

Clegg Thor

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As mentioned in the editorial last month, the Clegg Thor was given a good stiff workout at our new VHF HQ station during the June VHF ARRL QSO Party. Frankly, it was a spectacular improvement over anything we've ever used before.

The Thor is a six meter transceiver that provides full VFO operation on the received frequency over its entire range of 50-52 mc. This is all that is needed for practical operating purposes, with nothing much inhabiting the higher regions of the band except wide band FM nets which wouldn't be contacting a Thor anyway. Even under the most crowded band-open conditions you seldom hear more than a few stations venturing above 51 mc and those seem to be on popular surplus crystal frequencies only.

The Thor's ability to transmit on the received frequency (and vice versa) is helping to make six meters a lot more like the lower frequencies in operation where more and more stations are VFO controlled and stick to each others frequency. This type of operation is invaluable in contest work and during band openings. As more and more stations tune their own frequencies first I think we will find more and more demand for VFO's.

During this last contest I found I was able to run rings around some of the rock-bound stations. One, parked on top of a nearby mountain with his kilowatt and big beam, was very frustrated because he would call CQ (rock-bound) and the station answering him would come back on his frequency. This was OK until he signed and then I came in loud and clear on the channel calling the station he had just worked. Though the Thor is no kilowatt, its 40 or so watts output raise hob on a frequency for a hundred miles or so and he had to give up and change crystals to keep working. He found this out the hard way by trying over and over to drown me out. I don't drown.

The Thor has a crystal socket on the front panel and can be simply switched to crystal operation of the transmitter. This is very handy for calling CQ or working stations that are

outside of the band without having to tune the dial back and forth as you transmit and receive. I got out the old rack of six meter crystals and kept them handy so I could flip them in as desired. By having four or five crystals you can have one fixed spot in each one hundred kilocycles and you have no problems.

The Thor is also engineered for CW work. I haven't found much of this going on yet, but should it develop I'll be ready. I was sort of surprised not to find any CW during the Field Day contest for six meter CW contacts could easily have run up the score quite a bit for many stations. I called CQ many times on the low end, but never got an answer even though dozens of stations had worked all comers and were wasting their time calling CQ Field Day over and over on phone.

It is a pleasure to find a commercial transceiver that includes a bfo for CW reception. The bfo on the Thor is a combination spotting switch and bfo. There are three levels of injection so you can match the incoming signal for good copy. It even works on SSB, although you have to tune a little bit when you turn it back to an SSB station. I have worked most of the six meter SSB'ers now, so I can vouch that the Thor can do it.

One big problem on six meters is overload and cross-talk from nearby stations. Even the loudest of the competing stations in the VHF contest did not cause any cross-talk in the Thor. The nearby kilowatt did take out about 100 kc, but most fellows were complaining that he spread over 400 kc or worse, so the Thor did a fine job.

The Thor comes with an ac supply, or you can get it with a dc supply for a real potent mobile unit. It has push to talk operation or can be operated from the front panel. It has a noise limiter for hushing ignition noises. It has an effective S-meter that you don't have to apologize for every time you give a report.

As with all other Clegg gear, it is obvious when you use the Thor that they tried to give the most they possibly could, with price being secondary. Even so the price is amazingly reasonable: \$349.95. . . . W2NSD/1