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Title: A Classic Weekend for Old Radios

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OLD RADIO

A Classic Weekend for Old Radios

The long weekend of September 26-29 will be exciting for "Old Radio" readers, as two of the fastest growing ham radio operating events will take place. First it's AM International's Discovery Weekend, which begins on Friday evening, September 26 and ends Sunday evening, September 28. Then second, it's the Classic Exchange contest, which will run from early Sunday morning, September 28, to early Monday morning, September 29.

The AM Discovery Weekend brings together many classic AM transmitters on the air and raises the awareness of the presence and fun of AM. Details of scoring and awards are in the August issue of *Electric Radio* magazine.

The Fall Classic Exchange (CX) will

be held concurrently with the AM International AM Discovery Weekend to encourage more participation in both events as well as addressing the desire for more classic ham radio operating time.

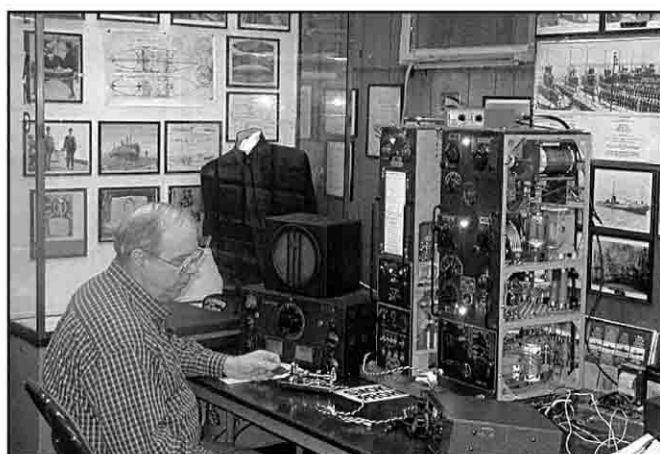
For those of you who are too young to have listened to ham radio in the 1930s through the 1960s, this weekend is for you. You will hear hundreds of classic radios on the air at the same time.

For those of you who have an old radio (or two), now is the time to dust it off, get it hooked to an antenna and put it on the air. Experience the thrill of CW, AM and early SSB.

To help you recognize what the old transmitters sound like on CW, listen to the note. It probably won't sound pure

like the modern radios do. In fact it may have a distinct click or thump sound sent with each dit or dah, accompanied with a somewhat raspy note. Some of them may sound as bad as a buzzer. Remember to set your receiver filter to wide, because they may be drifting up and down the band as their tubes warm up and cool down. Keep one hand on the tuning knob so you can follow them.

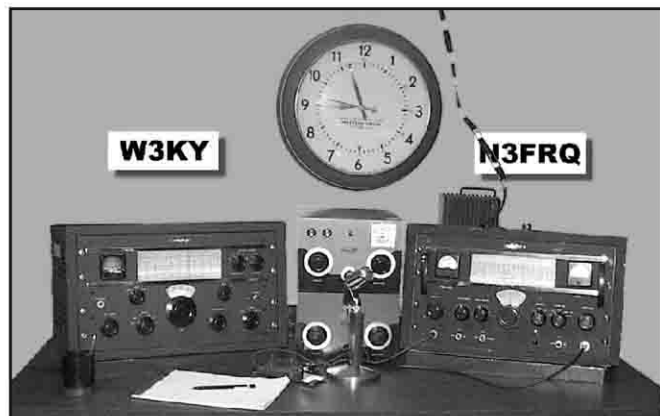
If you are new to all of this, try to work some of them and find out what they are using. Then later on, you can search the Internet with Google, or your favorite search engine, and find out about the different radios you heard. Many collectors have Web pages loaded with photos and descriptions of their radios.



Howie Holden, WB2AWQ, will be operating the TBW transmitter at the NJ Naval Museum/USS Ling, SS297, shown here in its debut for Submarines on the Air, April 2002.



Marty Reynolds, AA4RM, will be on with his very rare Stancor 69 transmitter and RME 69 receiver. (If you have a Stancor 69, please let me know—we are trying to find out how many are out there.—K2TQN)



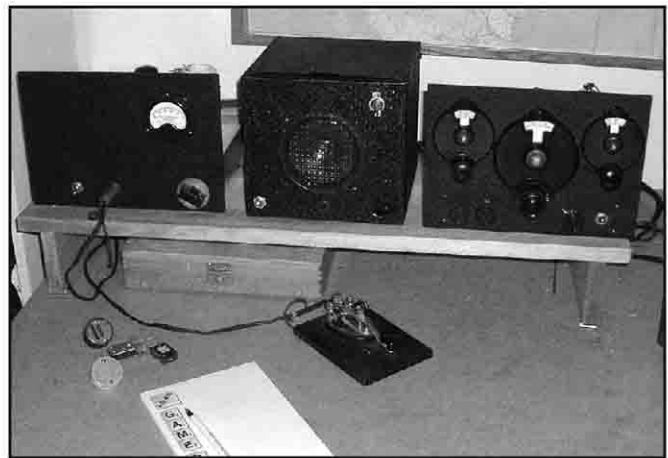
This is the AM station that Al Klase, N3FRQ, restored for my Old Radio museum. It is a Collins 75A1 receiver on the left and a Collins 32V3 transmitter on the right. Look for us on AM and CW.



George Silva, WA6HCX. The transmitter on the left is a Collins 30K1, vintage 1947. It was the first big amateur transmitter built by Collins after the war. The final is a 4-125 modulated by a pair of 75TH's. Frequency bands are 80-10 with an AM output of 250 W. On the desk next to it is the 310B3 matching exciter/vfo. George built the console and cabinetry out of walnut. The receiver is a Hammarlund HQ200. The transmitter on the right is a Globe King 500B, which he uses on 160 meters. For several years now, George has operated almost exclusively on AM.



Mike Warren, K0MAZ, sitting in front of his primary AM station: Collins R-390 and a military T-368. Behind him is his Hallicrafters SX-101 and EF Johnson Viking Valiant transmitter. Look for Mike on 3885, 14,286, 29.0 and 50.4!



Niel Wiegand, W0VLZ, will be using his homebrew station.

About CX

The CX is a no-pressure contest celebrating the older commercial and homebrew equipment that was the pride and joy of ham shacks many decades ago. The object is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older "Classic" equipment.

The traditional CX contest, including CW, SSB and AM will be on Sunday. There will be CX recognition for high scores in AM, SSB and CW as well as overall. AM QSOs exchanging the usual CX data may be made for CX score throughout the weekend.

You need not operate a classic rig to participate in the CX; you may use any rig in the contest although new gear is a distinct scoring disadvantage. You can still work the "great ones" and join in the fun with your modern equipment.

Operating in the CX Contest

The traditional CX will run from 1300 UTC September 28 to 0700 UTC September 29 (9 AM Eastern Time on Sunday to 3 AM Eastern Time Monday).

CW: Send CQ CX

Phone: Call CQ Classic Exchange

Suggested Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.135, 28.180 MHz.

AM: 1.890, 3.880, 7.290, 14.286, 21.420, 29.000 MHz.

SSB: 3.870-3.875, 7.280-7.285, 14.270-14.275, 21.370-21.375, 28.490-28.495 MHz.

Exchange your name, RST, QTH (state US, province for Canada, country for DX), receiver and transmitter type (homebrew send final amp tube or transistor type), AMI number if available (AM only) and other interesting conversation.

The same station may be worked with

different equipment combinations on each band and in each mode. Nonparticipating stations may be worked for credit.

Scoring

Calculate your score for each mode (CW, AM, SSB) and total those scores for your overall CX score.

Individual Mode Score Formula

Multiply total number of QSOs (on all bands) by the sum of the number of different types of receivers plus the number of different transmitters you worked (transceivers count both as a transmitter and a receiver) plus the number states/provinces/countries worked on each band. Multiply that product by your CX multiplier.

Your CX multiplier is the total years old of all receivers and transmitters used. Each receiver or transmitter must be used in a minimum of three QSOs to be counted in the multiplier. If the equipment is homebrew, count it as a minimum of 25 years old, unless the actual construction date, or the date of its construction article, in case your "reproduction" is more than 25 years old.

Total QSOs all bands (times) RCVRs + XMTRs + states/provinces/countries (total each band and mode separately; add totals together) (times) (the CX multiplier):

Score = QSOs × (RX+TX+QTHs) × CX multiplier

Certificates and appropriate memorabilia are awarded every now and then for the highest score, the longest DX, exotic equipment, best excuses and other unusual achievements. Send logs, comments, anecdotes, pictures, etc., to J. D. "Mac" MacAulay, WQ8U, at WQ8U@arrrl.net, or by mail to WQ8U, 6235 Wooden Shoe Ln, Centerville, OH 45459.

The CX Newsletter and announcement of next CX will be posted on their Web

site: qsl.asti.com/CX and distributed via e-mail to those submitting reports via e-mail. If you submit a report via postal mail, please note if you want a paper copy of the CX newsletter.

My thanks go to Howie Holden, WB2AWQ, and to Ray Osterwald, N0DMS, for their help providing this information.

Great September Hamfests

You will be able to see my Old Radio museum at the following hamfests that will have a high percentage of classic radios:

Maryland: On September 6 and 7, I will be at the Fall-Fest, home of the 2003 ARRL Maryland-District of Columbia Section Convention at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. There will be a huge AM ham radio display; meet and talk to the experts. For more information, see www.fall-fest.com.

New Jersey: On Sunday September 14, 2003 the Delaware Valley Radio Association (NJ) and the NJ Antique Radio Club will try something new (actually old)—a combination vintage style hamfest and an Antique Radio Meet. The DVRA has returned to their old hamfest location, the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville. It is a huge building with inside displays and a large area outside for tailgating. Plenty of parking on site is available. It is just off Rtes 95 and 206, and easy to get to. They have invited the NJARC to participate with them to make this a hamfest loaded with old radios and related displays. For more information: www.w2zq.com/hamfest.html.

See my Web site, www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/index.html for more information and the latest links to the hamfests. Look for my hat at the hamfests and say hello.—K2TQN

QST