

APRIL 1975  
ONE DOLLAR

# 73 FM ANNUAL

amateur radio

**Synthesizer Scanner**

**Under \$50 HT!**

**Repeater Control  
Unit**

**Ma Bell**

- vs Attachments
- vs Blue boxes
- Her couplers

**Buyer's Guide  
to HTs**



# 73 in the works

Fantastic 2m Converter from K1CLL — plus more on the 432er

Solid State Burglar Alarm System

W2A00's Fat Nixie Clock

Slow Scan Hard Copy Machine

More K2OAW digital stuff

Postage Stamp IC Squelch

Simple Approach to Satellite Communications

ID Timer

Mini-repeater

TT-63A Regenerative Repeater

Rock Solid Tone Encoder . . . simplified

Mother's Day Special: LED Violet Checker

## UP COMING



### Big Auction Near Boston

Saturday April 12th is the day — Eagles Hall, Litchfield Street off Route 12, South Leominster, near the Leominster Motor Inn — 1pm. Bring lots of gear and lots of money — take the reverse home. 10% of sales goes to the MARC. Flea market space available. This has been a big auction, growing every year. Dig into your pile of unused gear and get it into eager hands. Come and get some fantastic bargains. You'll find the spillover from a hundred electronic plants here . . . plus plenty of ham gear.

least a 10 dB signal to noise ratio from the loudspeaker, and at this level, FM clearly surpasses both AM and SSB. As for VE3DNR's statement that SSB or CW is the only way to work truly weak signals, I would like to mention FSK RTTY. It is a form of FM, and will outperform both SSB and CW. My reasons for writing this included his unfair claim of a 64 to 1 "stacked

deck" situation in the FM vs. AM conflict. I submit that the FM mode is superior in usability, defined as a 10 dB or better signal to noise ratio at the loudspeaker.

Much could be said about BCI (SSB isn't BCI-free, it's just unintelligible to the non-ham) and power output efficiencies, but I rest my case.

. . . W0DKU

## Again QRZ . . . QRZ . . . at Hattingspruit

The weather report on the evening of the 13th of June, 1974, forecast rain for the area. Mr. I. McCallum, an engineering draughtsman of Hattingspruit, got up at 5 a.m. the next morning, glanced out of the bedroom window, expecting to see the rainy conditions that had been promised. Instead of a cloudy sky he saw the stars shining brightly and an intense bright white light coming, it appeared, from an object in the sky. Calling his wife to see this unusual light they both went outside to have a better look. Mr. McCallum said:

"I looked in the direction of this bright light through my 10-50 binoculars and saw a cylindrical object. It was about the size of a Boeing 737, but without wings or tail-fins. I could not see the ends because of the intense brightness of the light. I could also see a row of square portholes in the centre and strong white light beams were shining from these towards the ground. During the first hour of observation the UFO zig-zagged along at a leisurely pace with the lights coming from the portholes shining towards the ground almost as if it was looking for something! It was cold and clear, there was no sound at all and it was at a low altitude and quite near till about 6 a.m. After 6 a.m. the craft started ascending and just before sunrise the light from the object was as strong as the morning star. The ascent of the UFO was rather strange, while seeing it on end view I could see red lights flashing upwards from the body. It ascended in the direction of these reddish lights each time a flash was emitted, and so it ascended zigzagging upwards. At approximately 6 a.m. the UFO switched off most of the side lights from the portholes and after sunrise the craft could still be seen with one light shining and the sunrays reflecting off the body. From 6 to 9 a.m. it was still visible in the sunlight if one was shown the position but then it was

too high to be photographed; earlier no photograph was taken as I had no camera or telelens available, but there are three other witnesses besides my wife and myself who saw the UFO. My wife looked at the intense brightness of the UFO during the first hour or so, mostly without binoculars and she ended up with 'arc eyes' due to the intensity and brightness of the light."

This is another one of these strange phenomena. In this case the craft was close enough for the square portholes to be seen. The question arises, where does it come from and what is it doing here? For an answer to this enigma we must look to the experts and see what they have to say. Professor Carl Sagan of New York's Cornell University said in a recent report that a growing number of scientists believe there may be life on other planets and that we may receive their message in our radio telescopes any day.

The mindbending Uri Geller, who is causing shock waves in the world of science with his remarkable feats, has said that a contact with extra-terrestrials could take place on a large scale in about three years time.

We can but wonder at all this. In the meantime sightings like the one above continue to take place all over the world! You could help in the investigation of this problem by reporting any unusual happenings such as the above in the sky, or on the air (such as LVE, see Radio ZS July 74, P 8) by writing to me: ZS5GZ, P.O. Box 15, Wandsbeck, Westville 3631, Natal. Who knows, you may be coming up with the missing parts of the puzzle. These reports would be sent to MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network in USA where a panel of experts are evaluating all these data from all over the world.

. . . ZS5GZ

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