

Special Features

- 14 COVER STORY:** It seems there are DXpeditions going on just about all the time, but not many of them are to countries which haven't been activated in years — or ones which were three years in the planning! Jim Smith presents his exclusive report of the reactivation of Bhutan.
- 21 EQUIPMENT REVIEW — KENWOOD TH-26A:** As the hand-held rigs get smaller, they seem to be getting smarter. Neil Duncan puts the new Kenwood TH-26A under the microscope.
- 26 THE PACKET RACKET:** The HF bands are getting increasingly clogged with packet radio signals. If you're not a packet devotee the noise is almost as bad as the Woodpecker. John Day suggests a few alternatives.
- 38 EQUIPMENT REVIEW — ICOM IC-R1:** Take an IC-R9000, run a steamroller over it, then do it again. The result? The IC-R1 pocket comms receiver. We welcome Tony Gilbert, VK8TG, back for a look.
- 44 THE ARA NOVICE THEORY COURSE — PART 4:** Maths, maths, maths. Yes, there is some, but this should make it easy...
- 46 NEW COLUMN — FOXHUNTING:** Yes, it *had* to happen... Here's Geoff Hudson, VK3VR, with his new foxhunting column.

Cover: We've seen this fellow before... This is Sherab Dorji, deputy chief engineer of the Wireless Division in Bhutan. The magazine he's holding is our own *Amateur Radio Action*. Sherab featured on the front cover back in August, 1986. Back then he hoped amateur radio would one day return to his country. And that's exactly what it did in 1990 when Jim Smith, VK9NS, hit the air as A51JS. His compelling story starts on page 14 of this issue.

Next issue out August 7. Classifieds deadline July 23.

Regular Features

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- 8—NEWS DESK:** Compiled by John Kolm.
- 30—SHORTWAVE:** The latest SW broadcast news from the ARDXC's Bob Padula.
- 43—YL FORUM:** We all knew this, really... Kirsti explains the *true* worth of amateur radio.
- 46—FOXHUNTING:** Our new column by Geoff Hudson, VK3VR.
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