

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

Another CX has come and gone. Once again, reports indicted that 10M and 15M really were not that strong even though we were at the peak of Cycle 25! Here's to hoping that 10M and 15M will be better for the Winter 2026 CX.

As usual, this issue of the CX Newsletter contains lots of radio "eye candy" thanks to photos submitted as part of soap-box comments. I hope you enjoy them.

A warm welcome to first time CX'er Ron VE7COR! Many thanks to long time CX'er Mark VE7MM who twisted both of Ron's arms... I mean encouraged Ron... to play in the CX! Mark even gave Ron a radio... but it didn't work... read all about it later in the newsletter. If I missed any other first time CX'ers, my apologies... let me know....

In this issue you'll find an excellent write up by Dave W1VSX about the steps he took to fix his SB-104A. Most of the "unobtainium" final amp transistors had failed, and Dave redesigned the RF PA board so as to be a drop in replacement for the original board. Hopefully this will help other SB-104 owners.

Another rather rare radio I think you'll enjoy reading about is the Atlas RX-110 receiver and TX-110-H transmitter module used by Howie AB2S.

I received two comments from CX'ers indicating displeasure with me scheduling a CX event on CW when there is a major contest on SSB, and vica versa. Guilty as charged, and I am fully aware of this. I try to schedule CX weekends such that there is a minimum of other contests for a particular mode. Unfortunately, this often times coincides with a major contest on the "other" mode. I also have to take into account that most CX'ers are not major contesters, so the impact to them is minimal. This is an issue that I and previous CX organizers have faced over the years, and there's no easy solution. If any of you have suggestions, please let me know.

2026 Is the 50th birthday of the Classic Exchange! Suitable bonus points will be in effect for both 2026 CX Events. Also, 2026 marks the 250th birthday of the United States. I plan on having some kind of CX event for this around the July time frame. More on this in the Winter 2026 Newsletter.

I write this last paragraph on New Years Day 2026. I want to wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you for your participation in the CX; after all, it's you that make the CX happen!

73 Mark K3MSB
CX Organizer & Newsletter Editor

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025

The Sweet Chirp Awards!



Congratulations!

W7ESN Mark: Morrow MB-565, Elmac AF-67, and HB 6146!
"Mark's Elmac AF-67 had a notable pleasant chirp."

KR7W Ricky: Elmac A54 and AF-68

VA7MM Mark: BC-459A.

W7OS Doc: Globe Scout

N6KN Rocco: SR-150 "excelled with chirp and a buzz"

W7JMP Jim: Viking 1 "had a very nice chirp."

W8KGI Jim: Heathkit Apache "a notable chirp."

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

CW Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE
JA3KNB	Kazu	513,315
N6KN	Rocco	411,625
WB2AWQ/7	Howie	85,812
KR7W	Ricky	45,687
VE7CNF	Toby	36,108
NZ0T	Bill	19,536
W7JMP	Jim	12,934
W7DRA	Mike	8,900
K3MD	Johbn	7,829
N4KGL	Greg	4,732

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE
VA7MM	Mark	18,650
VE7UTS	Halden	16,000
KG5IEEE	Randall	15,360
N5GW	Gene	11,248
JA3TOP	Tomonori	9,936
AB2S	Howie	9,840
W6MZ	Paul	4,697
W8MND	Bill	1,870
VE7BGP	Gerry	1,782
N2DA	Craig	1,026
AA2YK	Ernie	1,024
WA5DSS	Bill	756
N9OO	Don	384
VE7ACW	Cameron	210

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

Phone Only Scores

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE
JA3KNB	Kazu	687,354
N6KN	Rocco	318,199

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	SCORE
W1SVX	Dave	66,364
JA3TOP	Tomonori	14,148
NZ0T	Bill	11,972
VE7BGP	Gerry	2,928
VE7COR	Ron	1,872
VA7MM	Mark	1,012
VE7CNF	Toby	576
KR7W	Ricky	354
WA5DSS	Bill	342

Mixed (Phone + CW) Scores

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

4 Or More Pairs

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	TOTAL
JA3KNB	Kazu	513315	687354	1,200,669
N6KN	Rocco	411625	318199	729,824
WB2AWQ/7	Howie	85812		85,812
KR7W	Ricky	45687		45,687
VE7CNF	Toby	36108		36,108
NZOT	Bill	19536		19,536
W7JMP	Jim	12934		12,934
W7DRA	Mike	8900		8,900
K3MD	Johbn	7829		7,829
N4KGL	Greg	4732		4,732

3 Or Fewer Pairs

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	TOTAL
W1SVX	Dave		66364	66,364
JA3TOP	Tomonori	9936	14148	24,084
VA7MM	Mark	18650	1012	19,662
VE7UTS	Halden	16000		16,000
KG5IEEE	Randall	15360		15,360
NZOT	Bill		11972	11,972
N5GW	Gene	11248		11,248
AB2S	Howie	9840		9,840
VE7BGP	Gerry	1782	2928	4,710
W6MZ	Paul	4697		4,697
VE7COR	Ron		1872	1,872
W8MND	Bill	1870		1,870
WA5DSS	Bill	756	342	1,098
N2DA	Craig	1026		1,026
AA2YK	Ernie	1024		1,024
VE7CNF	Toby		576	576
N9OO	Don	384		384
KR7W	Ricky		354	354
VE7ACW	Cameron	210		210

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

W1VSX - Dave

Coral Springs FL

Dave writes:

I had the best time ever running the Fall 2025 CX! I turned the radios on to warm them up at 1300Z 11/2/25 and off at 0300Z 11/3/25 with no issues or problems. I was in the chair for about 12 hours and had a blast! 10 meters was spectacular and I managed to work NAMIBIA for the first time – I could have done more on 10 but I had planned to move to 20 meters after my lunch break and I stuck to that plan. By the time I moved to 40 meters for the final lap the band was D-E-A-D but I managed to get the radio qualified for the multiplier – some kind of solar event I was told. I was only able to work one day as my mom had a heart attack and I had to travel to Bradenton on Monday – if I could have done Tuesday as well I could have run score but since I was already 50% higher than last year I was overall very happy.

The only failure I experienced was the #47 dial lamp in the 75S-3B which failed the night before the contest during the run-up testing – I of course had spares and we got the dial back glowing immediately. Everything else was 100%.

Here is a rundown of the equipment I ran:



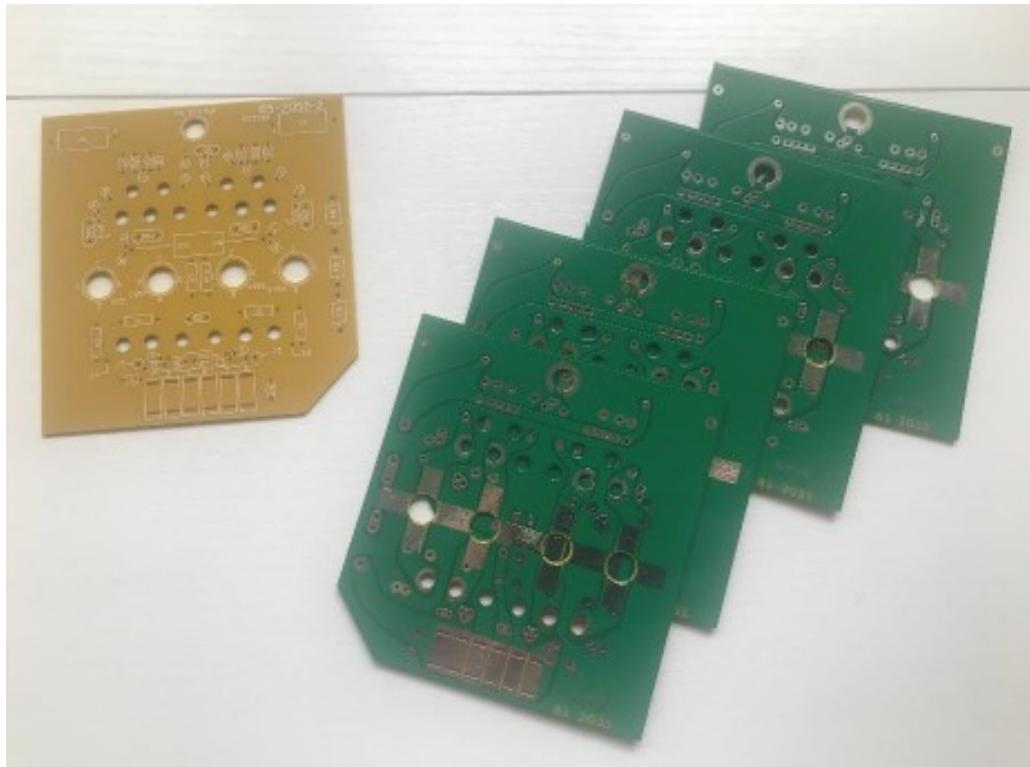
Starting on the top shelf, L-R, station #3 is comprised of a Collins RE 312B-4 station control, a RE 32S-3 transmitter S/N: 30,070, and a RE 75S-3B receiver S/N: 30,430. Continuing, station #2 consists of a late Collins RE KWM-2A transceiver S/N: 38,706 with plastic trim ring and dial brake, a RE 312B-5 remote VFO, and a late RE 30L-1 amplifier S/N: 42,332 (all original - even the 811A's), with plastic trim ring and finger hole. Moving to the bottom row, the main station consists of a Heathkit SB-604 speaker

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

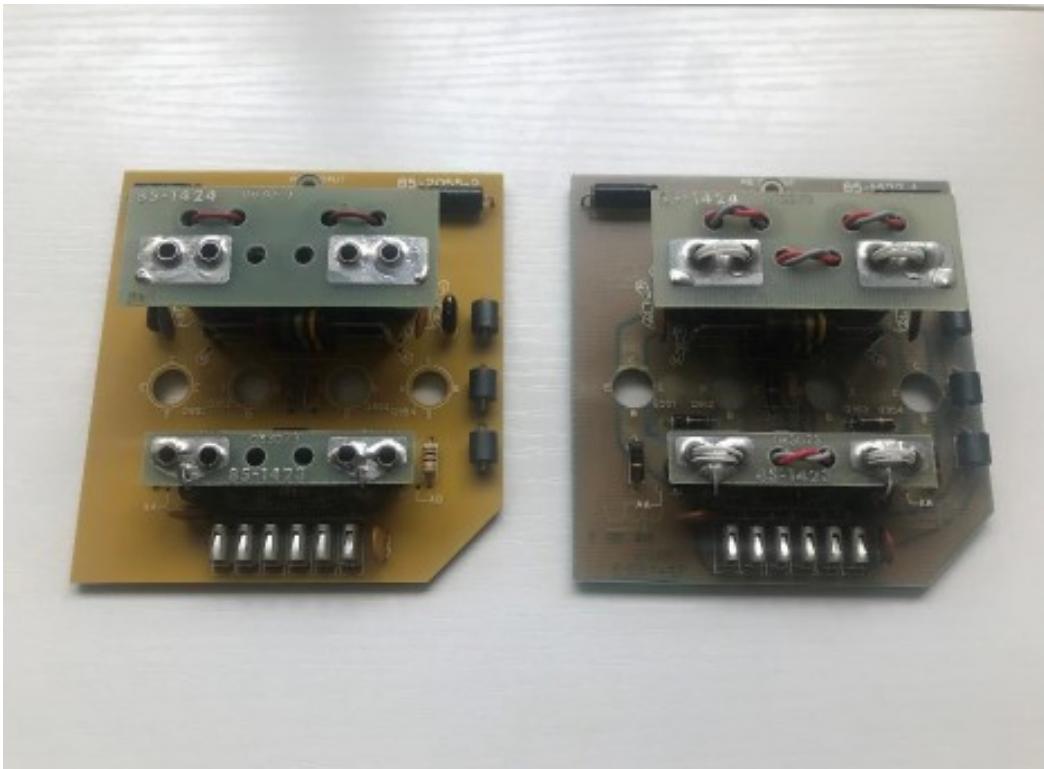
with HP-1144A power supply (w/crowbar), SB-104(A) transceiver S/N: 1810, SB-644A remote VFO, SB-634 station clock/console, SB-230 linear amplifier (with original 8873 making full power), and an SB-614 station monitor (scope). Up front is a pristine Heathkit HD-1410 electronic keyer, a Heathkit HDP-121 dynamic microphone (manufactured by EV), an Autek Research WM-1 computing SWR & Wattmeter and a beautiful Collins SM-3 dynamic high-impedance microphone.

As you know, the Heathkit SB-104 crapped out the night before the Winter 2025 CX so I was unable to compete without my beautiful main station. Three of the 4 PA transistors failed and they are “unobtanium”. I ended up redesigning the RF PA board from scratch to work with more modern transistors, then I hired a company to do the artwork and Gerber files and finally another company to make the PCBs. The replacement drops right in and the radio has never worked better - it is raring to go, but what an endeavor! It took over 4 months to complete the restoration but it was all worth it after Sunday’s run.



Classic Exchange Newsletter

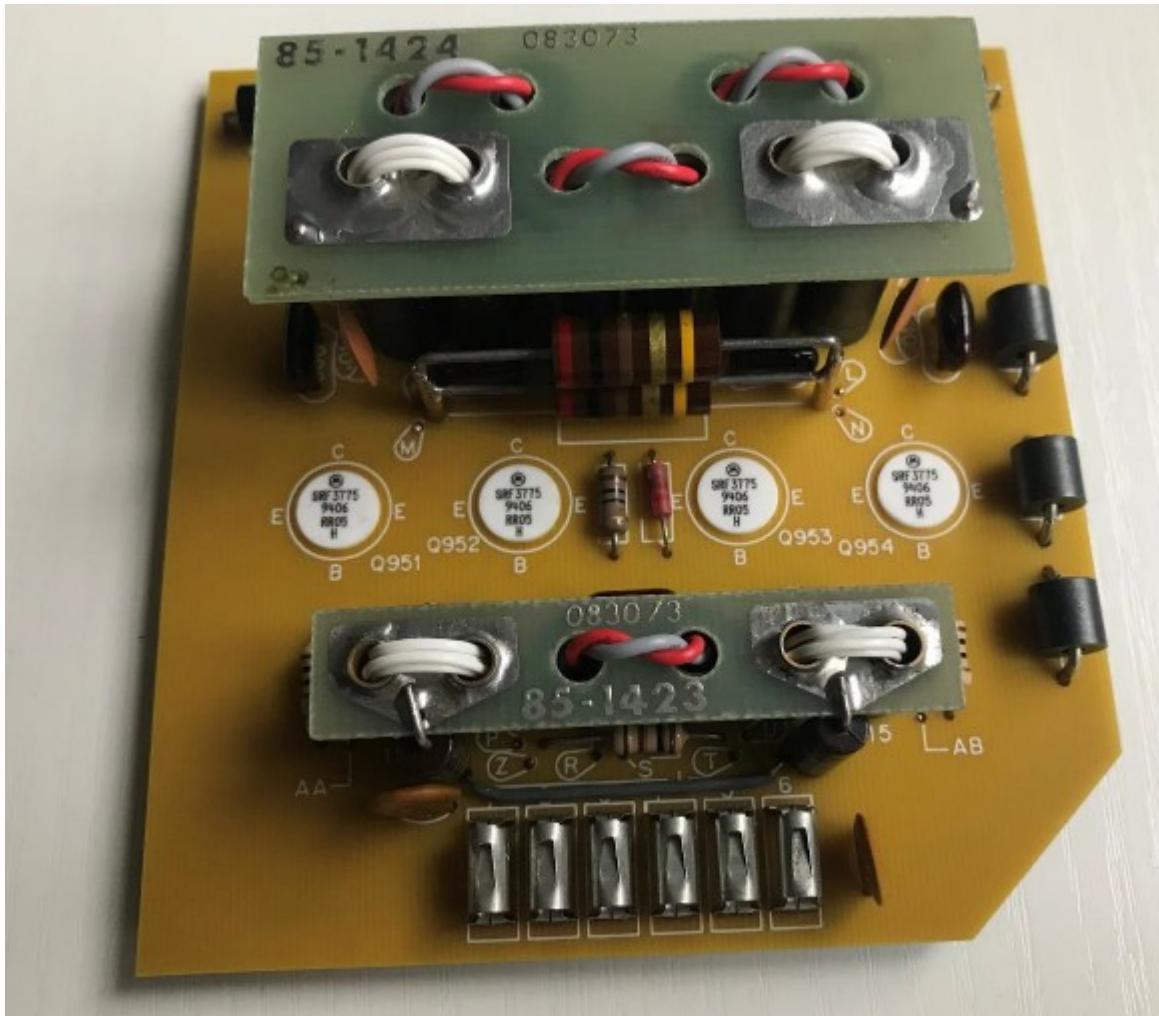
Fall 2025



In the above photo, the new board is on the left and the original Heathkit board on is on the right (sans PA transistors)

Below is the photo of the completed restoration – this board has the fixed bias adjustment on deck and drops right into the SB-104. With a matched quad of NOS Motorola PAs, it performed better than new!

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025



73

Dave W1VSX

**NV1X – Bob
Milton VT**

Bob was able to get two stations on the air, a Globe Champ / HRO 50 and a Globe HG-303 and RME-69.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

WB2AWQ – Howie Reno NV

Howie writes:

Howdy CXers!

This CX I didn't get started till 1315Z. First contact was with John WB8APR, who is a long-time friend. Our very first QSO was Christmas Day back in New Jersey somewhere around 1990-2000. He and I worked CW mobile from my car.

I only worked two bands this CX, because the upper bands were not so hot, and 80M was all but useless. Actually all the bands weren't so hot. My furthest contact was with Randal KG5IEE in Texas.

Chirpers...several good ones! The first was W7ESN, Mark with his Morrow MB-565 TX, and then again with an Elmac AF-67. Next was KR7W, Ricky with another Elmac A54 followed by VA7MM Mark with a BC-459A. Then W7ESN Mark again with his HB 6146 transceiver. Finally KR7W with his AF-68, a fine old transmitter.

I had my share of issues. One of my power supplies that I use to run my BC-458A (40M) and my ATA (80M) apparently popped the HV buss. I lost both the 600V and the 300V lines on it, yet the filament was OK. No other power supplies would do. I do have other ones, but one runs 500V and 1KV, plus 12/6 VAC, and 10V. No good for the Command sets. Have one for the Millen 90800, but I need to check both the LV and HV on that one, plus the 6VAC.

Like I said the bands weren't so hot. I made it to Texas, but nothing heard from the east coast at all. Mostly it was sort of locals, like CA, WA, OR MT, UT, AZ and ID, plus the BC bunch. They do make up a lot of contacts. I made 52 QSOs with my trusty Swan 350 and my Dad's Gonset G76



73, Howie WB2AWQ

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

N2DA – Craig Forest VA

Craig writes:

As always, I enjoyed working those classic stations but had limited time on the air this year. I had a few nice CX QSOs with Randal, KG5IEE, whose boat anchor collection has been growing each year.

73,

Craig N2DA

With limited time, Craig managed 9 CW QSOs with his venerable HW-100 transceiver.

AB2S - Howard Herndon VA

Howard writes:

I had allot of fun and am looking forward to next CX. Antenna was an end fed 70' wire with 9:1 balun.

Howard qualified his Kenwood Twins, an FT-857, and an Atlas RX-110 / TX-110 combination. Here's a picture of his setup:

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



The Kenwood Twins (T-599S & R-599S) are on the bottom, Above the R-599S is an Atlas RX-110 receiver and an Atlas TX-110-H transmitter module. Note that the TX-110 is not a transmitter, but rather a transmitter module.



The RX-110 receiver on the left is a single conversion radio and is meant to provide the user with a stand alone high performance 5 band receiver. From the RX-110 manual:

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

The Atlas RX-110 represents a brand new concept in receiver/transceiver design. For the first time you have a high performance receiver which can be converted into a transceiver by simply plugging the Atlas TX-110 Transmitter Module into the rear connector. You have a choice of 20 watts input power with the TX-110-L, or 200 watts with the TX-110-H.

It is fully solid state consisting of 4 ICs and 8 transistors.

I was surprised to find out how much receiver functionality the TX-110 transmitter module used to act as a transmitter. From the TX-110 manual:

The TX-110 alone is not a complete transmitter, since it requires the following circuits from the RX-110 or RX-110-s:

1. The BFO (Carrier Oscillator)
2. Balanced Modulator
3. Crystal Filter
4. I. F. Amplifier
5. Diode Ring Mixer
6. VFO
7. Bandpass Filters.

As specified in the transmitter module manual, the transmitter module came in a low or high power version. The TX-110-L provided 20W input on 80, 40, and 20 meters and 15W input on 15 and 10M. The TX-110-H provided 250W input on 80, 40, and 20 meters and 200W input on 15 and 10M. The TX-110-H was basically a TX-110-L acting as a driver stage with the Atlas PA-200 amplifier installed inside the TX-110-L.

The transmitter was also a fully solid state design, and was advertised as no tune up required due to its broad band design.

These Atlas radios were produced from about 1978 into the early 1980's. Howard AB2S said he used this setup in his car for several years (which is why it's on a single mounting plate).

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

AA2YK – Ernie Modena NY

Ernie writes:

Hello, another fun CX CW event, thank you for putting it on. My vintage station is same as last year (Heathkit DX-60 transmitter, HG-10 VFO, and Drake 2A receiver) so no updates for soapbox.



Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

**AA4N - Mike
Vonore TN**

Mike writes:

It occurs to me that I only made two contacts, so I don't qualify for scoring... Still, just thought I'd let you know that I was out there !

And we're glad you did Mike. Mike was running his Drake 2NT and 2C combo and I note that one of his two contacts was with N4KGL who was also running a 2NT and 2C! We hope to see you in the Winter 2026 CX Mike.

**K3MD – John
Winfield PA**

John writes:

I had limited time due to CW event being concurrent with CQ WW SSB but had fun. Made many contacts with Rocco N6KN, but then the faulty jumpers kicked in (many, many).

Here are some nice photos of John's setup:

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



Left to Right: ARC 5 VFO, HG10B, HB 40M VFO amp, HB 40M 6MJ6, HB 6L6,
Knight T-60, Drake 2-C

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



Heathkit Cheyenne MT-1 #2



Same as picture #1, but with the DX-60 and HT-37 on the right.

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025



TR-3, Cheyenne #1, ARC 5 80, ARC 5 40, FTDX10, R-100A

JA3KNB - Kazu Osaka Japan

Kazu had a lot of fun in this CX, qualifying 31 radios on CW and 29 on SSB and AM. This included 3 QSOs on 6M AM with his ICOM AM-3D VHF transceiver! Here's a list of Kazu's radios:

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

CW

- 1.Collins 75S-3C 32S-3
- 2.Collins 75S-1 32S-1
- 3.Collins KWM-2
- 4.Heathkit HW-8 #1
- 5.Heathkit HW-8 #2
- 6.Drake C Line #1
- 7.Hammarlund HQ100-A Heathkit AT-1
- 8.Hammarlund HQ100-A Heathkit DX-40
- 9.TRI 9R-59 TX88A
10. FRDX400 FLDX400
- 11.FT200
- 12.Drake TR-4 #1
- 13.Drake TR-4 #2
- 14.Drake C Line #2
- 15.TS-130
- 16.TS-120V
- 17.FT101S
- 18.Heathkit SB-102 #1
- 19.Heathkit SB-102 #2
- 20.Hallicrafters SX-111 HT-37
- 21.Drake C Line #3
- 22.Hallicrafters S-19R HT-37
- 23.Heathkit SB-104A #1
- 24.Heathkit SB-104A #2
- 25.TS690S
- 26.FT101
- 27.TS510D
- 28.FT101ZD
- 29.TS820S
- 30.FT101ES
- 31.FT101B

SSB/AM

- 1.Collins KWM-2
- 2.Collins 75S-3C 32S-3
- 3.Collins 75S-1 32S-1
- 4.Drake C Line #1
- 5.FRDX400 FLDX400
- 6.FT200
- 7.Drake TR-4 #1
- 8.Drake TR-4 #2
- 9.Drake C Line #2
- 10.TS-130S
- 11.TS-120V
- 12.FT101S
- 13.Heathkit SB-102 #1
- 14.Heathkit SB-102 #2
- 15.Hallicrafters SX-111 HT-37
- 16.Heathkit SB-104A #1
- 17.Heathkit SB-104A #2
- 18.FT101ES
- 19.FT101ZD
- 20.TS510D
- 21.FT101
- 22.TS690S
- 23.Hammarlund HQ100-A Heathkit DX-40
- 24.TRI 9R-59 TX88A
25. ICOM AM-3D
- 26.TS820S
- 27.Heathkit HW-32A
- 28.Drake C Line #3
- 29.FT101B

...and a closeup of the ICOM AM-3D VHF 6M transceiver:

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025



I think Kazu is Japan's version of Rocco N6KN – and I glad both participate in the CX!

JO3TAP – Tomonori Osaka Japan

Tomonori qualified three radio in both the CW and Phone events: An FT-991AM, FT-2000D, and a FT-847M.

N4KGL- Greg Dothan AL

Greg qualified 4 pairs in this event: Drake 2-C Drake 2-NT, Drake 2-A Heathkit DX 20, Icom IC 703, Heathkit HW-8.

**Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025**

**WA5DSS - Bill
Kerrville TX**

Bill qualified his KWM-2 and TS-520 in the CW event and his KWM-2 in the SSB event.

Bill writes:

"This is the first time I have used a KWM-2 on CW...it will also be the last."

**KG5IEE – Randall
Marshall TX**

Randall writes:

Another fun Classic Exchange. This is one of my favorite events each year. Heard a lot of great old rigs and some really nice chirps.

Here's a picture of "Vintage Corner" in my shack.

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025



Top left to right is TS-830s, FT-902DM, and TR-4. Bottom are TS-511s and FTDX-560.

For the first time all are working at the same time. This year I used the TR-4, TS-511, and FTDX-560 for the CX. Keys were a J-38 and a Signal Electric SKs.

The TS-511 has a really nice receiver and CW filter and is a great old rig. I use an external Timewave DSP 599zx with the Drake TR-4 and it has made it a real pleasure to use. The FTDX-560 has no CW filters so it was the old fashion way sometimes listening to two or three QSOs at the same time.

Look forward to the next CX session. Randal KG5IEE

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

N5GW - Gene Jackson MS

No pictures of radio eye candy from Gene this time around, but Gene qualified his HW-8, SB-102, and Ten Tec Triton 544 in the CW event.

N6KN Rocco Rancho Palos Verdes CA

Rocco writes:

I prepared for the CX by trying to tune up 20 stations on CW, prior to the CX. This was a good idea because several radios needed exercise and/or repair/replacement.

CW Notes:

I started the CW portion Sunday on 40 with my new JK 2-Element Beam. As usual, Mark, W7ESN was kind enough to help me qualify several radios. His 32V2 and 75A1 sounded especially good. At 1650, I moved to 20. Since my good friend, Ron K2RP, was on vacation, I knew I would have to work the higher bands hard to qualify everything I chose. Notable signals included Doc, W7OS, with his Drake 2-NT, Gene, N5GW, with his SB-102; Bill, W8MND, running a Ranger 2; Ricky, KR7W, with a great signal from his Elmac A54; and Jim, W8KGI, running several great old transmitters, including an AF-67. Back on 40, there were several strong stations, including Halden, VE7UTS, on his HW-101.

Tues, I ran across John, K3MD, with his trusty HT-37; Dan, N7SU, who was kind enough to give me many contacts; Jim, W7JMP, on his nice sounding Viking 1; and Toby, with his good old DX-40.

SSB Notes:

Several of my friends from the 7155 Morning Group were nice enough to help me qualify several rigs, including Mike, WB6DJI, Gil, N2gg, Dan, N7SU, Mike, AI6WE, Stan, N5GZ, Nick, NM5NU, Lew, KW2KW, Lark, KA4A, Greg NR6Q, Ken, W6BQZJohn, K6KOI, Ron, N6XT, Jay, NY6L, and Brian, K6IJ. Some of them were new to this, and soon we were all clipping along rapidly. It was a lot of fun, and they had a chance to hear the difference between the various N6KN boat anchors. I moved to 10 meters at 2054 on

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

28385 and soon had a small pileup. Notable signals included Steve, W5EN on his TR-4. I moved to 20 and picked up Billy Jack, W6IFR, on a KWM-1; and Dale, KW1I, on a nice KWS-1. On Tuesday, Chuck, N6AF, fired up his KWM-2 on 40 and helped me qualify several more transceivers.

The good news; nothing smoked. That came after the CX was finished, when one of my Atlas 210's final amplifier cooked a bypass cap.

As usual, I had a lot of fun, and I hope you did, too!

73,

Rocco N6KN

W6MZ – Paul Del Mar CA

Paul writes:

I made fewer QSOs than in the Fall 2024 CX, but I managed to qualify 3 transmitters and 3 receivers, my best multiplier so far.

Drake T-4X & Drake R-4
TBS-50C & Drake 2A
Homebrew 6L6/813 & RME 69

I had a great ragchew with ZL1HJ starting one minute after the CX cutoff time, Tuesday at midnight (0700Z 10/29). Sadly, no point credit! 40m has been opening up late here into ZL and VK land. I'm hoping for some earlier DX in the next CX.

Thanks to WB2AWQ and WB7WHG for taking the time to repeat exchange info in QSB around 8pm Tuesday on 40m.

I'm sorry I missed the Winter 2025 event, due to a vacation. Looking forward to 2026!

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

VE7ACW – Cameron Coquitlam BC

Cameron qualified his TS-850S in the CW part of the CX.

VE7BGP - Gerry Nanaimo BC

On CW, Gerry qualified his IC-751A, FT-897D, and IC-740.

On SSB, he qualified his IC-751A, IC-740, and IC-720A

VE7COR – Ron Langley BC

Ron writes:

This is my first entry in the Classic Exchange. I was encouraged by Mark, VA7MM, who went so far as to give me a radio for the event. Now, that's encouragement. I had to repair it first and that was the most fun part.

Mark gave me an early Trio version of the Kenwood Twins several months before the contest. As I do with most things in life, I put off the repair job until the last minute. On first powering up, things did not work, no receive and no transmit. Even the dial lighting was dim. "Hmmm, what do we have here, then?" I thought. The receiver was found to have two major faults in the power supply, plus the first LO oscillator was not running on four bands. Happily, major surgery was not needed to clear these problems. The transmitter mainly suffered from an oscillating driver amp. After fixing these things, I could get on the air with some success although Mark was my main contact.

In addition to the twins, I also stumbled into the acquisition of a working Kenwood TS-520S a few weeks ago, so that became my second radio for the contest.

On the air, well, the contest was pretty slow. The second day of ssb operation was a write-off with all bands dead every time I listened. Most of my contacts were with VA7MM locally on the first and second day, and I spent several hours just listening. I guess it was a mistake to only contact other contest participants, but, well, better luck next time. Thanks Mark! By the way, the spotting page was helpful.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

VE7CNF – Toby Southern BC

Toby writes:

Hi! It was great to get the old gear on the air again. It's always good to work Rocco's long list of different rigs, and to get contacts with Mark and Halden locally on all bands. Thanks to the organizers for their work on this event.

Here's a picture of Toby's setup:



Left Shelf:

Top: HQ-129-X, T-19 (part of AN/ARC-5 System); BC-458A (Part of SCR-274N System)

Bottom: VF-1 and DX-40

Right shelf: SX-71 (top) and Viking Valiant 2 (bottom)

Toby used these to make 3 setups for CW: DX-40 / SX-71, T-19 / HQ-129-X, BC-458A / HQ-129-X, Valiant 2 / SX-71 and one for SSB: Valiant 2 / SX-71.

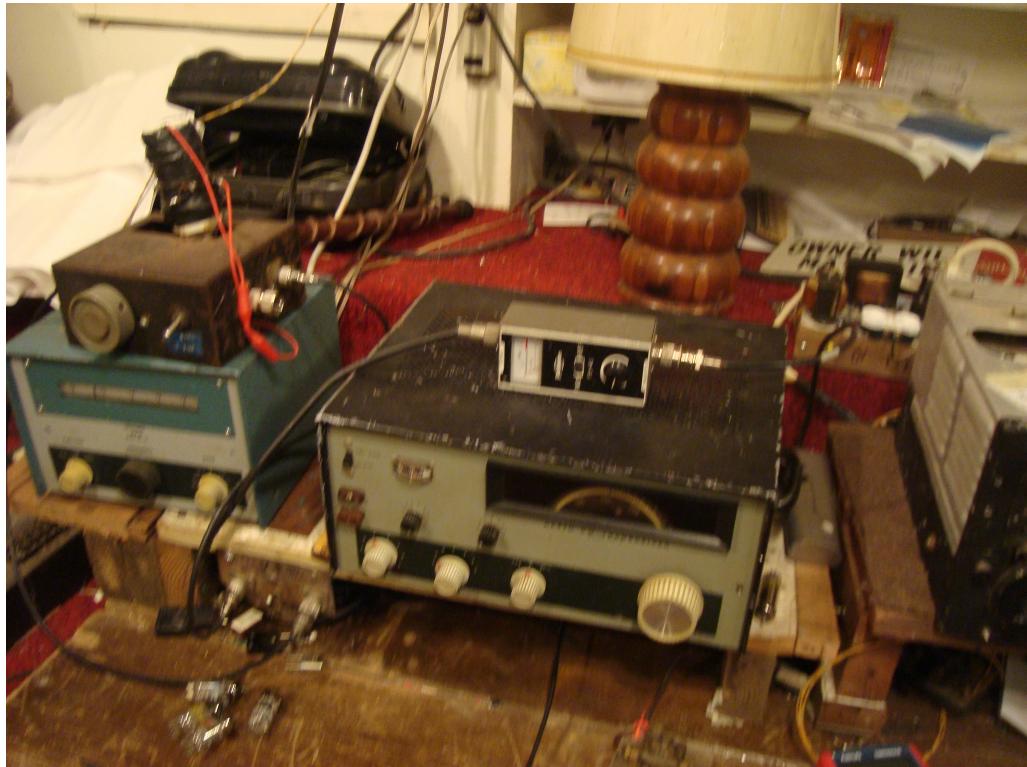
Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

W7DRA – Mike Seattle WA

Mike fielded four setups his time and writes:

This HW-16 has always been my main rig.



HG-10 & HW-16 #1

I bought it from an Iraq war veteran who had a couple of big big dogs. He had a home full of doors and was the care taker of several infirmed people. You could see by his face the affects of war – war is hell. He asked a lot for a broken HW-16 but I would have paid him anything for it. He was selling all his radio equipment, guitars etc

I had gone through 5 HW-16s, the fourth the one below, which by now only worked on 80 which was good enough

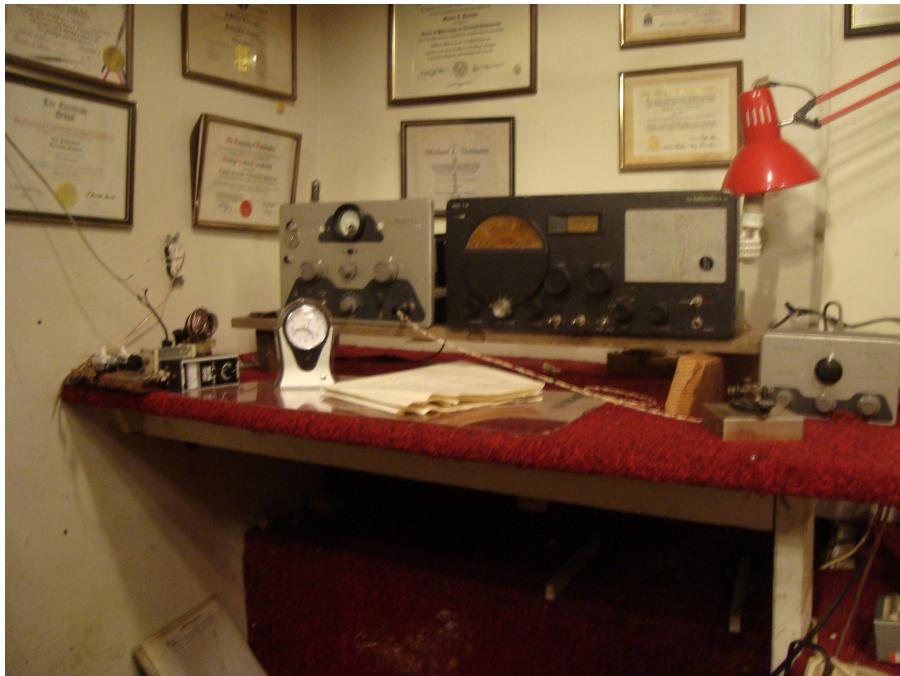
Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



ARC-5 VFO / HW-16 #2

None of my rigs are big ones, no HRO 60s, SX-101, Collins 32Vs or Super Pros. I got rid of all my heavy equipment so now I only have things that I can actually still lift.....staying alive at 85!

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



Heathkit DX-20 (Crystals only) & Hallicrafters S-40



Globe Chief 90A & National NC-57N

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

I'm hoping some day to run eight rigs I've got to get more than two with VFO capability. When you are rock bound no one hears you unless you are LOUD!

My best contact was with VE7OSH running an HW-8 at TWO WATTS.

Watch out 6AG7s... here i come!

Mike W7DRA

W7JMP – Jim Portland OR

Jim writes:

The last several years I've looked forward to the sights, sounds, and smells of the Classic Exchange. Chirpy signals, pictures of other stations, and the unforgettable smell of hot hollow-state gear. While perhaps not as competitive as other contests, in the months ahead I idly considered how to easily switch various transmitters and receivers into the station. After all, more gear on the air is additional points.

Well, the fruition of those plans were delayed to the very last minute when I came with with a screamin' good deal on a pair of Johnson Viking 1's a couple of weeks ago! Every other radio-related activity in my life stopped because I had to fix one of them up and the CX was a natural goal-post.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



With pleasure I can tell you Viking 1 (#1) was fixed up, and not only that I managed to get three other transmitters on the air: a Globe Scout 40A and Globe Chief 90A (I read the bonus points at the last minute!) and the BC-459-A (with a recently added switch to turn off the 1626 oscillator tube. Aids hearing weak signals!) Receivers were the BC-453 with 6BE6 converter and as always the workhorse SX-100. The Viking 1 is quite nice to operate and the 122 VFO with time-sequence keying was nearly rock-stable and doesn't chirp like my WRL 755. The VFO wasn't ready for Sunday's session, but I got ready for Tuesday after rewiring it for grid-block keying and replacing the "Chernobyl" resistor on Monday.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



I worked a good number of stations up and down the West. Propagation back east didn't seem to be as good, but I great great time nevertheless. I look forward to using the Viking 1 during the Phone CX.

Thanks and 73,
Jim W7JMP

And, here's a picture of Jim's antenna farm:

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025



The 80m vertical is hidden in the tree to the right.

VA7MM – Mark Coquitlam BC

Mark writes:

This year I have fifty qualifying CW QSOs made using three gear combinations:

TX: Heathkit DX-60+ HG-10B VFO, RX: Drake R4 (1960s vintage, 20 QSOs)
TX: ARC 5 BC-459A, RX: HRO 5TA1 (mid 1940s vintage, 12 QSOs on 40m)
Transceiver: Yaesu FT-101ZD (1979 vintage, 18 QSOs)

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



I had a T19 Command Set set up on 80m but only managed one QSO with it.

In the phone category, eleven QSOs were made using a Yaesu FT-101ZD transceiver (1979 vintage).

Kudos to Howie, WB2AWQ, for operating a Millen 90800. This QSO on 20m with Howie motivated

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

me to read about radio pioneer James Millen and his many inventions.

Thanks to all who contacted me with many fine sounding vintage gear combinations and in particular to VE7CNF and WB7WHG who operated Command Sets.

I'm looking forward to the next Classic Exchange.

73,
Mark, VA7MM

VE7UTS – Halden North Vancouver BC

Halden writes:

One of the HW-101s I used in the Winter event has found a new home, so I had only one to enter in the Fall event. Once it filled a log page, I got some sleep and worked on my Triton Model 540 the next day.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



This radio is more commonly known as the Triton IV. Rumor is that someone's lawyer informed TenTec that a certain gastropod mollusk or demigod is actually their client's exclusive trademark. Instead of paying more lawyers to point out the absurdity of that claim, TenTec changed the lettering on the front panel of the remaining radios to be manufactured. This radio exhibits a local minimum in RX current consumption on the time scale of market introduction year for full power transceivers, drawing only 0.4 A, far more than its hollow-state predecessors. Computers appeared in its successors, restoring high current consumption again, but not to the level achieved by the aforementioned tube radios.

I had earlier narrowed down this radio's problem to be a failed 723 chip that's supposed to regulate the bias voltage on the final transistors. A 723 donated by a Power-One linear power supply and a few other components got it going again. The tuning was stiff and slow, but some comments on the TenTec forum guided me to the solution. All working again, I set it atop the HW-101 Tuesday morning and contacted several other participants, including two operating the same radio (one with a digital

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

frequency display). In the evening, I moved that stack aside to give the CX7A a turn at the fun. I opened up the MFJ-490X memory keyer and set the jumper for negative keying which gave my wrist a rest. That session generated QSOs on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.



CX7A and Keyer

I enquired about how Toby had obtained such good stability from his ARC-5. His achievement inspired me to work on my own ARC-5 in the following weeks. It gave 25 W of RF out while powered by switching power supplies for the screen, oscillator and plate voltages. Hopefully I'll have it working reliably in time for W26 Classic Exchange, replacing whichever of the above radios finds a new home in the intervening months.

I really enjoy hearing such a variety of equipment on the air during this event. It's an on-the-air museum of the evolution of technology!

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

KR7W – Ricky Idaho Falls ID

Ricky writes:

This October 2025 Fall CX was my most prolific. I spent more time having fun at the workbench refurbishing a “It worked 10 years ago” Ebay Elmac A54 Transmitter. A Home Brew MOPA 6AG7+807 excited by a Heathkit VF-1 VFO was built. The A54 outputs 20W on 40M and 8W on 20M. A surprising amount of QSOs were made with the A54 on 20M- where I forgot it was only 8W. Nobody remarked that these TXers sounded just like an IC-7300.

On Sunday, equipment problems reared their ugly head. The SX-101’s Morse signals ended up sounding like they were played with a kazoo. The 101’s understudy, an SX-71’s tuning became erratic. Both of the radios were sent to the penalty box. A ProgRock2 frequency synthesizer that replaces the HFO XTALs became the easiest to listen to big scoring RXer.

These Radio Pairs were used to make a surprising (to me) 73 CW QSOs.

Viking Ranger	Halli SX101
HB-807	Elmac PMR6
HB-807	Drake 2B
Elmac A54	Drake 2B
Elmac A54	Elmac PMR6
GlobeChi ef	Drake 2B
Elmac AF68	Elmac PMR8

Thanks to Rocco N6KN, Mark W7ESN, and Jim W8KGI for offering up many radio pairs.

I've not wanted to participate in CX Phone due to old ham hearing problems. But put my head down and charged into my first year of Phone CX. A Heathkit HW-32 Single Band 20M SSB rig coupled with a D-104 Power Mic was used to make 6 QSOs on Tuesday. It was surprising to me that 4 out of the 6 contacted hams were very

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

interested in the 59 year old transceiver. Good audio reports were received by all hams - so my time at the workbench 'fix her upper' effort was well spent.

Signal Oddity Report: W7OS, Doc's GlobeScout and W7ESN Mark's Elmac AF67 both had a notable pleasant chirp. N6KN Rocco's h SR-150 excelled with chirp and a buzz. Jim W7JMP's Viking 1 had a very nice chirp. Jim W8KGI's Heathkit Apache produced an unstable signal and a notable chirp. All TXers were easy to copy.

Hopefully by the next CX, my ailing receivers will be back on deck ready to reel in some big fish.

A big bouquet of Dits and Dahs is transmitted to Mark K3MSB for administering the CX. Looking forward to the Fall 2025 CX Newsletter.

Best Regards,
Ricky KR7W

And now for some nice radio eye candy from Ricky!

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



L to R; Drake 2B receiver, Heathkit VFO that excites the Globe Chief transmitter.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



L to R; Elmac M-1070 Power Supply (made for the newer Elmac AF67+PMR7), PMR6 RX, A54 TX (both circa 1952). Atop the PMR6 is the same kind of loudspeaker that the Coyote uses to catch the Road Runner.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



L to R; Elmac M-1070 Power Supply, AF68 TX. Atop the AF68 is the PMR8 RX and GE speaker.

Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



L to R: Heathkit VF-1 exciter, M-1070 PS, Copper Face HB-807 TX. Atop the PS is an Elmac PMR6 RX (1952)

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



L to R; Heathkit SB-600 SPKR that contains HP-23 Power Supply. Then HW-32 Single Band 20M transceiver. D-104 Silver Eagle has the Speech Processor add on circuit board. Black Box gizmo to the right of the HW32 is a Xeigu GNR-1 Digital Noise Reduction and filter, which is helpful to old guy distorted hearing. If I squint just right... I considered it an extension of my Headphones.

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025

W8MND – Bill Mesick MI

Bill writes in that he sported 2 pairs for the CW event:

Viking Ranger 2 & Drake R-4
Heathkit DX-40 & Drake R-4



Bill's tidy and well appointed shack with the Viking ranger 2 on the left.

Top Deck: Heathkit DX-40 and HG-10 VFO.

Middle Deck: Drake R-4B and TR-4C.

Lower Deck: Drake T-4X and R-4.

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2025

N9OO – Don Kenosha WI

Don writes

“Not much activity on this end. Albeit, I did get the minimum of three QSO's, Hi!”

Don ran his Hallicrafters SX-115 and HT-32B setup. What Don lacked in QSOs he certainly made up for it in weight – a VERY nice classic setup..

NZ0T – Bill Shell Knob MO

Bill writes:

Always a fun event! And this dedicated CW op decided to add phone to my CX effort this year and I ended up with more phone QSOs than CW! I Used my Drake 2-NT/2C twins, Ten Tec Triton IV, Kenwood TS-530S, Heathkit SB-102 and Heathkit HW-16. I even had one QSO on an Eico 753 (7 drifty 3) but the thing drifted around so much I didn't try for two more to qualify it. Thanks all for the fun!

Classic Exchange Newsletter

Fall 2025



Classic Exchange Newsletter
Fall 2025



Rev 2 1 Jan 2026 1600Z