

# LETTERS

Please address correspondence to:

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## AMERICAN WOODPECKER

OM, Enclosed you will find copies of an article from 'INTERVIA' a technical magazine on the subject of another Megawatt over-the-horizon HF Radar system operating on the backscatter principle. If they are looking for backscatter back in Maine, USA, just think what we will be getting as forward scatter here in Europe! I have not yet been graced with a reply from Col. A Lee Snyder and probably have been put on computer for commenting on their system and branded as an undesirable. That may be, but I would like maximum publicity in the amateur press on the subject. Who do these people think they are, grabbing chunks of the HF spectrum and polluting it with Megawatt HF pulse transmissions? We have had enough with the Crimean Cackler, though that has abated very much lately, why?

## DES WALSH E15CD

*This set the alarm bells going here at HRT, and we've been asking the US Air Force (who are developing the system) some tough questions. The answers are on the Radio Today page — Ed.*

## SYNTHESISED HF TRANSCEIVER

Sir, I wish to congratulate you on your publication of your articles on the *Synthesised HF Transceiver*, an excellent project. Could you please tell me where the cores T37-6 and T37-12 specified for L1, 2 & 3 in the VCO can be obtained from and also the approximate inductance of these coils. Do you know when PCBs will be available for this project?

## S NIEWIADOMSKI

*The cores in question can be purchased from Ambit International, 200 North Service Road, Brentwood, Essex. The approximate inductance of the cores 0.6  $\mu$ H, 0.16  $\mu$ H, 400nH. The precise values are not critical since the VCO circuitry will compensate. A considerable degree of range overlap was designed in.*

*As for PCBs, we are not going to produce a set for the project as it stands. The transceiver was built at least 18 months before Ham Radio Today was ever thought of and the documentation which we have to design the boards is insufficient. However, don't despair. We are producing a mark 2 version of the transceiver which will offer enhanced performance, all modes and facilities such as a noise blanker that really works. I have mooted the design already in our Technicalities column and a series of constructional features will follow, possibly starting in July. We will offer a guaranteed*

*supply of ready made PCBs kits of components and a ready made case. We anticipate that our new all mode, all band, transceiver would cost in the region of £250 in its basic form, and outperform nearly all the commercial gear currently available — Ed.*

## PLUMBING THE DEPTHS

Frank, As one of those illegal SSB CB users so often slagged by Ham and UK FM I am sick of reading in your very good and interesting mag about piggies — that is Ham OP's — blaming us for jamming repeater stations and other nasty things.

I have the equipment (mobile) with which to jam — disrupt — and do the nasty things we are blamed for, but my only interest in (Piggy) bands is to listen and learn, not to use for transmission.

Many (Piggies) use SSB and UK FM. Some who have been on the Ham bands for many years, at least two of them, both old hands, have admitted to having jammed the repeaters on 2m.

Myself and several friends who earwig have had a meeting on the subject. We are so fed up with being hounded by the Home Office — RSGB, we are thinking of doing what we are blamed for, so for the sake of peace on the airways, cool your (Piggies) and we will not cool down a bit. We expect some blame. We could, but we do not wish to take the RAE.

And one thing in our favour. We know where most of you live, but you do not know us. Most of your addresses are in the 83 Ham Year Book.

So remember to your Ham readers, leave us alone, and we will leave you alone.

I am not being offensive, just trying to state our case. Chow from SSB to Ham. May there be peace between us.

## SSB CB USER DORSET

Oink — Ed.

## WOODEN STAKES

HRT, Really! You only print letters with comments like; "It's becoming another waveband for CB'ers" (re. 2m), to provoke a little controversy. I'd like to ask Brian Patchett, who seems to be judging 2m on a cursory glance at FM mobile operation, where on CB can you get QRO operation, SSB, CW, RTTY, satellite, choice of antenna, etc. etc. etc? 2M is a proper amateur band, if you take the trouble to use it as such.

Martin Smith's reference to the confining licenses to over 18's. When I hear opinions like that, I reach for the garlic and wooden stakes! This sort of retrograde idea,

coupled with the unfortunate experiences of young J. Pelham, indicate to me that the real problems regarding relations between operators within the UK stem from snobbery and intolerance, from those old enough to know better!

I wonder, for example, who was the first person to sign a letter and to append his callsign to his signature? He started a trend which most of us follow, these days; but when you think of it, adding a callsign behind your name, as if it were a university degree, or a fellowship of some august society or institution, is a little pretentious. A callsign belongs to a station, and is used by whoever is licensed to use the station. If I visit my friend's house and use equipment, I use *his* call sign, *not mine/A!* But this is only a small point, so let it pass, except for the proviso that I will not be putting *my* callsign after my signature!

To end on a lighter (?) note, with a word to Tony Bailey, don't joke about TVI-stricken neighbours dismantling an antenna, instead of knocking on the door of the station. A friend of mine had this rotten trick pulled on him, and he blew every single transistor in his 101!

## PAUL THOMPSON

## SMALL NIGGLE

OM, I have bought each copy of your magazine since you started, and I will probably continue to do so because I think the level of its contents is pitched about right for the large majority of readers who do not appreciate the highly professional level of most articles in *Radcom*.

Just one small niggle — I have not been able to find the results of the competition in the January issue, which I would expect to have been published before now. If I have overlooked it please let me know the issue and page in which it appears, or explain why it has not appeared.

## JOHN WINDCOMBE G62H

*The answers you want appear (by a remarkable trick of fate) right here! They are: B,B,C,C,B,A,B,B,D,B,E,D,C,C in that order — Ed.*

## PLAIN SPEAKING

Sir, Help! I'm beginning to think I'm unique or thick or something.

You see, my problem is that I want to build my own equipment for 70cms, microwave etc. but, and it's a big but, I served my apprenticeship as a toolmaker and not as an electronics engineer.

I've always been interested in radio but