that is an instant Channel 9 button (CH9) for convenience when a quick change to emergency status is necessary. Below again, is the frequency display button (FRQ). This toggles the display between your choice of channel or frequency.

Eight more buttons appear across the bottom of the display. From left to right, there is a local button (LOC) that switches to a fixed level of reduced receiver gain. The microphone transmit button (MIC) is next to the local button. This reduces the microphone power level in the transmit mode from "boosts TX output" to a fixed level for those times when you might want to back off from the maximum legal modulation limit just a bit. For example, this ensures that your signal does not splatter and blow away the wife and kids following behind you in the other car on a big ski trip to the mountains. Four channel memory buttons are centered under the display. These memory presets can be set to your favorite channels for instant access without having to spin the tuning knob around. Next, is a really nice scan feature button (SC). This function stops on any channel breaking squelch, then delays on channel for 10 seconds after the signal disappears before resuming the scan. This gives the operator time to answer a call heard. Touching the button again exits the scan mode. Farthest on the right is a dual watch control button. The dual watch allows simultaneous scanning of any two CB frequencies, another outstanding feature.

A Look At The Midland 79-290's LCD Display

The LCD display gives a wealth of operational information. It is the command center of the 79-290. Four indicators for the four channel memory buttons line up on the left of the display. The large frequency/channel display area is topped with indicators for AM/USB/LSB modes, WX mode, reduced mic gain mode, and local RF gain mode. There are additional indicators for transmit (TX) and the dual-watch function. To the right,

Adventist World Radio DX Contest Results

For the fifth time over a period of 13 years, a New Zealander is the world winner in the annual DX contest conducted by Adventist World Radio. He is Mr. Ron Killick of Christchurch in the south island of New Zealand and he has amassed a remarkable total of more than 67,000 QSLs during the past 45 years.

Ron Killick's very large collection is made up mainly of aircraft QSLs, though he also possesses a large number of shortwave, mediumwave, and FM QSLs as well. Ron is the current editor of "Tune In," the regular bulletin of the New Zealand DX Radio Association. He was awarded the 1999 Bronze Medallion and a deluxe copy of Jerry Berg's new book, *On the Short Waves*.

The 1999 DX contest was conducted in conjunction with the AWR DX program, "Wavescan," which invited listeners to submit details of large QSL collections and to describe the longest time they waited to receive a QSL. The "Longest Wait" is 31 years; that's how long Karl-Erik Stridh in Hoganas, Sweden, waited to receive a QSL card from the ship station, Radio Syd. In a strange set of circumstances, he heard the station as a youth, and received a QSL card from one of the staff he befriended 31 years later.

Don Moore in the United States has a total of more than 28 QSLs exhibiting the "Long Wait." In some cases, he later visited the station in Latin America and collected the QSL personally. The other Continental Winners are: Ivan Lopez Alegria in Mexico, Madan Mukherjee in India, and David Gordon in South Africa.

Adventist World Radio also honors a young brother-sister team in Hungary who have a total of just 17 QSLs between them, and a new DXer in the United States who began collecting QSLs only last February.

Wavescan expresses appreciation to each international radio monitor who took part in the contest, and also for the several hundred radio cards that have been added to the AWR Historic Collection. In due course, all specially endorsed QSL cards together with the QSL stamps will be sent out, and those who qualify will receive their special awards.

there is a large S/RF bar graph with a sweeping upward curve. This is no mere five or six segment graph, but a continuous sweep of vertical bars for a precision reading. The scale is calibrated in proper "S" units. The only drawback noted for the entire functionality of this fine unit is that the S scale tends to read very high or even top out when the noise floor is high. This may give the impression that the receiver is susceptible to noise, but not so. This appears to be only an inconsequential calibration issue.

As one would expect, for a radio in its class, the 79-290 is feature rich. It has full-time, full-stage noise blanking. An automatic gain control (AGC) is always active as well, providing nearly 10 dB change in audio for 10 to 100,000 (v input levels.) The high performance CPU boasts "pinpoint channel selection and self-adjusting frequency operation." They're not kidding. In testing, the clarifier control was rarely needed for SSB operation. It was useful for separating co-channel stations on SSB, as well as AM. In fact, the clarifier even works on the weather band,

making it possible to tune out second, distant, WX stations on the same frequency. According to product literature included with the tested unit, receiver sensitivity is rated at a respectable 0.50 (v on AM, an excellent 0.25 v) on SSB. The unit has a dual-conversion receiver, with adjacent channel rejection rated at 60 dB for AM and SSB, intermodulation distortion for SSB 3rd order >-25 dB, 5th order >-35 dB. SSB carrier suppression is 55 dB, with unwanted sideband rejection at 50 dB. Audio frequency response is 350 to 2500 Hz on AM. The audio output is four watts into eight ohms.

True 11-Meter Communications Rig

Test driving the Midland 79-290 was a delight. A band opening provided a multitude of reception from stations in Canada riding the skip into the southeastern U.S. on SSB in the "upper 40." Testing was done using a 108-inch whip, rear quarter-panel mounted on a sport utility vehicle, with measured SWR at a perfect