

Nifty QSL card from the Flash DX & QSL Club, which operates from Switzerland. It was submitted by Bill Henderson, SSB Network member SSB-490C, of Pennsylvania.

TWIN CITIES C B ERS

**19Q2366** UNIT 1

RANDY KAEDING  
822 Harrison  
St. Joseph, Michigan

Does anybody remember these old time CB QSL's? This one is from the early 1960's and was sent in by Randy, K8TMK. The address on the QSL isn't good any longer!

course, there is a test (plus re-test, if necessary), and a certificate. The cost to each member taking any one of the various courses is very low (\$7.00). More information is available from REACT International, P.O. Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201.

### You'll Be Board With This Antenna

There's nothing fancy about this antenna. It's cheap to build and it works. You need a 2X4 plank at least 11 ft. long, 9 ft. of 300-ohm TV lead, 2 stand-off insulators (Radio Shack 15-853), a ground rod (Radio Shack 15-530), plus the RG-59/U TV coaxial cable with PL-259 to run to your CB set.

Brush a coating of linseed oil onto the plank to protect it from the weather. When it dries (which should take most of a day), give the plank a couple of coats of spar varnish or polyurethane, or any other protective material you have handy.

When dry, you can start on the antenna proper. First, place a stand-off insulator at one end of the plank on one of the 4 in. sides.

Measure off 9 ft. from the insulator and, on the same side of the plank, place a stand-off. This leaves you ready for stringing the radiating portion of the antenna.

Solder the two conductors together at one end. This is the end at the top of the antenna. Place the junction of the two conductors in the stand-off. A dab of epoxy, caulk, nail polish, or chewing gum here will add to the weatherproofing.

what about getting a newer radio that incorporates more recent communications technology? Something in a combination AM/SSB radio would be a definite improvement.

Next, we'd have to say that a ground plane (GP) is fine for local CB coverage, but you're going to want a more macho antenna than a GP. You want something with gain and directivity if you hope to regularly chase DX. Look over the directional base station CB antennas made by companies like Antenna Specialists, Signal Engineering, or Jo Gunn. Check the ads.

Lastly, take into account that the stations you are hearing in those exotic DX distant nations may not be operating with the same stock CB equipment you're using. You could be copying them so well because they're running anywhere from 100 to 500 watts.

Those are some very general thoughts. Readers wishing to offer this reader specific advice are invited to contact him directly. He is Wagner F. Grande, 11 N. Roxas St., Transcoveille, Baguio City, 2600 Philippines.

A vote for low power was cast here by Paul Richardson, Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada. Paul is weary of the race for operators to want to keep upping the power over the next station, feeling it adds only to interference and noise on the band. He would like to see everybody use low power, saying that he can easily work 15 miles with a legal-powered CB rig.

REACT has gotten off to a good start with its Training & Development Task Group, which is a membership training program. Members can obtain well-prepared training programs for self-study. At the end of the

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CIRCLE 4 ON READER SERVICE CARD

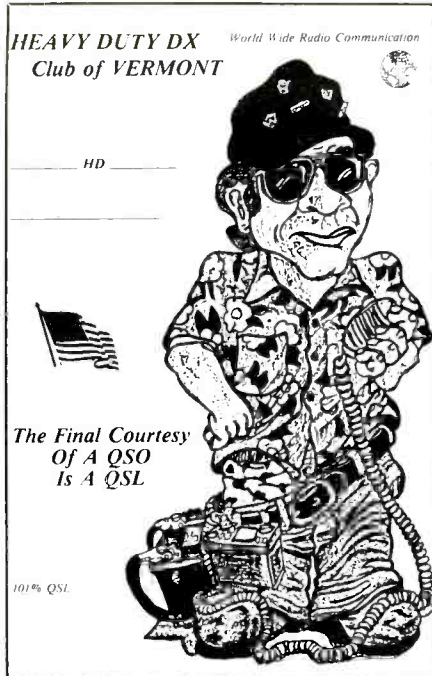
The other end of the TV wire runs towards the bottom end of the antenna. Do not solder anything here. Place the wire in the stand-off.

Now it's time to decide where the antenna will be planted. Yes, planted! Dig a hole about 2 ft. deep. A fence post digger would come in handy because the hole doesn't need to be very wide to accommodate the plank. Don't dig where there are utility wires overhead, or utility pipes or wires below ground.

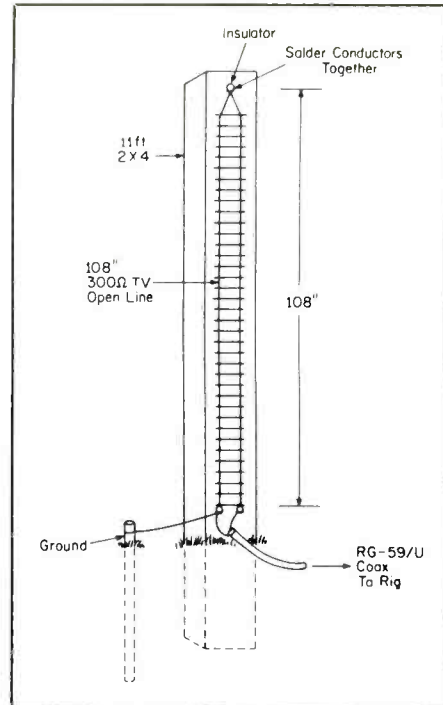
About 6 in. away from the plank hole, sink your ground rod. Another way of getting a ground is by hooking up to a nearby water pipe. Or, you could spread out four wire radials at right angles to one another. Each of these could be 108 in. long, and buried a few inches below the surface. The ground system connects to one of the ends of the twin lead.

Since the impedance of this antenna is about 100 ohms, use 72 ohm TV coaxial cable instead of CB's old standard 52 ohm cable. Solder the center conductor of the coax to one side of the antenna, about an inch below the stand-off. A short wire is then run from the braid of the coax to the other wire of the twin lead—the wire to which the ground system is connected.

Now stand the plank in the hole. Pack in dirt to make a snug fit. Run the coaxial cable to the CB radio. Weatherproof all connections. You may wish to bury the coaxial cable to improve the appearance of this antenna installation, and also to prevent people from tripping over it, although burying the coaxial



A wonderful QSL from Chuck, of the Heavy Duty DX Club of Vermont. This QSL is one we liked a lot.



Here's an antenna that will have you board with CB!

cable will shorten its life unless you run it through a metal conduit or PVC pipe.

The antenna is best used with an antenna matcher adjusted for lowest SWR.

That's our quarter's worth for October. Please be sure to keep us well supplied with your station photos, QSL's, comments, and suggestions.

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