

Linc Cundall 2019 Soapbox Comments

February 14, 2019

VE3LYX

Not the greatest conditions, but I tried.

W8KM

Attached is my log from the 2019 Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest. This is the first year I tried this one and hopefully next year I can improve my rather poor showing. Also attached is a *.jpg of the set up I was using: Collins 310B-1 and National HRO-5TA1.

K7JAQ

Even though I had no luck making contacts in the Linc Cundall contest, I thought you may be interested in the equipment I was trying to use.

The set is a Navy TCS-8 receiver and a TCS-13 transmitter used as an interconnected pair, but not used as a transceiver. Each unit is operated separately. They are 1943 and 1944 vintage.

The combination is uniquely applicable to Ham radio operation, since it covers the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands AM and CW. Of course, I'm convinced that the U.S. Navy didn't have that thought in mind when designing the rig. The receiver is very sensitive, but can't claim much in the selectivity department. It does have a noise blanker. Using a BC-221 signal generator for comparison, the tuning is very close. The transmitter has crystal operation capabilities along with the MOPA function. Also interesting is that the two can be netted together which is really convenient so the operator knows when he's reasonably on frequency with the received station. Output on CW is 20 watts on a good day.

I heard several AWA signals when I was able to listen in the evening, but many of them were completely covered by RTTY and digital signals. More than once, those folks started transmitting on top of an existing CW QSO, which I thought was not very considerate operation. They also use quite a bit of bandwidth. As has been the norm lately, propagation was significantly less than ideal.

The TCS is designed to use a 27 foot vertical antenna which I have, but I had been trying to load the transmitter into a 80 meter dipole, with no success, which was no surprise. The wind was blowing at 60 mph plus both nights and it would have been crazy to try set up the vertical and keep it, well, vertical! I'm going to see what can be done to get the rig to load into a longer antenna and be ready for next year's competition.

I hope participation was good this year. Maybe you'll see a log from me next year. 73, Roy K7JAQ, Cut Bank, MT



sp200series

January 14, 2019

Hi Tim,

I missed hearing you in the Linc Cundall this year. You may have been there when the propagation wasn't favoring shorter skip distances; so we couldn't QSO. Speaking of propagation, it was "wild" this year. It was like the weather; blink and it'll change. In one hour I'd be working locals (i.e., within 100 miles or so), and in the next hour, I'd be hearing nothing closer than 800 miles. At the extreme, on Sunday morning at about 7:30, I was copying VK7CW on 40 meters. He was coming in 589 ! Lots of fun !!

Activity had definitely increased this year; and you, no doubt, will see that in the logs that are sent in. It was fun taking the old Harvey "BandBlaster" (HI) out-for-a-walk. I usually use the "Fat Lady" (my 1942, Howard "BC-779-A" receiver) on AM-fone, but she is a suprisingly good CW receiver, as well. The pair were fun to operate together; lots of knob turning and switching throughout the event.

Don, W2LID (don't know how he got that call; HI), was a newcomer who showed real interest. I gave him some information about the AWA and the Linc Cundall event. Later, I heard him on both 80 and 40 meters calling "AWA" and working participants. Maybe he will "stick". Listen for him in future events.

It was a pleasure to participate in this event, and I thank the AWA and its volunteers, like yourself, for making it possible. See you next year.

- 73 & HNY -

John
N2BE

KB2PLW/4

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To Tim Walker WIGIG January 15th 19 2019

Street and No. 309 Harvest Commons

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Dear Tim, Thank you very much for running the Linc Cundall Memorial OT contest! I took a break from ham radio and the AWA for about 8 years to do emergency medical work with my volunteer fire department almost to the exclusion of everything else. When we retired to Florida in 2014, I donated two thirds of my station to the Museum but kept two 6L6 transmitters and my Realistic DX-160 and DX-150B receivers "just in case" I got the itch to go back on the air and reconnect with AWA in December, 2016 and I have been so glad that I did. I live in an HOA that hates antennas so I have a small "stealth" antenna that doesn't get out very well. Hence the low score : (Anyway, it was great to make some OT contacts. I hope that you are doing well and having a mild winter. 73s. Randy KB2PLW

Senders name and address (For reference)

Randy
Sender's telephone number

W1ZR

Hi Tim,

Attached is my LC log and photo of my station that I used.

Unfortunately, I was feeling crummy or I would have operated more. A big problem for me was the high power RTTY stns, especially on 40 coming down into the segment. I wonder if we would be better off sliding down the band 25kc? Regards, Joel Hallas, Westport, CT

W8KGI

P.O. Box 581

SANDIA PARK, NM 87047

JANUARY 12, 2019

Tim,

Here is my report for the Line Candell event. Activity was pretty poor out here in New Mexico. I spent quite a few hours on the air on 40, 80 and 160, but I made only 10 contacts. The bands were open, in general. I heard plenty of non LC stations on the air, but very few folks working the contest. Of the stations I did work, only Carl, W210K, was running "high" power - 200 watts. The rest were running from 25 to 50 watts. I do wish the rules encouraging low power would be changed. An extra 6 to 10 dB would surely help me make a few more QSOs!

As you can see, I had fun getting a number of my older transmitters (5) and receivers (9) on the air for the contest. I had two more transmitters turned up and ready, a 1941 Meissner Signal Shifter on 80 and a Command Set on 160. But due to lack of activity I was not able to make contacts with them.

73,

Jim Sanborn, W8KGI

W3FJJ

Hi Tim,

Here is my Log from this Year Linc Cundall Contest..

I had a lot of fun getting the 40's equipment up and running and making some contacts.

Best Wishes to you and the family for the New Year.

Thanks,
Chuck- W3FJJ

K0SM/2

Tim,

I've attached my log for the 2019 Linc Cundall event.

I figured the "sweet spot" in this contest was meant for mostly pre-war and surplus wartime gear, so instead of running my higher power BK gear, I built the little single-tube type 42 straight-pentode exciter in the 1936 West Coast handbook. I only had one rock in the "AWA" band for each of 160 and 80M, so most stations were worked by CQing—a few either tuned around enough to find me calling them a good bit off their frequency or just had wide-open receivers like me. To get the "real feel" 1930 experience, I used my regen so I could have the full QRM experience. The K3 without the antenna served as a very high tech station monitor, but I would switch it in on 80M to make sure I wasn't dropping in on top of someone before calling CQ—I can deal with QRM on the "other sideband", but they shouldn't have to hear me if they don't want. They didn't even have a bandspread condenser in 1924; this makes 160 useable, 80M tolerable, and 40M tuning akin to stacking golf balls. Moreover, there was no RF choke in the tickler circuit, so touching the cans would move the signals about 500 Hz. There is nothing like wiggling the knob or putting your finger on the can to sort the signals out!

Good fun. I heard many more calls than I worked, but that's largely a function of being rockbound, very low power, and limited time. I suspect there are lots of people with pre-1950 receivers who don't have antique transmitters. This is a good contest for those people too, but I have yet to work someone with a modern transmitter and a pre-1950 receiver.