

Short-wave News

The World's Busiest Amateur?

THE "QSO" king of amateur radio, Fremont F. Purdy, operator of W4FM, at Kingsport, Tennessee, claims that his establishment of 17,293 two-way contacts with other amateur stations since August, 1929, constitutes a world record. The figure shows that Mr. Purdy must have secured about 17 contacts or QSO's every day, Sundays and holidays included, for a period of three years.

Germany Tells the World.

TO enable overseas listeners to make a schedule for listening to Germany's world-wide short-wave station at Zeppen, the list of programme events for the week is regularly broadcast from 2.30 a.m. to 3 a.m., N.Z. time. The programme is first read in German, and then in English. The short-wave station has the call sign DJB for daytime (night here), working on a wavelength of 19.73 metres; at night (morning here), the wavelength is 31.38 metres, and the call sign is DJA.

A second short-wave station is being erected close to the existing transmitter, and will probably work on 25 and 49 metres.

Nairobi.

THE Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya Colony, owners of short-wave station VQ7LO, which works on 49.5 metres, would appreciate reports of reception of this station. Their broadcasting hours in New Zealand time are: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 3.30 a.m. till 7 a.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 4 a.m. till 7 a.m.; Sunday, 4 a.m. till 8 a.m.; and Monday, 3.30 a.m. to 6 a.m. There are also midnight (our time) transmissions on Tuesday and Thursday.

Log for Week Ending Sept. 10

AS I did but little listening during the past week, this log may not be a fair review of reception during the week, but, if it is, then conditions were certainly below normal.

RV15, Siberia, 70.1 metres: The best distant station during the past few days. Volume and quality very good, with but very little static which often spoils RV15.

59 Metres (about): Late Saturday night and after midnight a station was coming in at R8, with severe fading. English was spoken, but could not get a call on account of static. It was possibly a harmonic of an Australian station.

RV59, Moscow, 50 metres: Very good on Monday at 7.45 a.m., when a band was heard at R8. Reception on other mornings was weak, about R4-5.

W3XAL, Boundbrook, 49.18 metres: Only heard on Saturday when they were R6 at 3.30 p.m. to R8 at 4 p.m., and very gushy. This apparently was a bad day as a friend has reported W3XAL at good volume when I have missed listening for them.

W8XX, Pittsburgh, 48.86 metres: R8 on Saturday from 3.30 p.m. till closing time at 4 p.m.

REN, Moscow, 45.38 metres: Monday, Friday, and Saturday. Best on Saturday, being R5 at 8 a.m.

VK3ME, Melbourne, 31.5 metres: Fair volume on Saturday evening with their usual programme, but very gushy.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres: On Saturday a weak carrier was just audible at 10 a.m. for a short time. Just audible again at 2 p.m., but did not gain much in volume by closing time at 3.30 p.m., being much weaker than usual.

DJA, Zeppen, 31.38 metres: Weaker than usual on most mornings, but R8 at 8 a.m. on Saturday with some very fine singing. They faded right out before 10 a.m.

W1XAZ, Springfield, 31.35 metres: Like W2XAF, this station was very weak on Saturday, the only day tried for.

Round the World on SHORTWAVE Conducted by F. W SELLENS

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.28 metres: Excellent on Monday morning at R9, when concluding their last session of the usual week-end broadcasts.

Japanese, 31 metres (about): On Saturday evening with a lot of Japanese talk, at R8-9.

J1AA, Japan, 30.5 metres (about): Still comes in fairly well during the evening, but not quite as loud as a few weeks ago.

EAG, Madrid, 30.4 metres: Much weaker again now. Not often clear enough to understand their English talk.

Radio Colonial, Paris, 25.6 metres: Best about 8 a.m., when they are usually about R8-9, but have been gushy recently. Volume goes off earlier, being very weak by 9 a.m. or soon after.

G5SW, Chelmsford, 25.53 metres: Very weak every morning and inaudible at 11 p.m.

12RO, Rome, 25.4 metres: R4 is the best from 12RO this week.

W8XX, Pittsburgh, 25.25 metres: R2 only at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday.

Questions and Answers

(Continued from page 18.)

then if it were not absolutely true you would cause interference. It is not our practice to encourage readers to experiment with oscillator coils. As a matter of fact your circuit contravenes the regulations.

N.L.A. (Auckland): We are afraid we cannot help you. Your best plan is to get in touch with someone locally who knows something about your set and the adaptor.

BLUEY (Waikato): By connecting the earth wire to the aerial terminal the volume is the same as before. Is this harmful?—No.

2. How can I connect a dynamic speaker to my a.c. set?

A.: You would need to use either one that derives power from the a.c. mains or which works with a permanent field. In the case of the former you would connect the field to the mains and then in the case of both connect the voice coil to the binding posts to which the ordinary speaker was attached.

PENTODE (Papakura): Sorry, the coil particulars for the "Kriesler Five" are not available. As far as the circuit is concerned, we can give you no further information, but we will try to help you if you get into difficulties with the kit itself.

B.C.E. (Thames): Is enamelled 7/22 aerial wire much superior to tinned?

A.: No. The difference is negligible.
2. Is a 40ft. single pole, non-directional aerial superior to a 30ft. two-pole flat-top one?

A.: No, we think the latter would be the better aerial.

PUZZLED (Livingstone): I have two bicycle generators each rated at 4 volts .3 amps. If I connect these two in series will they deliver 8 volts .6 amps or 8 volts .3 amps?

A.: 8 volts .3 amps. In parallel, 4 volts .6 amps.

2. Would the two dynamos connected, as above be suitable to trickle charge the accumulator?

A.: No, as the bicycle generators would probably be a.c.

3. Would two PM3's in push-pull stand more volume than a PM4, and what plate

milliamps would the two PM4's in push-pull use?

A.: Two PM3's would handle greater volume than one PM4. Two PM4's in push-pull, double biased, would use from 4-5 milliamps. The radio Call Book is unobtainable, but a second edition is being prepared and one of these will be sent you.

J.V. (Dunedin): Will the 227 valve work satisfactorily as first and second detector and oscillator with the a.c. super six?—Yes.

2. Will I have to screen the 224 valve?—Yes.

3. Will a 3008 power unit supply enough current for three 227's, two 224's, and one 245?

A.: No, the 245 will have it beaten, we think.

4. Will I have to put bias resistors in the first detector, s.g. valve? If so what will they require?

A.: We shall publish in the next "Radio Times" the circuit of the a.c. s.g. super six using 224's and 227's.

5. By putting in a mains switch do I cut out the three-pin switch.—Yes. Your flex is quite satisfactory for wiring the filaments, but keep it twisted. The specifications for a suitable filament transformer appeared in the 1930 "Radio Guide."

G.T.M. (Auckland): Will you give the broadcast coils for the P.C.J. Four?

A.: With .00015 for tuning use 28 d.s.c. wire, winding 100 turns on the secondary and 30 turns of 36 d.s.c. on the reaction, while for the r.f. coil you will use the same secondary, with 25 turns for the primary, wiring as before. For the second coil you will need 195 turns on each secondary, of 32 d.s.c. wire; 50 turns for reaction on the anode coil, and 40 turns on the aerial coil. Both these are wound with 36 d.s.c. wire. The wire you specify would not be satisfactory, as it would make the coils too bulky.

2. I have 2 — .00035, 1 — .0002, and 1 — .0005 variable condensers from an old set and wish to use some of them in making up the set instead of buying new ones.

A.: The tuning should be done with a .00015 condenser, so in series with each .0003 use a .0002 fixed condenser. For the reaction condenser use .0002 condenser.

3. Is the circuit I intend to use the best one using s.g. valves for broadcast reception?

A.: If you are wanting to design a special broadcast set, we think you would be better to follow one of the recent descriptions in the "Radio Times." However, as an all-wave set it would be very good.

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Noises similar to static are sometimes noticeable in the speaker, even on local reception, and this has somewhat puzzled local listeners who expect to enjoy perfect reception.

Has it ever occurred to you that there may be several joints in your aerial when same was erected, possibly the connection of the lead-in wire to the main aerial has not been sufficiently tight, due to faulty soldering, or you have simply twisted the lead-in wire on to the main aerial and left it at that. Think of the result in windy weather and the inconvenience of having a night's amusement ruined by crackling noises. When eightpence spent on an efficient lead-in connector clamp would save soldering, and the fatigue of heating an iron.

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