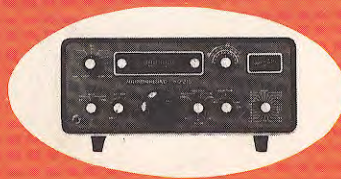


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The Radio Amateur's Journal

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# HOW TO MAKE FIVE MILLION (points, that is)

BY JOHN H. THOMPSON,\* W1BIH

**P**ICTURE a luxury hotel on a forty-acre tract stretching a mile along a coral cliff overlooking a Caribbean, with three separate stations and six knowledgeable contest operators with amateur experience totalling 200 years. That, fellow amateurs, is the formula for running up five million points in the CQ World Wide DX contest.

Actually, the story begins long before the 1967 CQ contest. Back in 1963, a group from the Connecticut Wireless Association flew down to St. Maarten and operated PJ5ME from Vince's (PJ2ME) shack for one weekend of the ARRL c.w. contest and three years later repeated the performance, making some 4500 contacts in one weekend. At that time thought was given to activating a station in the Caribbean area for a one-weekend contest and, to us, being primarily c.w. operators, the CQ W.W. DX C.W. contest seemed a natural.

Since U.S. contacts from South America count 3 points, a site further south than the Caribbean area around St. Maarten seemed

desirable. When we learned that an American amateur, Chet Brandon, PJ3CC (also KP4-AEQ), had a hotel (the Coral Cliff) on the island of Curacao, just off the coast of Venezuela, this seemed to be the spot and discussions were started with Chet on 20 meter ssb. We learned that his hotel-based station was available to visiting amateurs with a minimum of red tape.

Contact was made with Vic Clark, W4KFC, top ranked contest man, and he was agreeable to the idea, so it became a joint venture of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the Connecticut Wireless Association.

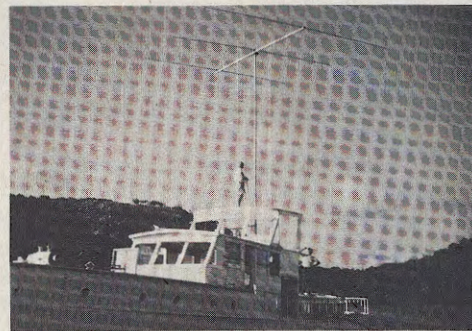
Six operators finally participated: Len Chertok, W3GRF, Roy Fosberg, W1TX, Bill Grenfell, W4GF Al Rousseau W1FJJ, W4KFC and W1BIH.

The Collins KWM-2 and 30L-1 at the permanent PJ3CC location were supplemented by another KWM-2 and 30L-1 and two 75S-3B receivers we brought in to give two identical set-ups for the 20 meter and the 15/40 meter positions. A third position was set up, for 10 and 80 meters, consisting of

\* P.O. Box 1, Torrington, Conn. 06790.

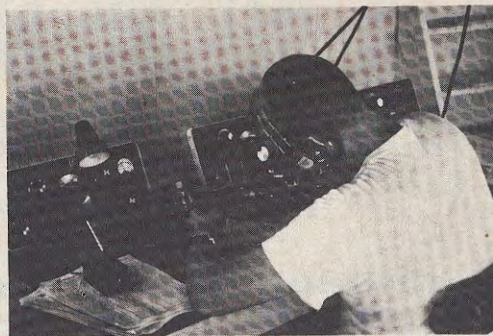
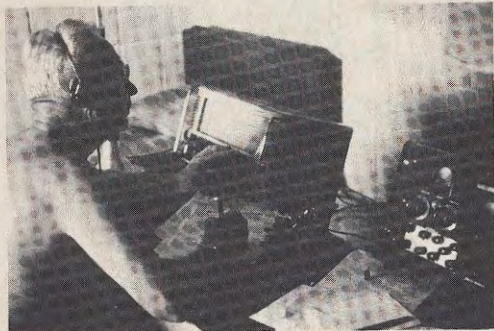


The "crew" at PJ3CC, Curacao, just prior to the 1967 CQ W.W. DX C.W. Contest. From l. to r. W1TX, W1FJJ, W1BIH, W4GF, W3GRF, W4KFC, and Chet, PJ3CC.



A 15-meter beam was erected atop a beached yacht. PJ3CC mans the feedlines.





Taking their turn at two of the rigs are W1TX (left) operating the 10-meter position from the comfort of a hotel room. W1FJJ (right) roughs it on 15 and 40 from the cabin of the beached yacht.

a CE 200V transmitter and very broad tuning Eddystone receiver.

Chet Brandon, our host (not a contest man himself), went all out to assist us and he constructed, tuned and erected hand-rotatable 3-element beams or 10 and 15 meters and dipoles for 40 and 80 to supplement his only permanent antenna—a long wire that was used on 20 meters with excellent results.

The three stations were set up about 700 feet apart, with 15 and 40 meters being in the cabin of a permanently beached boat, high and dry in the coral near the water's edge, 20 meters was operated from the hotel recreation room, and 10/80 meters in a room at the far end of the hotel.

Customs difficulties were encountered in air freighting in the KWM-2 and 30L-1, but Chet worked things out with the authorities, posted a \$300 bond, and had the equipment at the hotel waiting for us. Further, with Chet's help, all equipment was installed and antennas erected in ample time and an hour before the start of the contest found us eating a leisurely dinner by candlelight and commenting that this was a far cry from an ARRL field day!

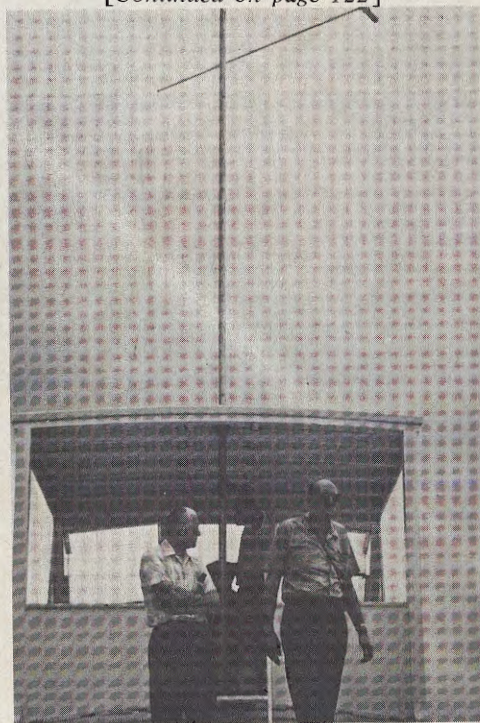
Our experience in the contest certainly refutes any arguments that c.w. is a lost art, some 5405 contacts having been made in the 48 hour period. Duplicate contacts totalled 211, leaving a net of 5194.

Amazing to the operators was the seemingly inexhaustible reserve of stations waiting to contact us. The pile-ups were tremendous at times. For example, W1FJJ averaged 91 contacts per hour for 5 straight hours on 15 meters—and this was after the contest was well along. W3GRF worked 110 an hour for the first 3 hours on 20 meters. A handicap

was the unavailability to us of the lower 10 kc of each band. Another handicap was the lack of a selective receiver for 10 and 80 meters. We also regretted that 160 meter operation was not permitted.

As with any operation of this type, troubles developed, but fortunately they did not put us off the air for any appreciable length of time. Vic, operating 40 meters, had a piece of coax fail—25 minutes later the

[Continued on page 122]



Again at the 15-meter position, W4GF and W4KFC discuss strategy while PJ3CC again mans the feedlines.





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verter to shift the 432 mc signal down to the frequency of a conventional TV set. The low noise preamps presently being used in the station converter can be placed in front of a modified u.h.f. TV converter in many cases to fill this need. On the transmitting end, besides the camera, all that is needed is a video modulator.

At Expo desire was expressed in seeing construction details of a high power video modulator. To answer this request we present the circuit shown in figure 1. This circuit was originally developed by Greg, K2ALX and modified to fit our personal needs. The circuit is straight forward, should be good for values both above and weekend. We use the unit to modulate a 4CX250 at about 150 watts, however it should be good for values both above and below this power level. Another good feature of this video modulator is that all transistors can be purchased for under 10 dollars. We built the modulator on a 5 × 7 × 2 inch aluminum chassis which we attached to the rear of our 432 mc amplifier. Transistor sockets were not used in the construction; instead all transistors were mounted across the tie points except the output transistor which must be mounted through the chassis on a heat sink. The 12 volt and 150 volt supplies should be well-filtered and it was found advantageous to be able to adjust the levels of both these supplies.

To adjust the video modulator, connect the modulator to the transmitter. Apply 12 volts and bias to the modulator. Supply video from camera and adjust bias control for proper final plate current and output. Adjust video gain and d.c. restoration for best picture quality. An oscilloscope connected to a monitor receiver or directly to a diode pick-up on the transmission line may be helpful for this adjustment. Although there is some interaction between controls, we found adjustment easy and the modulator worked the first time voltage was applied to it.

73, Al, K2UYH

<sup>1</sup> Information about *A5 Magazine* can be obtained by writing to *A5 Magazine*, 150 Delong Ave., Dumont, N.J.

**5,000,000 Points** [from page 85]

fault had been traced and a new piece installed. Roy had a fuse blow in the 200V while operating 10 meters but Chet located

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a replacement and Roy was back on in short order. The VOX time delay in the 200V started performing erratically about midway in the contest and an awkward hand switching maneuver became necessary when going from transmit to receive.

As the contest progressed Chet urged us on and promised us champagne if we made 5000 contacts. It was right after this promise that Al hit his 91 per hour average for 5 hours at the 15 meter position. And Chet delivered the champagne when, battered and weary, at the conclusion of the contest we sat down to a dinner featuring the exotic Indonesian dish of nassie goreng.

Our final score, subject to checking by the CQ contest committee, was 5,527,788 points from 5194 contacts and a 357 multiplier. Most productive band was 20 meters with 1590 contacts, followed by 15 with 1553. Ten meters was good for 962, 40 for 898, and 80 for 191.

Curacao is one of three Dutch islands in this area, known as the "ABC" islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao and officially called Netherlands Antilles. During contacts made in the week following the contest (about 1000, mostly on s.s.b.), many worked expressed ignorance as to where or what Curacao was and it is hoped our operation has helped to correct this situation.

A big advantage of the Coral Cliff hotel on Santa Martha bay on the southwest coast of the island, was the facilities available to our XYLs while were were operating. Excellent swimming, snorkeling, boating, bird watching, beachcombing and accessibility to the famous shopping capitol of Willemstad kept them happy without us. Probably the biggest advantage though was the presence of Chet Brandon, just about the most accommodating host one could ask for. Chet, a physicist by profession, has a well-equipped workshop with complete machine shop facilities. No problem was too great for him and when trouble occurred he had it fixed in short order.

Vic Clark, unable to bring his XYL because of school-age children at home, QSO'd her (she is WA4PAE) and she wished him "Happy Anniversary," it being their 26th wedding anniversary. "I had trouble responding to that," Vic commented later.

To sum it up: great place, great host, great hamming and, of course, great contest.