

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 202

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

Well, it's July, the Winter 2023 Newsletter has been out for a month, and finally the Fall 2022 Newsletter is done! My apologies for the delay!

Lots of interesting radios were used for the Fall 2022 event. Some of the more unique ones were a Homebrew WW2 Paraset Spy radio replica run by Ricky KR7W of Ammon ID and a Rockwell Collins 618T HF Airborne SSB transceiver run by John K0IP of Pocatello ID.

Here's a mug shot of your CX Organizers:



Ron K2RP and Mark K3MSB

I had the pleasure of dining with Ron and his wife Rinkie in October as they passed through Lancaster PA. Great time!

73 Mark K3MSB
CX Newsletter Editor

The Sweet Chirp Awards!



Congratulations!

W7OS: XTAL Controlled Globe Scout 65.

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CW Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	Total
JA3KNB	MATSAMURA	454950	7000	461950
N6KN	ROCCO	126132	6000	132132
W8KGI	JIM	140364	500	140864
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	96660	500	97160
K3MD	JOHN	61760		61760
N5GW	GENE	17235		17235
N1LN	BRUCE	13629		13629
KR7W	RICKY	11900	1000	12900
KB8TL	BOB	1500		1500
N4UJ	GENE	968		968

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	Total
K4JJW	DICK	34465		34465
K3MSB	MARK	23200		23200
W7OS	DOC	20696		20696
KF6C	BRIAN	19412		19412
JO3TAP	TOMONORI	17640		17640
W5SJ	BILL	10179	3000	13179
KG5IEE	RANDAL	4600		4600
N1QY	RON	3944		3944
VA7MM	MARK	3219		3219
W6MZ	PAUL	2850		2850
WB4SPB	RANDY	2561		2561
VE7CNF	TOBY	2304		2304
W5ESE	SCOTT	376		376

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Phone Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	Total
JA3KNB	MATSAMURA	548251	7000	555251
N6KN	ROCCO	262375	6000	268375
K2RP	RON	182248	500	182748

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE	BONUS	Total
JO3TAP	TOMONORI	33892		33892
W7OS	DOC	5264		5264
KF6C	BRIAN	5908		5908

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Mixed (Phone + CW) Scores

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	BONUS	Total
JA3KNB	MATSAMURA	454950	548251	14000	1017201
N6KN	ROCCO	126132	262375	12000	400507
K2RP	RON		182248	500	182748
W8KGI	JIM	140364		500	140864
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	96660		500	97160
K3MD	JOHN	61760			61760
N5GW	GENE	17235			17235
N1LN	BRUCE	13629			13629
KR7W	RICKY	11900		1000	12900
KB8TL	BOB	1500			1500
N4UJ	GENE	968			968

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	BONUS	Total
JO3TAP	TOMONORI	17640	33892		51532
K4JJW	DICK	34465			34465
W7OS	DOC	20696	5264		25960
KF6C	BRIAN	19412	5908		25320
K3MSB	MARK	23200			23200
W5SJ	BILL	10179		3000	13179
KG5IEE	RANDAL	4600			4600
N1QY	RON	3944			3944
VA7MM	MARK	3219			3219
W6MZ	PAUL	2850			2850
WB4SPB	RANDY	2561			2561
VE7CNF	TOBY	2304			2304
W5ESE	SCOTT	376			376

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**K3MD – John
Winfield PA.**

John provided the following pictures of his well-appointed shack:



Top Shelf: Advanced design regen receiver, Middle Shelf: KWM-2A, ARC-5 40, ARC-5 80, Bottom Shelf: National NC-300, AM-2, TS-520SE

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DX-60 and HT-37

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Top Shelf: HB 6MJ6 homebrew, Heathkit MT-1 Cheyenne,
Middle Shelf: Knight T-60
Bottom Shelf Knight-60, N3ZI VFO, Drake 2-C

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K3MSB – Mark York PA.

I qualified three setups The 40M TX/RX of my SCR-274N, the 80M TX/RX of my SCR-274N, and my B&W 5100 and R-390A.



SCR-274N

I managed to log 50 QSOs this time around on 80, 40, and 20M.

As I have gravitated towards WW II era military radios, I'm always thrilled to work others running those same types of radios. John K3MD was on this his ARC-5 transmitter and Rob K2WI lit up the airwaves with his TCK Transmitter and RAL receiver!

I plan to rebuild my SCR-274N system to make it easier to take into the field for demos. The current setup is now too heavy for me to lift (as the years go on, things get heavier....). My plan is to make a mock-up of a B-17 installation.

Work is progressing on my WW II TBW-4 system. I have all 3 components (LF and HF transmitters and the Rectifier Modulator Unit) and a complete set of power cables! I hope to have the HF transmitter on the air for the Fall 2023 CX!

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Top Shelf: Navy RBC and R390A receivers
Bottom Shelf: B&W 5100 transmitter

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Band	Date	Time(Z)	Station	His RST	My RST	State	Name	His Gear	K3MSB Gear
40	23	1304	K4BSK	579	599	NC	Earl	TS-440S	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1308	WA1HFF	579	599	MA	Steve	TS-440S	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1312	K1PUG	599	599C	CT	Hank	Triton 4	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1323	W4FOA	559	579	GA	Tony	Johnson Challenger Drake 2B	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1337	W1GF	579	599	ME	Greg	Drake B Line	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1345	W4AMV	559	579C	NC	Alan	PLL 25W TX HB RX	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1352	N5GW	449	559	MS	Gene	SB-102	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1357	K4JJW	559	579	NC	Dick	Meissner Signal Shifter Drake 2B	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1412	K4JYS	559	579C	NC	Bill	Johnson Navigator Drake R4	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1429	N2DA	559	579	VA	Craig	HW-100	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1451	K9VKY	559	579C	PA	Brian	PRC-1 Spy Radio	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1511	N3GJ	559	589	PA	George	HV 6V6 6W "Modern RX"	SCR-274N (40M)
40	23	1515	N4HAY	559	599	NC	Dick	DX-60 (Xtal) Drake 2B	SCR-274N (40M)
20	23	1637	K9QCK	559	579	IN	Philip	TS-990	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1641	W7OS	559	579	WA	Doc	Drake 2NT R-388	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1651	W9ZLQ	559	599	IL	Dave	SB-102	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1656	N5GW	559	579	MS	Gene	Triton 544 50W	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1659	K6EE	339	449	CA	Fritz	BW 5100B Drake 2B	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1710	W7OS	559	579	WA	Doc	Eldico SSB100F 75A4	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1711	WA4YIR	559	579	GA	Al	Icom 7300	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1738	VE7CNF	449	559	BC	Toby	FT-101B	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1742	N4UJ	579	579	GA	Gene	Ten Tec Omni-D	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1749	KF6C	559	559	NY	Brian	RCA AR-88D Collins TCS-12	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1800	N7WI	559	569	WA	Tom	Icom 7300	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1807	W8KM	579	599	MI	Gary	Viking Valiant 75A4	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1814	W7ESN	449	549	WA	Mark	HB 2E26 TX HB RX	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1817	W7ESN	449	549	WA	Mark	HB 5894 TX HB RX	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	1844	VE7XF	449	559	BC	Ralph	Viking 2 NC-303	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2101	K7LI	559	559	UT	Brian	Ten Tec Omni-6	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2112	WB2AWQ	559	569	NV	Howie	SB-102	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2119	W6MZ	559	359	CA	Paul	Drake T4X R4	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2112	WB2AWQ	559	569	NV	Howie	Swan 350	BW 5100 R-390A
80	23	2211	W2HMU	559	559C	NJ	Gary	"Modern SDR"	SCR-274N (80M)
20	23	2245	WB2AWQ	559	559	NV	Howie	Viking Invader SX-111	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2248	K2BLA	559	559	FL	Al	Drake TR-7	BW 5100 R-390A
20	23	2255	K3EYJ	559	599	CA	Rick	IC-756	BW 5100 R-390A
80	23	2321	K3MD	559	599C	PA	John	TS-520SE	SCR-274N (80M)
80	23	2332	K3MD	559	599C	PA	John	ARC-5 TX TS-520SE RX	SCR-274N (80M)
40	23	2345	W1BLU	559	599	FL	Dave	1W QRP	BW 5100 R-390A
80	24	0205	W4BOH	559	579C	NC	WC	Millen Variarm SB-303	SCR-274N (80M)
40	24	0221	K4IBZ	449	599	FL	Bill	HB 6LB 8W FRG7	BW 5100 R-390A
40	24	0227	K2WI	459	449	NJ	Rob	TCK TX RAL RX	BW 5100 R-390A
40	24	0239	AB8FJ	449	599	OH	Ed	Ten Tec Argonaut 2	BW 5100 R-390A
80	26	0232	W5SJ	579	579	AR	Bill	Viking 2 75A4	SCR-274N (80M)
80	26	0247	N8HWV	449	559	WI	Nate	FTDX1200 40W	SCR-274N (80M)
40	26	0316	K5JUC	579	579	AR	Jim	32V2 75A4	BW 5100 R-390A
40	26	0323	W7ESN	559	559	WA	Mark	HB XCVR Pair 6146	BW 5100 R-390A
40	26	0328	W7ESN	559	559	WA	Mark	HB 5894 TX HB RX	BW 5100 R-390A
80	26	0407	KD9KHA	559	477	IL	Andy	Icom 7300	SCR-274N (80M)
80	26	0415	K8EHE	579	579	OH	Terry	FT-767TGX	SCR-274N (80M)

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K4JJW – Dick New Bern NC.

Attached is a photo of my CX station used in the Fall 2022 CX. I've participated in the CX events lots of times during past years but never submitted a log. I had a great time this year and enjoyed meeting lots of my OT friends again.

This time around I had my vintage stations configured for switching between rig combinations without having to do any cable swapping. That made the event much more enjoyable and easier to make multiple contacts.



My old Meissner Signal Shifter EX is still doing remarkable well. I recently did a frequency drift test on it and the drift at 3.5 MHz is only 800 Hz over 77 minutes before it levels off and is pretty stable. That's not bad for an old rig that has the reputation of being "old drifty". I key the oscillator and it has just enough chirp to give it character. It's actually much better than the drift on my Ranger. I had an identical Signal Shifter that was my first VFO when I was 15 years old. I found this one at a hamfest and just had to have it for old times sake. It was fun using it in the CX. I restored my Ranger from a basket case about 12 years ago, the Drake 2B about 10 years ago, and the EICO 720, 4 years ago. They all performed well.

Some notable rigs that I worked this time...most popular rigs were the DX-60's and Rangers. I had 11

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DX-60 and 5 Ranger contacts. There were also lots of various Heathkits in the SB and HW series. Some of the most notable rigs that I worked was K2WI's Navy TCX and RAL, W4BOH's old Millen VariArm driving cascaded amplifier tubes, KF6C's Racal R17 receiver, W8KM's Collins 310B, K9VKY's Collins 32V3/75A3 combination, and K3MSB's SCR274N Command Set.

Thanks for the enjoyable CX event and I'm looking forward to the next one this winter.

73 Dick Goodwin K4JJW

WB4SPB – Randy Tacoma WA.

Randy entered the CX with his Ten-Tec Century 21 and Drake T4X/R4B setups:



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W5ESE – Scott Dripping Springs TX.

Scott drove his Ten Tec Argonaut 509 in the CX and commented the “Classic Exchange is challenging with 1-2 watts!”



Notice the home-brew open wire feed line Scott is using. Also notice the chokes on his power supply's input and output! I run 450 ohm ladder line at the K3MSB Radio Ranch for my WARC band Center Fed Zepp antenna, and I can get some “interesting” results when using my amplifier!

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KF6C – Brian South New Berlin NY

Brian writes: “I debated for a long time whether to enter the “Four or more receiver-transmitter pairs.” or the “Three or fewer receiver-transmitter pairs”. I finally decided to stick to the latter and spend available pre-contest time working on getting the radios I planned to use in as best a condition as I could. My three pairs are:”



1: Racal RA17 receiver (2nd radio from the right), [Army Radio Sales Co. :: Our Museum Items :: Racal RA-17 HF Communications Receiver](#). The transmitter is the TX section of a home brew raspberry Pi transceiver based on the Hermes SDR and a Hercules Linear using MRF492s. Although this has been made from modules, the front panel is all home designed PCBs, and it carries a lot of boat anchor interfaces, so, I think it qualifies as home brew.

2 RCA AR88D receiver (radio on right) [AR88D \(radiomuseum.co.uk\)](#) and a Collins TCS 12 TX retuned to cover 1.8 to 14.4 MHz. The modification started by changing the Ferrite slug to a home brew aluminum slug. This went very well giving just below 1.8 to just above 3.6 MHz. Changing the slugs in the amplifier/doubler section was not so good, I ended up having to rewind all the inductors and changing their shunt capacitors. To complete the RF modification the PA coil also needed rewinding. Frequency readout was achieved by removing the dial mechanism and adding a frequency counter. [Radio Transmitter COL-52245 - TCS-12 Military Collins Radio \(radiomuseum.org\)](#)

3: HRO receiver [National HRO Receiver \(radioblvd.com\)](#) and a second Collins TCS 12 This

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transmitter is very close to original condition.

A smaller home brew power supply was used for the TCS. The power supply also contains circuitry to allow single switch change-over between the three pairs including antennas, key, headphones, and amplifier power control.

All three pairs used the Elecraft KPA 1500, remote controlled, and the antennas which are integral to my HF setup as needed.

Antennas are a Steppir DB18 for 40 through 6 meters and a 160/80-meter dipole. The dipole uses relays to switch between 80, 160 and non- interference with the Steppir. All antennas are at 50 feet mounted on a 15-foot quad pole mounted on the widows walk of the house. To the west there is an immediate steep slope dropping 300 feet. To the east it is level for 200 feet before dropping 300 feet.

I started out on 10 meters using pair 1. I had a bit of trouble in that I did not understand the rig report I was given by the Ukrainian station. 10 meters was OK, but it seemed all the CX activity was on 40. I basically played SAP for the remainder of Sunday and Monday having very little success calling CQ using pair 1 on 40. I had been running the receivers each day for the previous week with all performing well. I worked one station with the HRO, and it quit!

Monday was used fixing the HRO. The problem was quickly diagnosed as associated with the AVC circuitry. Suspecting one of the capacitors and not wanting to spend the time finding out which one I replaced all the remaining unchanged capacitors. Low and behold that was not the problem. It turned out to be a failed resistor.

Needing to get the HRO qualified, on Tuesday I started calling CQ, using it and the unmodified TCS12. I was very surprised that I seemed to do much better using this pair, the oldest, it was as if the station was easily recognized as a boat anchor! Moving to 80 meters in evening the antenna failed on my first QSO, I made that one but no more.

The voice setup was not so good, apart from needing to mend the Low band Dipoles, I wanted to get enough modulation on the TCS12s without using their carbon mikes. I could have designed a new amplifier from scratch and had the PCB made in China quicker. Being lazy I got an equalizer thinking it would easy but that ended up needing an amplifier to interface with the TCS12. I ended up still having to shout at the dynamic mic.

I thought I was making a good job with my 80/160 dipole. The old one was put up 2 years ago using capacitors that were not up to the job and less than ideal weather proofing. It had survived up to this point running up to 1500 watts. This time I used high voltage capacitors and what I thought was better weather proofing.

I found essentially no CX activity on the bands and ended up working a local, Jon W2BDN, to qualify pair 1 but we could only make 2 QSOs with pair 2 and 1 with pair 3. Try as we might I could not get

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the amplifier to load up on 80 meters with all my blame going to the KPA1500.

After I finished with Jon I went to the K4 to see if I had damaged the KPA1500. All seemed to work well into a dummy load, and it tuned the 80-meter antenna to 1.3 to 1. It seemed 80 meters was dead, so I was not missing much. Not sure why but I switched to the Steppir and 80 meters came alive! The 80-meter antenna was bad.

On the Monday and Tuesday I repaired the antenna. In my attempts to make the antenna weather proof I had used a high strength heat shrink tubing that had pressed hard enough on the relays to break the PCB tracks connecting the relays.

It was now the evening, and it seemed my only chance to get pairs 2 and 3 qualified was Jon on 80. We tried but at 5 miles he could only just hear my 1 KW SSB. I give up!

Tuning around the bands with the AR88 I came across an AM group on 80, They answered my break, and I worked another 6 stations completing qualification of all three pairs.

N6KN – Rocco

Rancho Palos Verdes CA

CW:

I could operate only on Tuesday due to travel to Portland, so this was a one day deal for me this time. The good news - there were plenty of CX stations on the air, many with very interesting rigs.

I started on 7045 at 1300Z and found Earl, K4BSK, with his KWM 380 before the band closed to the east. Then I racked up many QSO's with W7OS, Doc, including his Eldico SSB100F/75A4 and other rigs. Mark, W7ESN, always has a great signal down here, and I always enjoy hearing his fine HB equipment. Ricky, KR7W, was worked with his HB Paraset! John, WB8APR, had a fine sounding Adventurer on the air, and he somehow heard my new Navigator. Ralph, VE7XF, was loud on his Viking 2, as was Howie, WB2AWQ, with his own Navigator.

As usual, it was a blast to hear and work so many wonderful old rigs on CW!

SSB:

Sunday: I opened up the SSB portion with Ron, K2RP, on 7220, and we traded back and forth for several hours. His TR3 sounded great. Later, on 75, I heard his Swan 175 and HW-12 with strong signals, and he managed to copy my NCX-3, etc.

On Tuesday, Ron managed to make his Eico 753 audible here on 40. I moved to 14271 at 0002Z and had a nice run of CX contacts into the rest of the country. Notables included Al, K2JQB, with a smooth sounding 32S-1/75S-2 combo, as well as Ken WA4QKM, with an SB401/SB301 twin set.

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John, WB4ENB, was easy copy on his SB-104.

There were many transceivers heard from the 70's and 80's. Although my score suffered due to other time commitments, I had a wonderful time!



Rocco's Drake R-4B and Johnson Navigator.

KB8TL – Bob Belleville, MI

Bob used two HB setups. Both use same HB DDS VFO and Arduino based HB receiver.

The first TX is a 6CL6 driving a 6LB6 for 175-200 Watts out.

The second TX uses push-pull IRF510 MOSFET switching transistors for about 50-60 Watts output.

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“It was fun, looking forward to SSB CX with "new" Yaesu FT-902DM just restored from CB service. Thanks for running this event”

W7OS – DOC
DOCTOR CLIFFORD J SPIKE MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Tacoma WA

“Doc” writes:

“Operators for the CW portion were Quentin K7DRQ and Randy WB4SPB.

Rocco N6KN gets our Deep Bench award this time, we made 16 QSOs with him. Our nod for most unusual rig goes to Ricky KR7W, running a homebrew copy of the WWII Paraset spy radio. The Millen 90800 used by Howie WB2AWQ is a close second. It was fun to connect with CX regulars.

We had to scrape for phone contacts during the limited time we had available, and although Dan KD7SV joined Randy WB4SPB in operating on Sunday, Dan got no responses to his CQs.

We were found by three stations who seemed to be looking for CX QSOs: John K0IP, Bob W7LRD, and Paul K2LMQ. John’s Collins 618T aircraft transceiver gets our “most unusual” award this time.

We joined a Collins Collectors Association net with our 75A4/SSB100F and extracted the necessary exchange info from the net control station. Turned out he was running a K3... We didn’t hear anyone on AM.”

KR7W – Ricky
Ammon ID

Ricky writes:

“This is my first CX operating under my own call sign. Previously I’ve operated many CXs at W7OS- the Doc Spike Old Radio Museum in Tacoma, WA- before moving to Idaho.

The following radios emerged from moving boxes, were briefly tested, and took turns on the modest sized op table: Hallicrafters SX-101 and SX-71, Drake 2B, Heathkit HW-7 QRP, Homebrew WW2 Paraset Replica. They shared tabletop space with a WRL Globe Chief 90 and a Heathkit VF-1 VFO transmitter- which outputs 50-60 Watts

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The Antenna here is a HOA stealth 20M-40M fan dipole in the attic, about 25 ft above ground and surrounded by 1000+ roofing nails. There's a bit of man-made noise on 40M. I am amazed that it works as well as it does.

Starting on Sunday- the SX-101 and Globe Chief TX combination worked well. After pairing the Drake 2B to the Globe Chief TX, it was discovered that 2B did not receive 40M. The required 3 Qualifying QSOs were made on 20M and then the 2B was swapped for the SX-71. Casual operating on Sunday netted a surprising 20 QSOs.



L to R: Hallicrafters SX-71 and 101 (with R-46 speaker on top), Heathkit VF-1 and globe Chief.

Tuesday's game plan was to qualify a Homebrew WW2 Paraset replica and a HW7 QRP transceiver.

The Paraset only operates on 40M. The TX is a XTAL controlled 6V6 oscillator and outputs 3.5W. The RX is a one tube Regenerative Detector with a second tube audio amp. It runs on a separate HV Power supply.

Transmitting with the Paraset involves connecting the antenna, choosing the desired crystal, then key down to peak the Tank and Ariel tuning caps for maximum brightness of the two RF Power indicator lamps. RX involves setting the Tuning cap to match the desired freq as noted on a calibration chart or the RX frequency can be determined by listening on a separate receiver to hear the small signal from the Regenerative Detector. The RX tuning cap in conjunction with the Reaction control adjusts the RX frequency and the sensitivity. Each control affects the other. The Receiver is quite sensitive and somewhat selective but the op must listen closely as there is a high frequency audio hiss present. The RX is easily overloaded by nearby higher level signals. I was lucky to make 6 QSOs before a loud digital signal started up 5 KCs away.

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For a small taste of Paraset info, see: #5 Valve QRP - Building a Paraset - YouTube



Paraset Transmitter – Receiver replica is bottom left under the VF-1 VFO.

Heathkit's second worse ham radio product, the HW-7 replaced the Paraset and 1 QSO was made before the 40M band died. Then 3 QSOs were made on 20M after the band woke up. The HW-7's TX outputs 1.8W. The RX is direct conversion- which produces an upper and lower sideband signal. On 20M the VFO tuning is doubled, so a very small movement of the tune knob changes the frequency many KCs so it's hard to precisely tune in a station.

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[Editor's Comment: Ah yes.... “fond” memories of my HW-7 I had in the 70's! Still, the HW-7 through HW-9 are well sought after by vintage QRP fans.]



It was very enjoyable to be able to make 34 Qs using no more than 60 Watts attached to a crappy antenna with ham radio sets 65+ years older than an IC-7300. Could ‘IC’ be the abbreviation for Ice Cold? As compared to the warmth and glow produced by vacuum tube radios? I think so, but YMMV.

The best CW signal I heard came from The Doc Spike Antique Radio Museum W7OS's XTAL Controlled Globe Scout 65. It possessed a distinctive chirp but was easy to copy VS other signals with too much chirp. An ARC-5 comes to mind. In this CX, I hit the Jackpot- to copy Jim W8KGI's many rigs all in a row. This year on 20M Jim offered up 6 combos. Also it's interesting looking at the QRZ

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pages of participating CX ops to see some photos of the unusual or interesting equipment they reported using.

For my next CW CX event I'd like to have a second 50W transmitter- hopefully a homebrew.

Thanks to all who participated."

Ricky KR7W

..

K0IP – John Pocatello, ID

John used his Rockwell Collins 618T HF Airborne SSB transceiver:



John writes: The above photo "was some years ago, BUT in fact if I took a picture in 2022 it would look the same ... EXACTLY THE SAME...my hair might be slightly MORE white... HI HI"

I was intrigued when John sent in his log as I had never heard of a 618T. John provided the following link and it has lots of info on the radio – best viewed with a large pot of coffee!

<https://www.k0ip.com/618t/>

From the Collins Manual, I found that there are several variants of the 618T transceiver and they are used for "voice, CW, or data communications in the high-frequency band from 2 to 30 megacycles".

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A trio of 618Ts from John's Web Site.

The transmitter runs 400W PEP on SSB and 100W on CW and AM (Carrier). Power requirements are either 115 VAC 400 Hz single phase or 208 VAC 400 Hz 3 phase depending on the transceiver variant. Also, either 27.5 V DC 100W or 27.5 V DC 900/ 950W depending upon the variant.

Here's a few excerpts from the 618T Maintenance manual that I found interesting in learning about the 618T:

The 618T-() is completely remote controlled from Control Unit 714E-(), also shown in figure 1. Any one of 28,000 channels, spaced 1 kilocycle apart in the 2- to 30- megacycle range, can be directly selected at the control unit by rotating the four frequency selector of knobs until the operating frequency is displayed in the window on the front of the unit. The mode selector switch at the left front corner of the 714E-1/2 controls on-off, sideband selection, and AM operation. The 714E-3 (see figure 1) has two additional positions: DATA and CW. An r-f gain control, labeled RF SENS, is located on the right front of all three units.

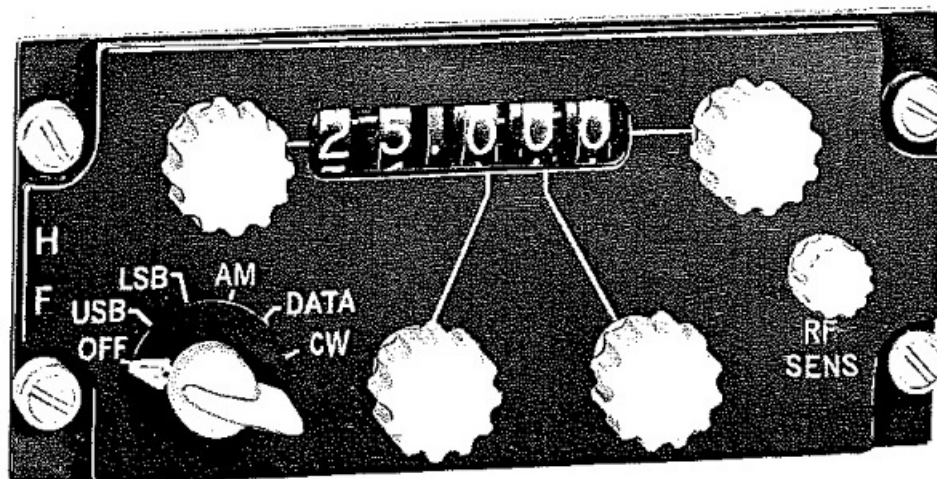


Figure 1: Control Unit 714E-3