



The *ORC* Newsletter

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From the President

de Kevin Steers (K9VIN)



On the Air: Snowmobiling is competing with my on air activities in the Northwoods these days. While I still hold a Friday evening sched with a small group, I have not been scanning the higher bands during the day as I once had. I was pleasantly surprised to make a good number of armchair contacts during the recent 160M contest. My iPhone logging app made it so simple, as I don't have an official bench/computer setup currently.

On the Bench: A while back I picked up an automobile computer mount that bolts to the bottom of the passenger car seat. I have since mounted it to some lumber, and it holds a laptop conveniently while I sit on my couch. When I was at Dayton last year I spied another computer mount, apparently from a service vehicle; It was so heavy duty, the man nearly gave it to me. I am having a friend cut and weld a piece for it, so I can mount this one in my car and be back to mobile HF during my frequent travels.

Be sure to start planning for Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio. Now is the time to get in good graces with your significant other, and squirrel away mad money for the trip. I'll be sure to bring it up at the next meeting to see who is going, who has room, and when they are leaving.

Also, our Spring Swapfest is coming, so start looking at the treasures you may want to part with.

73, K9VIN
Kevin

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



Last month I discussed the ill-fated 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island. Running on their one remaining engine at about half speed they were finally able to make it to Cape Town South Africa. They spend 31 days on the boat in heavy Antarctic seas. The ops have flown home. They are determined to try again, perhaps in the next year.

The other big thing was the addition of Kosovo (Z6) to the ARRK DXCC list. Because it was new, by definition, it was the new #1 needed DXCC entity. Well, there has been a lot of activity out of Kosovo. So far, I have worked it on 4 bands and on CW,

SSB and Digital (FT8). They have even been on for a couple of contests.

Because of the activity it has dropped down to #14 on the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List. North Korea (P5) and Bouvet (3Y0) have returned to their #1 and #2 positions. ClubLog keeps track of the most needed DXCC countries. ClubLog is a great resource to DXers. The URL is <https://clublog.org>. You can sign up for a free account and upload your logs to them. You can join club leagues where you can see how you stand up compared to other members on countries worked and confirmed. I am members of the GMDXA, SMC and ARRL club leagues.

Based on the logs received, they can extract information on how each DXCC country is overall, by band and mode. This is much more accurate than the old surveys that used to be the source of rarity data. With over 300 countries it took a lot of work to fill out the survey on what bands you needed everyone on. A lot of DXpeditions upload their logs to ClubLog. Wait a half day or so and you can enter your call to see if the contact you made is in their log or not. Sometimes you are not 100% sure they got your call correct or something else happened that you didn't complete the QSO. Allowing DXers to check if they are in the log helps prevent unneeded "insurance contacts". Every duplicate QSO with a DXpedition is one less contact that someone else can make. It is also fun to spy on your competition and see if they have worked the DXpedition yet. Other ORC members who are ClubLog users are K9DJT and W9MXQ.

There are some other features on ClubLog worth looking into. Check it out!

If you were on for the ARRL DX Contest (phone) the first weekend this month you got a chance to see what propagation conditions we can expect the next few years. The solar flux was 68. Looking at historical data from the last minimum, the lowest daily SF number was 65.0 in September of 2007. The upper 60's is a typical average for the minimum. Most solar cycle models have us hitting the actual minimum in 2019 or 2020. We won't know for sure for about a year or so after it happens. This is because they average the sunspot number +/- 6 months to filter out the noise.

Bad radio conditions are not the only effect from low sunspots. The solar wind increases with sunspot activity. A recent report shows that the number of cosmic rays hitting the earth is increasing at an alarming rate because of low sunspot activity. Cosmic rays are very high energy particles from deep space. Like all ionizing radiation, cosmic rays can cause cell damage.

The atmosphere blocks some cosmic rays, but as the amount we get increases, more will reach the ground. People who fly a lot may have higher risk. This trend will decrease the time astronauts can remain in space. As if we need another thing to worry about.

Despite the lack of sunspots, hams continue to go on DXpeditions. March has a good assortment. The first one is to Revilla Gigedo. Normally this uses prefix XF4, but the call is 4B4B. This island is west of Mexico. They are on the air now and will continue until the end of the month. 160-6M, SSB.

Zimbabwe is currently on the air by a group of Norwegian hams using the callsign Z2LA. I have heard them a couple of times, but they have been weak so far. Hopefully we will get some better propagation before they leave on March 11. They are on 160-10M, CW and SSB.

Macao is being activated by a large group of Brazilian hams March 8-March 17. They will be running 3 stations 24 hours per day on 160-10M. I don't hold out too much hope on this one because it is a very tough path. Our best shot will probably be 20 meters, but 40 meters long path around sunset might work as well.

A large group of German hams are currently on Easter Island. They have been very active. 160-10M, CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. They will be there, using the call XROYD until March 15. Like Z3LA, 4B4B, and XX9B they will be posting logs to ClubLog.

Benin will be activated as TY7C from March 7 through March 18. This is being put on by a group of primarily French ops. Look for them on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

Equatorial Guinea and hopefully Annobon Island will be on this month. The group has been very active from Equatorial Guinea since the start of the month as 3C3W. A group of YL ops (Lithuania, not Young Ladies) will be on 160-10M, CW, SSB and RTTY. They hope to go to Annobon Island and operate as 3C0W. Originally, they were hoping to go on March 5, but that fell through. Now they are hoping to for a flight on March 10. You can follow their activities on their web page at http://www.lral.lv/3c0w_3c3w/index.html.

Another African operation is to Malawi, 7Q7EI, by a group of Irish hams. The dates are March 23-April 2. 160-10M, SSB, CW, and RTTY. They will be using ClubLog.

Yet another African DXpedition is scheduled to the Cameroons. Primarily an Italian operation, they will use the callsign TJ3TT from March 15-29. 160M-10M, CW, SSB, and RTTY.

The most important DXpedition this month, at least in my mind is to the Spratly Islands. This is a group of small islands and reefs in the South China Sea. The islands are claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, China, Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia. The islands have economic value for oil reserves and fishing. Increasingly China has been exercising its might by dredging the bottom to form man made islands for military bases. Their aim is to control the shipping through the area. The US has been increasing its naval presence there to guarantee freedom of the seas.

The dispute cost the lives of two German hams and some crew members when their ship was shelled by Vietnamese gun ships in the area in a 1983 DXpedition. At least on other DXpedition the ship had to turn back after encountering military forces of one of the countries claiming ownership. They had permission from another country to be there.

Hopefully the 2018 DXpedition will not have any of these troubles. It is being put on by a large international group of about 20 hams from 10 countries. The announced dates were March 6-

March 13 but apparently they had flight delays so the schedule may be delayed. They will be on CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6M. The call sign will be 9M0W. This will be another tough one propagation wise. The best band will probably be 20 or 30 Meters.

With all the interesting DXpeditions this month, we don't need a lot of contests. The big one was the ARRL DX Contest (Phone) earlier this month. *Coming up next is the Wisconsin QSO Party. This one can be a lot of fun since we are the ones everybody wants to work. It starts Sunday March 11 from 1:00-8:00 PM local time. Don't forget we change to Daylight Savings Time that day! Basically, you work everyone and send your county. Stations outside Wisconsin send their state. You can work each station again on each band and each mode. Modes are CW and phone. You can check out the rules at https://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_pkg.pdf*

The other remaining big contest is the CQ WPX Phone contest, starting at 0000Z March 25 and running for 48 hours. Single ops can only operate 36 hours with minimum off times of 60 minutes though. You can work everyone, but points can range from 1-6 depending on the location of the other station and the band used. Multipliers are the number of unique callsign prefixes. Having a call like W9XT is good in most contests, but W9 won't generate any pileups in WPX. Full rules are at <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>.

That wraps up March. There are a lot of things to do on the radio this month. March's space weather came in like a lion. Will it stay a lion all month?

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 241: Adware Cleaner

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I consider this little adjunct program a real gift. Completely free, this little ditty was written by the Malwarebytes team and given to us as simply a present. It may have no ribbons, but it does a job that is quick, efficient, and unparalleled. Furthermore, you don't have to install it. Just download it (it comes directly as an .exe file) and run it. Stash it anywhere you like (my copy is in my Cleaning & Security folder, accessed by clicking an icon that is always on my desktop). Run it every month or two or three, and you will be clean.

So, what does it do? It deletes several different classes of malware, especially those associated with your use of the Internet. Of course, **adware** is the first of those. Nasty little bits of code that will shove unwanted ads in your face no matter what you are trying to do. Second, it will get rid of **unwanted toolbars** in your browser, like the Google toolbar that seems to be installed whether you want it or not. Third, it will remove a class of malware called **PUPs**, which is the acronym for **Potentially Unwanted Programs** (this is the program's real forte, which it does using its own expert lists of such bad stuff). Finally, it will remove **browser hijackers**, those bits of code that, for example, try to make you use Google as your browser when your real browser of choice is Firefox. A nice list of annoying "pains" that you don't need for distractions in your life. You simply need to fight back with this little program.

Furthermore, aside from getting rid of those annoyances, it may well speed up your machine. If you have been noticing your machine seems more sluggish of late when browsing, or even when not just browsing, it may be due to these unwanted programs adding extra memory demands and just plain slowing things down. One cleaning may help, and it is easy to do. Furthermore, the stuff Malwarebytes writes is safe. I use them for my virus protection, and I pay a welcome fee for it. In other words, I trust them explicitly.

Where do you get it? Majorgeeks, of course. Go to <http://www.majorgeeks.com/>, look in the left column for Anti-Malware and select it. Then select the Malware Removal and Repair subcategory and choose from the listings AdwCleaner (the latter is the actual name of the program). Download it and run it. Good stuff.

[Happy Computing!](#)

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



This article shows the second product line by The Hallicrafters Company to move into the market created by Collins Radio Company and their S-Line Receiver, Transmitter, and Transceiver. Hallicrafters reinvented themselves in the release of their first installment, the SR-150 Transceiver that we detailed last month. Next, they released their SX-117 Receiver and HT-44 Transmitter. Like Collins, Hallicrafters focused on styling, ergonomics, and competitive performance in the new product entry. They kept the band coverage shown in the Collins 75S-1 while expanding the SX-117 a step beyond the Collins to cover the Broadcast Band and 160 meters – when properly optioned. Below you can see the Hallicrafters SX-117 and HT-44 station – with most of the related accessories – in operation at

W9MXQ . . .



HT-44 Transmitter with the HA-8 Splatter Guard on top, PS-150-120 Speaker/Power Supply with the HA-1 'TO Keyer on top, SX-117 Receiver with the HA-10 LF/MF Tuner on top. Also, see the Astatic D-104 Microphone and Vibroplex VibroKeyer

(Picture mimics my first sight of this station – for the record, I never stack radios!!)

(This is a W9MXQ Shack Photo)

Hallicrafters was, in the late 1950's and into the 1960's, one of the largest producers of ham radio equipment and accessories in the world. In 1965, advertisements in QST and CQ Magazine showed the same station as above. That same advertising made the point that 1965 was Hallicrafters' 31st year in business. They told us that they had "19 products to answer any amateur requirement." They said their closest competition had "less than half that number." Much of their business was concentrated in the United States, but the company had a global reach with cus-

tomers all over the “free world.” Hallicrafters was widely known for publicity generating events – including sponsorship of DX-Peditions and many events collaborating with the United States Air Force and other government agencies.

In 1962, the SX-117 Receiver was released to the market. At the time, the matching HT-44 Transmitter was a year away – and unannounced. Hindsight always being 20-20, an astute reader of technical specifications of the SX-117 at the time would perhaps have noticed that the receiver had a transmitter type VFO and back panel connections that betrayed its planned connection to a separate and matching transmitter. Sure enough, in 1963, along came the anticipated HT-44 Transmitter that did indeed interconnect with the SX-117. Those connections allowed frequency control of the HT-44 by the Transmitter or the Receiver. At the time, both Collins and Hallicrafters allowed completely split operation or transceiver control by the receiver VFO. Later, some manufactures would allow transceive control by either the transmitter or receiver VFO in addition to separate control. Another feature of the Hallicrafters SX-117/HT-44 combination is that they worked well in transceive on CW with a proper offset built into the frequency scheme. But, I must add that my friend, Bob, W9DYQ, would tell you that no self-respecting CW operator would operate this pair as a transceiver in Morse code operation! I must add that Hallicrafters upstaged Collins with the addition of a Notch filter – a point not ignored by Collins who added a Rejection Tuning (Q-Multiplier) feature to their upgraded 75S-3 Receiver.

In parallel to this new line, Hallicrafters also continued to produce “big iron” for the ham radio market due to their popularity. The famous Collins 75A-4 Receiver and KWS-1 Transmitter (reference an earlier installment in this series) were gone from the market by then. Hallicrafters made two such “big iron” stations. The highest cost and most spectacular setup was the SX-115 Receiver, HT-32B Transmitter, and HT-33B Linear Amplifier. Also, a lower cost version of that setup was the SX-111 Receiver, HT-37 Transmitter, and HT-41 Linear Amplifier. The SX-117/HT-32B/HT-33B lasted into 1964 but by then the lower cost SX-111/HT-37 station was gone. (The HT-41 Linear Amplifier went on a bit longer.) Hallicrafters based the SX-117 on the technically advanced SX-115 Receiver while the HT-44 was based, in some ways, on the HT-37 Transmitter. So, the family heritage moved forward. To those of you interested in this line, the SX-117 was a technically advanced version of the SX-115 receiver while the SX-111 was basically a low cost SX-101. This “big iron” will be back for your review in a later installment.

Like the SX-115, the SX-117 Receiver used a triple conversion scheme with a low noise 50.75 kHz third conversion – well known at the time in Hallicrafters radios for characteristically quiet receiver operation. Unlike some early SSB Receivers – but like the late versions of the SX-101 and SX-115 Receivers – the SX-117 used a Product Detector for demodulating SSB and CW signals. This change in receiver design in this period added to much improved AGC action. Before this, the practice of riding the RF Gain while keeping the AF Gain high began to fade. Today, this practice is virtually unknown to new operators. (But, it is very necessary to those of us using vintage gear even somewhat into the vintage of the SX-115 and SX-117!) I suggest that if you are interested in the design philosophy of the SX-117, check its ARRL Review in the May 1963 issue of ***QST Magazine***. Personal experience says that the SX-115, while superior in several ways, could have benefited by some features of the SX-117 – so all things considered, the SX-115 seems to be more superior from a reputation standpoint than from an operational one. Make no mistake, however, they are both fine radios.

The one shortcoming in Hallicrafters receivers of the time, including the much beloved SX-115, was that they stayed with what I refer to as tuned circuit i-f filters – avoiding costly mechanical or crystal bandpass filters. Collins receivers, starting with the 75A-4 Receiver, remain competitive to this day due to the design that included Collins mechanical filters. You will see in future installments that Heathkit, Drake, National, and others beat Hallicrafters at their own game by in-

cluding crystal filters in their competitive designs. Indeed, Hallicrafters did the same thing in their SR-150 Transceiver – and came back to that design in their later products. These too will be seen in future installments.

The HT-44 Transmitter is a clever adaptation of an unexpected technology, from my point of view. In keeping with the thinking at Hallicrafters to avoid expensive crystal filters, they left behind the Crystal Filter SSB Generation successfully used in the early 1950's HT-30 Transmitter, the later HT-32 Series Transmitter, and the SR-150 Transceiver. Instead, they borrowed from the technology used in their very popular, lower cost, "big iron" transmitter – the HT-37 – and used Phasing SSB Generation. I will leave the description of the different methods of SSB Generation to your study of the *The Radio Amateur's Handbook* from the American Radio Relay League. My favorite treatment of that subject appears in the 1963 and 1964 editions of that Handbook, beginning on page 305 (in both editions). But, it can be found well before that and right up to my 2018 edition. Why do I prefer the 1963 edition? It is described with vacuum tubes!

For the record, the Hallicrafters HT-44 had a rated input power of 200 watts on 80-10 meters for SSB and CW. Output power was 100 watts with a bit less on 10 meters. The HT-44 here at W9MXQ meets that specification and more (but is held to no more than 100 watts output). The final amplifier uses a pair of 6DQ5B Tetrodes. The 6DQ5B's in the HT-44 here are date coded 1964 and are branded "Hallicrafters." That means they were the original final tubes with the transmitter when it was delivered from the factory.

Hallicrafters' path to this transmitter design must have been a real study in their engineering department. Transmitter development for generating a Single Sideband (SSB) signal had been split in the industry with signal generation using the Filter Method and the Phasing Method. The differences in these designs are the subject for another article but suffice it to say that by the early 1960's most of the industry had moved to the Filter Method. (Collins' use of Mechanical Filters put them in the "Filter" camp – application of crystal or mechanical filters is the same as far as circuit results are concerned.) Hallicrafters by that time had significant experience in both methods with good experience in the Filter Method with the HT-30, HT-32 series, and the SR-150. However, the Phasing Method was successfully used with the popularly priced HT-37 Transmitter. In what I consider a surprise after the recent release of the SR-150, Hallicrafters installed a phasing SSB generator in the new HT-44 Transmitter. Any concerns about sideband suppression stability – somewhat of a problem in the HT-37 Transmitter – were solved in the successful and stable HT-44. At least in the time of the HT-44, the Phasing Method produced a more robust audio sound at the receiving end of the communication circuit. (This is a subjective comment based on personal experience – not a scientific analysis! This almost certainly is a product of a wider signal bandwidth in the HT-44.)

My experience is that using a HT-44 Transmitter in a ham station generates a significant number of audio complements. And, as if to tell the world that Hallicrafters had solved stability issues with Phasing SSB Generation, they moved the carrier balance control off the front panel (as on the HT-37) and placed it inside the cabinet under the top cover. Their confidence was well founded. My use of the HT-44 Transmitter rarely, if ever, needs that control to be adjusted once set. Even many crystal filter transmitters were not that stable – and some of them, such as Swan, had balance controls on the front panel.

I must add that using the HT-44 Transmitter (as with the transmitter section of the SR-150 Transceiver) is ultra-simple. The radio is fix tuned for a 50-75-ohm feed line and, as such, has no Load Control. Tuning the transmitter merely involved peaking the frequency calibrated Driver and Plate controls for maximum output on the front panel RF output meter.

Accessories used with the SX-117 and HT-44 Station included some interesting items. They are included in this article – starting just below.

I reference above that the SX-117 Receiver took a step beyond its Collins competition (the 75S-1 Receiver) by providing for more frequency coverage. Like the Collins radio, the SX-117 alone allowed for additional coverage – between 3.5 to 30 MHz in the standard equipment receiver. With the addition of the HA-10 LF/MF Tuner, however, the SX-117 could cover from what we now refer to as VLF to past 160 meters and up to just below 80 meters.



The HA-10 LF/MF Tuner allows the SX-117 to tune from 85 kHz to 3 MHz using properly assigned Range Crystals in the receiver. The general coverage operation (coverage outside 80-10 meters) required the addition of an optional auxiliary crystal oscillator which was nothing more involved than plugging a 6EA8 tube into the oscillator tube socket. The circuit was included with the receiver. Only the tube was missing. In one of those radio collector mysteries, Hallicrafters did not always include the “h” red ball logo on this tuner (above the lettering, “HA-10.”) See it in the at the right side of the HA-8 Splatter Guard front panel, below. Some advertising had the logo, and some did not. My HA-10 does not have it.

The HA-10 is a W9MXQ Shack Photo

I think the most unique accessory for the HT-44 Transmitter is the HA-8 Splatter Guard. If anything, the HA-8 is best described as a poor man’s monitor scope.



The HA-8 Splatter Guard with its small feed-line coaxial sensor monitors the modulation level of signals – especially SSB signals. It used an EM-84/6FG6 “Magic Eye” tube. Used properly it senses power from 40 to 1,000 watts with insignificant insertion loss between 3.5 and 30 MHz. Higher frequencies up to past two meters are possible with a bit of a penalty of mismatch. However, the unit was designed as an HT-44 accessory. Setup involves adjusting the Sensitivity control at full carrier power so that the beams on the “Magic Eye” just close – “beams” from the left and right move toward the center from each side. During SSB Modulation one watches for the beams to stay at, or below, the center. A bright vertical line forms at the center if one over modulates.

The HA-8 is a W9MXQ Shack Photo

In my SX-117 and HT-44 Station I use the Hallicrafters PS-150-120 Power Supply and Speaker Console. You saw a picture of this Power Supply in the installment of for the SR-150 Transceiv-

er. The model number of this unit takes its "150" from that transceiver. The "120" designates the AC power supply line voltage.



The PS-150-120 supplied necessary voltages to operate the HT-44 Transmitter or the SR-150 Transceiver. The Power Supply included a speaker for use with the SX-117 Receiver (or the SR-150 Transceiver). Connections for the speaker in an SX-117/HT-44 installation were routed through the transmitter via receiver/transmitter interconnections. Hallicrafters used only solid-state devices (silicon diodes) in the power supply and avoided the vacuum tube circuitry used in the Collins 516F-2 Power Supply (which, by the way, did not include a speaker). Also, Hallicrafters included pin connector sockets on the chassis to allow reading of plate current and voltage with a simply Volt-Ohm-Meter. Hallicrafters sold this unit internationally but I have not seen any evidence of there being a "PS-150-220" variant for use with 220-volt circuits. Nor have I seen a 220-volt version of the SX-117. I believe at the time it was more common to use a 220 to 110 VAC step-down transformer.

The PS-150-120 is a W9MXQ Shack Photo



Hallicrafters HA-1 'TO Keyer
(The HA-1 is a W9MXQ Shack Photo)



Hallicrafters HA-1A 'TO Keyer
(The HA-1A is a W9DYQ Shack Photo)

The HA-1 'TO Keyer was a non-lambic Electronic Keyer using six vacuum tubes, two of which are regulators. The Keyer has a sidetone generator (not a transmitter feature in those days) and a mercury-wetted relay for keying. Keying contacts were designed to take up to 500 volts at up to 250 VA. Imagine that in today's Keyers! There was a later version of this Keyer, called the HA-1A that pretty much used the same design with knobs and front panel lettering to compliment the latest Hallicrafters products. Note differences in pictures, above. Incidentally, the Keyer was named by Hallicrafters after W9TO, designer of the circuit.

A major accessory for the SX-117 and HT-44 was the HT-45 “Loudenboomer” Linear Amplifier – this is not the first in Hallicrafters policy of naming radios in addition to model numbers. Recall other names such as “Sky Buddy,” “Ultra Skyrider,” “Sky Challenger,” and the later “Tornado,” “Cyclone,” “Hurricane,” and “Safari” radios we have yet to cover in this series. The Loudenboomer will be covered in a future installment detailing its design use with the SX-117/HT-44 and with the SR-150 Transceiver.



The matching Hallicrafters HT-45 Loudenboomer Mark IIA Linear Amplifier. A Story for a future installment. Not shown is Model P-45, 3,000 (VDC) Power Supply.

The HT-45 is a W9MXQ Shack Photo

This equipment has been with me for over 30 years. I came via a chance meeting with a fellow during the time when my QTH was in Columbus, Ohio. Back at that time, vintage gear did not carry near the value it does today – treated then more like useless “stuff.” The owner was a friend of a local ham radio store manager and he was looking to find a good home for his SX-117, HT-44, PS-150-120, and the HA-8 Splatter Guard. Also, part of the package was the HT-45 Linear Amplifier and its matching P-45 High Voltage Power Supply. He asked simply that I promise to keep it and to take care of it – and pay him the shipping cost to get it from his QTH in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to my QTH in Columbus, Ohio. Obviously (!!!), I accepted the offer and have never gone back on my word to keep and maintain the set. It looks and works like new – and even includes the original Hallicrafters shipping boxes for the receiver and transmitter. I am only the second owner of the SX-117, HT-44, and PS-150-120 (and also the HT-45 and its matching P-45 Power Supply).

The HA-1 ‘TO Keyer came to me from a Hamfest as did the HA-8 Splatter Guard. The HA-10 LF/MF Tuner came via Bob, W9DYQ, friend from childhood and fellow collector and owner of two SX-117 and HT-44 stations. Bob has the Radio Industries Loudenboomer Linear Amplifier which preceded the HT-45. More about that story when we talk about the HT-45. (To wet your appetite for this story, Radio Industries was a division of Hallicrafters, based in Kansas City.)

The SX-117 Receiver enjoyed wide popularity – maybe a bit more than its mate, the HT-44 Transmitter. To this day, you can spot SX-117 Receivers in pictures of ham shacks around the world. There are also many SX-117/HT-44 pairs still in operation here and there. They are not hard to find – but ones in pristine condition are somewhat rare. They have all aluminum cabinetry construction and at the time of their manufacture the technology of getting paint to stick to aluminum was not well developed. Many of these radios have good, sound cabinets but flaking paint. I am very fortunate to have a set with nearly flawless paint. Perhaps that is more due to the care these radios get at W9MXQ than in them being painted any better than their sisters and brothers from the production line. Unlike today, in 1963 when the SX-117 was introduced, it was regular practice to have a receiver from one manufacturer and a transmitter from another. The

system approach, introduced by Collins and the S-Line, started the trend to have a complete station with a single brand of radio and all accessories.

Today the SX-117 suffers from a lack of selectivity in competitive situations – recall my comments, above, about the “filtering” in the receiver. But, sitting in front of this set on a Sunday afternoon on a 40-meter rag chew is pure joy. Super audio on both sides of the circuit reminds me of what ham radio once was – and still can be. Listening to the golden tones of the SX-117 on CW must be experienced – as is the excellent, smooth CW keying from the HT-44. Give a listen if you have the opportunity!

Sincerest thanks to Bob, W9DYQ, for his assistance in this article.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORC Membership Meeting – March 14, 2018

Coming up next is the Wisconsin QSO Party. This one can be a lot of fun since we are the ones everybody wants to work.

It starts Sunday March 11 from 1:00-8:00 PM local time. Don't forget we change to Daylight Savings Time that day! Basically, you work everyone and send your county. Stations outside Wisconsin send their state. You can work each station again on each band and each mode. Modes are CW and phone. You can check out the rules at https://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_pkg.pdf

On April 10-15 the special event station W4S will be operating on 20 meters SSB from the Sun-N-Fun air show in Lakeland Florida. Tune in and listen to the Thunderbirds.

Silent Key: Lawrence McCalvy, WA9JMO

It was a warm summer night in 1963, when Larry called me, and encouraged me to go with him to Allied Radio on Port Washington Rd. for a Ham radio code class. That's why our calls were so close together. Larry and his family socialized with my family, and we were good friends.

As time passed, we drifted apart with different jobs, and interests. Larry lived in Racine, and I in Mequon. We would meet from time to time at swapfests, Dayton, and other Ham gatherings. In spite of all this, Larry and I always knew that because of our friendship back then, we always had a bond because of Amateur Radio.

Larry passed on February 6th, and with it so did our special bond.

73, Nels Harvey WA9JOB

For Sale and Wanted

I have a like-new in the box Yaesu FT-817ND and an LDG Z-817 antenna tuner.

The equipment was purchased new at HRO in approx. October 2016. It was used a couple of times and has sat in the box since. It's a super nice little radio. Problem is I have too many super nice big and little radios. It needs to find a home where someone will use it.

The 817 includes an extra battery holder and power cord. Both power cords are terminated in Anderson powerpoles. I have the box for the 817 but for some reason I can't find the box for the LDG tuner.

This equipment new will cost you \$814 plus tax if you went to HRO today. I'll sell you mine for \$550 cash.

73' Tim, KA9EAK (Tim Boppre <ka9eak@gmail.com>)

I recently picked up a Gonset Communicator III and would like to offer it for sale. This radio is in great cosmetic shape, with very good paint and lettering. It looks complete on the inside but is pretty dusty from storage.

This is the Model 3313 which covers the 2 Meter band. These were very popular with radio clubs and Civil Defense groups. The Communicator III sold for \$270 in 1960.

The Gonset Communicators were made in the 1950s through 1961. They are a complete station in a box, with a crystal controlled transmitter, tunable receiver and power supply. The Gonset can be powered by either 12VDC or 120VAC. Power output is about 6 watts on AM. Gonset also made a VFO for the Communicators.

If you are interested contact me off list and make an offer.

Pat W9JI, w9ji@arrl.net

Nets EVERY WEEK . . .by Sherm, KB9Q

United States Mideast 160 Meter net, 1.895 MHz, 0100 UTC daily.

160 Meter Roundtable, 1.865 MHz, 5:00 a.m. Central Time Daily.

160 Meter Roundtable, 1.895 MHz, 6:30 a.m. Central Time Daily

6 meter SSB, 50.160 MHz, Tu, 9:00 a.m., Central Time, MKE

6 meter SSB, 50.140 MHz, Tu, 8:00 p.m., Central Time, Kalamazoo Michigan, K8BKB NCS

6 meter AM, 50.400 MHz, Su, 7:00 p.m., Central Time, Michigan

"Breakfast roundtable", Mornings at 7:30 a.m. (Central Time) on 144.155 MHz USB

10-10 International: Monday - Saturday 1800 UTC 28.380 MHz (also 28.800 MHz with propagation)

Milwaukee Chapter 10-10 International: Sunday and Wednesday Nights 28.365 MHz, 8:00 p.m. Central Time.

(Monday and Thursday 02:00 UTC During CST and 01:00 UTC During CDT)

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 28.490 MHz, 8:00 p.m. Central Time Friday

222 Tuesday, any mode, any time. Start at 222.1 MHz USB, 223.5, MHz FM, 222.070 MHz PSK,

Don't forget Repeaters. (224.820 pl.127.3 Tuesdays 9pm-10pm in SE WI)

MSOE repeater W9HHX Monday night Net @ 8:00 PM 145.27 MHz, 127.3 PL After that net ends they move to 28.365 USB

WEEKLY TWO METER SSB ACTIVITY

Central Wisconsin: Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Central Time, 144.240 MHz, NCS WB9LYH

Chicago land: Thursday 7:00 p.m. Central Time, 144.220 MHz, NCS N9JBW

Chicago-Ohio: Friday 7:00 p.m. Central Time, 144.215 MHz, NCS KC9IFZ

FROM MICHIGAN:

Sunday 9:30 p.m. 144.155 USB K8NFT (EN62ws)

Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2018

Ben Evans (K9UZ), Secretary



President Kevin Steers (K9VIN) called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. All the attendees introduced themselves.

Announcements, Show-and-Tell, Bragging Rights:

Karen KC9WQJ announced that Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO became a silent key. He and Nels Harvey passed their license exams together.

Naomi KC9YES introduced a new ham and possibly a new ORC member, Dave Flowers, KD9JYL.

Ken W9GA said that the Bouvet Island DXpedition didn't happen because of bad weather and engine trouble on the ship. There are more details in Gary W9XT's article in the February newsletter.

Program:

Ben K9UZ gave a presentation on predicting and measuring RF field levels for compliance with FCC human exposure standards.

Auction:

Stan WB9RQR conducted the auction. Many items were sold, including a Dell Latitude laptop with the latest version of Linux installed, and several Webroot hard disk erasers.

Officer Reports:

Kevin S. (K9VIN) President – Working with Dave N9UNR to pay the renewal of the club's liability insurance.

Pat V. (W9JI), 1st VP – Pat has completed the first pass of the club inventory with recent additions of the Field Day computers. If anyone is in possession of club equipment which has not been notified, please inform Pat.

Robert E. (K4WTH), 2nd VP – Robert has gotten five or six historian-related requests which he hasn't yet gotten through but will do so soon. Also, he reminded members to pay their 2018 dues if they haven't already. Stan WB9RQR announced that Robert is the official Field Day computer networking honcho.

Tom T. (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Tom wasn't at the meeting, so there was no report.

Ben E. (K9UZ), Secretary – The minutes from January's meeting is in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy KC9FZK, seconded by Gary K9DJT and passed.

Dave B. (N9UNR), Treasurer – Dave was not at the meeting but he did distribute the treasurer's reports by email. Ben K9UZ made a motion to accept the reports subject to audit and Curt N9CBS seconded. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Elections, Ken (W9GA) – Ken asked members to fill out and turn in ballots for election of Ham of the Year and Turkey of the Year. He will accept ballots at this meeting and at the March meeting, and the awards will be given in April.

Spring Swapfest, Kristian (KC9TFP) – No report.

Old Business:

Dave KC9REP asked whether or not the Antique Radio Club will again be joining forces with the ORC for the Spring Swapfest. Kevin K9VIN said it's his understanding that they will.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stan WB9RQR, seconded by Jerry KC9WUI and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Attendance:

There were 29 members and 3 guests present at the meeting.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Ben Evans via email at ben@evansengsolutions.com for a copy.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Benjamin Evans, K9UZ
Secretary

MEETING AGENDA

March 14, 2018

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, etc.
4. Program: 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
7. Presidents Report – Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
8. 1st VP Report – Pat Volkmann (W9JR)

9. 2nd VP Report – Robert Eskola (K4WTH)
10. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, (KC9ONY)
11. Acceptance of Minutes – Ben Evans (K9UZ)
12. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
13. Committee reports:
 - A. Spring Swapfest
 - B. Other
14. OLD BUSINESS
15. NEW BUSINESS
16. Adjournment to ?

Return undeliverable copies to

The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton
Wednesday, March 14th 2018

7:00 PM – Doors Open

7:30 PM – Meeting