

# TOP BAND DXing FROM THE FAR EAST

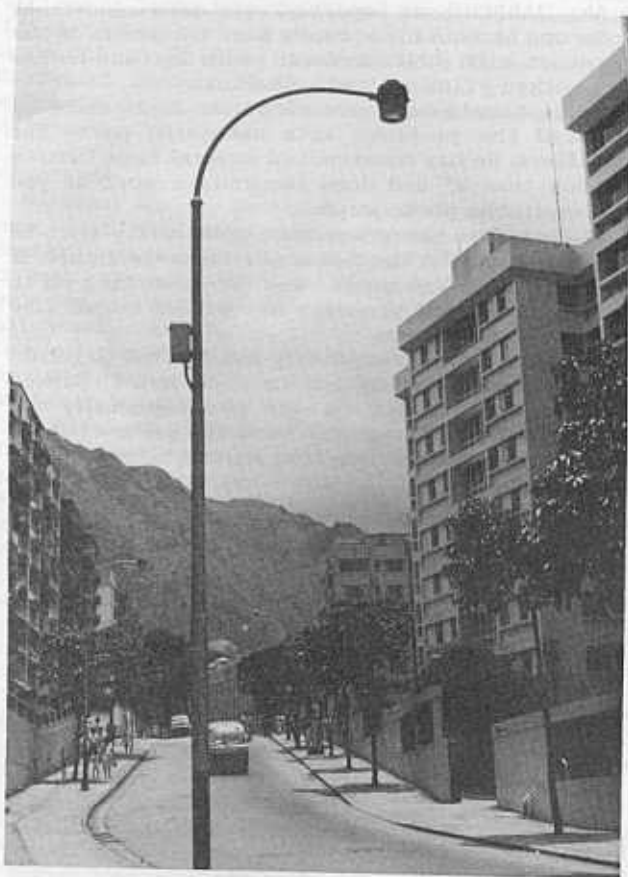
## PART 2 - HONG KONG

Bill Tippett, WØZV

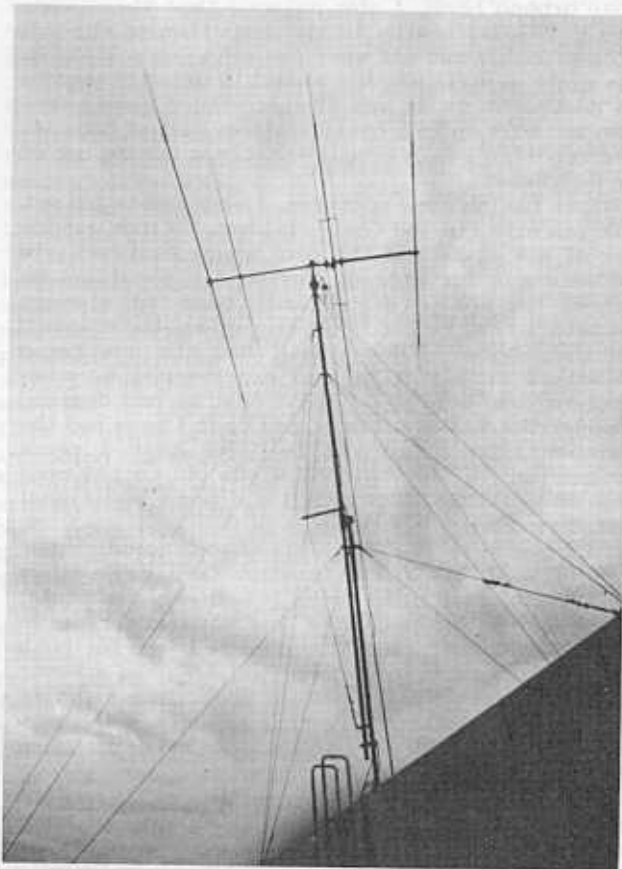
Hong Kong is one of those exotic cities of the world that has always intrigued me. Visions of smugglers, Suzy Wong and VS6DO's signal on Top Band instantly come to mind!

I wrote Paul well ahead of my trip to let him know the dates of my business trip to Hong Kong in the hopes that we could get together sometime. My hopes fell when John, W0UN brought word that Paul would be leaving for his annual vacation in the U.K. the very day I had hoped to visit him. John had taken several pictures of Paul's antennas for me since they would be taken down by the time I would be there. John did relay that Paul felt he might have time for lunch even though he planned to leave that evening.

After arriving in Hong Kong, I called Paul and confirmed our meeting for Saturday lunch. Paul gave me the address and I thought it was really appropriate that a Top Bander lived on Broadcast Drive! Although we agreed to meet at 12:30, I left a little early so I could take a few pictures of Paul's location from the surrounding neighborhood.

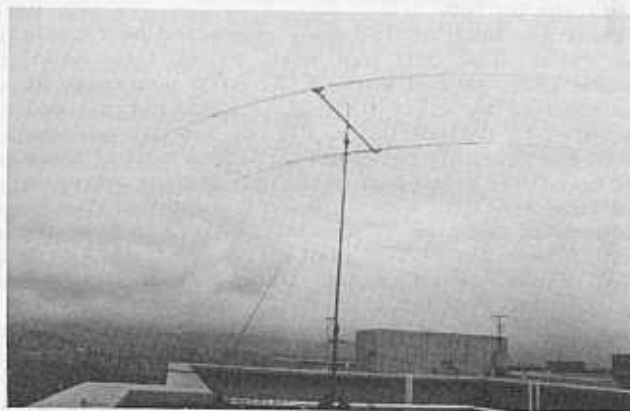


*VS6DO location looking Northeast toward USA. Bare 55 ft. mast visible at upper right normally supports tribander and 80/160 meter Inverted Vees on top of 8 story apartment building.*



*Hy-Gain Explorer beam with 80/160 Inverted Vees barely visible below on a tilttable 55 ft mast.*

As you can see in the photographs, Paul lives in an area of dense high-rise apartments. In fact, almost all of Hong Kong is incredibly densely populated and



*2 element 40 m KLM beam on 35 ft mast.*

I was very curious to see how Paul put out such a good signal on all bands, especially 160. Paul lives on the top floor of an 8 story apartment building and has a couple of masts mounted on the roof. He has a Hy-Gain Explorer Tribander on top of a 55 foot mast with inverted vees for 80 and 160 underneath the Yagi. He also has a KLM 2 element 40 on another shorter mast, about 35 feet high. Incidentally, the ends of the inverted vees go to two adjacent apartment buildings and this is how Paul achieves an inverted vee on 160 that is approximately 150 feet above ground level. I also noticed that there were some high hills nearby in the direction of the U.S. which probably cut off very low angle propagation. It also might explain why his signal is often skewed to the Southwest on 40 and 80 (although I have never observed this on 160, other stations East of Colorado have reported Paul's signal sometimes coming out of the Southwest).

After taking some pictures, I went inside and met Paul, his wife Kin and their children. We took a quick tour of his shack and the roof where Paul had laid the antennas for storage during his vacation. He showed me some very sturdy boom to element insulators that he had built to replace the standard KLM insulators. Although Paul had the new Lexan insulators from KLM, he had experienced so many problems (who didn't? de 3BMV) that he had decided to construct his own. I must add that I have had the 3 element KLM 40 up 148 feet for over 3 years through many of our Chinook winds (80 to 140 mph) with no problems (although I did some additional ruggedizing before putting it up).

Paul has several rigs in his shack including the ICOM 751 and 740 and a Kenwood TS-830. He likes the 751 but complained about it being temperamental at times. He did not have any separate receive antennas and just uses the inverted vee for both transmit and receive on 160. Paul also has a keyer that he can program in beacon mode. This explains the long and repeated CQ's that sometimes drive us crazy on 80 and 160! He just sets the keyer up, takes a break and comes back to listen to a huge pileup when he stops the keyer! Incidentally, he has renewed his liking for CW over the past few years and I can attest to the fact that his copying ability has improved dramatically (CW forever!!...sorry Willy!).

After the tour, we left for the Hong Kong Cricket Club, a traditional British club nearby. Over lunch, Paul gave me a little background on himself and his observations on Top Band DXing. He is 40 years old and now works for the Hong Kong governmental regulatory arm for securities trading. Paul was first licensed in the U.K. in 1963 and then in Hong Kong in 1967. He is the only VS6 authorized for SSB operation on 160.

Paul has been on 160 many years and he recalls his first U.S. QSO was with W6VSS (now K6UA) around 1971. He had worked 102 DXCC countries at the time of my visit (late June 1986) but has not bothered to collect QSL's. I'll bet his QSL manager K4CIA has probably received cards from most of those 102 countries since Paul is the only station active on 160 from VS6! Paul was not sure how many states he had but, at the time of my visit, AA1K/3 in Delaware was his best East Coast contact. Since then, I know that he has worked several 1's and 2's including a spectacular contact with KAIPE in Maine! The VS6 beam heading from Maine is 356 degrees which is right through the magnetic North Pole. Interestingly, John, KAIPE told me Paul was coming in direct and not skewed over the South Pacific. Paul also told me he has 280 countries worked on 80 meters (but that's



Paul Bailey, VS6DO with his equipment and home-brew "active antenna tuners" in background.

HF to Top Band addicts).

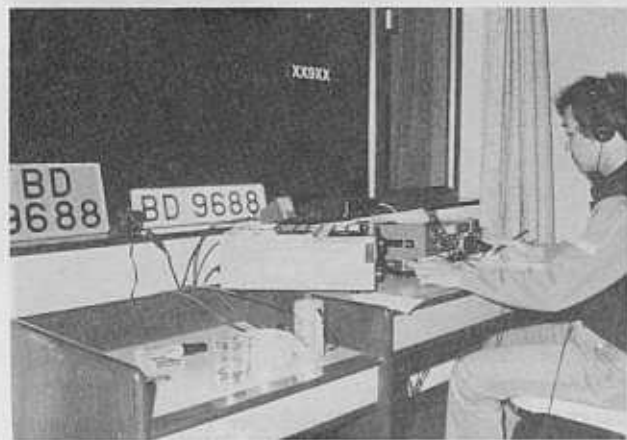
As was the case in Japan, LORAN makes 1830-1870 kHz unusable in Hong Kong. You will usually find Paul either around 1823-1825 transceive or else in the JA window around 1909-1910 listening down (especially in contests). He is usually on the air around 1200-1400 UTC for the U.S. or around 2300 UTC for Europe. He says the peak winter conditions to Europe are around 1900 UTC but he is seldom on then since it is 3 AM local time. However, guest operators such as Aki, JA5DQH have reported very good conditions to Europe at this time. Paul's best Caribbean DX was a contact with KV4FZ several years ago and he has only worked PY1RO in South America.

We continued our discussion over lunch and Paul lamented the problems with obtaining parts for amplifiers. He has constructed several large "active antenna tuners" and does immaculate work as you can see in the photograph.

Paul told me there was some possibility that he might emigrate to the U.S. sometime in the future. If you don't have VS6 on 160 yet, keep working on it because there will probably never be a signal like VS6DO once he leaves.

Lunch ended all too quickly and Paul had to return home to finish packing for his vacation. I thanked him for his activity on 160 and especially his hospitality. Now I hope you know the person behind that big signal from Hong Kong a little better. Thanks again Paul!

(WBZV)



Aki, JA5DQH (also NN7S) operating XX9XX in Macau from the Hotel President. (Tnx N2ATT)