

# amateur radio action



Volume 12, Number 10

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- 12** **EQUIPMENT REVIEW — ICOM IC-2400A:** Icom has released its new dual-bander for two metres and 70 cm. Tom Moffat, VK7TM, put it through its paces.
- 18** **AN EQUIPMENT EXPERIENCE:** When Icom released its incredibly small IC-2SA and IC-4SA we handed one to an amateur who hadn't seen a new piece of gear for years. Here is the report from our bemused cartoonist, John Kolm, VK3YJK.
- 22** **DEVELOPMENT OF THE 'BIRDCAGE' ANTENNA:** Who better to give a historical 'how-it-all-happened' report on the Birdcage antenna than its designer, Dick Bird, G4ZU?
- 30** **THE MAGELLAN ODYSSEY:** Another interplanetary explorer has set off to visit far-off regions. Here's Paul Butler's report.
- 32** **COMPETITION! WIN A YAESU FT-470:** Here's your second — and last — chance to win a great Yaesu handheld transceiver courtesy of Yaesu in Japan.
- 36** **THE ART OF ANTENNA FIDDLING:** If there's a whiff of a few extra decibels of antenna gain in the air, there's a fair bet Tom Moffat, VK7TM, has tried the design. Here he recounts some of the more harrowing experiences of years of home-brewing his antennas.
- 42** **BOOK REVIEWS:** The number of amateur radio books on the shelves is still increasing. Here's a number of titles we've checked out for you.
- 56** **CONNECTIONS:** Okay, so that new HF rig has an earth clip at the back. But the rig works fine without it, so it can't be of much importance, can it? Our mystery 'Old Timer' would disagree...
- 57** **REVIEWS, REVIEWS, REVIEWS:** Are the manufacturers putting *too much* technology into our HF rigs? Derek Lark, VK2OA, puts the question — and comes up with a possibly controversial answer.

**Cover:** You wouldn't believe the lengths some people went to in trying to win the **Captain Communications \$10,000 Great Giveaway!** This unique artwork was attached to the entry of Peter Browne, VK2XQK — but no, he didn't win the big prize. Read **QSP** to find out who pulled it off, as well as who all the runners-up were.

**Next issue out February 20. Classifieds deadline January 31.**

## Regular Features

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