

Classic Exchange Newsletter Fall 2020

CQ CX de K3MSB.....

As the saying goes....."The Party's Over", and I had a great time in the Fall 2020 CX. I hope you did too.

I'm writing these comments on the morning after day 2 of the CW event which was election day in the United States. I can't think of a better way to spend election day than by voting and then spending the day with old radios – and not listening to any news at all.

Propagation during the SSB and CW parts of the CX seemed to be average for where we are in the Sunspot cycle. Coast to coast propagation was available on 20M and 40M, and to a lesser extent on 80M. I did see a few brave souls post on the CX Chat Room that they were CQing on 15M. In a few years there should be CX activity on 15M and 10M, something we haven't heard in a long time.

In spite of the lack-luster conditions.... drum roll please... we set a record of 31 unique stations that sent in CX logs! A number of CX'ers informed Ron and I that they spread the word on their favorite reflectors and other favorite watering holes. Ron and I really appreciate this – thank you!

This event was the first in which we used the "CX Chat Room". As expected, it was met with mixed reviews. I used it during the day when I was not in the shack, and it did enable me to make some contacts that I would otherwise have missed.

I was asked by several people if there is any logging software for the CX. No, there isn't. A lot of folks just use a spread sheet for their log. I will talk to the folks that write the major logging software and see what would be involved in adding the CX to their repertoire of contests. In any case, it will be fall 2021 before any such logging software would be available.

Well, that's about it. We had quite a few folks send in some nice soapbox comments and pictures and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading them.

As always, Ron and I are always open for suggestions to improve the CX. Let us know what's on your mind.

The dates for the Winter 2021 CX are currently on the CX web site.

73 Mark K3MSB
CX Newsletter Editor

The Sweet Chirp Awards!



Congratulations!

Jim W8KGI for his DX-20 on 20M.

Pat K9HF for his ARC-5 on 40M.

Toby VE7CNF for his DX-20 on 20M.

“WC” W4BOH for his Meissner Signal Shifter on 80M.

CX Scores

4 OR MORE PAIRS

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	BONUS	Total
N6KN	ROCCO	293304	550443	2000	845747
JA3KNB	MATSAMURA	366205	392280	4000	762485
K2RP	RON	288700	207195	4500	500395
W8KGI	JIM	149930	13875	1000	164805
WB2AWQ	HOWIE	81781		1000	82781
K3MD	JOHN	47154			47154
K4BSK	EARL	30083		2000	32083
WA4JQS	TONY	13800		4000	17800
W2JAZ	RICK	9856			9856

3 OR FEWER PAIRS

CALL	NAME	CW SCORE	PHONE SCORE	BONUS	Total
JO3TAP	TOMONORI	7332	17108	1000	25440
K3MSB	MARK	19104	1170		20274
KF6C	Brian		18954		18954
K4JYS	BILL	14171			14171
W7OS	DOC	9380		2000	11380
N1LN	BRUCE	7448			7448
K3OS	GARY	5910		1000	6910
W5FRS	DENNIS	6314			6314
VE7XF	RALPH	5962			5962
K9HF	PAT	4906			4906
W2JEK	DON	4831			4831
W8KM	GARY	4644			4644
K3MD	JOHN		3458	500	3958
NZ0T	BILL	3870			3870
KB8TL	BOB	3250		500	3750
N5GW	GENE	2530			2530
NV1X	BOB	2002			2002
W6MZ	PAUL	944		1000	1944
VA7MM	MIKE	1326		500	1826
WD8RIF	ERIC	432		1000	1432
VE7CNF	TOBY	1386			1386
VE7BGP	GERRY	1168			1168
N6HCN	JOHN	440			440
WB9LWO	JIM	52			52

**NV1X – Bob
Milton VT.**

“I was using my novice station. The Eico 723 (to the left of the bug) is the same one I built in 1962; I bought it from Lafayette Radio on Long Island. The RME 69 (above the bug) is not the same one I used then, but at the time my cousin Bill (and Elmer) WB2ADB sold one to me for \$40. I enjoy using these rigs much more than any modern rig.”



**WB2AWQ/7
Howie, Reno NV.**

Howdy CXers!

“The 2020 Fall CW CX is now history. This CX was a bit offset time-wise from the usual CX timing, so 20 wasn’t yet really open but on 40 the East coast stations were mostly gone, but the few western stations on were in full bloom. Made just 3 contacts on 40, then headed back to the pillow. “

“Got on again 4 hours later after breakfast, shower, etc. 20 was in fair shape, and made some contacts across the country but by 2300Z I had had it with the in and out signals, and moved down to 40 again, which was the workhorse band it usually is although signals from the east coast were difficult or impossible to copy. 40 Was shot by 0100Z, so on to 80, which has been a struggle for a while here in the west. “

"I had a second pass on Tuesday, but I set the alarm for 7 AM thinking that was the 1400Z start, only to realize to my chagrin that was an hour late! Shades of Alfred E Neuman...20 wasn't yet open, so I came back to 20 a little later. Made a few more QSOs. Then had to tend to XYL duties which shot the evening, ending CX for 2020. "

"I managed to qualify NEARLY all of my working gear, forgetting only my National NC-125, which I had turned backside out on a shelf. Totally slipped my mind, and I could have gotten it in. The unique signal award goes to Ron K2RP with his Galaxy V. It drifted farther down the band each time Ron transmitted. I was using a Drake T4XC/R-4B in transceive mode, so each time we had an over I had to return to the original frequency before transmitting so we didn't leave the band. Couldn't take the transmitter out of slave mode because it's VFO has died, and the R-4B was running the show. A separate RX and TX would have been the solution here for me. For Ron? Maybe a new regulator or a shot of Jim Beam....."

"Mark W7ESN continues to put the best HB signals on the bands with his amazing array of HB rigs. Mark, you REALLY need to put those up on your QRZ page! Let us take a gander at them. "

"Most unique radio encountered was Dennis' W5FRS Millen 90800 (vintage 1947), only because I also have one. Had band conditions been better (he was running an amp with his Millen) we could have had a Millen to Millen QSO. You rarely hear these things on the air, two on at once in the same QSO would have been astounding. "

Editor's Comment: Dennis submitted some very nice photos of his gear and you can see them in his soapbox report.

"CX conditions were not the best, but better than they might have been 3 months ago."

"One of the nice things for me is to work new CX ops I've never worked before, and this one was good! "

"Welcome to CX to NOFU VE7KHI K0FHG NG7M N7KM KB6PFW W7JMP NV9J and W5FRS. Hope you guys all submitted logs, and return to the CX fray in January/February!"

"See ya all in Jan/Feb! "

73, Howie WB2AWQ/7

Here's a sample of some of the nice gear Howie had on the air:



Millen 90800 transmitter (circa 1947, crystal control, 6L6/807, about 25W out)



1945 Millen 90700 VFO which runs only on 3.5 Mhz and drives the Millen 90800 transmitter.



Johnson Invader and Hallicrafters SX-101A

Editor's Confession: I pilfered the photos and captions of the Millen VFO and transmitter from Howie's most excellent QRZ.com page.....

Editor's Comments: That Invader and 101A bring back fond memories. I had an Invader 2000 which came with an external power supply. I vividly remember that the power supply was a two man lift, even "back then" when I wasn't so "seasoned" in life....



AF3Z – Jim Mt. Joy PA.

Jim writes:

“The CX was a lot of fun and 'takes me back'... I was licensed in 1967 and as a novice I built an HR-10, DX-60, and eventually the HG-10B VFO. Unfortunately, many years ago I sold all of that to finance something new; oh how I wish I still had the ones I built! About two years ago, I was given an old HR-10 and DX-60 that needed some good cleaning and some fixing up. I bought and fixed up an HG-10B to go with them.”



“So, I have recreated my station from my WN3INP and WA3INP days. It is a challenge and a blast to operate them. I confess that I use a NESCAF audio filter to make the HR-10 more friendly. But I still manually do the TX-RX switching; right hand on the antenna switch, left hand turning the RF gain up or down so I can monitor my cw but not overload the HR-10 or my ears! “

Thanks! Jim AF3Z

**K3MD – John
Winfield PA.**

John writes:

“Apparently the SBE SB2LA linear is not all that linear. I received bad reports on SSB.

I heard tons of activity in CX CW. Very good moving the weekend! Many thanks to Mark and Ron for taking over the administrative duties of CX!

I sold about half of my classic gear in January 2020 and have since “reaccumulated” three rigs.

I tried improving my design of the junkbox QRP transmitter, only to make it much worse (happens).

It was very nice to hear many of my old CX friends (too numerous to be mentioned individually); I have been participating in CX since 1979.

Best chirp: DX20 on 20M by W8KGI, although I did hear some worse, but did not work.

I Really had a ton of fun!

My favorite classic rigs: 2C. HT-37, HB 6MJ6, Advanced Design Regenerative Receiver (QST 1997), ARC-5 80M

Most quirky rigs: HT-37, ARC-5 40M, N3ZI DDS VFO, Heathkit MT-1 (heavily corroded, strange undocumented mod).”





K3MSB – Mark Airville PA.

I'm not a big SSB operator. A week or so before the Phone CX I realized that I had no transmitters available that did SSB! Since I like restoring WW II Military Radios, everything I have is CW or AM. Fortunately my good friend Ken N3CU has a few Kenwoods and he was gracious enough to let me borrow a TS-530S for the CX.



As I said, I'm not a big SSB operator. On Sunday afternoon, with a bit of trepidation, I took mic in hand and got on on 40M SSB. I made a number of contacts but only two were CX contacts – Jerry N9GFV running his Corsair II and Tony WA4JQS on a Drake TR-7. The other contacts were using modern gear and were just wandering by inquiring what the CX was. Several nice chats ensued and gave me the opportunity to let others know about the CX. Since I had qualified the TS-530S I wasn't planning to participate Tuesday, but a check of the CX Chatroom showed that two well known CX'ers Ron K2RP and Rocco N6KN were on 20M. For the first time in my CX history I heard the melodious voices of Ron and Rocco being faithfully reproduced by the super high-fidelity 2 inch speaker on the TS-530S! You guys sounded great!

I started off "CX Sunday" on 40M between on-line Sunday School and Worship service. I used my SCR-274N setup as shown below.



The transmitters (for both 40M and 80M) were powered by the BC-456A Dynamotor that I had running off of two batteries in series. The batteries were attached to the “float” output of a 24V power supply. This gives me only 24 Volts to the dynamotor instead of 28V so my power output is a bit low (25W to 30W). I ran my receivers off of a homebrew 28V power supply with the B+ coming from an HP-23 power supply (LV) and a series dropping resistor. I still haven't gotten rid of the dynamotor whine when powering the receivers off their dynamotors, and it's challenging enough to use those radios with “barn door” selectivity on CW so I elected to not use their dynamotors.

I qualified the 40M radios of the SCR-274N within about 15 minutes thanks to Bill K4JYS running his Johnson Ranger and Hammarlund HQ-170, Bob NV1X running his Eico 723 and RME 69, and Bob KB8TL on a homebrew 6L6 30W transmitter and Drake R-4B. Around 7 PM I switched over to 80M and qualified the SCR-274N's 80M radios in about 15 minutes by working Bruce N1LN running a DX-60 & HG-10 and HQ-129X, Bob WB2VUF on his Heathkit HW-101 (affectionately called “Hot Water 101's” back in “the day”), and Bill K4JYS on his Ranger and HQ-170. Propagation on Sunday was mainly Mid-Atlantic and New England. I heard nothing from the west coast and saw comments on the CX Chatroom that the west coast CXers weren't hearing anything from the east coast. For Sunday, my farthest contact was into Missouri, Bob K0FHG, just before midnight on 80M.

I didn't stay on 80M after midnight as I got a whaff of “that smell”. Now there are good smells and bad smells. A good smell is bacon frying on a cold winter's morning. A bad smell is something is

burning or getting a tad toasty. “That smell” for me was the “tad toasty” smell, so I powered down the SCR-274N for the night.

Tuesday I started out on 20M and qualified the TS-530S in short order by working Mark W7ESN running a home-brew transmitter utilizing a 5894 and a home-brew receiver, Dick N5KIP running a TS-590 that stopped by for my SKCC number, and Mark W7ESN (again) running another home-brew transmitter around a 2E26 and a home-brew receiver! I was on 20M off and on during the day and had no trouble working stations on the west coast! I changed over to 80M around 9 PM local time, still using the TS-530S (as I had not yet had time to find “that smell” on the SCR-274N.....) and made several contacts (including W6MZ in California) before shutting down at about 11:30 PM.

73 Mark K3MSB

K3OS – Gary Hickory NC.

Gary qualified his Drake T4X and R4B combo as well as his Atlas Atlas 350XL during the CW event. He writes:

“Fun event as always. This was the first time I have used a bug in over 50 years! Having restored a Vibroplex Presentation model, it was now or never to use it. It certainly eliminates having a number of keying interfaces for all the different voltages.”

Gary K3OS

**K4BSK – Earl
Matthews, NC.**

Earl had some nice rigs on this air:



*Drake TR-3, Hallicrafters HA-1 Keyer, and
Tymeter Numechron clock*



Heathkit Apache & Hammarlund HQ-120

I was asking Earl about the radios in his photos, and he told me:

"The HA1 Hallicrafters "TO Keyer." came into our family at Christmas 1962. (Dad, older brother, and I all got our licenses in the summer of 1960.)"

"The Drake TR3 came into the family at Christmas 1964. Boy, that was a happy event."

"And, it so happens that the HQ 120 in the photo was our novice station receiver. It didn't get very much use after the TR3 was set up in the shack! But we never got rid of it."



Collins 32S3 & 75S3B



Ten Tec Omni VII and Kenwood TS-440S

Please note the clocks that Earl has. The Heathkit GC-1107 clock atop his Omni's power supply and the Tymeter Numechron atop his TR-3's speaker.

I have an example of each of those. Both, especially the Tymeter, add a wonderful ambiance to an operating position.

W4BOH – Wilson Hillsborough NC.

Wilson writes:

"I didn't have time for a lot of setup this time, but I did get in several hours of operating. I missed some CX regulars since bands didn't seem real hot, but I enjoyed the QSOs I made."

"When I get a Pilot Wasp on next time I'll have one receiver that is 90 years old! Time is against my ever getting to have a 100 year old one, since I just turned 79. I'd love to find one of the very rare 1920 Superhets, but it's unlikely."



In the above photo, starting from the left, atop the red cart is the RCA AR-88, and atop that is the SX-16. The 813 is housed in the tall rack and Wilson says it's pretty much unchanged since 1947. The Knight T-160 is the radio on the workbench just to the right of the K-3 transceiver. At the far right, on the shelf, is the RCA ACR-155.

Above the T-160 on the shelf is the 1938 Signal Shifter Wilson used (it has the round airplane dial). Here's a close up:



The back view of the 813 rack (on the left):



Wilson continues: *"I rigged up the RCA AR-88 I practically grew up with. It was Dad's RX from the time I was about seven years old (it was brought back from WW II by a family friend). All of us four boys sat in his lap as he hammed or listened to SWBC or WWV."*

"I also fired up a recently acquired SX-16; it's "so so" but VERY microphonic."

"I also used an RCA ACR-155, a really terrible RX. It's very sensitive but has only one IF stage and tunes very fast, even on 80. I think it was an attempt to get some ham and SWL customers and it's not horrible for wide AM, but nothing else! At least it's big and impressive looking. I'd love to sell it, but don't know why anyone would want it. The old AR-88 proved how reliable and stable it is. If it had been built with double conversion it would have been a wonder. Aside from an open resistor, it fired right up after being used for SWL by some kids and then sitting in my bro's basement for 20 years or so!"

"As for TX, the little Knight T-60 is a joy, plug and play and a sweet note!"

Wilson is a Meissner Signal Shifter enthusiast. He owns a 1938, 1940, and 1942 Shifter. I was aware that hams used signal shifters as VFOs, but what I didn't realize is that's exactly what they were being sold as. Wilson continues:

"By the late 1930s it became possible for a careful ham to build VFOs that were useful on the air AND for companies to sell usable VFOs at a price that at least some hams could afford. One of the first of these was the Meissner Signal Shifter."

"The original 1938 Meissner Signal Shifter has been on every year for a while and works pretty well on 80. I'm about to do some serious experimenting to try to get the chirp, mostly due to voltage shift I think, out of it. I'm still looking for an even older one. Literature says there were some with no, or one, VR tube, but all mine have two."

Wilson describes the condition of the shifter when he got it: *"There was actually nothing seriously wrong with it. There usually isn't, unless someone has left it on with bad filter caps or a shorted tube drawing excessive current and frying the power transformer. After some cleaning of tube and coil contacts, new filter caps, and more modern bypass caps in the proper places, it's usable for casual CW contacts."*

"Last is the Push-Pull 813 rig from a friend's dad, built 1947 and almost untouched since. He installed SS rectifiers at some point, not long after they came out, and one string of them blew right after CX. Unfortunately, the event overheated the brush contact in the Variac in the PS and melted the wire. With usual aplomb, I cut out a couple turns from the end and glued on a wooden block to stop the brush from running off the new end of the winding."

"My 80m horizontal loop is great on both 80 and 40, so it made all the contacts."

"I highly recommend the K3 as a keying monitor, but it does have to be tuned each time you QSY."

It has to be tuned even during a QSO, if your Shifter isn't warmed up!"

"Thanks for organizing I hope we can get more people out next time!"

73,
Wilson Lamb W4BOH

WA4JQS – Tony, Ferguson, KY.

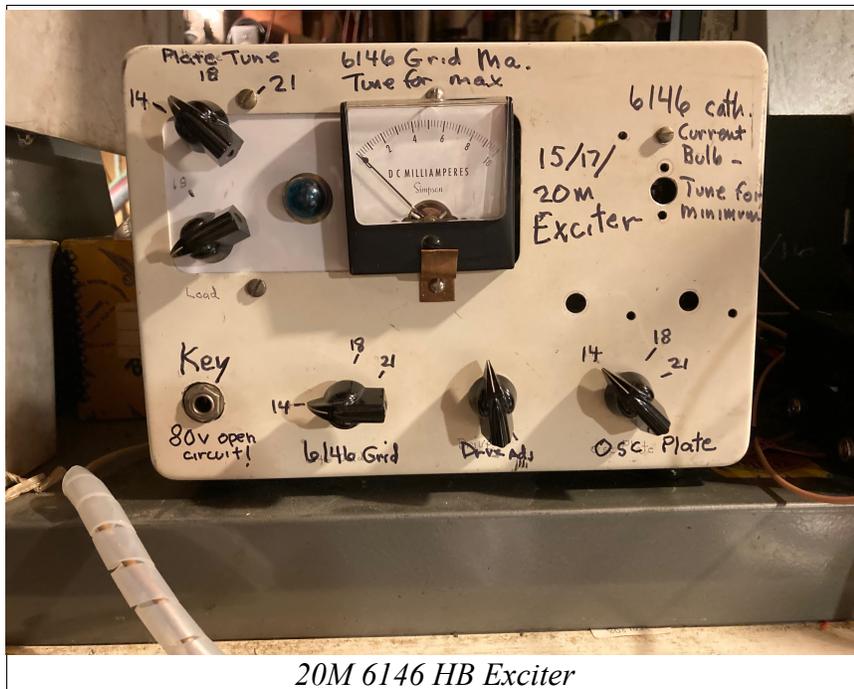
This was Tony's first CX ! Welcome! Tony has been a ham for 65 years and has been restoring BA's for over 40 years. Tony writes *"I really enjoyed hearing all those old rigs on the air. I look forward to being in the next CX"*.

In addition to qualifying his Hallicrafters SR-400 in the SSB event, Tony qualified a nice selection of Drake radios as well: TR-7, B-Line, C-Line, and TR4CW/RIT.

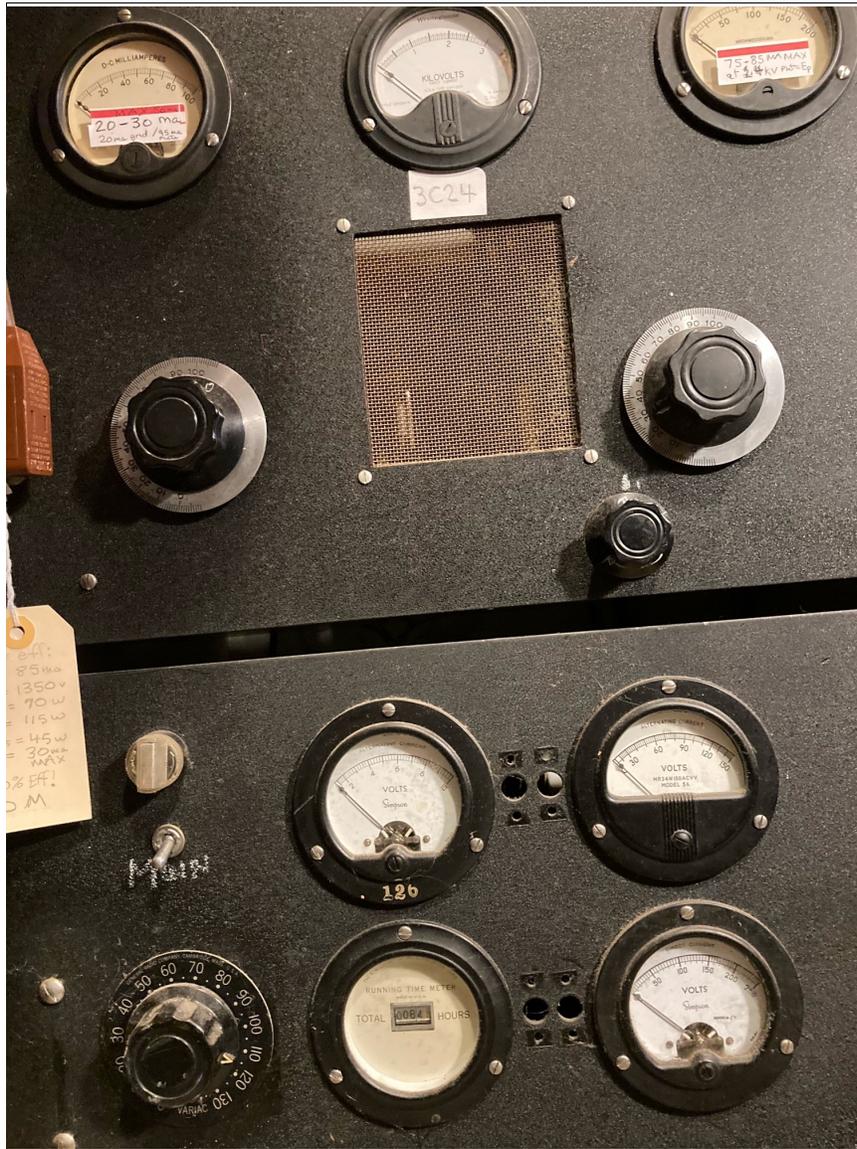
Welcome to the CX Tony (and thanks for the 40M QSO) ! We look forward to working you in the Winter 2021 CX,

W5FRS – Dennis Irving TX.

Dennis has a most interesting collection of HB gear on the air!



20M 6146 HB Exciter



20M 3C34 Amplifier (1943 Design)

Dennis writes: "The 3C34's run at 85-90W output on 20M. It is driven by the 6146 exciter in the old Heathkit Lunchbox cabinet. The circuit is from 1956 RCA Transmitting Tubes Manual."

Here's are some photos of the 40/80M setup Dennis uses:



Millen 90800 Exciters for 40/80M



808 Based Amplifier for 40/80M

Dennis writes:

"The 808's on 80M in the black cabinet can go up to 250W but I run them at 150-160W out. The grey panel 808's are on 30/40M and I run it at 100-120W out..

I was unable to make a single QSO during the phone part of CX.. That rig is a homebrew 250TH with an "Ultra Modulation" system and more 808's doing the audio work.. It does a 100W carrier with 170+ watts of audio added.. (Microwave oven diodes make UM easy to do nowadays.) Lots of pix of my gear at <bunkerofdoom.com>,

My Op Position is a couple of Bugs and receiving noise canceller and tuneable amps for the two receiving loops I'm using.. Believe it or not one of the loops is 80' of LAN cable buried 6" deep.. Very quiet when the other antennas are very noisy..

I have a pacemaker and based in the distance my antenna is from my shack, 225W is my limit of RF exposure .. I can't even use a 1W hand-held 2M.

CX events are the high points in each 'radio year' for me.."

73 Dennis W5FRS

**N5GW – Gene
Jackson MS.**

Gene writes:

"This was a frustrating Fall CX. First I was out of town the week before and did not have a chance to check my antique gear. Beginning late Sunday I found the receiver in my HW-7 was fading out. Also my Lafayette HA-350 receiver was putting out only a hiss. To make matters worse I had to unstick a relay in my Triton 544. A gremlin must have been at work while I was gone! However my HW-8 & HW-9 worked flawlessly using my home brew tuner and doublet. Anyway I enjoyed the time available for QSO's with vintage ops ---er-- gear!"



From left to right, Gene's Triton 544, HW-8 (bottom) and HW-9. Home brew items are a balanced L-network doublet tuner, keyer with rake tine iambic paddles and audio filter.”

I asked Gene about the “rake tine” paddle, and he responded:

“Here is a close-up if the HB iambic paddle. Yard rake tines serve as both the levers and springs. The paddles are a stick-on pad cut in half. The two middle screws adjust both the tension and contact spacing. The two screws on the right adjust both the contact spacing and lateral excursion of the tines.”



KF6C – Brian South New Berlin, NY.

Brian was only able to participate in the Phone part of the CX this year and had some interesting offerings for those that worked him.

The RA-17 is a mid 1950's communications receiver original designed for the British Navy. It is a Triple Conversion Super-heterodyne radio that employs 23 tubes and covers 0.98 Mc to 30 Mc.



Kenwood T-599 and RACAL RA-17

Brian writes:

“Not shown is the Elecraft KPA 1500 that was used with the RA-17/Kenwood T-599 set up to give 1 KW output... The RA-17 has the G3RED product detector mod, other wise pretty close to original spec. Most paper caps replaced and fuses inserted to protect critical electrolytics. Front panel is re finished, not quite the original color. Alignment was done with the aid of a modern professional network analyzer, what a cheat from the old wobulator method! Was planning to use a raspberry pi to read the RA-17 VFO frequency and use that to program a DDS to set the T-599 TX frequency but the project was not completed. The T-599 CAL feature turned out to be easy to use to get the TX on the RX frequency. I have never operated separates before.”

“I do not normally work Voice below 10 GHz, a lot of ICOM 7300s out there! I made my first AM QSOs first with the TCS-12 on Sunday night and then with RA-17/ T5-99 at lunch time Tuesday.”



Brian continues.....

"TCS-12's are close to original with a few metal caned capacitors opened up and modern capacitors inserted inside. A solid state pre-amplifier has been added to the mic input to allow the use of a ceramic mic. The receiver audio transformer has been replaced with modern one as the originals are fragile and replacements are hard to get. A few years back I made a stupid mistake and plugged the tubes in the wrong place on the power supply - that took out the 250 Volt receiver transformer. This has now been replaced with a toroidal transformer and bridge rectifier."

Brian also qualified a nice looking Kenwood R-599 and T-599 Combo.



N6KN – Rocco
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

Rocco writes:

“SSB Portion Fall 2020 CX: Ron, K2RP, and I tried something new this time and managed to attract some very helpful participants from our 7155 Morning Group who joined us on 3895. Thanks to them, Ron and I managed to rip through qualifying a whole pile of rigs, and the help was very much appreciated. After several hours of this, I moved to 20 m on 14270 at 2000 Z and held that frequency for a few hours. Jim NU0C, had a great sounding TR7 on the air, and I worked Matt, KD0EZS, with his SR500 Tornado. Later, we picked up Paul, K2LMQ, with his fabulous Cosmophone 35, and several others back on 3895. Tuesday, I stayed on 7155 after our morning “net,” and worked a long list of net members plus Scott, KM6BJH, with a mellow sounding HT37/SX111. Myron, KL7YY, was worked with his TR4C, which sounded great. Later, I moved to 14260 (due to QRM on 14270) and heard many great boatanchors. John, AC8FL, had a wonderful CE100V/R290A on the air. John, N2BE, called in with a terrific -sounding NCX-3 (a truly under-rated rig). Art Collins (!) N3AAA, was strong with his TR3. Guy, K4BU, was heard with a KWM-2 and FTDX400, both favorites of mine, too. All in all, there was plenty of activity, and I did advertise my frequency on the CX page.”

“CW Portion. My first contact (almost) was on 40 with Mario, N2AK - I just could not pull out his rig - sorry! Worked a few more on 40. WC, W4BOH, was easy copy with his Knight T60. Later, Ron, K2RP, and I met with N7SU, Dan, WT6R, Doug, and K6KOI, John, on 3546 and qualified another large pile of rigs on that band. N7SU was running his TR4CW and was easy to work over this difficult morning path to AZ on 80. I finally moved to 20 at 2159 and found Mark, W7ESN, with his HB 5894/HB receiver and several others. Ralph, VE7XF, sounded great on his Ranger, as did Dennis, W5FRS, on his HB 3C24 transmitter. Later, moved back to 40 and picked up Howie, WB2AWQ, with a great sounding Navigator and Ron with his large mound of boatanchors. On Tuesday, Ron and I qualified more rigs on 3546. At 2025, I moved to 20 and heard Ricky, KR7W, with his Globe Chief and VF1 and Rick, W2JAZ, with his SB101. Mark, W7ESN, was armchair copy with his HB 5994. Finished the CX back on 7045 with Ron, K2RP, and called it a day. “

“Overall, conditions were decent, and I had no trouble finding stations to work. It does pay to advertise the event with friends who may not have vintage rigs but are interested in participating. As usual, I had a lot of fun, and thanks to Ron, K2RP, for all the QSO's!”

73, Rocco N6KN

**W6MZ – Paul
Del Mar, CA.**

Paul writes:

"It's great to hear some of the transmitters that I remember from the early 1970s. Thanks to K3MSB, K2RP and the other CXers for bringing all these old rigs to life twice a year. I made twice as many contacts as my last CX, looking forward to put more vintage equipment on the air in 2021!"



Paul participated in the CW event and qualified his Drake R4 and T4X combo as well as his Yaesu FT101ZD. I worked Paul on 40M using his FT101ZD – thanks Paul!

That's a very cozy operating position you have there Paul; I like the table that acts as an arm rest for your bug.

Paul's antenna is a 20m/40m dual resonant Inverted Vee up 45 ft located just over a quarter mile from the Pacific coast! Nice!

**W7DRA – Mike
Seattle, WA.**

Mike writes

*“I had a lot of equipment problems; tried hard but did not make 3 contacts for any rig.
Here is my 40 meter station photo, one of the stations with problems.”*



I could not believe i had two bad tube rigs! My SX71 receiver Q5'er BC-453 12SK7 died on me and I wondered why i had no audio!

I had a rig going for 20M but could not tame the ARC-5 VFO. Bummer.

Sorry to hear about your equipment problems Mike. You did get Special Mention by W7OS below!

Hope to see you in the Winter 2021 CX !

**VA7MM – Mark
Coquitlam, BC.**

Ah! Mark's entry is what I have come to term “simple classic elegance”!!



Mark informs us:

“Unfortunately my personal schedule didn't mesh well with the event so certain periods of activity were missed. Nevertheless I managed 13 qualifying QSOs that included bonus point Drake stations...The vintage gear is working well and I'm ready to deploy it in the next event.”

Note the tray of “rocks” in front of Mark's DX-60B. That's not for show; he made 8 of his 13 QSOs using a crystal controlled DX-60B. Nice job OM! Well done indeed!

**W7OS – “Doc”
Tacoma, WA.**

The W7OS Soapbox is from “Doc”....

“W7OS is the call sign of the Radio Club of Tacoma’s “Antique Radio Museum”. This call sign formerly belonged to founding, iconic club member Dr. Clifford J. (Doc) Spike. Over the years, RCT has accumulated a collection of classic radio equipment that the Museum Committee restores and makes available for operation by club members.

For consistency in the case there would be multiple operators during Classic Exchange, and in honor of our patron, we always gave our operator name as "Doc". It turned out only WB4SPB operated. This and limited operating time we attribute to COVID-19.

Special mention for Mike W7DRA, a reliably chirpy guy, who was also the only station we managed to work this time with multiple radio sets to offer.

The Collins 75A4 and Eldico SSB100F, apex ham gear of their era, are practically a mated-pair in our shop and seldom get displaced from this operating position by other equipment. The no-frills HA-1 ("T.O.") keyer is of the same vintage and keeps us on our toes."



"We often add the Drake TR4 to this desk, since the Eldico presents such a luxury of unperforated, horizontal surface, and with the Drake bonus this time, it was a no-brainer choice for our 3rd radio set.

This nice looking R4C/T4X/MS4 combo came our way recently. With just ordinary attention (cleaning rotary switches, replacing electrolytics, and alignment) it came to life and operates solidly. The LMB cabinet houses a WB4VVF Accukeyer, a contemporary of the R4C."



**KB8TL – Bob
Belleville, MI.**



Bob has used that HB transmitter in the past, and it's been changing as time goes on. I asked Bob about this, and he writes:

“The transmitter in question started as 6CL6 driving an 807, 80 meters to 10, then became a 5763 driving a 6146, 80 to 10 (using the 5763 to get more drive on 15 and 10), then this year became 6CL6 driving 2 X 6LB6, now 160 to 20 only, its current configuration. The two sweep tubes have too much plate C for higher than 20 meters.

Just to confuse things, if we remain in a pandemic state for many more months I plan to rebuild it on a new chassis as a single 6LB6 driven by a 6CL6, 160 meters to 15 or 10, CW only, probably 150 Watts out. The 2 X 6LB6 power requirements of 500 mA is a bit hard on the power transformer. I'm going to gut the existing transmitter for most of its parts.”

W8KGI – Jim Sandia Park, NM.

Jim writes:

Ron and Mark,

“Here’s my report for the Fall 2020 CX. I had a good time, even though our friend, Murphy, did his darndest to me this time around. I have two antennas here, one a 268 foot Center Fed Zepp that I put up in 1990 using W7FG open-wire feedline, and the other a 33 foot vertical doublet fed with some 300 ohm open-wire line that I pulled out of a garbage can a few years back. I usually use the Zepp on 160 through 20 and the doublet on 30 through 10 meters.

When I put the Zepp up 31 years ago, I ran the feedline in between two juniper trees and up over the roof. Well over those years the junipers grew taller, filled the gap and engulfed the feedline. I didn’t worry about that much since the antenna still seemed to work well and I didn’t notice any smoke from the trees even when I ran 600 watts out of my SB-200 through them. But just about a week before the CX we had one of our 50 mph wind storms, and I noticed that the loading on the Zepp changed drastically on 40 meters. Oops, further inspection showed that one side of the feedline had broken open somewhere inside of the junipers. When I tried to retrieve the feedline by pulling it back out of the trees, their well-woven branches resisted my tugs pretty well and wound up stripping most of the spacers off the feedline when they finally did give it up. So there I was without a functioning low band antenna for the CX. At this writing, I’m still waiting on an order for some 450 ohm ladder line that I plan to install to get the antenna working again.

My doublet survived the storm OK. It’s hanging from one of those MFJ 41 foot telescoping poles that was adequately guyed. I managed to get it to load on 40 after a fashion and made half a dozen contacts. But when my 200 watt out Globe King 275 got an RST 559 from Mark, W7ESN in Washington State while his HB 5894 was coming in here a solid 589, I knew

I wasn't working with my most effective antenna.

So ... almost all of my CW work was confined to 20 meters. Hopefully that new feedline will arrive before the Winter CX and the weather will cooperate so I can get my Zepp going by then.

All of that didn't stop me from having a good time on 20. I managed to get thirteen transmitters and eleven receivers from my garage shack and four receivers and transmitters from my inside shack on and qualified on CW and three receivers, four transmitters and a KWM1 transceiver qualified on SSB. One of those CW receivers was my 1933 National SW-3! It did an amazing job on 20 CW. I finally signed off on CW when my old R-4 headphones were making my ears hurt! I'll have to find a more comfortable pair for the winter CX.

So, for the record, on SSB I qualified receivers NC303 (62 yrs old), 75A3 (67) and HQ-170A (58), transmitters B&W-6100 (58), Eldico SSB-100 (65), Heath Apache with SB-10 (62) and SB-400 (57), and a KWM-1 transceiver (63).

On CW my receivers were NC-303 (62), SX-28A (76), HRO-5TA1 (74), HRO-50R1 (69), 75A3 (67), HQ-120 (82), BC348 (78), SX-73 (69), HQ-129X (75), SW-3 (87), RME-70 (82), HRO-50T (70), 75A4 (65), R4B (52), and SX-28 (80). My CW transmitters were AF-67 (67), Apache (62), Viking 2 (68), Valiant (64), Adventurer (66), SB-400 (57), Collins 32RA (81), DX-20 (63), Knight T-150A (57), Lysco 600 (70), Globe Chief 90 (64), DX-60 (60) Globe King 275 (73), Central Electronics 100V (62), 32V3 (69), Drake T4X (55), and a Ranger (66). I see that we are now counting VFOs age as well, so I can include a Viking 122 (68) used with the Viking 2, another Viking 122 (68) used with the Adventurer, an HT-18 (73) used with the 32RA, another HT-18 (73) used with the Globe King, a Knight VFO (64) used with the DX-20, an HG-10 vfo (53) used with the DX-60, and a PTO from the T-195 transmitter (68) used with the Globe Chief."

73,
Jim Hanlon, W8KGI

W8KM – Gary Parma MI.

Gary writes:

“I only had 2 stations up and running, and not having any Drake equipment anymore, the score is somewhat low. However, I had a great time. Below is a photo showing the Collins 310B-1 exciter, a homebrew single 811A amp for 80 & 40 meters, and an RME 6900 receiver that comprised one of the two stations I used. It was the first time I used the RME 6900 after getting it to work.”



Left to right: HB 811A Amp, Collins 310B, REM 6900

“The bug is a McElory Standard Mac Key, around 1939 from the serial number and what I could find on the web. I had to add an extra weight to slow the darn thing “

73,
Gary W8KM

**WB9LWO – Jim
Jacksonville, IL**

Jim writes:

"I was working the Illinois QSO Party at the same time [as the CX] and tried using my Heathkit HW-22. However, I had difficulty hearing the other stations, so I switched to my Yaesu FT DX 5000. That certainly helped with IL QSO Party, but didn't help with my Classic Exchange score. Unfortunately, I also didn't read the rules carefully enough and realize that Drakes scored bonus points. That probably explains why I was hearing those TR7s and I might have dusted off my TR5... Oh well, the 5000 isn't an old classic, but it's a classic none the less and had fun working the other stations."

**NU0C – Jim
Lincoln NE**



All things Drake from Jim NU0C! From left to right, TR-7 Transceiver, RV-75 External VFO, and R-7A receiver. A Drake SP-75 Speech Processor is atop the TR-7.

Jim comments about the TR-7 and R-7A: *"... a DXer's dream back then and can still do tricks that would impress users of more modern rigs."*

If you paint the Autek QF-1A black, Jim's picture could easily have been from the control room of the Death Star from the Star Wars movies!

**NZ0T – Bill
Shell Knob, MO.**

Bill writes:

"I used a Heathkit SB-104A with an OCF dipole at 30' for all my QSO's."

