to have.....)

Around 2145Z I switched to 80M to qualify the 80M part of my SCR-274N (BC-696A TX and BC-454 A RX). I worked Don W2JEK on his Ranger 1 / Drake 2B and Bill K4JYS now running a Ranger and HQ-170.

Next I qualified my T-19 and Dynamotor powered BC-348Q on 80M working Bill K4JYS on his Ranger / HQ-170 and Gene N5GW on his Ten-Tec Triton.

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



T-19 and Dynamotor powered BC-348Q

Tuesday Evening did not find a lot of activity. I went back and forth with my T-22 / BC-348R on 40M and my SCR-274N on 80M. I worked Mario N2AK running a pair of ARC-5s (Whoo Hooo), Gene N5GW again on his Triton, Don VE3IDS on his HW-101, Gary W8KM on his Collins 310B1 and 75A4, and ended up working Jim AF3Z running a DX60/HG10B and HR-10.

I did hear Jim W8KGI one evening but unfortunately he didn't hear me!

I ended up with 30 QSOs and 1500 bonus points for dynamotor power!

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

K9VKY – Brian (Fombell, PA)

Hello to all--

After a two year solo hiatus raising a grandson, the family situation has stabilized and enabled a return to the thrilling days of yesteryear. Time constraints and a bad back require entry in the Sick, Lame, and Lazy, Three Entries Or Less Category, however. Mustering for the two band CX effort were the self contained PRC-1 Spy Radio Set (see photo), Viking Adventurer, HRO-5, Viking Ranger and a Collins 75A3. These all happen to be regularly used favorites and, more importantly, were in place and ready to go without having to risk a hernia.

[Editor's Comment: It's good to get the radios in place as soon as possible as they gain weight as time passes, and it's a VERY non linear relationship.....]

In spite of poor band conditions (whine), digital QRM (whine), and guys not tuning off their transmitting frequencies looking for crystal controlled callers (more whining), it was great to meet up with some old friends and meet new ones with similar interests in this hobby of ours. Kudos to Alan, W4AMV, for his all home brew station, and to W.C., W4BOH, and Tom, W1DDW, for their home brew transmitters. I'd also like to acknowledge the following notes of character (read respectable chirp) put out by the military radios of Mark, K3MSB, and Steve, N3TE. Not to be outdone on the civilian side was Stan, WA4NFY, with his Globe Scout.

[Editor's Comment: I'm thinking we need to have an award for the "notes of character".]

Special recognition and a bottle of Tylenol are in order for Mario, N2AK, for hauling out no less than 13 stations that appeared in my log. I hope Mario rested well in traction after the last radio cooled.

Here's hoping everyone had as good a time as I did with yet another CX, and that all the CX Crusaders continue to keep those filaments lit and pounding the brass throughout the year. Cheers to all.

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



K9VKY's very nice PRC-1 Spy Radio

73 Brian K9VKY

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

KB8TL – Bob (Belleville, MI)

I'm CW only with this equipment. I made 17 QSOs using a home brew vacuum state transmitter, 6CL6 driving 807 at 800 Volts on the plate, 130 mA, about 70 Watts out. A wee bit over RCA's recommendations. Home brew DDS VFO driving the transmitter and a Drake R-4B for receiving.



KB8TL

[Editor's Comment: Nicely done Bob! Very neat!]

Thanks for running the CX !

Bob KB8TL

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

N5GW – Gene (Vicksburg, MS)

HW-8 & HW-9: ? Dynamic duo or gruesome twosome?



HW-8 mods: RIT, improved cal trimmer, quieter TR relay, back-lit meter, low Z phones.

HW-9 mods: 250 Hz xtal filter, audio filter, internal SWR bridge & keyer, thump suppressor .

No holes in front panels.

[Editor's Comment: A classic pair indeed Gene! I fondly remember my HW-7 from the 1970s.]

72, Gene, N5GW

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

N6KN – Rocco (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA)

Mark and Ron,

Here is my CX Report. I went out and purchased a combo printer scanner, so it's all electronic this time.

[Editor's Comment: So that was why Ron let out the big sigh.....]

CW Note: After more shack reorganizing (after getting rid of some radios and bringing other, long-neglected units back into service), I started CX on 40 early Sunday morning. I managed to pick up John, K3MD, with his trusty HT-37/2B, WC W4BOH with that classy Signal Shifter, Jim W8ZR with a great sounding KWS-1/75A4 plus Viking 500/SX-88, and a bunch of others. Mark, W7ESN had a wonderful signal with his home brew 6146 transceiver, and it was nice to hear Howie, WB2AWQ with an Invader and Navigator (would like to own one of those). Ron, K2RP, and I traded reports for a while. I worked John, N2BE, with his TBS-50/RME69A at 2245Z, and that was it for Sunday. Tuesday, Ron K2RP and I sat on 3545 in the morning and qualified tons of stuff back and forth. The band was good enough for us to hear novice rigs easily, and it was nice to work them!

SSB Notes: Began Sunday on 7215 with a few locals, but went to 14270 at 1755 and began a very long run. The band was wide open - I usually don't operate much in the mornings on 20, but I had some other social events in the afternoon and so began earlier than usual. I did run with the Henry 2K, and that helped keep the frequency open. Notable signals: Mike, K8NS, had a smooth sounding Swan 350; Al, W8UT, sounded fine on his HX-50; Rick, W2ACY, had a good signal from his HW32A; John, N2BE, broke the pileup with his SR160; Steve, N0THU, had another wonderful Swan 350; and Jim, KD0WF, was strong on his Swan 260. Tuesday, Ron K2RP, and I started on 3895 and were soon joined by John, K6KOI. It was easy to qualify all the rest of the rigs I had planned to use this CX, although I had muting problems with so many receivers turned on at once. Altogether, I had a lot of fun had fewer rigs fail this year! Must be a good omen!

Attached are my log and scores: Many thanks for wading through all of this stuff! And let me know if I won that Color TV.

[Editor's Comment: You just keep watching the mailbox Rocco.....]

73, Rocco N6KN

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

N7TM – Tom (Redmond, WA)

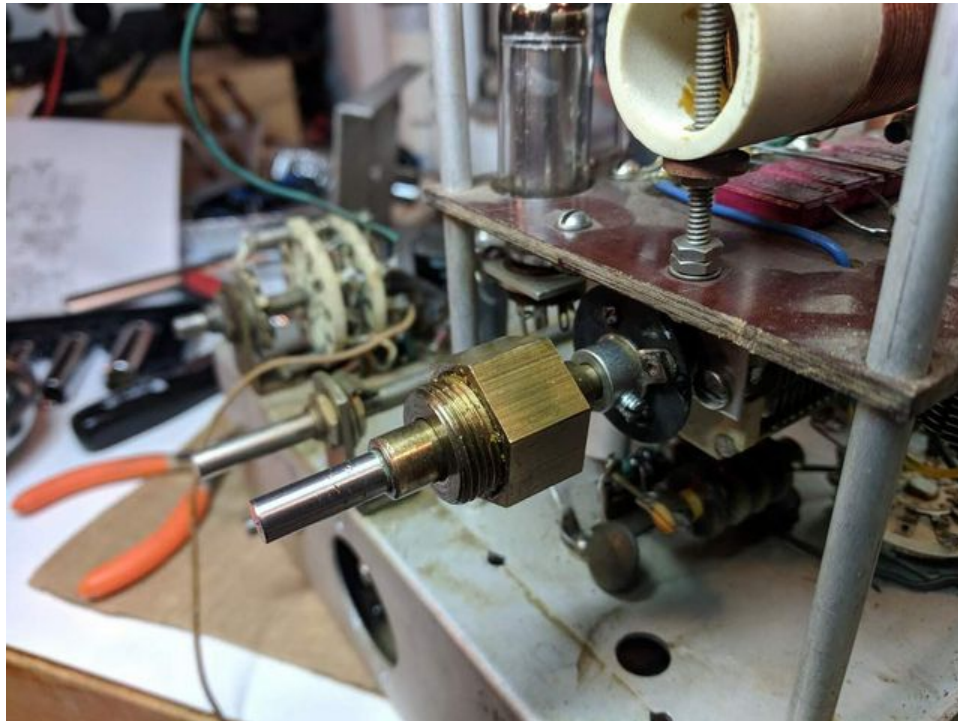
I used two rigs. The first was a Drake TR-4, circa 1965, 54 years old. I made three CW contacts. I don't think any of the other stations were participating in CX.

Then I tried my rarest setup, a Drake R-4 receiver with a T-4 transmitter. However, I didn't make any QSOs. I heard very few CX'ers from my location near Seattle and no one answered my CQ's.

Later Sunday, I used a Drake 2-C (1970), 2-NT (1966), and Heathkit HG-10 VFO. I made three more CW QSO's with this gear, the last with W8KGI, the only CX station I worked.

I tried several other boat anchor receiver and transmitters, but all of them had problems. I worked on fixing the broken gear so they'd be ready for the phone portion of the CX.

First I had a Johnson Ranger that wouldn't transmit. I tracked down the problem to two resistors, one was open and another had doubled in value. The frequency dial wouldn't tune because the vernier was frozen with old grease. I rebuilt it and the transmitter is now back on the air.



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



I got my HT-37 and HT-111 working again, too:



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

I heard some CX phone activity on 40m and turned on the rig. When I transmitted, however, I was apparently transmitting a carrier as well. I'll have to work on the HT-37 some more.

I tried my Viking II, but it wouldn't transmit. It turned out it had a weak 6AQ5 buffer tube. Also, there was a bad hum on my transmitted phone signal. I rebuilt the audio section with new capacitors and resistors. Now the audio sounds pretty good.



When I turned on the Drake 2-B I use with the Viking II, there was a bad hum coming out of the speaker. The 50 year old 4-section can capacitor needed care. I left the can in place and installed new electrolytics under the chassis. The receiver works well again.

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



[Editor's Comment: I greatly lament selling my 2B/2BQ to a friend. It's a fantastic receiver.]

The Classic Exchange was good motivation to get some gear working that have been off the air for a decade.

73 Tom, N7TM

W8KGI – Jim (Sandia Park, NM)

Things were a little more laid back for this CX. The garage shack was a bit too cold, so I just got on with my gear from the inside shack. In total I operated around 7 hours on CW, made 79 QSOs and qualified 1815 years worth of equipment for a total of 143,385 points. I also qualified my Knight T-150 transmitter for another 500 bonus points, making my grand total score 143,885.

Transmitters on the air here included a 100V, T-150, 32V3, T4X, BC459 and CBY52209 Command Sets, HT-32, TBS-50C/D, Millen 90800, 1940 Meissner Deluxe Signal Shifter, National NTX-30, and a recreation of my 1952 Home Brew novice rig, a 6AG7/6146. Receivers were 75A4, HRO, R4B, NC-173, HRO-50, FB7, BC454 and BC455 with a BC453 second IF, NC-200, SX-28, RME-69 and

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

NC-101X. I also used a Triton IV transceiver.

As I look over that list of equipment, it's a little amazing to me that five pieces of gear are over 80 years old, ten are in their 70's, six in their 60's, and three in their 50's, and they are all still working well. Many of their tubes are of the same vintage, and they are still holding very adequate vacuums. Even the solid-state Triton IV is 41. Parts to maintain them all when things go wrong on rather rare occasions are still available. From what I've seen on several reflectors I read, the same certainly cannot be said for the modern appliances currently being sold to present-day hams. The modern gear can do some wonderful things and gives good value for the money, but I heartily doubt that it will still be on the air after 50 to 80 more years!

73, Jim Hanlon, W8KGI

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

W8KM – Gary (Parma, MI)

Pretty much the same line up as last year except I use an HQ-170A with the Ranger and moved the #2 75A-4 over to be with the Collins 310B-1. I elected not to use the HRO-5TA1 since I used that for the Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest earlier in January and decided that for crowded conditions with strong signals it just wasn't very much fun!



[Editor's Comment: The Collins 310-B sounded very nice Gary. I see you also use additional weights on your bug!]

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



Great contest!

73, Gary W8KM

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

WD8RIF – Eric (Athens OH)

My transmitters

Drake 2-NT + Hallicrafters HA-5 VFO -- 4 QSOs

My Receivers

Drake 2-C/2-CQ -- 4 QSOs



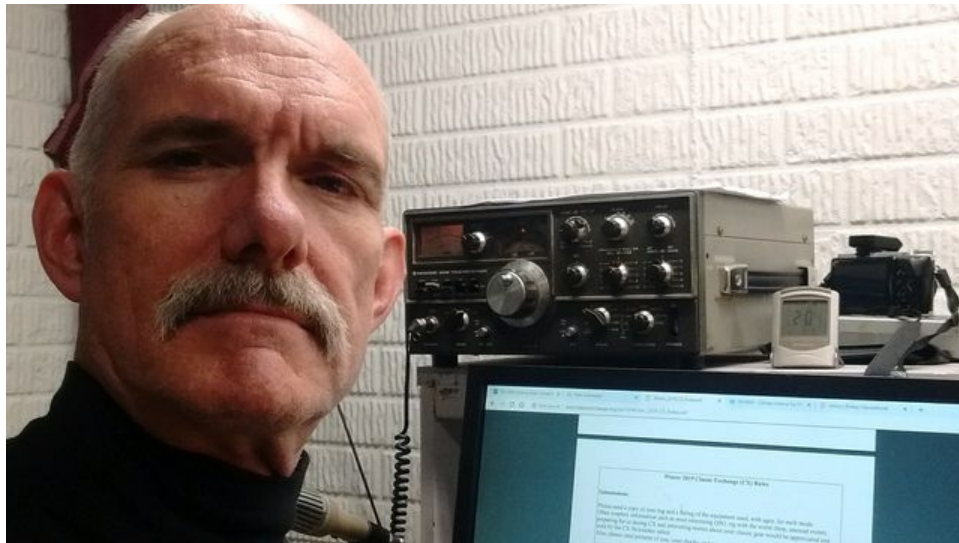
Copyright 2017 William McFadden

[Editor's Comment: B&W photos always seem to enhance old radios (and old piston aircraft too!)]

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

KC0GXX – Tom (Lincoln NE)

I made just one CW QSO; I had a nice QSO with Mark, VA7MM, at 0133 GMT on 7.045MHz. I use an old Kenwood TS-520s running about 100 watts with a dipole up about 20 feet



[Editor's Comment: Welcome to the CX Tom!]

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

JO3TAP – Tomo (Osaka Japan)

CX Machinery List (2019 Jan/ Feb) CW 20M,15M

FT991AM, FT101B, Drake C-line

CX Machinery List (2019 Jan/Feb) SSB,AM 15M

FT991AM, FT101B, Drake C-line



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter



Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

VE3VAW – Brian (Toronto ON)

Hi... even though I don't have a 'real' participation log, I wanted you to know I was out there having fun. Thanks.

I had wanted to do more, but my antenna (city sized lot compromised in size) does not seem to do well in regard to me CQing out... and the signals I heard were what I worked. Some guys had the freq and were working the guys who were not CQing either.

I also had a bit of an issue since around the first of January my young puppy dragged me down a slippery hill going to the dog park. This caused my left leg to completely fold up under me, thus tearing a lot of muscle around the knee and down the leg. So its been a painful few weeks afterwards to be fully comfortable.

Anyhow, given the time I could sit in the chair and listen for stations over the couple of nights of CX - fewer on Tues evening since the day was lost to those who have a day job, hi... I worked four stations total. None enough to get multiplier of the first setup.

Started with Johnson Ranger, circa 1961 and Drake 2B receiver, circa 1961 for Sunday afternoon CX contacts.

Finished with a Drake TR4Cw, circa 1976. This rig I have had for a while but it never got a clear space to be used. I tried it last year for CX but found out that it had some issue regarding returning to receive after a transmission...or came back with a lessened receiver strength. I had wanted it on for CX this year but the issue had not be determined even after I went after it best I could after the previous CX. Some pondering seems to have found that it had a weak tube for the VOX/relay, maybe a little too much bias, and a bit of a noisy relay after its period of idleness. Anyhow, with a tube replaced and the relay running number of cycles it did the job for Sunday and Tues evening.

I worked K4JYS, W5SJ (Ranger, 2B) N2ATB, K0CDJ (TR4Cw)

I will keep my eyes peeled for the next CX activity announcement (September?).

73 Brian VE3VAW

[Editor's Comments: Glad your OK Brian. I'm sure your puppy is glad you're up and around again. My wife and I have transitioned from decades of owning dogs to cats. They are less maintenance. Of course, we don't own them; they simply tolerate us in their house..... As you are reading this, the Fall 2019 CX announcement is posted on the CX website.]

Winter 2019 Classic Exchange Newsletter

VA7MM – Mark (Coquitlam, BC)

Mark and Ron,

My gear was late 1960's vintage Heathkits! A DX-60B transmitter and HR-10B receiver were used. CW contacts only this time, output is about 50 watts and the antenna is a dipole. No bonus points.

Looking forward to the next event!

73, Mark VA7MM

Log Submissions

