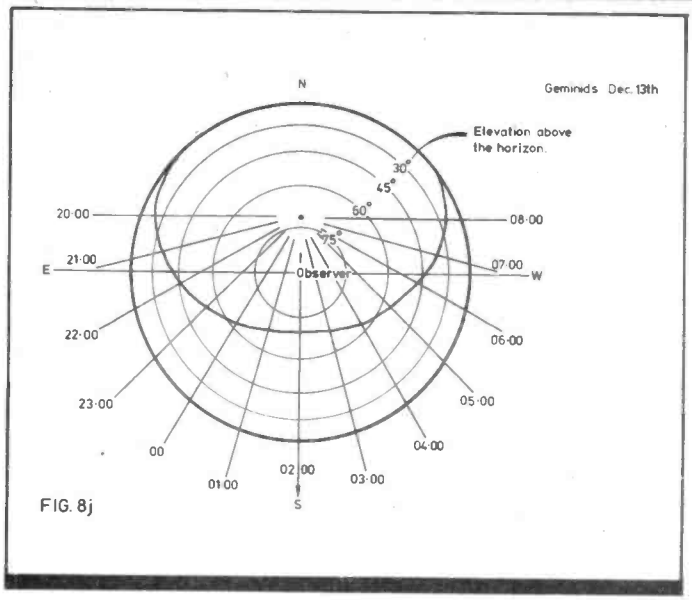

FIG. 8j

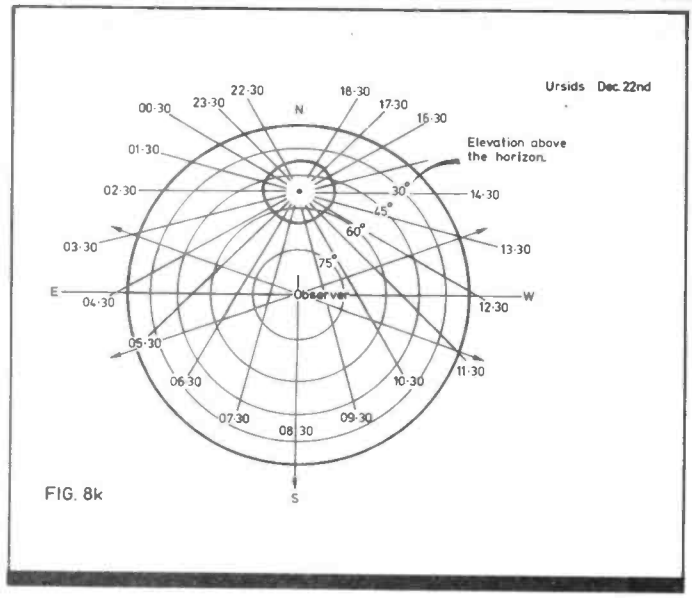

FIG. 8k

prove results, but these small changes make very little practical difference using average single yagi antenna systems. However stations with large arrays and narrow horizontal beamwidth may find improved results by deviating slightly from the great-circle bearing.

Stations wishing to experiment with side scatter or back scatter will of course need to orientate antennae far from the great circle bearing depending upon the position of the radiant point. In this instance both stations need to be aware of the radiant coordinates and adjust the beam headings accordingly.

METEOR SCATTER QSO PROCEDURES

There still appears to be considerable confusion over the correct procedures for conducting ms QSO's and what constitutes a complete QSO.

As with any 2 way contact whatever the mode or frequency, a QSO is only valid when both stations have received both call signs, a signal strength report, and confirmation of the above. When all of this information has been exchanged, and only when, a QSO is valid and complete.

REPORTING SYSTEM

The reporting system used consists of two numbers only, the first for signal duration and the second for signal strength.

First number

2 — Bursts up to 5 seconds
3 — Bursts 5 to 10 seconds
4 — Bursts 20 to 120 seconds
5 — Bursts exceeding 120 seconds

Second number

6 — S2 to S3
7 — S4 to S5
8 — S6 to S7
9 — S8 to S9

The above reporting system is common to SSB and CW contacts.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

A report is sent *only* when there is positive evidence that any information received contains your own call or your QSO partner's, in part or complete.

For SSB schedules 1 minute periods are normally used and 5 minutes for CW. These periods are only reccommendations of course and may be altered to suit individual preferences on pre-arranged schedules.

Normally stations in the UK transmit during the second 5 minute period following the hour (i.e. 22:05 to 22:10) on CW and transmit during the second 1 minute period using SSB. (22:01 to 22:02). The following example assumes that the distant station is transmitting for the first period.

Upon hearing evidence of either call sign during the first listening period your first transmission period would contain calls and a report i.e. SM7AED G3WZT 27 27. If the other station is not positively identified, calls *only* are transmitted.

As soon as *both* call signs and a report from the distant station are received the letter R is introduced in front of the report i.e. SM7AED G3WZT R27 R27. R is never used unless *all* information has been received.

Continue to transmit calls with R reports until you hear confirmation R's being used by the other station. When R's have been heard it is good practice to continue confirmation R's for two periods i.e. SM7AED G3WZT RRR RRR. This procedure is common to both SSB and CW QSO'swith R's pronounced as 'Roger' when using SSB.

When using SSB during major showers it is beneficial to use short breaks in the transmit period i.e. SM7AED G3WZT 27 27 SM7AED G3WZT 27 27 'BREAK'. This enables full advantage to be taken of long bursts and can bring QSO's to a rapid conclusion.

SKED DURATION

Skeds normally run for 1 or 2 hours. Every uninterrupted sked must be considered as a separate trial. It is not possible to break off and recontinue a sked at a latter time or date, using information received during the previous period.

ARRANGING SKEDS

Although it is possible to arrange skeds by letter, it can be rather long-winded and expensive.

The easiest and most effective method is to listen on the 20 metre VHF net. This is a net specifically for those people with an interest in all things VHF and is well populated with meteor scatter enthusiasts, particularly around times of major showers.

The VHF net is to be found