

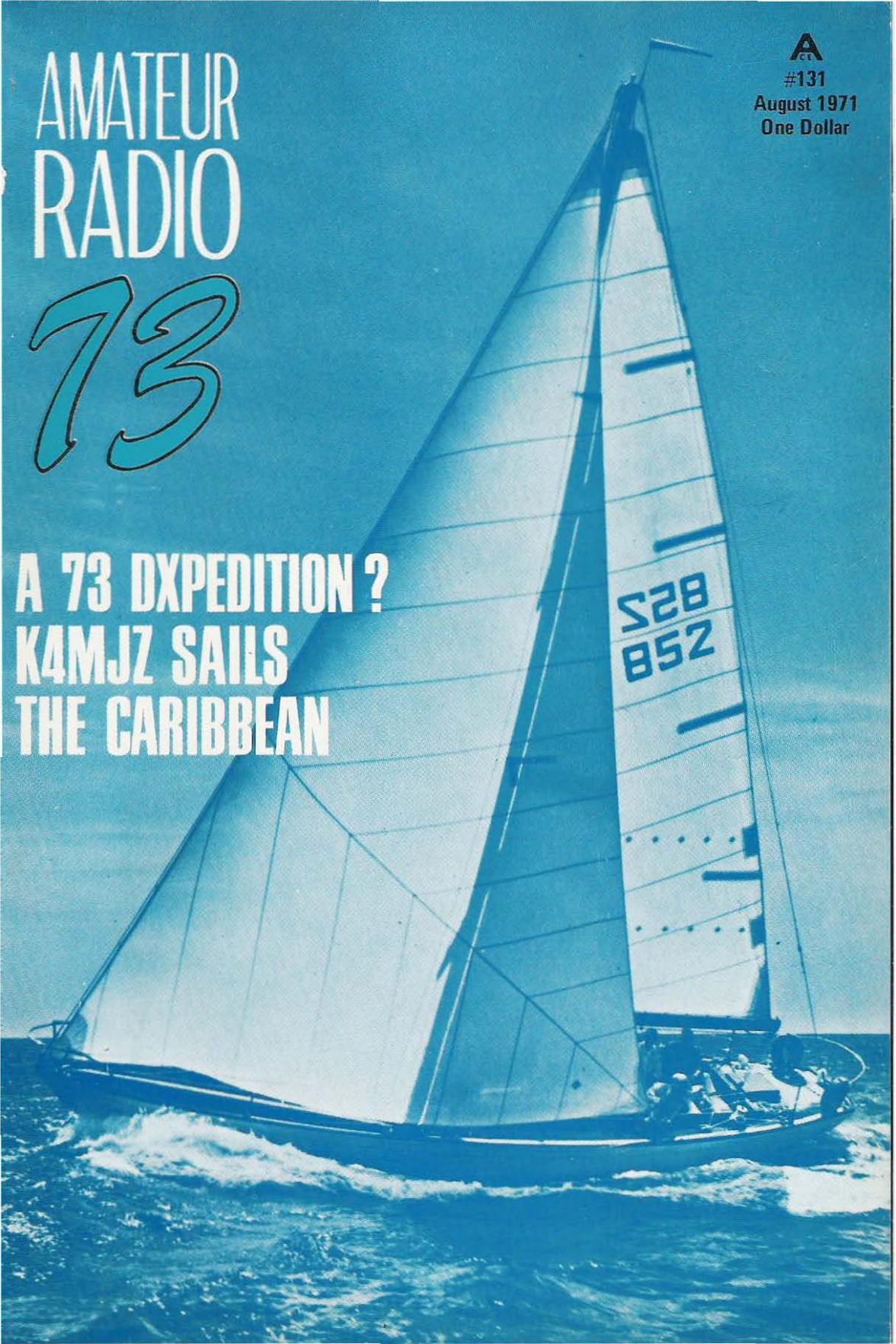
AMATEUR RADIO

73



#131
August 1971
One Dollar

A 73 DXPEDITION? K4MJZ SAILS THE CARIBBEAN



DX FROM THE STARS

Ron Fox WN4ONW
2311 Pressley Avenue
North Augusta SC 29841

It was late one Friday night in mid-October when I had completed my business in a small Georgia town about 70 miles west of Augusta. I am assistant manager for a finance company in Augusta and was headed home on Highway 88 after a particularly hard day. I was tired and sleepy, so I rolled my car window down and turned the radio up loud for fear of dozing at the wheel. I happened to be tuned to an Indiana clear-channel station when a special interview came on concerning a young couple in the midwest who claimed to have been taken aboard a UFO while traveling through Colorado high country.

As well as being a ham operator, I had been a general shortwave monitor for over fourteen years and I was particularly interested in UFO reports. The young couple's statement concerning strange sounding impulses on their car radio just before being abducted by the UFO was of special interest to me since I had been picking up strange impulses on my VHF monitor at home for the past two weeks. One night they appeared suddenly; weakly at first but gradually stronger, and only at night. I decided to experiment with a directional VHF antenna but my attempts to locate the signal were fruitless. It seemed to be of

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equal intensity in all directions. Little did I suspect the signals to be coming from almost directly overhead, thousands of miles into space. I had never participated in moonbounce experiments but considered this as a possible source; but for what purpose?

Suddenly my train of thought was interrupted as an unusual amount of electrical interference started playing havoc with the car radio — unusual because I was on a desolate country road nowhere near any high-tension lines or buildings. Just an occasional farmhouse off the road in a field.

My curiosity aroused, I turned on my rig. All bands were dead except for pulsating zings remotely resembling the sound made by an Air Force radar station.

I was getting tired of playing guessing games and was becoming perturbed with the puzzling interference. Probably some clown with a linear amplifier on a wireless FM broadcaster, I thought. But then I noticed a faint halo of light on the road surrounding my car. This in itself might not have been unusual on a clear night like this except for the fact there was no moon out. The halo was keeping pace with my car at 60 mph. I speeded up, then slowed down; it stayed right with me. Suddenly a cold chill came over me. I knew it wasn't my imagination and I became aware of a strange noise above me like a jet airliner with engines at idle speed except it had a three-tone musical note.

I was too frightened to stop the car and I wanted to look out the window above me but the fear of what might be there kept my hands glued to the wheel, my back to the seat, and my eyes to the road for I was at least ten miles from civilization. I had never felt so alone before and I was beginning to wonder if maybe I really wasn't there at all but at home in my bed dreaming. I wanted desperately to believe that, but I knew this was for real as I started to recall the experiences of the young couple on the radio interview. I tried to console myself by remembering the fact that they were not harmed.

Just then a strange voice came from my ham radio. It was a hollow, metallic voice

such as you would imagine from a computer. If they were alien visitors, they must be trying to communicate, I thought. Through shortwave listening I had heard many languages from many countries but nothing had ever sounded like this. It was almost like a tape recording being played backwards. In desperation, I grabbed my microphone and shouted, "Who are you? What do you want? Where do you come from?" The only reply was more of the same mechanical "garble."

All I could think now was panicky half-thoughts. I was terrified at the thought of never reaching home again. Up ahead I saw the lights of a town. I slammed the accelerator to the floor and raced toward the approaching lights.

When I was about three miles from the town, the spacecraft veered off to my left enough so that I caught a terrifying glimpse of it. It was saucer shaped, about fifty feet in diameter with flaming red, blue, and green lights on its perimeter. It appeared to have a number of portholes encircling its dome and the bottom half was spinning at a fantastic rate of speed. The face I saw in the starboard porthole I could never describe because no one would believe me. I only knew that it was definitely alien.

As suddenly as it had appeared, the craft took a 90-degree left turn and hurled away upward toward the stars. The chill that engulfed me eased off and I slowed the car to a safe speed again. As the craft disappeared back into the heavens, the radio impulses faded away and my ham radio came to life again, teeming with activity on every band. With this, I nervously keyed my microphone, identified my mobile station and asked if any other hams in the area had seen anything unusual in the sky that evening. Several other locals answered my call and jokingly asked me to stop by for black coffee. It sounded to them as if I needed it.

This was the only QSO I never logged for I knew that I was the first and only earthbound radio amateur to have worked DX from beyond the stars, but who would believe me? Do you?

...WN40NW

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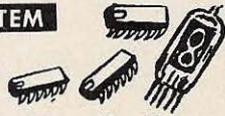
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