



THE JOURNAL
OF
THE ROYAL SIGNALS
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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HEADQUARTERS STATION - CATTERICK CAMP - GB3RCS/G3CIO

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EDITORIAL

Once again the inside front cover of MERCURY has had to be changed. Very shortly after taking over as Treasurer Mike Greaves was taken ill and as we were busy with the Fund raising Draw it was impossible to continue without an active Treasurer. Accordingly Captain John Tonnison of 24th Signal Regiment has taken the reins at least for the time being. The latest news we have of Mike is that he is on sick leave and well on the way, we hope, to recovery.

At the end of April Brigadier Robinson retired from the Army and his post as Director of Telecommunications (Army) passed to Brigadier Horsfield. Our new President was well aware of this Society's existence having previously held the appointment of CSO Southern Command with G5YN as one of his staff. No one can work with Evan and not know about amateur radio!! Our members who operated GB3LPC from Lundy Island were helped in their arrangements by the fact that our new President was a school friend of the owner of Lundy.

To both these gentlemen members will wish to extend a greeting and the hope that they enjoy their period of office.

All these changes may occasionally cause members to wonder to whom letters should be addressed. If in doubt write to the Society, not to an individual officer, at 2 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp and your scribe will be pleased to act as a Post Office. But when writing please quote your membership number.

73

ECHO JULIET FOXTROT

ACTIVITY PERIODS

On the LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH from 1000-1200 and 1400-1600 UK time

Approx. frequencies:- 3530, 14050 and 21050 Kc/s on CW
3700, 14120 and 21150 Kc/s on Phone (AM, or SSB)

UK members are particularly asked to attempt to contact overseas members on 14 and 21 Mc/s during these periods.

Ring these dates on your calendar:-

July 31st

Aug. 28th

Sep. 25th

Oct. 30th

A TRANSISTORISED CRYSTAL CALIBRATOR

by G3UVY

The calibrator whose circuit is shown can be built on a piece of Veroboard measuring 3 inches by 2 inches, the only component not mounted on the board being the switch. The unit will deliver 1 Mc/s harmonics which are clearly audible up to 14 Mc/s and 100 Kc/s and 10 Kc/s harmonics usable up to 30 Mc/s.

The unit is based upon a 1Mc/s crystal obtained quite cheaply from one of the well-known surplus stores. Following the crystal oscillator are two multivibrators; the first consisting of TR2 and TR3 divides the frequency by ten giving 100 Kc/s points whilst the second consisting of TR4 and TR5 further divides by ten giving the 10 Kc/s points.

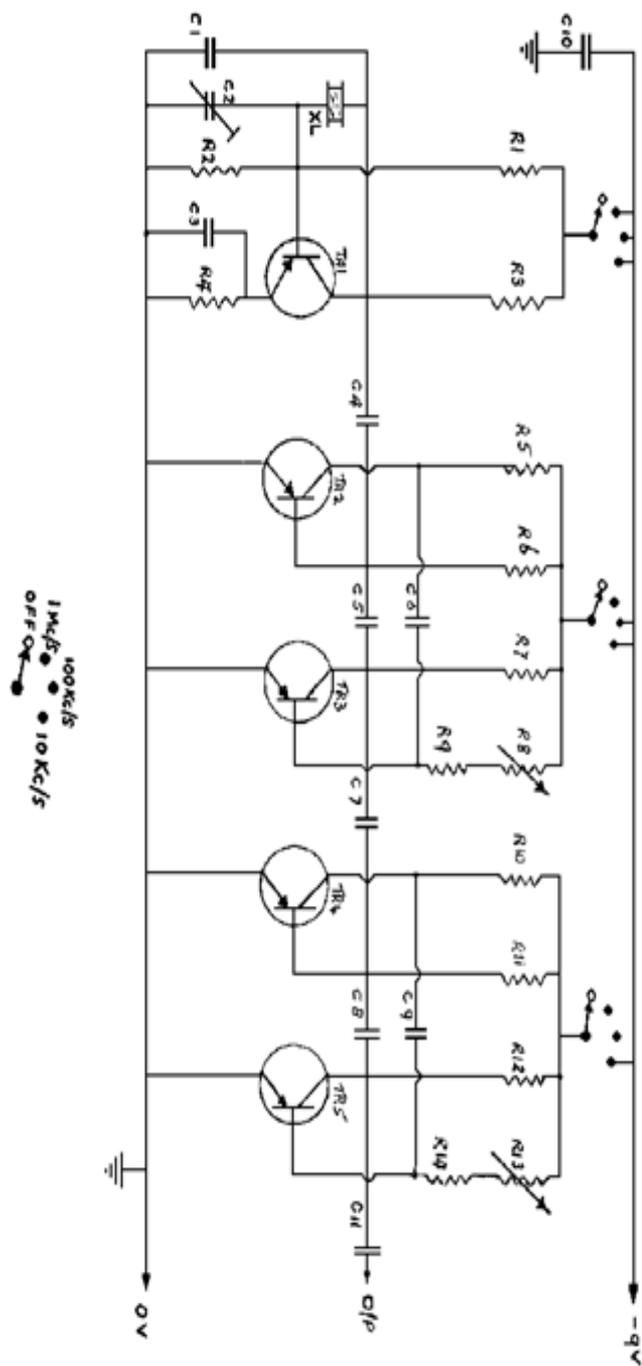
In the prototype the transistors used were the "untested, unmarked" variety which are advertised at a few shillings per hundred. Perhaps we were lucky in the batch we bought but most of them were found to oscillate quite happily at above 1 Mc/s. However it is conventional to specify types and it is considered that an OC 171 or similar would be suitable for TR 1 whilst OC 45's would fill the bill for the other stages.

The writer and several of his colleagues had spent quite a few hours playing with oscillator circuits and had found that transistor oscillators using tuned circuits often continued to oscillate, sometimes on a different frequency, although the crystal was removed from its socket. Whilst the reasons for this are not unduly complex it was felt that life would be much easier if a circuit could be devised which did away with inductances. The result was as given, the trimmer C2 enables the crystal to be zero-beat with one of the standard frequency transmissions. With one particular crystal it was found necessary to put a further 25 pF in parallel with C2 in order to pull the crystal onto the exact frequency.

Adjustment of the multivibrators to divide by ten is often a matter of experiment. In the case of the 100 Kc/s multivibrator it is a good idea to set R8 to the centre of its track and adjust the values of C5 and C6 until correct frequency division is obtained with R8 near the centre. Similarly set R13 to the centre position and adjust C8 and C9 in the case of the 10 Kc/s multivibrator.

It may be found that switching the 100 Kc/s multivibrator on pulls the crystal a few cycles, adjustment of C2 for zero-beat with a standard frequency should therefore be carried out with the 100 Kc/s multivibrator switched on.

Finally a few words on the more general aspect of building gear using transistors. Even new manufacturer's stock transistors show quite a large spread in characteristics whilst there is no guarantee that any two of the unmarked variety will be even remotely similar. Slavish copying of a circuit is therefore out of the question and the reader would be well advised to build the unit up in breadboard fashion on a large tag-strip in the first place. If the unit is built a stage at a time variable resistors can be used and adjusted for best results. Having done this, remove the variable resistor from the circuit and measure the value used and replace in the circuit with the nearest preferred value. Once the values that work best are known the unit can be rebuilt compactly, care being taken to use each transistor in its original position in the circuit.



Component values

R1 68K	R8 10K variable	C1 68pF	C10 0.1microF
R2 10K	R9 33K	C2 3-30pF trimmer	C11 100pF
R3 7.5K	R10 2.2K	C3 0.01 microF	TR1 - TR5 see text
R4 4.7K	R11 33K	C4 50pF	XL 1 Mc/s crystal
R5 2.2K	R12 2.2K	C5 & C6 250pF	
R6 39K	R13 10K variable	C7 20pF	
R7 2.2K	R14 2.7K	C8 & C9 3000pF	

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Royal Signals at Seymour Hall

We have been informed that permission has been granted for a large Royal Signals display at the RSGB International Communications Exhibition this year. No details can be given as things are still in the planning stage but it is intended to show modern equipment of various kinds including test gear which can be used to check visitors equipment. The display is to be manned by members of the Corps who are also Radio Amateurs and it is hoped that the whole display will be designed to appeal to the technical visitor.

Obituary

Our last issue carried news of our member "Bing" Crosbie 9L1BC. What we did not know at the time was that within a few days of writing to the Editor, Bing was dead. His sudden death at the early age of 29 must have come as a great shock to all who knew him. We can but offer our sympathy to his widow and two young children.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Award

The first award for working 25 member stations including the HQ station has been made to the Royal Signals sub-Section of Nottingham University Officers Training Corps operating under the callsign G3RWF/A.

We offer our congratulations to Nick Kenwood G3RWF who did the operating.

Paying for your Licence

Many members of the Society will have a Post Office Savings Bank account. You can arrange to pay the £2 a year for your ticket by means of a POSB Standing Order and this arrangement will continue when you are overseas. It all sounds pretty foolproof to us.

Members' Purchase Scheme

In order to reduce the amount of paperwork involved and to get rid of the necessity for the Treasurer to make a lot of entries in his books we have decided to make a change in the way this scheme is run.

In future we ask you to proceed as follows:-

Having decided that you wish to purchase a piece of equipment write to the Treasurer telling him the full names and catalogue numbers of the items together with the name and address of the manufacturer or agent. The Treasurer will provide you with a letter of introduction which you forward to the supplier; on receipt of his quotation you then forward him your remittance. No money should be sent to the Society.

Help Wanted - Help Given

In our last issue we published an appeal from a member for gen on the BC 610. Within a few days of publication we received from another member a photostat copy of a letter which read "Herewith the circuit diagrams etc.", a few days later a number of diagrams were received at HQ from yet another member and these were forwarded.

Those Russian QSL's

G3CIO received one the other week which showed, and we quote the translation on the reverse, "The Backside of the Moon as photographed by the Russian Spaceship".

The man in the moon he must have been standing up.

THE FUND RAISING DRAW

The winning numbers in our 1966 Draw were as follows :-

FIRST: Ticket No 11607, B. Spark, 2 Burnside Road, Latham, Forfar.

SECOND: Ticket No 10503, G.E. Hathaway, The Street, Kennington, Ashford.

THIRD: Ticket No 960, D. Marshall, 237 Signal Squadron, Singapore.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is intended to hold the Society's A.G.M. during the period of the RSGB Exhibition in October, details of time and place will be given in our October issue. Meantime any member who wishes to have any matter raised at the meeting should write giving details to the Field Secretary.

Spring Cleaning ?

G5YN has the following for disposal:- A 250TH with socket, a number of power transformers and smoothing chokes, a wide spaced PA tuning capacitor and several coils for use with same plus other coils designed for the VFO, doubler and driver stages of a TX. The address is GOLDENS, TEFFONT, SALISBURY and the telephone number is Teffont 275. Evan says "if anyone wants any of it they will have to come and collect it.

DX-PEDITION TO KAMARAN ISLAND

Early this year a letter arrived at Catterick from Sgt Ray Vasper of 210 Signal Squadron telling of plans to operate VS9KRV from Kamaran Island in the Red Sea. Arrangements were made for the Society to provide the first 1000 QSL cards and to supply as many more as required at the usual price.

The following description is taken from letters from Ray Vasper and other sources.

The party on Kamaran Island consisted of three radio amateurs, Sgt RON COX, (VS9ACC), CPL RON FORD, (VS9AFR) and Self (VS9ARV). a training and domestic link was also in operation, working back to Aden and this link was operated by Cpl Clark, Sig Manifold and Sig Quinn. Sgt Jeff Williams did sterling work as the resident Radio Tech, and Cpl Woods supplied the coxes, did the cooking, and generally looked after our messing problems. We arrived on Kamaran at 0820 hrs MEZ and as soon as the gear had been off-loaded, and our presence reported to the assistant Commissioner, we were shown to the clubhouse that was to be our radio shack for the next nine days.

The first job was to sort out various tusks, this was done over a cup of tea around the dining room table. Personal kit and bedspaces were sorted out and the Rear Link radio station installed and tested. Sites for the three 40ft masts were selected, and with the willing hands of all present, one of the 40 footers was erected with the beam lashed to the top with strong rope. A 27ft mast was also put up, this was for the rear link set and would also be used at a later date to support a dipole antenna for the training link.

Tables and chairs were produced and the two KW 2000s set up, one was connected to the beam, and then came the call for lunch. After a substantial meal of stew, or something closely resembling it, a few of the party had a dip in the Red Sea which ran about 30 yards away from the shack. Whilst they were in the water I loaded up the first 2000, whistled into the mike and back came a 5 and 9 echo from our first contact, ET3HL, after giving us a 5 and 9 also, and expressing his delight at getting such rare DX on a chance whistle, left us to continue our aerial erecting work. The time was now 1430 MEZ, and we still had a dipole to put up for 20, 40 and 80 metres, the beam giving us cover for 10, 15 and 20.

By 1700 hrs we had completed all the mast erecting, dipoles up, unpacked the logs and other items of gear laid out the mikes, keys and odds and ends of paperwork, and were ready for our evening meal. Thus reinforced with more of Cpl Woods victuals, we sat down at the KW 2000s, put the switches ON, and commenced our ham Dx-pedition proper by roping in 129 QSOs before midnight on the 4th Mar, and making that total 301 by breakfast time on the 5th. A few facts and figures may be useful at this point John, and are bound to be of interest to any other Royal Sigs group planning a Dx-pedition of the kind we did on Kamaran Island.

BANDS WORKED	-	10, 15, 20, 40, 80.
CONTACTS MADE	-	3337
DURATION OF TRIP	-	NINE DAYS - 4th Mar 66 to 14 Mar 66
		(9 days actual operating time)
MODE WORKED	-	SSB AND CW.
CALLSIGN	-	VS9KRV.

In addition to 112 countries, 36 Zones were worked, and most of the British Empire and Commonwealth countries. As yet we can only approximate the total R.S.A.R.S. members contacted, but it is at least 20, and we may yet apply for the 25 award if we can prove that number of contacts.

We had a fair share of setbacks, one of the KW's kept losing drive and on the 7th our beam came crashing down, due entirely to the very high winds that prevailed on the island during our stay there. It took all hands and about two hours to get the beam back up and the 40 ft mast re-erected.

During our OFF DUTY hours, we were able to fish both from the shore and from a small boat put at our disposal by the Commissioner, the water was nice and warm for swimming, and the entire island was explored from end to end, both by vehicle and on foot. The Commissioner gave us full use of a Landrover (1945 Vintage), and a 3 ton Commer from the same era, was given us to move our equipment around. Gazelle were plentiful and more than one beast ended up on our dinner plates. Possibly the only objections regarding these Gazelle, came from the R.A.F. Beverley Pilot, who on seeing a Gazelle's head that had been stuffed by a native on the island; being packed to bring back to Aden, muttered something about 'a terrible stink' and insisted that head was placed at the rear end of the aircraft 'Well away from the Pilots and the crews quarter'. We also had a competition shoot against the police force, and were happy to let them see how good the weapons can be when used by experts, HI. We only just beat them by 103 to 53 points.

Came the 13th March and all kit was packed for the following day, except one 2000, this was left operating until the very end, and packed just before the Beverley arrived on the 14th to take us all back to Aden.

We learned on arriving back at RAF KHORMAKSAR, where we were met by the VS9 QSL Manager, that the cards had already started flowing in, and there now remains to get the QSL cards sent off to at least 4000 Amateurs and SWLs, to apply for the available awards and if possible to organise another Royal Signals Dx-pedition to another very rare island, KURIA MARIA (VS9H) during 1966.

In conclusion, special mention of my troop OC, Capt. Spence, who did all the hard work before the trip, and without whose help and fast talk to the RAF boys, convincing everybody that this trip was not a swan, we could not possibly have made it to KAMARAN, the island of the TWO MOONS.

Meantime back at the ranch, to coin a phrase, G3CIO searched diligently but never heard a sound of VS9KRV. Twice G3EJF, happily nattering on 80 metres, was told that VS9KRV had been working G's on that band the night before, but in each case there had been nobody at the HQ station that evening.

A frantic letter from Captain Spence of 210 Squadron asking for more QSL cards told of the mammoth task which would face the operators when they returned. Our printer was nagged into rushing the job and the cards and posting them as quickly as possible,

There seems no doubt that thanks to the efforts of all concerned a lot of people were made aware that Royal Signals Amateurs are a lively crowd.

THE VEE BEAM - ROTARY MULTI ELEMENT

(with acknowledgements to G3IAD)

by ZC4LK

Most amateurs have a favourite antenna - I didn't, but always wished I did. I've been 'floating' along for some time on any I could find or easily fling up a few feet (and lets face it, don't a lot of us?) For some time I've realised that my GP and trap Dipole were not doing the job they should have done - they were a few years old and patched here and there. When my pal up the road (ZC4BC) was working merrily into 'W-land' with his forty watts, and my DX 100/AR88 combination not even hearing them I decided that something must be done. A short visit to Barry's shack showed me his antenna - a two element VEE BEAM, constructed from the very same handbook I had also purchased a year ago.

Almost from that very moment I started to collect the various bits of metal I thought I would need for this mammoth project. This sort of construction job on Cyprus is not an easy matter - the availability of aluminium tubing is virtually nil. The TOT came to my aid by offering some offcuts of one and a quarter inch tubing - the longest was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet - and most were about 2 feet long. Not to be outdone I collected some beechwood rollers from the inside of the teleprinter rolls and shaving them down to size rammed them hard down each tube and joined all the pieces together that way. That gave me a head start. A short trip to the local Army surplus shop produced six sets of 'F' sections for the elements (I think they are about 7/6 each in UK) and the construction could begin.

The actual construction is simplified by the fact that the beam is a 'Plumbers Delight' - no insulation required anywhere except in the Gamma Box - all the elements are bolted or clamped directly to the boom. Some method of clamping the 'F' sections had to be devised (have you tried drilling them?) and a final solution was found as in figure 2. It's worth a mention at this point to make the REFLECTOR plates about 9 inches longer each side to allow the element rods to be bolted well away from the boom to give the extra length required. The length of the driven element is just about right if you go to some trouble to select the longest set of 'F' sections for this. The director will need to be trimmed a little.

It is suggested that the lower sections of the elements are first bolted to the right-angle plates and, using the rods to sight along it is a fairly simple matter to drill the main boom and the angle plates and bolt them in place all in line and all at the correct angle in relation to the direction of fire. With all VEE plates securely bolted to the boom, now select the remaining sections and screw home the brightly shining ends into the lower rods. Bolt the 'Gamma Box' with it's fitted components in place about five inches behind the driven element (towards the reflector) - place it so that the end of the feed through insulator is five inches behind the driven element. Attach the Gamma rod and at the measured distance from the insulator, clamp across to the main element. This clamping strip needs to be fairly sturdy as the 'whip' during a high wind will twist the Gamma Rod out of alignment with an experienced drop in signal strength.

Tuning is fairly simple although it will need the use of a GDO and an SWR bridge (there was an excellent design for one some time back in this very journal). Providing one measures and trims the elements vary carefully according to the figures provided, a GDO could be dispensed with and good results obtained, but for optimum results 'dip' it first. Dipping is accomplished by removing

FIGURE 1

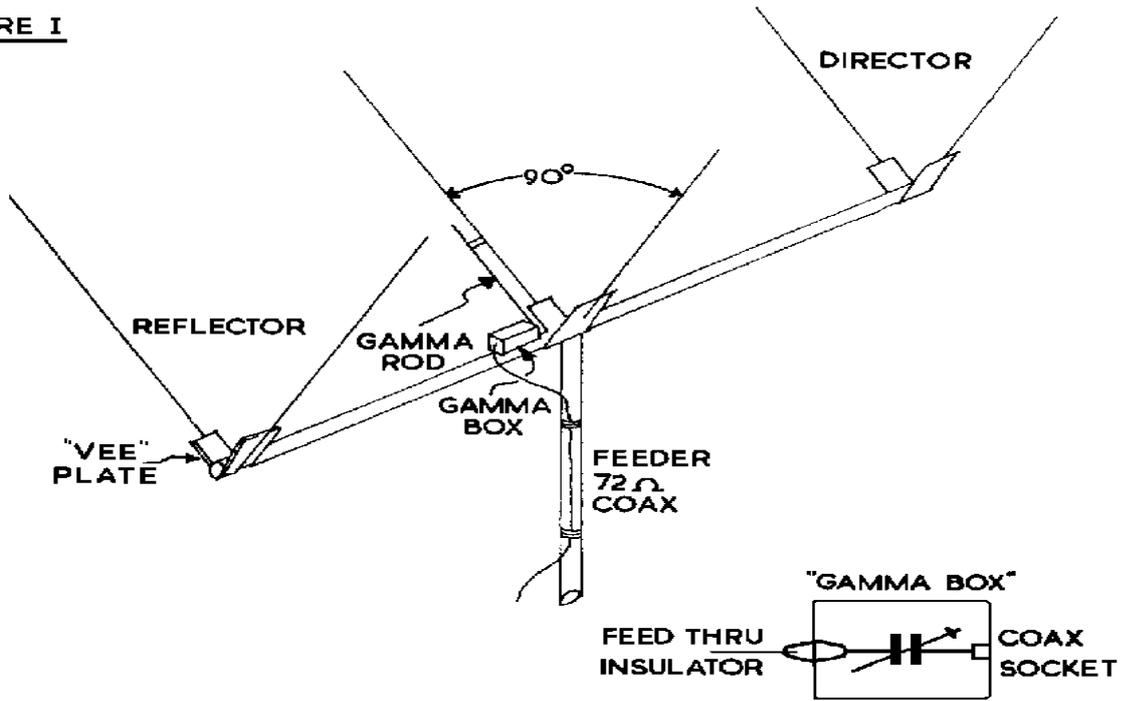
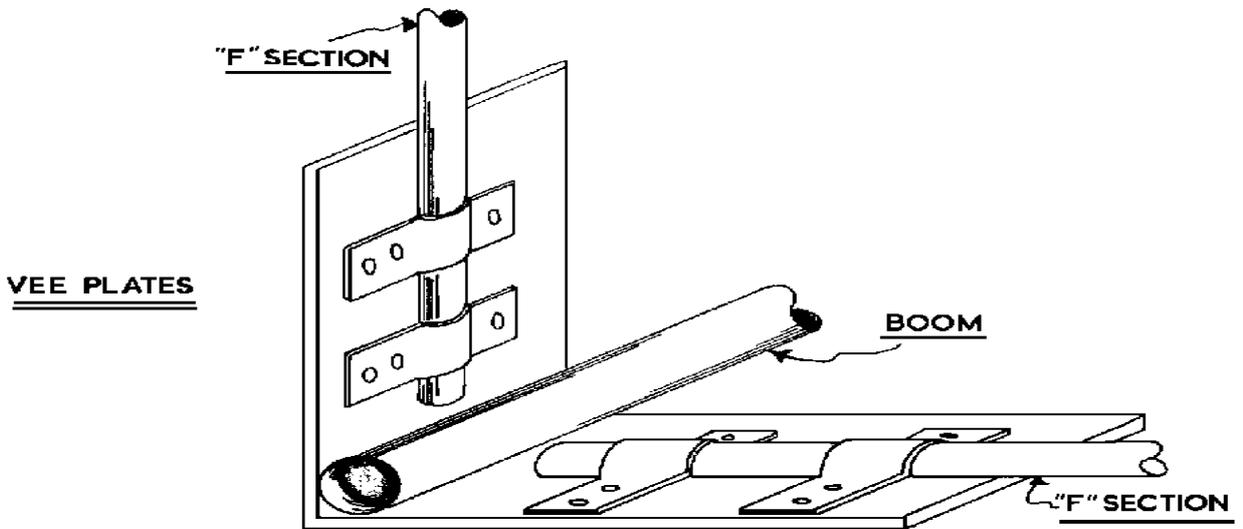
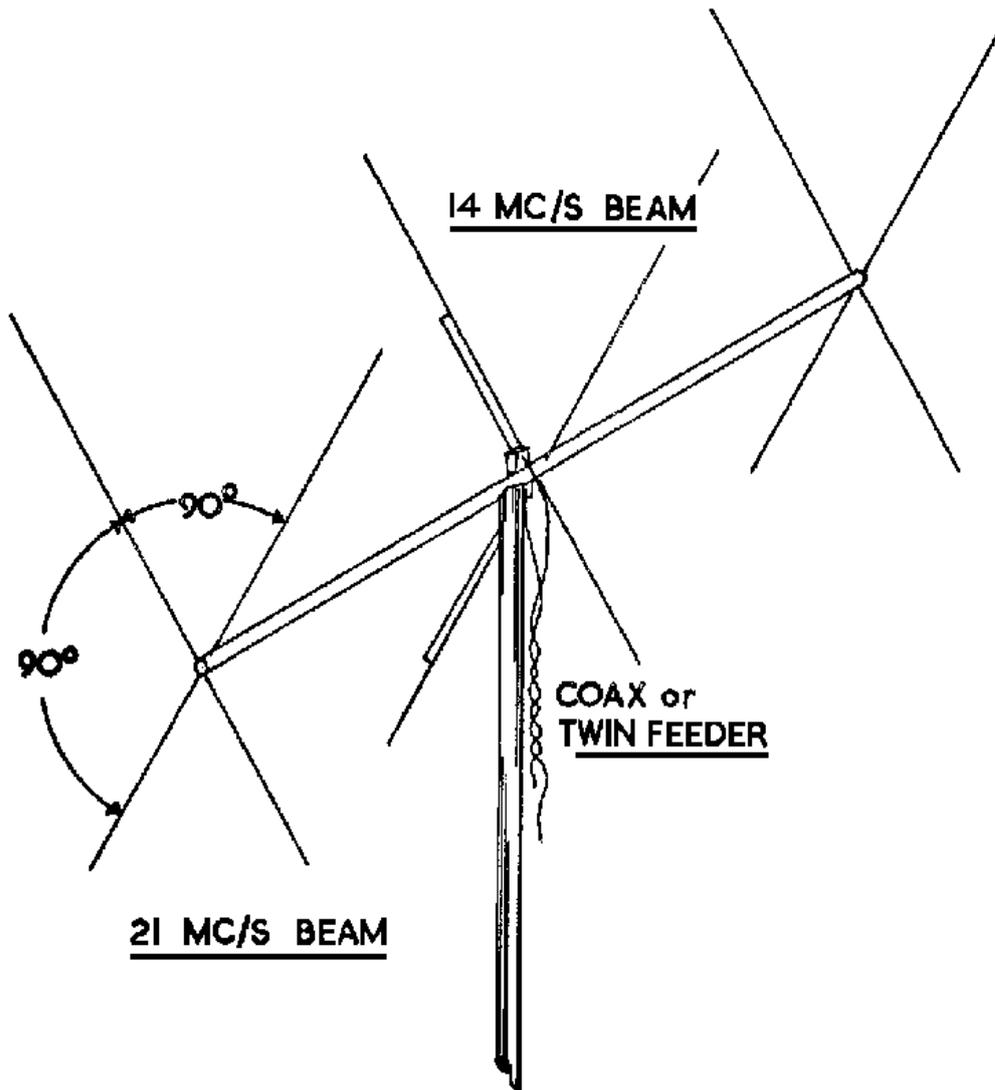


FIGURE 2





A TWO BAND 3 ELEMENT
VEE BEAM
(low frequency always on top)

the gamma rods, bridging the centre of the driven element by a foot or so of wire with a coupling loop at the centre of the wire (the wire was attached by sellotape to the beam) insert the coil of the GDO into the loop and find the resonating frequency. Then reduce or extend as required the length of the elements. Remember that the length of the Director and the Reflector MUST be adjusted in exactly the same fashion as the Driven element - take one inch off one, take one inch off all the rest of 'em!! You will be able to slide the elements an inch or so away from the boom by loosening the clamps on the Vee plates.

Having sorted the resonant frequency out, replace the Gamma rod and connect your feeder (52 ohm). Prop the beam up somewhere as high as possible but low enough for you to get into the gamma box with your screwdriver. Feed a little RF through from your TX and with the SWR bridge already in the line slowly rotate the variable condenser until a reading of about 1.8 : 1 is obtained. Should this be impossible first time round, try moving the gamma tapping plate an inch or so either way until a low reading is obtained. That's the end of the tuning - all that remains is for you to hoist up in the clear and retest the SWR (it will change slightly away from the ground and buildings). If this is still tolerable, then up it goes and 'CQ DX'.

A two-element beam has also been constructed with the spacing at 8' 6" for 21 Mc/s - this was also excellent although DX QSOs reported a loss of up to two "S" points over the 3 element version - construction is identical with the three element version, using the Reflector or Director, as you like.

Loading my version with a standard 100 watts I get excellent reports from all over Europe and UK and in fact one of my first QSOs was forty minutes at Five by Nine with the HQ station (Ray of the Royal Marines). I receive a consistent report of S 9 plus 20 dB from F9BA (Paris) almost every day (to think I used to think of Paris as DX!!) regardless of conditions on 21 Mc/s.

With the thin 'F' sections elements, the effects of high winds are minimal and my beam has withstood several severe gales without trouble.

Give me a call when you've made yours - or if you need help try that strong signal on 21.150 Mc/s any day after 1200 Z !!!

Table 1

	<u>14 Mc/s</u>	<u>21 Mc/s</u>	<u>28 Mc/s</u>
Reflector	38' 4"	25' 6"	18' 5"
Antenna	36' 4"	24' 2"	17' 5"
Director	34' 5"	22' 10"	16' 0"
Gamma Rod	5' 0"	4' 0"	2' 2"
Gamma Rod Tap	4' ±	3' ±	1' 6" (Approx.)
Element Spacing	8' 6"	6' 6" *	6' 6"
Condenser	160µmf	120µmf	50µmf

* When using a two band system (14/21 Mc/s) both bands are spaced at 8' 6"

EARLIER BREEDS OF WIRELESS SET

by G3ADZ

Reference in Mercury to the gift D11/R234, and its automatic objection to high SWRs, set the writer thinking about earlier days when a Feeder was a large Sgt., antennas were things on insects, and the means of getting a small quantity of generated RF into the aerial was a random length of wire (true, insulated if possible) called a lead-in. It seems logical to start with Wireless Set No.1., although to save protest, I do know that there were much older magic boxes, sometimes trusted to reluctant mules.

This is certainly not intended to be a series of technical sagas through the ages, but a few basic facts may be of interest. The WS 1 covered 4.28 to 6.66Mc, in two bands and the official frequency separation for non-interference was 20 kc/s, provided that "the other sender" was "a mile or so" from the other receiver. Ground wave range was given as 3½ miles A3 and 5 miles A1, or 2 miles from moving wheeled vehicles such as the Austin 7 car. There was some excitement when during experiments with "reflected waves" in 1930, a daylight contact of 420 miles was achieved. There was however "pronounced fading" and the result was not thought to be of great military importance as signals between 200 and 400 miles were not possible by night. The complete station with associated equipment had a weight of 156 lbs. Signalmen of the time celebrated the introduction of a new light accumulator box (saving 2 lbs.), but their hopes were dashed by the news that as there was a large stock of the heavier boxes these were likely to be employed for some years. Even in the late 1920's one had to wait.

The handbook contains many gems - I once had to learn the thing more or less by heart for up-grading from OWL III to OWL II. Technical instructions included such things as - note that the morse key does not produce oscillations until pressed, stays must be used in windy weather, open the valve door and see that four AR4s and two screen grid valves are in position - then close the valve door (doubtless a slam if the valves are missing!), and increase the reaction to a point well past where the rustling starts (only for use in the Far West), and examine for incipient faults. The remote control arrangements are worth a mention. Much store was set on the "Local" operator being able to come to the rescue, and a call was heard as a buzz in his phones. An omnibus connection was then provided, we assume to collect the operator from the Local. It was not unknown to get false buzzes if the beer was a bit off or the OC was not coming that way after all.

My first sight of this machine was during a Cadet Corps camp in the Isle of Wight in 1931. We were not allowed to touch, but only look from a safe distance, with awe. The kindly PSI had forgotten to bring an accumulator, and in the company of another small and scruffy cadet I was detailed to double to the village, 1½ miles away, and borrow a battery. It was one of those hot days we used to enjoy, and the double soon died to a stroll. When me did get beck - triumphant with a 12 volt monster, everyone had gone to tea. Being willing little chaps and deadly keen, we felt we should complete the job and connect the thing to the set. After all, no one told us it was a 6 volt supply and there was no cases, valve, spare. We never did hear that set, but for some reason or another an awful lot of guards and fatigues came my way for the rest of that camp. There is no justice in this world.

Another memory of the WS1 in action, was use with Docks Sup Area communications in 1939. This was a much sought-after detachment, and with luck avoided such things as guard duty, church parades, and cookhouse fatigues for weeks (and once three months) on end. Orders of the days were to say the least vague. One arrived at one of the London Docks, and feeling a

uniformed hero among the civilian stevedores, eventually found a remote air raid shelter marked "Secret Communications" "No Admittance". The right sort of knock, or a bash with a rifle butt, brought a stealthy drawing of bolts, and if timed correctly a share of the latest brew-up. An alternative method of gaining entry was to make rude noises down the vent pipe. One found a most comfortable flat, fully equipped from nearby ships and the Harbour Master's best easy chair. In one corner was a pile of unwanted G 1098, and on top of this the faithful WS 1. There were six test calls in each 24 hours - at staggered times to confuse the enemy, and each of two minutes duration. Three OWL and an Electrician Signals were assigned to run the station, but this arrangement was unpopular as it caused severe overcrowding. The problem was solved by the simple expedient of two days off and one on, except for the overworked electrician who had to organise battery changes twice a week. (This is how the term "Out Station" came to be used.) We saw an officer - once, but he was diverted to our local cafe where for a small consideration our rations were supplemented and converted to very acceptable food. Come to think of it, they did fairly well - rations for four men to provide meals for the one on duty, - no wonder they were sad when we were posted. Oh yes! the Sgt. came once too - he never did get past the stevedores as he was too busy learning new words.

All this may not have told you much about WS 1, but wait for the next efforts on 2 and 3, and 9 etc. - always providing the Editor permits the publication of such long guarded military secrets.

Members' Activities

VS5JC is the latest RSARS callsign and is active on 14 Mc/s CW operated by Jack Cooper G3DPS.

G3HN is negotiating for an "F" call but says it all takes time.

We apologise to our member No. 161 for omitting his call from the list published recently. Please add G8JU to your list of members' calls.

Apart from its use during Old Comrades Weekend the callsign GB3RCS will be used throughout July from a Royal Signals Shop Window display at Golden House, The Strand. Contacts with this station will count for RSARS as a member station, NOT as the HQ station. QSL's from this station will bear the London address.

G3ADZ has become a victim of the motorway age. The Havant by-pass runs at the bottom of his garden and the level of ignition QRM is such that he has had to abandon wire antennas and is at present using a Joystick. He finds it goes like a bomb on 7 Mc/s.

Some Award Scores,- G3LHJ 43 worked 24 confirmed, G3UEV 25 worked 11 confirmed, G3EJF 28 worked 19 confirmed.

BERU 1966 from ZC4TX
by ZC4CL

"Let's have a go at this BERU contest then." The speaker L/Cpl Hancock who had just reached the dizzy heights of 4 w.p.m. obviously knew that it wasn't likely to be him chosen to operate the club station. "Forty-eight hours is a long time for one operator" murmured the dissenting voices. Then muggins said "I'll have a go."

The time 2230 GMT, the alarm clock rings and a very shattered 4CL sits up in bed and listens to the rain. Two cups of coffee, a wash and shave, 2330 GMT, half past one to the respectable citizens of Cyprus. Half an hour to the start of the contest and 17 miles to go in the pouring rain. A few things thrown into a rucksack and I leapt astride my sturdy motorcycle. Five minutes later it consented to start and I roared off to Limassol, the first town en-route for the club at Episkopi. Being thoroughly soaked by the time I reached Limassol and spotting an all-night taxi stand I ditched the bike and rode the rest of the way in comfort

By 0035 GMT the foul-looking briar was going the Z-match had been adjusted for 80 and the first G's were coming through so were all those weird and wonderful noises that only commercial stations on 80 can make. The chronic morse, the teleprinters spacing and the splattering of odd types of telephony.

Half a dozen G's, down to 40 a few more G's and a W4 who'd forgotten 1776, then back to 80 for V01, VE1, ZB2, 9H1 and 5N2. Dawn had just broken and everything looked very grey and wet from the shack window and a gale was blowing the long wire all over the place. Signs of life around the place and Hank popped in with a mug of tea and biscuits. 14 Mc/s produced ZL, VK and VE6 before I settled down to deal with a large pile up of G's. Up to 21 to find a ZL4 and much to my surprise a VS6. My surprise increased when I found the wind had pushed the beam round to due North. More G's and 9V1LP then 9H1R suggested trying 28 Mc/s. No sign of him on that band but it was wide open to UK.

At 1600 GMT I decided sleep was becoming necessary so I set the alarm for 2300 and dozed off on a trestle table in the shack. Finding that neither conditions nor myself were particularly bright I went back to bed at 0200. A loud hammering on the door heralded Hank with tea and rolls and after a quick breakfast I found 14 Mc/s in full swing and joined the fray, events following a similar pattern to the previous day. Suddenly at 0930 everything went silent - much cussing of AR88's until in desperation I phoned the QRO boys. Yes they said, a complete black-out on all comms. A leisurely cup of tea and after an hour the band came back to life and the hunt was on again. 28 Mc/s produced ZE, VQ8 and 9J2 but no G's so onto 21 Mc/s for more G's including "Pse OM ur RSARS Nr?" Here is hardly the place to confess I couldn't remember it but truth will out (it's AFF2 OM -Ed). Other ZC4's could be heard through the din but it looked as though 4TX was still in front of them.

Now joined by three of the gang who enthused over the log I changed to 7 Mc/s without much new so went back to 14 Mc/s to hear VE's pounding in. Twenty stayed open much longer than expected and when it finally closed at 2000 GMT the score stood at 197 contacts. The QRM on 40 was terrific, all the BERU stations seemed to be wedged between Radio Pakistan and A.N. Other but I waded in to be rewarded by ZD7IP, VS9MP and 9J2DT

The time was now 2330 GMT, the score had risen to 209 and all the lads had long ago left for bed and work the next morning. Yours truly was in a semi-coma but 210 contacts would be a much tidier final score so over to 3.5 Mc/s for a last CQ. There was 9H1R, numbers exchanged and that was that. No thought of going home, back on the trestle table bed and with fingers twitching and ears buzzing CQ BERU 4CL promptly flaked out.

Letters to the Editor

London W3

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding the suggestion that the Contests should be reintroduced and not cancelled in favour of the Activity Periods as suggested at the A.G.M.

I would draw your attention to the letter by our member Lt Col Sir Evan Nepean G5YN in the September 1965 issue of the RSGB Bulletin (page 600). G5YN has my wholehearted support in his view that there are too many contests cluttering up the H.F. bands and that all contests should in future be limited to certain parts of each band. These parts should in my view never amount to more than half the permitted band.

There may be room for discussion on the details of the allocation of the various bands between contest and non-contest operation. I would personally be inclined to suggest minor alterations to G5YN's suggestions for the 14 and 21 Mc/s bands, these are questions of detail, however, and on the broad principle of dividing the bands between contestants and non-contestants I am in 100% agreement with G5YN.

I could therefore not favour a contest organised by RSARS, either alone or in association with RNARS & RAFARS if the contest was allowed to occupy the whole band.

If you decide to run a contest on the basis of the band-dividing scheme outlined by G5YN, I feel it should be widely publicised both in the RSGB Bulletin and Short Wave Magazine, making a special point of the Band Dividing Scheme.

In this way RSARS could lead a new and far fairer way of running contests.

Yours sincerely,

Edgar M. Wagner G3BID

Teffont, Salisbury

Dear Sir,

In general I am in favour of a Contest where it will encourage activity where activity is lacking. In this case one might bring encouragement to RSARS members who are scattered around the world.

The particular point, which I wish to make, is with regard to frequency usage. You will undoubtedly have seen the correspondence in the "Bull" on this subject which I originated. There is a much stronger feeling on this subject amongst members than the RSGB will admit. My suggestion was that contest operating should be limited to half of each band.

As our numbers will be so small we shall only need a much smaller section of the band for satisfactory operation. To confine ourselves to a small section of the band would in fact be an advantage as we should know where to find each other.

I consider we should give a lead in this matter and publicise the fact that we are so doing by having notices published in the RSGB Bulletin and Short Wave Magazine.

I would only support a contest provided strict frequency sharing was employed.

Yours aye,

Lt Col Sir Evan Y. Nepean G5YN

ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO AWARD

Three members have now qualified for the Class II award. Apart from Nottingham University OTC, to whom reference is made elsewhere in this issue, claims have also been submitted from Derek Webber G3LHJ and from Alan Aston, the first SWL member to gain the award. Perhaps they will tell us the secret of extracting QSL cards from members.

WANTED

The club being formed by 30th Signal Regiment at Blandford, urgently require two Prop Pitch motors or similar to rotate their beams. Price etc. to Major J. E. Philp, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

Wanted by G3BIC - A blank Calibration book for a BC221: - E. Lawrence, 121 Walsall Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.

AVAILABLE FROM HQ

Members' Notepaper This is a good quality white paper and costs 8/4d per 100 sheets post free.

Members' QSL Cards The basic card costs 35/- per 500 post free. We can overprint your
callsign, name and address in black, red, blue or
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