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Title: The Stancor ST-203-A

Author: John H. Dilks III, K2TQN

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OLD RADIO

The Stancor ST-203-A

First offered as a kit in the late 1940s, the ST-203-A 10-meter transmitter became a popular rig because of its size and innovative design. Hams were experimenting with 10-meter mobile operating at the time and the Stancor Transformer Company, which was already famous for their pre-war transmitter kits, decided to produce a rig for this "market."

Kit building was becoming a big part of ham radio; it was fun to do and saved money. The ST-203-A kit came with 94 detailed step-by-step building instructions. Clearly worded instructions and diagrams showed the operator how to set up the ST-203-A and interconnect the power supplies, antennas and receivers. There were also several paragraphs on how to tune and operate the radio.

Ruggedly constructed with an easily removable bottom plate, the ST-203-A was convenient to place in the trunk near the antenna. The built-in relay switched the antenna between the transmitter and receiver and activated the B+ power supply. Either a vibrator power supply or a (then) readily available PE-103-A war-surplus dynamotor supply could power the ST-203-A. It could also be powered by an ac supply for fixed operation.

Many collectors still put their ST-203-As on the air today. It is capable of 100% AM modulation, transformer coupled, with a pair of 6V6 tubes. The microphone for this radio is also surplus—a popular T-17-B. At the heart of the RF section is a 6V6 crystal oscillator driving a 2E26 in class C.

Is anybody still running one of these old radios mobile, perhaps in a vintage auto? Please let me know, and send a photo. I'll have more on the ST-203-A on my Web site: <http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/index.html>.

K2TQN'S OLD RADIO MUSEUM SCHEDULE FOR LATE AUGUST

K2TQN's Old Radio Museum will be on exhibit Saturday, August 19, along with the operation of special event station W2T by the Old Barney ARC. This will take place on the International Lighthouse Activity Weekend, August 19-20, from the Tucker's Island Lighthouse in Tuckerton, New Jersey. The lighthouse is a full-scale replica of the Tucker's Island lighthouse, which succumbed to the Atlantic Ocean back in 1927. It is the focal point of the new Tuckerton Seaport project, a working seaport built to preserve, present and



The Stancor ST-203-A with the cover removed.

(Right) The Almo Radio Company ran this advertisement in the December 1949 QST promoting the Stancor ST-203-A.



Stancor X-Mitter Kit
\$44.70

ST-203-A offers AM on 10 and 11 meter bands. 27.5 watts amplifier input. Two 7 mc. crystals. Kit, all parts and instructions, \$44.70. Wired and tested, \$58.90.
10% CASH WITH ORDERS



ALMO RADIO CO.
509 ARCH STREET • Philadelphia
6205 MARKET STREET • West Phila.
6th & ORANGE STS. • Wilmington
4401 VENTNOR AVE. • Atlantic City

Homebrew—1943

Hal Murken was a student at his Ramsey, New Jersey high school when he built this station in the very early 1940s. He was 17 years old with a class "B" ham operator's ticket, but no station call. He said it was frustrating not being able to use the transmitter because of the war.

His transmitter was a type-47 oscillator with two type-46 tubes in the final. On the desk, he used an autodyne regenerative receiver that consisted of a type-24A RF amp, type-27 detector and two type-27s in the audio section. He had a set of plug in coils that covered 150 kHz to 30 MHz. Just above was his 5-meter superhet receiver, which had a resistance-coupled IF. He also had a 5-meter "rush-box" transceiver for local work (not shown.) His key was an already old Vibroplex. A pair of Brandes headphones rounded out his homebrew station.

As part of the war effort, the Navy gave a code test at his high school. Hal received a score of 100%. The Navy was quick to visit Hal's parents, and inspected his ham shack. At 17½ years of age, Hal was off to teach radio for the Navy in Louisiana. Later he found himself on the staff of Admiral Sowell and served aboard the battleship *West Virginia*, BB48.

After the war he received the call W2QKM, went to college, became an engineer and ran his own engineering firm for 31 years. He's still active as NQ2Y, supervises two local repeaters, is vice president of his ham club and operates HF with a Kenwood 950 transceiver, a linear amp and a beam antenna. Hal is hoping to hear from some of his old buddies.



interpret the "Baymen" and their way of life.

W2T operation will be from 1300 UTC on August 19 to 0300 UTC on August 20, and on August 20 from 1300 UTC to 2000 UTC. Frequencies to monitor are 7265, 14265, 21365, 28465 +/- QRM. Also, 146.835 (-600/PL-3A) and 146.52 MHz simplex. QSL via N2OO, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. SASE (or SAE with IRC) for QSL. Send 9 x 12-inch SASE with appropriate postage/IRCs if you want a certificate with your QSL.

On Sunday, August 20, the museum will be at the Gloucester County ARC Hamfest in Mullica Hill, New Jersey. See <http://www.gcarc-w2mmd.org/events.html> for more information.

[gcarc-w2mmd.org/events.html](http://www.gcarc-w2mmd.org/events.html) for more information.

Look for my call letters on my hat and say hello.—K2TQN

QST

