

Classic Exchange Newsletter Winter 2022

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

Smoked drive pots, toasted oscillator tubes, busted send/receive switches..... Murphy was alive and well for this CX but the gang “got er done” and a grand time was had by all!

While 15M Showed signs of life, no CX contacts were reported. Hopefully this will change over the next year as 10M and 15M come into play.

Bill K4JYS, a CX regular, had some “odd ball” (as he calls them) radios on for the event. These included the Kelvin 150-03, General Electronics TN-75, and Matric Model 50 transmitters as well as a military SP-325 receiver. Bill took the time to do a nice write up on these radios and I hope you enjoy reading about them as I did.

Our local radio club does estate sales for regional hams who have gone SK and I get some interesting radios across my bench for checkout. Remember the Conar Twins? This pair was on my bench after the Winter 2022 CX and will be with new owners before the Fall 2022 CX, but I thought you'd enjoy this photo anyway:



The twins were in immaculate & stock condition inside and outside and I just couldn't help myself and put them on the air for one QSO! Head on over to my web site (www.k3msb.com) and click on the Conar link for an audio clip of the the QSO as well as more photos. If you thought the selectivity on a stock SCR-274N BC-696 or BC-459 receiver was wide you've never used a Conar 500 receiver ! Good Golly Miss Molly!

73 Mark K3MSB
CX Newsletter Editor

The Sweet Chirp Awards!



Congratulations!

WB8APR T-21

VE7CNF BC-458-A

WB2AWQ BC-458-A

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CW Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	76,128	500	76,628
K3MD	JOHN	39,168		39,168
K4BSK	EARL	22,516		22,516
N4KGL	GREG	7,660		7,660

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
K9VKY	BRIAN	23,214		23,214
W7OS	DOC	8,772	500	9,272
K3MSB	MARK	7,616		7,616
VA7MM	MARK	5,616		5,616
W4BOH	BILL	4,114		4,114
W2JEK	DON	1,614	1,000	2,614
NV1X	BOB	1,182		1,182
KG5IEE	RANDAL	1,140		1,140
K4JYS	BILL	348	500	848
W6MZ	PAUL	796		796
KD9KHA	ANDY	640		640

Phone Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
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None

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	TOTAL
VE7CNF	TOBY	975		975

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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	469,224	581,585			1,050,809
N6KN	ROCCO	380,582	364,936			745,518
K2RP	RON	189704	208884	1000	1000	400,588
W7KGI	JIM	135660	31251	500		167,411
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	76128		500		76,628
K3MD	JOHN	39168				39,168
K4BSK	EARL	22516				22,516
VE7BGP	GERRY	600	7290			7,890
N4KGL	GREG	7660				7,660

3 Or Fewer Pairs:

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	CW BONUS	PHONE BONUS	TOTAL
JO2TAP	TOMO	17,654	24,056			41,710
K9VKY	BRIAN	23214				23,214
W7OS	DOC	8772		500		9,272
K3MSB	MARK	7616				7,616
VA7MM	MARK	5616				5,616
W4BOH	BILL	4114				4,114
W2JEK	DON	1614		1000		2,614
NV1X	BOB	1182				1,182
KG5IEE	RANDAL	1140				1,140
VE7CNF	TOBY		975			975
K4JYS	BILL	348		500		848
W6MZ	PAUL	796				796
KD9KHA	ANDY	640				640

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**WA1JAS – Mike
Prentiss Twp ME.**

Mike shared this photo of his very well appointed shack:



The Navy RBC-1 receiver is the gray receiver on the desk, while the TCS-13 Navy transmitter with HB Power Supply is atop the RBC.

**WB2AWQ/7 – Howie
Reno NV.**

Howie writes:

Howdy CXers!

This CX found me and the XYL having tickets to a Broadway show rescheduled from the COVID lock down on Sunday Feb 6. I really wanted to see this show and that cut into my CX time a bit. Nonetheless, I managed 48 QSOs on 80 40 and 20 meters. I checked once to see if 15 was open – it was, just no CX activity – so I stayed with the reliables. I started out at 1400Z Sunday morning on 40M CW only to find the MUF went below 7 Mhz for a while, and 80 was dead. Stations finally

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started coming thru about 1440Z, and I worked John WB8APR with a nice (just slightly chirpy) T-21 (ARC-5), and Rocco N6KN with a bunch of stuff. 90 Minutes later I went to 20M and worked Jim W8KGI a few times. Still early in the game.

We went to brunch and the show, and I got back on at 0030Z and had one more QSO on 20 with VE7BGP. I then went down to 40M again using my Dad's Gonset G76 transceiver (below left). It's always a thrill to use Dad's stuff and the VFO performed pretty well! I also used some HB stuff and more. The HB 1932 RX built by W4AWS is shown below right.



The FOC boys were out in force on the lower portion of 40 so the CXers moved up to 7100 for a while. 40M Was really the workhorse band for me this CX, with 28 of my 48 QSOs. In fact, I didn't make one 80M QSO until Wednesday Zulu.

Highlight signals were from WB8APR who obviously regulated his T-21 (AN/ARC-5), Joe KD7JG with a sweet sounding HB 1625 rig, and the whopper Champion of Chirp Toby VE7CNF with his BC-458 transmitter. Toby has got to be the best "chirper" this CX! His Heathkit DX40 on 40M wasn't far behind. Toby really owned the Chirp award this CX. My \$0.02.....

I managed to qualify almost all of my goodies, except for the Henry Industrial RF generator, which suffered a lack of output, my Millen 90800 (did use the matching VFO though), and one receiver, the SX62A which is a tad touchy on the ham bands anyway.

Conditions were a bit dicey on Sunday, with Old Sol coming off a CME a couple days earlier, but Tuesday saw better conditions. Good CX, but I think participation was down slightly. Met some new (to me, anyway) faces during CX – Joe KD7JG, Chris AB5XW, Jack WA0QZK who has a neat QRZ page, Ray N2DXC, Don W7VHW, Dan N0TK, N1LN Bruce, and more. And, Saul, 4A90BCS from Mexico called me. He was part of the Mexican Federation of Radio Experimenters celebrating 90 years.

I did make a half-hearted attempt (actually found a couple of mics to use!) to make QSOs on the phone portion, but in two trips to the shack I called and called, but I heard nothing around the CX frequencies.

73, Howie WB2AWQ

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K3MSB – Mark
Airville PA.

I started out the CX on Sunday morning running my BC-459-A (SCR-274N) transmitter and Collins R-390A receiver on 40M CW. I was using a pair of tractor batteries floated across a 28V power supply to power the dynamotor on the BC-456 modulator and it worked nicely. A bit more power and almost no chirp.

I worked Bruce N1LN who was running a Heathkit HW-104 then Earl K4BSK running his Drake TR-3. Next up was Mike WA1JAS whom I had not ever worked before in the CX. Mike was running his FT-101 and said “I will fire up my WW2 gear shortly”. That got me very interested and I was wondering if I'd hear him on later in the CX.

Well, I worked Bob NV1X running his Globe HG-303 transmitter and HRO-50R receiver, then Mike WA1JAS called me again.... running 25W from a Navy TCS-13 coupled with an RBC-1 receiver! TCS radios are few and far between in the CX and I was glad to hear Mike's on the air.

Afterwards it was Earl K4BSK on his Heathkit Apache and HQ-120 followed by Brian KF6C running his Racal RA-17 and Kenwood T-599 transmitter.

I took a break then returned to 40M with a TS-530S owned by Ken N3CU. First up to bat was W4BOH “WC” using a Collins 310B transmitter and RCA AR-88 receiver. Shortly thereafter I worked Jeff W8KZW using his National NCX-5 Transceiver.

Later in the afternoon I went to 20M still running the TS-530S.

First up was one of our regular CX QRP enthusiasts Gene N5GW running a Ten-Tec Triton 544 transceiver. Randall KG5IEE followed on his TR-4. The western United States and Canada then showed up and I worked the following during the course of the afternoon: Toby VE7CNF running a Heathkit DX-40 and ICOM IC-7410, Mark W7ESN running a HB 5894 based transmitter and a HB receiver, Mark WA0RAO on his Globe Scout and Hallicrafters SX-111 receiver, then Doc W7OS running an Eldico SSB-100F transmitter and 75A4 receiver.

Next up were three QSOs with Jim W8KGI: combo #1 was a National NTX-30 transmitter and Collins 75A4 receiver; combo #2 was the NTX-30 and Drake 2B receiver and combo #3 was the NTX-30 and National NC-173 receiver.

I finished off 20M with another QSO with Mark W7ESN running his HB 2E26 based transmitter and another HB receiver.

I then took a break and came back on 80M CW around 9 PM Sunday evening using my BC-696-A (SCR-274N) transmitter – again dynamotor powdered – and Collins R-390A.

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Three QSOs quick ensued: Earl K4BSK on a Kenwood TS440S, Bruce N1LN on an HW-104 and Dan KB9W using an Eico 720 transmitter and 75A4 receiver.

I then switched over to the TS-530S and quickly worked Ken N3CU on his Heathkit HW-16, Jerry K9PMV running the Hallicrafters battleship class twins HT-32 and SX-101A, followed again by Earl K4BSK on his Drake TR-3.

I did not find much CX activity on Tuesday afternoon but, running the TS-530S, worked Gene N5GW running 3W from his Heathkit HW-9 and Bruce N1LN running his HW-104.

K4JYS – Bill Smithfield NC.

Bill writes:

This was probably the worst showing of any of my CX entries. Not only were conditions stinko, at least from here, but I was interrupted a good many hours during the prime operating times. I had intended to operate a few of my 'odd balls'. All were low power so it took a while to get them qualified. Finally got that done after a lot of calling. I also had to edge over into the four-or-more category. Anyway I ran what I had planned and finally made 13 contacts. Tuesday was again full of interruptions. Numerous 'regulars' were not heard. Here is a little info on the odd ball rigs.

The photo below shows from left to right, the Kelvin 150-03, General Electronics TN-75, and Matric Model 50 (on top of the SP-325 receiver).



Kelvin 150-03: This one was an eBay find....a kit in its unopened box. Sure enough, it was indeed a kit in the true meaning of the word. All holes in the panel and chassis had to be drilled, punched, etc. No Heathkit style wiring instructions.....just a schematic, wiring pictorials and a few notes.

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This was almost a home-brew project. The packing material was old newspapers from around 1980... so I am guessing this was from around that time? The tube lineup is a 12BY7 Oscillator and 6L6GC PA...80/40 mtrs). UPDATE: In the last day or two, I was pointed to a Radio Museum web site that has a little info on the Kelvin...it seems it came out around 1960 which makes more sense...I'm still not sure about why the 1980 newspapers packing....maybe getting rid of old stock?

General Electronics TN-75:



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This is a Novice transmitter made in Montgomery AL possibly around 1958. There is still some mystery around this rig since I have no manual, paper work, and I've found nothing on the web, etc. The TN-75 is a 40/80M transmitter using a 6CL6 for the oscillator and an 807 for the PA.

However, one day a quirk of fate caused me to QSO Earl K4BSK. During our chat I mentioned the TN-75 and his response nearly knocked me on the floor. He said in 1960 they lived in Birmingham, AL. His dad, K4WOQ (now SK), brother Jim K4WOP, and himself all got Novice tickets along about the same time. He said one day their dad came home from a local radio store and for some reason brought home a TN-75. Holy cow, what a great note to add to the TN-75 story. Anyway, a few weeks after our QSO I worked Earl and Jim using the TN-75 for a great QSO and they shared with me a few memories of the rig and that time. TNX EARL & JIM.

Matric Model 50: I found one of these on eBay several years ago. It is solid state and from around 1976...I think. The first one I got would not work and it came with no info at all. It is a 160/80/40 transmitter.



So not being a solid-state tech, I put it aside, but kept looking for info. Recently I ran across two on eBay (with manual & other info) and got the winning bid on both, with very good prices for something I thought this odd. Anyway, the latest Model 50s work....sorta. The best one put out, into the Inverted-V, what looked like less than a watt....enough to try in the CX. I'm thinking it should be more like 5 watts, so more work is needed to get them working, as they should.

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Ten-Tec SP-325: This receiver is sort of a quasi-military receiver used by the Navy for training radio operators (so I've been told). It is all solid state, of course, and works just OK.



It is not a receiver that would be put on-line in a Navy communications center, but is OK for my purposes. It is from around 1987 based on web info.

Finally, here's a picture that shows my Lysco transmitter & HQ-140X receiver (center top and bottom).



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Time spent on the air was fun.....I hope for more operating time and better conditions next time. Tnx to the head shed crew.....

73 de Bill K4JYS

N4KGL – Greg Dothan AL.

Greg writes:

The CX time machine took me back to my teenage ham days and even before my time as a ham. I definitely got a kick out of it, as did all those who participated. No SDRs were used in this event. I like to say the ionosphere does not care how old your gear is. The biggest Challenge was The Ameco AC-1 and the Hallicrafters S-38C together. They worked!

[Editor's note: In today's crowded bands, the S-38C is surely a challenge to use! Greg also qualified his Drake 2-NT and Drake 2-C, Heathkit HW-8, and Icom 703].

KG5IEE – Randall Marshall TX.

Here's a photo of Randall's very tidy station in which he operated his Drake TR-4 and Yaesu FT-101E.



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N6KN – Rocco Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

Rocco writes:

This photo shows my "new" Novice Corner, with the Johnson Challenger (top shelf) and Eico 720 (bottom shelf) transmitters.. The Challenger replaces the Ranger II which smoked. (The drive pot ignited in a cloud of smoke).



SSB CX:

To prepare for this CX, I moved a 75S-3 into the "Rack o' Receivers" which had a vacant spot after I sold an old power supply. I also worked on the Cosmophone 35 and found that it needs an isolated key (no ground), which I had forgotten. Several other radios proved to be flaky, so it took a while to tune everything up. I started the CX with Ron, K2RP, on 7200. We found out that even with high power at both ends, the distance between us is horrible, and signals were too weak. We moved to 3895, and by 1900, we had both qualified tons of radios. On Tuesday, Ron and I qualified even more radios on 3895. We went to 20M at 2100 and found that the band was open, but not great. Bob, NB0BN, had a great sounding Swan 120, and Don, WW5DD, was strong with his Swan 270. I was called by Dan HH2DF/XE who gave me a report with his TR4C (I helped him with bias tips on that one).

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CW CX

I shuffled around several radios for the CW portion. I like the new Challenger set up - the old Johnson VFO would not work with it, but the Lafayette HA-90 drove it very nicely. I opened up on 7045 and picked up several east and midwest CXers. Earl, K4BSK, made it into the log with his TR3, as did John, WB8APR, with his T-21 (ARC-5). Mark, W7ESN, showed up at 1445 with his wonderful HB stations. I later caught Howie, WB2AWQ, with a GO9 and BC348. I finally went to 3543 with K2RP and qualified more boatanchors. The NC-300 send/receive switch died, so could not qualify it. Back on 40M, I caught Howie, WB2AWQ again with his Invader and Navigator (still looking for one of the latter). Bill, K0CDJ, had a strong signal with his Globe Chief. On Tuesday, Ron and I again qualified more rigs in the morning on 3543, helped by K6KOI.

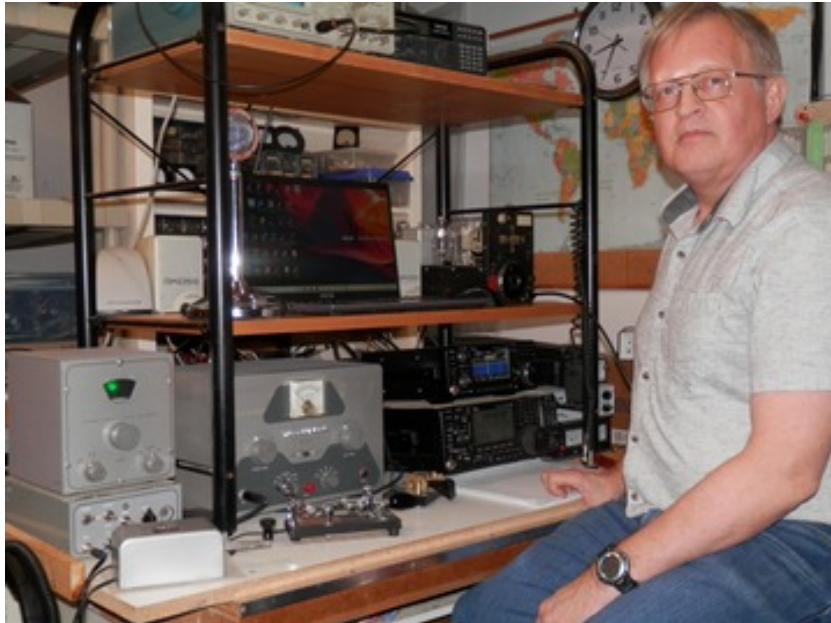
Summary - Murphy hit me pretty hard this year, but it was fun to hear the CX regulars and several newcomers. This is a relaxing operating event, in between rig failures!

73, Rocco N6KN

VE7CNF – Tony Burnaby BC

Toby writes:

I activated the DX40 on AM for the phone weekend and then also on CW. A couple of days before the CW event I started work on activating a BC-458A (SCR-274N) command set that's been on my shelf for a few years. I got it running in time, with about 45W output and a good chirp. It needs more work to tame drift but served well for a few QSOs.



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The keys I used were a 1952 Blue Racer bug and a Swedish straight key. There's a lack of CX stations in the West, but multiple contacts with Howie WB2AWQ, Rocco N6KN, and Mark VA7MM bumped up my score. Thanks to all the organizers of this event.

W7OS – Doc DOCTOR CLIFFORD J SPIKE MEMORIAL MUSEUM Tacoma WA.

Randy WB4SPB writes

Operators for the CW portion this time were Quentin K7DRQ, Dan KD7SV and Randy WB4SPB. We didn't get organized in time for the phone portion in January, and we only managed to put two stations on the air for CW - Harvey Wells TBS-50A & Heathkit SB-301 and the Eldico SSB-100F & Collins 75A-4.

It was fun to connect with CX regulars we've worked before, among them W8KGI, K3MSB, WB2AWQ and W7ESN. Two ops that we worked, WB2AWQ and VE7CNF, fielded BC-458A transmitters, and they whooped identically!



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We scrambled to find a VFO that worked well with the Harvey Wells TBS-50A (of course we call him “Harvey”) – a couple of HG-10s did not seem to provide enough output, and we went with the VF-1 powered by the low B+ and filament feeds of a Heathkit HP-20 power supply. The first attempt toasted the oscillator tube because the HP-20 provides 12V filaments by default (\$#&*!). Once the PS was properly jumpered and the tube replaced with a NOS JAN 6AU6, the VF-1 proved rock solid after warm-up.

K9PMV – Jerry Blue Island IL.

Jerry sent me this picture of his very nice station he operated in the CX:



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**K9VKY – Brian
Fombell PA.**

Brian writes:

Hello Ron and the CX Crusaders--

It looks like we are finally on the upswing in Solar Cycle 25 and band conditions were quite good here in western Pennsylvania on both 40 and 80 Meters. I was pleased the 7100-7125 Kc was opened up for the crystal controlled PRC-1 spy radio set, but was frustrated in that the Digital guys magically managed to operate precisely on my two crystal frequencies. Surely it was pure coincidence. I'm grateful to the CX guys in that segment who were kind enough to tune off their transmitting frequencies to find the 15 watts of radiated RF from the WW2 veteran spy set and get it qualified.

After getting run off the 7100-7125 Kc segment, the Cedar Rapids iron was mustered on the 80 and 40 Meter bands with the 32V3 and 75A3 doing most of the heavy lifting. The Collins gear did double duty acting as space heaters in the chilly (62 degree F) basement shack, and a woolen glove with the thumb and finger tips cut off kept the sending hand limber.



As always, it was great to meet old friends again on the air and to meet new ones as well. Most contacts went well beyond the minimum, and old timey ragchewing prevailed, although several of the

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old timers from yesteryear with their harems of old gear weren't heard this time. Hopes are those guys are well and will be back in force for the Fall CX.

As the last notes of the Winter CX died off, I must say that I am already looking forward to the Fall CX. Take care of yourselves, gents, and keep those filaments glowing.

Brian K9VKY