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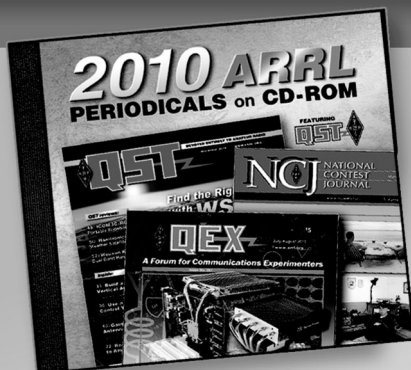
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QST Issue: May 1965

Title: Modified Heath HW-12

Author: Gabrielson

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European Amateurs QSO via Oscar III

European radio amateurs were quick to utilize the repeater capabilities of Oscar III. Starting with the initial reception of HB9RG by DL6EZA, it has been reported that HB9RG has contacted DL6EZA (orbit 9), DL9GU (orbit 17), DJ4ZC (s.s.b., orbit 19), SM7OSC (orbit 30), and SM7BA (orbit 49)! In addition, this star Swiss DX'er heard UP2ON (orbit 32) and OK1CG (orbit 34). Hans also contacted G3ABR during orbit 59.

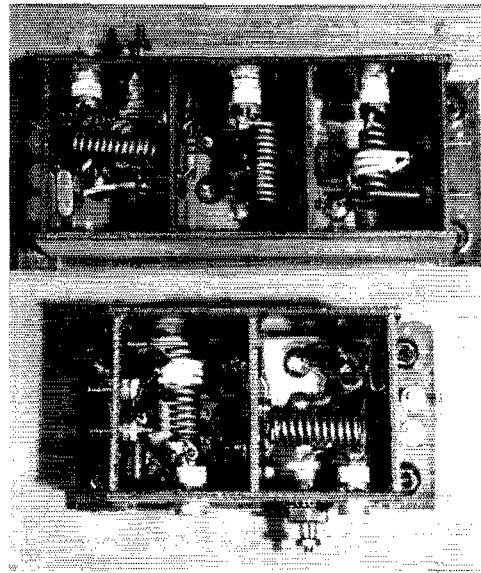
French amateurs F9DJ, F2RD and F3NB received DL3YBA and HB9RG via Oscar III during orbit 50. HB9RG, in turn, worked DJ3ENA (orbit 60), OK1CG (orbit 61), and OZ9AC (orbit 63). Swedish amateur SM6PU worked HB9RG (orbit 62) and Irish EI2A heard DL3YBA and HB9RG during the same orbit. Old-time DX'er EA4AO (ex-EAR96) achieved Spanish honors via Oscar III when he worked HB9RG (orbit 88). EI4Q in Dublin heard SM7OSC, EA4AO, G6AG, DL3YBA and an unidentified OE1 (Austria) during the same orbit.

The first reported Italian QSO was I1BMV-HB9RG (orbit 169). UR2BU (TARTU Estonian S.S.R.) logged DL3YBA, HB9RG, G6AG, EA4AO, OK2WCG, SM7OSC, DJ2RSA, while F3NB heard ON4FG and LZ1KBA.

English G6AG was logged "across the pond" by W1BU, W1JSM, and W1YQI during orbit 102. During orbit 105, W2UK/KH6 logged W6YK. Even though the W6 — K6 path had not yet been conquered by a two-way Oscar III, "Tommy", W2UK/KH6 proved his mettle by logging KL7CUH (orbit 120) via Oscar III for the first reported KH6 — KL7 reception!

Scores of Stateside QSO's via Oscar III

While all the frenzied trans-oceanic DX activity was going on, scores of U.S. amateurs were making two-way QSO's via Oscar III and collecting new states and call areas in their log books. Satellite-repeated contacts, while still elusive and difficult to achieve, were now being made on many orbits of Oscar III over W-land and Canada. What had been amazing, newsworthy and astounding a few days or hours before, now seemed relatively commonplace. Discussions of



These are the two beacon transmitters. The small unit is the 145.95 Mc. coherent beacon which apparently failed during or soon after launch. The large unit is the telemetry beacon on 145.85 Mc.

one- or two-thousand mile QSO's no longer evoked astonishment among the followers of Oscar III. The satellite was working, to the immense satisfaction of amateurs, and all was well with the world!

What will we amateurs think once the battery of Oscar III has been exhausted and the long distance signals no longer appear regularly on the 2-meter band? Will the exciting days of March, 1975 resemble a hazy dream in which the v.h.f. band was turned topsy-turvy by an orbiting miracle? Oscar III was but an example of creative accomplishment by a group of dedicated amateurs and showed one path to new, untreamed communication techniques. What will the future bring? Will others dream such dreams? Each QSO via Oscar III stands as a salute of a deed well done! May other such deeds be created by radio amateurs in days ahead!

QST

Strays

Received too late to be included in W3ZP's article in the April issue, this view of the modified Heath HW-12 transceiver shows the locations of the Monimatch switch (upper left), and attenuator switch (upper right). The crystal and crystal/v.f.o. switch are mounted below the original bias-set/operate switch at the lower right.

