

morse test on the bands today if morse can be fully automated. An interesting point, but I dare say it is one which is rather controversial. It would be interesting to hear what other people have to say about this.

News and Events

The European CW Association is holding its annual "Fraternising CW Party" over the weekend of the 18th and 19th of November. The idea of the party is to give an enjoyable weekend of CW activity. Although the event is framed within a contest set-up, people are free to treat it as they want. It can be a time to meet and chat to old friends or a contest.

The make-up of the CW Party is a little more involved than some, but it has been done in this way to enable it to be as enjoyable as possible for most people.

The frequencies are 3520-350 kHz on 80 metres, 7010-7030 kHz 40 metres and 14020-14050 kHz on 20 metres between 1500 and 1700 GMT and switches to 80 metres and 40 metres between 1800 and 2000 GMT. On Sunday 19th November 40 and 80 metres are used between 0700 and 0900 GMT with operation on 40 and 20 metres between 1000 and 1200 GMT.

There are four different classes of operation and the serial numbers for each can be different. EUCW organisation members using more than 10 watts output or 5 watts output send RST/QTH/Name/Club/Membership Number, as do those using QRP. Other licenced amateurs send RST/QTH/Name/NM (not a member). The final class of operation is for short wave listeners who have to log the exchanges for both stations in the contact.

Stations can claim one point for each contact with one's own country and three points for stations in other countries. Short wave listeners claim three points for each complete logged contact. There is also a multiplier of one for each EUCW member organisation contacted or logged per day and band.

Certificates will be awarded to the first three stations in each class. Logs must show the date, time (in GMT), band, information sent and received and the points claimed for each contact. A summary sheet must

be included and should show name, address, callsign, score and details of the rig, including the power used. Finally, a signature is needed. The logs should be sent not later than the 20th of December 1989 to Geunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illingerstr 74, D-6682 Ottweiler, Federal Republic of Germany.

Then, just as a reminder, there are a number of RSGB CW contests. On the 15th October there is the 21MHz CW, and the 4th of November is the 1.8MHz CW, then on the 9th of December there is the 50MHz CW contest followed on the 10th December by a 70MHz event.

It is good to see some VHF CW contests because it is one way of increasing the level of CW activity. NFD was very disappointing from a CW point of view. May be the RSGB could make some form of incentive to increase the level of CW activity in mixed mode contests.

Band Report

Band conditions have been quite variable. CW has been good on two metres with plenty of DX via sporadic E, which I missed as usual! With the good weather there has also been plenty of tropo.

HF bands conditions have been a little variable. Ten has been "off colour" quite a bit. In spite of this the path to South America has often been open even when the band has appeared dead because there were only a couple of Europeans audible via sporadic E.

Possibly the good old faithful DX bands — fifteen, twenty and forty — have been best. There have been a number of DXpeditions for those with big aerials or lots of patience, and a fair number of good contacts for those without.

A couple of reports were received this month. The first was from Angie Sitton G0HGA. Unfortunately she was virtually off the HF band because of problems with the HF equipment. This meant that her 2 metre equipment was put to good use making contacts with DL1EF, F1JLQ, F5WD, F6BLE, F6CWV, FD1MZ, F6KBF, GU0BDV, GW0DLW, LZ1KDP, LZ2XU, ON4ADI, ON4APZ, ON4ASL, ON4ARC, ON4CW, PA3EDN, PA3EQZ, PA3FIQ, PB0AIM, PE0MAR, SM6DWF, YU1AFS and YU7CV.



Lake Electronics DTR3 80m CW Tx.

A few of these contacts were cross mode: Angie on CW of course! But it just goes to show what can be done with 15 watts, a 4 element at ten feet and CW. (No ruddy computers, either, says your Editor bitterly. It's just swallowed the last hour's work.

Richard Everitt proved that two of the old faithful HF bands were in good shape. On forty metres he managed contacts with D68TW, FH5R, HC2G, V17T and YY1D. Then on twenty he hooked AP2ZA, HL9JZ, JX7DFA, VP5P, ZF2NE/ZF8, ZX2A, 4J1FS and 5H1NK. For all these he was using 100 watts fed to an 8 metres ground mounted vertical.

Sign Off

Well, that's all for now. For everyone who want to write in the address is QTHR, but for anyone without a call book it is: 144 Worple Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1EQ. So, until the next time BCNU es 73s de G3YWX.



.. Doggone discone SWR goes up every nite!