

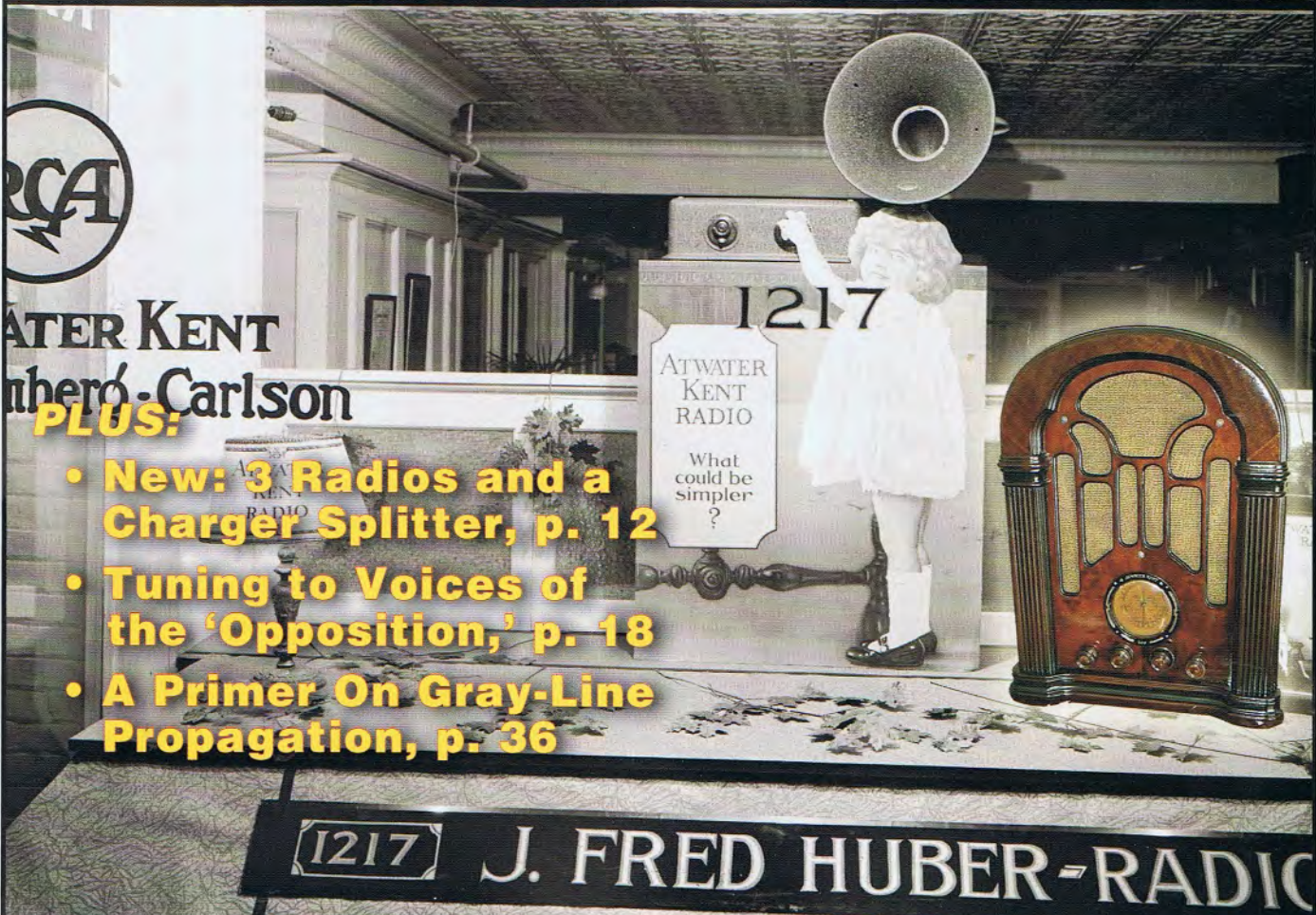
# POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 2012

Shortwave Listening • Scanning • AM & FM • Radio History

## CLASSIC RESCUE

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**PLUS:**

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2,500 kHz	AM	nights
5,000 kHz	AM	evening and morning
10,000 kHz	AM	day and night
15,000 kHz	AM	daytime
20,000 kHz	AM	daytime

This radio also tunes in the high seas upper sideband telephone service from powerful WLO in Mobile, Alabama, <<http://www.shipcom.com>>:

8,788 kHz	USB
13,110 kHz	USB
17,260 kHz	USB
19,773 kHz	USB

If your computer has weather facsimile decode capability, try one of these frequencies on upper sideband <<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/RFX.pdf>>:

8,459 kHz	USB	Alaska
12,784.1 kHz	USB	West Coast
11,088.1 kHz	USB	Hawaii
12,748.1 kHz	USB	Atlantic
12,788 kHz	USB	Gulf

For some hot ship-to-ship listening:

8,294 kHz	USB
12,353 kHz	USB
16,528 kHz	USB

Nearly 24 hours a day, ham radio operators continuously guard and work ship-to-shore traffic on their one dedicated frequency — upper sideband, 14,300 kHz. These radio amateur net control operators take great pride in continuously guarding this one-and-only maritime mobile hailing channel, where on an almost weekly basis you can hear priority and distress calls coming in from ham sailors at sea.

The Sangean ATS-909X SSB receiver from C.Crane sells for about \$250.

(**IN DEPTH:** For more information on the ATS-909X, visit: <<http://bit.ly/svKKh7>>. — Ed.)

## Read All About It . . .

If you don't have the C.Crane catalog, get it! Its colorful 40 pages feature everything from Wi-Fi extension antennas to wind up and solar emergency solar FM receivers.

On the Web, visit: <<http://www.ccrane.com>>. To order by phone: (800) 522-8863.

The C.Crane booth at CES is always *standing room only!*

## 'QuadLink' Battery Charger Splitter From PulseTech

If your RV or boat, or maybe your garaged four classic cars, each need battery charge maintenance, you may no longer need to run out and buy individual chargers for each battery.

A new product from PulseTech called QuadLink turns your current 12-volt battery charger into a four-station maintenance charger — automatically splitting and distributing all of the



**Photo G.** Here's a close view of the QuadLink battery charger splitter. "We tested the quad splitter using the PulseTech solar charger," Gordon West, WB6NOA said. "It puts out about 1,000 mA. Some meters were added to watch the charging current during the 10-minute charge to each battery."

charger's capability into 10-minute sequencing charge segments, **Photo G.**

"This product saves users both time and money, because with QuadLink there is no longer a reason to use multiple chargers on vehicles or batteries in storage," said Pete Smith, President, Specialized Products Co., (SPC). It is sold through PulseTech distributors and dealers.

When the multiple batteries are each hooked into extension leads, the source battery charger will only see an individual battery, rotating every 10 minutes.

If there is no battery connected, it simply skips that channel. If the present charger you are using features "smart charge" electronics, it will immediately sense the individual battery's voltage, and deliver the proper amount of current to charge it, or float it.

What this four-bay multiplier does is to isolate each of your four batteries to your present charger, preventing one low battery from discharging the rest. Even if you have several batteries in parallel, your present smart charger will sense the load and adjust properly.

Remember, the charging technique on this four-bay multiplier is specifically dependent on your current source

charger. I use a 10-amp "ship 'n' shore" Schumacker automatic battery charger, which incorporates a DC ampere meter and needle movement.

I watched as the four-bay multiplier cycled to each battery, and there was no question which batteries needed a hefty charge — the ampere meter would instantly jump-up indicating this was a battery now receiving replenishment. When it switched to another battery that was brim full, the needle would just take a quick flick, and then settle in at less than an ampere.

Keep your eye on that meter — if you see it constantly pumping 4 or 5 amps into a specific battery, cycle after cycle, there is a good chance that battery is either low in electrolyte or it is beyond service.

If the charger you currently have is simply a trickle charger, this system will automatically trickle each battery individually for 10 minutes each.

I run the PulseTech 25-watt SP-25 photovoltaic smart charging system, **Photo H**, and now have a neat way to maintain our communications van batteries — one at a time, yet all hooked up in parallel with isolation diodes.

Just keep in mind that your existing charger is the "brains" to the success of this multiplier. If your current charger has the ability to properly adjust the charge of different types of batteries, the QuadLink will allow it.

But, if you have batteries with different chemistries and each requires a different specific form of recharging, the four-channel QuadLink won't detect the difference, and you could inadvertently undercharge or overcharge battery chemistry not designed for your present charger.

There was no provision to inspect the inside of this four-bay multiplier. What I was most interested in was the diode protection between each of the four batteries. Let's say you hook up four batteries. Three of them are relatively new, but the fourth is deeply discharged.

Could there be enough cross-current flow within the four-bay multiplier that the healthy batteries might try to pass 10 to 20 amperes to a nearly-dead battery "down the line?" I don't have an answer yet. QuadLink tends to be a little secretive on *exactly* what's inside its charger multiplier.

I strongly suspect the company would have designed-in some kind of protection against current flowing where it shouldn't be flowing between batteries.

If you want to allow a certain battery to have more relative charge time within



**Photo H.** The new QuadLink Battery Charger Splitter from Pulse Tech allows charging up to four batteries from one battery charger — one at a time, automatically. The QuadLink gives each battery connected a 10-minute charge before rotating to the next battery in line.

the charge cycle, you can double-connect a station to any given battery, allowing twice the time for your charger to bring it up to a full charge.

This \$99 unit is simply a splitter/isolator, for up to eight amps of charging,

and saves you the hassle of frequently moving your single battery charger over to each battery to get a fill up.

(IN DEPTH: For more information on the QuadLink Charger Multiplier, visit: <<http://bit.ly/sGgdX6>>. - Ed.)

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