

CB

AN ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATION

CITIZENS' BAND

FOR BRITAIN'S 250,000 CB USERS

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CB

CITIZENS' BAND

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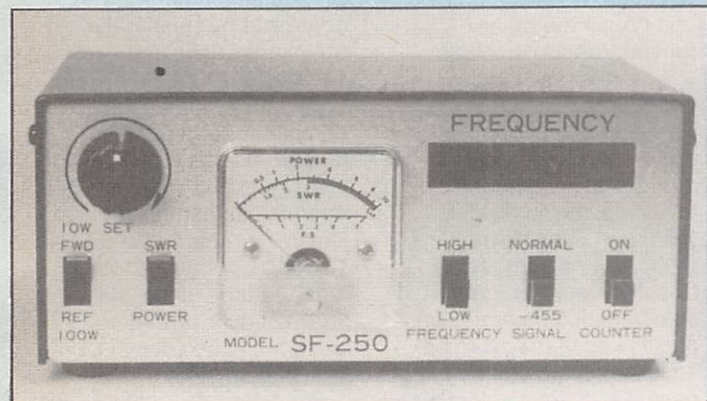
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UPDATE

Type-Approved



Editorial

In the immortal words of John Winston Lennon, "A Merry Crimble and a Happy Goo Year" to you all. Yes, it's the season of goodwill to all mankind - that also includes the Department of Trade and Industry, if you can find it in your hearts. Dunno 'bout the wallies, 'though . . . no, sod 'em.

While you're in the festive mood, why not gather around the blazing logs and sing a Happy Birthday to *Citizens' Band*? Yes, this issue marks the eight birthday of your favourite magazine, on which note (C major?) I would like to personally thank all our

loyal readers for your support, our brilliant contributors for all their hard work - yes, even Mack the Hack who, although not a regular in these pages anymore, may just rear his ugly head in the near future.

Now, there has been some talk lately of a CB traders' association being formed. The idea behind it is that, at the moment, informal discussions between the DTI and user groups have taken place once or twice a year at Waterloo Bridge House. However, the CB trade have not been much in evidence at these meetings - more than likely, because they weren't invited. So, would it not be in all our interests that a traders' association be formed so that they too, who also have a big say in what happens to CB in this country, can meet with the DTI from time to time? Why not write and let me know what you think - traders and readers alike? Please write to: Traders' Association, Citizens' Band, 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB.

Until next year, seasonal felicitations to one and all.

Samuel Bevil

New from Cirkit

Cirkit Distribution now stocks the Cooper Weller Pyropen range of professional butane gas operated irons, supplied in three sizes for a wide variety of field applications, with a number of tips and other accessories.

The Weller WSTA1 Pyropen is a cordless, butane gas operated soldering, brazing and hot air tool with temperature controlled by varying the gas flow. Especially suitable for servicing of electronics, radio and telecommunications equipment in inaccessible locations, the lightweight (96g) iron does not require batteries or electricity. Supplied with a 3.3mm soldering tip and protective plastic cap, it may also be specified in a metal carrying case with 3.3mm soldering tip plus 5.7mm hot blow tip, torch ejector, spanner, tool support clip, cleaning sponge and operating manual.

The Pyropen will operate for up to three hours continuously on one filling, and is ready to solder in 30 seconds. Temperature may be easily adjusted to suit the application, to a maximum soldering temperature of 500°C, hot air temperature of 700°C and torch temperature of 1,300°C (all approximate). Accessories include a selection of twelve tips and hot blow nozzles for heat-shrink or SMD work, plus butane gas refills.

A self-igniting version, the WSTA4, is also available for greater convenience. It is

fitted with a tapered needle tip and hot air nozzle, and is supplied complete with a plastic protective cap and an operational manual. Its soldering, hot air and torch temperature are identical in performance to the WSTA1.

The WSTA2 Pyropen Jr is a mini soldering, brazing and hot air tool, again with adjustable temperature controlled by varying the butane gas flow. Its lightweight (23g) aluminium body will not melt. Supplied complete with a 0.5mm tapered needle soldering tip, aluminium protective cap and operational manual, the Pyropen Jr reaches the same soldering, hot air and torch temperatures as the standard sized models, and when closed may be clipped safely to a shirt pocket.

For more info, contact Cirkit Distribution Ltd, Park Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 7NQ. Tel: (0992) 444111.

Millimetre Wavebands Set to Bring Communications Boom

The opening of a whole new section of the radio frequency spectrum above 30GHz to commercial use will bring a communications boom if industry grasps the opportunity, reports a Department of Trade and Industry document issued recently.

Services using this area of the radio frequency spectrum in the 1990s could include: short-range television; very fast data transmission; cable-less internal telephone systems; electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS); communications between buildings in line of sight; and mobile services such as route guidance for vehicles, or portable telephones.

The DTI's consultative document "The Use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum above 30 GHz", published today, sets out the enormous potential for new equipment and services in what are known as the millimetre bands - those with wave peaks only millimetres apart. It calls for response from users, potential users and industry on how best to exploit this opportunity to be sent to the Department by 31 December 1988.

These radio frequencies are relatively unused and equipment to date has been expensive. With economies of scale and technical advances, the equipment will become cheaper and so open the way for wider commercial uses, they say.

A maximum practical operating range of up to 10 to 15 kilometres for these wavebands could be a disadvantage. However, this short range could be turned to advantage since it allows re-use of frequencies at short distances, so increasing the information-carrying capacity of the bands over the country.

Telecommunications policy allows short telephone connections between buildings of the same business across gaps such as highways. Line-of-sight millimetre links could provide this connection effectively with only a simple annual licence fee being paid. The cost of the link in many cases would be less than today's options.

Welcoming publication of the document, Industry Minister Robert Atkins said: "Efficient communications are so important to success that

every sector of industry and commerce is likely to find uses for this new area of the spectrum. I welcome publication of the report and I want to see imaginative schemes being put to us so that Government can play its full role.

"If we are to see the maximum benefit to suppliers and users of millimetre waveband equipment, we need to begin the processes of collaboration between these groups at the earliest possible time. We need to identify as many uses as possible and approach their implementation in an orderly manner.

"There is also a need to coordinate European harmonisation of frequency allocations within the range and the sooner we in the UK get our act together, the better chance we have of taking a lead in the discussions now starting in Europe."

Responses should be sent to: Department of Trade and Industry, Radiocommunications Division, Room 310, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA.

Copies of the consultative document "The use of The Radio Spectrum Above 30 GHz" are available from the DTI Radiocommunications Division Library at the above address, (Room 605), Tel: 01-215 2072.

New Discussion Document

M.S.G.B. & SACBC recently announced that the "Single Side Band Citizens' Band Radio Proposal and Discussion Document" is now available to UK CB users.

A copy has been forwarded to the DTI for inclusion within the 1990 Spectrum Review, and further copies have been sent to fellow User Group Representatives.

Full consideration has been given to all aspects and ideas sent in by users and the document has been produced

as a 'first stage' to base further discussions for the future. They hope that UK CB users will consider its contents and continue to let them have their ideas which will then be presented at future DTI/User Group Meetings.

A spokesman said: "It is clear that UK CBers are in favour of an SSB system for the future provided that it is as far as possible *not* left open to the abuse suffered on our present systems. It should also be made clear that we will continue to fight for the retention of *all* of our present

UK systems.

"Both organisations would like to thank all those who have contributed to this document and all those who have shown their support including: Citizens' Band magazine, Natcolcibar, The Monitor and the Scottish CB Newsheet."

Copies are available from either: MSGB, School House, Meadway School, Littleton Street, London SW18 3SZ, or from SACBC, PO Box 35, Falkirk, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Provided that you enclose an A4 size envelope with a 28p stamp (SAE).

Single Side Band Citizens Band Radio
Proposal and Discussion Document
For
Inclusion In The United Kingdom
DTI 1990 Spectrum Review

Put Together On Behalf Of
Citizen Band Radio Users
By
Monitoring Service of Great Britain
And
Scottish Association Of CB Clubs

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Conformity to requirements

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The General Role of the Radio Investigation Service

The main aim of the Rad
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ensure that authorised use
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are as fully loaded as inter
tool of frequency plan
transmission licence. Thus
the RIS are to:

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- investigate an
interference
- ensure that
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kept off the
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- facilitate
Market

BR67

The Radio User's Guide to the Law

Introduction

The purpose of this Information Leaflet is to explain the regulations which govern the use of radio equipment when it is used for civil communication services in the United Kingdom. A general knowledge of the regulations will help everyone to understand why they are necessary and will help you and other users to obtain safer and better communications by obeying them.

When any kind of radio transmitter operates it occupies a specific portion of ether in just the same way that a motor car occupies a specific portion of a road. Most people understand what happens when two cars attempt to use the same piece of road; when two radio transmissions use the same piece of the ether the results are not usually quite so dramatic, but it has been known for such circumstances to create dangerous situations or to hinder life saving operations. It is at the least a nuisance, which we call interference.

It is usual nowadays to refer to the ether as the Radio Spectrum. This Information Leaflet explains how we manage it and police it and what can happen to you if you transgress!



72.4 1237

New DTI Information Sheets

The Radio Communications
Division of the D.T.I. have the
following new information
sheets:

1. Current list of all
publications and information
sheets BR81
2. The radio users guide to
the law BR67
3. The general role of the
R.I.S. BR78

To obtain any of the above
phone 01 215 2072 (24 Hrs
answer phone).

Latest on Type-Approval

As always, we try to keep up
with the latest in the world of
citizens' band radio,
particularly in view of recent
events concerning approved
radios.

We contacted the
Department of Trade and

Industry who gave us the
latest list of 'legal' CEPT sets
(at the time of going to press):

Zodiac	M144
Zodiac	M244
Zodiac	PT040
Uniden	PC400
Uniden	450e
DNT	40FM
DNT	Coupe

DNT	Transit
Albrecht	AE4002
Albrecht	4000
DNT	4000FM
Danituf	285
Albrecht	4400
Team	TRX404

We will, of course, publish
the latest as and when we
receive notification.

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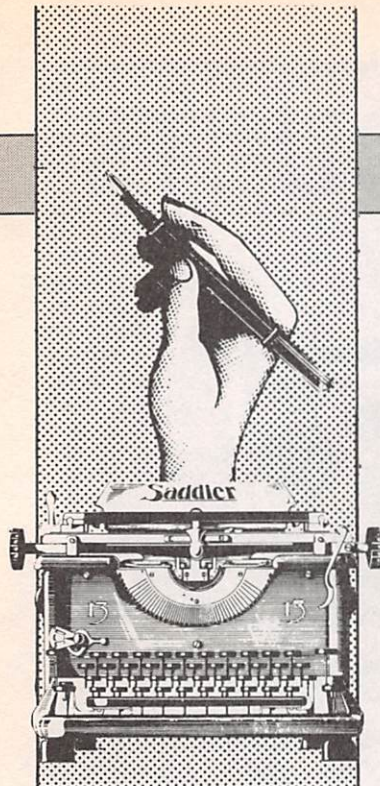
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MULTIMODE MINORITY?

Alive and Well

Regarding Tony Jaconelli's recent letter and the passing of R.E.A.C.T., I am pleased to be able to report that, at least in Cornwall, R.E.A.C.T. is alive and kicking and providing 24-hour monitoring on channels 9 and 19.

If anybody in Cornwall or elsewhere would like to contact us, we would be very pleased to hear from them.

Please contact: HV Nicolas, One and All React, 22, Polweath Road, Treneers Estate, Penzance, Cornwall.

All change for Geefor

Because of the growth of my cleaning business (Moortop Trading Co), I have decided to stop trading in amateur radio. The business of Geefor Enterprises has been taken over by Ian Duffin, of Stalham, Norfolk. I will help in a consultant capacity where necessary but all dealings should now be directed to Ian on (0692) 82075.

Ian will continue to offer the same generous part-exchange and good service for which Geefor has become renowned and will also continue to produce the 'Second-Hand Price Guide' at regular intervals.

I would like to thank my customers for four enjoyable years in the amateur radio trade and hope they will continue to patronise Geefor under its new ownership. I wish Ian every success in his new venture.

Martyn Bolt,
West Yorkshire

DX with Florence

I am employed in the heavy construction industry, excavation and the like. Way back in 1981 at the dawn of our legal FM CB, I had my one and only DX

contact overseas. The country was Italy. Driving along in my firm's vehicle to which I had fitted my rig I received this strong station. I pulled over to the side of the road and within seconds I was in conversation with the One Victor Seven, Paul, Florence, Italy.

Over the next few days I was able to re-contact this station when conditions allowed. I gave the chap my friend's PO Box Number so that I could receive a QSL card. These contacts took place back in 1981 in and around Horsham, West Sussex, using only 4 watts into a DV27 twig.

My work has now brought me up to the North Wales coast. Around four weeks ago I was travelling from Penmaenmawr on the coast towards Bangor. I pulled in at the road side for a quick smoke and a bite to eat. At the same time I turned on the old CB. This time I was in my own vehicle using 4 watts, Harrier CBX with a Valor Half-Breed twig. Lo and behold, I heard this DX station. It was the One Victor Seven, Paul, Florence, Italy. After a few minutes calling he heard my station. We maintained about five minutes good QSO. I informed him that I never received his QSL card from our 1981 contact. I am pleased to inform you that this has since been received at the PO Box of a friend back home in West Sussex. This is my second contact overseas and it turns out to be the same person!

I have re-contacted Paul a couple of times this week. I have also heard many other stations going back to him. I am a completely legal station and paid-up holder of a CB licence. I am over the moon at having made such a good contact with Italy. I took it from Paul that one of his children was very ill and about to undergo surgery. I have tried to re-contact Paul but, alas, have failed to

reach him. I hope all goes well with his child's operation. On 19th August '88 was my last decent QSO with him. I would like to learn that all has gone well for the lad. I suppose I must be grateful that I managed the contacts in the first place.

All of this DXing has re-kindled my spirit, I was losing interest on the CB. I spend most of my time echo whiskey. This has now spurred me on to do better. Its a shame we don't have a legal SSB mode here in UK. By the way, all my contacts with Paul were on legal CB FM 27/81 around channels 28 to 35. He informed me that he uses CH 32 for most of his DXing. Like your magazine. More rig and twig reports plus more on DX. Let's hear of other's overseas contacts.

That just about wraps it up from this end; see you on the airwaves.

Tracker,
West Sussex

More Monitors, Please

I would be grateful if you could publish this letter of deep appreciation to all the tradestands, CBers and Clubs who supported the Gloucester Eyeball at Coombe Hill, on August 7th 1988.

The turnout on the day was excellent and there was an international flavour with the visit of two German breakers. Robinson II - Hotel Foxtrot 16 'Harry' and his father was invited over to the event by several local breakers and were presented with two eyeball badges by the Gloucester Kuntree Bumkins, to commemorate their visit. The GKBs also unveiled their new banner, which was designed and made by Motorman (John 02) and Goffer (Marg 02A). Several Clubs approached them about doing their designs. The charity on the day was the Special Care Baby Unit at



"Why should I pass an exam and be ignored by other Amateurs?" (see last letter)

Gloucester Royal Hospital.

Many, many thanks goes to the Gloucester City Breakers & Kuntree Bumkins, and Golden Valley Breakers whose joint voluntary cooperation was one element in this successful event. The other part goes to Coachman (Denis), Coalbucket (Brian), Box Car Willie (Tim), Devon Rock (Roy), The Inspector (Gethyn) & Co, for all their individual help in getting the eyeball running via names and contacts, help and encouragement etc. This event goes to show that all types of radio users can pull together to produce positive results. Many thanks to one and all who turned up and supported the Gloucester Eyeball '88 at Coombe Hill.

On another note, Madman (John) of Gloucester would like to comment on monitoring in the area. It seems that there are only a certain few who are on channel who help when they can. If any new breakers in the Gloucester area are willing to assist in monitoring, please go ahead and do the best you can. All that you need is confidence, a streetmap of the city centre and the ability to be a quick thinker. Get to know where all the main firms are in the area and keep a local business directory by as well. Always remember if you get stuck, there

is always somebody on the side listening, somewhere. Let's try and get monitoring in the Gloucester area back to an efficient service.

**Top Cat,
Gloucester**

Let's Hear it for Multimodes

I am writing this letter to put my pennorth to the argument of interference from multimode rigs. I would also like to know why multimode operators are always being blamed for the SSB interference when it isn't us at all. It is true that some operators do sideband on top of someone else, but if you listen, you will learn that these are a small minority of illegal operators following the other legal operators around the channels just for a laugh.

Not all of us are like them. The last thing we want is to attract attention from other authorities.

If everyone who complains about the SSB interference managed to get hold of a multimode rig and tuned around the SSB frequencies on the legal 40 as well as the other 120-plus channels, they

would be surprised to hear what was coming through.

Most illegal operators that I know stick to the hi-band (ch 1 - 41) and ch 15 (55). These channels are below channel 1 on legal FM. It is true that a few of us have linears with our multimodes, but most will tell you that they are rarely used.

The reason why I use SSB as a mode of operation is because I want to get away from the idiots (DJs and bucketmouths). I could have become a radio ham but why should I pass an exam and be ignored by other Amateurs because I have just come off the CB? I could easily DX on FM if it wasn't for the idiots who keep keying the mike.

At least I get respect and the chance of a good QSO with someone who shares the same interest on SSB.

I am not saying that all of us are better off than the legal operators. I am not even going to take up the old AM/FM fight. As far as I am concerned, it wasn't just AM breakers who got CB legalised but people who wanted a cheap way of communication.

So why not leave us multimode operators alone and stop whingeing?

**Magnum,
North Humberside**



Dodgy Digits

Dodgy Digits :: Eyeball Worries :: Bulb Blues :: Mucky Mike ::

Dodgy Digits

Q The channel number display on my Binatone 66 has gone haywire and shows nonsense for much of the time. At first the problem was intermittent at first but now it does it pretty well all of the time. Sometimes a vigorous flick through the channels helps cure it but the fault always comes back. Can you help?

**Jeff Slater
Gurnsey**

A The fact that the fault is intermittent suggests that the problem may be with the rotary channel selector switch. Over the years the contacts in these switches take a fair old hammering and dirt, dust and debris can all impair their operation. First port of call is the local rig doctor who may be able to oblige with a quick squirt of aerosol switch cleaner – nine times out of ten this will do the trick. However, some types of switch are

hermetically sealed, in which case it will probably have to be replaced.

Eyeball Worries

Q I'm fairly new to CB so please forgive me if you've answered this query before but I can't find anyone who can give me a simple answer to my question. Are CB transmissions dangerous? I've seen several stories in the press, and on TV where it's said that radio-frequency energy has been found to have a biological effect. I understand that pregnant women are advised not to use VDU terminals, and engineers working on radar equipment have developed cancer, and eyesight problems. CB operates on shortwave and near-microwave frequencies so is there a hazard, and if so what precautions should I take?

**P. Snell
Duxford**

A Of course you're right to be concerned. Radio waves have been shown to have a wide range of effects – some beneficial, others less so. You don't have to look very far to see what they can do. A microwave oven is really only a powerful radio transmitter, generating a concentrated beam of energy. The radio waves excite the water molecules in the food, causing it to heat up. High frequencies radio waves have been blamed for cataracts in the eyes of radar engineers, and there is evidence of tumors being found in people exposed to this type of radiation for long periods of time. Moreover there is concern about the health of people living near high voltage power lines – so the simple



answer is yes, there is a potential hazard with any form of RF energy equipment.

However, let's put this into perspective; the amount of RF energy produced by a typical CB rig is several hundred, to several thousand times less than generated by a microwave oven or radar system. The heating effect, which is the one we should be most aware of, falls off exponentially from the point of emission. A study carried out some years ago showed that a CB antenna needed to be in prolonged contact with human tissue, for several minutes, to produce any kind of measurable increase in temperature – a fraction of a degree. An inch away and the effect was undetectable. Personal and portable two-way radio systems have been around for a good many years and thus far seems to have a clean bill of health.

There's still much we don't understand, so it makes sense to take precautions, and treat any sort of transmitter with respect. This means not mucking around with high-power linear amplifiers, and avoiding using the frames of your spectacles as a compact antenna...

Mucky Mike

Q Within the last couple of weeks I've been told that my copies are becoming 'mushy' and indistinct. I thought it must be the rig (Cybernet Delta) but after a week using a friend's rig (Midland 805), the same problem has arisen. It's not the antenna either – I've swapped my friend's mag-mount a week earlier (I thought it was that at first, and it's easier to change). That doesn't leave a lot left to check – any suggestions?

'Hornblower'
Isleworth

A Well, there is one thing left to check – you! This reminds us very much of a fault that kept us guessing for ages, a couple of years ago. Every time the rig was brought in, and tried on the bench it worked fine but a couple of days later copies from the rig were almost incoherent. The next time it 'went' he was close by so he dropped in – one look at the dripping mike provided the answer – this guy was what we in the trade call a 'gobber'. His over-active salivary glands had resulted in a build-up of spittle on the microphone diaphragm. The reason we could never find the fault was that the mike had 'dried out' by the time we looked at it. Hornblower? Hmmmm...

Bulb Blues

Q I've got what seems like a daft problem with my Maxcom 30 – the little light in the signal strength meter has gone out. I've taken the lid off, but I can't see the bulb, let alone work out how to replace it. I suspect that I'll have to get the whole thing replaced – is it worth the expense?

Ken Jarvis
Sutton



A We've seen some types of edgewise meter with replaceable bulbs but as the spares were virtually impossible to obtain, it was academic anyway. You may be lucky – it might not be the bulb – check the supply leads first, they're usually white and emerge from the side of the meter capsule. However, it's probable that your initial diagnosis was correct and the bulb has gone. If it's any comfort it's quite a rare fault and most people would be prepared to put up with it. A replacement meter could cost anywhere between £5-10, plus labour.

BLACK BEAUTY

Still warm from the DTI test bench, with the signature on the type-approval certificate barely dry, comes the Uniden PRO-450E CEPT rig. Saul Wright has been putting one of the first production units through its paces.

Only time will tell whether or not the introduction of the CEPT frequencies marked a new era in the history of European CB. Whatever the outcome **Uniden** will have done their part – the newly-approved **PRO-450E** is a very convincing argument for the system and should

represent a useful benchmark for all the rigs that are to follow.

The 450E, as we shall call it from now on, is the second CEPT rig for Uniden – the first being the 400, which had the distinction of (probably) being the first approved rig in the UK. In case you're wondering, the 450's selling price is likely to be somewhere between £110 and £120 – at the time of going to press

it had still to be finalised.

It's a distinct step forward in terms of cosmetics – unlike its chromy predecessor it follows the now popular trend with an anthracite & black colour scheme. As you're probably aware by now this is the 'in' combination at the moment and is common to just about every electronic box of tricks. Don't worry, it's probably only a temporary fad and before you know it we'll all be buying bright red, or green stripy CBs, radios and TVs.

Back now to the business in hand. The control and display panel layout is fairly straightforward and firmly rooted in the tried and tested. Around the back there's a bog-standard assortment of socketry, including a 12 volt DC supply 'D-connector'; two 3.5mm jacks for PA speaker and external speaker; and an SO239 antenna socket. The only unusual thing here is a 'PR 27 GB' plate, glued to the metalwork.

Guided Tour

There's no nasty surprises around the front, though, the panel layout is cleaner, and far less cluttered than many of its contemporaries. From right to left the most important features are: buttons for tone, display dimmer, PA and 'mod' (this is used to select the meter mode – S/Rf signal strength or modulation level). The



five rotary controls are for volume, squelch, microphone gain, RF gain and channel change. The display panel a little unusual; the signal/RF output bargraph is a multi-segment LED bargraph but instead of the usual horizontal layout, this one is angled at about 30 degrees, and runs through three colour changes – green, orange and red. It's easier to read, especially on the move; anything that improves legibility, and as a consequence safety, rates highly with us . . .

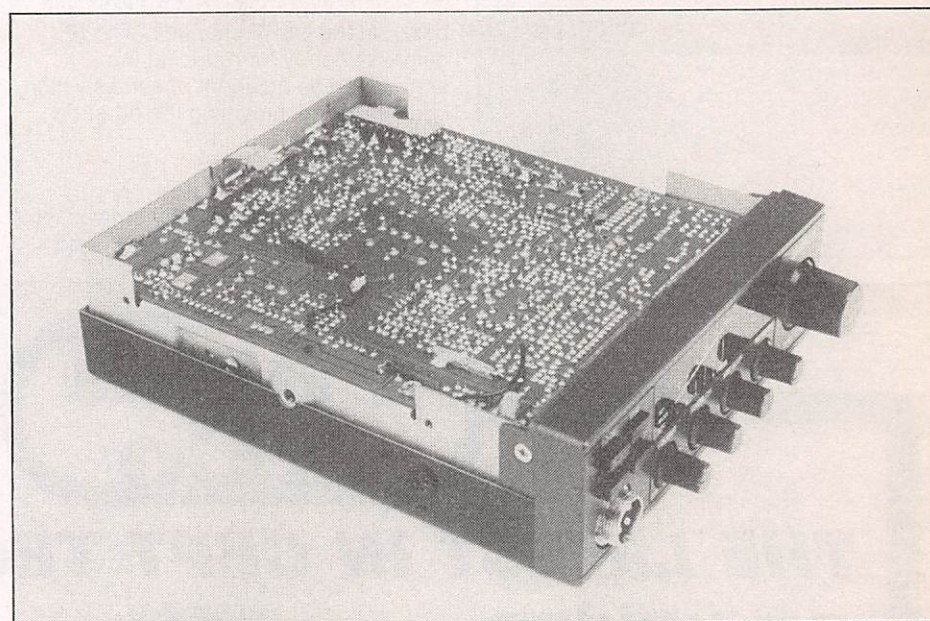
The rest of the display is conventional with good-sized green channel display, illuminated 'TX', 'RX' lamps, and a single red LED for the Mod function. There's no indication for the PA mode, (apart from a silent speaker). The display dimmer cuts brightness by about 20% – a little more wouldn't have hurt – it's still quite bright, even with the dimmer switch on.

Last stop on this guided tour is the mike. It's a standard Uniden item but we suspect a little cosmetic surgery – it feels slightly 'rounder' than its predecessors. It plugs into a standard four-pin socket on the front panel. Needless to say (but we'll say it anyway), the rig comes complete with a full fitting kit, leads and instructions.

Before we get to the performance tests a quick peek inside. Our sample, which came from **Pama & Co**, was one of the first production units in the country. It was clearly put together on the Taiwanese assembly-line, and not a hastily cobbled-together, or hand-built engineering sample. PCB layout and construction is up to Uniden's usual very high standard. One other piece of good news; our brief inspection didn't reveal any particular oddities (unusual, and difficult to obtain components), that may be lying in wait for unwary rig-doctors in years to come.

Powered up and ready to go. We'll begin with the niggles first: the 'tone' button is pointless – the last thing you need with CB audio is less treble, which is precisely what you get with the 450. The squelch is a little coarse and tends to 'chop' if lightly set.

Lastly, the cosmetics. I admit this is a personal foible, and I'm perfectly willing to accept there's a really good reason for having black knobs on a near-black control panel, but I can't for the life of me see what it is. In short it makes life, and in particular control operation, difficult – especially in poor light. That's not a good thing when tonking around the M25 at 70mph in the rain, (yes, I know 70 is impossible on the M25, but you know what I mean). That's it – from now on it's all good news.



The Results

Transmissions from the 450 during were clean and well-modulated. Audio was

crisp, though the mike gain control needed to be turned well up as the mike sensitivity of our sample seemed a little on the low side. The 'mod' function is more than a gimmick – in the event it turned out to be quite useful for monitoring speech level and mike gain setting.

Signal strength reports suggested, and power meter readings confirmed that the 450 was working near the limits laid down by the specifications; nothing special in terms of output power, but definitely nothing to be ashamed of.

Audio quality during reception was a little above average – apart from the daft



CB Specification

Make/model: Uniden PRO-450E
 Coverage: 26,965-27, 405MHz
 Modulation: FM
 Tx Freq. tolerance: +/- 600Hz max
 Tx emission: F3
 Rx Sensitivity: 1uV (for 20dB S/N)
 Rx Selectivity: 6dB @ 6kHz, 65dB @ 10kHz nom.
 Audio output: 1.5 watts
 Dimensions (mm): 154 x 52 x 193
 Typical price (£): 110-120 (TBA)
 Distributor: Uniden UK Ltd., Uniden House, Equast Portway, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3LX. (0264) 55133.

tone control. RF gain was a bonus, especially as there's several powerful transmitters (pumping out a zillion watt buzz) on the CEPT channels. The RF gain was handy for reducing the annoyance on adjacent channels which could be used, providing the other rig was out of the area.

Summary

The 450 is a significant new arrival, not because it's technically innovative, (it's

not), nor is it especially cheap, but it is a very recent design and not a hastily modified or 'tricked-up' rig, originally destined for some other CEPT-type market – that makes it quite unusual at the moment. In terms of performance it can hold its head up with the best of the rest – it has a useful rather than eye-catching range of facilities; it's not going to break any records but it delivers the goods with crisp clean copies.

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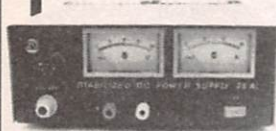
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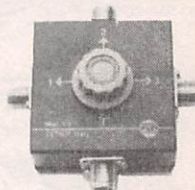
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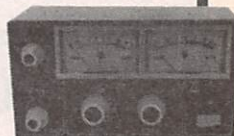
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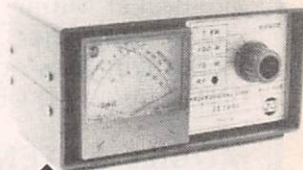
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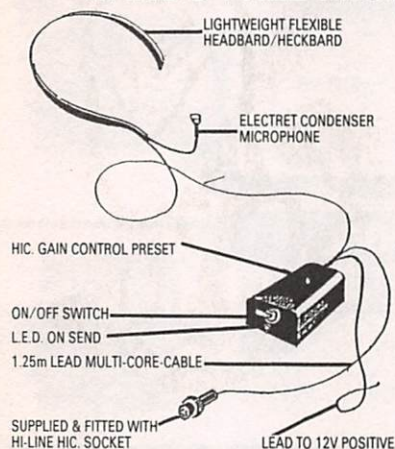
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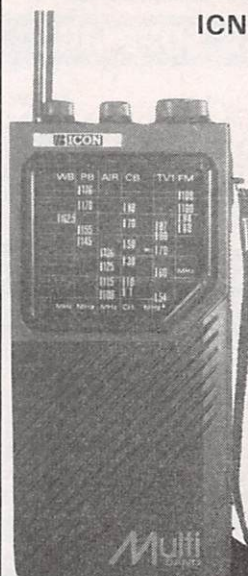
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COMMUNICATION THE

QSL WAY



More names and addresses from QSLers all over the world, courtesy of David Shepherdson

Well, almost the end of yet another year is upon us once more! I even have a little info on an Event running round about now. This is a

75-hour modulation by the Merseydee Breakers (better known as the "Mike Lima's") which is aid of the BBC's Children In Need appeal. The Modge is planned to run from 13.00 hrs on Wednesday 16th of November until 16.00 hrs Sunday 20th. Last year the Club held a similar event which ran for 48 hours and raised over £950 for C.I.N. by sitting in a car half-way up the Horseshoe Pass in North Wales in sub-zero conditions. I'm assuming the venue is the same as last time so, if you can help support this very worthy cause, all donations will be most welcome and all donations will receive a special QSL package. The package will incorporate a special four part (A4 size) QSL Card featuring the Pudsey Bear logo (providing permission is given). There will also be a special "Kids Pack" and it is hoped that Father Christmas will also be calling in to speak to any children over the air! Contact Ad and donations should be sent to CINA 88, Merseydee Breakers, P.O. Box 24, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 9GE.

Seeing it is just about the end of the year, perhaps a quick round-up of Clubs which have changed their addresses for various reasons wouldn't go amiss. The Roman City DX & QSL Club and the Blue Star DX Club now use PO Box 11, Cramlington, while the Currie Card Collectors' Club and Currie Card Bank are to be contacted via 68 Southfields Drive, Leicester. I understand that the Outer Hebrides DX-QSL Club has now been taken over by Jan (*Superman*) though as far as I know, the address



remains the same. No doubt I will be told sooner or later if I'm wrong here! Also, the Clubs as previously run by Ian (*Conman*) of Braintree have been taken over by Mark (*Earlybird*) of the Firebirds. Not all of the Braintree Clubs are now active, but drop Mark a line if you are interested in any, but please do remember to include return postage whenever you write to any Club, it really does help to speed things up! Don't forget also, the Firebirds also had a change of address earlier this year.

Last month I mentioned the Hampshire and Wiltshire DX Club and

said that their £2 membership fee included one year's use of the Club PO Box. I have since been informed that, due to increased costs, this is no longer the case and it now costs £1 per year including the first year of membership plus, of course, a supply of SASE's (Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes) for any member wishing to use the PO Box address. The Club is also organising an evening eyeball on November 19th which runs from 7pm until 11pm which is open to all breakers and friends. The venue is The Courtyard Centre, Cottage Farm, Huntick Road, Lytchett, Minster,



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QSL Club Addresses:

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Currie Card & Bank Clubs	68 Southfields Drive, Leicester, LE2 6QR
Einstein DX Int'	PO Box 859, 46080 Valencia, Spain
Firebirds/Rebel Truckers	54 Boyne Rd, Hastings, E. Sussex, TN35 5NZ
Hampshire & Wiltshire DX	PO Box 73, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 4JW
Kilo Mike DX	PO Box 1, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, LE9 9DP
Merseydee Breakers	PO Box 24, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 9GE
Outer Hebrides DX	Jan, PO Box 11, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland, PA87 2AA
Roman City/Blue Star	PO Box 11, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 9JW

When writing to any QSL Club or Firm, always include return postage to assist with their reply, it does help. Please also mention that you saw their name in the CB Mag. Thanks.

Poole, Dorset.

A few names to start off clearing the backlog a little beginning with that of Leif Johansen of Norway who writes to say that he has a new address and always QSL's 100%, then from Norwich I had a letter from Stella and Bill (*Bambi & Raven*). My apologies here as I mislaid your letter Stella and have only just found it again! From Dave (*Fisherman*), of London, comes a package full of all types of cards. From George & Jean (*Bullseye & Yorkshire Lass*) comes a request to mention a new Club in the Clay Cross area which they started in March this year. Weekly meetings are held each Wednesday evenings at the Bestwood Club, Thanet Street in Clay Cross from 7.30pm. They also promise to swop 100% with any QSLers who would like to send them theirs. From Bob (*Crowflyer*) comes a bundle of cards including personal and Club cards in the Currie and Charlie Series of cards.

From abroad there's Norbert (*Fiesta 01*) of Germany, George (*MS 1395 - Taurus*) of New Zealand and Per (*20 WMS 18*), another from Norway. From Dave & Denise (*Desford Duck & Snowflake*) comes a request for a mention for themselves, as QSL Swoppers and Collectors and for the Kilo Mike DX Group as run by Adrian (*Gunga Din*). Membership costs £5 and 15 of your own Personal QSL Cards. For this, you receive your KM Unit No, Club QSL Cards, Rubber Stamp, exchange QSLs and Club Forms, AD Stickers and one years use of the Club PO Box.

I've had a request from the Einstein DX Int' Group in Spain. The Club has a lot of members, but only one in the UK and they would like to let people here know that they exist. Membership costs \$3 (US) for which includes a Wall Certificate, Unit Number, and so on. Then there is the *FULL* membership package with costs \$25 (US) which also holds such things as 100 Personal QSLs, 50 Club Envelopes, 50 large Stickers and a Mounted Stamp. The Club will accept Sterling, but in cash only and *no* coins. So, as always, when sending money abroad, I do recommend that you invest in the extra protection afforded by using Registered Post!

By the time you read this, the first of some new cards should be in circulation, and these are the "Dragonrider Warrior Series" cards commissioned by the Club on behalf of the members. Any Dragonrider can have one, or more, and they are available at a cost of £20 for 1,000 single-ink colour artist-drawn cards. The price is actually cheaper than if you were to go direct to the printer as the Club has negotiated a special price which includes the artwork charge! The card designs are in keeping with the series title, Warriors of the past, present and future. They include male, female and robotic designs and come as a set of four cards, which are linked in the centre by the Dragonrider Logo.

They are printed by Currie Printers of Co. Durham and can be included in the Currie Series if required. Any Dragonrider member who is interested should get in touch with me at the Club address, with a SASE please, and I'll send you all the details and, all being well, a sample of the series. The only requirement is that you are a Dragonrider so please quote your DR Number! If you prefer not to have a Currie Number on your card, then it may have to be a single card, rather than part of a four-card set though there will be a Dragonrider Logo and the special price will still apply.

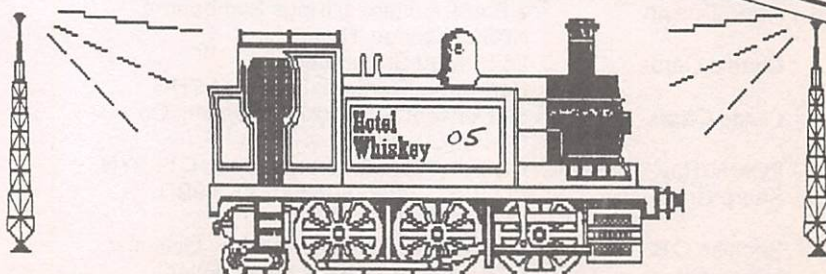
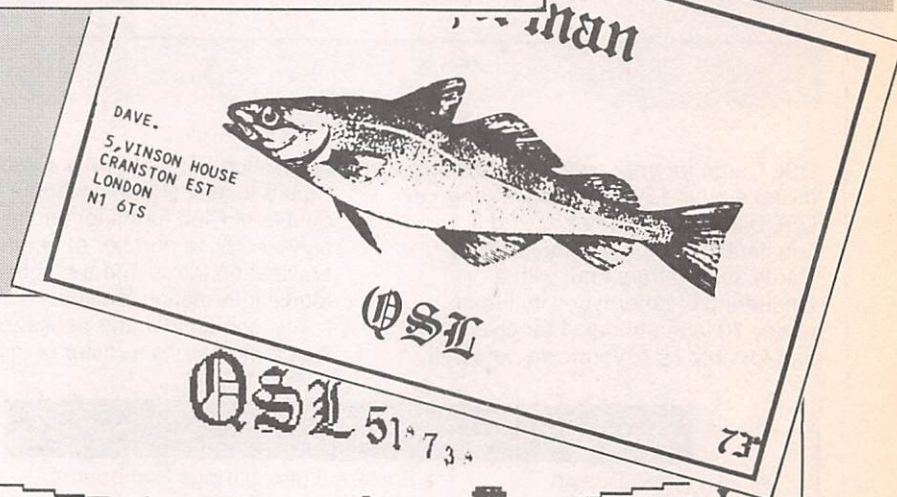
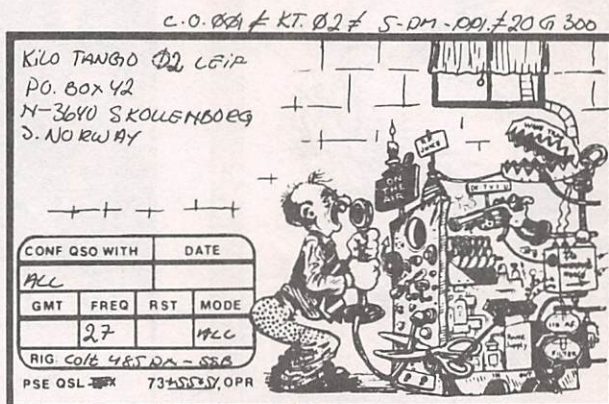
A few more names now, then there should be room to fit in another more detailed examination of a Club's package. If you want to see your name here, then drop me a line and ask! It's as simple as that, the only thing is that I would appreciate if you could remember to include one or more of your own personal QSL Cards and if you want a reply, please do remember to include return postage, thanks. One point that I keep on about, if your Personal QSL Card does not have your return address on, how can people reply to you? If the card is part of a Collector Series then this doesn't always apply, but if you send out 'floaters' for other people to pass on, how can the people who receive these cards ever reply to you and send their cards, thus helping to swell your collection?

From Tyne & Wear hails John (*Green Falcon*) who sends out such a massive package you may have to enlarge your LetterBox! There's Currie Cards, Heidi cards, Club cards, cards and certificates he's designed himself, and lots more! From Japan there's Toshiya Yamamoto (*BBI 133*) of Osaka. From Stamford in Lincs there comes a selection of very nice cards and a letter asking for a mention from Andrew (*The Dude*). Some time ago, I was asked by Barry (*Yorky*) if I could show his card (a Wizard design) and ask if anyone could help to locate the plate from which it was printed. I haven't heard if there has been any success there, but I've a similar cry for help now from Steve (*Highwayman*) of Manchester. He is also wanting to locate the plate for his card. If anyone can help, please get in touch with Steve.

Okay, here we go with another browse through a Club's package. This is not a "Club of the Month" slot but where I look at a Club's package in more detail than usual. This month's is the Cherokee Spirit QSL Club of Hastings run by Rick (*Pathfinder*). The package costs £8 and 15 of your personal QSL Cards for which you get quite a bit back! To start with, you get the usual Unit Number and ID Card along with a certificate which is designed like a skin pegged out to dry, plus A number of Rick's Poma & Star Rider design cards, some Postcard views of Hastings, a number of Club

QSLer Addresses:

Leif Johansen	PO Box 72, N-3540 Skollenborg, South Norway
Stella & Bill (<i>Bambi</i>)	PO Box 20, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1XL
Dave (<i>Fisherman</i>)	5 Vinson House, Cranston Est., London, N1 6TS
George & Jean (<i>Bullseye</i>)	PO Box 9, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 9EZ
Bob (<i>Crowflyer</i>)	PO Box 453, Telford, TF7 4RS
Norbert (<i>Fiesta 01</i>)	PO Box 2175, D-5928 Bad Laasphe, Germany
George (<i>MS 1395 - Taurus</i>)	36 Grand Str, Shannon, NI, New Zealand
Per Kvello (<i>20 WMS 18</i>)	Rute 12, Verdal, 7660 Vuku, Norway
Dave & Denise (<i>Desford Duck</i>)	59 Manor Road, Desford, Leicester
John (<i>Green Falcon</i>)	17 Fell View, High Spen, Rowlands Gill, T&W, NE39 2BW
Toshiya Yamamoto (<i>BBI 133</i>)	1-33-34 Itakano Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka 533, Japan
Andrew (<i>The Dude</i>)	87 Caithness Road, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2NL
Steve (<i>Highwayman</i>)	45 Beechcroft, Sedgley Park Rd, Prestwick, Manchester, M25 8AL



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QSL Cards for your own use (spot the mistake on the Poma card!). Exchange QSL cards from members, and a substantial number of Colour Swap Cards, mainly Poma but with a smattering of other types included; nearly 70 in the bundle I received! Not bad for only 15 of your own personal

cards, huh? Then there's a number of Club Stickers, a brief welcome letter, a couple of Club forms for you to pass on as you QSL, a number of other Clubs' application forms and a number of tourist information leaflets.

Also included in the package (I said it was a big one) is a roster of members, a

historical map of North Idaho and Western Montana, a free Rig Protection Scheme, endorsed by the Sussex Police, and your XYL gets free membership. Not a bad package. Mind you, that's not all. There's also a mounted Club Stamp and a very colourful, large (4.5 inches) Club Cloth Patch which is very striking and the one in the review pack is now adorning my own Body-Warmer! There is also a little surprise item and you can also have free use of the Club's PO Box, providing you supply a number of SASE's for this service. When joining, you can also specify which address you wish to be shown in the Club Roster, ie: PO Box 98 or your own Address/P.O. Box.

That's it, out of room once more, if you want a mention then please drop me a line direct to 3 Tarn Villas, Cowpasture Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 8RH. Any news of Forthcoming Events are always welcome, the sooner the better please, and if you want a reply, then please don't forget a SASE or similar.

QSL Services Addresses:

Aztec Design	2 Brook Cottages, Kings Sombourne, Nr Stockbridge, Hampshire.
Charlie Cards	26 Edward St, Hartshorne, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs., DE11 7HG.
Currie Cards	89 Derwent St, Blackhill, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 8LT.
POMA (Ray-UK Rep)	PO Box 106, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3YN.
Sharp Graphics	PO Box 3, Grangemouth, FK3 9BD. (0324-473432)
Scottish C.B. Newsheet	C/o 'Arnail', Patison, Neilston, Glasgow, G78 3AT. One year's Subscription £2.70.



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CB: Past, Present & Future (Part 2)

Last month we look at how CB grew from a very slow start in 1958 to its boom in the late-seventies, and how legal CB eventually came to Britain. Here we will examine the current state of affairs, and toss around a few ideas about how the service may develop in the future.

Let's face one thing right up front. 27MHz is not the frequency most suited to local, short-range communications. The periodic long-distance propagation from hundreds of thousands of miles away make it barely usable for all but very short-range at times, most notably during the peak of a sunspot cycle.

These peaks occur on average every 11 years, but it is still possible for local signals to be swamped-out by a station many thousands of miles away, even during a sunspot *minimum*. A VHF allocation on the other hand would only suffer such interference on a very occasional basis.

In 1958, when 27MHz was allocated to CB, it seemed reasonable enough. After all, no other place in the world had even heard of CB. Strangely enough, 1958 was also a sunspot maximum year. Not just any old regular maximum, but an all-time high, causing radio communications everywhere to be severely disrupted. Thirty years ago,

equipment of good-quality for VHF bands would have been considerably more expensive, so 27MHz it was. If the FCC could have foreseen what would happen twenty years later, they may have thought again. Like so many things, however, it is very difficult to alter once established. When colour television first appeared, it may have been better to redesign from scratch. Because there were so many monochrome sets in use however, designers were forced to make the new colour equipment backward compatible with black-and-white. In the same way, we have so many CB transceivers in use throughout the world on 27MHz that it would be virtually impossible to make a sudden change.

Throughout the foregoing discussion we've been assuming, of course, that long-distance propagation is not what is wanted. To millions of users, however, it is precisely this form of propagation that is the main attraction of Citizens' Band radio. I am not trying to say that there is anything wrong in this, indeed the time I enjoy CB the most is when we have a good opening to the United States. What I am examining however, is whether 27MHz was a good or bad choice for the *originally intended* purpose of short-range communication.

The Case of England

In this country, we were really in the position to establish a precedent by setting up a VHF service. At the time pressure was being put on the government of the day to legalise CB, we were at another sunspot maximum (it actually peaked in November 1979). Long-distance signals were in evidence almost non-stop, and hundreds took to the airwaves to communicate with their fellow enthusiasts across the waters. For many of the then illegal users it was just this activity that they wished to do legally, so for them 27MHz was the right choice. To anyone who only wanted a two-way radio link for local communications, it should have been obvious that there was something better. They wanted clear, interference-free radio, that could be used for calling home from the office, talking to a delivery van, and so on.

By this time technology could provide us with a compact, transistorised, light-weight VHF transceiver at a very reasonable cost. They were already being manufactured by the thousand for radio amateurs. A CB equivalent wouldn't have been so expensive; most of the extra frills could go to just leave a basic channelised, VHF, FM transceiver. A government release at the time even stated that in no way would they ever consider authorising the use of the 11-meter band, and that if such a citizens' radio service were to be introduced it would almost certainly be on a VHF allocation. If only they knew



Waterloo Bridge House – where decisions are made

The government's final decision to allow 27MHz operation, but on different channels to the rest of the world, and using FM didn't seem to be what either group of people wanted. For the skip chasers it was roughly the right frequency, but somewhat removed from the frequencies that legal users in other countries were using. There were the illegal folks of course, but not nearly as many, and still not quite on the same channels and modes. For the British citizens who wanted their own local communications it was better than 27MHz F.C.C. band, but still subject to an awful lot of interference from the continent. It seemed a case of *you can't please any of the people any of the time*.

Last year's move toward the CEPT standard is both a good and bad thing. For long-distance work we can now legally use the same channels as millions of other people. Many Europeans also work FM, so that's fine. For local communications it's gonna be hectic! After all, we are rapidly approaching another sunspot peak, so for the next few years the band will be overcrowded to say the least. Britain is now in the peculiar situation of legally having 80 channels for CB in the 11-meter band, and a choice as to whether to keep them or eliminate the original 40. Only time will tell.

The Future

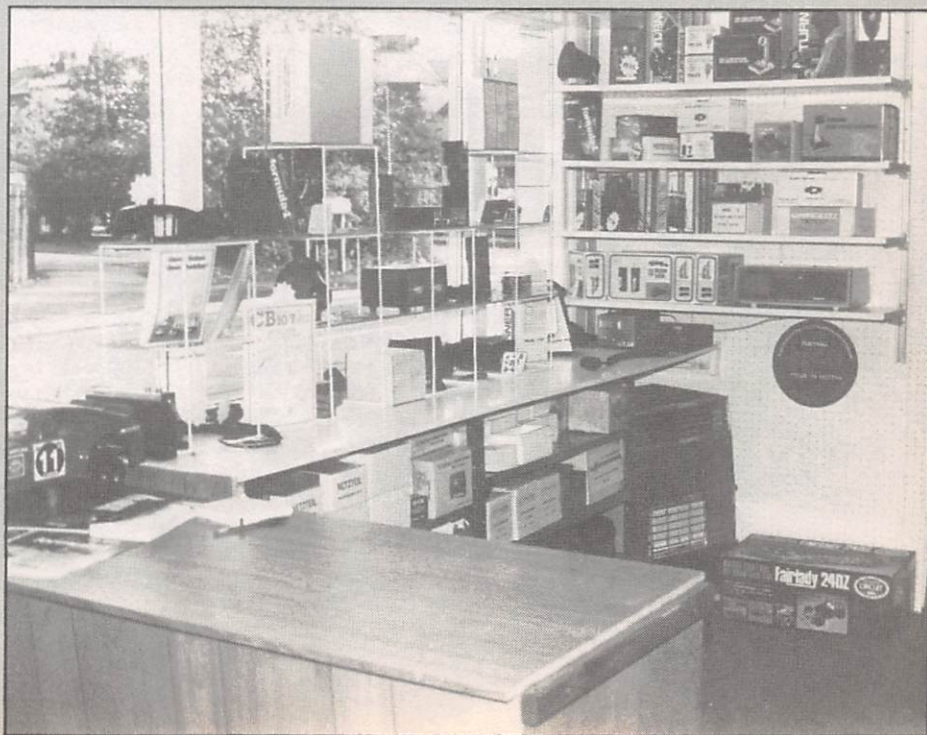
Did the FCC get it wrong all those years ago? Not really, because they had no

way of telling how popular CB would become, and if they had allowed only VHF operation many people would not have been able to afford the necessary equipment. They are now in that awkward position of having to control the monster they created. It may not be easy, but 27MHz is here to stay.

What of Britain? Did our government get it wrong? I feel the answer must surely be yes. At the time CB was

legalised in England it was obvious that 27MHz was not working well for local communications. VHF equipment was very affordable, and would have offered a better building-block for a short-range communications system. The charade we were treated to over "no frequencies available" just doesn't go very far. Every other place in the world found space, and with severe limitations of the numbers of TV and radio stations in this

Pity the poor dealers



country on VHF, we still have plenty of gaps.

Given time our 934MHz allocation may work. If enough people took an interest, more sets could be sold, making them cheaper to produce and so on. It may be that 934MHz is to us now what VHF was to the F.C.C. in 1958. It has very severe limitations however, that we discussed last month, so its suitability for a service such as this is highly questionable. The recent decision to stop importing 934MHz equipment, with a view to phasing out the UHF service in a few years, means that we will probably never know.

Some Possibilities

Let's examine some facts. CB is a mess. We have an entire planet using the 11-meter band uncontrollably. Nobody would ever seriously consider using 27MHz for anything other than CB. Even if the 27/81 service was withdrawn in Britain, who would want to use the frequencies? Just because a service is officially withdrawn, it doesn't mean that everyone stops using it, as French authorities found out from their decision to move away from AM and SSB toward FM-only. Even if everyone in England stopped using that portion of the band, signals from the rest of the world would still cause havoc to any other services there, except for possibly extremely short-range links. It seems that whether the 27/81 allocation is good or bad there is no real advantage in withdrawing it, so it may as well stay, even if it only eases the crowding elsewhere. The same applies to the CEPT channels. Even if for some peculiar reason the government decided to discontinue them (yes, it has been known for governments to change their mind in a very short length of time!), the same considerations would come into effect. There would be so many signals from the rest of the world that nobody else would want the frequencies! Some of the last non-CB users of the 27MHz

band want out, simply because it is too crowded and subject to too much interference.

All in all then, 27MHz is CB and likely to remain so, legally or illegally. What we could use is another allocation, right away from the hustle and bustle of 11-meters. A VHF band someplace would do just fine. 27MHz would stay as it is – a band for general chatting with lots of long-distance work when the conditions allow it. The VHF band could be allocated in a similar way to which the F.C.C. originally assigned their class D service, with some channels for communication between units of the same station. Such a service would be most welcome to many. In the skip-free VHF area, we also have the possibility of starting-up repeaters on CB. Whilst they are workable on 27MHz (the 10-meter amateur band has them), the prevailing conditions for a large part of the time would make them rather unreliable. Local clubs and users could help install such repeaters, and they are not all that difficult to maintain. Careful planning and licensing of such installations could mean that areas could be well served, with consistently reliable communications over 50 miles or more. With more and more people travelling further and further each day, this could be an important point for the future.

The Achilles' heel of the CB world is the abusers of the system. We have discovered the hard way that not everyone on the air is such a "good buddy." Abuse takes many forms: there's the outright bad language and deliberate interference, the carelessness of obliterating someone else's conversation, and the thoughtless fiddling inside rigs. Nobody's perfect, and it is all too easy to accidentally cause interference. It is the other two forms of abuse that require attention. An attitude of "I'm alright Jack" seems to be settling in. "So I'm being a selfish, foul-mouthed person. Who cares? I'm having fun." We

have some strange people around.

The last form of abuse mentioned is probably largely unintended. So many users "adjust" their rig in the hopes of making better in some way, and wind-up spluttering over several channels and causing havoc. And this doesn't just apply to people who play with their own rig; there are good many so-called "rig doctors" who have no idea how to align and modify transceivers correctly.

To clean-up 27MHz would be an extremely slow, and depressing task, but if we are to avoid it becoming "Danger - Keep Out" zone something must be done. A new service on VHF would at least have a chance to get it right at the start. We need callsigns, if not the old-style "This is KXYS-9999" voice announcement then a modern hi-tech substitute. It would be relatively easy to incorporate a coded electronic signal into each rig that identifies it at the start of every transmission. It may be too much trouble to get every store selling transceivers to record who has which code, but a voluntary combined registration/license could be implemented. If a monitoring station then picked-up anyone abusing the system, they could run a quick computer check on the special code. If registered they know exactly where to go, otherwise traditional radio direction-finding can be employed. The problem is that as with most things there is a way around it. Even if no details of the coding system were officially released, you can bet it wouldn't be long before someone came up with a black box that simulated the codes and landed some innocent person in an awkward situation. It would certainly eliminate some problems though.

In writing the preceding paragraph it seems that the majority of sensible users of the system are being mistrusted because of a minority. Whether it sounds too much like "1984" is debatable, but is it better to have that or a system that becomes unusable due to

A novice amateur band?





(Above) Why didn't we get 27AM?

the selfish minority?

An electronic code could have definite advantages however. As well as identifying the transmitting station the code could also incorporate a selective-call facility. This could be used in a way not unlike telephone numbers. Earlier we mentioned the possibility of using repeaters. One idiot close to the repeater and all that expensive hardware becomes nothing but a relay for garbage. Groups setting up a repeater station could possibly arrange for a yearly subscription to help finance it, with each user's identity code held in memory in the repeater. Access would then only be granted upon receipt of a valid code, possibly with a bypass to allow anyone to call emergency monitors etc. Any user silly enough to abuse the repeater can be instantly stopped by the removal of his/her identity code. The possibilities with modern digital control are almost endless.

As for the problem of authorised tampering, perhaps a radio should be sealed, with only licensed service engineers having access to them. Any "rig doctor" worth going to should be able to easily pass a single technical competence test to allow him to repair such equipment. After all, the F.C.C. only allowed licensed engineers to repair CB radios. If all this seems rather drastic, it is. Like so many things however, most sensible people pay because of a small number who have no common sense.

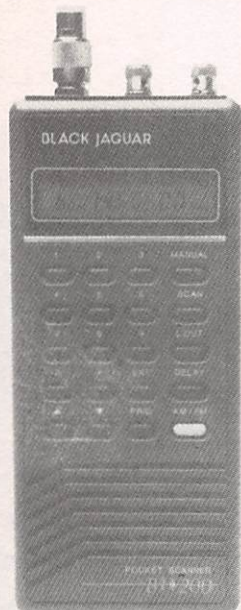
And 11-meters? It would be nice if the radio department could have a real good clean-up. Let's get rid of the idiots, have all the maladjusted rigs put right once and for all and make the band a nicer place. We're fighting against the rest of Europe for a lot of the time, but there is still hope.

There has been talk in recent times of a novice amateur band, and 27MHz would probably seem attractive. It would seem grossly unfair however, to

suddenly tell everyone there that they must stop using it unless they go pass a technical test. Maybe they just aren't technically minded, and there's no reason why they should be. Perhaps Britain should adopt SSB on part of 27MHz and allow people to use it for long-distance communications in this way, if that is what many people want. We could then have the best of both worlds: 27MHz for long-distance work when the skip's running, and for local chatting at other times, and a VHF service for reliable point-to-point messages.

Write and let us know how you feel about the future of CB. It is the users of today and tomorrow who must make the decisions about their own service, and they try to convince the authorities that what they say is best. What do you want? Long-distance SSB on 27MHz? Short-range on VHF? Both? Or just a complete disorganised shambles? That is what will happen if nothing is done.

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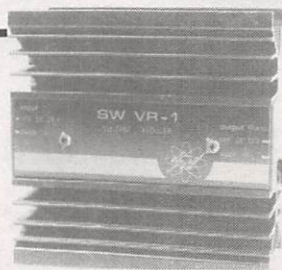


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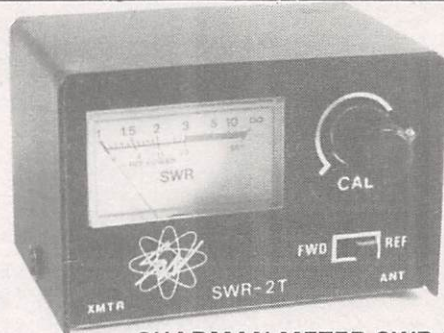
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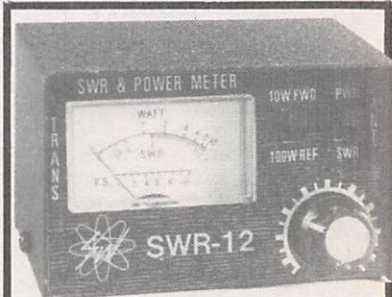
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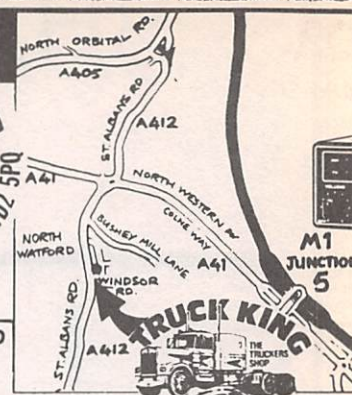


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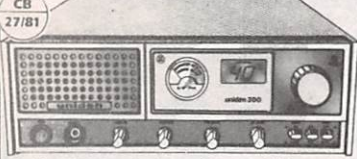


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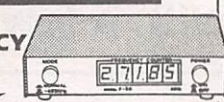
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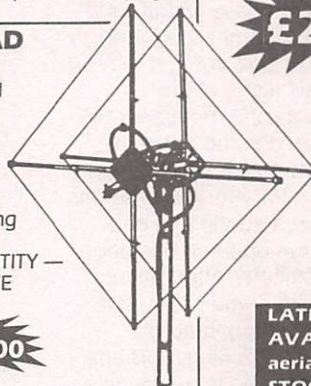
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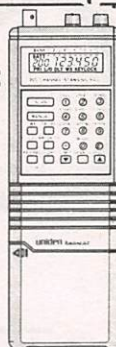
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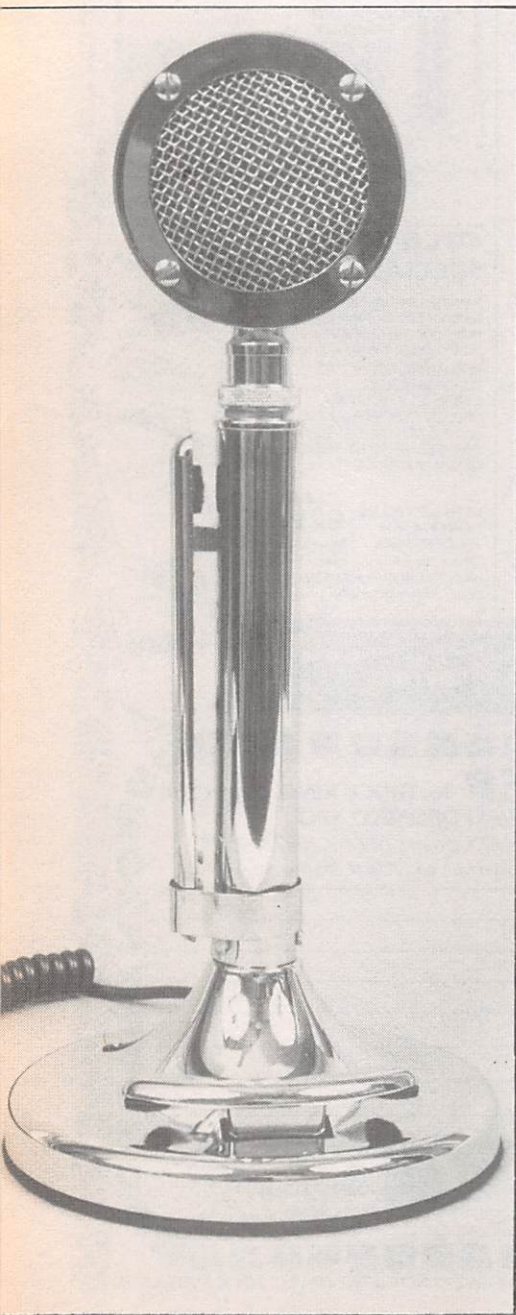
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Christmas Gift Guide

(Below) A handy gift for a homebase station



Want to make someone happy this Christmas? Paul Coxwell comes up with a few ideas

Christmas is just around the corner folks, and by the time you get to read this issue of the magazine the stores will all be decked out with tinsel and snowscapes. If you're short of a few accessories for your CB gear this year, why not drop a subtle hint and leave this magazine open on this page in a prominent position? Alternatively you may like to give some of your CB friends a little something; read on.

For the beginning CB user, perhaps someone you know who is receiving a transceiver for Christmas (excuse the pun), there are several books around that they may find useful. Many are a good few years outdated from the current scene, but the basic information in them is good. Tab books have a reasonable range of inexpensive little paperbacks, originally selling for around \$2 to \$3. These can be found in the radio junk shops of many towns and cities now. For those within shopping distance of central London, Foyle's Books have a good assortment of radio books. Supplies of specific titles may be a little erratic, but they always have plenty to choose from at any given time. If you want books aimed specifically at the British CB market, you may have to hunt a little harder; the few that are still in print are largely too old to cover the latest developments in England. If there's a CB store near you, then that's probably your best bet.

If you have a more experienced relative or friend, the choices for books open up a little. On the technical book scene, try Lou Franklin's "Screwdriver Expert's Guide," available from his own company, CB City International. This goes a little deeper than the previously mentioned guides, but is still written in very easy-to-understand terms. For the person who wants nothing but the best technical guides, try Lou's "CB PLL Data Book" and "Repairing & Understanding CB Radios." The latter book, if you can run to \$35, is well recommended, and guaranteed to keep delinquent breakers quiet well into the new year. If your intended 'giftee' has a great thirst for even more radio knowledge, and particularly an interest toward amateur radio too, you may like to try a copy of "The Radio Amateur's Handbook," or "Radio Communication." The first is published by the American Radio Relay League, and is a very comprehensive book. The second book is the British equivalent, published by the Radio Society Of Great Britain. The RSGB carry a range of other books, leaflets, wall charts etc, including some obtained from the ARRL. You can visit their headquarters 10am to 4pm, Monday through Friday to see the stock (addresses listed below).

If your Christmas spending budget can stretch beyond the odd book or two, you may like to move into the accessories field. If you're inexperienced with CB, your best bet



(Above) A handy accessory

would be to take yourself along to the nearest good CB store in your area, and ask their advice. Your main choice would probably be between preamplifiers, speech processors, antenna matchers, SWR/Power meters, microphones, extension speakers, and linear amplifiers. The last mentioned items are *illegal*, so be careful who you're giving them to! Two of the best-known suppliers of these items in Britain are Nevada Communications (formerly Telecoms) at Portsmouth, and Truck King at Watford. Both have a good range, and will also sell mail order to those unable to get to the store.

Speech processors are a good bet for anyone who's interested in working

long-distance "skip" contacts. They come in two forms: one to fix inside the rig, the other to connect in-line as an extra box. The latter, for obvious reasons, is the better choice for a Christmas gift. Look for a processor that has variable gain, and that can be switched out of circuit easily when necessary. Most stores will wire the connecting plug on such items to suit the intended radio, so make a note of the model number when buying your processor. That way your gift can be used straight away. Expect to pay from £20 up to around £50. One last thing: Don't forget the battery!

SWR/Power meters are a little trickier.

Anyone who has been around in CB for more than a few months will probably already have a very basic meter, so you'd best look for one of the more "upmarket" models. These often incorporate a built-in antenna matcher, modulation meter and so on. Prices range from £15 or so upwards. One tester sold under various brand names incorporates an SWR meter, power meter (20 watts), AM modulation meter, FM deviation meter, and dummy load all in one unit. Whilst the accuracy of these cheap meters is highly questionable, they will suffice for many users needing a very rough guide. Just in case of a shortage, get a patch cord to go with any meter you buy; apart from anything

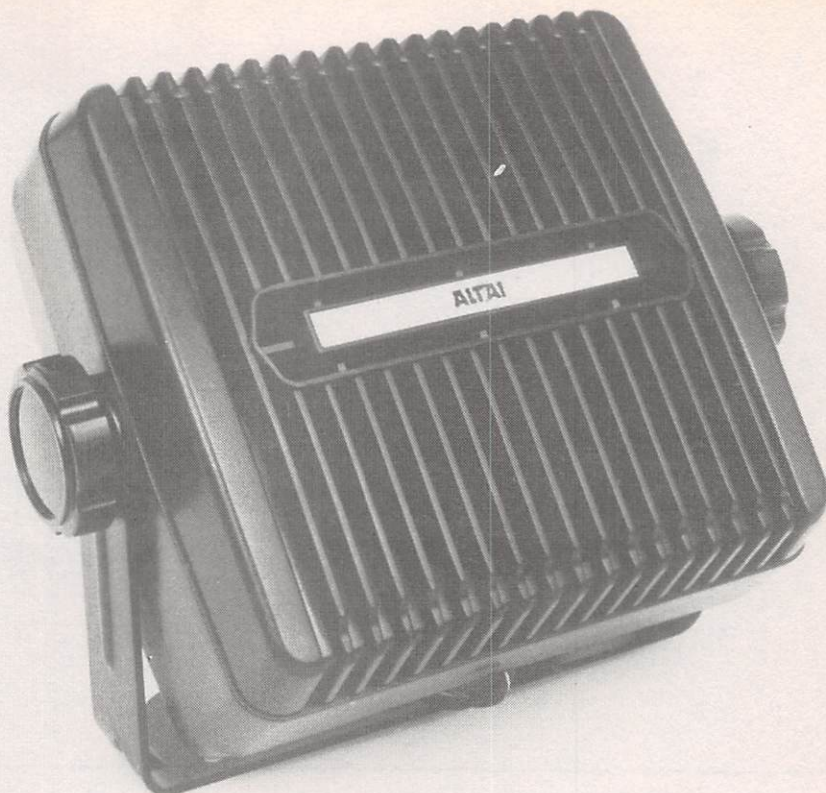
(Below) Batteries are inexpensive – but useful



else it'll make you look as if you can afford big gifts!

Microphones are a little difficult too, because they don't really look much as a Christmas present. If you have a relative with a base station, you might like to consider one of the fancier desk microphones, which range in price from £30 or £40 up to £80 or more for the more esoteric types, such as those designed to look like old-fashioned radio microphones. As with speech processors, make a note of the radio's model number so the store can wire the plug for you. Most will do this free of charge. Remember the battery!

If you're out for something a little smaller (for 'smaller' read 'cheaper!'), don't forget those odd stocking-fillers, like badges, hats, bumper stickers, CB log books and so on. Once again, your local CB store is your best bet here. As a gift to be remembered once a month all year, you could always get a year's subscription to "Citizens' Band" magazine.



An extension speaker is always welcome

Contacts

CB City International, P.O. Box 31500, Phoenix, AZ 85046. Tel: (602) 996-8700.
Foyle's Books, 113-119 Charing Cross Road, London WC2. Tel: (01) 437-5660.
Tab Books Inc., P.O. Box 40, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. Tel: (717) 794-2191.
Truck King, 320 St. Albans Road,

Watford, WD2 5PQ. Tel: (0923) 35943.
American Radio Relay League, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Tel: (203) 666-1541.
Radio Society Of Great Britain, Lambda

House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, EN6 3JE. Tel: (0707) 59015.
Nevada Communications, 189 London Road, Portsmouth, PO2 9AE. Tel: (0705) 662145.



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You're Nicked!

Keith Townsend looks at the events and implications of 'Black Thursday'



(Above) The wrong arm of the law

Ever since it first assumed responsibility for regulating Britain's radio communication systems, the Department of Trade and Industry has made no secret of its intention to reduce the availability of CB rigs which do not conform to the terms of the licence. To that end, it has, over the past few years, instituted prosecutions against a number of CB operators for offences ranging from operating without a valid licence, through operating outside the terms of the licence, right up to operating a station for which no licence could or would be issued. Despite these prosecutions, the vast majority of which were successful, there has been no shortage, either of clandestine equipment or of those prepared to use it. It was precisely because of this that, more than two years ago, the DTI announced its intention to restrict the sale of CB rigs so that only those capable of operation within the terms of a valid licence would be available in the shops.

Information

Citizens' Band first reported this information when it was red-hot news. Since then we have made various references to the subject as Waterloo Bridge House has released more information. The one thing we were not able to tell you, simply because we ourselves did not know, was when the prohibition might come into force. The DTI had, in fact, set many tentative launch dates for the necessary Parliamentary Order but, as is the way with the legal profession, their legal advisers had quibbled over so many points and taken so long in crossing the 'i's and dotting the 't's that the date slipped further and further back, until the Order had, for many people, become completely intangible; a sort of ghost who might be expected to materialise at any moment but who never actually did.

All this changed on July 13th, when the spectre slipped quietly into our lives in the form of the 'Wireless Telegraphy (Citizens' Band and Amateur Apparatus) (Various Provisions) Order, 1988. (I hope I don't have to say that little lot too often). In effect, this Order restricts the import, manufacture, sale, hire, offer or advertisement for sale or hire, custody or control of 'certain specified CB radio apparatus'. What it means in practice is that if you buy, sell, own, or even offer to buy or sell any rig other than a straight 4 Watt, 40-channel FM model, you risk being nicked! What is more, all your gear is liable to be seized!

Everyone knew that such an Order was to come. Everyone knew, within reason, what it would say. In such

circumstances it might have been reasonable to expect the date of its implementation to be announced well in advance. It is arguable that this would have given dealers and users alike clear notice that their shelves and racks must be cleared of anything even remotely dodgy before that date. Instead, the first that either we or the CB trade knew of the Order was when, on Thursday, September 22nd, a small number of dealers in London and the South East were visited by bands of warrant-carrying officials who were empowered to search their premises and to seize and carry away any rigs which they considered to contravene the terms of the new Order.

Notice

True, the DTI had placed notice of the Order in the London Evening Gazette, in accordance with the law. True, they had issued a Press Release announcing its implementation. It is perhaps unfortunate that precious few of us ever read the Gazette. What is more unfortunate is that, due to circumstances which have not yet been satisfactorily explained, we have been unable to track down anyone who had actually received a copy of the Press Release; this despite the fact that both the Citizens' Band editorial office and my home address are among those listed for distribution of such tidbits. In fact I first saw the Press Release in early October, after having asked for a copy to be sent to me.

Be that as it may, the Order had

indeed come into force and the first attempts to enforce its terms were taking place. As one dealer explained to me shortly afterwards; "I arrived at my shop at about eleven thirty in the morning. I was more than a little surprised to discover that the door was locked and that my staff were not doing business as usual. Inside, I was greeted by no less than nine officials, a mixture of DTI, Customs and Excise and local police. It seems that they had already been there for an hour and a half when I arrived and although they had suggested that the doors be locked they had allowed a member of staff to telephone the company's solicitors, who had quite correctly advised him that since the officials were armed with a warrant he should comply with its terms. This is precisely the course of action I would have followed, had I been present when they arrived."

He continued: "After a while a couple of police officers left, leaving just one of their number behind. This still left some five or six officials on the premises and they continued the task of searching the premises, which had begun in my absence. They were correct in their procedure but very thorough, turning out drawers and cupboards. We do a very large mail-order trade in a wide variety of goods and they even opened a number of parcels which were due to be sent out that day, to see if they contained CB rigs. In all, they seized about sixty pieces of equipment, many of which belonged to customers and were in for repair or for modification to legal standard. The total retail value of

the seized goods was about ten thousand pounds. In all, their visit lasted for about three hours, during which even our routine post was opened."

Low-key

Asked for his view of the day's events, he told me; "I think that the introduction of the Order was deliberately kept low-key. Frankly, I am amazed that they took the trouble to mount what amounted to a "Sweeney" style raid when all the goods we sell are on open display, either in the window or in the shop itself. Sure, I knew that a prohibition order was imminent. I guess that in the time it had taken to come about I had simply stuck my head in the sand, assuming that I would be given plenty of warning. I admit that in many ways there has always been a 'grey' area to the sale of CB rigs but as selling them had not previously been illegal, I, like a lot of others, had continued to do so. If I had received proper notification of the new Order there would have been absolutely no need for such a raid. As it was, I am appalled that they considered it necessary to send a posse. Had just one man appeared with such a warrant I would have responded in exactly the same manner. This was a most unpleasant and unnecessary experience, after which two of my staff were so distressed that they had to be sent home for the rest of the day!"

On his future plans, he assured me that he intended to stock only radios which he could sell legally, "as I believed I had been doing at the time."

(Below) Beware the Ides of September



1988 No. 1215

TELEGRAPHS

The Wireless Telegraphy (Citizens' Band and Amateur Apparatus) (Various Provisions) Order 1988

Made - - - - 13th July 1988
Laid before Parliament 15th July 1988
Coming into force 8th August 1988

Whereas it appears to the Secretary of State to be expedient that the provisions of section 7 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1967^(a) should apply to the wireless telegraphy apparatus specified in this Order for the purpose of preventing or reducing the risk of interference with wireless telegraphy and that certain of such apparatus should be marked in accordance with the provisions of section 85 of the Telecommunications Act 1984^(b);

And whereas the Secretary of State is satisfied as required by section 7(9) of the 1967 Act that the Order is compatible with the international obligations of the United Kingdom;

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7(2) of the 1967 Act and sections 84 and 85(1) of the 1984 Act hereby makes the following Order:

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Citizens' Band and Amateur Apparatus) (Various Provisions) Order 1988 and shall come into force on 8th August 1988.

Interpretation

2. In this Order:-

"the 1967 Act" means the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1967;
"the 1984 Act" means the Telecommunications Act 1984;
"MPT 1320" means Performance Specification MPT 1320, as amended, published in April 1981;
"MPT 1333" means Performance Specification MPT 1333, published in December 1986;
"British Standard 5850: 1981" means the Specification for Safety of electrically energized office machines published by the British Standards Institution and reprinted in 1981;
"CB apparatus" means wireless telegraphy apparatus known as "Citizens' Band" which is designed or adapted, or has facilities permitting its adaptation, for the purpose of transmitting spoken messages on the frequency band 26.1 MHz to 28 MHz.

(a) 1967 c.72; section 7 was amended by the Telecommunications Act 1984 (c.12), section 77.
(b) 1984 c.12.

(Above) Read it and weep

After speaking to a number of traders, we contacted the DTI, who confirmed that officers from three Radio Investigation Service regional offices had taken part in a small number of raids in and around London and the South Coast on the day in question. They told us; "Our officers visited premises in Watford, Luton, Milton Keynes and Andover and seized a number of CB sets, either because they were capable of operation on illicit modes or frequencies or because they did not have type-approval. These included a number of Satcom and Atron rigs, some Ham International President Lincolns, a few Jumbos and a quantity of CB27/81-style sets which had been modified for operation outside the authorised band." They added that whilst they had expected to find several examples of rigs which did not have the necessary type-approval they had been surprised at the number of pre-legalisation AM and SSB rigs that their visits had uncovered.

I put it to a DTI official that a proper publicity campaign prior to the Order's introduction might have removed the need for such raids. He told me: "I very much doubt that. Far from getting rid of

their stocks, I think that some dealers would simply have hidden them away, only to filter them onto the market much more slowly." He continued: "As for publicity, we had made no secret of the fact that such an Order was imminent. Citizens' Band magazine had given considerable publicity to the fact and although the need to ensure that the Order complied with every aspect of the law had delayed its introduction, we remain convinced that any dealer who intended to comply with the law had been given plenty of opportunity to ensure that they stocked only those sets for which a licence could be issued." He added: "Many people buying CB equipment for the first time rely on the dealer to supply them with the correct equipment. If he does not, then the user may find himself charged with various offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. The new order merely removes the anomaly whereby equipment which could not legally be used could still be openly supplied."

Warrants

I asked how the Department intended to enforce the new Order and was told;

"There will undoubtedly be more warrants issued under the terms of this Order and more dealers can expect to be visited. Our primary aim is to prevent the trade in illicit equipment and this can best be done by keeping such goods out of the shops. We are, of course, also concerned to prevent their importation."

Asked how this might affect anyone who had already purchased such a rig, he said; "Of course, anyone who installs or operates a rig which does not conform to the terms of their licence is leaving themselves open to prosecution but we expect the major enforcement action to be directed against those who profit from the sale of such sets."

Where does all this leave the CB community? Until now it has been relatively easy for those who wanted a little extra. Either they had their present rig doctored or they simply went out and bought something that was, in the words of Waylon Jennings, 'just a little bit more than the law would allow.' There were always risks but there were always those prepared and willing to take those risks, just as there were always those ready to meet their needs. The Wireless Telegraphy (Citizens' Band and Amateur Apparatus) (Various Provisions) Order 1988 (I still think that's one heck of a mouthful) looks set to change all that by sweeping away many of the brand names that breakers have come to know and love. As its effects are felt it will undoubtedly prove harder to lay your hands on a rig that is just that little bit special. On the other hand, it will end forever the complaints, of which we have received more than a few of late, that Johnny has just bought his first rig and didn't know it wasn't covered by his licence until the RIS came round to announce that it didn't have type-approval. The moral, for both dealers and users, must be to make sure in the future that what they buy is legal in every sense of the word!

This said, it is impossible not to feel a considerable degree of sympathy for those dealers who already seem to have fallen foul of the legal changes. In emphasising that the DTI has acted entirely within the law, both in respect of the new order's introduction and its implementation, I cannot help but share the disappointment of those who believe that the introduction date of such an important change in the CB laws should have received greater publicity. Against the view that this would have prevented enforcement officers from acting so effectively we must balance the possibility that a pre-announced date might have reduced the need for such enforcement. After all, what is the purpose of the law in this country? Is it merely to catch wrongdoers, or might we be allowed to hope that by offering a clean lead it derives a greater purpose, that of preventing the crime from happening in the first place?



CAPTAIN SPARX

AT&T ACTION

The Captain looks back at the development of communication technology

As you know, George Washington never told a lie, which is more than you can say about *some* folks on CB radio, especially when they mention the equipment they've owned, loaned or swopped at the local Club jumble sale. George Washington is said to have owned up to chopping down his Pa's favourite cherry tree. Not often mentioned is his plan to adapt the same to a radio antenna – pity he lived so far from those gigantic redwoods in California. When I asked a US radio veteran from the sunny state if the CB fraternity had ever thought of using the big trees in any way, he drawled, "Well, we *did* think of hanging some of the kids and lids from them."

George Washington's anticipation of our present radio conversation was noted by a radio magazine in the year of the Captain's birth, 1931 not 1881 as sometimes rumoured. The first President of the USA advised, "Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of anyone." This homely wisdom was noted in 'Western Electric News', a monthly magazine of great interest to radio freaks and telephone enthusiasts. Indeed, I recently mentioned the journal to an emissary of American Telephone and Telegraph, better known as A T & T, parent company of Western Electric. Incidentally, A T & T had just published an excellent and free booklet about its amazing technology, well worth seeing. As the Captain is not employed in public relations capacity, or indeed anywhere else, he cannot promise anything, but

serious minded readers can write for a copy to the Public Relations Office, A T & T International, Norfolk House, 31 St. James Square, London SW1Y 4JR.

A T & T has been busy in advanced



communications since the invention of the telephone over a century ago. Today, it employs some 300,000 people worldwide, providing services to 250 countries with offices in 25. This is no history lesson, but, as the aforementioned booklet points out, the transistor effect was discovered at A T & T Bell Laboratories in 1947, the laser (for fibre optics communication) eleven years later. Since the latter discovery in 1958, A T & T has produced more than a million miles of fibre cable – the communications medium that could well make much, and possibly most satellite communication unnecessary in the 1990s. Hobby radio users will certainly have access to the science-fiction flavour technology mentioned in such glowing literature. 'Western Electric News' was born long before fibre optics, and even before the

excellent actor, Don Ameche, portrayed Alexander Graham Bell in a 20th Century Fox movie of the 1940s. Bell was, of course, the gent who started the telephony revolution when, on March 10th 1876, he used his original liquid phone to call an assistant, Mr. Watson, into his laboratory. 'Western Electric News' appeared shortly before the outbreak of the first world war, and by the 1930s had become a singularly prestigious journal. It had a 12in. x 9in. page size, full colour cover and though primarily a company magazine, 'devoted to the interests of Western Electric men and women', had a great deal on current communication developments, e.g. use of radio by the fireboats in New York harbour. Some singularly merry cartoons about use, and somewhat unlikely potential of the telephone was also included. Presumably, the Editor of the magazine, Sterling Patterson, recognised (long before the sociologists) the therapeutic value of laughter in industrial relations. When Captain Sparx was put in charge of an office at the Co-op some years ago, people laughed at him all the time.

If the eager beavers at A T & T wanted to delight the more mature(?) radio buffs, they could perhaps re-issue some of the radio delights found in the pages of 'Western Electric News'. In the February 1931 issue, Madeline Moschenross, the assistant editor, wrote a piece about a visit to the CBS radio station in New York, WABC, housed on the 23rd floor of an elegant skyscraper. Not only is the report a genial picture of life in the Big Apple, but in places it is reminiscent of moments when we have tried to explain CB to aunts from the country. The Hank Simmons Showboat Programme, broadcast on WABC on Saturday nights had something close to a radio soap opera, the studio audience being encouraged to make sounds appropriate to the plot. To avoid possible errors, the programme's floor assistant held up sign-boards stating the kind of

Western Electric News



VOLUME 19
NUMBER 10

Western Electric News



VOLUME 19
NUMBER 5

JULY
1930

sound to be used. It sounds like a natural for sabotage by frustrated community radio activists.

In addition to an interesting array of guest stars, WABC also developed some interesting Outside Broadcast techniques. When 'Western Electric News' featured this innovation, one of the reporters was seen carrying a backpack and shortwave transmitter. His handheld microphone was turnip-sized. However, it seemed to do the trick, and local sales of tonic wine possibly increased. CB was anticipated from time to time, in spirit if not in actual technology. In February 1930, a New York employee described how his home had been wired up for remote control radio. Inspired by an early business inter-com set-up, the New York home had the basic electronics in the basement, a press-button control panel in the living room two floors above. Neat loudspeaker consoles had been

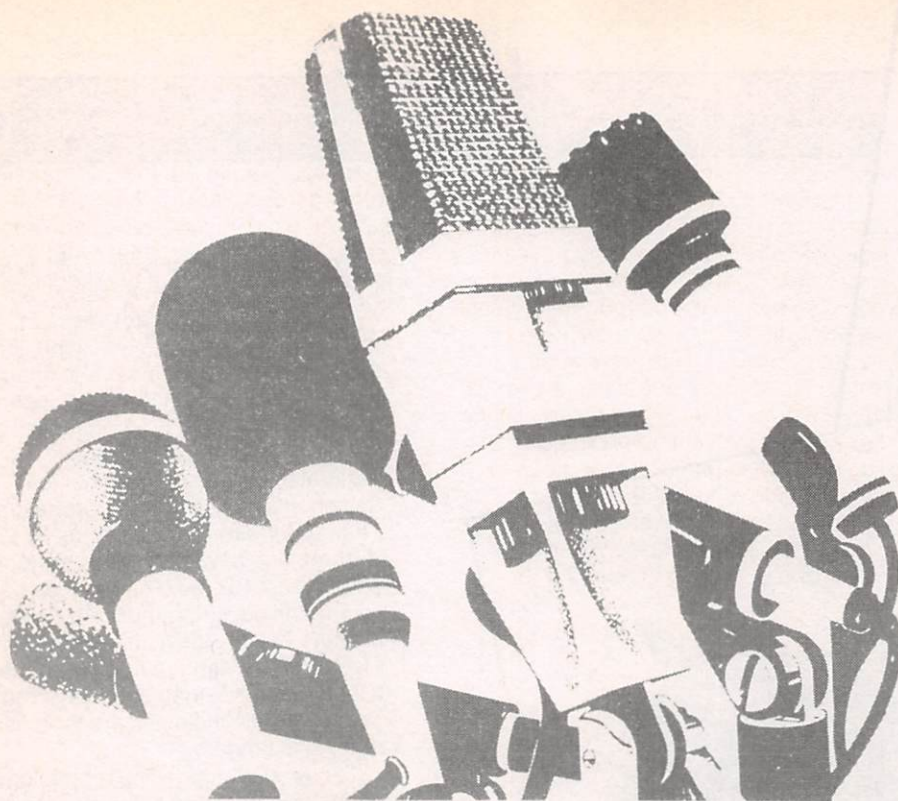
integrated with the home decor. This sort of thing may be 'old hat' in the 1980s, but the Captain has certainly met gents who think that their new home ought to be designed around their transceiver, preferably by an architect who signs his drawing with a CB handle.

'Western Electric News' covered cinema developments linked to the installation and/or up-grading of equipment for the talkies. Readers of the Captain's recent soliloquy on cable radio will be interested to know that a sort of cable concert occurred on Sunday September 13th 1931. 'Music Along The Wires' was an attempt to link conventional radio broadcasting with the promotion of the telephone. Stations involved in the experiment included WABC (New York), WCAU (Philadelphia), WCAO (Baltimore), WAML (Washington DC), WOKO (Albany), WFBL (Syracuse) and WGR (Buffalo).

Telephone subscribers could 'listen in' to a trans-Atlantic conversation, as evidence of the great advances in inter-continental communication, though *that* achievement was modest enough compared with the possibilities open to us today. The radio programme linked to the programme included music performed by a certain Domenica Savino and his Symphony Orchestra. Their repertoire included tunes by Victor Herbert, one of whose songs perfectly described a CB radio diagram as beheld by a technical ignoramus: 'Ah Sweet Mystery of Life'. Inevitably, 'Western Electric News' tended to concentrate on telephony rather than shortwave radio. Today, the technologies are increasingly running in tandem.

Today, ever increasing technology opens new avenues of inter-continental communication - for example, the 1988 A T & T trans-oceanic cable, transmitting high quality services between Europe and the USA at the speed of light. It all seems a long way from 'Music Along The Wires'. Still, if you think life is moving too fast, reflect that 'Western Electric News' once covered a dramatic presentation by some eighth grade school-children in Chicago. The title, 'Introducing The Telephone To A Mountain Girl' referred to the heroine, a maiden from the hills on holiday in Kansas City where relations showed her how to use a telephone. It's the kind of plot we may yet see in plays specially made for satellite television. The piece had useful public education aspects. As recently as the 1940s, Captain Sparx knew rural characters who confessed that they had never used a telephone. Some even thought the telephone likely to affect one's mental well-being (this was before unsought telephone selling made this entirely possible). 'Western Electric News' certainly put the telephone on the map, metaphorically speaking, and helped make the nation radio-minded.

A final salute from this excellent magazine produced in more innocent times by part of the A T & T organisation - in December 1930, it covered a report on the acoustics technology experts who installed sound reproduction equipment in major cinemas in Britain and the USA. These roving geniuses, said the article, combined 'the qualities of the North West Mounted Police, the US Marines, the Air Mail pilots, and the fastest down-the-pole sliders of the New York Police Department'. Great - but such qualities are certainly found on any member of the CB Club Committee. Especially the one who organises the Club Raffle.



OVER THE AIR

Shepherd Man looks at the implications of the new Order and wonders if it's not before time

"You'll never stop the importation or sales of illegal CB equipment in the UK". That seems to be the

quote of the century. But is it true? And how many breakers can put their hands on their hearts and say they have never owned or used anything illegal on CB? So who is to blame? Is it those who import the goods? Is it those who sell the goods? Is it the DTI for not keeping a much tighter control on importation and use or is it the user/buyer?

It is true to say that, prior to legal FM in the UK, there was a certain amount of illegal rigs and other assorted goods in use and for sale but, like most things in life, the more popular something gets, the more the market grows to accommodate the market's needs, so where does it all start from and who is to blame? Well, you can't blame the importers for cashing in on something that the law fails to stop but you can blame the Government for failing to 'close the door'. Even with this new Order under Section 7 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act it still fails to close all the doors. In fact it doesn't even go part way, although it is a start in the right direction! You can't even blame the shops for selling such goods (unless they fail to inform the buyer that its ownership or use makes the user 'illegal' or outside of the law. Or that they con that person by telling them that it is not illegal to use such equipment in the UK. Remember the old business rule of supply and demand. So what is left? The user/buyer. Yes, in the main, it is down to us!

If it wasn't for those breakers who want that little bit more i.e. bigger

antennas, more channels and more power etc, we wouldn't have the problems. But then the human being is a funny creature. Given that there is something better or bigger on the market, we have to have it, don't we! So, if we didn't buy these items then there would be no market, but how many breakers would be willing to part with their prize possessions – who will be the first to say *no*? It is clear that we can expect little or no help from the DTI, so if anything we will have to do it ourselves. That is of course 'if that is what we really want' . . .

From the telephone calls and information that I have received it seems that a large number of shops and CB emporiums are being visited by the RIS. They have been, in the main, looking for outlawed goods under the new Order. I think that this is long overdue, as it is unfair to bust Cbers when the stock of illegal goods can be seen on display and up until the Order came into effect (8th Aug.) the RIS had to catch you 'using' such goods or having them connected for use as part of an RX/TX system. I am sure that once this temptation is removed, it will help to stop the use – although you will never stop it 100%. In fact it may prove only to hype up the prices of some illegal sets . . .

However, the shops are not the only people that sell the illegal rigs. In fact, from some of the events that I have attended over the summer months, we have a large number of others who are setting up stalls and selling AM, SSB and converted sets. So, perhaps the RIS should start to take an interest in Eyeballs. It has been my belief for a long time that the RIS could score a lot of 'brownie points' by going to events and talking to Cbers, as well as keeping an eye on certain people.

Whilst I was at Stanmer Park in August, I bumped into Dave (*The Muddler*) who is the Chairman of Warminster Eagles DX Group. Since our last meeting, he has sold his old red Skoda and bought a brand new one! Don't worry Dave, keep taking the tablets, it may stop following you home. Anyway, he informed me that the Warminster Eagles Eyeball was well attended by around 1,200 breakers. This was a great success and the group signed up 35 new members. He apologised for the bar not turning up and has booked new people for next year. Red Dragon did a good job of burning the burgers – so if he does it again next year "they will burn him"! Next year's site will be on the other side of the lake and nearer the toilets. Dave has also suggested that Keith (*Shutterbug*), Mike (*The Beast*) and Cliff might like to have their own bar. Dave would like to thank everyone who attended and the group looks forward to seeing everyone again in 1989.

As we are nearing the time of year when many CB clubs, groups and organisations start to run down their charity work for another year, I have been contacted by quite a few who have asked me to pass on their thanks to all those who have supported them – both with financial backing and otherwise. It is great to know that we care about others and are more than willing to help. However, it is clear that, given the present political climate and other factors, some charities and good causes are being forgotten, in favour of many of the more popular ones. Perhaps next year it might be nice to remember the lesser ones and, if need be, support one or two smaller ones instead of one large charity. I can think of one major campaign (although very worthwhile) which has taken this country by storm, and everyone seems intent on giving financial support – but please remember that others also need help . . .

Thos of you who can remember the 'old' days on CB will recall the days of 'long and interesting copies' and although these may seem to have been a thing of the past to many, we can still enjoy a good modulation or network. But, with the passing of the 'old days' went some really good breakers. However, I am pleased to report that I have re-found one of my old CB friends – Terry (*Maggie*). Terry is a 'big trucker' (in more than one sense of the word) and, as far as I know, is still living in S W London. He hauls all over the UK and I am pleased to hear him back on CB.

Very many breakers are still moaning that they can't get hold of Citizens' Band magazine or that they can never get it on a regular basis. Well, in September's issue there are two ways that you can receive a regular copy (pages 38 & 40). The first is by sending in a coupon to your own newsagent, asking them to reserve or deliver a copy each month. The second (and by far the best way) is to send in a subscription of £16.20 (UK) which covers the whole year. Then it is sent direct and, in fact, if you bother to work it out, you are only paying the cover charge, with nothing added for postage. So, either way you have no excuse for *not* getting future copies. If you don't feel that you want to pay out the £16.20 in one go and you belong to a CB club, then ask them to order a copy for the club members to read.

At the fear of turning my column into a kind of "Mack the Hack" style scenario, I would just like to make a few small comments on some of the letters printed in the September & October issues of this prestigious magazine. Major Tom from Wakefield makes a lot of sense with his comments on the nuisance element. Not all young Cbers are a problem but, if they are, whose fault is it? To some extent it is down to the lack of education – maybe it is time that the older, more experienced, breakers

started to educate them. That way, perhaps they wouldn't bother to follow the example of their friends. As for these "Mafia-style organisations" they do need locking up, as they serve no purpose other than that of aggravating an already 'tinder-box' situation and they can find themselves in court for criminal damage, trespass and much more besides – the DTI/RIS have again confirmed to me over the telephone that they are against anyone who breaks the law and they have not appointed or licenced *any* organisation or group to carry out the duties of the RIS with regards to breakers who abuse the laws governing CB. This includes anyone who is caught DFing breakers with illegal equipment.

R Pettie writes about the problem breakers in Watford and, to help answer his question on the licence fee and what it is used for, try writing to the RIS at Waterloo Bridge House (Room 108) and I am sure that they will not only answer your questions but it will give you the chance to ask them what they intend to do about your local area. Like you, RP, I live in a 'large, built-up area' and I can assure you that we all suffer the same types of problems. However, when I am driving down or up the M1 past Watford I

tend to turn the rig off.

Woodstock from Ilford does seem to have a problem with the new CEPT channels. I would like to hear from him with regards to the 17 channels that can't be used in his area. As you know we want to hear about these CEPT problem channels from breakers around the UK, so please write in. At least we can then contact the RPA and get them working on it. Send them to "Paging Problem", Citizens' Band Magazine, 1, Golden Square, London W1R 3AB.

If I have worked this out correctly, this column should be out in the December issue so, HAPPY CHRISTMAS and let's hope for a better 1989. And please let's hope that we aren't treated to the normal 'Christmas Carol' players "over the air". My thanks to all those who have helped charities and assisted others throughout the year. Well done.

With the passing of the "Yuppies" and the "Lombards" comes two more new titles. The first is "Puppies", which stands for 'poor urban people' and the second is "Dinky's" which stands for 'double income, no kids yet'. Please remember to send in details of 1989 events etc. or information that you may like to see printed. Send them to me (Shepherd Man), c/o PO Box 429, London SW19 2UU.



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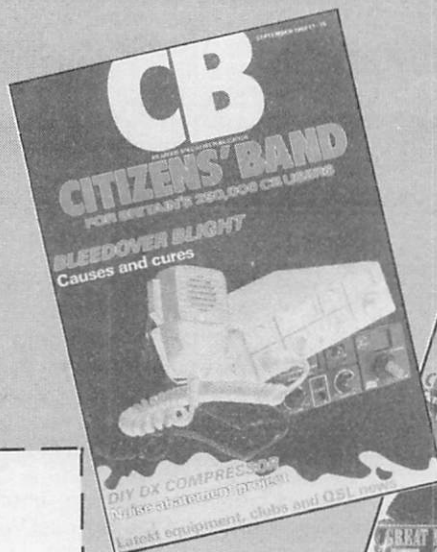
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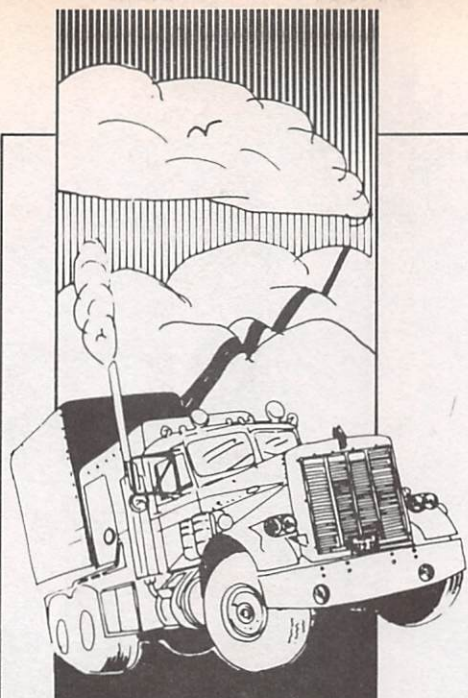
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Sitting here on this miserable, wet, early October morning, it's hard to get into a Christmassy mood. No snow – no joy. Still, as you will be reading this from the middle of November until Christmas, I suppose it ought to be a bit Christmassy!

It's been a reasonable year for truckers – no drastic, wage-cutting strikes – apart from the Post Office one (that caused enough problems in itself). No new rules and regulations for you all to learn, so perhaps you've gotten away light this year. Trouble is, nothing exciting has happened either.

Now the postal strike is over, I sincerely hope that all my avid readers have completed and returned the questionnaire printed recently. I hope that you've all said that my page is the best and the most interesting and that you've all threatened never to buy the mag again unless I'm returned to its pages regularly.

All creeping apart, I've not received a lot of news from you lot out there, so it's difficult to find anything to write about! Something I have noticed is that the homebases (bless their little cotton socks) have started blocking out 19 again. A couple of months back, it had quietened down a bit, but, and I hate to say this, lots of children (both young and old) will be getting new CB's for Chrimbo, and when they get them connected and switched on, what will they learn? Well, they'll learn that everybody, yes, everybody, talks on 19, that 19 is the calling channel (not 14 as previously led to understand). They'll learn to totally ignore lost mobiles calling for directions, they'll learn that the manners their parents so carefully taught them are not needed on CB.

Need I go on? We, as the elders, should teach our children how to use a CB correctly, how to be polite and helpful, how to respect their elders and not to interrupt them with meaningless rudeness, noises and music. If I had children, I wouldn't dare allow them to even listen to CB, let alone speak on it. Call it a sign of the times if you will but

Truck Stop

A Good Year For The Roadies?

**Brandybird
looks back
over the last twelve
months of trucking**

there are very few left who use plain old-fashioned good manners! Come on folks, let's get the homebases back onto 14, where they can all call each other to their hearts' content, and allow 19 to be

used by the mobiles to reach their destinations in peace, without hassle. The only homebases that should need to be on 19 are those who talk to, monitor and are called by the trucking fraternity. If we all make a New Year's resolution to revert back to 14, I'm sure that all your friends will soon find out that they can only reach you by calling on the *calling channel* – which is 14.

I heard a little story recently, about one of our favourite gay truckers, by the name of Gaylord. Apparently, he stopped in a truckstop somewhere up North, parked his truck and decided that he needed a shower before the festivities started. So off he went. When he got out of the shower, dripping wet, wrapped only in a minuscule towel, he found that he had to walk through the bar to get back to his clothes and his truck... Well, what a sight, an impromptu floorshow for those stood sinking the first pinto of the night.

Another close friend, Honky Tonk (Peter) broke down a couple of months ago, but was fortunate enough to get onto a motorway service area. For hours he called for help, and not a single soul would venture onto the services to give him the necessary assistance. Then, by a stroke of luck, his friend Sambo arrived and proceeded to strip down and repair the offending equipment, prolonging his own journey by several hours. Honky tells me that he thought he had a lot of friends out there... now he is wondering. Sambo must certainly be in line for recognition on my New Year's Honours list... will your name be there?

Finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you, your families and your friends a very happy Christmas and an immensely profitable New Year, and hope that you will all make, and stick to, your New Year's resolutions to stay calm, be polite and make new friends. Also I'd like to thank everyone for reading and digesting my meagre efforts into journalism. Thanks everyone and, until next year, stay lucky, keep on trucking.

P.S. Don't forget your letters are most welcome – TRUCKSTOP, PO Box 158, Coventry, CV6 6EH.

You know what they say – you can choose your friends but you're saddled with your family. And last week I sustained a visit from the most senior

member of mine. Granny.

Granny is the terror of a nice, genteel little old folk's home in a nice, genteel little resort on the east coast. Every so often, when the staff have reached breaking point – like the time Granny took a dislike to an inoffensive group of singers who had come to entertain the old people and lobbed her teacup (still full of tea) at them – the existence of her children and grandchildren is brought to her attention and she promptly descends on one of us for a visit.

I drove down to the east coast to pick her up. This presented some problems because Granny won't travel anywhere without her own sheets and towels, her own pillows, her radio, her books and her entire wardrobe. I crammed three bulging suitcases on to the back seat (cursing the whim that had led me to buy a Mini), loaded Granny on to the front seat (cursing the idiot who designed such a stupid size car in the first place) and ran up to Granny's flat to check that she had turned off all her taps. (Last time I picked her up we had been pursued down the stairs by a floor of bathwater.) Only an hour later we were off.

Granny clutched the seat while I accelerated to a reckless 20 miles per hour (she refuses to travel any faster) and cast a beady eye around her.

"Needs a good clean," she remarked disparagingly.

"Yes, Granny."

"I don't like the way you've done your hair."

"You never do, Granny."

"When are you going to give me some great-grandchildren, eh?"

"You've already got four and you don't like any of them."

Lady Breakers

Granny's Gospel

**Filly's
grandmother is
introduced to
citizens' band radio**

"Whining little beasts," she grumbled. Having failed to provoke me, she turned her attention to what she called my 'gadgets'.

"Lot of newfangled old rubbish," she muttered, poking the Citizens' Band radio. "What's this, then? One of these

car phones, eh? What d'you want to spend money on stuff like this for?"

"It's a Citizens' Band radio, Granny," I explained patiently. "I use it to talk to people. I can find out if there are traffic problems ahead, for example. You don't want to be stuck in a traffic jam, do you?"

She thought it over. "Show me," she commanded. Somewhat apprehensively, I switched the rig on. A jovial male voice filled the car.

"... So I told him, come off it, mate, you're never telling me them frazzled things is fried eggs are you, call this a caff, I dunno, I've had better grub off a roadside stall in Turkey."

"So where is this dump, then?" Cut in another voice.

"Pete's Place on the A6 – Pete's Pigswill, if you ask me!"

Granny listened attentively. "Who are those men?" she demanded.

"They sound like truck – er – lorry drivers," I said, looking at her nervously.

"Why are they talking to you?"

"Er – they're not, Granny. They're – er – sort of talking in public. Anyone nearby tuned in to this channel can hear them."

"You mean they haven't dialled your number?"

"You don't dial numbers. You just select a channel."

"How many channels are there?"

"Forty, Granny."

A gleam came into her eye. "Find another channel!" she commanded. I did so. Granny listened to a heated exchange of views on the Poll Tax. I glanced in the rear view mirror and saw the usual queue of cars crawling in our wake; I eased my speed up to 30. Granny didn't notice.

"Another channel!" she demanded. She was beginning to enjoy herself.

This time it was two lads arguing the rival merits of their respective football teams. Granny's eye kindled.

"Can I talk to those louts?" she demanded. I glanced at her warily.

"Perhaps," I said cautiously. "Er, why, Granny?"

"Show me how!" she snapped, and I jumped and handed her the mike. "Now, Granny, don't cause any trouble - "I began, but it was too late. Firmly pressing the button, Granny was well away. She had obviously never heard of mike fright.

"Now listen here you two boys," she was saying firmly. "I've heard all about you football hooligans, giving this country a bad name among all those foreigners. In my day you would have been too busy fighting a war or earning a living to cause all this trouble. Have you boys got jobs?"

Silence. "That's told them," said Granny, with satisfaction.

"Let go the button!" I hissed. Granny did so.

"Who on earth was that? *What* on earth was that?" asked a bewildered voice.

"Just some silly old trout listening in," said the other lad, unwisely. "Ignore her, she'll go away."

Granny went purple. Her gnarled hand closed convulsively on the mike. "Silly old trout, eh?" she shot out, menacingly. "When you two louts were dribbling in your prams I was writing speeches for a cabinet minister! What do you think of that, eh?"

I gaped at her. This was news to me. The boys were equal to the challenge, however.

"Who was that then? Gladstone?" said one.

"No wonder the country's in such a bloody mess," sniggered the other.

At this point, others joined the fray.

"Hey, you, mind your language, talking to an old lady like that!" said an elderly man.

"All right, all right, Grandad," said one of the boys disagreeably.

"That's the trouble with these kids, no respect for their elders, no respect for authority, no respect for God," put in Granny, unwilling to be left out.

"Bring back National Service, that's what I say," agreed the elderly man. "Aw, c'mon, we're not so bad," protested one of the boys.

"I go and see my Gran every week and clean her windows."

"At least we haven't started any world wars," muttered the other, spoiling it.

"Well, you've been doing your best, look at all that trouble in Germany and Holland, not to mention all those Italians being killed at that stadium," said another newcomer, a middle-aged lady.

"I've never been abroad in my life," said the nicer of the boys, sounding injured. Granny, still with the dangerous sparkle in her eye, prepared at this point

to re-enter the fray, but fortunately we were by now out of range. I had managed to ease our speed up to a heady 45 miles per hour.

"Where did they go?" Granny demanded indignantly. "I was just about to tell that young savage it was thugs like him who voted for Hitler!"

I shuddered at the narrowness of my escape and gently removed the mike.

"Now behave yourself, you old hooligan," I scolded. "You're not supposed to use CB to go around attacking people. Why, you positively mugged those two lads, just because they were talking about football!"

"No one had better try mugging me," she cackled. "They'll see what they get!"

"And what's all this about writing speeches for cabinet ministers?"

"There are a lot of things you don't know, Miss," she retorted, loftily.

The rest of the journey passed in peace; Granny was thinking. It was only when we reached home that I realised my appalling error in allowing her anywhere near the rig.

"I think," she announced, "the Home could do with one of these radios. These young folk have it all their own way these days. I'd like the chance to give them a piece of my mind."

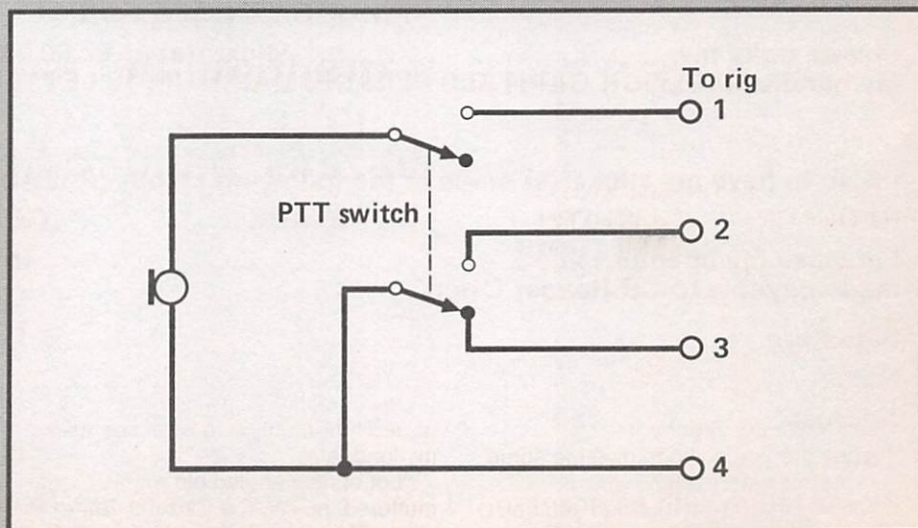
My apologies to the east coast. And watch out.

T

echnical Teaser

This month we start a run of "Technical Teasers". Each month you will be presented with a little technical problem to solve, the answer being given along with the following month's question. There are no tricks, and each problem requires only a little technical thought and logic. Good luck!

A microphone is wired as shown below, and when connected to the intended transceiver, it refuses to operate correctly. When the PTT bar is kept pressed in, the rig will receive perfectly normally, and when the bar is released the rig transmits a carrier, but it is not possible to modulate it by speaking into the microphone. What should be done to the wiring shown for the microphone to function correctly with this transceiver?



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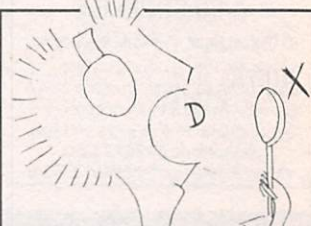
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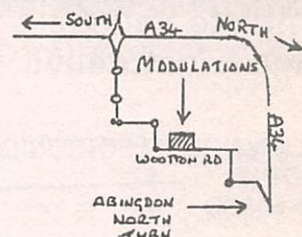
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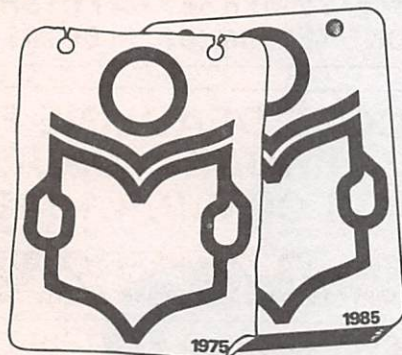
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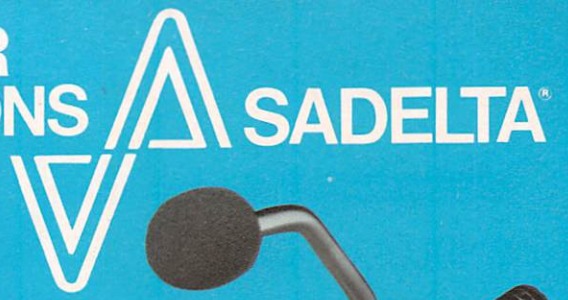
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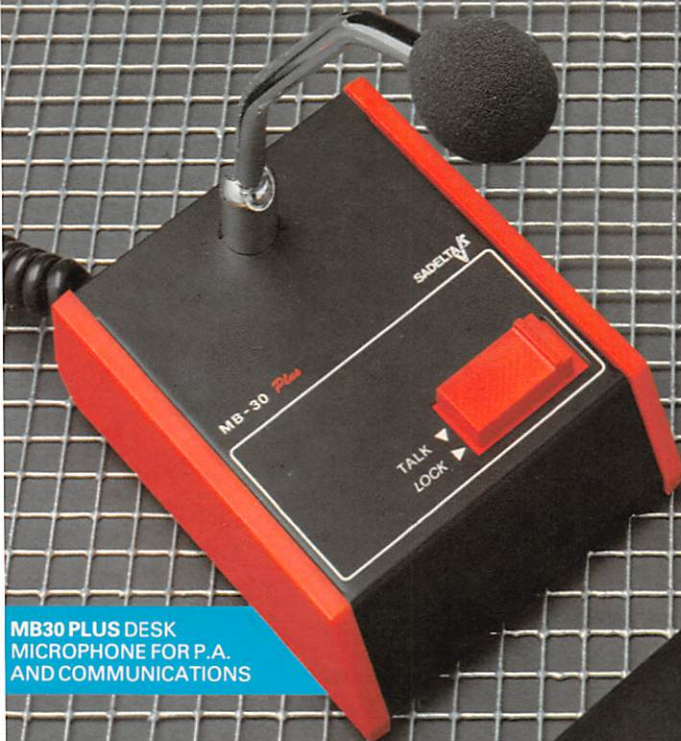
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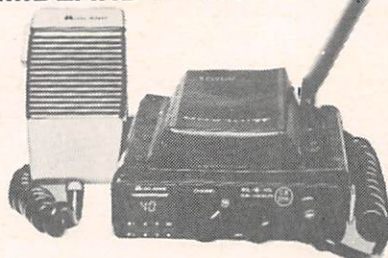
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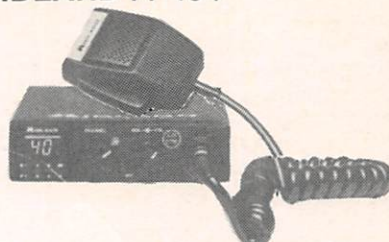
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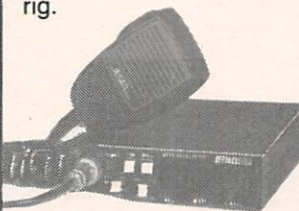
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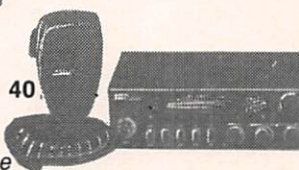


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