

der designer Chris Bartram G4DGU became ill. Chris is still designing for the company, who were showing off the new TVVF 50c MkII 25W transverter and have a replacement front end board for Icom IC202 series portables in the pipeline. MuTek are my idea of a mixed-ecology company, because they offer home-installable add-ons for proprietary rigs. In a sense, of course, so does every dealer who offers accessories and components alongside made-up stuff.

Sunbathing

So we found G3YZW at the Garex stand drooling over the small Revco on-glass aerial (2m and 70cm versions there for £49.95 – “Not the cheapest, just the best.”) The question “How’s business?” prompted a generally satisfied response from Peter Longhurst and crew, with the proviso that the good weather had rather more people out sunbathing somewhere than is ideal for a radio fair. Gradually nostalgia crept in, and we wondered what had become of the crowds thronging three deep waiting to thrust money into the dealers’ hands a few years back (a customer gave a demonstration with



The Standard scanner receiver with built in spectrum analyser.

a tenner at this point). The unholy rise in mortgage rates was generally blamed for the lack of people actually throwing money. Most of us are in the same boat there. I wonder if Steve Ireland G3ZZD has managed to sell up yet?

A discussion on the hows and whys of installing on-glass antennas was hi-jacked by an authority who held that the only way to install a mobile aerial was to drill a hole in the centre of the roof of the car and hard-



Aerials and accessories moving faster than black boxes at Garex.

wire it on. Listen, we know the rig is the most important thing, and all that, but some people don't want to drill holes in their cars, or just feel more secure having discreet aerials. Having had a 2m whip on a stout magmount blown off the roof of the car a while back (admittedly it was just outside York, where even the roads have windsocks) we are looking at alternatives.

People with large displays of Japanese and American boxes (NOT 'box-shifters', as we heard one chap mutter. All the dealers we know of give a fair back-up service.) on the other hand were making satisfied noises about turnover, and we saw a fair number of glossy carrier bags blazoned with “Yaesu” and “Icom” walking about, so the money's there somewhere.

Why do we always talk Japanese, anyway; some folk, it seems, are still

overlooking Navico's excellent AMR 1000 2m Tx on the grounds that they are 'new', or not foreign, or something. Navico, of course, are not new — they've been making professional marine radio for years.

Crime Wave

Dressler had a display of boxes two trestles long and three boxes deep, and had just sold their last Icom IC2-SE when we rolled up. The only blot on the landscape was that apparently a rig had been stolen a few minutes earlier. We saw the Standard scanner receiver with built in spectrum analyser. To check on a big signal you simply move the cursor across the liquid crystal dot matrix screen to select the peak you want, and the receiver is tuned to it. We also encountered the new Icom IC-45 UHF 70cm single-band transceiver, the smallest we've seen so far.

The Navico AMR 1000 was showing at a number of tables, including RN Electronics'.

