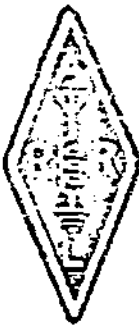




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ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 95, ORANGE, CALIF. 92668

1983

*****MARCH PROGRAM*****

Come and hear a very, very interesting and informative program by Wayne Overbeck, N6NB on his all new "high tech" computer programs for the ham shack..... Perhaps you're kind of scared of having something in your shack you think is smarter than you, but after Wayne explains how simple it is bet you'll rush right out and buy one.....

*****APRIL'S PROGRAM*****

Have you ever driven past a "fender bender" or a serious accident on the Freeway, and wondered what you could do to help???? If you have put your mind at ease because our guest speaker is going to be a representative of the California Highway Patrol..... He's going to tell us what to do and don't do when reporting an accident. While nobody likes to think of anything like this, it's nice to know you can handle it with confidence because you know what to do.....

*****UPCOMING PROGRAMS*****

Got any ideas????? We're trying to make our meetings and programs as interesting as possible. If you have any suggestions please don't keep them a secret, let us know your desires. Programs not necessarily about radio. Give any suggestions you might have to Al, KA6IIJ and he'll see what he can do.....

1983 BOARD

President.....	W6IBR	Al Watts	531-6245
Vice President.....	KA6IIJ	Al Toerins	730-1549
Secretary.....	W6HHC	Ken Konechy	541-6249
Treasurer.....	W6MIL	'Mac' Mac Innis	639-7384
Activities.....	WA&VKZ	Frank Smith	838-3271
Public Relations....	KA6GJI	Oscar Alonzo	531-4245
Membership.....	WB6LAR	Keith Southworth	893-7175
TVI.....	K6LJA	Ted Glick	542-1390
Member at Large.....	KA6HNY	Robin Hoff	731-4805
Member at Large.....	KD6XD	Bob Tesal	531-0926
Club Historian.....	WB6IXN	Bob Evans	543-9111
W6ZE Trustee.....	AF6C	Bob Eckweiler	639-5074
VIP Liaison.....	WA6RNA	Leonard Victor	892-1820

March PIZZA BASH

A PIZZA BASH will be held at 7:00PM on Saturday March 18th at the Straw Hat Pizza on Red Hill (at Walnut), in Tustin. Everyone to buy their own food and drink. Be sure you don't miss the fun!!

*****THE PREZ SEZ*****

Well now that the rains have stopped (mebee) and things are drying out a ham's thoughts turn to fixing up the antenna that's been looking sad all winter. We have a few members in the club who are unable to do much in the way of climbing, so when the call goes out for assistance let's show the true ham "spirit" and give them a hand. The time has rolled around again to pay the yearly dues. Remember a club is only as strong as it's membership. In case you've forgotten the dues are \$10.00 per year payable at the March meeting. Those of you who can't attend the meeting can mail your dues to Stuart Mac Innis, W6MIL the club Treasurer.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

- * All officers were present except Robin, KA6HNY and Bob, KD6XO.
- * Bob, AF6C was thanked for serving as editor for the February issue of "RF".
- * The program was presented by Irv Emig, W6GC who is an avid DXer with 328 countries. W6GC showed a slide presentation of an 1980 trip to china by four hams. The trip, which was sponsored by K2BPR and included W6AM, Don Wallace, visited Peking, Shanghai, Kowloon, and Hong Kong.
- * A new drawing has been initiated at club meetings in order to encourage participation in the OCARC Nets. All net check-in's become eligible to win the drawings. Ken, W6HHC won a bottle of champagne in the first drawing.
- * A total of 36 members and guests were present at the February meeting.
- * Our thanks to Alex, W6RE for the fantastic job he did during the recent storm. We all should be proud Alex is a club member as he has always shown the true spirit of ham radio.....
- * Congratulations to Dr. Charles "Chuck" Quinn, KA3AFD and Leland "Champ" Champion, N6ETK who joined our group. Welcome aboard guys, hope this will be an association that will last for years.
- * Need an antenna?????????
Wyatt, WA6BPX has a good Hustler 4BTV Vertical antenna free for the asking for anyone who has use for it. You can contact him at 537-6863 for particulars and pick up information.....

MINUTES OF THE MARCH BOARD MEETING

- * Meeting was held at the QTH of Al, W6IBR, on 3/6/83.
Attendees: Al, W6IBR, Ken, W6HHC, Mac, W6MIL, Frank, WA6VKZ, Bob, KD6XO, Keith, WB6LAR, Bob, AF6C, and Lloyd, WB6ULU.
- * The club's insurance policy (liability) is due for renewal by March 10, 1983 (\$178.00 yearly premium) The board voted to pay a 25% deposit to keep insurance in force while Al, W6IBR contacts other local clubs to see if they carry liability insurance and the carrier and the annual premium costs to them.
- * The program for the April club meeting will be presented by the California Highway Patrol on proper procedures for reporting accidents.
- * The club Pizza Party is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th. at 7:00 P.M. The location is the Strawhat Pizza Parlor at Redhill and Walnut in the city of Tustin.
- * Mac, W6MIL reminded everyone that 1983 dues (\$10.00) should be paid at the March meeting.
- * The "monthly editor" for the March edition of the "RF" will be Al, W6IBR.
- * Frank, WA6VKZ reported on upcoming Field Day:
 1. Still need rigs/operators for 220mhz. and 6 meters
 2. Still need generator for power
 3. The club plans to furnish food for dinner and breakfast. The Board is requesting a \$5.00 donation from the Field Day participants to the "Generator Fund"

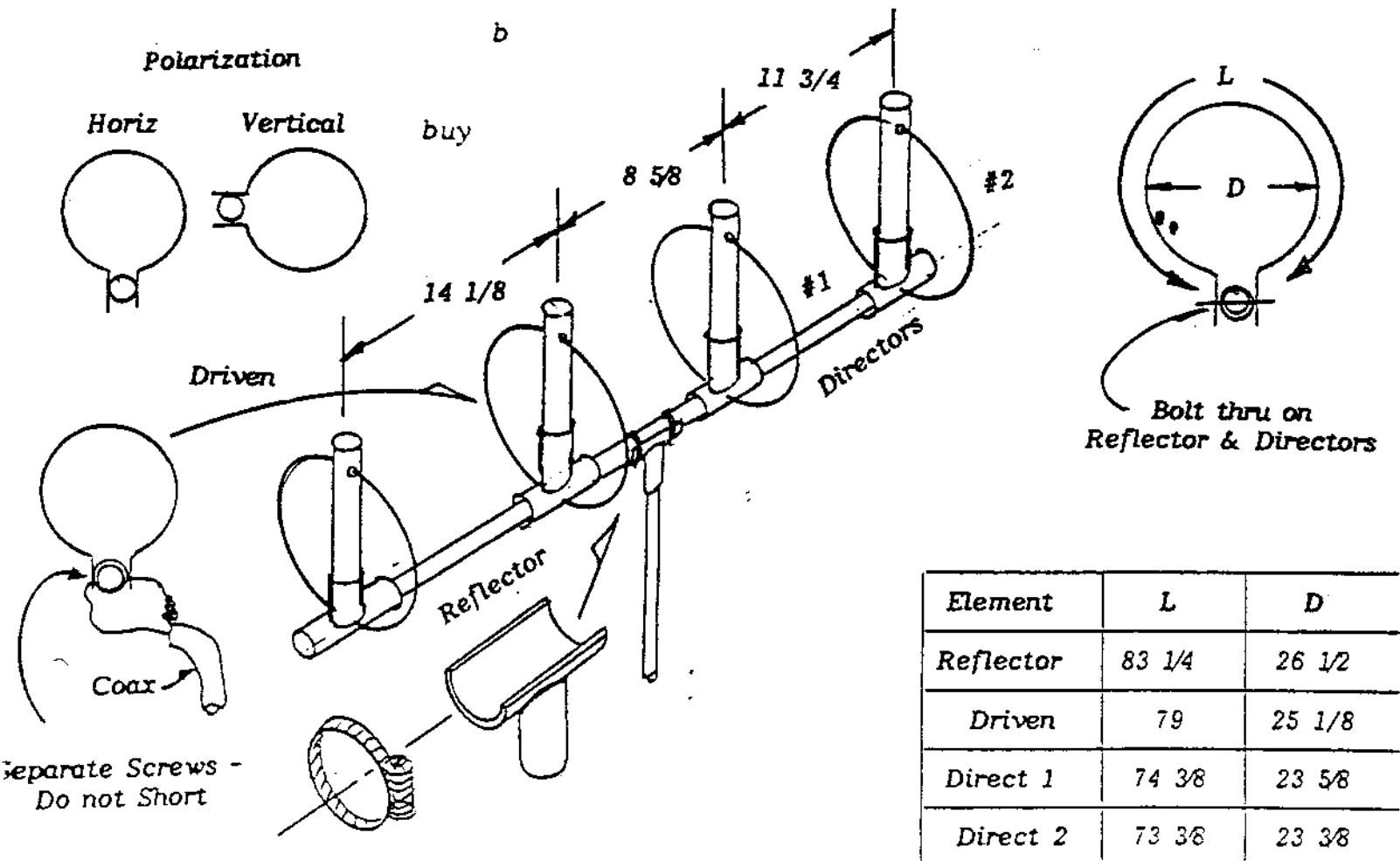
Submitted by HA6NIY from FEEDBACK

No! It is not a rare Norwegian Island DX Station. It is the answer to the question of how to boost your signal and reception on 2 meters at the lowest cost. If you have a "hand held" and want to talk across L.A., like I did, or you want to punch your SSB signal into a "DX" state, or you just want to know where that signal is coming from, then read on. The Low Cost 4 Element Loop Quad (LC4ELQ) is for you.

The basic design is that of a quad antenna except that the elements are loops not squares; construction is simple and inexpensive. The wellstocked junk box can provide all the parts.

Figure 1 shows the complete antenna. It is fabricated from a boom and mast of 3/4 inch schedule 40 P.V.C. They are joined by a P.V.C. "T" fitting which has had the "T" bar cut in half and stem glued to the mast. The cut section is clamped to the boom with a couple of 1 1/2 inch hose clamps. The clamps allow movement of the boom for balance and rotation for polarity. Each loop is made from #8 aluminum ground wire (Radio Shack #15-036). To assemble the elements to the boom, drill 1/4 inch holes through the boom for the reflector and directors and pass 1/4 X 1 1/2 inch bolts through the boom with two washers at each end. Bend hooks on the end of the wire loop and pass them around each end of the bolt. For the driven element, drill a 5/64th inch hole through the boom and use a 1/2 x #6 screw on each side with 2 washers to hold the wire and feed line. 50 ohm coax is connected directly to the antenna. For SSB and other horizontal polarization, place the boom at the top or bottom of the loops. For FM or vertical polarization, rotate the boom and retighten the hose clamps with the boom to the middle of either side of the loops. If you intend to mount the antenna outdoors, three pieces of fishing line should be strung through the loops to keep them from changing their relative position as this will affect the SWR. The antenna will work well at any height but will improve in performance at higher elevations. Initial results were good with it located six feet off the floor in my shack. It is now mounted above my tribander at 40 feet.

Judi, WB6SKE, helped me with some "on the air" measurements; the results of which are shown in figure 2 along with SWR measurements. Phil, N4VN, built a copy in 45 minutes without buying any material. Why not try one yourself? If you do, drop me a line or give me a call and let me know how yours works. De Nick K6KTS



THE 1954W BUG COLLECTION

Like most of you, I saw my first bug when I was a teenager. I can't remember what kind it was, but it caught my heart and imagination. Visions of becoming a high-speed operator and earning my place on 40 meters danced through my head. So I got out the catalogs from the big radio houses on the east coast. My twelve dollars was soon in the mail. After what seemed like an eternity, the postman delivered by prize, a brand new SPEED-X bug, Model 515.

Two decades later the SPEED-X is still with me. So is my fascination for bugs. My collection got started when I saw an ad in the classified for an old bug. Curiosity got the best of me, so I ordered it. The bug turned out to be a Vibroplex. I knew it was old because I had never seen one quite like it, but how old I didn't know. I had to find out. Then came a McElroy Bug. I knew who Ted McElroy was, but never knew he made keys. I wanted to find out more.

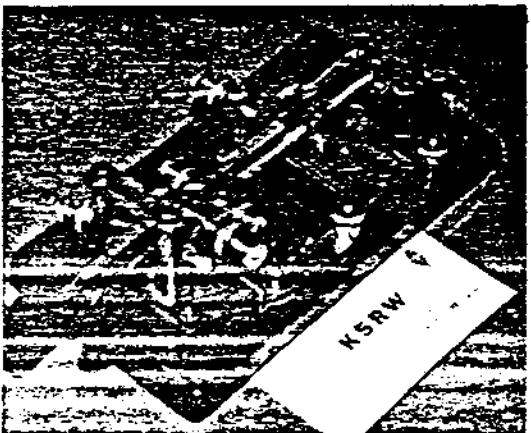
Today there are 70 bugs in my collection and I am still trying to find more. My goal is to find one of each make and model of bug ever manufactured and to know their history. I've got a good start, but I've a long way to go.

Horace G. Martin made the first bug in 1904. It was called "The Vibroplex". Other manufacturing firms saw how successful the bug was. In a few short years there were dozens of bug makers competing in the market. Many firms had several different models. For four decades the bug enjoyed a heyday.

Technological advance eliminated the need for the bug. After WW-II, the bug manufacturers slowly faded away. Today there is only one still in business....Vibroplex. They are still making the same model started in 1904, now known as the Original. Though they are gone, other manufacturers are not forgotten. Thousands of bugs remain to remind us of the golden days of communications. These purveyors of the radiotelegraph art are hidden away in attics, closets and garages waiting to be discovered by a collector.

I wish the bugs in my collection could talk. What stories they would tell. How many sent messages that saved lives or announced the birth of a child? One could probably tell us about transoceanic DX with a TSTP rig it keyed. Another might tell us about train wrecks, or torpedoed ships, or a message sent to a secret invasion force. Still another might tell us about the craftsman who put it together, or interesting stories about its owner.

Old bugs can't talk but the fellows that used them can. An old-timer that bought his key forty, fifty, or even sixty years ago can tell me about himself and his key. I like to retell these stories when I show the collection. Former call-signs, early rigs and historical notes give each key a unique identity. Unfortunately, the pieces I pick up at junk sales and estate sales are anonymous. Yet they are still a part of history.



Vibroplex X-Model...a single set of contacts for dots & dashes. The key belonged to WOLCE who was 9RW when the key was in use.

About two-thirds of the keys in my collection I would classify as real shoppieces. The remainder are spare parts bugs or seconds. When something new comes in I go to work

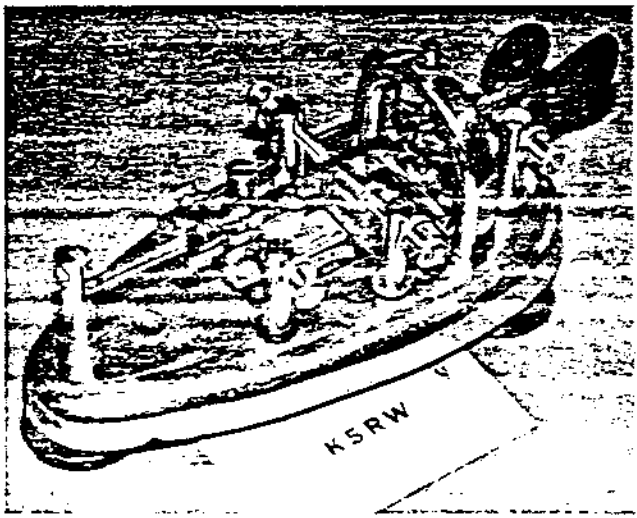
on it. If it is missing parts, I try to find replacements among the spares. Sometimes I have to find three or four of one particular model to assemble a complete one. I am just starting to experiment with restoring the really rough ones. This involves duplicating the paint and electroplating of nickel or chrome. So far, so good. The stumbling block is duplicating the baselite and plastic pieces. These are always the first parts to go. Maybe you can offer some suggestions.

My collection consists of bugs made by Vibroplex, McElroy Logan, Martin, Cedar Rapids, Bunnell and Telegraph Apparatus to name a few. Strangely enough, I am missing some of the more common pieces like the Martin Original and the McElroy Amateur models. I estimate it will take 200 bugs to make the collection representative of what was available in the first half of this century.

Finding information on bugs is difficult. There are no reference works for collectors, so those that collect become detectives. The task is a double one....finding bugs and finding information about them. Old advertisements, catalogs and flyers are a good source of information on types and year of appearance. Not too many have survived the years, however. The U.S. Patent Office records are accessible and do contain technical and proprietary information about some of the early and unusual models. The lack of reference material is a handicap, but it makes digging for it a lot of fun. The Vibroplex factory, I am told burned in 1972 and all records concerning serial numbers were lost. Therefore, even with the number, a Vibroplex bug can be difficult to identify and date.

I'm still young, by QCWA standards, so I've got lots of years to fulfill my goal. Or looking at it from another angle, I've got logs of bugs to go! If you have questions about bugs or other keys, feel free to write. I'll do what I can to share my knowledge or experience. If I don't know the answer, I'll steer you to another collector. If you have questions about a specific bug, please include the following information. It will save us a couple of letters SASE appreciated.

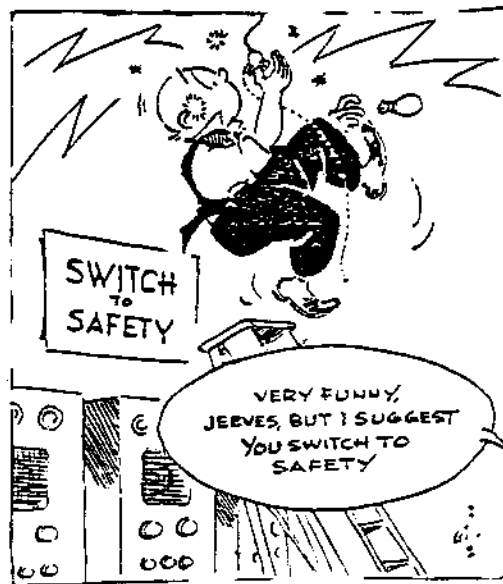
1. Dimensions of the base
2. Finish of the base, paint or plate and trim
3. Shape of finger & thumb pieces and type material
4. size of the contact points
5. Serial number (this gets me close)
6. Description of the main frame
7. description of the damper assembly
8. sketch of the nameplate
9. A picture is worth a thousand words, if you can make a photo, so much the better.



Above, a McElroy Super Speedstream PC-600. This key belonged to Brownie, W3CJI, who used it aboard a DC-3 on South American routes during the 1940's.

Perhaps we can start a regular column on old keys. Let Ted know what you think. In the meantime, look for me on 20 or 160. CW, of course!

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE ARRL & QST FOR OUR CARTOON PAGE FROM
"WAY BACK WHEN".....



FIRST CLASS

Bob Brown W6E1XN



ORANGE CO. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO BOX 96
ORANGE, CA. 92668

MEETING INFO

7:30 PM Sharp

Upcoming Dates:

Meeting Location:

March 18th
April 15th (IRS day, ush!)
May 20th
(3rd Friday of each month.)

Mercury Savings & Loan
1095 Irvine Blvd.
Tustin, Ca.
(1 Block East of Newport Ave.)

NET INFO

15 Meter SSB Net, each Wednesday @ 2000 Hours PST on 21.375 MHz.
2-Meter FM Net, every Wednesday @ 2100 Hours PST on 146.55 MHz
simplex. Listen for W6ZE Net Control.

Anyone interested in becoming Net Control for a CW (5-15 WPM)
net contact Bob, AF6C. Net should be keyed for Novices.

BREAKFAST INFO

8:00 AM

The Club Breakfast is held the first Saturday of each month at:
The Cook Book Restaurant, 17th & Yorba in Santa Ana, just east
of the Newport Fwy. (Southeast corner behind the Union station).

Upcoming dates: April 2nd
May 7th

de AF6C

March 1983