

NEWCOMER'S



By Tony Bailey
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Will QSL via the
bureau... or direct?

What that really
means. Also 10 meters
and a look at signal
reports

10 Meters

Back on the subject of HF operating, those of you with new shiny G4 tickets, ought to be thinking about getting some operation in on the higher frequency bands while there is still the chance. It is now generally accepted that the present sunspot maximum is on the decline, and especially in the case of 10 metres, the high traffic rates of the past few years, already declining this year, will soon be a thing of the past. With Winter here, conditions should be excellent for the next few months, before decline again to the Summer doldrums.

Anyone who has not heard 10 metres when it is really open has missed an experience. It is possible to work all Continents in a few hours, with only modest powers and aerials, with the band open in all directions at the same time. I well remember working all Continents many years ago with only 25W input of SSB and an inverted Vee dipole (a good aerial for those of you with limited space, with the apex mounted only 0.1875 wavelengths above ground) in under 2 hours. This contrasts with the state of the band during Sunspot minima, when you may be lucky to hear anything, other than Europeans, for days on end.

Most of the activity on SSB takes place between 28.5-28.6MHz, but under good conditions, and during contests, this will spread from below 28.4 up to 28.7MHz and above. Below 28.5MHz is quite a good hunting ground for DX, as many tend to pick a lower frequency when they want a chat, to avoid the QRM higher up. Many Australian (VK) stations tend to be looking for G QSO's around this area, so an early morning scan around this portion of the band could pay dividends.

If you want an idea of conditions on 10 metres, have a listen around 28.2MHz, which is the area reserved for Beacons. Although you may be hearing a particular beacon, you may not necessarily hear any stations from that area — people tend to forget that for part of the world, it will be time for sleep, so bear this in mind when you are looking for any particular callsign area. As for working the rare ones, we will cover this in a future column.

VP2LC/P		DX'PEDITION		QSL
		G3WPO		
		JULY		
		20 21 22 23 24		
		GMT	QRG.	
		RST	MODE	
		55	2XSSB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			CW	<input type="checkbox"/>
		QSL VIA VE3GCO		
SWAN 350	14AVQ ANT	STAN VP2LC	GARRY VP2LC-P	1970
ST. LUCIA				