

**JOURNAL OF THE
Q R P
RESEARCH SOCIETY**

EDITED BY: - J. WHITEHEAD
THE RETREAT, RYDENS AVENUE
WALTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY
Telephone: - - WALTON 1619



.....AFFILIATED TO



THE R. S. G. B.

JOURNAL OF THE

ISSUE No 65

Q R P SOCIETY

SIXTH YEAR

APRIL 1955

..... Published in the last week of each month

PRESIDENT: Mr E. Banks, GC2CNC

PAST PRESIDENT: Mr A.O.Milne, G2MI

CHAIRMAN: Capt A.M.H.Fergus, G2ZC

HON-SECRETARY, TREASURER, EDITOR: John Whitehead, 92 Rydens Avenue,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. (Phone - Walton 1619)

Deadline for publication in next issue is the 12th of next month.

P A R E C RULES

In an endeavour to increase interest in, and encourage development of, low power and essentially portable equipment by radio amateurs, the QRP Society introduce "PAREC", the Portable Amateur Radio Equipment Contest, open to all licenced hams and SWLs, either as individuals or in club teams.

The Society acknowledge with sincere thanks the valuable assistance offered by DATA PUBLICATIONS Ltd, publishers of Radio Constructor, in accepting responsibility for the provision of an unbiased panel of judges for the entries.

The contest will be divided into four classes in which equipment will be eligible as follows:-

65/3 - APRIL 1955

HOW TO MAKE YOUR ENTRY -- A description of the entry, laid out as follows, should be sent to the Hon. Sec, QRP Society (92, Rydens Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey) and should be written as clearly as possible (or preferably typewritten) on foolscap paper, using one side of the paper only.

SHEET 1, the title page, should contain the following information ONLY -- "QRP Society, PAREC" (in the top left corner); Name, call (if any) and address of sender (top right corner); Title of gear submitted (centre, above middle of page). The bottom half of the page should be left blank for judges comments.

SHEET 2; Theoretical diagram and components list ONLY.

SHEET 3: Layout sketches. Photographs may be attached but are not essential for initial consideration (The judges may request photographs at a later date).

SHEET 4 upwards (as necessary) -- Detailed description of the apparatus which should be carefully checked to include ALL information relative to the gear and its performance. AT THE TOP OF SHEET 4 the following information should be clearly tabulated: Type of apparatus; power consumption; weight; overall size; band coverage.

Entry forms, set out as above will be scrutinised by a Selection Committee of the QRP Society (who may ask the entrant to furnish more information where necessary). This Committee will assess the best three entries in each class and, to each of these twelve entrants A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE (13" x 8") will be awarded by the QRP Society. The twelve entrants thus selected will be invited to forward the apparatus itself to the Editor of The Radio Constructor (c/o Data Publications Ltd., 57 Maida Vale, London W9) who has kindly offered the services of his staff to give their unbiased judgement in the selection of the final winners of each class and of the contest as a whole.

Apparatus should not be sent in BEFORE a date to be notified to

65/4 - APRIL 1955

the finalists upon receipt of their certificates. Great care should be taken in providing sufficiently protective packing. Return packing and postage will be paid for by the QRP Society. All possible care will be taken of apparatus while in the hands of Data Publications Ltd, but no responsibility can be accepted for any loss or damage sustained either then or during transit.

PRIZES (the nature of which will be announced at a later date) will be awarded to each class winner and also to the entrant of the best entry by a QRP Society member. There will also be a prize for the best entry by a club team.

A detailed article on the winning entry (and others at the discretion of Data Publications Ltd) will be published (and paid for at usual rates) in The Radio Constructor as soon after the conclusion of the contest as possible. The QRP Society retain the right to publish in their Society Journal, "QRP", full accounts of any or all of the entries.

OVERSEAS ENTRIES will be particularly welcomed and a certificate (as detailed above) will be awarded to the best overseas entry in each of the four classes. Since, however, it will be difficult for overseas participants to send in the apparatus itself, they will not be asked to submit gear for the final judging and will not, in consequence, be eligible for the finalists prizes (other than QRP Society certificates).

CLOSING DATE for the receipt of entry forms by the Hon Sec, QRP Society, will be SEPTEMBER 30th 1955. Entries ready prior to this date should be submitted as soon as available in order to avoid any "last minute rush".

There is no restriction on the number of entries sent in by any one individual or team.

- o - o

.....: A CHAT ABOUT REPORTS WITH BOB IBALL :.....

(In presenting this series of articles in the magazine, Bob Iball has asked me to stress that he has no journalistic tendencies. That may be so, but there is no doubt that a quite outstanding ability when it is a matter of a worthwhile report. Look at a few of the comments they have raised:-- "My friends down here are agreed that never before have they seen such a fine example of a SWL report. You are to be congratulated on an effort which will, we hope, be used as a model by the listeners in our section" ... "Like a rare rose in a garden of weeds" ... "Don't know how you can find time to compile such a fine report -- more like a Commercial Survey than a SWL report. Congrats" ... "You almost create the illusion we are listening to our own sigs" ... "Your style of report is fb -- cannot be improved" ... "You have no business being a SWL -- you should be behind the key of your own station" ... And many others. One other point he asks me to underline, and that is his very strong dislike of the "card type" report.

But let us listen to Bob -- Ed.)

For some time now, and in particular after the war, there has been some controversy about SWL reports. This little chat is designed to give an insight into the method of reporting which I have found to be worthwhile, and to express an opinion on the type of report that is flooding the Amateur Radio world.

First, what is a SWL? -- Now, now, don't all argue at once, and no bad language among you Hams, please! -- In my opinion there are several types of SWL. Many don't get their names in the magazines because they construct more than listen, yet they are doing a good job of work. Of the rest there are (1) the all-band types and (2) the single band types. Both types can be divided into those who report indiscriminately and those who treat reporting seriously. It is the

65/6 - ARRIL 1955

last that, we want to talk about mainly.

Now, I have been a SWL since 1937 and have enjoyed the friendship of amateurs both personally and penship. I was tutored by an amateur who held strict principles on the behaviour of a SWL and, considering the many tributes I have received from amateurs, I do not think I have let my tutor down. The very high ratio of replies I have had to my reports does, perhaps, entitle me to voice some opinions on such matters. But do remember that it is not the number of reports that you send that matters, it is the quality. GOOD, DETAILED REPORTS will reap a high ratio of replies.

Shall I tell you what I think is wrong with the average listeners report? It lacks the personal touch. Do you ever stop to think that the chap behind the key is a human being -- same as you or I? He likes to receive a letter as well as a report. He likes to hear about yourself & what you do. He likes to picture what kind of chap is behind the pen. The reception of a card bearing the cold fact that he was "5&9" is most discouraging. Remember that the amateur likes to know some details of your QTH, your Rx (especially if home built), and a brief personal resume -- at least I have found it so from experience. When reporting bear these suggestions in mind, but don't embody your report in the letter and never fill your letter with all the radio-language abbreviations you can think of, the amateur gets enough "slang" when he is on the air. Above all remember to enclose postage (or sae) -- NO ONE is in a position to meet all expenses -- and if the report is going to an overseas station enclose an IRC applicable to that country.

Are you beginning to wonder if it is worth all that trouble just to get a card?-- Well, think about the personal touch a bit more!

A SWL should treat his hobby seriously and always offer his services to the amateur in a constructive manner. It is, of course, a great advantage if he has a working knowledge of the code too.

(More next month)

65/7 - APRIL 1955

.....: STRAIGHT FROM THE STATES :.....

Reported by

Bud Rugel, WØPRM

Joe, K6DCF, is now building masts for his 130 ft longwire. He is also interested in 2 metres and is building a rig for that band

Al, W8FRD, writes in to say that he worked KV4AA during the test on 80 cw, and VP7NM, KH6MG and KH6IJ on 40 cw, all with his 20 watt rig.

Bill Campbell, W6OHX, a new member, sends in some interesting gen. He works 25 watts on 80, 40 and 20 metres, mostly cw, 3.5 Mc/s being the favourite band. The antenna is a voltage-fed 135 footer about 12 ft high. Bill has worked 32 countries and has 24 confirmed, examples on 3.5 being KC6, KG6, KG4, ZM6, DU7, ZK1. Better ones on 7 and 14 Mc/s are KM6, KX6, VR2, VR6, FK8, KB6, KR6, VR3, LU7Z, LU4Z. Also 42 States confirmed for WAS. Bill usually hangs out around 3505 Kc/s locking for Dx.

H. J. Chapdelaine, W1ZPA, another new member, uses a Heathkit VFO, 5763 buffer, 6AG7 multiplier, 807 PA, with 300 volts on the plate at 15 watts input. Modulator is a PP 6L6s driven by a 6J5 and a 6SK7 mike amplifier. Microphone is an Astatic crystal mike. Rx is an 11 tube Super AC-DC homebuilt. Antenna is an all-band, 140 ft, centre fed with 300 ohm line and 30 ft high. Has 41 states confirmed. Also uses a 600 mW, a .78 watt and a 1 watt Tx, all with good results.

Conditions were poor for the second half of ARRL TESTS, with very little Dx coming through.

Here at WØPRM a pi-coupler is under construction. Nothing of interest has been worked lately & am still trying to find a W5 in Arkansas for WAS. Am also QSL manager for Fred 9S4AX who is quite active on all bands and has been for many years. This past season he has worked many Gs crossband 160/80. Also works 144 Mc/s but complains of inactivity on that band.

Congrats to Tray, G2HAW, on his WABC award with 2 watts max!

73 till next month, Bud, WØPRM.

65/8 - APRIL 1955

.....: SOCIETY NEWS & ACTIVITY :.....

KEITH RANGER, (QTH: Mafraq) is still in difficulties from three sources -- shortage of equipment, the shielding effect of the metal nisson hut, and the impossibility of getting anything like an antenna system erected. Keith is looking forward to some serious portable work in the near future, which will overcome most of his difficulties. In the mean time he has had quite a time with the Rx, as witness his C-Z score (It is a O-V-O, by the way!)

JOE STEPHENSON says that he has tried OXO tins since "noticing our remarks" last month, and has found that they are, as we suggested, too thin and flimsey for a sound job. He has also tried out a copy of the G3KBQ tuning unit and reports that he finds no benefit at all. This we feel is not conclusive evidence that the tuning unit is not beneficial but rather that, in Joe's case, special treatment may be required.

TED STONESTREET is back on VHF listening again after a short break. His six-year-old stand by Rx (one valve super-regen) is still the favourite, but a O-V-1 (958 squegger, 1T4 audio) is being tried out and so is a 2-metre converter (1291 double triode). The 3-element Yagi is back in position. A new Rx is completed for 160, 80, 40 & 20.

"MONTY" BANKS, GC2CNC, also is back on Two, QRG 145.13, CW only. He has added a new steel tower with the 4-element beam. Other commitments have curtailed Monty's working lately, but he has got in a bit of listening during which he heard G5TZ remark that condx were vry poor ('5TZ was coming in 5-9 off the back of the beam!), and '3IIT was heard in QSO with '5TZ as well!

RONNIE HUNTSMAN, G3KBR, has had seven days leave after which he was hoping to be posted to REME Wireless Training Centre at Aborfield in Berkshire where, he understands, they have a good ham station. His brother Peter is looking forward to some QSOs on 80!

PETER HUNTSMAN, G3KBQ, has spent some time perfecting the little

65/9 - APRIL 1955

Field Strength meter (described below) and finds that it bangs over on the back-stop when tuned to 261 metres which is not surprising as the 100 kW BBC stn is only four miles away and makes a complete mess of Top Band thereabouts. Peter is still using two watts for his normal transmissions, going up to 10 only for special circumstances, but on a recent QSO with a stn in London he was given 569 for both powers. One might, perhaps, remark: "So watt!"

ROGER TAYLOR, G3JAL, is doing an excellent job of work with the new Transistor Group, but he wants a lot more backing up by all the TTX-interested boys yet. It is pleasing to see that Roger has a good opinion of the value of SWL reports to TTX users and by way of encouragement to them he suggests that we introduce a SPECIAL CERTIFICATE FOR THOSE SWLS WHO CAN PRODUCE VERIES FROM 50 TTX STATIONS. Well, we are quite prepared to fall in with this suggestion but we feel that 50 is a bit high at present and we are thinking that the certificate might be presented for 10 stations with stickers to be added to it for each additional 10 (all different, as they say in stamp collecting circles).

TED JONES, G3EUE, is back on the air after the clean-up in the shack. One watt on 3.5 Mc/s only. He has increased his score of counties this year to 16 with an all-time score of 29 for that band. He worked his first GC3 during the second week of this month.

BUD RUGEL, WØPRM, (See also "Straight From The States") has been relieving the regular "agent" on his Missouri-Kansas-Oklahoma-Texas railroad which has entailed lots of extra work, but he has managed to "make" the Kansas CW net on 3610 Kc/s at 1830 each night. The last half of this month he is spending on vacation in Kansas City and hopes take in a few of the big league baseball games.

BILL IBALL has taken my jest to heart and wrote this month in RED ink -- now all I have to do is remember whether it is Bill or Bob who is coming up coloured. Bill spent Easter with Bob at the latter's QTH for the first time in 5 or 6 years. They are, of course, twins and used in days gone by to share joint membership in SWL clubs as "R.W.Iball".

65/10 - APRIL 1955

Even in those days they were well known to Top Band "Hams" so that the interest they share in that region is no passing fancy

TED BALDWIN is certainly keen on the Student Scheme in which he has been a pupil for about a year now. He has mentioned it in every letter he has written and, this month, says: "As far as I am concerned the Student Scheme is a godsend. Ernie (A.E.Ashby, G3HCW) has certainly gone to a lot of trouble to put me on the right road". Thank you, Ted, it is nice to know that efforts are appreciated.

ALLAN HERRIDGE, G3IDG, is now CC on 28350 Kc/s using CO/PA into one of two dipoles in the loft. If any of our OZ, PA or SM members use the band Allan would like a QSO. He is still hoping that LO will wake up some day! Allan thinks it is time we had a new membership list (OK, OM, we'll attend to that as soon as possible -- it is a question of time here at HQ and of extra paper as we feel that a separate list is better than one included in the mag like the last effort).

GUY MOSER, G3YMA, has sat the exam we mentioned last month but is not yet aware of the result. Some of the papers he found really "shocking". Guy has given up his call (hence the // business above) as he finds more interest in serious SWL reporting and more joy in getting back such comments as "Mni tnx yr fb rept" and "Yr rept appreciated" than he does in working unlimited G3s who all say exactly the same thing -- "Pse QSL, want Westmorland for WABC" (Yes, I do understand your feelings, OM, being a confirmed SWL myself). Guy is taking up his old RSGB CR post again.

"MACK" McINTOSH, suggests that we open a Query Corner. Well, how do others feel -- we'll find someone to run it if the general vote is in favour. Mack has rigged up a portable on his bike with a box to hold Rx and batteries and a throw out antenna. He is thinking of adding a whip, all speed-cop style!

DAVID MALNHOD, G3HZW, is hoping to try out some portable working with G3SID in June after the exams which his present "bin" are over.

For the moment they are keeping him pretty well QRT.

NOELIAN BASON comes in this month with a mass of interesting gen at the end of which he appologises for taking up so much of my time! He says: "I really do look forward to and enjoy writing my monthly letter to you almost as much as the receipt of the mag. It is nice to pour forth my ideas to sympathetic ears." Well, Norman, feeling that way about writing you should be able to appreciate how much I enjoy getting your letters (and those of others who look at things the same way) -- it makes me feel almost that I'm having a go in the shack beside you. The only snag is my old moan that I haven't time to reply to you all individually!

CLIFF LEAL, G3ISX, has tested the new Top Band rig and reports are satisfactory. The 5763 is doing as good a job as the old 807 with a considerable saving in space. The next step will be towards the Dx bands as a Tx is available which covers 80-40-20, but antennae are being troublesome. Cliff has tried a T2FD which "soakes up the RF but just don't radiate!" He is considering a VS1AA type and would appreciate comments or suggestions. One of his difficulties is that he cannot get sufficient height (Yes, please do let us have the 160 Tx gen, OM).

PETER HANSEN, OZ5U, has sent in a number of circuits via his old friend G3CED who has passed them on as being of possible interest for the mag. We will see what we can do about a little further translation of some of the descriptive detail, Peter, as although the circuitry is understandable enough there are still some of the details that are a little puzzling, Hi!

BILL HARDIE (QTH: Oshawa, Ontario) Yes, your sub arrived OK, OM, and the receipt was enclosed as usual in the Feb issue which was sent off from here. As neither that nor the March issue reached you we are sending all three issues together. Ron Gourdie's QRA is: The Manse, Tarbrax, West Calder, Midlothian.

BOB LEALL (blue ink) is temporarily almost QRT owing to extensive modification and rewiring of the house -- perhaps it is just as well or

65/12 - APRIL 1955

we might not have got the fine article on reporting of which the first installment appears this month.

.....: QRP SOCIETY SPARES SERVICE :.....

SPRING CLEANING THE SHACK? Why not cash in on that stuff you know jolly well you will never need? A brief description and a plain stamped envelope to G3CED, Spares Manager, 17 Ethel Rd, Broadstairs is all that is necessary, but if possible name a definite price including carriage. Items may be offered in exchange for something you need!

WANTED: -- A good all band, fully screened antenna tuning unit. Exchange choice from variety of items....A good low priced battery communications Rx....150 mA meter....300pF var condenser....250pF to 500pF var condensers....BC453 Rx or that series....85, 100 or 175 Kc/s IF transformers....HL2/K valve....Handbook or cct Hallicrafters S20 Sky Champion Rx, buy or borrow.

SALE: -- Meters, AC and DC, various, cheap - send your requirements....Xtal diodes, 3/6 each....asstd resistors and capacitors, 10/6 per 100.

EXCHANGE: -- Universal Avcominor with leather case, for good GDO.

.....: A TIP ABOUT YOUR BADGE :.....

Society lapel badges in gilt and green enamel (obtainable from HQ post free for 2/6) should always be bright and clear. Like KLG plugs you can "fit and forget" if you adopt this tip. Clean the badge and cover it straight away with a piece of transparent adhesive tape (Cello-tape). Make sure all edges of the tape turn down under the edges of the badge or they will pick up a line of dirt in time. Your Hon Sec has used the tip himself continuously for six months and his badge is as clean as ever, and you'd never guess the tape was on there.

65/13 - APRIL 1955

.....: VHF / UHF CONVENTION :.....

The attention of members is drawn to the FIRST INTERNATIONAL VHF/UHF CONVENTION, organised by the London UHF Group, to be held at the Bedford Corner Hotel, Bayley Street, WC 2, on Saturday May 14th 1955. All are welcome and further information can be obtained from Mr P.A. Thorogood, G4KD, 35 Gibb's Green, Edgeware, Middx. Tickets are priced as follows: Convention, lunch and dinner, £1; Convention only, 2/6; Lunch only, 7/6; Dinner only, 12/6.

.....: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE "SIMPLE TOP BAND Tx" :.....

Allan Herridge, G3IDG, referring to the article by G3JNB in our February issue, says:-

"I would suggest adding a 25 or 50 uF electrolytic from cathode of V2 to deck as an audio bypass. Also break the V2 grid resistor (R3) at its top end and insert an RFC. From the junction of the RFC and R3 take a .001 to deck. And 50 K for R3 seems high -- I would prefer around 27 K. All these modifications are incorporated in my own Tx, by the way! I also found stoppers desirable in the 807 circuit -- 47 ohms in the anode and 10 ohms in the control and screen grids -- all three close up to their respective valve pins. These mods will make the Tx less simple but more foolproof."

What about it, Vic -- any comments?

.....: TRANSISTOR GROUP :.....

"MONTY" BANKS, GC2CNC, supports the stations rather than the counties worked contest which I mentioned last month and adds "How abt a TTXCC -- 100 stations worked on a TTx". The only thing I can see against it is the QSL problem if you happen to have worked a station

65/14 - APRIL 1955

before with the main rig. Would like some other views on this.

BILL IBALL would like to see a list of TTX stations active on Top Band or 30 with details of their frequencies and approximate times of working

WE DO AGREE WITH THIS AND IF ANYONE WANTS REPORTS (and I think all TTx ops do) PLEASE SEND THE NECESSARY DATA. It helps us and gives the serious SWL a chance to do useful work.

ROGER TAYLOR, G3JAL has not been very active, mainly due to pending exams. When on the air, which can be any time owing to shift duties, the TTx is on 1880 Kc/s.

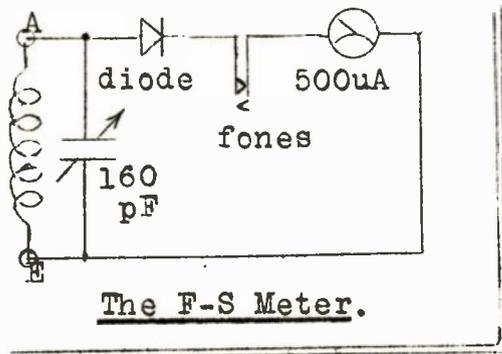
SUGGESTED GENERAL SKEDS:-- I suggest, as a tentative measure to promote activity, that we all try to come up on TTx EVERY THURSDAY evening from 2130 to 2200 hrs and send some fairly long and slow QSOs, remembering to use TTx frequently. Even if we do not work anyone we may be heard by the SWLs. Lets give it a try for a month first of all, starting on the 5th of May.

That is all for this month. Send your letters or postcards to the Group Secretary:-

Roger Taylor, G3JAL, 67 Colliers Water Lane, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

.....: A FIELD STRENGTH METER, by G3KBQ :.....

After trying half a dozen field strength circuits I have fixed up a circuit using a plug-in coil and a 500 uA meter which works as either a field strength meter or a crystal set. The usual precautions should be taken as regards short wiring. A jumper should be wired across the fone jack so that it is possible to get a reading with the fones out of the unit. An Eddystone die-cast box is used for assembly and 16" of wire is all that is necessary as a pick up for use as a meter.



65/15 - APRIL 1955

..... QRP SOCIETY CONTESTS

This month one entry has come in for the "200". Peter Huntsman claims 22 countries worked on 1.8 Mc/s. That makes a grand total of two entries during the first three months of this year.

I am afraid we cannot make a contest of this.

THE C - Z CONTEST (for the Partridge Cup, now held by Peter Huntsman) is for the highest annual (Jan to Dec) score of countries and zones heard on five bands with receivers of not more than 1½ watts HT consumption. A country or zone heard on more than one band may count once only in the total.

Mc/s: --	<u>3.5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>COUNTRIES</u>	<u>ZONES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
E. W. GARDINER	12	9	92	20	-	108	27	135
KEITH RANGER	-	59	94	-	-	101	28	129
NORMAN BASON	14	33	67	2	-	81	27	108
D. G. GORDON	17	4	60	20	1	68	22	90
TED STONESTREET	13	17	62	-	-	65	23	88
JOE STEPHENSON	13	2	57	3	-	62	18	80
PETER HUNTSMAN	-	-	36	-	-	36	17	53
N. J. McINTOSH	16	10	21	-	-	47	?	?

Well, Keith has turned up as he promised that he would this month and a very fb score he has put in considering that, owing to the long postal delay from Malfracq, his log cannot cover the full three months results. But we are glad to see E.W.G. still doing such a good job, and that we can say without fear or favour for he has tried to head this

