

LETTERS

Please address correspondence to:
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HAVING A BASH

Sir, I was very interested to see your new magazine, and found it very good, and look forward to future issues. I would like to comment on various points.

First of all, on the subject of the RAE, I must admit that the multiple choice exam is easier than the previous written one, even though I took it myself. In it I have found questions which have no answers and in the "exam" I took, a question with two answers. I readily admit that for part one, I read through the Home Office handout only a few times.

As to channelization and its use by Raynet (although I am not a Raynet member myself), there are reasons, concerned with interference, etc., why these "rules" exist. Also, isn't it common courtesy to think of other users of the frequency bands?

My greatest bone to pick, is with those Class A licence holders who seem to think that Class B licencees are second class citizens. Why do they seem to take great delight in bashing new and young amateurs? My brother and myself are newly licensed, he at 16, and I at 17. Although I say it myself, we have more decency and are more aware of the spirit of Amateur Radio than many G8's and G4's. A lot of G6's are more polite and have a far greater technical excellence, than some of the established amateurs. (Although, I do exclude some of the recent ex-CB'ers.) Why don't old timers explain to newcomers what they're doing wrong instead of bawling them out over the air. Surely this is also part of the "Spirit of Amateur Radio". As to the consistent use of repeaters by G6's, is due to nobody being on the air except during lifts when many came on with the proverbial 400watts. As to the accusations of the G6's speaking drivell with mouths of babes and being full to bursting with boring inanities, perhaps you should listen to some of the QSO's between some of our older members. At least they talk, which is more than can be said of many amateurs.

Why the homebrew bash as well? It is a well known fact that commercial units are a compromise to cover various uses. A homebrew unit has usually been designed for a specific frequency or frequencies, and can make use of individual circuitry; not used in off the shelf products.

Lastly, I get rather annoyed with all the publicity given to the aid given by CB'ers during emergencies. Why is there no mention of Raynet, who after all have been doing a superb job for over 30 years.

ANDREW MUIR G6EIS

All amateur groups should be able to co-exist with their neighbours. I suspect that the bash at RAYNET was aimed at its de facto exclusive frequency allocations at all times, whether in use or not — Ed.

CAN YOU HELP?

Sir, I've just started into the radio ham world, and I've been given an old transmitter, which is the MINIMITTER MODEL No. MR44 Mk II SERIAL

No. R801. Would there be any chance of finding a circuit diagram and valve layout? Maybe one of your readers could help me.

K. R. TAYLOR

UNDERGRADUATE

Sir, Congratulations on your new magazine. Let's hope you continue as you have started, and not get bogged down in high sounding theories as other magazines have done.

We need a down-to-earth approach for us humble "hams". We have not all received a university education as some other magazines assume we have. Best wishes.

BOB HOARE G3XQW

I'm afraid we're liable to print anything. Our only proviso is that a quorum of readers will find it interesting — Ed.

QSLs

Sir, Good luck to you on your new publication "HAM RADIO" but — what about all those SWLs? Not a mention.

I was a Radio Op in Royal Signals from 1923 vintage and I am still a SWL because that's how I like it.

Regarding QSL cards in your letters. The bloke who wrote that his "go under the leg of the table" is typical of a lot of Hams these days. As to the RSGB they are too toffee nosed for me. A lot of Hams today don't know the meaning of *esprit de corps*. They spend their pounds on equipment and they think that's it.

GORDON BEAUMONT RSARS 213. ISWL

QSLing has got out of hand in recent years. One always wishes to record a spectacular contact but the practice could usefully be given a rest for routine QSOs. After all, the logbook should provide the record — Ed.

CW RULES OK?

Sir, May I say how much I disagree with your remarks on CW. A well operated CW QSO employs real skills; takes less of the precious band and gets through when all the SSB'ers are moaning at the state of propagation. Furthermore it allows contacts between amateurs who have no common language. Why should you expect every Japanese to speak to you in English?

Perhaps your sympathies really lie with the super CBers on the two metre repeaters.

G. ABRAHAMS G4KEJ

P.S. Radio Club of Thanet (Call Sign G2IC) meets every Friday, Buckingham Village Centre.

CW is a useful operating aid. However, I'm not sure that it should be the main yardstick for limiting the population on the HF band — Ed.

KITS AND BAND REPORTS

OM, I thought I would write to you to say how much I enjoyed the first issue of HAM RADIO TODAY. At last a magazine about amateur radio that is bright, up to date and prepared to admit that amateur radio is fun.

I think that you have a good balance of articles in the first issue. I was glad to see you have started off with a transceiver design. I think the average amateur likes to see constructional articles for practical equipment that he would use in his shack, rather than esoteric items like stereocode receivers and polyphase SSB generation such as frequently appear in RadCom.

As an inveterate kit builder I was very pleased to see that you will be publishing reviews of kits. I have this year built the G3WPO grid dip oscillator, the Shimizu transceiver and am currently building a two metre transverter based on the Piper Communications TV28144 kit.

The Shimizu was very straightforward to build and lined up with no problems. The only problem I found with it was mobile or with an indoor antenna, on the higher frequency bands; I appeared to be getting RF into the transmit ALC line. However this problem is not apparent on a decent aerial, and I have had very good reports from it.

I have been less pleased with the transverter kit, which has proved prone to regeneration in the TX output stages, and appears to be somewhat non-linear resulting in hard to resolve SSB although it was satisfactory on FM. The design uses a Schottky diode ring mixer and a BF981 front end, although the sensitivity seems only about the same as the FDK750E which I used to have, and the AR240A.

I liked the equipment review. However I think that they could be improved if you could publish full circuit diagrams of the equipment, together with an explanation of some of the more interesting points of the design as in R&EW. I think that this is a good way to learn about circuit design as well as providing useful ideas for things one might be building.

I notice that there were no band reports, nor any mention that there was going to be one. I was speaking on the air to someone who said 'it is of no interest to me this month to read about what happened last month'. However, I am not sure that his views are in the majority. My personal view is that an amateur radio magazine is not complete without a page of band reports and DX news. When I was more active on 2m SSB, I was an avid reader of Norman Fitch's very well written 'VHF bands' feature in Short Wave Magazine. Given that G3WPO says in his article 'that people are coming into ham radio via CB, having never done any short wave listening, how are they going to learn what can be done on bands and modes other than VHF FM, and where will they get the encouragement to try them?

JULIAN MOSS G4ILO

Thank you very much for your kind comments and suggestions. I must confess that I left band reports alone because RadCom and PW already do a very good job. However if there is a demand for such a column in Ham Radio Today, I will start one — Ed.