

ON THE SIDE

ON THE SIDE

# CB MAGAZINE FOR ALL ENTHUSIASTS CB

RADCLIFFE  
CARNIVAL  
1983 QUEEN 1984  
MICHAELA

Testing a Hand-Portable  
on the Moors

Your Questions on  
Linear Amps

Campaign for real CB

Monitoring – how it all  
began

THERE

OCTOBER 1983

70p

# B404 Half Wave

## DESCRIPTION

The B404 Half Wave is an antenna of exceptional power designed for operation at half the wave length of the permitted Citizen Band.

the distinctive factor of the B404 is the ability to maintain a superb performance without incorporating 'ground-plane' radials yet still retain an excellent gain strength.

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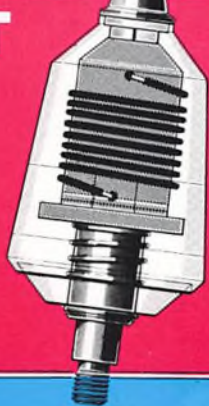
## SPECIFICATION

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| S.W.R.            | 1 : 1.12         |
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# ON THE SIDE

**Published, Typeset and Printed by:**

Knight and Forster

## *Breaker, break,*

I bet you think we magazine publishers have things easy, relaxing here in sunny Leeds, feet on desk, making snap decisions on whether to pay the Deputy Editor his salary, or not, and other unimportant things. What else? Oh yes, we get expensive rigs to review, and take them home afterwards, and our fully detached houses are decorated with twigs that look like Christmas Trees sprouting from the chimneys.

Ah, but nothing could be further from the truth! We also have our problems, small and major. For instance, where is this magazine heading? Can we make any changes that will affect readership, and advertising revenue favourably? And so on.

The big question at the moment is: should we concentrate on FM radio, or continue to take an unbiased view and write about all the modes, including the currently illegal AM and sidebands? It's a fact that many people are writing to *On The Side*, saying that very soon it will be illegal to "advertise" and "recommend" the use of illegal CB equipment. So we may have to concentrate on FM CB, despite our editorial policies and individual interests.

But what do you, our readers, think? Bearing in mind the comments made by Tony Bevington, ex-Chairman of NATCOLCIBAR elsewhere in this issue, there might be a case for a change of policy if only because interest in illegal CB is falling off — and it certainly seems the case if there are only a few AM-based CB clubs throughout the country.

Let us know how many clubs there are, and if possible, generally how many members those clubs have, and most important, whether the clubs are AM or FM based. No questions asked, and no confidences betrayed, and all that.

What we want to find out is how much interest there is in AM and sideband CB nowadays. We must admit that "people in the know" still mutter things like: "AM? Never." On the other hand, there is a big interest in AM and SSB, even from the police. Read next month's *On The Side*, when we re-print an article specially written by a Chief Superintendent, entitled: "Why AM radio is best."

Mind you, it's a personal view, and shouldn't be taken as a general policy from the police force. Anyway, it's interesting, so read it.

Finally, hope you like this issue, and don't believe what you read in the rival mag. They always were an unreliable bunch anyway.

10 - 10

Frank V — Editor

**Note to advertisers:**

Please make sure that your copy reaches our offices by the 10th of the preceding month.

Editorial contributors ditto.

The publishers of *On The Side* magazine cannot condone the use of illegal CB equipment, and illegal ancillary equipment. Also, we do not accept responsibility for any damage, hardship, or other unfortunate happening which might have taken place as a result of editorial or advertisement material published in this magazine. In other words, if your new rig (which we might have recommended!) blows up, we won't pay.

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ISSN 0264-4053

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That's right, you've gone too far. Turn back one page to read this, probably the only bit of the magazine that's written by the Editor . . .

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The magazine's becoming better known, and this is reflected in the letters we get from readers. In fact, the letters simply poured in this month.

## **10** *CB updates*

Where we bring you up to date with what's going on in the world of CB currently. Anyone can contribute to this section, so if you're making news yourself, let us know . . .

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This is where we explain in full and interesting detail exactly what the basic recommendations are, regarding the legalisation of AM CB in this country. Plus, the improvements to the existing recommendations . . .

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Our tame technical wizard on linear amplifiers. He explains the advantages and disadvantages of burners, otherwise called booster units, and answers a couple of readers' questions at the same time. Busy man, is Repairman.



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# ON THE SIDE

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Where we take a dealer to a slap up lunch, talk to him about his company, and write about it. What's that, you didn't take him to lunch? Then what's this expense bill on my desk?

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Lucius Quix on how monitoring began, and how it has changed the face of CB over the years.

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The Duke continues his explanations of DXing, swapping, contacting, and so on. Welcome back, Duke.

## 38 *Mike Sierra and the dung fire*

A group of travellers, Mike Sierra and his friends, walked across the moors to try out their new portable CB rig. Copies of 70 miles, and one from Belgium, no less!

## 44 *Copying the mail*

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### *ON THE SIDE MAGAZINE IS ALIVE AND WELL*

The statement which appeared in 'Citizens' Band' magazine September issue announcing that we had 'folded' caused quite a stir. We received numerous telephone calls from readers and advertisers. As you can see we are alive and well, and there is no intention of 'folding' the magazine. We have received a verbal apology from Sue Sharp the editor of CB.



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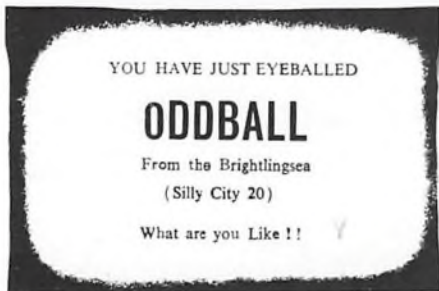
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**LETTERS**

**LETTERS**

**LETTERS**

# COPYING THE MAIL



## OUR FREE RIG WINNER

Thank you very much for the Radiomobile CB radio which I received yesterday. I am still recovering from the shock!

I have installed it in my home base, and it works well, much better than the \*\*\*\*\* it replaces. I use CB both mobile, and home base, for about 15 hours a day, so you will be glad to know that the radio has gone to a good home.

Thanks again, and I hope the magazine prospers. It should do! If you are ever in Brightlingsea, give Oddball a shout, and I'll buy you a beer.

Yours sincerely,

*Billy Dunne*

Billy Dunne (Oddball)

*Note from Editor:* We have left out Billy's home address, just in case any readers might be thinking about posing as yours truly to con themselves a beer...

*Extra note from Editor:* Just to play safe Billy, if and when I visit Brightlingsea, and give you a shout over the wireless, you'll know it's me because I'll use a secret codeword — Russian Woodpecker. OK?

## WHITE ELEPHANT QSL CLUB

It was suggested by a fellow breaker, that if I wanted my club name to be known, and over an extensive area, I should contact you and request a bit of space.

Well, I would be very grateful if you could put my club address in the listed clubs page, so that anyone interested, requiring information etc, can write to me.

We have been operating now for two years and have 40 local members in and around Scunthorpe. There are also about 30 international members.

**Dave (President)**

**P.O. Box 28, Scunthorpe,  
S. Humberside.**

## JUST LIKE THE IBA

I would like to see a CB authority set up — not an association. An authority should be set up by the government, and be like the IBA, with powers to police CB radio, as the IBA police independent TV and radio.

The CB authority, like the IBA, have the power to ban offenders and prosecute, and put people permanently off the air, or at least should have. Also, the allocation for CB radio should be 27-27.4MHz AM, 27.4-27.6 SSB, and of course 27.60125-27.99125 FM, and the use of 29.310-29.7 as the hams that use this area are very few and far between.

All frequencies and modes of modulation should use four watts only, plus an attenuator.

**R. Large,  
Crewe, Cheshire.**

## FLIES IN THE SKY

Re: your recent article "Censored or classified?" 10-4 on your article good buddy. We see what happens when we want to pass the sweet tray around.

It rings a 40-year-old bell for me, when I was an X-ray machine operator watching for flies in the sky. We wondered what MHz are pushed out, with our "Halt, who goes there" from the dipoles. Measure them? But no tapes about.

"Let's pace them and measure our boots."

"But look out, not too near or they will cut your water off."

"Now, listen stupid, you can see they are feet long."

"But surely you have heard of harmonics."

We used to sit there turning them around with a wheel, in touch with an AA battery. Warm thanks for your efforts. I think it important at magazine level, and a 10-17 any time.

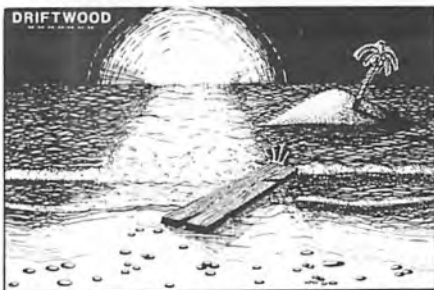
**W.G. Metcalfe,  
W.H. Sauce,  
Liverpool.**

## POCKET SIZED

Thanks for a good magazine, at last, and keep to the size you are now. It's just right to carry around in a pocket.

I've enclosed one of my QSL cards, and would say that I will swap 1-4-1 if they send me one of theirs. QRT, QTV Smiths!

**V.J. Wood, Driftwood,  
P.O. Box 01, St. Columb Major,  
Cornwall.**



## BIG NOISE BREAKERS CLUB

Our club has been going for about 18 months now, catering for all modes. We meet every Wednesday at the MP TPE Club, East Prescott Road, Liverpool 14, at 7.30pm and everybody is welcome.

We do have a PO Box and club QSL cards, plus a country and western night every fourth week, and we support the local channel 9 monitors called TEAMS, and REACT. We also do our best to support local charities. And here's yet another piece of news — our club magazine is called *On The Side!*

**Harry (Tumbleweed), Secretary,  
Big Noise Club, Liverpool.**

## CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME BASE 1

I really enjoyed the last issue of *On The Side* and hope to see many more of them. Now, can I tell you a bit about what we Cbers are doing? We have set up our own charity organisation, called Home Base 1. There are four of us in the group — myself, Warlord Gary Curtis, Fish Colin White, Heavyweight Philip Taylor, and last but not least Honest John, John Walker.

We recently did a 48 hour sponsored modulation on the radio and raised £150 to buy three cycles for the Kingsley School for Disabled Children. I enclose the newspaper cuttings for your interest. Our next big project is a 100 mile walk from Birmingham to Higham Ferrers, and on this occasion we are looking for sponsorship worldwide. If any of your readers are interested, please forward my address on to them; we hope that a breaker from Market Harborough will join us on the walk. His handle is Trapper, and he hopes to walk on crutches — he is in fact, permanently disabled following a tractor accident.

The money raised will go towards the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph Fracture Clinic, which hopes to cut down the length of stay in hospitals.

**Gary Curtis, Warlord,  
2 Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers,  
Wellingborough, Northants.**

## ZUKIE IS A MAN!

Reference to the article in the July issue of *On The Side*, called "What you think." I wish to advise you of one small error, which I hope you will correct — you refer to me as of the feminine gender. However, I am a male.

The article was well written, and may I suggest you extract all relevant data, summarise it, print it as a petition and obtain readers' signatures and then present it as soon as possible to the appropriate authorities, complete with data — what and how breakers are helping the communities...?

The petition should be for 40 plus Euro FM channels plus AM channels with SSB frequencies to be made legal within two years.

Heavier penalties for swearing etc, disc jockeying etc. Restricted age group for the new channels. Breakers ignoring and being convicted should be banned from the airwaves for five years. Licence fees: these to be used for the provision of tracing and monitoring equipment, and tape recordings should be accepted as evidence re: abusive language etc.

Re: the juvenile disabled, it could work as follows: Three monitors on channels preselected for relevant data and time (never 14, 19, 9). Ten juveniles under the personal control of three adult monitors.

No mention of disabled — use of nicknames and Christian names encouraged. CB equipment donated personally direct to the breaker (disabled) by donors and are requested to act as unofficial uncles/aunts etc. and to keep in touch with recipient (all monitors are adults). We include five disabled (including myself), a doctor, social workers, youth leaders, teacher, business people and electronic personnel (sic).

There are 33 monitors each with a full vote — each takes turns for four weeks to act as committee members (we meet as a committee twice a month), and we do not collect, nor will receive financial aid. We prefer donors to meet the recipients.

There are at present 10 groups of 10 juveniles in operation. The juveniles — if they require aid — have access to a special devised list of code words which can be used in normal language. Hence, if social welfare is required, say for a particular time, help can be sought quickly without earwiggers knowing.

Monitors keep a check on the equipment and run their networks separately. If more than 10 juveniles go on channel, one of the disabled monitors will take on the extras, and so on.

Every day the networks are on a different channel. No mention of disabled persons is allowed in conversation, so for over a year we have had no hassles with the gonks etc.

Donors and monitors arrange day trips, eyeballs, visits to CB rallies etc., and this is at their own expense and time. Thus, we are free of many of the problems normally associated with clubs.

Incidentally, when I meet with a radio ham (in fact, many of our monitors do) we invite them to meet the group members. The result? Some 25 youths this last three months have become interested in ham radio. Since we started, 16 of our juveniles have passed the A licence and five are pending regarding the B licence.

I, on behalf of our group, wish to thank our friendly hams for their active help and assistance, both technically and otherwise. They have given it so freely.

A good relationship can be created with willingness and enthusiasm between hams and CBers. I, for instance, although interested in ham activities, feel too old for it now. Plus the disabilities and financial reasons — I could not participate in this particular field.

I am confident that in due course, hams and CBers will work together, although on different modes, and seek to avoid use of each other's frequencies. Let us not forget that we can learn a lot from the hams.

High numbers to you all.

**Mr. Zukie.**



## NOVEMBER CHARLIE RADIO CLUB

I am wondering if anyone from our club has been in touch — or perhaps they were all standing 10-23 waiting for each other. You describe me in a previous issue as Andromeda of Olney. Not that I mind, but of course I am from South Milton Keynes; our club address is Olney.

Currently membership is escalating so fast that we can't keep up with the listing. The number is well over 190, and I am number 147. More than 40 members joined between 9th June and 11th July. We invite membership, and therefore it is safe to say that "allcomers" is not the rule of the day. But any person wishing to join must be proposed and seconded by another established member. I am enclosing a QSL card and on my letter is a stamp impression.

We meet the second Monday of every month, but I won't say where as it is exclusive to members. Interested breakers should write to the following address: P.O. Box 2, Olney, Bucks MK46 5LT. Or they can call out for a November Charlie on channel 19 locally.

Milton Keynes is shortly to open one of the most up-to-date hospitals in the country, and it will be fitted with one of the only two (I think) cancer scanners in England. We have just handed over a cheque for £800 raised during a 48 hour non-stop modulation on channel 36, to the hospital in the presence of the Mayor of Milton Keynes.

Can I leave the NCRC and add something to the report on page seven of the August issue, entitled "Inva-rad"? Jack Clarke in his modesty has forgotten to tell you how hard the club works to see that severely disabled house-bound people are not left alone, by buying complete home base set-ups for them and getting them on the air. No mean achievement. Pardon me, Jack, for butting in, but the breaker who raced round Silverstone and is going to drive a double decker bus will do something more spectacular soon — fly a light aircraft over Milton Keynes. You've heard of flying blind. This will be

really so, and all proceeds will go to charity.

Thanks for letting me ramble on. I am finished, and I'll cut you loose with all the Golden Numbers. 10-10.

**Andromeda,  
South Milton Keynes.**



## WHEN TO USE SLANG

After months and months of pestering, my mother has consented to let me have a CB radio. I am very pleased, but I confess a little worried, as I know nothing about CB slang.

I know what a breaker is, and that's about it. So I'm writing to you, begging for help. Do you think you could send me a list of the slang used on rigs, what it means and when to use it?

**Brook Street,  
Basingstoke.**

*About the only time I use slang on the wireless nowadays, young master, is when I don't want the other chap to know who I am. And that includes the times when I politely ask the other driver to move on a little faster, tell that lorry driver to stop cutting me up, and that loud mouth who might just be a 20-stone boxer on his way to the next knockout... Otherwise, the English language is good enough. Mind you, a lot of illegal breakers still use it, and for them we've taken to including the jargon in the odd issue of On The Side. The one two months ago, for instance... — Ed.*

*continued on page 44*



# UPDATE...UPD. DATE...UPDATE UPDATE...UPDA

Just recently, the figurehead of CB's efforts to revitalise itself — P.A. Bevington — resigned from the Chairmanship of NATCOLCIBAR. While we at *On The Side* magazine fully appreciate his sentiments and aims, we feel it is a sad day for the British movement because it results in a gaping vacuum that will prove extremely difficult to eliminate.

In a letter to *On The Side*, Mr. Bevington outlines his reasons, which are both interesting and disturbing. We reprint his letter unchanged.

Dear Sir,

I've read your new magazine with great interest since its inception, and noted the tone of your article and your obvious bias towards AM and SSB, and your support of the organisation NATCOLCIBAR.

Now, in your first issue you made the comment that CB magazines have come unstuck because they have not supported the CB clubs. Probably very true, and I agree that all the original clubs were AM orientated, but surely this is no longer the case? I know it's not in my part of the world, and usually we reflect national trends, only to a lesser degree.

Fighting for AM has its place in the context of CB as a whole; certainly CB in this country has not had a fair deal, but then neither has FM, one must surely concede? So, seeing as how you review FM rigs and print articles for NATCOLCIBAR, I would like to ask you to print my comments, particularly since my name has appeared in the magazine, tied to NATCOLCIBAR.

Up to this month, I was chairman of NATCOLCIBAR, but I have just resigned. I resigned because I feel that to be honest, NATCOLCIBAR must practise what it preaches. Their motto is "The Voice of Citizens' Band Radio Users." However, it is my contention, and it is the main reason I have resigned, that they are solely and only interested in the AM system.

Certainly they have taken on the cause of FM within their constitution, but this is in reality pure fiction, to give them credibility with the government, and is certainly not borne out in the actions in reality.

I note that you claim there is a big case for a mode that actually outnumbered FM in terms of users and rigs in use. Are you claiming that might be right? Are you claiming that the UK user of FM has no rights? Because if you are, how can you in all conscience, review FM rigs? In the terms that you write, it seems that breaking the law is an acceptable way to change the law. Surely this is tantamount to anarchy.

Certainly the CB situation in this country has not been handled sympathetically, and one could well argue that the law in the control of abuse and misuse, is an ass. But if any group purports to represent CBers across the board, then that is what it MUST do. Take it from me; NATCOLCIBAR does not. They are putting up one hell of a good fight on the AM front. It's an obsession, but FM gets scant and scornful attention.

One of the problems is that legal breakers generally don't have the need to form fighting groups; the fighting

groups were already formed and full of the more vociferous and aggressive AM contingent who have, and continue to form, the bulk of the CB lobby in this country. All forms of CB in this country need representation, but until a group comes along who have no obsessions, no axe to grind, and are fully prepared to act honestly for all CBers across the board, the field is wide open to an injustice.

Frankly, CB UK FM will not see a great deal of control or improvement until those users who really care, are prepared to get off their backsides and put as much effort into the fight as NATCOLCIBAR has done for AM. Better still, find a group who are interested in CB pure and simple, and justice for all.

However, NATCOLCIBAR is now reduced to a minimal number of clubs who are based predominantly in the North, and has been rejected by the remainder as being far too intolerant and most regrettably, rather undemocratic.

Therefore, due to a combination of these factors, unrepresentative, undemocratic and dishonest in its claims, I finally and reluctantly have resigned.

**Yours faithfully,  
P.A. Bevington  
ex-Chairman,  
NATCOLCIBAR.**

*Taking some of Mr. Bevington's points, in no particular order, we would say that our coverage of AM, SSB, and FM modes has been a commercial decision, influenced greatly by a great interest in all forms of CB radio.*

*Being all things to all men (or in the case of CB, all modes to all breakers) is difficult, although things will obviously level out as time travels on. The Telecommunications Bill will see to that, partly.*

*CB has certainly developed over the past few years; before legalisation, it was a cult, and magazines were daring in their coverage of AM CB. This is what breakers wanted to read, and even today, this is*

*where the most controversial news comes from.*

*Thousands of CBers have either defected to amateur radio, or simply become disenchanted with the hobby, probably because there's nothing new any more, and FM CB just doesn't satisfy their needs for an exciting and ever-developing activity. Which is why people are still fighting for AM and SSB. One obviously concedes that AM CB could provide for a much more usable mode in that it is common with other countries, and distances are often greater.*

*On The Side is on the side of the CBER, and while FM is certainly the current legalised system, we naturally hold an interest in what might be in the future, and what some people (even a small minority) are campaigning for. Finally, we would point out that we do not condone the use of illegal CB radios, nor of any equipment that is illegal in the eyes of current laws.*  
— Ed.

## ***UBA declares war on the HO***

That is the message we receive from Andy Donovan, President of the United Breakers Association, whose well known handle is "Disco One."

In a letter to *On The Side*, Andy Donovan calls all UBA members "to battle for AM with single sideband." He tells members: "Write to the Home Secretary now. Don't waste time that's vital."

The UBA are preparing for a number of demonstrations in the London area in October, and CB clubs throughout the country are being contacted to be asked for support for the campaign. "There may be clubs that we don't know about. If there are, they should contact me direct for information about the campaign.

Andy Donovan's letter says: "The time is now here for action. And action they are going to get. We will never accept the rubbish called FM, and if the government thinks they have solved the problem, then

they had better start thinking again. In 1979 they said they would never give us CB — and they did. Now they say we will never have AM — but I say we will. It needs us only to show them they are wrong."

Donovan continued to say that the UBA was the voice of the breakers in Britain, and it always will be.

He made a call for breakers to use their AM sets. "Don't let them lie in a cupboard hidden away. Bring them out and start using them. Form a fund among club members, and then if someone gets done, you will have funds to cover. 'We' used to do that way back in 1979. You can do it now. Think about it."

Donovan claimed the law "at the moment" is a bad law, and it should be changed. "If we have to do this in the international courts, then we will do it with your help. Get out there and fight. Get petitions to the Home Secretary straight away, and get in touch with your local radio stations to ask their help. Get in on phone in programmes, write to *On The Side* magazine, get in touch with local newspapers. There is so much you can do — the most important thing is not to waste time."

Over the next few months, the UBA is said to be visiting CB clubs in various parts of the country, and Donovan added that if clubs wanted him to visit them, he would be glad to come along and say hello.

The United Breakers Association's address is 50 Gaskell Street, Clapham, London, S.W.4. 6PJ.

One of the several meetings being held in order to project a single, strong and united image to the government, is at the Riverside Breakers Club at Newborough. The Scottish Association of CB clubs will be meeting with other clubs affiliated to NATCOLCIBAR in an effort to increase general membership. This is so they can increase their voice power when making representations for a fairer deal for CBers. All power to your elbow.

---

**The message finds its way to far distant lands, doesn't it? Bands across the sea, or something . . .**

**Anyway, one foreigner's view of British CB comes from Richard Heron of Victoria Australia.**

"Being an Australian CBer, I was very interested in reading about the CB scene in Pommie Land, in my only copy of your great magazine (*On The Side* naturally, June 1983). I was also interested in reading about the operation of CB radios in your country, but I am still a bit vague about your CB history, regulations, frequencies etc.

"In Australia, CB became legal after many demonstrations in the mid-seventies. Then we were allowed 18 channels from 27.015 to 27.225MHz AM, LSB and USB. Licences were 25 dollars each, but with up to five transceivers allowed each time. This was changed to nine dollars each, in the early 80s.

"However, there were then, and still are, more unlicensed stations compared with licenced stations. Some Australians had 23 channels with American sets, but these soon became illegalised. Then in January 1982, the 40 channel American sets became legal from 26.965 to 27.405MHz. Many CB operators are young children and there are a lot of foul mouths operators. On sideband, more intelligent conversations seem to take place.

"Scanners with frequencies from about 30-510MHz have become very popular and there is much talk of banning them.

"I was glad to read the great interest in QSL cards and I really enjoyed the article "We QSL — you QSL." I am a keen QSLer, so if anybody is interested in swapping one of their QSL cards for one of my cards, I would really appreciate it. I'd love to catch you all on the airwaves soon, so I'll be listening out for you all."

Richard Heron (UB40)  
P.O. Box 174,  
East Kew, Victoria 3102, Australia.

The Campaign for Real CB shows itself in many different ways. The latest development illustrates how CB can be used to help trace or find missing persons, or in this particular case, a 12-year-old girl who was "Enticed to run away from home by older children."

The newspaper cutting tells the story, but extra information comes from Peggy Tapper (Peggy Sue), Chairman of the South Wales Federation of Citizens' Band Operators, and who is also a Regional Co-ordinator for NATCOLCIBAR.

Peggy Sue writes: "On Thursday last I had a phone call to say there was a 10-33 in progress in the Caerphilly area and would I put it out in Cwmbran and Newport. Two young girls aged about 12 had been missing with two boys aged 14 and 15 since Wednesday 9am.

"Although it was unlikely they would head in the Gwent direction, it was put out on both AM and FM. As you can see from the newspaper report — it went all over the Glamorgan valley, Cardiff, Barry; even, I understand, the West of England.

"Thursday evening I was told they had been found safe and well in Penarth, a seaside resort near Cardiff. The large number of breakers who took part in this 10-33 would be unbelievable IF we weren't CBers and know what breakers are like. I'd like you to publish the letter enclosed from the parents if you could — just to show how appreciated their efforts were. Thank you."

*Dennis and Pat Phillips wrote their letter to the South Wales Echo, and it was printed on July 4th. We quote:*

## How a network of breakers ended a family's ordeal

# Good buddies who lived up to their name

MEMBERS OF the general public sometimes complain about Citizen's Band radio users causing interference on TV and Hi-fi etc, and with good reason, but we felt compelled to write to you in their defence.

Recently, our 12-year-old daughter Ceri was enticed to run away from home by older children.

We immediately called the police, but then a neighbour, a CB breaker, called to see us, and offered to help by informing her friends on CB, to ask them to "keep their eyes out" for her.

Within two hours an organised search was arranged, with 200-300 people in their cars looking through the night.

All relevant information was relayed between Essex and Port Talbot — an operation involving an estimated 3,000 people.

We were supplied with temporary CB equipment, in order that we could be informed immediately as news came in. The relief that gave to distraught parents, during that

## Postbag

endless night, was indescribable.

She was found safe 36 hours later, 25 miles away, and we were informed of this by CB.

To think that all these wonderful people were willing to work around the clock, for complete strangers, was a source of wonderment to my husband and I.

We can never repay them for the kindness, effort, efficiency and comfort these people gave us.

Our very grateful thanks to all CB breakers involved in this 10-33 (emergency) especially breakers in Caerphilly, Newport, Bargoed, Crum-

lin, Merthyr, Wenvoe, Pontypridd, Rhymney and Rhondda Valleys, Barry and all "Alert" "Crew" and "React" rescue teams, and any other areas we may have left out.

We are now equipped with CB ourselves, and if anyone is reported missing in the future, they can count on us to give the same unselfish support they gave us during our ordeal.

Many, many thanks,  
DENNIS and PAT  
PHILLIPS  
Longfellow Gardens  
Graig-y-Rhacca,  
Machen.

# Campaign \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for Real CB

***By the time you read this, a critical meeting will have taken place in Brussels where NATCOLCIBAR were invited to attend. They were invited especially to put forward their European proposals for CB in the United Kingdom, which as we know, incorporate Amplitude Modulation and the side bands.***

***However, at the time of writing, we don't know the outcome of the meeting, and you'll just have to wait until the November issue of On The Side, won't you?***

***Meanwhile, we thought we'd produce, in full technicolour and near-traditional English, the proposed licence amendments to be put to the Telecommunications Commission, by none other than the Radio Regulatory Division of the Department of Trade and Industry. For your information, the amendments are in capital letters, and they make interesting reading:***

## Proposed Licence Amendments

ANY CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED PROMPTLY BY TAKING THIS LICENCE TO ANY POST OFFICE FOR AMENDMENT.

1. (Name and address) (hereinafter called 'the Licensee') is hereby licenced subject to the terms, provisions and limitations set out below and in the Schedule, to establish and use up to (date) sending and receiving stations for wireless telegraphy using only apparatus which conforms in all respects to DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY specifications MPT 1320 and/or MPT 1321, provided that the licensee is hereby licensed, subject as aforesaid, to establish and use one

or more such stations in addition to the number of such stations specified above at any time prior to the date on which a renewal fee in respect of this licence is paid. This licence shall, subject to clause 10 below, continue in force up to and including the date of expiry specified above and thereafter as long as the licensee pays to the Secretary of State in advance each year on or before that date such renewal fee as is prescribed by regulations made under Section 2(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949.

Issued on behalf of the Secretary of State for the DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

To be completed by the Post Office.  
To see note overleaf.

Note:

Suitable equipment may be recognised by the presence of the following symbol engraved or stamped on the front panel of the equipment.

Equipment should be certified by manufacturers as complying with the appropriate interference regulations.

---

### Licence Conditions

2. Use of the apparatus is subject to the condition that the apparatus may be operated only by the licensee or the following persons with the licensee's permission—

- a. any person who resides with the licensee at the licensee's usual place of abode;
- b. any employee of the licensee acting in the course of the licensee's employment;
- c. any person who hires the apparatus from the licensee for a period not exceeding 28 days.

and use of the apparatus otherwise than in accordance with this condition shall not be authorised by this licence.

3. This licence is not transferable.

4. The apparatus, TOGETHER WITH ANY ATTACHED ANCILLARY APPARATUS, shall be so designed, constructed, maintained and used that its use does not cause any undue interference to wireless telegraphy.

5. The apparatus and this licence shall be available for inspection on demand by a constable or a person acting under the authority of the Secretary of State.

6. All transmissions, other than selective calling signals, digital signals designed solely to identify the transmitter AND SIGNALS INDICATING THE END OF A TRANSMISSION, shall be in plain speech only. THE TRANSMISSION OF MUSIC IN ANY FORM IS NOT PERMITTED.

7. THE INSTALLATION OR USE OF REPEATER STATIONS IS NOT PERMITTED.

8. THE RE-TRANSMISSION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST MATERIAL IS NOT PERMITTED.

9. The equipment may not be installed or used in any aircraft or other airborne vehicle AND SHALL NOT BE INSTALLED OR USED ON BOARD SHIP EXCEPT WITH THE CONSENT OF THE VESSEL'S MASTER.

10. No transmission which is grossly offensive or of an indecent or obscene character shall be sent.

11. The apparatus shall not be used for the purpose of advertising, or OFFERING FOR SALE, goods or services of any kind.

12. The Secretary of State may at any time after the date of issue (i) revoke this licence or vary the terms, provisions or limitations thereof by a notice in writing served on the



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Licensee, or by a general notice published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes, or in a newspaper published in London, a newspaper published in Edinburgh and a newspaper published in Belfast addressed to all holders of Citizens' Band radio licences or (ii) revoke this Licence by a general notice published by being broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation addressed to all holders of Citizens' Band radio licences. Any notice given under this clause may take effect forthwith or on such subsequent date as may be specified in the notice. A licence which has been revoked by a notice in writing served on the Licensee shall be returned to the Secretary of State.

**13.** In this licence "Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for the DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY and, except where the context otherwise requires, expressions in this licence have the same meaning as they have in the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 and regulations thereunder.

#### The Schedule

##### 1. Combined apparatus

Apparatus conforming to THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY specification MPT 1321 may be combined with apparatus conforming to THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY specification MPT 1320, but such apparatus may not be combined with any other wireless telegraphy apparatus.

##### 2. Power Limits

The radio frequency power specified in the relevant MPT specification for apparatus with provision for connection of an external antenna and the effective radiated power specified in the relevant MPT specification for apparatus with an integral antenna may not be increased.

##### 3. Antennae

###### a. 27MHz apparatus with

provision for connection of an external antenna shall be connected to (NEW WORDING TO BE PROVIDED).

b. The antenna for 934MHz equipment with provision for connection of an external antenna shall consist of a maximum of four elements none of which may exceed 17cm in length.

c. Where an antenna for use with Citizens' Band radio equipment is installed or used in or on any structure at a height above ground level exceeding 7 metres for 27MHz equipment or 10 metres for 934MHz equipment either an attenuator shall be fitted between the transmitter output and the feeder or the integral attenuator switch provided by the manufacturer shall be used to reduce the power TO NOT MORE THAN 0.4 WATTS AT 27MHZ AND NOT MORE THAN 0.8 WATTS AT 934MHZ.

#### 4. Other

Power amplifiers and antennae other than those specified in paragraph 3 of this Schedule are not permitted.

---

LOCAL RESTRICTIONS:- THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF CITIZENS' BAND RADIO EQUIPMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANY LOCAL RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING PLANNING RESTRICTIONS) AND BYE-LAWS.

Penalties:- It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949, to install or use Citizens' Band radio apparatus except under and in accordance with this licence.

Enquiries:- Enquiries about the issue of this licence should be addressed to CB Licensing Unit, Chetwynd House, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S49 1PF.



NOTES ON THE PROPOSED CB LICENCE AMENDMENTS.

**1. CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

A number of licensees have delayed notifying a change of name or address until their licence is due for renewal. The revised wording is intended to produce a more positive response than the previous version.

**2. DTI**

The words 'Home Office' have been deleted throughout the licence and replaced by 'Department of Trade and Industry'.

**3. INTERFERENCE (Condition 4)**

The words 'together with any attached ancilliary apparatus' have been inserted to draw to the licensees' attention the fact that accessories can sometimes be the direct cause of interference.

**4. PLAIN SPEECH (Condition 6)**

The use of 'roger beeps' is formally permitted in the proposed re-wording. It is also made clear in specific terms that the transmission of music is not permitted on CB radio.

**5. REPEATER STATIONS (Condition 7)**

There has been some interest in the establishing of repeater stations in the 934Mhz service. This is not considered appropriate until it is clear what sort of service will develop at 934MHz. If it is subject to significant abuse the advantages of repeaters will be lost

while the disadvantages, notably reduced channel capacity, will remain. The matter will be reviewed when there is next an opportunity to revise the licence, by which time the nature of the service will be more apparent.

**7. RETRANSMISSION (Clause 10)**

A new clause will make it clear that broadcast material may not be re-transmitted over CB. The clause will complement the prohibition on the playing of music and it is hoped that together these amendments will reduce the level of abuse from licensees who did not fully understand the previous wording.

**8. INSTALLATION ON BOARD SHIP (Clause 11)**

It is understood that CB radio could have a detrimental effect on sensitive ships' radio and navigational equipment. This amendment is intended to give the ship's Master control over the use of CB on board.

**9. OFFERING GOODS FOR SALE (Clause 12)**

The word 'solicit' is replaced by the words 'offering for sale' which more precisely reflects the meaning intended and which should be more meaningful to operators.

**10. 27MHZ ANTENNAE (Schedule 3a)**

The Department has concluded its consultations with radio users who would be affected by any change in the

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antenna description. It is apparent that some relaxation in construction can be achieved but that an increase in overall dimensions is not possible. It is intended to limit the antenna to 1.65 metres in length including loading coil(s) but not to specify the positioning of loading coils.

### 11. ATTENUATION (Schedule 3c)

The attenuated powers specified in the schedule are now described in watts rather than dBs. This means that all CB equipment can operate with the same power above the prescribed height for attenuation, irrespective of the full power potential of the apparatus.

### 12. LOCAL RESTRICTIONS (Notes)

The new note is to remind CB operators that the use of equipment is also subject to local restrictions and bye-laws.

### SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS WHICH ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PROPOSALS.

### 13. AGE LIMIT

The imposition of an age limit would be difficult now that the service is underway. It can be argued that it would have a minimal effect on the level of licence abuse. It would, of course, do nothing to stem abuse from unlicensed operators and while a responsible adult would no doubt licence a CB set and supervise its use by a child, the less responsible would not. It is likely to be the children of the less responsible parents who cause the

bulk of the licence abuse within the service and an age limit may only serve to restrict responsible users while contributing little in terms of effective control to the quality of the service.

### 14. CHANNEL 9

The emergency services are, on balance, against the introduction of a licence condition on channel 9 and the Department could not impose a condition against their wishes. If the services change their minds on this issue, and one monitoring group claim to be gaining the support of the services at grass roots level, the matter will be carefully reviewed.

### 15. DIGITAL SIGNALS

In view of the potential of the widespread use of digital signals for causing interference the increased use of digitals in the CB service cannot yet be authorised beyond those uses described in 4 above. The matter will be further examined with other radio users being consulted as a part of that examination. If the increased use of digital signals is not likely to cause significant interference the licence will be amended accordingly at the next opportunity. In the interim, it seems likely that there will be increased interest in low power digital signals in other bands and if that develops it should reduce the demand for CB facilities and thereby help to maintain the primary objective of CB which is to provide two way speech communications.



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The Department of Trade and Industry (hereafter known as the DTI, or the Dept and try?) continue to answer questions from breakers and clubs everywhere. Mr. Alex Fletcher of that august organisation replied to a letter from the Rugby Town Breakers Club, in which points about the Telecom Bill were raised.

"Taking the Bill first," said Mr. Fletcher's letter, "as you will be aware, this has been re-introduced and had its second reading in the House of Commons on 18 July. The opposition of NATCOLCIBAR, the organisation mentioned by Mrs Bartlett, to the wireless telegraphy provisions in the Bill is well known and I am advised that their objections contained in a document circulated last year, were the subject of a letter from the Rugby Town Breakers Club which was answered by David Mellor at the Home Office in February of this year.

"Turning to the question of CB in Europe; while there is a recommendation for CB designed to align European practice, there is as yet no standard system in operation in Europe or within the European Community. Other European countries do generally use the same frequency band but technical differences in other respects mean that the different systems are still not necessarily compatible.

"However I presume Mrs Bartlett is merely concerned with the choice of frequencies. The reasons for the United Kingdom's choice of frequencies have been explained to organisations such as NATCOLCIBAR many times before. An important one was that the frequencies used elsewhere for CB had already been assigned in the UK to other services and these could not be relocated speedily. Nonetheless at the time the legal service was introduced the then Home Secretary made it clear that it was the Government's intention to adopt the relevant CEPT (Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations) recommendation in due course. This would involve, amongst other things, adopting the frequencies favoured by NATCOLCIBAR.

"This remains our intention and if and when the revised CEPT recommendation has been accepted by the Telecommunications Commission of the CEPT — it will be considered at the Commission's autumn meeting — we would hope to be able then to join other members of CEPT, which includes other EC states, in agreeing to adopt it."

Mr. Fletcher enclosed a copy of the amendments, the same one we reproduce on these pages.



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# MOON CAT STRIKES BACK!

**For one family in particular, it's the thin end of the wedge — allowing the YL a rig of her own. Here, Monica Scott describes those early pioneering days, installing, learning, testing, and establishing the basic right to "a life of her own."**

Well, I reckon I've nearly got the hang of it now. It's almost three months since old Superstar surrendered somewhat less than graciously and allowed me a rig of my own. Well, what's the point of him being on the air if I can't bend his ears with the odd shopping order or request for cash?

The installation of the said rig was highly entertaining for all the family, not to mention the neighbours and passing cyclists. Inspired by one success, Superstar was clearly confident of a repeat job, but it was not to be. Such language! I had to cover the dog's ears (the kids are used to it). I hadn't even got any airwaves yet and already he was fouling them up.

We had to test the rig in the usual manner, ie, everything that goes right is due to *his technical skill* and everything that goes wrong is entirely *my fault*. Our personal collection of crumbsnatchers piled into the back seat of *my* car (a beat-up old Triumph) which was nestling alongside *his* (a large and extremely flashy estate). All the windows were shut so we could only work out what was happening by the pantomime of gestures from the other car.

We assumed by the increasingly contorted face that he was actually transmitting — there was no other way of knowing because the new rig remained silent throughout. My fault, naturally. With grim faces we all changed cars, the children making useful comments like "Has Daddy got it wrong again?" You can always count on them to put their finger right on the crux, so to speak.

Act Two of the melodrama turned out to be remarkably similar to Act One, and it was finally conceded that the fault lay with the rig rather than with me. The CB shop kindly took it back and sold him a far more expensive model (and why not — I do deserve the best). Problems loomed yet again — the waves seemed willing but the signal, oh so weak. There didn't seem to be much advantage to having a rig if I had to augment the transmission by shouting out of the window.

Superstar called up Union Man, who put him onto Bobcat, the local genius of the keyboard. The erring rig was carted off to Bobcat's hospital for a bit of tarting up and came back in such fine condition that breakers kept complaining about broken windows or some such thing. It sounded alright to me.

At last we were ready for those scintillating conversations I'd been told about, those

cosy little chats as we went our separate ways — him to earn the money for a homebase and me to dump the beasts at their various places of learning. Of course those who pootle along chatting to fellow breakers as they wave to passing eyeballs and steer with a spare toenail don't have a clue what real life is all about.

Does Superstar have three squabbling/screeching/screaming children in the back who could outdo Crystal Palace any day? Of course not. Does he have a large dog who regards the rig as an invasion of canine privacy and snarls menacingly at the mere hint of static? Does he have three passengers who make it clear that they want to listen to Radio One and not Daddy wittering on about his packed lunch? More importantly, does he have to go round corners like I do? If I had a quid for every time I've wrapped that curly bit of cable round the steering wheel I'd be buying my own homebase by now.

Practice will doubtless improve my skills, and I will soon be able to describe my twenty rather more accurately than "that road next to the one where we liked the look of that table in the window by the fish and chip shop". I've even started talking to other breakers when I'm on a straight bit of road — and a lot more patient they are than some I could mention.

Part of my journey with "the beasts" is across moors which are less friendly in snow or fog, and they have a tendency to flood every five minutes. I've always been terrified at the thought of breaking down in the middle of nowhere with a carload of kids and animals, but now I've got my rig I'll be alright, won't I?

If I can only keep the kids quiet for a couple of minutes, turn Radio One off and tear the microphone out of the dog's jaws I'll be able to ask for help — not that Superstar will hear me. He'll have his ears off.

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# WHAT ABOUT LINEAR AMPS?

**Repairman, *On The Side's* regular technical man, has been inundated with questions and requests for advice since he began contributing his interesting articles. This month he continues with some comments on burners, or linear amplifiers as they are correctly called.**

---

**Question 1: Will a 45 watt linear amplifier make all that much difference compared with a 25 watt amp?**

---

**Question 2: If I fit a 25 watt linear amplifier to my radio, can I also fit a pre-amplifier in line as well? And if so, would I need two separate power supplies, or could I power my rig (and both amplifiers) off my 13.8 volt, two-amp power unit?**

---

Right, let's begin by explaining that the term "burner" means a booster unit. This is situated in the antenna lead to your CB rig, and in simple terms, it boosts the output power.

As with everything under the sun, there are advantages and disadvantages with burners, and unless you live in the middle of the Sahara Desert (under the sun?), fitting a burner is likely — in fact very likely — to wipe out the neighbour's television programmes. And there's nothing so awful as the big muscular bloke next door hammering on your window demanding to be allowed to watch the last 30 seconds of *Coronation Street!* I mean, everything happens in the last 30 seconds, doesn't it? Or is it *Crossroads* that everything happens...? Oh well, you know what I mean.

Anyway, the point we're making is that if you do use such a burner, please try to make sure it's outside television hours. Difficult I know, but at least you could try.

Another of the disadvantages is that you need large amounts of power to run a burner. In my particular case, I use a legal burner on the amateur bands, producing the goods on 13.8 volts at 15 amps. And this unit is a very big, and very expensive power supply.

There's yet another disadvantage; if you are pushing out, say, 100 watts, you will be heard by many other breakers on the same channel, who have only four watts. And because they have only four watts, you probably wouldn't hear them coming back to you. What's more likely is that they could be telling you to clear the channel because of an emergency — but you wouldn't hear them. Something to bear in mind.

A burner system comes into its own if there is one at each end of the wire, as it were. And if both of you are using about the same power, then everything's worthwhile, and wall-to-wall.

But how much difference would a burner make to my CB? The answer to this one is that every time you double your power, you will gain one pound (or S unit) at the other end. If you operate with a legal four watts, and received a report that you were "strength 3", then to get a strength 9 you would need to increase your power to a massive 256 watts!

Mind you, to operate a burner of this size, you would need a 13.8 volt 30 amp power supply, plus a big nasty dog to keep the neighbours away!

I'll sum up by saying that to gain any worthwhile increase, a linear amplifier would have to increase your power by a factor of 10 — that's from four watts to 40 watts. You will also need a power supply that will operate at seven amps continuous in order to run the thing. And after all this, you will gain only a theoretical 3½ pounds. But even then, it would depend upon how accurate the meter is at the other end. If you get reports of a greater-than-three-pounds increase, this is probably because the other chap's meter is not calibrated correctly.

Another question I have been asked is about pre-amps. Now, you might recall the article in our first issue on the subject of bleedover. You should also recall that the more RF gain you have, the more bleedover you'll get.

To explain then, a pre-amp increases your RF gain, and will give you some terrible bleedover. However, pre-amps do have their uses. If you go in for DXing, for instance, in the early hours of the morning, then a pre-amp could make a very worthwhile improvement in copying weak signals. And because it's early in the morning, there will be few breakers on the air, so bleedover won't be such a major problem.

Now, what were the original questions? Oh yes, question one is answered like this: a 45 watt burner will give you an extra pound over a 25 watt burner. Question two is answered thus: you can run as many devices as you like off the same power supply, providing the supply is capable of supplying the number of amps required. For instance, a 2 amp power supply is sufficient to run only one rig, and nothing else. Hope these answers help.

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*Spotlight on*

# SHARMAN'S WHOLESALE

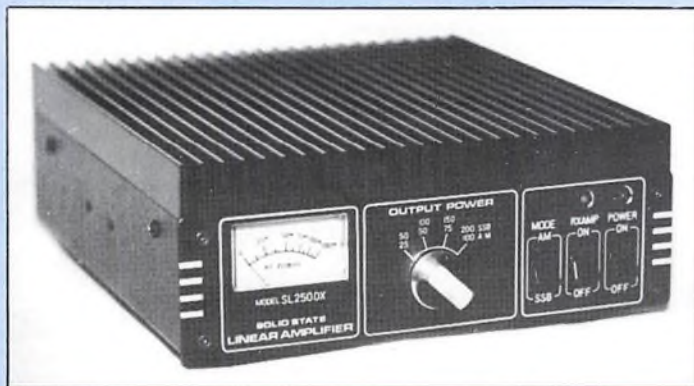
Sharman's Wholesale of Manchester have been involved with CB since the summer of 1980 when they noticed a big demand for CB accessories, although not

getting involved in importing illegal equipment.

Being importers and wholesalers during the past 15 years they had all the



*ES-880 IC Echo Chamber*



*SL 250 DX HF/Broad Band Linear Amplifier*



contacts to buy in the Far East thereby ensuring that all their products are from the original source, thus giving their customers the best prices. Also due to having these contacts in the Far East they have been able to locate certain exclusive items such as the ES-880 IC Echo Chamber, the SL 250 DX HF/Broad Band Linear Amplifier and the WE 995 Echo Mike.

Sharman's also import from the United States the Valor range of antennas and from Italy the IND. TELC range of power supplies and linears.

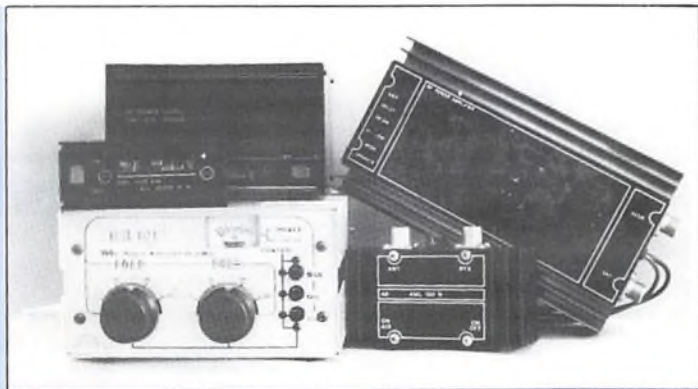
Murli Sharman, who is a partner in the Company states: "It is because we do not like to supply our customers with inferior equipment that we search for, not

necessarily the cheapest, but the best as regards quality. All our products are guaranteed."

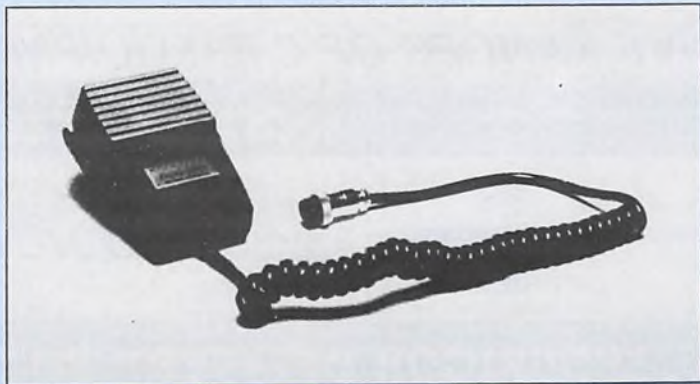
Sharman's now have Securicor service in use which enables them to supply customers as far south as Kent and Cornwall and as far North as the Shetlands.

Mr. Sharman goes on to say: "Believe it or not, we even supply other wholesalers who do not have the same import facilities as we do. One of the reasons that we have been so successful in the CB business is that we are always looking to the future and we wish to be involved with CB as long as there is a market for CB in the U.K.

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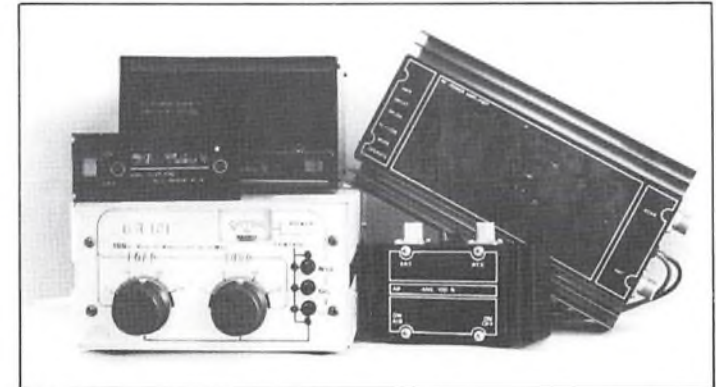
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# THE CHANNEL 9 UNTOUCHABLES

**A history of channel 9, and how it grew up to be what some people are calling, a sacred cow. Another "On The Side" special feature, by Lucius Quix**

Someday, when you're a CB Grandpop with years of rig experience under your belt, some little fellow will crawl on your knee (power mike in hand) and ask how it all began. CB, that is. History, as Henry Ford might have said, is 'bunk' or at the very least, a hammock — but you can only figure out the problems of today's CB by looking over the rugged road of CB yesterday.

Take, for instance, the whole kalamazoo of CB emergency channel monitoring (no relation to a famous office filing system). *That* all began with the energy of the American auto industry which, back in the 1960s, took up mobile CB radio as a very helpful driver-aid. To prove the point, some clever gents from General Motors worked with the city fathers of Detroit, Michigan, to set up an experimental driver-aid programme. Rigs were installed in the cars of volunteers, ie, people who drove in and out of Detroit every day for employment etc.

These early monitors reported on traffic conditions, with the base station at municipal headquarters feeding out the useful information relevant to local route hazards and hold-ups. To be precise though, the Detroit programme was *not* the very first. Back in early post-war Britain, American troops stationed here used mobile radios to give the good word on the local pub situation — all quite unofficial, but very handy. Today, British servicemen in the German Federal Republic use legal CB for similar information, I hear, but many of these noble knights weren't even born when those Yanks thought of the CB Pub Intelligence Channel.

General Motors published some very useful reports on the Detroit experiment and, at the time, you would have thought that the automobile industry would fit CB as standard. But it didn't. The nearest we got to that was the promotion of an Opel in France (a General Motors vehicle, of course) as the car with CB already fitted. Knowing the individuality of the average American male, it is perhaps understandable that the matter of rig choice and fitting was left to the car owner. The old saying 'What's good for General Motors is good for the USA' didn't seem to work as far as CB was concerned.

To say the least, the government (Its Federal Communications Commission) had more silent pauses for thought than you would ever hear on an AM rig. Over here in Britain, we sometimes have the idea that CB monitoring and channel 9 were accepted as eagerly as the Statue of Liberty (which was, you may recall, a gift from la Belle France, and a great place to hang an antenna).

When 27MHz AM CB began in the USA in the late 1950s, it was a small-time activity largely associated with the ham radio fraternity. CB had been around for a while in a somewhat primitive form, 'Judy' of the late lamented *S9 Hobby Radio Magazine* wrote up

these early models in her 'Old Timer's Column'. Rigs — though primitive — were as robust as radiograms, and were usually made, as a sideline, by ham radio companies. However, they came with crystals for only two channels, with some offering up to five. You — or the dealer — fitted the crystals, choosing those which had local use.

For various reasons, channels chosen for use had little if any national system, so that channels 7 and 11 might be used in one state, channels 13 and 23 in the next state, and so on. This variety helped crystal manufacturers no doubt, but obviously held back any plan for a national channel, and thereby the possibilities for an organisation like REACT. Inevitably, some of the visionaries thought it would be a great idea to establish at least one channel as a US standard, so that a transceiver could transmit and receive messages anywhere.

Channel 9 was finally chosen as this channel in the FCC 27MHz AM frequencies — and the enthusiasts pointed out the possible benefits in terms of driver-aid and community service. The evident possibilities of a national emergency channel should have been greeted by all-round interest. The American genius for two-way radio goes back to the 1920s, when Chicago police cars were among the nation's first to be equipped. For all that, the FCC was definitely dubious about the whole affair, showing about as much interest as that displayed by the Home Office, ie in an emergency channel as the legal FM system approached here.

REACT, formed in 1961, became a well-informed lobby for an emergency channel, and this good work for helped by the CB and hobby radio press. *CB Radio* magazine, for example, ran a fine series of features under the general title of 'HELP', describing how CB radio has been used to bring help in emergencies. Some of the stories were quaint enough, indicating the unpredictability of skip communication.

But even when in January 1965, REACT (International) designated channel 9 as the national official emergency channel, the FCC did not go overboard in trying to help. As late as 1967, by which time the channel 9 idea was capturing the public interest, the FCC was still thinking about it, and saying little in support. It was 1970 before the FCC finally decided that channel 9 could be encouraged officially — almost ten years after REACT had started the campaign.

Despite the FCC's blessing, there was no sign of official policing — little if any additional resources were assigned to the FCC to handle this rapidly-growing and sometimes abused form of hobby radio. We should not be too hard on the Powers That Be. Lack of initiative and hard cash to police CB has been seen wherever CB has developed in the English speaking world. Australian CB users, only too well aware of the benefits of a mobile when driving on desert roads, have long criticised 'DOC' (Department of Communication) for much the same neglect, as alleged of the FCC.

You only have to think of the way that our 'road tax' has been used to swell the Treasury coffers over the last quarter century to see that the Yanks were not the first to see a specific licence fee used for general income. The 1976 budget of the FCC, reckoned



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as being just the other side of the recession, should illustrate the point. In that year, it was around five million dollars, yet CB licence fees brought in three to four times that amount. In 1977, when the FCC's budget rose to around seven million dollars, the income from CB licence fees came to around three times that. Even if a mere 50% to 60% of CB licence fees had been allocated to CB policing, a lot of abuses — and discouragement for the series users — would have been avoided.

As the complaints from CB groups and series users were echoed in the CB press and at conferences, the FCC tried to show some aspects of its demanding work — which had to cover a wide range of radio frequency use, in addition to that of CB radio. Hence, the useful public relations programme. Alas, last year, even that attempt to cheer the CB public was axed. In future, CBers were told, you had to subscribe to a commercial press cuttings agency if you wanted to discover what the FCC was doing in this area.

Britain's licence income from CBers could be only a little less than that of the FCC, by the way. On a basis of 400,000 licenced users, licence income should be around four million pounds — or six million dollars. As a handicapped CB user asked on a TV programme recently after being threatened with physical violence by a hooligan on channel, what happens to all the money?

Both Australia and the USA offer extremes of good — and bad — use of CB. North of the Arctic Circle, hardy truckers used CB to take supplies for the Alaskan pipe-line project. With temperatures going down to 60° below zero, and unexpected hazards associated with arctic conditions, the truckers used channel 19 (generally recognised as the truckers channel) and channel 11, designated for communication with pipe-line camps. Conventional AM CB and commercial radio systems were used to cover the 350 miles of road north of the Yukon River.

Those hard working drivers were glad to have the rigs on board, though they had a few more problems than those encountered in the Detroit Driver Aid Programme! In Australia, where truckers drive in other wilderness situations, CB is a great boon. The 477MHz UHF system, developed by Philips TMC (Telecommunications Manufacturing Company) has been added to conventional 27MHz AM, but over long distances, AM seems to be preferred. Or it was last time I had a chat to the Oz CB fraternity. 477MHz is truly amazing — but more of that another time.



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# DXing....WE

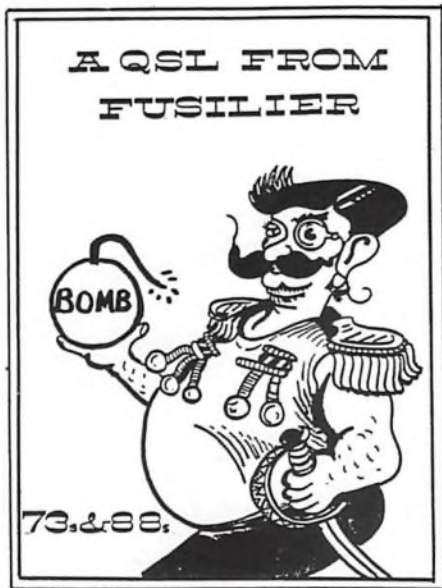
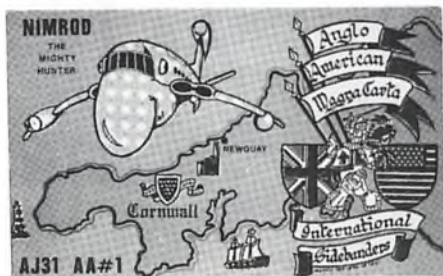
Hello all, and sorry for the absence over the last couple of months or so. Unfortunately I became one of Maggie's army for a period of time due to redundancy so I took off on a holiday I could not afford, but one I needed anyway. Therefore apologies all round to every one who has written and are awaiting replies. Enough of my problems and excuses, let's get on with the article.

First of all I am having some new cards printed in Holland by the Radar card collectors and just as soon as they arrive I will be putting one in the mag and hoping some of you might like to swap. It is being made in full colour with a drawing of me deluged with a pile of QSL mail, and working through the night. Through a window you can see Big Ben (remember my old club).

Had a letter (well a few) from my old pal Mick Marks of the Anglo American Sidebanders. The last one asking if I was dead. Sorry Mick. Anyways he wanted to inform readers of *On The Side* that the club he runs has now reached 500 members. That honour going to Martin Bell of 9 Lincoln Gardens, Twyford, Bucks. Congratulations Mick and Alfa Alfa, I look forward to you telling me of the 1000th. Anybody who would like to know more about the club should write enclosing the usual SAE and address it to PO Box 13

Newquay in Cornwall. I have included Micks new QSL card printed by the Mushy Pea series, it's really great and if you would like to contact me with some prices etc in the near future I will put you in the article at a later date.

Round Robin, alias Robin Moore of 26 Clay Street, Workington, Cumbria sent in his plastic QSL card and asked for my comments. Unfortunately Robin there is no personal comments on the back nor any details of QSO or QSL contact. I think these were made by Raymac in Middlesex and although he might make a good card, I am afraid plastic cards do not make a good card. Just think of the cost in postage in sending out say 20 or 30 cards in one go, as opposed to card. By the way Robin, would you be good enough to let me know if the John Peel Int QSL club has anything to do with the Radio One DJ.



# QSL, YOU QSL

Jim Wilson or Fusilier as QSLers know him from 38 New Lane, Bolton, Lancs, sends in his card and praises about *On The Side* (creep creep) and just simply asks me to include his name and address for swapping. Consider it done Jim and thanks for writing.

Lets go abroad this time, and first of all to the Phillipines. A card from CC-11 op Cathy found its way to my desk. Cathy's address is 38 Galvan Street, Dagupan City 0701 Philipines. Cathy some how got hold of a copy of *On The Side* and thought maybe some of you would drop a line and swap cards. She states though that she only wants to hear from genuine QSL swappers as she has in the past sent out sometimes up to 30 cards to English stations and only received 3 or 4 back. Quite honestly that's a poor show from our end. I would just like to add that souvenir swappers can also expect to receive a very nice gift in the post. No clues from me though, you will have to find out for yourself.

From Denmark comes news from the Scandinavian Skippers, a club with more than 2,500 members worldwide would you believe. Kund the President informs me he has a lot to offer to anyone who might like to join them so why not drop a

line to Krogen 3. DK-8900 Randers Denmark. Kund's club was one of the first to start up cassette swapping so anyone who wishes to try this relatively new form of QSLing can be added to his list which I am led to believe now goes out to more than 70 countries. Next month I will be telling you a bit more about ScanSkip as they will be featured as the Club of the Month.

It's nice to hear from someone actually sending in comments about one QSL Club or another. And a letter from Chris Stimpson 1PB377 of 3 Beach Drive, Heathfield, Ashford, Kent, goes on to tell



me "just how proud I am to be a member of Papa Bravo QSL Club" That's great Chris because recommendations are what make clubs get bigger and better

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# DXing...WE QSL, YOU QSL

names for themselves. The club's HQ at PO Box 48 in Preston is also the home of the club president, one Mr Andy Cookson. As effervescent as ever Andy, who I know personally, puts a heck of a lot of time and effort into the running of Papa Bravo. It gives me real pleasure to hear from someone who appreciates the effort that has to be put into the running of a successful QSL club. Papa Bravo's club motto is "We QSL The World". However I am pretty sure that if Andy had his way he would QSL the Universe. His club package is one of the best I have ever received, he also likes to write to his members from time to time and always makes a point of answering mail within a week. Club tee shirts, newsletters and Club cards are just a few of the things available to prospective members. So why not the rest of you drop a line and mention *On The Side* when writing. Thanks again Chris for the letter and your last British Concorde QSL card, I wonder why you don't want to have anything more to do with them? Anybody else who has a good or bad word they want to say about any particular club, whether it be from England or worldwide please don't hesitate to write. As I can assure you it will get printed.

This unfortunately brings me to my dig of the month. A few letters ago I received an application form for the Lakeside QSL Club of Australia. A small piece of paper no bigger than a postage stamp asking me to send £10.00 for a rubber stamp and some QSL cards. There is also a quarterly roster, which they say will be sent out regularly. But then I have heard all that somewhere before from more than one club in the UK alone. I would suggest you thought twice. Another club who I think have got a bit of a cheek is the Great British QSL DX Club of County Durham. Someone had the nerve to send me this one which tells me to send £6 PLUS 2 first class stamps to receive my package. Perhaps one has to go and collect it if I forget the stamps. I just feel sorry for the foreign members who are expected to send 2 IRC's to get theirs. Out of an 11 item package I only found 3 items worth paying for and I certainly wouldn't pay £6 for it. Sorry chaps but if I appear to wind you up, perhaps you would be kind enough to write a note explaining more about yourselves. Please include an IRC or first class stamp for reply. HA HA HA.

Well, this months club of the month comes from Norway and is called the Norway Amateurs DX QSL Club. The

The logo for CBI (Circuit Board International) features the letters 'CBI' in a bold, stylized font with a slight shadow effect, enclosed within a double-lined rectangular border.

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# DXing...WE QSL, YOU QSL

address is PO Box 3538 Tjensvoll N-4010 Stavanger Norway. The club president's name is Andy and he has been running the club since March 1979, and has close on 2,000 members worldwide. Of all the clubs that say they will produce a regular Newsletter, the NAC keeps its promise.



First of all though a little about the man himself. Andy is married to his beautiful wife Lizz and they have 3 children. He spends most of his spare time (when away from the club) on the lakes of Norway in his motor boat. Back to to the club, for around £8 you will receive a really big club package. Including the stamp, coloured certificate, ID card, QSLs from other members etc. You will also receive a really nice sewn on arm patch plus news of clubs to beware of and a rather natty DX log book. Andy has his own full club card which members will receive a few of initially in the club package. You can pur-

chase quantities of 1,000 or more cards with your own personal details on them including NAC unit number for around



£35. The club cards are in full colour and are printed by none other than the sundown collector series. Take a look at the one I have included in this month's QSL card selection. I have a few application forms here for NAC if you are interested, but please send me no money. This club has got to receive a 10 out of 10 rating. As almost every foreign QSL card I receive contains at least one of their application forms. I also know that people visiting Norway, say on holiday or whatever can be welcomed by Andy not just as a visitor but more as a private guest or honoured guest, or what I found most touching was the old friend bit I once heard of. Why not give them a try and don't forget to mention *On The Side* of course.

I have also had news in from D. Currie, the QSL card printers. Their prices are quite competitive compared with some companies I have come across in the past. £13.75 will get you a QSL card designed and printed to their particular design and layout. 1,000 cards for this price can't be grumbled at. And by the amount of Currie cards I receive through the mail, they sure do appear to be popular. The address to write to for details and

samples is, 89 Derwent Street, Blackhill, Consett DH8 8LT.

Before I close I would just like to draw your attention to a problem that has been realised by the national press recently. This is of course "the eyeball". Many girls get chatted up on the airwaves by local Casanovas from time to time and some arrange eyeballs in the local area. However, a few planks or just plain sex perverts are luring girls to a secluded area, and well I don't need to tell you the rest. So for heavens sake, if you do decide to meet somebody you have just spoken to for the first time, then take along a friend. It's a lot safer, but better still, why not arrange to meet at the local breakers club at the next meeting. Be warned, CB has already got itself a bad name through the media, let's not make it worse. Another alternative is that if you are not sure and no other breaker listening in has heard the mystery voice inviting you to a party or whatever then go 10-10 and chat to someone else.

Do you remember the dig I heard about homemade QSL cards? Well I had one sent to me by David Phillips of 9 Broad-bent Avenue, Dukinfield, Cheshire. Cheers Zaphod, pity I can't feature it, it's too big, but I must admit I do like the QSL cards photo copied on the back. Anyone who wants one and sees a collection of more than a dozen QSL cards in one ought to write to Dave. Thanks for the kind words about the magazine.

Right then, next month features of course the first Scandinavian Skippers QSL club, plus the usual features including the first winner of the QSL Card of the



Month. Until then take care, and as they say in Holland, "Huodt em in de Lucht" roughly translated means "keep it in the air". Till next month then, when I will be answering a heck of a load of backmail. The Duke is QRT.

*The Duke*

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# Mike Sierra and the dung fire

**A short walk, camping on the moors, DXing to hearts content. Idyllic isn't it? Well, nearly, according to Mike Sierra and his gang.**

It was the middle of July, and encouraged by the beautiful weather, and lured by stories of long distance copies from high points on Dartmoor, myself (Mike Sierra) and my 12 year-old son "Polecat" decided to try out our new portable transceiver.

With great care, a place was chosen; it was the south part of Dartmoor at nearly 1600ft. Added to this, the *advantage* as regards DXing was the fact that no other station would be able to get close enough to interfere, the nearest road being approximately three miles away. The *dis-advantage* was that to reach the high point, an uphill trek of about five miles was necessary. But I was full of confidence that I was fit and "Polecat" was young, so we would have no difficulty in spite of carrying a fair weight of camping equipment and food with us, not to mention the transceiver itself.

The Westward PT transceiver is a self-contained unit fitted with mains stabilised power supply, charger and high capacity battery pack. It weighs 4.7kg and can be used as a mobile, a home base and a portable without extra hardware. Of the several antennas available we chose to take the stainless steel base-loaded whip for maximum performance.

The plan of action was to drive the sixteen miles from the home 20 to the edge of Dartmoor on the Saturday evening, walk up to the top of the hill, pitch camp, DX through the night and walk back to the car in the morning. To save weight we were not going to take camping stoves or water but would rely on streams and camp fires for our needs on the moor.

I planned that if we started off from the car at 7.30pm we could get to the top, find water, put up the tent and start using the rig by nightfall. So at 7.30pm on the dot we were to be found loaded with tents,

blankets, rigs, antennas, tins of baked beans and beefburgers (to ensure a windy night whatever the weather!), pots and tin mugs were dangled musically with the kettle and empty water container as we started to climb up the stoney lane that led to the moor.

Five minutes and 100 yards later my illusions were totally shattered. We were absolutely exhausted and stopped for a rest, believing that reaching the summit four miles and 1660 yards away, all of a similar gradient would be a physical impossibility. However, stiff upper lip, and with true British grit we pressed on, but it was slow and hot work.

Eventually after about 90 miles (it seemed like it!) we stopped and looked back from whence we had come; the view was magnificent, the valleys and villages were laid out in a sort of green quilt below us and we could see that the trees had given way to low scrub around us and so we stopped to rest under the last stunted thorn tree and decided to switch the rig on for the first time. The height above sea level was about 1,000ft.



*"Mike Sierra" carrying everything but the kitchen sink, on the first trip onto the moors. Note the aerial sprouting above the luggage!*

The first copy we made was to a breaker who lives in a neighbouring village to us, "Talking Drum". He was now some 20 miles distant but he insisted that we were winding him up, and were not on the moor at all, because we were showing the same poundage as when we were home based. How about that, all that effort to be told by your neighbouring breakers that you had stayed at home! I still don't think that even now, "Talking Drum" believes we really were there!

By now the gradient had levelled off and we were beginning to get a rhythm to our stride, but I was now getting worried as to whether we would reach our destination by nightfall; also the moor at that height was absolutely featureless, only coarse heather and rough grass, so navigation was difficult.

We kept finding ourselves at false summits, and so when we came across a boundary marker stone, I decided it would be best to pitch camp there, and find the summit in the morning. Having pitched the tent we then realised that as there were no trees at that height on Dartmoor, there of course was no wood for a camp fire. What a discovery! Also being on top of a hill, and the weather being so dry, there was no water.

Actually we had some Coca-Cola and milk with us, but with no fire or water, raw beefburgers and cold baked beans, and no coffee after it, seemed a bleak prospect. Suddenly, inspiration! One thing in plentiful supply due to the wild ponies and wandering sheep was droppings, dung or s . . . They burn it in India, even build their houses out of it, so why shouldn't it burn here? I experimented with some choice, dry pieces. "Polecat" absolutely refused to have anything to do with it, but I persisted and to my delight it burnt beautifully – no nasty smell at all, just a sweet grassy aroma, and a steady glow with very little flame or smoke, the perfect fuel! In a very short time we had our beefburgers and beans and felt ready for anything.

We then turned the rig on, and was instantly assailed by about six pounds of



*The dung fire . . . "Polecat" has his doubts, but hunger made him resort to actually eating the food cooked over it. The smell wasn't as bad as originally thought either — quite countryfied, it was.*

absolute garbage, pure unadulterated mixed-up skip completely unintelligible, and so we had to make do with copies that were above the skip level, which limited us somewhat. We did however get some very creditable copies even then, for instance "Plastic Jock" (as in strap he informed us) in Sidmouth, 35 miles away, "Water Melon" and "Captain Birdseye" in Torbay 25 miles distant, but not what I had expected at all. Very disappointing.

Coupled with that, the phantom baked burger of Dartmoor, alias "Polecat" tripping in the dark, hit me fair and square with a three-pound copy of Heinz and tomato sauce. We then realised how tired we really were, and collapsed exhausted in the tent, just remembering to turn the rig off before passing out.

Morning and awake at 5.00. Look out the tent to find, apart from the one standing boundary stone, nothing around us but emptiness. Must find water. Can't face the day without coffee. I set off for the spring marked on the map, but it took me a whole hour to bring back one gallon, it was so far away. Meanwhile "Polecat" slept on and by 6.30am I had bacon and eggs and coffee prepared on the dung and then turned the rig on again. Eight

pounds of rubbish. Oh no! Why did I try this, I must be mad!

Suddenly above the skip comes a voice "Oscar Mike 65 calling from Belgium: We answer and incredibly he hears us and we swap addresses. His personal is Patrick and he is in Holboken in Belgium. Another station locally on the side Delta Hotel 13 from Plymouth. He also gets through but loses the address. However we are able to 10-5 that to him.

Now I know why I came up here. That one copy has all been worth it, and on a handset too. Admittedly a rather special one but nothing illegal and self-contained. In the next hour we hear several other stations from East Anglia and Northampton but cannot get back to them as more people are waking up and the skip is rising.

At about 9.00am we walk to the true summit where we meet our first human since leaving the car. He is Sgt. Adcock of the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow, looking for some recruits who are walking across the moor with full packs, but although we stay chatting for some time there is no sign of them. Perhaps they flagged out too.



*The man they met on their first trip, Sergeant Adcock of the Army Apprentice College at Chepstow, looking for his flock. It's times like this when you think a life in the army wouldn't be so bad after all!*

We try the rig once more on the summit, but all we get is 9lbs of skip, so we pack up and start our descent, this time downhill. It still takes us about two hours of pleasant walking, marred only by "Polecat's" rucksack breaking, making it heavy going for him. Then, ice creams, cold drinks and home for a bath.

The Westward PT performed perfectly for the whole trip, and although it was used on four watts for quite a few hours, there was no sign of the battery fading. In fact it was in use for two more days mobile in the car after that before it needed recharging.



*Encountering the locals on the way back from the first trip.*

I vowed that we would make the same trip again in two weeks, which we did. There was no foreign skip, and to my mind we were more successful with copies of up to nearly 100 miles.

Accompanied by our friends "Birdman" and "Tentpeg", we set out once more for the same location. This time however, experience told us to leave earlier in the afternoon so we would have plenty of time to get to the top and organise ourselves ready for the nights DXing. At 5.00pm we started the climb up, but this time although the weather was just as hot, we seemed to sail up the hill, perhaps our previous trip had increased our fitness!



*"Birdman" managed not only to carry a frame-type rucksack of goods, but to arrange things in such a way that he could become truly mobile — even to the extent to modulating while walking!*

"Birdman", having a frame-type rucksack, found that he could carry the Westward PT2 in it with the microphone in his hand, and the antenna poking out of the top. He was thus able to modulate whilst being truly mobile . . . army style! Using this method he was able to talk to "Daffodil" in Totnes 20 miles away, and "Birdie" in Broadhempston 15 miles away.

7.00pm saw us at the summit, and "Birdman" and myself went in search of water, whilst "Tentpeg" and "Polecat" pitched the tents and collected the dung for the fire. When we arrived back with the water, we noticed a figure walking towards us in ordinary shoes, trousers and a shirt. "Polecat" informed us that he had been to the summit twice before, and had left his pack somewhere on the moor and was unable to find it! imagine the consequences if the weather had changed.

It was getting dark by now so we gave the fellow a compass bearing to travel on which should have given him a chance of finding his pack, and we lit our lamp and placed it on a standing stone for him to find his way back to us if he was unable to locate it. Dartmoor is no place to stumble about alone in the dark, and he had at

least five miles to go before he reached the nearest village, Hexworthy. He must have found his pack because he never returned, but I was quite worried about him.

Something we found on reaching the summit this time was a large quantity of litter, tin cans and wrappers left there since we were there previously. Amazing how people can despoil even such an isolated spot with their thoughtlessness. It doesn't take long to bury the cans and papers — even less to take them back with you.

After we had cooked our meal of beans (again — gluttons for punishment we are. It was very 'windy' again that night!) we turned the rig on and made several very pleasing copies to various places within the South Devon area, including a very nice young lady with a very sexy voice, . . . made me go cold all over it did! Then she told me she was talking quietly so as not to wake her parents and I realised that I was old enough to be her father. Funny how CB can break down the generation gap.

Surprisingly we found that it was 1.00am before we decided to turn in for the night. We thought early in the morning, when the channels were quiet, would be the time to get into the long distance stuff, so we vowed to get up at about 5.00am, an impossible time under normal circumstances, but believe it or not "Birdman" and myself were up at 4.45am.

Turning the PT2 on we found the conditions were just what we had hoped for; the channels were dead quiet, with no foreign skip or sideband noise, and the first copy that we had was the Quantock Hills some 70 miles to the NNW, a beautiful clean copy of S2-R5, the station being TD 638. The next was "Moonraker" in Charmouth, Dorset some 60 miles to the east.

We were so interested in our radio that we let the fire go out three times, and so we did not get coffee for some considerable time; then at 7.07am on channel eight came the absolute high point of the



trip. We copied "Vampire" in Pontypridd, South Wales at S2-R4 and the same on the return. That was a distance of 95 miles as the crow flies; a truly pleasing copy followed very shortly by "Videoman" in Tonypany, Mid-Glamorgan, at about the same distance. Both breakers were interested to know that we were



*"Polecat" and "Tentpeg" on the second trip onto the moors. At least they're enjoying themselves, and it's nice to see that first aid kit which is so necessary on trips like this.*

just using a portable with an integral whip antenna.

By this time a thunderstorm broke above us and we hastily cooked a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs and fried bread and woke "Polecat" and "Tentpeg" who had miraculously slept through all the fun and the thunderstorm. In view of the weather we packed up and quickly cleared the site of all rubbish, including that left by the previous visitors, and set off at top speed for the shelter of the pub six miles away in Scorrton. We reached the bar exactly at opening time, proving that we are true enthusiasts to the last!

Both trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. THE CB contacts were good, using both tropospheric/sporadic E skip and ground wave. I personally was happier with the ground wave QSO's on the second trip, as these were true, reproduceable results. QSL's were exchanged on all contacts, so all the copies can be verified. Taken in all, quite remarkable results from a portable transceiver.

Of course, more trips are planned. Looking at my Ordnance Survey map, there is a point on North Dartmoor at over 2,000ft. Then there is always Snowdon, Ben Nevis, The Eiger and Everest!!



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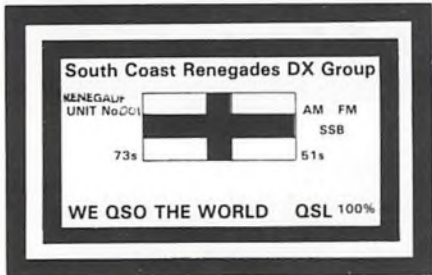
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## GROUP OF RENEGADES

Just a few lines to let you know that your magazine is on the right track and may we wish you all the success you deserve. Also, could you give our group a mention — we would be very grateful.

We are the South Coast Renegades DX Group, and we warmly welcome new members wherever they live, and we send out the usual package QSL cards, rubber stamps, use of PO Box etc, and anyone who is interested should send an SAE for details. Renegades we call the group, but we welcome any legal station to the fold; most of our current members use multimode radios.

**The Red Devil**  
**P.O. Box 233,**  
**Brighton, Sussex.**



## ON POWER SUPPLIES

I note your article in the June issue on the subject of power supplies. The main point is that a *good* three amp supply should be used. Sets generally take up to two amps when transmitting, so a three amp supply should be adequate.

Some larger power supply units do not appear to regulate properly, unless they are at least half loaded, and may thus be worse than a smaller supply. But in any case, they should be at least as efficient as each other. The mains power delivered depends upon the requirements of the rig.

A slightly larger than required supply should be used really, as it runs cooler and does not overload (if it does, its life will be shortened). A small value fuse — 1 amp, 2 or 3 amp — is suggested in the mains plug, and not, in my opinion, the often standard 13 amp fuse. This will blow things up if anything drastic goes wrong with the PSU, and another fuse will protect it before the burning starts!

**A.S. Knox, Doctor**  
**Felixstowe.**

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## A LOAD OF CODES?

I have enjoyed your mag, which I've taken from the May 1983 issue. In giving "The Codes", wouldn't it be better to give a full list of those that are useful? I note omission of some, eg, QSK (now) = "On the side." Often answered by QRX. Then say QRY???

And what about the QU's? QUM, also QUF, may be appropriate vis-a-vis channel 9. QUA seems very useful. And QRR was a recognised Land SOS in the USA at least.

I don't agree much with the CB use of "Tone T1-T9"; they were for rating of CW or Buzzer-Morse signs. Could be used for speech, I suppose, but...see your definitions...; Morse isn't really allowed on your CB licence, as I read it. See Licence Condition 6.

I do agree with you, pages 10-12, July issue. Yes, we should align with the EEC. We are not yet aligned, and that is a pity, and it gives the BT and HO an excuse to dither. Yes, the UK government has jealously guarded its monopoly on electric communication ever since the first Telegraphy Act 1840; L-L telephony frightened the PMG in 1877-8. Have you read the (shocking) history of the telephone? The government of the time was persuaded to believe (and enact upon) the concept that telephony was a form of telegraphy, and so was within the government's monopoly - till the Acts could be updated.

All power to the Euro Commission and

the EC of P & T. We should have AM. FM is best for high quality broadcasting, but too restrictive for CB.

**Hillyard T. Stott, G2C0T,  
Stapleford Abbots,  
Romford, Essex.**

*Thank you sir, for your comments, and naturally they are agreed with. A little known, and unimportant piece of history is that QSK was considered as the title of On The Side, for a moment or two. As modern CB becomes closer linked with amateur radio (in whatever guise etc) there could well be a desire for the various codes (RST and so on) on a wider basis. — Ed.*

## NORTH LONDON DX QSL SWAP CLUB

We are a club for north London or outside north London breakers, and we were formed in April 1983. We joined with Aquarius Breakers Club and membership for this club is free to NL DX QSL members, and for non-members it's £2 for life. We will be having a rubber stamp made for us soon, and it will be available at a price. Anyway, we've got to go, so anybody who wishes to join our club can write.

73s from NL002 (Vice President)

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## DOCTOR PEPPER ON CALL

Just over 12 months ago, two breakers got together and formed a mobile station. The Saga begins, Abattoir, and Tojo mobile was born. After many nights of travelling from Birmingham to Speke, and many, many eyeballs, we had to call the monitors on AM.

What had happened was, while travelling around in our Viva, it decided to leave the road at Burtonwood, just after the service station. We sustained head injuries, broken leg, broken arm and a few busted ribs. Night Owl and Doctor Pepper from St. Helens raised the alarm and also dragged our car out of the field for us.

We would like to thank them very much (if we could find them) and that's where you come into it. If you could print this for us, we would both appreciate it. But apart from that, could you please warn MERSEYSIDE AND SURROUNDING areas that we, complete with Datsun and Princess being built (with roll bars) ride again, and those long nights will soon be upon us again.

A special thanks to Dodger (St. Helens) and Dream Girl, Snowman and Cherokee, and all concerned, not forgetting Carrier, that all their problems are going to start again (late nights, shortage of tea and sugar...).

Anyway, could you please do this for us, as we cannot find them.

Beware, beware, Abattoir and Tojo are on the air once again!

**Abattoir and Tojo.**

P.S. Special hello to Mick (Newquay), and all SWB Breakers and Fristal Bay Breakers.

## SUNDOWNERS DX SWAP CLUB

Our fast growing DX club is improving its package for 1984, with new official club cards, and a new personalised official card with a map of their town, address, handle and photograph. If a passport-size photo is sent, this is OK.

Also, in 1984, full gloss official club cards will be produced, and later on in the

year we will bring out full coloured QSL cards, plus a new, bigger certificate for members. The big news is that our new Wolverhampton HQ will open next year, and the Leeds HQ will close down.

**Dougal, Mick, and Lady Paula,  
141 Ashbourne Croft,  
Leeds LS10 2TZ.**

## BAD DEALS?

I buy *On The Side* nearly every month and have decided that I should sell my Rotel RVC 240 transceiver for £60, since the original price was £90. I thought this was quite reasonable for a secondhand rig in good condition.

There are several ways of selling secondhand equipment. I could put an advert in the local press or try asking over the airwaves or have an advert published in a national CB magazine, such as yours.

Eventually I decided to use the 'useful addresses' section in the June edition; I selected a couple to start with, Micro Comms of Aberdeen and R.W. Pollock & Co. of Yorkshire. Micro Comms were not interested and R.W. Pollock didn't bother to reply to my first class letter.

If I could sell the rig I might be able to afford a few 16p stamps thrown away in Yorkshire, but my general financial state is not sufficient to afford such luxuries. It would be extremely helpful if *On The Side* could give more details about companies, whether or not they reply to letters, if they are prepared to buy secondhand equipment, and if they pay reasonable prices?

Please try to give more specific details. Tell the reader what he/she wants to hear.

**A. R. Cockayne esq.  
"Shirbourne", Kingsbury Road,  
Minworth, Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands B76 9AG.**

*Our "Useful addresses" section is made up of recommended companies, where readers have suggested companies and indeed, companies have suggested themselves. — Ed.*

## INFORMATION WANTED

Congratulations on being a great new magazine. We are a new club which aims to help the QSLer swap his cards easier. We aim to give him value for his money.

We have a newsletter/roster which is issued quarterly, giving good QSL contacts and competitions, CB news etc. and we need your help to help us help you. We require members' articles on such items as longest QSO, favourite QSL contact, QSL collections etc.

Wish you every success.

**Steve (001) and Dawn (002),  
Clog Town QSL Club,  
161 Thicketford Road, Bolton BL2 2NA.**

## JUNIOR CREST COMM

We of Junior Crest Comm wish you all the best of success for the new *On The Side* magazine. Junior Crest Comm stands for Junior Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams Communications and is open to children aged six years and over who are interested to learn more about CB radio and how to use it to help others.

The children are being trained by qualified personnel in the proper use of CB, proper radio procedures and proper emergency radio procedures; as well as radio maintenance under workshop and field conditions; building their own radio sets and accessories. Junior Crest Comm was founded just after legalisation day as a junior breakers club with a difference and we are aiming to become a nationwide organisation although at present we are only operative with a few very small branches in East/South East London.

The membership fee is 25 pence per month (ordinary members). Fees for members of the same family (or concessionary fee) is 15 pence per month, and a registration fee of 50 pence is required at registration to cover administrative costs, cost for ID-card etc.

Junior Crest Comm is not a CB emergency monitoring service like Thames React, but a radio emergency assistance for local and national

emergencies, providing an inexpensive radio communications cover where and when other communications are down, as well as providing assistance with CB on agricultural shows, sporting events, exhibitions, etc.

Anyone interested in further information about Junior Crest Comm, or interested in joining should contact: **Cmdr. K. Regenstein, JUNIOR CREST COMM, 89 Dagmar Court, Manchester Road, London E14 9JG.**

**K. Regenstein  
Commander-in-Chief**

## PENISTONE CB CLUB

Here's a quick note to let you know that the "GENITAL CITY BREAKERS CLUB" is still going strong here in South Yorkshire. For all official purposes we use the name Penistone CB Club for obvious reasons.

Originally, the club was set up in May '81 after many months of regular eyeball get-togethers. After some hassle from a neighbouring CB club (now long since faded along with its members' funds — but that's another tale) we became determined to retain our sovereignty over local CB affairs and had to form our own club.

We originally set up as an all-breaker club so that all interests would be represented. Since then, of course, legalisation has made us nearly 100% FM. We have now entered our third year and still have plenty of support from members renewing their subs and some newer breakers.

Incidentally, there seems to be an age shift for new breakers, with the older end becoming more noticeable. Eyeballs continue to be held on alternate Monday evenings at the Rose and Crown in Penistone. We use an upstairs private room and membership is open to all breakers over 14 years old.

Best regards from Genital City.

**J. Briggs ('Shy-Talker')  
59 Ward Street,  
Penistone, Sheffield,  
S. Yorks S30 6EP**

## SUNDOWNERS BREAKERS CLUB

We would like to inform you that a meeting of the Sundowners Breakers Club committee was held on the 18th July 1983, and it was decided that after an election, a new committee would be formed; this has now been done.

Chairman: Dustybin (Mr. D. Best), Secretary: Khaki Lad (Mr T. Haynes).

The old committee donated all funds remaining to the Yorkshire Evening Post Charity Fund. The first task of the new committee is to raise money for the Mentally Sub normal at Stanley Royd's Hospital, Wakefield; we are raising money by having discos and a sponsored cycle ride from Leeds to Scarborough and back. We are being sponsored by Radio Aire and Wallace Arnold Coaches Ltd.

We would be grateful for anything that your readers may care to donate, to the above address. Cheques and postal orders made payable to (Sundowners Charity Fund). For receipts, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Premises for the club are still being sought; we will inform *On The Side* as soon as we have new premises. Keep up the good work. 10-10 till we write again.

**D. Best (Dustybin),  
45 Broom Mount,  
Belle Isle, Leeds LS10 2JR**

## CONVOY A SUCCESS

I feel I had to write and give you the results of our convoy, which has just finished. Well, Frank, I hope that through your magazine I can say thank you to the following breakers who made our journey a big success. They were as follows . . . The Southport Breakers who gave us a wonderful time and through them we got thousands of signatures on petition forms; in particular Little Jem and his wife Waltzing Matilda who had a meal waiting for us even though we had only met them that morning on the CB.

Next comes the Coventry Breakers who met us on the M6 motorway, escorted us into Coventry. Again, thousands of signatures there. At Coventry we were met by the Hart of England Club Committee as well as the Hinckley Breakers and the Central City DX Club.

Together we had a great time at Coventry.

Everywhere we went, we had a good response and were not surprised to see how many breakers were still using the old AM CB and willing to fight for it. Because of that, we, the United Breakers Association, will be having a demonstration through the West End of London in October of this year. I must also thank Booze Buggy - and Skylark - and Catweazle for travelling all the way from London to Coventry to be with us on the night.

When we arrived at Maidstone we were met by two Central City DX breakers who had travelled all the way from Coventry just to come into London on the last day. They were C. W. Mann and his friend. We were also met at Maidstone by the Clapham Common Breakers who escorted us into London, and again I would like to thank Big Daddy, Blue Anchor, Sea Wolf, Milk Shake and Ferrit Man and his seat cover; also Skipper, and Welsh Wizard.

When we arrived in South London there were about six cars waiting for us. More arrived later and to the breakers who appeared, I would like to say thank you. We will carry on for AM with SSB as well as more channels on FM and we are asking all breakers to rally to the call of the UBA now. Remember, we are all breakers and we know what we want. I think that the magazine *On The Side* will become a very popular magazine for a lot of breakers. We're very impressed by it, for it seems to be saying what breakers want to hear, something that seemed to be lacking in other magazines; I hope breakers will now start to pull their socks up and come out and fight. I know I will. Remember you will never get something for nothing out of the government. You will have to fight for it. So, see you at the next demo.

**A. J. Donovan (Disco One)  
(Duchess)  
Presiden/Vice President,  
United Breakers Association,  
50 Gaskell Street,  
Clapham, London, SW4 6PJ**

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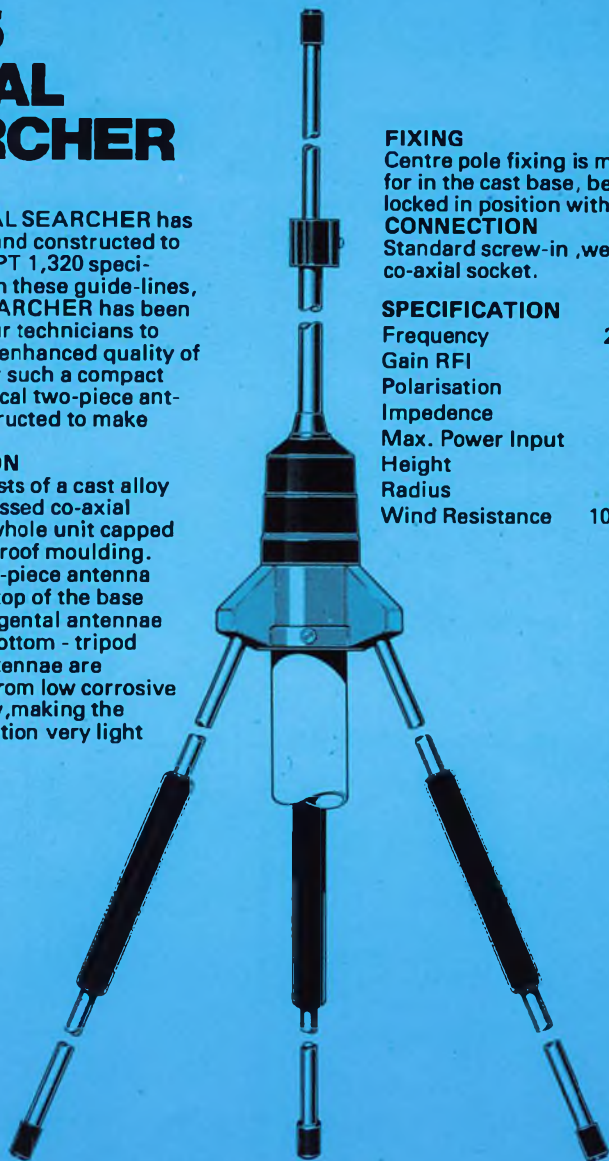
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## CONSTRUCTION

The aerial consists of a cast alloy base with a recessed co-axial socket and the whole unit capped with a weatherproof moulding. The vertical two-piece antenna screws into the top of the base unit and the tangential antennae screw into the bottom - tripod fashion. The antennae are manufactured from low corrosive aluminium alloy, making the overall construction very light in weight.



## FIXING

Centre pole fixing is made provision for in the cast base, being locked in position with screws.

## CONNECTION

Standard screw-in, weatherproof co-axial socket.

## SPECIFICATION

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Frequency        | 25,500 / 27,800 |
| Gain RFI         | 2,75 dB         |
| Polarisation     | Vertical        |
| Impedance        | 52 Ohm          |
| Max. Power Input | 200 Watt        |
| Height           | 1.5 metre       |
| Radius           | 0.8 metre       |
| Wind Resistance  | 100 Km per hour |



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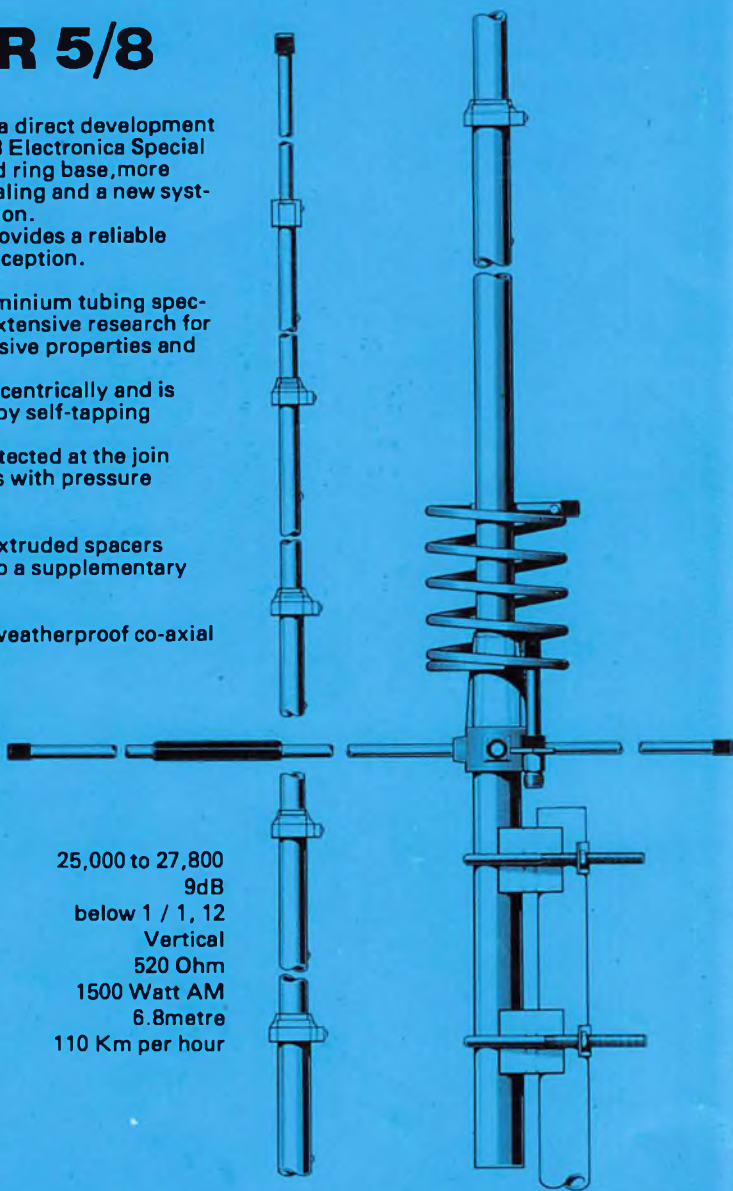
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## FIXING

Two 'U' bolts with extruded spacers provide side fixing to a supplementary pole.

## CONNECTION

standard screw-in, weatherproof co-axial socket.



## SPECIFICATION

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Frquency Range  | 25,000 to 27,800 |
| Gain C.I.E.     | 9dB              |
| SWR             | below 1 / 1, 12  |
| Polarisation    | Vertical         |
| Impedence       | 520 Ohm          |
| Max Power Input | 1500 Watt AM     |
| Height          | 6.8metre         |
| wind Resistance | 110 Km per hour  |



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