

TASMANIAN AMATEUR RADIO

Registered for Posting
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Category B.

*Bulletin issued by the North, North West and
Southern Branches of the Wireless Institute
of Australia, Tasmanian Division.*



P.O. BOX 275
LAUNCESTON
TAS. - 7250

AUGUST 1980 VOLUME 10 No 7

Meetings --: South 6th North 8th North West 12th COUNCIL To be advised, listen to B/C.

EDITORIAL

R.D. Contest

Two things still seem to be bugging some people and preventing a 100% effort in VK7. They are:

- (1) Non allowance of repeater contacts
- (2) Inclusion of only full calls in the participation factor.

The second factor represents a misunderstanding of the Contest Managers' intentions. His idea was to compensate N and Z calls for their inability to use all bands. It prevents non-participating licencees from being a disadvantage to the total scores. Novice and limited stations participating are a BONUS. Please help.

While it would be good to be able to use repeaters, they still can, and should, be used as a calling frequency. Remember VHF working is a boost as

- (1) You can work the same station each two hours.
- (2) Points exchanged stay in the state.

Remember

- (1) Honour the memory of those who participated in active service.
- (2) Help Tassie to get a win - it can happen.
- (3) Put in two logs: one for CW, one for phone.
- (4) Make contacts efficiently - see which give the most effective scores.

Best of luck

Reg Emmett VK7KK
State President.

SOUTHERN BRANCH NOTES.

Approximately forty people attended the July Southern Branch meeting, at which the Treasurer gave his Annual Report. A very interesting lecture was then given by a member of the Southern Tasmanian Ambulance Services; which was followed by a demonstration of Resuscitation Techniques for those interested in knowing what to do when forming a 6ft. long, 240 volt fuse.

The next S.B. meeting will be held on Wed., Aug. 6th., at SES Headquarters in Melville St. at 8p.m. Following the now usual abbreviated meeting will be a raffle (20c per ticket) with the prize being a 5 dollar voucher on the store; to be held during the coffee break. It is intended that there will be no lecture after this meeting, rather a chance for an extended eyeball QSO. The following meeting (September) there will be an auction so start getting your bits and pieces together.

The Bingo/Housewarming night was very enjoyable, with about 40 people attending, and a small profit was made. The next WAGS meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 5th of August at Liz Ruthvens house. All interested persons are welcome.

News from the S.B. executive meeting (Thursday Sept. 17th):
Sunday Broadcast; Graham reported that there will be no Sunday broadcast on the 17th and 24th. August unless there are some volunteers. Please contact Graham VK7GD.

Contest Sheets; for the RD contest hopefully will be available at the next meeting. The contest weekend is on the 9/10th August so please everyone participate - see if we can win that coveted award. The scoring system as it is, the only way Tas. could possibly win is by a substantial increase in the number of logs submitted, and a similar increase in the average no. of entries per log.

Devil Award; There have been three new awards issued - VK7ZJG, G8SR and G4DFE. Congratulations John!

New members; In future new members joining the Southern Branch will be presented their certificates at Southern Branch meetings rather than having them posted.

Field Day; This get together for all Tasmanian amateurs has had a probable date set - Sat. October 4th at the Lagoon of Islands; subject to clashes with any other WIA activities (The trout season is open, and flies and tiger snakes will not be present in large numbers in the spring)

Ian VK7ZZ won the last raffle - his prize being an agfamatic camera. Due to health problems, Ian has decided to take a breather from WIA activities, and has resigned from the Vice president's position, and from the SB executive. It is hoped that he will soon be on the road to recovery and be able to attend meetings regularly.

An update for the SB store will be published again soon in QRM.

That is all for now. 73's from VK7ZSU/NSU.

TOPICAL TOPICS

On July 15th while working a 'W'5 friend on 28mhz, the 'W' said he could not copy my transmission because of very heavy QRM. However, another W5 several miles away, was listening on frequency, and he relayed my transmission on 2 metres to the other station. The QSO then continued without a hitch in this manner. I guess that's what it is all about!
COMMUNICATION!

NORTH WEST BRANCH NOTES

The usual monthly meeting was held at the Club rooms with another good attendance - 27 in all.

In the absense of Peter VK7BQ, the meeting was ably chaired by Steve, VK7Z SILVER MAKE.

MINUTES of the last meeting were read and adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS. A letter was read from Mr. Tony Staley, Minister for P. & T., advising regretfully, of his inability to attend TARC 1980.

A letter was received from VICOM, stating that they will be putting on a display of equipment.

COUNCIL A full report was given by IVAN VK7XL.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS. A discussion was held on 2 unfinancial members, who have given wonderful service to the Branch in the past.

VISIT BY ZL2AGU. At a special meeting GRAHAM, who was the guest of JIM, VK7NOW, gave an interesting talk on Power Distribution in ZL, and also radio topics in general. Many members present, have had the pleasure of working with Graham.

FILM AFTERNOON Several parents - members of the Branch and children, spent an interesting afternoon at the QTH of JIM VK7NOW, on 28th June. Ably assisted by Projectionist, JOHN REISZ of Latrobe, an enjoyable program was screened.

SUNDAY MORNING ATV B'CASTS. It is understood that verbal permission has been received from P. & T. regarding this matter. It is expected official information will be received shortly.

ATV GROUP. Tony VK7AX, brought the meeting up to date on this section. Council is to be advised of some dis-satisfaction on some aspects relating to this segment of the N.W. BRANCH.

BROADCAST OFFICERS. 2 members kindly offered their services for the next BROADCAST PERIOD. IVAN VK7XL and VK7NW will be active, as well as the "old reliables" SYD VK7SF and TERRY VK7TT. We would like perhaps one or two "Z" Calls to offer their services. A relay on 40 and 80 metres would present no problem.

LECTURE At the conclusion of the meeting a most interesting, illustrated lecture was given by BOB VK7ZAA on QUARTZ XTALS and the cutting techniques required.

Samples were shown to members, and the actual technique in cutting the various types was ably demonstrated. A hearty round of applause was given.

A tasty supper, served by the DEVONPORT members, concluded yet another successful meeting.

See you again next month.

NORTHERN BRANCH NOTES

NORTHERN BRANCH GENERAL MEETING: was held at the Bourke St., clubrooms on the 11th July. About 22 members and 3 visitors were present.

In inward correspondence, a letter from VK3QQ was tabled, asking for information from any VK7 who had experienced power line noise problems both past and existing.

There was no financial report, as Alan 7NAC is down with the flu. In general business the meeting elected Ken 7ZKT as clubroom manager.

Permission has been granted from P. & T. for the Northern branch to provide a Sunday evening broadcast. This will include information from the morning, plus any news applicable to the Branch. The broadcast will be on repeater 8 commencing at 7.30 p.m. lasting for 20 minutes or so with the 10m, 80m and 2m scramble following.

In general business, it was resolved to donate the historical type items that are in the back shed, to the Hobart museum for public display.

The equipment and junk auction to follow, was quite well supported, although most members were looking for bargains only. Thanks to Lindsay 7ZLD for stepping in as auctioneer.

The supper, provided by David 7YY, was definitely appreciated as was the warmth that the open fire provided.

Next General Meeting on 8th August.

NORTH BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING 18th July.

REPEATER FUND RAFFLE

The first item discussed was the coming repeater fund raffle. A number of prizes have been offered and as soon as tickets are printed, they will be available. The Northern Branch asks all VK7 members to support this raffle, especially those that use the repeater.

SOCIAL EVENING 13th September: After some discussion it was decided to hold a social gathering, at the Riverside community hall on the 13th of September. Light dancing and entertainment, with drinks and supper provided, for a nominal cover charge. Tickets for this, available soon. The raffle will be drawn at this venue as well. Friends of members welcome.

AMATEUR GET-TOGETHER 22nd August:

On Friday night, about 7.30 p.m. on the 22nd August, at the Great Northern Hotel, main bar area. The Northern Branch invites all members and prospective members to attend. For new amateurs, this would be a good opportunity to break the ice. Come for five minutes or five hours as you may wish.

R. D. CONTEST 9th - 10th August:

The Northern branch clubrooms, will be open and VK7NB will be used through-out the weekend. Anyone who can spare time to operate 7NB please attend. Those amateurs and listeners without stations are especially encouraged. Contact Reg, 7KK if able to help.

Northern Branch Notes Con't.PROJECT BUILDING NIGHT FRIDAY 15th August:

David 7YY, will be co-ordinating a project, involving the construction of a continuity tester, based on an E.A. article. All parts supplied for a few dollars cost. This tester would be invaluable for checking coax connections, etc. and the project would be suitable for those wishing to start with electronics construction.

If you have your own project on the go, then come along, use the tools provided and perhaps some help or advice.

ALBERT HALL HOBBIES DISPLAY 12 - 14th September:

A co-ordinator is required for the North branch display at the hall. The job involves overseeing the setting up and allocation of space. Any offers for this or displays, contact Reg 7KK.

Next Executive meeting at the Clubrooms on 15th August.

73

KEN

AMATEUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 28th June. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Minutes from meetings held in VK4 and VK6 were read with interest. Apparently no meetings are being held in VK5 or VK2.

The VK6 committee has agreed to release notes of their meeting under similar conditions as these notes are published. The VK4 committee has been asked by the W.I.A. to release the number of breaches brought up at meetings. Also they reported that some stations were doing Broadcast relays without approval. Remember the relaying of another station is not permitted now, unless for approved Broadcasts or tests relating to these broadcasts. During such tests, the purpose should be stated.

Of a local nature, an unofficial report was tabled of CB type operation just inside the bottom edge of 10M. Committee members to watch for this. A report was made of the use of unofficial phonetics a bit close to the wind. We agreed that other phonetics than the official ones are used, especially on the DX bands, but there is a limit.

Some discussion took place about on air inquiries about equipment availability etc., especially if one of the Amateurs is known to be in business. It was agreed that if the discussion was only of an Amateur nature, it would not be possible to determine whether it was of a business nature or not.

The next meeting is set for the 23rd August.

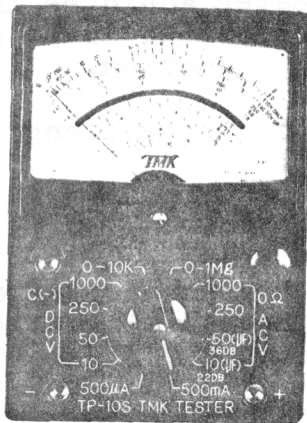
73 VK7PF

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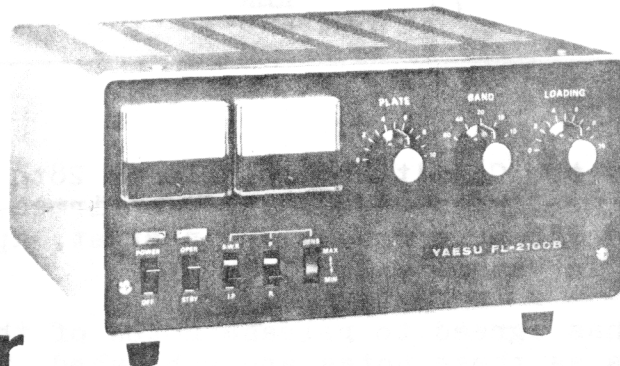
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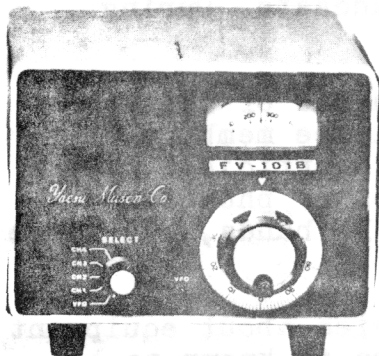
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FL-2100B

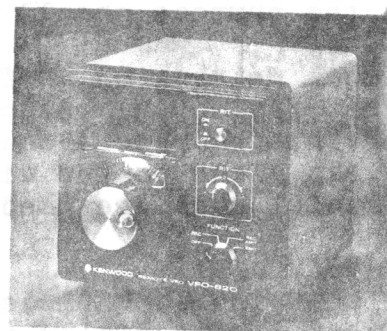
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WICEN NOTES FROM VK7AWTRAINING COURSE

The WICEN training weekend mentioned in last month's QRM (originally on the first weekend in August) has been re-scheduled the new date is Saturday September 13th 1980, beginning at 0900K, at S.E.S. Headquarters, 38 Melville St., Hobart. Lectures and films will be presented by WICEN Co-ordinators and S.E.S. Instructors, and an exercise will be held on Sunday afternoon, the 14th, to consolidate what is learned.

All Southern WICEN members, i.e. those who have returned a questionnaire, will receive a copy of the course programme, along with other details of the course and pre-reading requirements. As mentioned last month, the course includes formal message-handling procedures, message writing, map reading, VHF repeater coverage, regulations, insurance arrangements and call-out procedures. The State Emergency Service, as well as providing instructors for part of the course, have also kindly offered to supply morning and afternoon tea. It is anticipated that most participants will partake of a counter lunch at a nearby hotel. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Brian Brand, the Southern Regional Officer of the S.E.S., for assistance in organizing the course.

If anyone from the North or North-West is interested in attending the course, they should contact me and I will send full details. The same applies to anyone in the South who has not registered with WICEN.

PORTABLE REPEATERS

Advice has been received from the Postal and Telecommunications Department that the portable repeaters will be exempt from many of the provisions of the new "Amateur Operators Handbook" when used in emergency situations and on WICEN exercises. The Dept. has asked for details of equipment types and frequencies in order to estimate any potential interference problems, especially to or from users of the State Disaster Spectrum (in the vicinity of 77MHz)

The full description of the portable repeaters was to have appeared in "Amateur Radio" magazine in May or June (advice from the Editor in April) - hopefully the article will appear in the near future.

CAVE EXERCISE.

An exercise is to be held in the Mole Creek area over the weekend of September 20th - 21st. Police and Caving Society members will be taking part, and Southern WICEN members are taking the opportunity to test out a prototype 1.8 MHz hand-held transceiver. There is plenty of camping space in a convenient paddock, and I'm told that Saturday night in the local pub is generally most entertaining. For further details contact Ron Mann, VK7RM.

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IC55I 6Metre all mode transceiver excluding FM/PBT/VOX ONLY \$599.00
IC25I 2M All mode transceiver IOW \$829.00
IC-2A 2M Synthesised HANDHELD \$299.00
MR-I300E 2M Linear Amp inc. RX pre-amp 120w output \$350.00
VM-I Vicom Noise Cancelling Mic. Low Z \$10.00
7000-E TONO Communications Computer \$990.00
T-300 Vicom 300W Cont. 3.5Mhz-500Mhz Dummy Load \$65.00

VHF Notes.

Activity in the Launceston area should be on the increase with the arrival of new equipment and active callsigns on the VHF bands.

Tony VK7TP is obtaining a 1296Mhz Transverter and hopes to go mountain hopping this summer. Allan VK7AT at St. Helens also has big ideas in mind for working across the Tasman, all the best Allan. Phil VK7ZEN is now the proud owner of a 2M SSb/FM transceiver feeding a pair of 8 element Yagis. So by next Christmas after the AOCF exam we should hear a lot of Amateurs active on our VHF bands.

Nothing startling has happened on 6 over the Mid-Winter season the only openings being on several occasions to ZL the last being Saturday 19th when VK7AE and VK7ZGG worked two stations.

Two metres has been just as quiet although Daniel VK7DA has managed to work into VK3 on several occasions.

Don't forget VK9 is now active on 6M and if you require this QSL for your WAVKCA (as I do) have a good listen next time the band is open for this "rare" one as he may be lost in the middle of a dog-pile.

Last but not least REMEMBER the R.D. CONTEST as all VHF contacts count as double points as the score remains in the State.

Till next month

73

Joe Gelston
VK7JG

DX NOTES

Having had to supply a weekly DX news bulletin for our Sunday broadcasts has made it extremely difficult to find anything new to write about, however, since our last notes were published several events have taken place which made July quite an exciting month for the DX'er. - First OH2BH and OH2MM operated from Sudan and Southern Sudan as 6T1YP and ST2FF/StO using all bands on both SSB and C.W.

ZF2BN operated from the Cayman islands and gave the C.W. boys plenty of QSO's on 7, 14 and 21m/hz.

K4MGN operated as C5ACC from Gambia, 6W8DY Senegal, TY9ER Mali and 5V7HL togo, and 3A2EE and F9UW/3A were both active on 14 M/hz SSB.

OH2AP/O3O on Market Reef certainly caused a stir but was not an easy catch for VK's. Here again SSB and CW were both used.

The Dominican boys eventually got to Catalina Island (wherever that is) and were QSO'ed by VK7's and the Revilla Gigedo operation went off on schedule using all bands SSB and CW under the call-signs 4A4MDX and 4B4MDX.

The official ARRL DX bulletin number 27 broadcast by WIAW on the 18th July advised that the newly created African homelands -

Transkei (S8) Vendaland (T4) and Bophicthatswana (H5) together with any other homelands created in the future would only count as South Africa for DXCC purposes also that 7J1 Okino Tori-shima would be deleted from the DXCC official countries list as from 1st December 1980.

Although there are rumours of other operations from Red sea islands, another Indian ocean jaunt, and the visit of an American to West African countries this year, nothing definite is known, as its just a matter of more listening for the time being.

QSL Information.

A35AM via W6PYV
 A35YY " K5YY (after 15-8-80)
 A35SM " WB7OVA
 C5ACC " KB4GQ
 F9UW/3A " F9UW
 HH2VP " N4XR
 HV2VO " IOGPY
 G3JKI/5A " F6CYL
 OD5HQ " DJ9ZB

ST2FF/STO via OH2MM
 VQ9CT " W6IMX
 ZB2YY " K5YY
 ZF2BN " W4HET
 4A4MDX " XEIOX
 4B4MDX " XEIOX
 5V7HL " WB2KXA
 6T1YP " OH2BH

Con't...

DX NOTES CON't.

XT2AW via W2HAZ (for the K4MGN operation only)
TZ?? for the K4MGN operation via K2UQ.

HC2's. All Hc2 QSL's to go to P.O. Box 2191

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MT. WELLINGTON REPEATER VK7RHT RADIATION PATTERN MEASUREMENTS

It is proposed to measure the radiation patterns of both transmit and receive aerials of VK7RHT, by placing a transmitter in an aircraft flying around the Mountain, and recording the received signal level and bearing of the aircraft. This will enable polar plots to be made of the radiation patterns, and may help to explain rumoured poor performance in particular directions.

It has been estimated that \$50 will be required to enable two circuits of the aerials to be made ('plane costs), and after a call for donations at the July Southern Branch meeting, exactly \$50 was collected. The Repeater Committee, consisting of VK7's ZDF, SS, RR, and AW, is arranging test equipment and carrying out preliminary measurements, and it is anticipated that the final "fly-pass" will occur before the middle of September.

It is planned to make the results, and the method of obtaining these, the subject of a future "Amateur Radio" article.



J. D. ELECTRONICS

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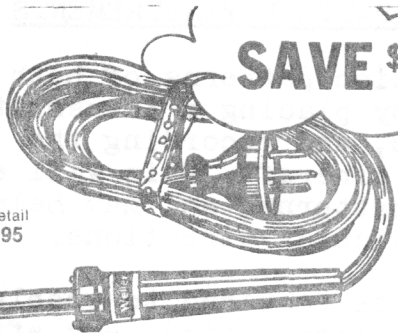


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24⁹⁵

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"SCENE & HEARD." by "EARWIG"

This past month of July has been an interesting one as far as SWL DX is concerned. I have observed several low powered stations from South America., on the tropical bands. Radio Populares in Riobamba, Ecuador was logged on 3985 Khz at 1047 GMT. The programme was in Spanish with slight interference from American hams on lower sideband. This 1 KW station is a Catholic missionary broadcasting station and signals were good. Another Ecuadorian signal heard is a Time signal station - HC210A in Guayaquil operated by the Ministry of Oceanic Research on 3810 Khz. The pulses were heard at 1109z and it is supposed to have an identification on c/w and voice (Spanish) but there was strong interference. Other SWLs have heard this station as early as 0700z with better signal strength and readability and it is also rated at 2 KW. Radio America in Lima, Peru was heard at 1145Z on 6010 Khz with music and frequent commercials in Spanish. However, signals were not strong and adjacent QRM from Radio Australia wiped out this 10 KW station.

Two new countries for me were logged this month. The BRT in Bruxelles, Belgium was heard in Dutch on 15190 Khz at 0445z. Signals were very good. The International Service of Radio Portugal was heard with English language programmes to North America at 0520z on 11925 Khz with fair signals. I believe it is rarely heard in Australia as the VOA relay in Greece usually nullifies the signals on this frequency.

On medium wave this month, the following stations were heard. Vladivostok on 1251 Khz was heard in Japanese with poor to fair signals at 1410z. Radio Malaysia on 735 Khz was heard with news in Bahasa Malay at 1436z with good signals. However, the easiest to copy on MW lately has been Radio Noumea on 666 Khz. I have heard this French language station as early as 0730z until sign-off at 1030-1100z even on a portable tranny handheld. The reason being that no Australasian stations have been allocated this frequency yet. Noumea is also on 7170 KHz and 3345 Khz. One snag is that they prefer reports to be in French!

One bit of excitement this month was provided by New Hebrides Radio on 7260 Khz. On June 30th., about 0500z a bomb was planted within the control room and exploded. The programme went dead and only the carrier was there. The station was off air for two to three hours and when they resumed they produced a special news bulletin in Pidgin, French and English about the occurrence. With the possibility of independence on July 31st, being delayed owing to the situation, it would pay to monitor Vila on 7260 Khz at 0830z for the English news. The Solomon Islands, according to Andrew Pye of Apollo Bay (Vic), have been heard at 0700z on 9545 Khz. The programmes were alternatively in Pidgin and English and signals were very readable until sign-off at 0815z.

Paraguay has been heard and worked here in Tasmania. Andre VK7AE and Ellis VK7WA were heard working ZP5PX at 0640z on 7055 LSB in Asuncion. He was peaking at S7-8.

160 metres has been quite good lately according to Frank VK7BC with all states except VK8 being heard, as well as ZL, W6, W8JK and plenty of Pacific Island LORAN pulses.

Con't

"SCENE & HEARD" Con't.

Well that is all for this month. My thanks go to Andrew Pye, VK3VOL of apollo Bay (Vic) and Gary Jones, Brian Beardwood, Frank VK7BC for providing me with some loggings. If you would like to forward your listings to me to include in this column, please send them via P.O. Box 275 Launceston TAS. 7250 by August 13th.

73's DE "Earwig"

HISTORICAL SECTION

The Condenser, (Capacitor) who invented it? CUNEAS at LEYDEN (the LEYDEN JAR) Right? Wrong! The condenser is one of the oldest pieces of apparatus, being discovered 235 years ago by a German named VON KLEIST. Today, the condenser (capacitor) has reached such importance in the electrical industry, and has so many uses, that if it were immediately removed from its millions of circuits, TELEGRAPH service in this country would be almost at a standstill; TELEPHONE, CABLE, RADIO COMMUNICATION, and BROADCASTING would cease entirely, and not an AUTOMOBILE WHEEL nor an AEROPLANE operate.

So you see that little (sometimes quite large) capacitor has more bearing on our lives than most people would think.

Next month, I will tell you how VON KLEIST discovered the Condenser, and the Crude form that it took.

JIM VK7NOW.

SATELLITE NEWS.

I'm sorry to say that as yet the tracking tables I'd hoped for this month are not yet ready. I'm glad to see the increase in activity and for those interested and can work it out for themselves I will give the latest orbit data.

The periods are A07 114.9521618-(3.811×10^{-7} x orbit nr)

A08 103.2407098-(3.1017×10^{-6} X orbit nr.)

ANG INCper orbit A07 28.7374 degrees

A08 25.810364- (6.502×10^{-7} X orbit nr.) degrees

Reference orbits for August 1 st.

A07 orbit nr. 26 125 at 0107Z 89.0 degrees west.

A08 orbit nr. 12 267 at 0047Z 65.0 degrees west.

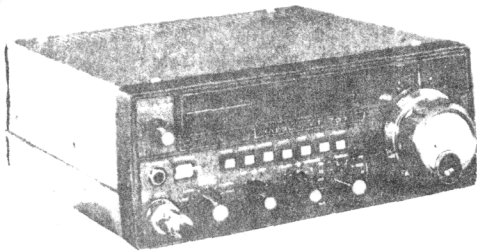
News A07 has been having battery problems but this may have resolved itself. It appears that the battery may be open circuit as the satellite appears to operate when in daylight only. The mode B (432 to 145) is still operating nevertheless and a recent contact was made between VK3 and JR6. For the new RS Satellites there will be three transponders. 145.86-145.9 in to 29.36-29.40 out. 145.910-950 for 29.410-500 out. 145.960-146.00 in to 29.460-500 out. All are designed with the Russian 2M. power limit of five Watts in mind. There will also be Three ROBOTS. These will listen for signals on frequencies 145.820, 145.830 and 145.840 and reply on 29.320, 29.330, and 29.340. If you call them on CW "RSOA de (your call) AR K" the response will be "(your call) de RSO QSO Nr 001 (your call) de RSO QSO Nr 001 OP ROBOT.T.U.FR.QSO 73 SK". A launch is expected around the end of the year. This information, with quite a bit more, is in the JUNE/JULY issue of ORBIT the new magazine published by AMSAT -why not join and get further issues as well as helping those who make it possible.

73 VK7PF

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