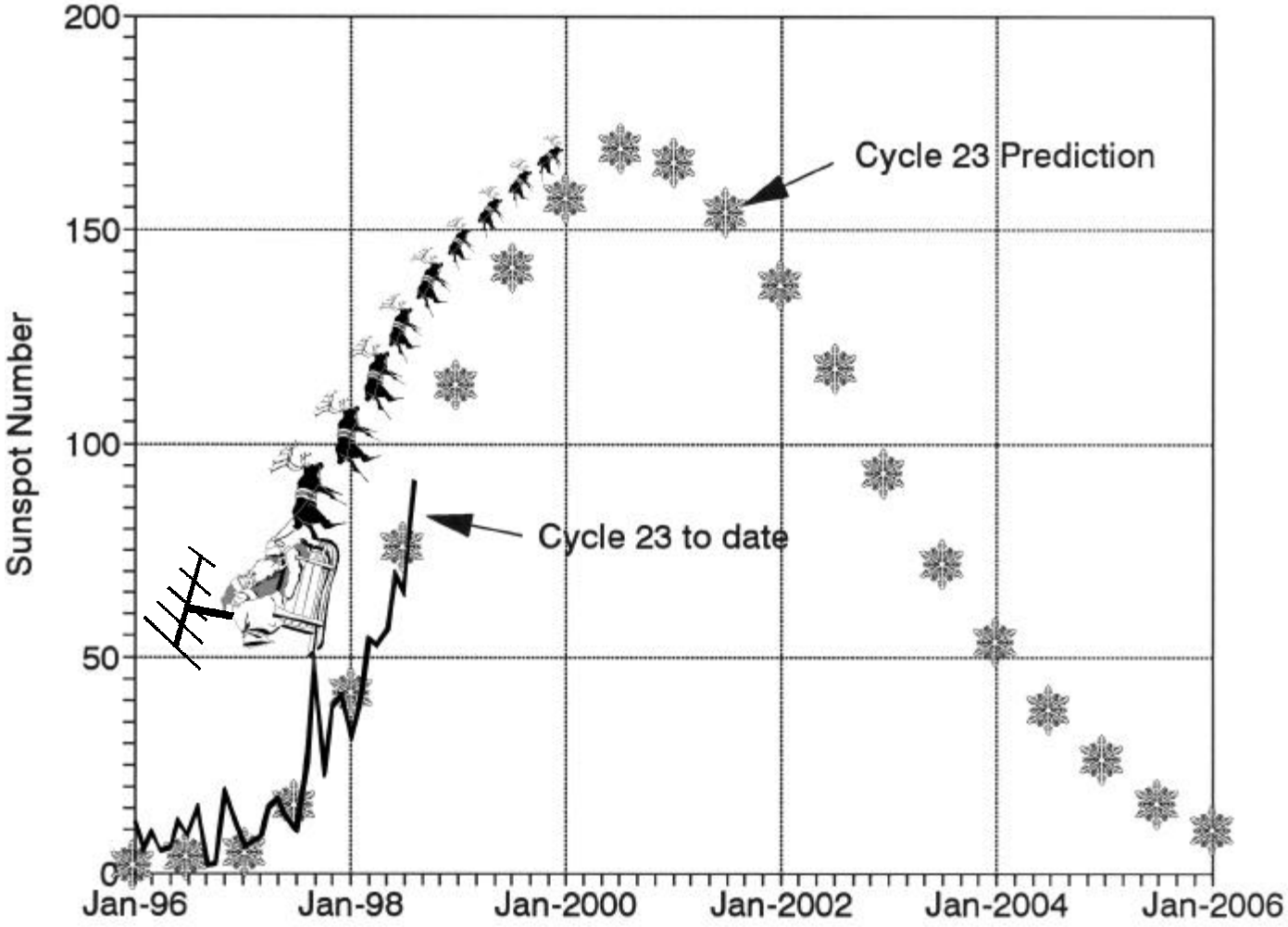
The New
RTTY Journal ©

P.O. Box 236, Champaign, IL 61824-0236 Volume 46, Number 4, November 1998 $5.00

Happy Holidays!



Sunspot Cycle 23 - A Great Gift to All of Us

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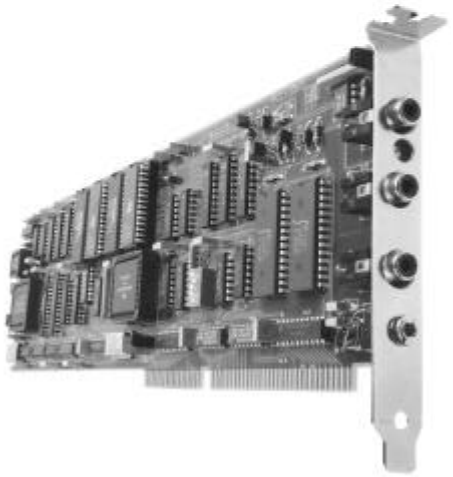

The ***P 3 8*** is a multi-mode HF data modem that gives you top performance operation using RTTY, AMTOR, P-Mode* and CLOVER-II waveforms. The ***P 3 8*** is a full sized plug-in card for PC-AT and faster personal computers. Multi-screen menu-driven HAL software is included with each ***P 3 8*** modem. Many popular "third-party" user programs are also available for the ***P 3 8*** - W0RLI, WINLINK, WriteLog, XPWARE, EZTERM and RTTY by WF1B. The ***P 3 8*** is complete and ready to run. Plug-in the board, connect three phono cables to your radio, and install the software. That's all there is to it! Whether you want to rag-chew, chase DX, or access electronic mail, the ***P 3 8*** is the modem of choice.

RTTY-1

The HAL **RTTY-1** is an easy to use and very accurate tuning indicator. It may be used with virtually *any* FSK modem, TNC, multi-mode controller, demodulator, and receiver or transceiver. The crossed LED bars show correct tuning for all popular FSK modes including Baudot Teletype (RTTY), ASCII Teletype, AMTOR, SITOR, P-Mode*, and even HF Packet Radio. Just hook it to your receiver's audio output and you're in business, even with modems that do not include "scope" output connectors.

*The word "P-Mode" is the HAL designation for a communications protocol that may be also known as "Pactor" a registered trademark of the Spezielle Communications System GmbH (SCS) firm in Hanau, Germany. HAL affirms that, to the best of its knowledge, "P-Mode" is compatible and interoperable with the protocol SCS calls "Pactor" and with the link establishment and weak signal modes of the protocol SCS calls "Pactor-II".

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www.halcomm.com

RTTY CONTEST SCHEDULE - WINTER 1998/1999

Date & Time	Name & Sponsors
12/05 1800 to 12/06 0200	TARA Sprints Troy Amateur Radio Association
12/12 0000 to 2400	OK RTTY DX Contest
1/1 0800 to 1100	SARTG New Years RTTY Contest
1/3 0000 to 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest
2/6 1700 to 2/7 0500	N.W. QRP Club Digital Contest
2/13 0000 to 2/14 2400	World-Wide RTTY Journal WPX Contest
2/27 2200 to 2/28 0149	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
3/14 1800 to 2200	High Speed Sprint RTTY Contest
3/20 0200 to 3/21 0200	BARTG WW RTTY Contest

Dates and Times subject to change

Updated information available at:

LA9HW RTTY Page: http://home.sn.no/~janalme/RTTY.html

Jim's Gazette: http://www,n2hos.com/digital

N1RCT Web Site: http:// www.megalink.net/~n1rct

SM3CER Contest Service: http://www.sk3bg.se/contest

ARRL: http://www.arrl.org

BARTG: http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk

OR - The New RTTY Journal will airmail a printed copy to you. *For each contest,* send $3.00 for U.S., Canada, or Mexico destinations or $4.00 to other countries. Please allow 3 weeks for processing and delivery.

The New
RTTY *Journal*©

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA/Canada/Mexico
1 year (4 issues) $15.00
2 years (8 issues). $28.00
3 years (12 issues) $41.00

Foreign
1 year (4 issues). $20.00
2 years (8 issues). $38.00
3 years (12 issues). $41.00

The New RTTY Journal is published four times per year: Feb., June, Aug.,& Nov. Subscriptions and advertisements must be pre-paid by check or money order in U.S. funds drawn on U.S. banks only. Visa and Master Card credit cards are accepted.

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POSTMASTER:
Please send all address changes to: *The New RTTY Journal*, P.O. Box 236, Champaign, IL 61824-0236

The New RTTY Journal is a continuation of the magazine formerly known as RTTY, RTTY Journal, RTTY Digital Journal, Digital RTTY Journal, and Digital Journal.

Hits & Misses

Bill Henry, K9GWT
ghenry@advancenet.net

Well, it's November again – leaves are falling, there's some rain, maybe a little snow. But, it's also CONTEST SEASON. We have sure had some good ones over the last couple of months. And – wonder of all wonders – **The Ionosphere Is BACK!** It's been a *long* wait but it's real. 10 meters works again! The graph on the front cover tells the tale. We are already well up on the curve and there should be nothing but good DX in store for us for the next 5 or 6 years. This is just about the best holiday gift I can think of for us HF radio types! So, if you haven't already done so, dust off the HF rig and run some wires or "hang" some aluminum (antennas, of course) before it gets any colder. Time spent now could be well rewarded this winter.

I have restored a "department" that started with the first issue of *RTTY* magazine – "TAPE OFF THE FLOOR". We don't use paper tape anymore, but I couldn't resist using the title and the cartoon. This cartoon appeared in all of Merrill Swan's issues but we cannot find an artist signature or credit. Help? This will be our "gossip" section, much like the original idea - and like comments Bill Snyder ran in his DX column in the early 80's. This month, I've done some "listening" to the WF1B reflector. The findings include: Hurricane Georges, "Free Drink Eddie", The CQ/RTTY Journal WW RTTY Contest, Sprint Contest, JARTS Contest, and other bits and bytes, including something about "The KQ4 gods" (you have to read it). I hope you enjoy this and please understand that I had to cut a LOT to fit available space.

The Tape Off the Floor section includes many comments associated with three contests - CQ/RJ WW, InterNET Sprint, and the JARTS WW. Note the comments about propagation conditions. HF DX is definitely back and in a very BIG way. Although conditions were poor for some, other operators in other parts of the world reported just the opposite. I am very encouraged to read the many enthusiastic comments from both "old-timers" and new-to-RTTY operators. As several operators commented, the RTTY gang is a very nice group of folks!

Tom Kleinschmidt continues his TTY history series and has two very good photos that should stir memories for a lot of us. Note the War Department's idea of a military "commo shack" – lots of space – and a fireplace? This is the first illustration in Tom's copy of the TM 11-2222 Technical Manual.

Wayne, K7WM has written a very entertaining saga about his DXpedition to The Ranch for the CQ/RJ WW contest in September. Wayne, Ron, and Jay had a good time, in spite of old Leonard (see page 11).

The show pictures this month are from the San Diego hamfest, August 14-16 and the ARRL/TAPR Digital Conference in Chicago on Sept. 26th. Dale, Faye, Linda, and I manned the RTTY Journal booth at San Diego and hosted a hospitality suite Saturday night (8/15). As always, the SANDARC folks put on a good show and we got to see a lot of long-time RTTY friends. I attended the ARRL/TAPR Conference in Chicago on 9/26. The papers this year emphasized APRS (Amateur Position Reporting Service) activities and techniques.

The Dayton Hamvention is still six months away, but that's none too soon to start planning for the annual gathering. We have a **NEW HOTEL** for next year. Dale provides more information and photos on Page 5. The February issue will have the final plans and we'll post new information as it happens on our web page.

Speaking of which, we now have our own web page. Put ***<www.rttyjournal.com>*** in your bookmark. We'll use this space to post the latest information about Dayton and other RTTY happenings. There's also a handy subscription form – just in case you know someone who needs a subscription. We might even put timely "overflow" stuff here. If you have "library materials", we'd be glad to post them (for example, connection data for radios).

Finally, the CD-ROM project *continues*. We have gathered both Dale's and my sets of old RJ's here in Urbana but find that most issues in the 1st 10-15 years are photocopies, not originals magazines. Some copies are good - some aren't. If you have originals of RTTY (1953-1973), I'd like to borrow them long enough to do a computer scan.

73 de Bill, K9GWT

New RTTY Hotel for Dayton Hamvention, 1999

By Dale Sinner, W6IWO,and Bill Henry, K9GWT

The RTTY Journal group has had several years of bad experiences at the Quality Inn Hotel on Needmore Road. Many of our group have been forced to find other accommodations. What was once a solid group of 150 to 200 RTTY-enthusiasts, shrank to just 50 rooms of die-hard conventioneers last year. We at the Journal have therefore been forced to change to a different hotel, The Holiday Inn at Dayton Mall. We have booked 75 rooms for the RTTY group and made initial arrangements for banquet and hospitality suite space for Friday and Saturday nights (May 14 & 15, 1999). We expect that all will be very happy with this change. This hotel has been recently remodeled, looks great, beds are flat and comfortable - and - the air conditioning works! Bill and Linda Henry recently drove to Dayton just to test this new hotel. "It's great" is Bill's comment.

Everything we enjoyed over the past years will still be available. The Holiday Inn includes a full service restaurant, a large and comfortable bar, an indoor swimming pool and hot sauna, exercise room, and even a pool table, Ping-Pong, and put-put golf. The hotel lobby includes an AVIS car rental office and four comfortable lounge areas.

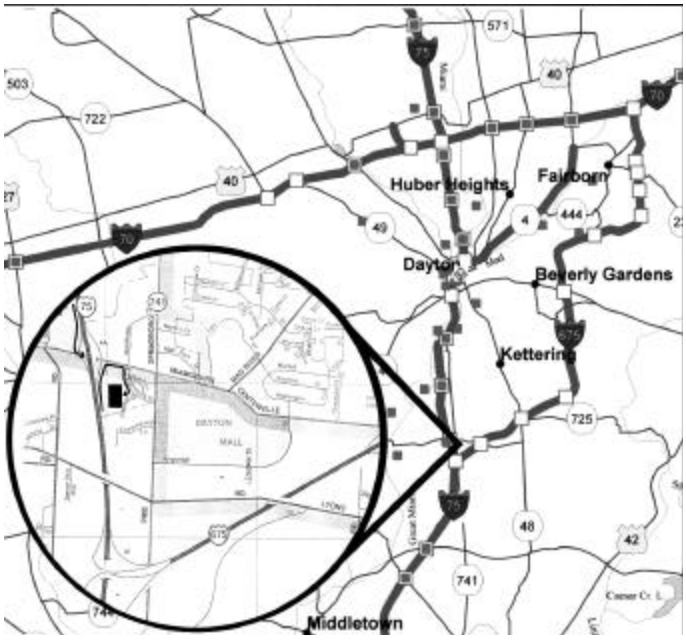
We are not requesting reservations at this time. This is just the first announcement of things to come. However, if you want to make an early request, it certainly will not be refused. Dale has agreed to handle the deposit and reservation business "one more time" - thank you very much, Dale. To learn more, try the RTTY Journal web page at www.rttyjournal.com. Final details will of course be spelled out in the February issue of The New RTTY Journal. You may also call Dale, W6IWO, at 760-723-3838 (voice or FAX) and Joe or Bill at 217-367-7373 (367-1701 for FAX). Ron Stailey, K5DJ, has again agreed to handle the RTTY DX Banquet on Friday night (5/14/99). With advice from Dale, Joe Wittmer, KB9SIZ, has agreed to handle the Saturday night (5/15/99) RTTY Journal banquet. Menus and other details are in the "to be decided" stage right now. The RTTY Journal and HAL Communications will again sponsor the hospitality suite.

If you look at a map of Dayton, the obvious first question is "what about transportation to Hara Arena?" The hotel has two shuttle buses that are available plus the Hamvention buses will be running regular trips between Hara Arena and the Dayton Mall (one block away from the hotel). There is also an AVIS car rental office in the hotel lobby (make your reservation early - like 60 days early). Please also note that, if you live to the South or East of Dayton, this new hotel is a LOT easier to reach. Those of us on the West and North side should pray that Dayton builds a West-side bypass road one of these years!

There is no question that we all have mixed feelings about leaving the hotel that we've known as our "Dayton home" for over twenty years. It's been called The Imperial House North, The Raddisson, The Quality Inn North, and now The Dayton Inn. Many of us were there for the first year it opened. There have been many famous gatherings under this roof (and maybe a few not so famous - or is it "infamous?"-escapades). We think that all of the RTTY group will have a great time at the new hotel. Come join the party and bring the family. Note that the Holiday Inn at Dayton Mall is a Holidome, complete with indoor pool, sauna, and recreation facilities. The huge Dayton Mall is just a block away.

We at the RTTY Journal look forward to making Dayton, 1999 a great time for all of our RTTY friends.

73, Dale Sinner, W6IWO dsinner@tfb.com
Bill Henry, K9GWT ghenry@advancenet.net



A Little TTY History

(Part 2)

Tom Kleinschmidt

tomkleinschmidt@home.com

Part one concluded with the creation of Teletype Corporation in 1929 (former Morkrum-Kleinschmidt Co). The main products at that time were: 1) The Morkrum designed model 12 page printer which used typebars and operating mechanism of the L. C. Smith typewriter and the platen of a Woodstock Typewriter. 2) The Morkrum Kleinschmidt designed model 14 typing reperforator and model 14 transmitter distributor (tape reader) for Baudot code and 3) The Kleinschmidt designed Wheatstone perforators for Morse and Continental code. The Wheatstone machines lived on with minor changes at least through WWII. They were made with both English and Russian keyboards.

1930 saw the sale of Teletype Corporation to AT&T as a subsidiary to Western Electric. This was the occasion the Morkrum and Kleinschmidt financiers had been waiting for- the pay off on their investment. Teletype Corporation's sale price in 1930, just after the crash of the stock market, was thirty million dollars! The transaction was consummated as a stock swap. AT&T retained the patent rights in the USA, Canada and Mexico. The "International" (European) rights were sold to International Telephone and Telegraph (IT&T, now ITT) through their owner the Creed Company in London for one and a quarter million dollars.

AT&T continued to invest in the company and introduced TWX (TeletypeWriter eXchange) service in November of 1931. TWX is the network /subscriber side of the business. TWX was another source of monthly revenue. Monthly billing is the life-blood of any communication service provider's business. Phone, TWX, Cellular and paging bills are like an annuity that companies can count on as predictable revenue. That is why cellular service providers today give you the phone and sign you up for ongoing service. The money is made providing the service, not selling the hardware. Remember when you couldn't buy a landline phone? It was provided and maintained by the Telephone Company as part of the service. End of service economics 101!

A competitive and sometimes linked service to TWX was TELEX service. TELEX was spawned in Europe and embraced by Western Union in 1958. TWX and TELEX were the predecessors of today's Internet services. They provided operator assisted and then direct dial electronic message transmission, email!

Shortly after the sale of the company the model 15 page printer was introduced, the printer shown in the Fortune magazine ad (lower left). The model 14 and 15 family of products had long and prosperous lives. These products were built in parallel with their "replacement" the model 28. They were used extensively by the military in World War II, given military model and system designations like TT-5 and TGC-7, some had anti fungal coatings for use in tropical environments. See photo (lower right).

The Lorenz Company of Germany built model 15s under license from Teletype Corp, not from IT&T who owned the European patent rights (which may have expired?). Their machine was designated the model LO15. The main differences are metric hardware and a restyled keyboard with more modern looking white "D" shaped keys. Some of the desktop units had wood cabinets.

Next time: Krum and Kleinschmidt in new roles.

Tom Kleinschmidt is a great-grandson of Edward E. Kleinschmidt

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[1]A Model 15 service manual in the author's library has a revision date of 1956 and a model 14 manual has a revision date of 1962!

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Teletypewriter Service provides two-way communication.
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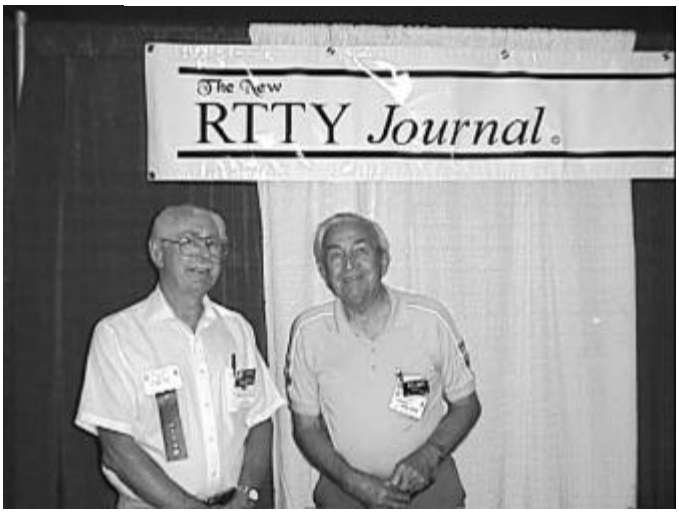
You can use Teletypewriter Service any time you need it.
A most economical form of record communication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION JUST CALL YOUR BELL TELEPHONE BUSINESS OFFICE

Caption: Advertisement from *Fortune* magazine, February 1932, page 136.

Caption: Photo from War Department Technical Manual, TM 11-2222, August 1945, page vi.

1998 San Diego Hamvention
August 14,15,&16 1998



Dale Sinner, W6IWO and Jerry Overeynder, W6IWR

Linda Henry Herb Goodman Faye Sinner

Mark Oppenheim, KD6KQ

Dale Sinner, W6IWO

Pat Ryan, KC6VVT

Dusty Morris, W7ITM

ARRL and TAPR Digital Conference
September 26, 1998

Dale Hatfield, W0IFO
Key Note Speaker - FCC

Greg Jones, WD5IVD
TAPR President

Mel Whitten, K0PFX
TAPR Board Member

Steve Dimse, K4HG
APRS Syposium Moderator

Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP
TAPR Spread Spectrum

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR
Father of APRS

Switch It
(Part 2)

Bill Henry, K9GWT
ghenry@advancenet.net

I think I touched a "nerve" with my August article. Judging by the mail, there are a lot of us who have been through "Connector Wars" - and a lot of us have also settled on the humble - but cheap - phono connector. As they say - "Great Minds run in the Same Circles". So, thank you for your encouragement and here goes on part 2.

While you could wire-up an infinite chain of switches to support just about any combination and number of radios, modems and terminals, preservation of sanity soon intervenes. Each modem, radio, and terminal adds from 3 to 25 wires to the switching mess. There are just so many wires my size 25 hand can fit into a size 5 box! My experience is that any switch scheme that involves more than two radios and two modems is doomed. So, here's "Part Two" - the Patch Panel.

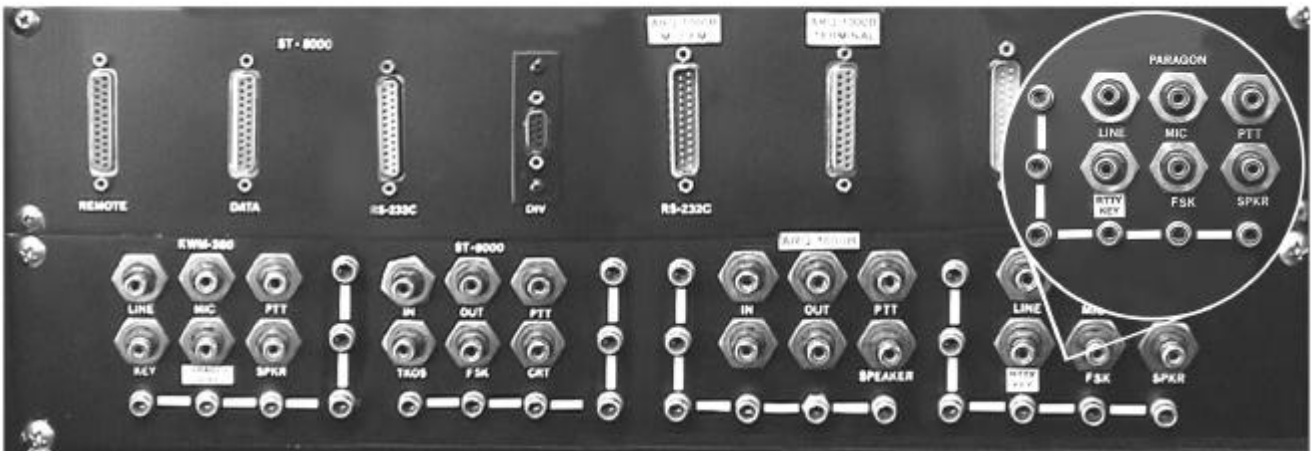
They say "A picture is worth a thousand words." I hope so as the Journal is tight on space and I think the photos are a lot more useful than my babbling. So, here are several photos and a little text. If you want more words, drop me a letter.

I connect radios and modems using phono connectors and that's what makes up one style of patch panel as shown in the photo. All radio cables plug into the back of "phono-barrel" connectors that I threaded to make bulkhead connectors. The photo shows the steps I used to make these things. The thread die is ½-20 (NF). Note the "fat" sort-of-square barrel used. This one will thread. The "skinny" version is too small for ½-20 (throw him back to grow-up!). I found that threading was a lot easier if I put the barrels in the freezer overnight. Cold plastic is hard and threads better! Also, go slowly. If you don't, ALL the plastic comes off and you get a naked barrel - still useful but not in the patch panel! I had to search for the hex nuts. The standard ½-20 nut is 7/16" thick, but my hardware store also stocks the "jamb-nut" which is only 5/16" thick. I got fancy and bought some 1/8" thick ½-20 dress nuts from Federal Screw Products in Chicago - the 1/8" nuts are on the front and the 5/16" nuts are on the back. Not cheap! But, checkout your surplus harware guy at a hamfest. I also included 6 connected parallel phono jacks near each set of 6 barrel connectors. These jacks (Switchcraft 3501FP) let me patch-up multiple connections, such as to RX AF-OUT.

Modems connect to PC's through the second panel, using DE9 and DB25 connectors. These holes take some work and be sure that you make them large enough so that the 1/8" thick rack panel doesn't prevent the connectors from mating. Use the jackscrews to be sure of a good connection.

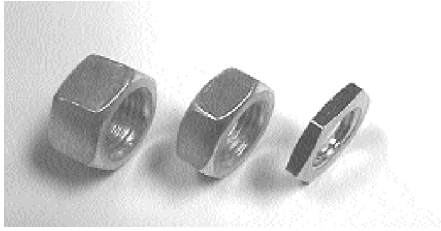
Both the phono and data panels were painted black after the holes were cut. As with all home-brew projects, labeling is a problem. I used white press-on letters. They look good for a while but tend to rub-off. And, when things change - as they always do - the labels are wrong. It's all but impossible to redo press-on labels with the rack panels mounted in the rack, so I've used little stick-on labels when I had to. It's not pretty but it works.

That's about it. I hope the photos clarify my comments. I made four of each rack panel. It took 2 weeks of evenings and weekends to thread all the phono barrels. Making short patch cables took a long time as well. But, the patch panels sure are handy now that they are done!



"Fat" "Naked" "Skinney" Phono jack

Stock Barrel — Threading the Barrel — Finished Product



7/16" 5/16" 1/8"
1/2-20" Hex Nuts

HURRICANE GEORGES:

Friday, 9/25/98: •12:08AM: Just finished setting up for the CQWW contest but wonder what will happen with a monster hurricane coming this way. It might be wise for me to start disassembling everything and flee the storm - but - for now, I've decided to stay and see what happens. If you don't hear from me on Sunday, it's because I've lost power, the towers have blown down, or I'm getting the hell out of town. *Don, AA5AU*. •12:08PM: Looks like FL will be OK, except the Keys. 'Thang' has a B-line for Bay St. Louis, but come heck or high water/wind I'll be in here plugging away and hope the wind reconfigures the wires into horizontal vee's! See ya'll on all five. *Charles, KK5OQ*.
Saturday, 9/26/98: •10:56AM: I stopped operating last night to pack. This morning I just finished boarding up the house. We are fleeing the storm. No time to take down the antennas. Wish me luck. *Don, AA5AU*
Wednesday, 9/30/98: •8:20PM: Another one has come and gone (CQWW & hurricane). Had intended on working until the end. XYL left Saturday, mumbling something like "crazy something …". Received a call from son-in-law Saturday evening - daughter's little bubba wanted to come a few months early. So climbed out the shack window (only one not boarded up), tied the wires to the ground, and took off. Daughter and baby are fine, the Doc stopped labor for another 6 weeks. *Charles, KK5OQ*. •8:37PM: I count my blessings that Georges decided to make a last minute wobble and turn into Mississippi instead of New Orleans. I pulled the plug at 1205Z (9/26) and started boarding up the house - packed up what I could in my truck and picked up everything in anticipation of flood waters and departed at 1800Z Saturday. I ended up in a hotel in Bossier City, LA, 360 miles to the northwest. Tuesday, I found that all antennas were intact except for one end of my 40 meter coaxial inverted vee had come undone. Both towers withstood hurricane force gusts up to 80 mph. Thanks to all who worked me and especially to those that sent e-mails wishing me the best after I had to evacuate. *Don, AA5AU*.

OTHER BITS, BYTES, & BAUD:

•Somebody posted a nice message saying isn't this a great club. I'll tell ya what keeps me fired up. Frantic activity (75 to 80 Qs per hour), slow times (sometime), new countries, old friends, the humor in it all, the ragging dished and received. I think we have a pretty good thing going. *Raj, VE6RAJ*. •Was listening to 20 SSB yesterday and am even more convinced that RTTY is THE way to go. *Roy, N4AN*.

FREE DRINK EDDIE:

9/22/98: •FYI: Anyone who works P40RY on all bands during CQWW will be treated to a free drink by me at the hospitality suite in Dayton, 1999. If you then work me all bands in JARTS (3V8BB), you'll be entitled to two (2) free drinks. BTW, soliciting Q's before the contest is not illegal. Have fun chaps and chapesses. *Eddie, P40RY & 3V8BB* (aka W6/G0AZT, "Free Drink Eddie").

9/28/98: •Achieved my free drink certificate by working P40RY on all bands [CQWW]. *Bob, KI6DY/0*.
10/19/98: So whatever happened to Eddie, 'free drink Eddie'? Did anyone work 3V8BB during JARTS? He had some nerve getting us all fired up. He probably spent the weekend at the camel races. I think he owes everyone he didn't work a drink. All in favor say 'aye'. *Raj, VE6RAJ*. •Where was weak signal Eddie? I agree with Raj. Eddie owes us all a drink. *NA2M*. •And now for your friend and mine … EDDIE! … man-o-man is he going to be one busy guy at Dayton.. running to the bar to get all those drinks. *Roy, N8YYS*.
10/20/98: •We missed Eddie from 3V8BB – our ticket for two free drinks. *Ivan, YZ7EM* (@ YU7AL). •Eddie, where are you? *Raj, VE6RAJ*. •Yes, and where was Eddie the barman? No sign of 3V8BB at all. *Phil, GU0SUP*.
10/21/98: •Has anyone heard from Eddie G0AZT in the last week? *Ben Grokett, KR6E*.
10/22/98: •Hello folks. To those who asked about my welfare, many thanks for your concern. I arrived in CA @ 1AM PDST today. Flying from G-land to the left coast is far worse than a 48 hour RTTY contest. To ally any rumors, I did NOT spend 7 days in a Tunisian jail! *Eddie, W6/G0AZT*.
10/23/98: •Sorry to disappoint many of you hoping for a good mult in JARTS. No one was more ticked off than me! 1. Customs would not permit me to bring in ANY of my gear. Visits to Le Chef du Douane and to #2 in charge of Telecoms proved fruitless. I considered "financial reward" but feared the possibility of a few years in jail! 2. The 3V8BB station manager had double booked a group of 50 Boy Scouts for JOTA and me for JARTS. 3. The available rig was an IC736, no filters and 25 Watts RTTY. A Telereader TNC231 was hooked up to an ancient computer which would not load anything PC compatible. 4. The rig manual was not available and the TNC manual was in Japanese. 5. An eleventh hour attempt to get my laptop, PK232, and cabling out of the customs warehouse was a waste of taxi fare. 6. After 2 and a half days of running around between Customs, PTT, and the 3V site, the thought of limited operations with inferior gear and the JOTA conflict, I decided to give up, mumbling as I left the club station and became a tourist. Sorry, no free drinks at Dayton hospitality suite for this adventure. *Eddie, W6/G0AZT*.

[Drinks at the Dayton Hospitality Suite are "free" anyhow (paid for by The RTTY Journal). But - we should let Eddie be the barman! - Editor]

1998 CQ/RTTY JOURNAL WW RTTY DX CONTEST 9/25-9/26-9/27/98

•My first RTTY Contest and first ham contest ever. I know I stepped on some toes on the air by not hitting the right buttons on the keyboard. I apologize and hope I didn't make too many enemies! I had RF problems. Every time I tried the amp, my keyboard hung up and if I hit F1 I might get F10 – hi! But I think the American Samoa QTH helped. *Larry, AH8LG*, 661 Q's, 40-10. •Friday night was the pits! Heard a lot of signals but even at 600 Watts not many were able to hear me. Saturday night - what a change! Played S&P and - WOW! - my rate jumped up to 56 per hour. Now I know how you big guns feel. That was fun! *Val, N7VGO*, 100 Q's, 40-10. •My first HF contest, first RTTY contest, and first RTTY contacts, too. It was fun; worked P40RY & VP5JM near the end of the contest but NO Europeans. *Doug, N6TQS*, 42 Q's, 40-10. •Good to see 10 and 15 meters open but not much from Europe. *Paul, W4EYJ*, 331 Q's, 80-10. •I live in a restricted neighborhood and had to use magnetic radiator antennas for 20, 15m &10 on the backyard wooden fence ("stealth antennas" tnx to K5RP & N5NUG). The score isn't great but I'm still able to do something. *Gale, KM4DR*, 211 Q's, 40-10. •Great contest! I finally convinced my Novice-class son Mike to join me in a Multi-Single. Once he got the hang of it, I had to fight him for the chair! We had a great time. *George, N7GC* & *Mike, KC7QJV*, 346 Q's, 80-10. •Sun spot predictions turned out correct. Friday I struggled at 9 per hour and gave up after 2 hours. Saturday and Sunday opened up 10 meters. I was happy to work another Utah station - #50 for RTTY WAS. *Wright, W4JLS*, 123 Q's, 40-10. •Way down from last year. Conditions were enough to drive one to drink … hic. *Raj, VE6RAJ*, 428 Q's, 80-10. •Friday started off slow with not a lot of activity. Saturday fared better, especially on 15. Sunday AM was slow, but managed P40RY, KH7R, HC8N, and FG5BG on 80. The EU run on 10 Sunday afternoon was "great"; 15 was better than I have seen lately. *Shelby, K4WW*, 621 Q's, 80-10. Great Contest. *Ed, K5ED* with *K5VI* & *K9RU*, 819 Q's, 80-10. •Crash! Had 2 computers linked and just after the savelog message appeared, one crashed and dumped the bin file. *Wally, KT1M @ KE1FO*.

•Very interesting propagation. I was surprised at RTTY activity from 21.058 to 21.120. Terrific! *Dave, K2YG*, 531 Q's, 80-10. •It was difficult to decide what band to operate as they were all open, full of multipliers. Great contest! *Tapani, OH2LU*, 573 Q's, 80-10. •Managed to work plenty of stateside. Pleased to get into CA a few times. Had a great time. Now for bed zzzzzzzz. *John, GW4KHQ*, 705 Q's, 80-10. •What a rotten start; almost packed it in. Nice to have 10 meters open both days. Lots of QSB - S9 to no-can-hear in seconds. Very low noise on 40 & 80, almost like winter. Had a nice J opening on 20 & 15 but still none on 40. *David, N2DL*, 874 Q's, 80-10. •Biggest bummer: US ops who work 1 point US stations without stopping to listen for the 3 pt Euros who are calling them!" *Bob, KI6DY/O*. •Shaky Saturday but by Sunday 10m was crowded. Wish people would remember to turn off the RIT! Biggest thrill: being called by XX9. Biggest disappointment: U.S. ops who sit there and work 1 point stateside Q's instead of listening for the 3-point Europeans calling them. *Mike, HA/W0YR*, Hungary 748 Q's, 80-10. •Good contest, but I went fishing on Sunday. *Tom, WA8RPK*, 334 Q's, 80-10).

•Friday evening began with horrible propagation but very low noise on 40 and 80. Saturday was very frustrating with poor conditions - drove to Louisiana for a square dance! The last two hours Sunday were wild, with many stations on 15 and 20. *AE5P*, 272 Q's, 80-10. •It was very nice to work EU again on 10. *N8JF*, 147 Q's, 40-10. •My first contest with over 1000 QSOs. Raising my tri-bander from 30' to 70' made a big difference over last year's score. It sure is fun to see the score jump 1200 points for each Q at the end. *Lloyd, NX4W*, 1021 Q's, 80-10. •Bad conditions and low activity on 80m the whole time. I ran the first hour with 700 Watts, then the balun melted. See you next contest with a stronger balun! *Walter, DL4RCK*, 230 Q's, 80. •An absessed tooth did wonders for keeping me awake! Enjoyed the contest, even the fight to keep "my" frequency. Will check log after diddle-diddle noise leaves my ears. *Roy, N4AN*, 538 Q's, 80-10. • Enjoyed the opening on 10. Only new country was HS0/JA6GIJ on 15m. *Wendell, VY2CC*, 156 Q's, 40-10. •I had fun S&P'ing and working everybody. *Bob, AA0CY*. •Great conditions over the weekend and great fun! BUT, why do thunderstorms only show up on contest weekends? *Len, VE3FJB*, 703 Q's, 80-10. •Great contest. Very windy in Wichita for the first 30 hours - played havoc with my antennas and rotor. Worked P40RY on all bands (free drink for me, Eddie), had good runs on 80, was called by 35 Germans in 45 minutes on 15. *Bob, KI6DY/0*, 772 Q's, 80-10. •My main radio is broken so I used my second one, and had a lot of fun with this little cigar box. *Waldemar, DK3VN*, 535 Q's, 80-10.

•Friday night was a bummer. Things picked up Saturday and Sunday, especially on 15. Not having a beam on 10 really hurt. Biggest thrill – working VR98BG. Biggest loss – not working the XX station. *Joe, K0BX*, 181 Q's, 80-10. •I nominate George, N7GC, and Mike, KC7QJV,for a special RTTY contest enthusiasm award. Great going guys. *Wally, KT1M*. •Good to see 10 in good shape and thanks for all who called me in the contest. *Hamad Al-Nusif, 9K2HN*, Kuwait City 487 Q's, 10m only. •This was my best score yet in this contest from my home QTH. Conditions for the most part were very good. Was happy to see the frequency spread utilized, especially above 21.100, *Jules, W2JGR/0*, 441 Q's, 80-10. •Strangest CQWW conditions I believe that I have ever seen - awful to outstanding all in one weekend. *Jay, WS7I*. •My first contest and lots of fun. *Jill Grokett, KE6YTT*, 370 Q's, 20m only. •Found stations to be worked on 3 bands at once, a pleasant problem! It was nice to have zero RFI operating low power. No system crashes, keyboard lockups, and other fun things. RTTY contesters are a remarkably skilled and polite group and a pleasure to be with. *Dick, N1RCT*, 1150 Q's, 80-10. •First contest with new log Yagi array (12 dB gain) and lots of new countries on 10. My first good opening on 10 on RTTY 80 & 40 were worse than last year - no new countries on these bands. *Pawel, SO7NMW*, 732 Q's, 80-10. •Good propagation on 15 but I had a problem with the transceiver. A very nice pleasure to work KH2, HC8, P40, XX9, and others. *Didier, F5NZO*, 264 Q's, 15m only).

•The high bands were full of surprises! Continuous up and down in propagation. *Bernd, DF3CB*, 1043 Q's, 80-10. •Had a slow start but then had a decent peak on 80. The high bands were mediocre at best throughout Saturday. 10m had very spotty (and interesting) openings. Things improved Sunday A.M. when I worked some Pacific stations, and even 2 JA's on 40 - very rare from this QTH. As usual, I heard K5DJ running JA's like there was no end to it, and I could just barely hear the loudest ones. Others commented on the good conditions for the start of the contest, but sure didn't seem that way here. *Barry, W2UP*, 1465 Q's, 80-10. •All time high QSO total for me. Most action was on 15, but it was great to hear and work those watery European signals on ten. I cannot hear the JA's that K5DJ works on 40. What torture! *Frank, N2FF*, 878 Q's, 80-10. •Highlight: working Europe on 10m at 10-11PM their time! Big signals! Was looking for 1000 QSO's. Batting down the hatches for the storm I got about 12 hours in. Worked all 50 states and 22 new ones on 10. 5BDXCC not far off! *Charles, KK5OQ*, 369 Q's, 80-10. •We ran two stations for the full contest. Using twelve operators increased the challenge. Everyone had a good time. The Florida Boys, *Jan , K4QD (&AF4Z, AH8R, K4AW, K4PX, KC4HW, KD4HHF, KE4MMI, KT4DI, HT4FY, WA4HDS, WT4I)*, 1570 Q's, 80-10.

•Friday started very slow; Saturday got better; Sunday was even better. We had a lot of fun, looking forward to the next one. *Ron, K5DJ (&WS7I, K7WM)*, 1696 Q's, 80-10. •My best score - with only a ground plane antenna. *Antonio, EA1MV*, 905 Q's, 80-10. Another good test from "the top of the world". *Aasmund, LA5TFA*, 367 Q's, 40-10. •I made contacts on all bands, but 15 & 20 were the most productive. Had a good time. *Wayne, KC1YF*, 400 Q's, 80-10. •Worked 24 of the 48 hours. Nice to be back again! *W1VXV*, 331 Q's, 80-10. •I was not able to get the aerials up at the new house and was limited to 100W into a piece of wire in the garden. *Julian, GW4JBQ*, 294 Q's, 80-10. •Great contest but with some strange propagation. *Giedrius, LY2CG*, 308 Q's, 80-10.

Conditions were bad at the start due to the flare. Conditions favored the high bands and 10 meters finally came alive for real on Sunday with decent EU rates. 20 meters actually shut down Sunday for several hours here. We just barely squeeked by our MM score from last year! Everyone had a good time and enjoyed operating the contest from Franks primo station (W3LPL). *Tyler, K3MM (@W3LPL); (&ops NO2T, NE3H, N8YYS, K4GMH, N3OC, N3UN, ND3F, W2GG, N3KTV)*, 2857 Q's, 80-10. •Good contest! *Gvan Amste, PI4CC*, 1022 Q's, 80-10. •We did more goofing off than operating, but it makes for a good way to kill a weekend and fill the log book.! *George, KQ4QM, & Doug, KF4KL*, 535 Q's, 80-10.

•I couldn't work as many hours this time but I managed to work a few new ones. *John, W2KI*, 686 Q's, 80-10. •The XX9 DXpedition September 28. We made 925 RTTY QSO's in the contest, and I (as XX9TJF) made about 350 before and after words. Conditions to the USA were not very good - only had a few short openings. We could not operate from VR2 (Hong Kong) as the hotel we stayed at would not allow us roof access for antennas. *Jon, WB8YJF (@XX9TYD)*, Macau. •First serious contest using new rig. 15 was super - opened at 6AM local time on both days. *Steve, N4SR*, 446 Q's, 80-10. •While the contest was fun, the post contest work of getting things sorted out still continues.The 40m computer went into an "ignore and play with toes" mode. We had to shut down, reconfigure all five stations for single node mode and restart. *Walt, AH6OZ (@KH7R), (with KH7R, KH7U, KH6ND, WH6XR, KH7L, AH7R)*, 1881 Q's, 80-10.

InterNET RTTY Sprint Contest (10/7/98):
•This was one fun contest - got the old cutthroat blood running! 20 was pretty good and when that went away 40 was usable but staticy. I'm not sure who was the loudest on 40 in Tacoma - WS7I or K3MM. *Val, N7VGO*, 53 Q's. •Wow, is it ever fun to copy RTTY through rain static. My first RTTY Sprint. *Roy, N8YYS*, 47 Q's. •Other than K3MM, 40 was a little slow. Ty always is loud here on that band. Only DX I found was AH8LG - kinda nice. *Jay, WS7I*, 83 Q's. •20 stunk here - way too late and long. Even 40 was pretty long. By the end of the contest, the loudest signal on 20 was AH8LG! Jay, WS7I, was consistently loud on both bands all the time. *Tyler, K3MM*. 69 Q's. •Boy I didn't hear much, it rained like crazy, and I got calls that were too early -lost some points and guess they did also. But it was fun! *Tom, WA8RPK*, 19 Q's. •First Sprint – enjoyed it. Good signals from the West Coast and AH8LG. Got an answer from A35SO to one of my CQ INT! *Mike, K4GMH*, 30 Q's. •Activity was a bit disappointing this year, and the WWV numbers burped, similar to the CQWW RTTY weekend (but not as bad). Everyone seemed to handle the QSY rule and exchange format well. Jay, WS7I, took good advantage of paired QSO's before QSYing – guess that's why he won. *Barry, W2UP*, 40 Q's.

JARTS WW RTTY Contest (10/17 & 10/18/98):
•Things are warm'n up. Nice to have such great openings on 10 and 15 to Europe. *J. Feustle, N8JF*, Age 55, 100 Q's, 20-10. •Hit 115/hr on 10, a good sign. I was disappointed with 80 until I went to rake the back yard and found the vertical loop under the leaves! *Dick, N1RCT*, 500 Q's, 80-10. •First time for this contest. Would have had more Q's but the power went out for the last two hours of the contest. It's nice to see 15 open so long and 10m activity as well. *Bart, VE5CPU*, 221 Q's, 80 & 20-10. •Thanks for a nice contest. I joined the Jamboree on the air the first day. Thanks for some "new ones"! *Paul, LA7CL*, Age 59 215 Q's, 40-10. •I started out to just play around a little I got sucked into the thrill of it all. Made over 300 Q's and even watched "Titanic" with the XYL Saturday afternoon. *Earl, N5ZM*, Age 55, 318 Q's, 20-10. •My vote for contest trooper is W6JOX who at the age of 80 worked me on all bands. Hope I'm still kicking at that age, let alone working guys on all bands. *Bob, KI6DY/0*, Age 36.

•Start of the contest I had a "power-off" complete shutdown. Had not saved the log. Fired up the computer again, started Win95 and WriteLog. Sweet dreams! It asked if I should restore the "journal of contacts". I answered "Y" and 39 Q's came back. *Jay, WS7I*, 400 Q's, 80-10. •Not great conditions. But, I had some very good QSO's. HL, HS0, and 5B4 along with others. *Mike, K4GMH*, Age 59, 307 Q's, 80-15. •Intermittent problems with the antenna, forced me to run low power on 15m. 10m was wide open to EU. Picked up countries #241 and 242 on 20m (JT1 and 9V8). Finished DXCC on 10m and 40, only 80m to go for 5BDXCC but did get three new ones on 80. *Charles, KK05Q*, Age 49, 664 Q's, 80-10. •Caught me with my antennas down! Used a 4 element mono-bander for 20 meters and a vertical. T24JA and 9V8ZB were new on RTTY. Sure missed the beams on 10 and 15. *Joe K0BX*, 196 Q's, 40-15). •Conditions were very good from Ohio. *WB8YJF*, 86 Q's, 10m only.

•27m/s high winds cut the power mains, but the system recovered without losing anything. Conditions on all bands were again good with 68

separate DXCC countries in the log. *Tapani, OH2LU*, 522 Q's, 80-10. •Finally a contest with no solar storms! 10 meters on both days was great. Worked JA's on 10, 15, & 20, many with great signals. Still none on 40 for me. *David, N2DL*, Age 57, 1028 Q's, 80-10. •Not much on 80; the usual 40 meter European run was not there. But, 10 and 15 more than made up for it - a sign of things to come. *Shelby, K4WW*, Age 56, 667 Q's, 80-10. •Saw AP2JT listed on the DX Summitt so went to find and work him. Instead I found JARTS in full cry and ¾ of the contest was over. Oh well, win some, lose some - and the rest get rained out. I worked 136 anyway (including AP2JT). *Roy, N4AN*, Age 69, 136 Q's, 20-10. •Thanks to all who had the patience to tolerate my 1st RTTY contest from the new QTH. I had an excellent time and was glad to see all the participation. *Joe, KR6NA*, Age 41, 83 Q's, 40-10.

•Great conditions for a change. Worked loads of new ones. Beat last year's effort by 200 Q's and almost doubled the score. Got hassled about my age by a couple of 4 landers on 15 so I moved to 20. You know who you are Roy and Mike. *Raj, VE6RAJ*, Age 99, 607 Q's, 80-10. •Youngest I worked was 15, and oldest, if you don't count Raj, was 80. *Kok Chen, AA6TY*. •Had a good weekend with all bands open. Didn't try 80. Where were the J's when you need them? *Wright, W4JLS*, Age 74, 196 Q's, 40-10. • I had a really good 20m run Sunday afternoon, and lots of good S&P. There are a lot of 57 year olds out there running RTTY. Managed to work a couple new ones. *Roy, N8YYS*, Age 57, 200 Q's, 80-10. •Lots of new countries for me, conditions are on the way up with 10 providing 137 Q's alone. 15 was very good, 20 was variable, but good to the US on Sunday evening. 40 and 80 were used mainly to gain multipliers. Isn't RTTY a lovely club to belong to? *John, GW4KHQ*, Age 58, 729 Q's, 80-10. •Two days of good propagation! Did not run from the contest site at PI4C, but this time from my home QTH, a flat building with a poor antenna farm. But, I enjoyed it very much. *Hans, PA0VHA*, Age 51, 460 Q's, 40-10. •Great and fun contest. My son and I again had a neat time. He ran ten meters while I fumbled around on the other bands. Lozza good mults and excellent to fair conditions. *George, N7GC*, 420 Q's, 80-10.
•At last conditions were great for all the time I operated! What a surprise to work all 10 US call areas on 10m. Highlights for me were AH8LG and KL7AC! Why-oh-why do stations send my callsign 5 or 6 times, yet their own only once? *Phil, GU0SUP*, Age 45, 260 Q's, 40-10. •Antenna system problems precluded taking advantage of the 10 meter opening. W98ITU is a Special Event callsign of the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference being held in Minneapolis. *Jules, W98ITU (W2JGR)*, Age 80, 724 Q's, 80-15. •Friday night I was at a birthday party and came home at daylight. I needed many hours for my "beauty sleep". So I started in the contest on 12:30 UTC on Saturday. I am sure I missed many good QSO's and many points. However, with this little "handicap" I was lucky to see 10 open both days. Many who responded to my CQ's, didn't tune exactly to my QRG ("Zero-beat"). Sometimes they were up to 100Hz off my QRG. Almost all times I had to keep one hand on the RIT. *Waldemar, DK3VN*, Age 46, 447 Q's, 80-10. •I was pleased to work 3 new ones during the test – GU, HS0, and YB. *George, KQ4QM*, 650 Q's, 80-10. •It was great to see 10 & 15 open. *Don, AA5AU*, Age 41, 408 Q's, 40-10. •Great to see 10 open to JA this year. Highlight QSO was JT1KAA on 20. *NA2M*, Age 69, 358 Q's, 40-10.

A Contesting Adventure

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WEBSTER'S Dictionary describes ADVENTURE as: an exciting and dangerous experience that is remembered; an unusual experience. The recent contesting effort of K5DJ at W5KFT with team members Ron-K5DJ, Jay-WS7I, and Wayne-K7WM fits the description well except in the "dangerous" area as the only danger involved was travel and perhaps Leonard…(more on him later)

As with all serious contesting efforts, a lot of planning goes on very early. For example, team members, location, class to enter, equipment, etc. As this was the CQ/RJ WW we were talking about, we didn't feel March was too early to start the planning process: we just *had* to do something. The e-mail was flying and various locations were discussed and discarded, locations such as: the Caribbean (hurricane season), Monte Carlo (too much distraction), Bouvet (too cold), New Guinea (to wild) and the list went on. Finally, the perfect location was discussed, W5KFT at the Ranch. As each of us had operated from the Ranch before, our prior experience would help the effort. Ron was asked to contact Bryan, W5KFT, and see if The Ranch would be available and if we could impose upon him to use his contest station. Bryan being a real gentleman, said sure, and have fun doing it (thanks Bryan).
For those unfamiliar with The Ranch, a brief description is in order as it has to be one of the most beautiful contest sites there is. The Ranch is in Texas (of course) and is 2600 acres in size. It has 5-6 miles of lake frontage on Lake Buchanan and is covered with trees of all description. Wildlife such as deer, javalina, cattle, eagles, monarch butterflies, buzzards, and of course Leonard, a huge Red Brangus bull, all roam and fly freely about. The main ranch house and guest house are set away from the small house (as the radio shack is called). For frontage view, you have Lake Buchanan about 200' away, manicured lawns, spreading oak trees, spectacular views, and numerous towers with stacks of antennas. The "shack" includes air conditioning, kitchen, bathroom with shower, TV, Internet, beds, radios, amps, and hard-line. What more could serious contesters want?

Now that we had a location, serious preparation began. Ron e-mailed Jay and myself with information about the new towers and antennas that he and George, K5TR (Station Master Extraordinaire), were assembling and installing. Ron gave us details about all the tower base holes and guy wire mount holes that he had to dig to set them all in concrete. Jay and I responded with encouragement and messages of: "Yea yea." "Keep digging Ron." "Go for it." "Make that dirt fly." "Get em all up." and (sic) "Wish we were there to help."

Thursday, September the 24th finally came and it was time to travel. Jay and I headed to Austin. Jay leaving from Spokane and me from Cibola. Getting anywhere from Cibola requires driving for at least 3 hours and that's what it took to get to Phoenix and Southwest Airlines. The flight was only 2 hours. I think Jay had Betsy take him to the airport or perhaps he walked. We arrived in Austin and Ron was there to pick us up in his new "Cowboy Cadillac" (for the uninitiated, that's a pick-up truck).

From there, we headed to Ron's house to say hello to Wanda, (Ron's better half) and for what Jay and I thought was to load a "few" items. We knew something was amiss when Ron wanted us to back his new truck down between his house and the fence to get as close as possible to his radio shack's door. The clearance is about 2 bicycles wide, with air conditioners, huge trees, towers, fences, and shrubs on both sides. Jay and I flipped to see who would be responsible for providing the necessary hand signals for the backing up operation, realizing that once the driver was there, he had to go back out (hopefully). Folding the truck mirrors in and taking a deep breath, here he came. Wasn't too bad and should only take Ron 3 or 4 days labor to repair or replace what was destroyed.

Opening the shack door revealed huge boxes from Kachina Communications that were to be transported to The Ranch for the DX-BASH which Bryan sponsors each year and which was to be the weekend after CQWW. Kachina was to give a seminar and demonstration at the DX-BASH and the boxes contained all their computers, radios, big monitors, projection screens, and ??? in some 12 boxes in all. Now as Jay and I hadn't anticipated any manual labor, this required contemplation on our part. After some skillful negotiations and threats of physical violence, (from Ron) the boxes were loaded. With the additional loading of spare parts, extra cables, keyboards, etc. we were on our way. After a short stop at a local supermarket for groceries and liquid refreshment, we started the 60 mile drive to the Ranch as darkness was falling.

When we arrived at the entrance to The Ranch, it was totally dark. You have to experience a “Texas Total Dark” to really appreciate what total darkness can be. The road into the ranch is a well maintained single lane graveled road which wanders between the scrub oaks, big oaks, and mesquite trees. In some areas there are no shoulders due to water from Lake Buchanan. In other areas, the yard is bordered by trees. In some stretches there is no passing and if there is a “meet” someone has to back up. We were progressing slowly due to the numerous wildlife and cattle mentioned earlier.

At one of the "no shoulder" areas, what did we find? Leonard, the huge bull, laying smack dab in the middle of the road, chewing his cud and enjoying the warmth of the gravel. Well, Ron figured if he just eased up on him, Leonard would move. It was soon apparent that Ron and Leonard weren't thinking the same as Leonard just laid there blissfully ignoring us. Ron next figured that one of us should get out and try to get Leonard to move. Ron was driving and he figured he wouldn't have to get out. What he didn't figure was that Jay and I weren't getting out either. Ron's next thought was he would lay on the horn and make old Leonard move and, if nothing else, drive him insane (it was suggested it might also make him mad). On came the horn and after about 2 minutes of blasting in the very quiet Texas darkness, Leonard’s hind quarters and tail slowly started appearing above the hood, (cattle get up this way, butt first). Then, just as slowly, here came the horns. Leonard’s bull eyes stared straight into the cab of the truck. I told Ron that Leonard was looking at him because that's where the horn button was. Still no movement by Leonard, he just stood there and stared, like he was trying to make up his mind as to whether to put his horns into Ron's radiator or not. At this point, discretion became the better part of valor and Ron shifted into reverse. But, contestors luck was with us and Leonard decided we weren't worth further effort. He slowly but majestically, moved off the road. On to the shack we went.

There at last, Ron shut the engine off, turned off the lights, and we just sat in the total quiet and darkness, looking at lights and stars reflecting off Lake Buchanan. Time to go to work. Lights on in the Shack, porch light on, and start unloading. Prior experience from the auto sprinkler system coming on in the middle of night meant everything had to be unloaded or it would be very wet the next morning. Finally everything was inside and it was time to sit on the porch and enjoy.

Morning came and the first order of business was to view all the holes Ron had dug. Out we went. Just around the corner of the shack, the first tower has stacks of 10m beams, 4 over 4 over 4 over 4 with some 20m 5 over 5’s thrown in. Looking up we did a double back flip: the antennas were covered with approximately 200 turkey buzzards. Masts and elements were bowed and bent downward and the buzzards had their backs to the sun with their wings spread and feathers fluffed out to dry. Here we were looking up, and there they were looking down. All of them! Hmm - time to move! We knew better than to stand right under them. No amount of yelling or jumping had any effect. What to do? Perhaps 1500 Watts of RF and rotating the beams would work. We rapidly hooked up the equipment and all electrical connections, threw the station power on and started our harassment program. Have you ever rotated a beam loaded with buzzards? It worked! In small bunches they left and flew to a small point on the lake, with their backs to the sun, staring at us. Soon they were all gone and the next order of business was to down some food and coffee, finish the connections, and make ready for the start of the contest.

Pre-contest strategy was to have operating shifts of 2 hours on the run station, 2 hours on the mult station, and 2 hours rest. The contest started this way and was running smoothly. All the bands were hot and both stations were busy. Ahhh, the smell of RF and the sound of the power supplies and amps running and humming away. Nirvana! The first 24 hours progressed rapidly. With the bands slowing down, 2 hour rest shifts, and tired butts, contesting comments were getting sharp. For example, "Why didn't you pass that mult?" "I got excited and forgot." "There is a mult coming to your frequency." "What frequency?" "21.084" "I'm not on 21.084, I'm on 28.081." "What frequency you on?" "3.580" "H??? said he would go, look for him." "I'm looking." "Where's he at?" "Call him." "I'm moving up and down frequency looking." "He must have a noodle for an antenna." "Wait, there he is.", "No it’s one of the Florida boys." "Man, with the hurricane they got, they must have their antennas on boats." "Wayne get in here and operate." "No!, I'm watching the deer down on the Lake." "You come operate and I'll go watch the deer." "Get Ron out of bed, it’s his turn on the mult station." "Ron, get up." "No!!!!" "If you get up, I’ll fix breakfast for you." I knew food would work! 8 eggs, 3 very spicy polish sausages (diced and scrambled), a half loaf of bread, and pot of coffee did the trick. Ron and Jay were soon fed. I had my bowl of mush and coffee. "Man, them buzzards are still sitting out there staring at us." "Stare back at them." " I am but it’s spooky after 3 days of staring."… and on and on it went.

Finally it was time to quit contesting, cool everything down, and disconnect what we weren't going to use DXing that evening. We listened to the quiet and sat on the porch and reminisced, watching the Ospreys looking for a late snack on the Lake. We could even watch the deer without getting yelled at now. We planned to stay the night and load everything in the morning - everything except the Kachina equipment. Slept in and arose late. Had coffee and loaded everything, washed all the dishes and vacuumed, stripp ed the beds and resheeted. Time to depart from The Ranch, have lunch, and then make for the airport. NUTS, when's the next one?

Footnotes: Many thanks to: Bryan, W5KFT, for his usual hospitality and generosity; Bryans Mother, Mrs. Edwards, for her graciousness and putting up with us crazy contestors; George, K5TR, for all the effort he puts into the station; Wayne, W5XD, author of WriteLog Contesting Software for fixing the problem of "What frequency you’re on" problem. Now all frequencies of each radio are displayed on each monitor. Thanks Wayne. Isn't contesting fun?

See you on the bands and give me a call in remote Cibola,AZ.

73 de Wayne, K7WM

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The 4th Annual World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest

Sponsored by The New RTTY Journal

February 13-14th, 1999

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday - Ends 2400 UTC Sunday

I. OBJECTIVE.
To contact as many other Amateurs around the world, using RTTY Baudot only.

II. OPERATING TIMES.
For SINGLE OPERATOR and MULTI-SINGLE, only 30 hours of the 48 hour contest period are permitted. Off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes in length and be clearly marked in the log. MULTI-MULTI and MULTI-TWO stations may operate the full 48 hours.

III. BANDS.
Only 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHZ bands may be used.

IV. CATEGORIES.
A. SINGLE OPERATOR, ALL BANDS, HIGH POWER.
B. SINGLE OPERATOR, ALL BANDS, LOW POWER, (less than 150W)
C. SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND, NO POWER CLASSES.
D. MULTI OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER, ALL BANDS, NO POWER CLASSES.
E. MULTI OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTERS, ALL BANDS, NO POWER CLASSES.
F. MULTI OPERATOR, MULTI TRANSMITTERS, ALL BANDS, NO POWER CLASSES.
G. S.W.L.

NOTES:
1. SINGLE OPERATOR means, ONE person performs all the operating and logging.
2. All SINGLE OPERATOR categories are permitted only ONE signal on the air at a time.
3. CATEGORY D. Only ONE transmitter and only ONE band permitted during the same time period, defined as 10 minutes.
4. CATEGORY E. A maximum of two transmitted signals are allowed, as long as each transmitter is on a different band. Once each transmitter has started operating on it's selected band, it must remain on that band for at least 10 minutes. Listening time counts as operating time. Both transmitters may contact all stations heard, the second transmitter is not restricted to working new multipliers only. Each transmitter must keep a separate, chronological log of the entire contest period. Violation of the 10 min. rule or improper logging by one or both transmitters, will result in reclassification to the multi-multi class.
5. CATEGORY F. No limit to the number of transmitters but only ONE signal permitted per band.
6. SWLs are required to log the callsigns of both the heard and correspondent station. Scores are calculated only upon the heard station, using the same rules as transmitting stations. A callsign may not appear more than three (3) times, as a correspondent.
7. All transmitters must be located within a 500 meter diameter or within property limits, of the station licensee's address, whichever is greater. All antennas must be physically connected by wires to the transmitters and receivers.

V. Any form of DX alerting assistance is permitted an ALL categories.

VI. EXCHANGE.
RST and a progressive three-digit serial number, starting with 001. Continue to four digits if necessary.

VII. POINTS.
A. Contacts between stations on different continents are worth three (3) points on 28, 21, and 14 Mhz, and six (6) points on 7, 3.5 Mhz.
B. Contacts between stations on the same continent but different countries and contacts with Maritime Mobile stations are worth two (2) points on 28, 21, and 14 Mhz and four (4) points on 7,3.5 Mhz.
C. Contacts between stations in the same country are worth one (1) point on 28, 21, and 14 Mhz, and two (2) points on 7, 3.5 Mhz.

VIII. MULTIPLIERS.
Each VALID PREFIX is counted as a multiplier. Multipliers are counted only ONCE, not once per band, i.e. NO band multipliers. However, the same station may be contacted on other bands for additional points credit.

IX. PREFIXES.
The letter/number combination which forms the first part of the callsign will be considered the PREFIX. Examples: N8, W8, AB8,DL5, DJ2, HG1, WD200, WF96, 3DA0, GB75, ZS66, U3 etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering or order of same, shall constitute a separate prefix. A station operating from a DXCC country different from that indicated by its callsign, MUST sign portable. The portable prefix must be an authorized prefix for the country or call area of operation. In the case of portable operation, the portable designator will become the prefix.
Example: AB5KD operating from Wake Is. MUST sign AB5KD/KH9 or H9/AB5KD.
AMERICAN DX i.e. KL7, KH6, KP2, KH3 etc. operating within the 48 states, MUST sign with a FULL designator of their choice.
Example: KL7xx/W7 or any other prefix authorized for use in the U.S. 7th call district, i.e. KL7xx/WY7.
UNITED STATES portables are NOT permitted to select a portable designator. E.g. WS7I/2 is correct, but WS7I/WY5 or WY6/WS7I is NOT.
PORTABLE DESIGNATORS, without numbers will be assigned a zero (0) after the second letter of the designator to form the prefix. WS7I/PA would become WS7I/PA0. All calls without numbers will be assumed a zero (0) after the first two letters to form the prefix. Examples. XEFTJW would count as XE0, RAEM would count as RA0, etc. /A, /E, /J, /P, /M, /MM, /QRP are NOT valid WPX prefixes. Special event, commemorative, and other prefix stations are encouraged to participate.

X. SCORING.
1. SINGLE OPERATOR.
(a) All Band score: total QSO points from all bands multiplied by the number of different Prefixes worked.
(b) Single Band score: QSO points on the band multiplied by the number of different Prefixes worked on the same band.
2. MULTI-OPERATOR stations. Scoring in both these categories is the same as the All Band scoring for Single Operator.

XI. LOW POWER CATEGORY. (Single operator only) Output must not exceed 150 watts. You must indicate Low Power in the summary sheet.

XII. AWARDS.
Certificates will be awarded to the highest scoring station in each category listed under Section IV. of the rules.
1. In every participating country.
2. In each call area of the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Japan.
3. All scores will be published. However to be eligible for an award, a Single Operator station must show a minimum of 12 hours of operation. Multi-Operator stations must operate a minimum of 18 hours. Plaques will be awarded only to serious contest efforts.

Decisions of the contest chair are final. Contestants are permitted to submit only ONE CATEGORY log for plaque or certificate consideration. However, SINGLE BAND entrants, are allowed to operate on other bands, to encourage activity. Any logs other than their chosen band log, will be used as check logs.

XIII. PLAQUES.
Plaques will be awarded to highest score in:
Catagory A: World, USA, NA, SA, OC, AF, EU, AS, VE, and JA.
Catagory B: World, USA, NA, SA, OC, AF, EU, AS, and VE.
Catagory C: Highest worldwide each band, 10-80m.
Catagory D: World, USA, NA, SA, OC, EU, AS and VE.
Catagory E: World, USA, NA, SA, OC, and EU.
Catagorie F: World, EU and SA.
Rookie Best all around performance by a new comer to RTTY contesting.

XIV. LOG INSTRUCTIONS.
1. All times must be in UTC. Rest periods MUST be CLEARLY marked in the LOG. See paragraph XV for penalties.
2. Single Operator and Multi single logs must be submitted in chronological order.(QSO nr 001,002 etc). Multi multi logs must be submitted chronologically by band. Multi two must submit seperate chronological logs for each transmitter.
3. Prefix Multipliers should be entered only the first time they are contacted and must be clearly marked.
4. Logs should be checked for duplicate contacts, correct points, and prefix multipliers. Duplicate contacts must be shown.
5. A dupe sheet in alphanumeric order showing all callsigns, worked and a prefix list, must be submitted by all entrants.
6. Each entry must be accompanied by a summary sheet listing all scoring information,the category of competition, and the contestant's name, postal address if possible, and e-mail address. Also submit a declaration that all contest rules and regulations for amateur radio in the country of the contestant, have been observed.
7. Official logs and sample summary sheets are available. A large self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage or IRC's must accompany your request. Contest software, e.g. RTTY by WF1B, Rttyrite Contest S/W for Windows and OH2GI-HAM SYSTEM is available and they are considered adequate logging software for this contest.
8. Contest logs may be submitted via e-mail, on a MS-DOS compatible 3 1/2 floppy disk, or on paper. Logs must contain the required information. Date, Time, Band, Call, RST & NR Sent, RST & NR Recd, Multiplier, and QSO Points.
9. E-mail logs may be compressed and must be named with your callsign, (OH2LU.ZIP). These logs may be file attached and MIME encoded. An e-mail confirmation will be sent. Users of RTTY by WF1B software should submit: xxx.ALL, xxx.SUM, xxx.WPX and xxx.DUP files, where xxx is your callsign.
Users of Rttyrite Contest S/W for Windows submit: xxx.TXT, xxx.DUP, xxx.SUM and xxx.WPX.
OH2GI-HAM SYSTEM users submit: SUMMARY.LST, LOGI.LST and DUPI.LST.
10. Electronic logs must be plain text files. No BIN or any other format will be accepted.

XV. DISQUALIFICATION.
Violations of amateur radio regulations in the country of the contestant, or the rules of the contest, unsportsmanlike conduct, taking credit for excessive duplicate contacts, non-verifiable QSO's or multipliers will be deemed sufficient cause for disqualification. Incorrectly logged calls will be counted as non-verifiable contacts. A penalty of 10% of the corrected score, will be deducted from entrants who do not indicate their off times in the LOG. An entrant whose log is deemed by the Contest Committee to contain a large number of errors may be disqualified. The contest committee's decisions are final.

XVI. DEADLINE.
Entries must be postmarked no later than Tuesday 16th March, 1999.

Mail Contest Entries and Logs or Disks to:
Eddie Schneider W6/G0AZT
1826 Van Ness
SAN PABLO, CA 94806
USA

E-mail logs to: edlyn@global.california.com
All e-mail logs received will be confirmed via the WF1B reflector all others send a SAS postcard for confirmation.

For WPX rules, log forms or information contact:
Wayne Matlock K7WM
RT2,Box 102,
CIBOLA, AZ 85328
USA

Please enclose an SASE or SAE + return postage. Or e-mail: k7wm@redrivernet.com

PSYCO-BABBLE and the KQ4 God

•BTW, does anybody else start talking to the other RTTY ops near the end of the contests? *George KQ4QM.* •Well, I do all the time. Not only at the end but when things are slow in general - chatter activity on the band always generates a few QSO's. *Raj, VE6RAJ.* •Raj et al, George wasn't talking about chatting via RTTY. I can tell you from experience – George literally talks out loud to people. What he says depends on the situation, but I've heard him lambast people for trying to steal his frequency, holler at people when they didn't get the exchange right, and beg and plead for the propagation gods to raise that JT1's signal half an S-unit. It goes on and on, but the longer a contest goes and the more pop George consumes, the surlier he gets. It's pretty comical. Funny thing is that George can go from full surly to sound asleep on the couch in the time it takes to ask "do you want me to run 'em for a while?" *Doug, KF4KL.* •Obviously you guys don't go into a contest stupor like I do. I didn't mean rag-chewing on RTTY during the contest. I meant what I said "talking to the other RTTY ops". Things like: "You BOZO I know I am KQ4QM KQ4QM, KQ4QM. Who the heck are you?" "You stupid Packet Rats. You're not gonna run me off this frequency so go away!" Actually, I say a lot of things I won't repeat here! *George, KQ4QM.* •Ohhh… I see! Well. We will all be more careful when working the KQ4. We don't want the KQ4 gods mad at us with WPX around the corner. We may want to offer the caffeine-free stuff to George. *Raj, VE6RAJ.*

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WANTED: Original copies of the RTTY JOURNAL prior to 1970 for donation or borrow. The New RTTY Journal, P.O. Box 236, Champaign, IL 61824-0236

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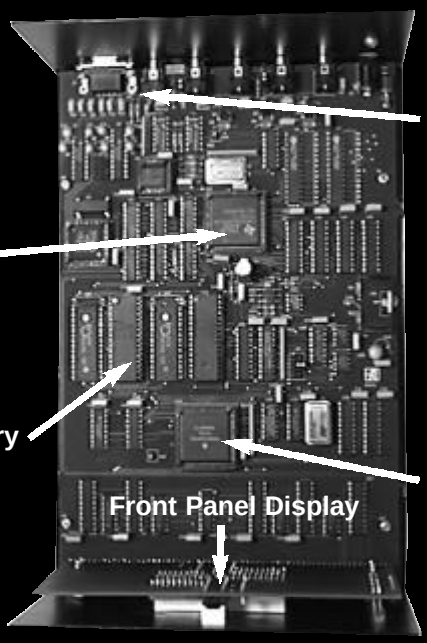

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