



The VMARS News Sheet

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M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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George Robbins, G3LNG, at his operating position.

From Our Chairman

Once more we welcome new Members to the Society, whilst at the same time we are saddened by news of the recent death of Pat Moore G3IKR, whose obituary appears on page 4 of this News Sheet. Derek Thom, G3NKS, says a great deal about Pat's many contributions to the hobby and his achievements, but I would like to remind Members of Pat's sterling work when he convened the Members' Panel, and drew

up its terms of reference, under what were very difficult circumstances. He will be sadly missed, as will his signal on 3615 kHz from that Elizabethan transmitter!

Looking forward to our planned events, preparations are well in hand for the EGM/Swapmeet on 22nd May (see News item on page 2), and for the Armed Forces Day at Bletchley Park on 3rd/4th July; Sunday 4th July will also be our AGM to be held at Bletchley Park. Members will appreciate that there is AGM material being circulated with this News Sheet, and this provides me an opportunity to encourage Members to engage with the process and make your views felt, by coming and supporting both events. The Committee is looking forward to meeting with as many Members as possible, and we can promise you plenty of vintage talk and interest.

Can I repeat my request to those who have not yet replied, but are planning to exhibit at Bletchley Park, that the

VMARS EGM, SWAPMEET, AUCTION

There will be an EGM (to approve the new VMARS Constitution) followed by a 'Swapmeet' and auction on Saturday 22nd May 2010 at the Village Hall, Kineton, Warwickshire. More information inside this Issue.

organisers would welcome details of your exhibit to ensure that space is reserved. In particular, they would be pleased to receive details of the vehicle exhibits so that a plan can be approved, as this year we will be exhibiting alongside re-enactments and other activities. We would like to put the plan into some kind of order so that any difficulties are well out of the way. The Committee has agreed to cover fuel costs for vehicle exhibits that are coming exclusively under the VMARS 'banner' to an overall budget limit. If you are intending to claim for fuel it is important, therefore, that we receive your estimated expenses as soon as possible to be able to confirm that we are within budget. If we seem to be going over budget, then it will be first come first served.

We also need to confirm the individuals who would like to avail themselves of the opportunity to camp on site. If you have not already done so, please can you confirm with me as soon as possible.

Some of those mentioned above will be accompanied by their spouses. Last year, we had a very pleasant social evening on the Saturday when we met for a meal at a local Indian restaurant. Anyone who will be staying over on the Saturday is very welcome to join us; if you have not done so already, can you please tell me or my fellow organiser if you would like to come.

Stuart McKinnon, GOTBI

Reflector News

This is just a brief reminder to any Member, who would like access to the VMARS-Member Reflector, to contact me by e-mail, and I will issue an invitation. This is a closed, 'members-only', forum and it is not visible to casual visitors, so by invitation only. Currently there are 135 subscribers.

Bronek Wedzicha, MODAF

Arrangements for EGM and 'Swapmeet'

22nd May 2010, Village Hall, Kineton, Warwickshire

The previous News Sheet (NS84) included a notice calling Members to an EGM to approve the revised Constitution. Voting forms, sent out last month are currently being returned.

This news item is a repeat of what appeared in the previous News Sheet, as a reminder.

Following the EGM there will be a social, Swapmeet and auction, with lunch organised by Anne McKinnon, M3TBI. On the menu we will have:

- Tuna Cheese or Ham Rolls
- Crisps and small cakes
- Jacket potatoes with chili or cheese or beans or Tuna
- Chili with rice and tortilla chips

All very competitively priced! Whilst orders will be taken on the day, anyone who can pre-order should contact Anne via Stuart McKinnon, GOTBI. It would be good to know as many of the food orders as possible to assist in planning.

The Swapmeet will take the form of tables to display items for sale, or to exhibit items of interest. Any Members wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity are asked to contact me as soon as possible and no later than 15th May. Tables will be provided free of charge.

As before, the auction will consist of items sold on behalf of individuals, or items which have been donated to VMARS. The catalogue is included with this News Sheet. Equipment sold at auction on behalf of individuals will be subject to commission which, for Members, is 10% of the hammer

price. Unless specifically requested to do so, the reserve price is not being published but will be communicated to the person calling for bids.

On this occasion, we will need to close the Swapmeet by 3.30 p.m. and the number of items for auction will be limited. As there has always been considerable interest in VMARS auctions, we cannot guarantee that all items brought on the day will be included, so it is important for you to notify me in advance. If the auction is oversubscribed then it will have to be first come first served!

I am looking forward to meeting Members on 22nd May.

Bronek Wedzicha, MODAF

A visit to George Robbins, G3LNG

Anne and I had the pleasure of meeting George Robbins and his wife, Margaret, whilst I was accompanying Anne M3TBI to her annual teachers' conference,



George and Margaret Robbins

We were treated to tea and cakes at his QTH in Liverpool, and, by chance, another VMARS Member, also in attendance, was Ray Bawley, G7VCN.



George, Stuart McKinnon GOTBI, and Ray Bawley G7VCN

George, who celebrated his 81st birthday in April, is a keen CW man, and an Ex-National Service veteran, and then

Regular Soldier. I am not sure where George got the bug, if you'll pardon the pun, for his love of CW, whether whilst serving in the East Lanc's Regiment, later becoming a RSI in the Lancashire Fusiliers. George completed his Regimental Signals Instructors Course at Catterick.

George has a very fine collection of Morse keys that he has collected/negotiated for over the years. George has many CW QSO's under his belt, and favourite contacts are with the Russian States and the USA. George (the lucky man) has one QSL card in pride of place in the Shack signed by the former legendary Russian astronaut, the late Yuri Gagarin! George does, of course, use phone and, in particular AM, in which mode many of you have worked him. He does say that, these days with his age, it is much simpler working phone!



Some of George's Morse keys. It is difficult to show a picture which does justice to this collection!

Very much to Anne's delight, George had also an impressive collection of ceramic mugs, all related to radio in some form or other!



A small selection of mugs from George's collection

I first met George and his friend Ray Bawley G7VCN, another long standing VMARS Member, at the original South Yorkshire Air Museum (SYAM) at Firbeck; that was some 20 years ago. Trawling around the stalls, even then, were esteemed Members such as Gerald G3LEO, Jim G4XWD, John G3TFC, Len G4WZU, to name but a few,

trading in some rather exotic pieces of vintage radio, covering land, sea, and air, as well as some classic ham treasures!

Speaking of treasures, George uses many different transmitters and receivers. There is an HRO and Hallicrafters HT-4 combi, as well as the 75A-4 Receiver. I also spotted the very desirable Astatic D104 mike!. Other treasures include an impressive line up of Collins AM transmitter with ex-maritime ATU by The Technical Material Corporation, a real beast capable of a kW at least!

If I had George's antenna and feeder network in my shack, I would certainly have no worries. He uses a rather large flag pole from Liverpool docks as a central support. George has been licenced for over 53 years!

Thank you George and Margaret for an interesting visit.

Stuart G0TBI and Anne M3TBI McKinnon

Nimrod arrives at The Yorkshire Air Museum



Earlier this month, the Yorkshire Air Museum took delivery of an RAF Nimrod aircraft, shown here on its final approach prior to landing at Elvington.

The event was heavily publicised in the local press, and attracted around 2000 visitors. Prominent amongst them was Ken, G4KCF, operating his T1154 and R1155 from the control tower. The station was outside rather than inside the control tower, thanks to some favourable weather, which meant the installation was in full view of nearly everyone attending the event. Needless to say, the set attracted considerable attention. One comment, from an old RAF pilot, was that such a set had got him home on more than one occasion, casually mentioning as well that he had once landed at Elvington in a Wellington, but with only one engine, as the other was on fire!



Ken, G4KCF, with Wally G3GXQ, Terry G0KOE, and Roy G4VXV looking on. Also present, behind the camera, was Trevor, PA3BOH.

Conditions were reasonable, and contacts were made with GW3UZS, GW2ABJ, G4EJM, and G3YPS amongst others. The Yorkshire Air Museum hopes to continue to power up and taxi the Nimrod during the coming years. No doubt that means we will be hoping to hear Ken operating from the Nimrod sometime in the future, assuming of course that the RAF did not remove the HF equipment.

Trevor Sanderson, PA3BOH

J Pat Moore G3IKR – SK



Recent picture showing Pat with his 1920's replica transmitter which gained him first prize in the Cheltenham Amateur Radio Association's Annual Constructional Exhibition held in March 2010.

Pat became interested in radio in the early 1940s at about the age of eight and soon, after buying some components with his limited pocket money and scrounging the rest, constructed a one valve TRF receiver. After a year or two he discovered that wireless shops would give him what they regarded as "junk" – old valves and components and even complete chassis. This, in his view, was when he started to collect other peoples' throwaways in case they might prove useful later – a habit he retained for most of his life! When he was in his early teens the family moved to Solihull and there, in a small shed, he built a short wave receiver, two valves with reaction, and heard his first British and American amateurs on 40m. He started to keep a log in 1948 and the first entry was G3BJJ from Bristol heard on 40m on the evening of 29th September.

Earlier in 1948 Pat joined the newly reformed Solihull Amateur Radio Society; the first meeting he attended was a demonstration of an R1224A receiver which impressed him so much that, by the next year, he had managed to save enough pocket money to buy one from G W Smith in Lisle Street. However, even though it covered 160m it proved a disappointment being rather insensitive.

More and better receivers followed, including an 18 set and a 68T. Then an RF24 unit was fed into the 18 set and much DX was heard for the first time. This was just after the peak of the 1947 sunspot cycle when the bands were full of strong signals receivable on just a few feet of wire. He bought a Hallicrafter Sky Chief from G5TU and, later, a BC348 which he modified extensively to include electrical bandspreading and an 85kHz second IF. This subsequently became Pat's only receiver from 1952 (when he acquired his licence) through to the late 1960s.

By 1950, Pat had decided that he wanted to transmit so, along with a friend from school, he studied radio theory from the 1949 ARRL Handbook, and took and passed the 1951 RAE. As school work had become rather more important, learning the Morse Code had to wait until 1952. Pat, now 18, was licensed as G3IKR on 7th August 1952 by which time he had, of course, already built a transmitter and with 25W of CW made his first QSO that very day with OH2MA and with W2HZ a little later the same day.

At the end of October 1952, Pat was called up to do National Service in the RAF and, after the obligatory squaring bashing, trained as an Air Wireless Fitter at Yatesbury in Wiltshire where he learned about R1155s and T1154s which were still in use at the time. After training, he was posted to the Central Flying School at Little Rissington in the Cotswolds where he serviced TR1934 sets and later equipment on Meteors 8s and Vampires.

Prior to RAF service, and during periods of leave, Pat accumulated sufficient CW QSOs to satisfy the GPO, and he was awarded his full phone licence in 1953, his first phone contact being with G3IMS on 30th August.

On completion of National Service, Pat went to Birmingham University to study Chemical Engineering for four years.

In 1955 he built the Elizabethan transmitter designed by G5RV and, in conjunction with the BC348 mentioned earlier, and a 132ft "well-bent" doublet, worked over 100 countries on phone during the next few years. A home-brew crystal controlled transmitter with a QV04/7 PA gave him access to 2m.

In 1961 Pat changed job from R&D to commissioning chemical plants across the UK, so he built a top band mobile rig to fit into his Triumph TR3 sports car. During the 1960s he became very inactive from home. In the early 70s he moved to the property in Stock Green near Redditch which he was to occupy for the rest of his life, and where he spent much of his spare time rebuilding, improving, and extending the buildings. By now he was working for the Alkali Inspectorate as an Inspector dealing with air pollution in the Midlands; a job which took him through to retirement.

Pat was always an avid constructor, so to get onto SSB, which by the 1970s had become the dominant voice mode, he built the Heathkit SB301 and SB401 combination, later adding a second pair plus an SB220 linear, and later still a third pair which he modified for the WARC bands. The only "black boxes" he ever owned were an IC202 for 2m and an ex-PMR FM rig for 4m. Outside he had, for many years, a TH3 yagi for 10, 15, and 20m; this was replaced in 2005 by a SteppIR. For the LF bands, a 230ft "long-wire" was used until 2002 when it was replaced by a 137ft doublet. In recent years Pat had returned to AM and was often to be heard on the 80m AM nets. He was still building equipment until shortly before his death. His last major project was a replica 1920s transmitter built with, as far as possible, components from that era. The superb construction style and superb finish gained him first prize in the Cheltenham Amateur Radio Association's Annual Constructional Exhibition held in March 2010.

Pat had a collection of classic HF receivers and had accumulated a large (over 100 it is believed) collection of mainly pre-war domestic receivers for restoration. He had a well equipped workshop with a good range test equipment and metal working machinery, all of which he regularly put to good use.

For very many years, Pat had a great interest in the 4m band, and at one time had one of the highest tallies of countries and locator squares worked on the band. He did

well in 4m contests even though his QTH was not ideal for VHF.

Pat was an enthusiastic member of the Cheltenham Amateur Radio Association and served as its chairman from December 2004 to December 2008; his contribution to the club, particularly during this period, is highly regarded.

Pat had many interests and always seemed full of energy and enthusiasm. He was always ready to offer advice to those who asked and his deep and wide ranging knowledge was often sought after. In addition to radio, he was interested in, among other things, classic cars and old clocks, he played golf and dominos, he enjoyed real ale and fine wines – even growing his own grapes. He was a keen gardener, growing many vegetables. He served as a JP for many years and was Chairman of the Bench for a period. He will be much missed by his wide circle of friends, acquaintances and former colleagues. To his wife Tricia (whom he married in 1976) and son Peter we offer our deepest sympathies on their sad and great loss.

Derek Thom, G3NKS

**Worcester Radio Amateurs Association Event
13-16th May 2010**

Details of this event involving VMARS, MVT, and Worcester Radio Amateurs Association (WRAA), were published last month (NS84). The following is repeated as a reminder. The event will be held over four days, 13 -16th May 2010 at GPS coordinates: 52 deg 11' 54.48" N 2 deg 01' 46.57" W for either your Satnav or Google Earth.

Directions, in case the above doesn't work, are: proceed East from Worcester along the A422 towards Stratford. Pass the Flyford Arms Pub on the right hand side, and just after the Flyford Stores and filling station, also on the right hand side, turn right into a concrete entrance; this is about 50 yards after the Flyford Filling Station.

There should be a Severn Trent Pumping Station at the entrance, so carry straight on up the concrete drive to the top, and the field can be found there. Directions for parking and setting up will be given on the day.

We will have to levy an entrance charge of £3 per person to cover the hire of the toilets and the field from the tenant, so additional funding will not be required from the VMARS purse. We hope that the event is self-funding in this way. The charge will not include meals from the WRAA canteen (if there is one). For those who are interested, there is camping with a nearby pub and shop.

As far as equipment is concerned, then anything goes so long as its green and radio! Clansman 320s are available on loan as well.

Contact details are: Jeremy Carvill 2E0JEM. Tel: 01905 421388 Mobile: 07711 162322 or John Griffiths 2E0XER Tel: 01905 381506.

John Griffiths, 2E0XER

Hack Green Autumn Rally

3rd October 2010, Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker

The Spring Sale and Swapmeet, held at Hack Green was well attended with over 400 collectors through the door. The range of equipment on sale this year was greater than ever and dated from the 1920s through to the second millenium. The 'feel' of this rally is easy to see from the pictures below.



The organisers are inviting VMARS Members to put the date of the next event, Sunday 3rd October, in their diaries. Traders should contact:

Rod Siebert 01270 623353 or 01270 623353
coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk

www.hackgreen.co.uk/Hangar_Sales/hangar_sales.htm



Joe Bell, G4PMY

Blackpool Rally

11th April 2010, Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre

The Blackpool Rally, or more properly referred to as the Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition, has become a regular fixture in the VMARS calendar, not least because this has become the major event in the North

of England, and is patronised by visitors from Scotland, North Wales, the Midlands, the North East, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire have I missed anywhere! It means that we get to meet Members who live outside the most densely populated VMARS regions and, indeed, it was good to see so many Members come to the Rally.

Overall, on this occasion, there were some 1400 individuals through the gates, and at one time all one could see was a sea of people across the halls.



General view of the VMARS stand with John Langan G0KKO (left) and Stuart Furbank M6AVC.

I am grateful to Stuart Furbank, M6AVC, and John Langan, G0KKO, for manning the stand, bringing along their exhibits, and providing excellent technical discussion with visitors. We were placed strategically alongside the link between the two halls in which the rally was held, which meant that most, if not all, visitors passed by us at some time or another. We certainly were busy with no time to look away! If the number of Membership application forms taken away is an indicator of interest, then this Rally has been one of the most productive, and I sense considerable interest in AM operation from radio amateurs of all ages, and especially interest in John's Clansman equipment which he brought along.

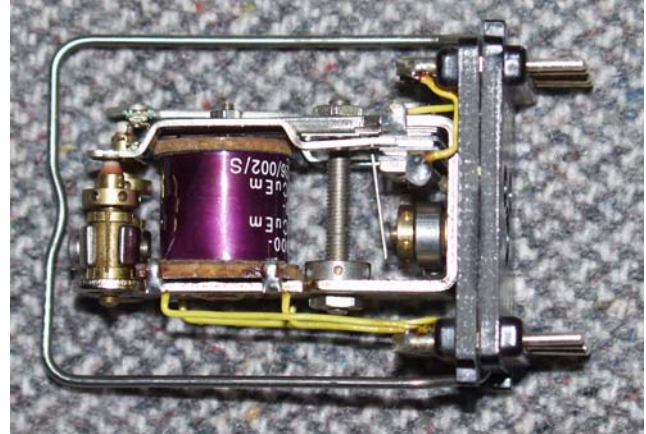


The variometer referred to below

So, now to the trophies! There certainly was much temptation to spend, and the stalls spanned a very wide

range of interests. This has been characteristic of the Blackpool Rally over the years. Self discipline prevailed, but an interesting purchase was two similar variometers, one of which is pictured below. Can anyone suggest where it came from? The inductance range is 5-40 μ H, and it is of very nice construction.

One of our Members, Stuart Atkinson G3YPS, brought along an interesting unknown to puzzle us. This is illustrated below for anyone who can help. Stuart considers that this item is energised using AC, but no one could shed light as to exactly what it is. It is not what it appears to be, a simple relay!



Mystery item brought along by Stuart Atkinson, G3YPS.

Bronek Wedzicha, MODAF

DDRC Dunstable Rally/Boot Fair

23rd May 2010. Stockwood Park, Luton LU1 5NR

As was the case last year, this rally is an excellent opportunity for VMARS members to meet to say "hello" and for a group photo.

Let us all meet at the refreshment van area at 12.00 noon as we did last year. I am not sure who from our Membership is attending this year, but I shall be there.

Please leave a message via the Reflector if you are coming and keep your eyes open for the green VMARS badges. Let us hope that we have a sunny day this year!

Pete shepherd G7DXV pete.shepherd@btinternet.com
01375 640618; 01375 640618

VMARS Archive notes

The VMARS Archive is still as busy as ever, having just received a large consignment of new documents and two more filing cabinets, courtesy of Pete Shepherd G7DXV. Amongst the documents received are a number of new Clansman manuals, a quantity of BBC engineering publications, a large quantity of test equipment manuals and several boxes of 1950s copies of the "Bulletin" and Practical Wireless. Work is in hand to catalogue these and to get the most important ones onto the website. We would like to thank most sincerely those members who have donated these items.

During April, the Archive Team have added around 20 more documents to the website, some consisting of 100 or more pages. This may not seem many documents but, remember, that the majority of these have been scanned by us and all have been meticulously cleaned of holes, scribbles and edge marks, are configured for professional

printing, and most have been indexed before publication – unlike the scruffy raw scans you often find on some other websites and from “commercial” suppliers.

Also, during April, there were 66 logged downloads from the Members only (Clansman) area of the website; we do not record downloads from the open area but, from comments received, it appears to have become a most useful resource.

Work will inevitably slow down a little during the next few months as the rally and show season is upon us, but please do remember that, if there is some document you need that isn't listed on the website, please do ask (by email to the Archive address archivist@vmars.org.uk) and not by dark muttering on the reflector!

Finally I look forward to meeting members at the Dambusters Hamfest, where I hope to be able to show interested members some of the Archive work.

Colin Guy, G4DDI

Source of obsolete transistors

John Teague, G3GTJ, advises us of a new service provided by Dr Godfrey Manning, G4GLM. He operates a spares service for old transistors, not only supplying but also receiving usable obsolete types. His address is Godfrey Manning G4GLM, 63 The Drive, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8PS, telephone 0208 958 5113. (Not a VMARS Member but interested in aircraft equipment.)

Salute to the 40s-

The Historic Dockyard Chatham

18-19th September 2010, Chatham

We're now well into the planning for the big weekend in September! This is just a reminder message that the event is on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September – as if you needed reminding! We already have a large entry for the big weekend including some exciting new displays.

Big points for this year are:

This year sees the opening of the restored Smithy in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum and the National Maritime Museum. Plenty of WW2 interest including, for the first time, the full collection of restored paintings by the celebrated War Artist Sir Stanley Spencer.

Wartime entertainment will once again feature in a big way with plenty of music and song to join in with.

A campaign to attract as many transport trucks and lorries for the Ordnance Depot display.

Sailors wanted!! This is a Dockyard with warships, so come on all you matelot and Royal Marine re-enactors, sign-up for a great occasion!

Registration forms for re-enactors, role-players, vehicle owners and all the other wonderful people who come together to create this amazing event (and have fun doing it!) are available now. You may already have received yours either by post direct to you, or by e-mail. Remember, only pre-registered and approved persons/groups will be permitted to stay overnight, so make sure you get registered!

See you all on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September 2010!

Have a great 2010 season and please stay safe! See you in September and remember, tell anyone and everyone about it. As we all know, the more the merrier!

Contact details:

Bill Fowler
 Events Manager & Armed Forces Liaison
 The Historic Dockyard Chatham
 Direct Dial 01634-823821
 Fax 01634-823801
 www.thedockyard.co.uk

Bill Fowler

Dunkirk-Commemoration of Evacuation

Members may be interested to know that Les Thacker, M3IBN, will be taking his Dingo armoured car and his Bedford MW radio truck to Dunkirk at the end of May, as part of the official commemoration of the evacuation, 60 years ago. Simon Dabbs, G4GFN, will be accompanying Les on the trip, as radio operator. It is planned to join the Friday evening VMARS SSB net on the evening of 28th May, using a PRC320. On Saturday May 29th, we hope to be on the air using Les's WS19HP. Unfortunately, we'll be tied up with official functions in the day time, but hope to appear on 3615kHz AM from around 1800hrs UK time. We ask members to please listen out for us.

Incidentally, Les has already been to Dunkirk with the MW a few weeks ago, to do some filming with BBC TV's Dan Snow, for a TV programme which is to be transmitted on 5th June.

Simon Dabbs, G4GFN

Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
1 st May	G1EDP	M0TCM	M0DAF
8 th May	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
15 th May	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
22 nd May	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
29 th May	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
5 th Jun	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN
12 th Jun	GW8TBG	G8AQN	G1EDP

Letters

From Mike Buckley, M1CCF

Given that the official Reflector for VMARS Members is where we can share technical and other specialised information about all aspects of VMARS Members' interests, I am not sure that the official reflector is the right place to discuss constitutional amendments, but I am also not sure where we do discuss these?

I think that an open discussion in advance of the EGM can do no harm and may clarify any points, that members may have, following publication of the original document and subsequent amendments, which will be voted upon at the EGM. Regretfully this is now only a "for" or "against" option at the EGM, which does not allow for further discussion.

For me, two items need further discussion as the amendments proposed, and the original comments made to our committee, are quite different, namely:

Paragraph 3(v) I presume that this is my request. I never asked for its removal. What I asked for was its amendment along the lines of "commercial use be prohibited without specific permission". For each member to have to ask for specific permission for private use on QSL cards, letters, indeed in any way in which they want to show their membership, is messy and potentially time consuming. To put something into the n/l is unnecessary if we plan ahead properly now and include this provision.

Paragraph 3(viii) The proposed Chairman's term of office of a maximum of 3 years potentially conflicts with the committee members term of office of a maximum of 5 years. There also seems to be no constitutional reason why the Chairman cannot come back, immediately after his 3 years, as a committee member in another post.

Paragraph 3(ix) Again I presume this follows my proposal. However, what is printed as a proposal is not what I requested. What I suggested was that we should state "The natural progression would usually be for the Vice-Chairman to take the Chairman's post on resignation of the Chairman. (To this could be added retirement, of course)

May I hope that, in future, when we call for a general meeting of any sort, where we are expecting members to come to a central location, we take advantage of this and allow more general discussion on topics of Members' interest. This might include Nets and control thereof, for instance. If a general discussion was notified, and time allowing after these meetings, with members being asked to submit discussion topics in advance, we could legally discuss these and take note, though not make decisions of any major consequence without going back to the membership, generally.

I am copying this to the old "Policy" reflector in case it may generate discussion.

From Dave Wells, MOCM

Regarding 20 metres AM activity - I know 14286 kHz has been used for AM in the USA, but, over here in Europe, 14285 has long been a centre of QRP phone activity, usually SSB. In the interests of preserving harmony between enthusiasts with disparate interests, maybe we should be looking elsewhere for a regular AM channel. I note that the part of the band above 14300 has relatively low occupancy, and wonder if a suitable space can be found there. It would need to be clear of a couple of regular foreign-language nets.

From John Burrell, G8OZH

Thanks for yet another Newsletter. Where would we be without the enormous efforts of a few dedicated members such as yourself, I wonder. I certainly appreciate the efforts of all those who contribute the time and effort to keep societies such as VMARS running so successfully, but I quickly add that I'm not really in any position to help. A combination of circumstances and, sad to say, an amount of laziness, on my part.

Now to the nitty gritty, having smoothed my way in. I joined the Society at the beginning of 2009 and I would like to

obtain some of the News Sheets issued prior to that time. The first I have here is NS72 March 09. Is there perhaps some way of downloading whatever documents may be archived?

Meanwhile keep up the excellent work and 73,

[This is something we are considering at the moment, but with the current level of unacknowledged plagiarism that is happening on the internet we are reluctant to make anything freely downloadable. Colin Guy G4DDI]

From Tony Waller

Members call signs

I suppose it is inevitable that VMARS has, for the best part, become another amateur radio group. There is little in the New Sheet other than amateur radio topics. For those of us who are interested in other aspects of the hobby, it would be very useful if people were referred to by their full names and not their call signs. If one is not licensed, how are you able to identify the person you are trying to interact with? This must be a daunting prospect for new Members for example. So full names please.

[Editorial Comment: Come on then those of you who are interested in other aspects of the hobby – submit something for publication! Colin Guy G4DDI]

And finally

We have also received a number of letters pertaining to specific issues raised in articles published in the last issue of Signal. These letters are technical in nature, and their relevance to the content of Signal means that they will be published in the next issue of Signal at the end of May.

Sending in articles, news items, letters and advertisements for VMARS Publications

Please send copy to Colin Guy, G4DDI, by post or e-mail,
Hawthorn Folly,
Cul – de – Sac, Stickford
Boston PE22 8EY
+44(0)1205 480006 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

The copy deadline for the next issue of the News Sheet is **15th May**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9th May**, but copy would be appreciated as far in advance as possible.

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Committee notices

EGM 22nd May 2010, Kineton Village Hall

A reminder for the EGM on Saturday 22nd May at Kineton Village Hall, starting 1030 hours BST.

This is an important meeting called to adopt the new revised Constitution and all are strongly encouraged to attend if possible. The new Constitution contains a number of significant changes from the current Constitution that has been in place since the founding of the Society in 1999.

The business meeting will be followed by a Swapmeet and an auction, including a number of SK and other items, will be held during the afternoon.

If you are unable to attend, please either appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf or vote by post. Proxy appointment and postal voting forms were included as part of the EGM Notice and Agenda issued with the March News Sheet.

Please return completed Proxy Appointment and Postal Voting forms to the Hon Secretary by Saturday 8th May 2010.

AGM 4th July 2010, Bletchley Park

Agenda Item: Members' Business

The following has been notified as an agenda item to be taken under Members' Business:

Motion

"The proposed post of Vice-Chairman shall not be incorporated"

The motion is proposed by Chris Cooper and seconded by Stuart McKinnon, G0TBI and Colin Guy, G4DDI.

Background

This motion is in response to para 7(a) (ii) of the proposed revised Constitution V2.0, dated January 2010

During the first eleven years of its existence the Society has functioned perfectly adequately without the need for a Vice-Chairman. Within VMARS the position of Chairman is the

least onerous of the Society Officers and his/her duties can easily be delegated at meetings. Neither is VMARS a society where only the chairman can represent the Society at national events. This is normally undertaken by local members or any committee member.

The post of Vice-Chairman would add to the running costs of the Society without offering any advantages and cannot be justified for a society of around 300 members.

Committee Nominations

In order to comply with the AGM timeline, the formal call for Committee Nominations has been issued in advance of the EGM on 22nd May. The nomination form is appended to this News Sheet.

Nominations will be accepted for the two new posts of "Vice Chairman" and "Publications Manager" but are subject to the revised Constitution being adopted on 22nd May.

In view of the motion to not proceed with the post of Vice Chairman now notified as an agenda item for discussion under Members' Business at the AGM on 4th July, the election of a Vice Chairman will be suspended pending the outcome of the motion.

Applications for Membership

We wish to welcome the following new applicants for VMARS membership:

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr Edward Spark Sale, Cheshire	Military valve equipment and aircraft comms.
Mr Matthew Kaufman Ormskirk, Lancashire	Military radio – all eras but mainly Clansman
Mr David Nicholls 2W0MOD Chepstow, Monmouthshire	Military British radios. Radar equipment. WW2 and associated equipment

[Membership rules require names of applicants for membership to be published, before they are formally accepted as members. This allows existing members to object, if they wish. If you want to object to any of the above, please write to our Hon Sec, John Keeley – Ed.]

Events Diary

The diary is a list of events which are either ones where VMARS is formally represented (**bold**), or those where there is known to be a reasonable chance of finding or seeing vintage electronic items (plain). It is not intended to a complete list of all available events (which can be found on the internet). Information is checked as far as is practical, but we can't guarantee its accuracy – it's always best to check with the contact person if you are travelling a long way to attend.

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
2 nd May	Dambusters Hamfest	Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, Tattershall Thorpe, Nr Coningsby Lincolnshire, LN4 4PE.	Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 tcrm@hotmail.co.uk http://beam.to/tcrm	A	Many expected
9 th May	National Vintage Communications Fair	Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, CV31 1XN	www.nvcf.org.uk	V	Many expected
6 th June	Spalding & DARS Annual Rally	The Sir John Gleed Technology School, Halmer Gardens, Spalding, PE11 2EF	John, G4NBR, 07946 302815, rally-secretary@sdars.org.uk http://www.sdars.org.uk	A	

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
26/27 th June	Wartime in the Vale.	Ashdown Camp, Badsey, Worcestershire. WR11 7PA (just off A46)	Paul Valiades 0779 1591528 ashdowncamp@btinternet.com www.ashdowncamp.webs.com/	M/V	M0WSN
25 th July	Horncastle Summer Rally	Horncastle Youth Centre	Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 g3zpu@yahoo.co.uk	A	Many expected

Advertisements

Advertisements are welcome from all members, and also non-members and traders. The latter are indicated by "(NM)" or "(T)" after their contact details.

FOR SALE: Training set universal No1 Mmk2 (morse) in very good condition. No accessories. £20. Heavy, so buyer to arrange collection.

Sunpower voltage converter 230/110v @ 300W £10

German manufactured voltage converter 230/110v @ 750 VA £10

Stuart G3YPS 07803 601176 atko99@tiscali.co.uk

FOR SALE:

- 1) B40 With the handbook for the series. £70
- 2) RA17L In cabinet (not original). £120
- 3) CR100 with manual. £50
- 4) C12 complete setup. £185
- 5) Heathkit DX100U. £60
- 6) 19 Set with R/gen psu.. 19 set has not been modified. £250
- 7) R1155/B still has DF circuits. £35
- 8) AR88LF with speaker. £40
- 9) AR88LF. £30
- 10) GEC BRT400. £35

All items will need to be paid for in cash and collected from my address:

**Peter Nilan G0LVG 15 Broomhall Road Pendlebury Swinton Greater Manchester M278XP
01612787503 home evenings
07503152081 mobile daytime
peter_nilan@yahoo.co.uk**

FOR SALE: Woden modulation transformer type UM2. Rated to 120W. Tested OK electrically. Case slightly damaged. £35

Racal TRA906 Squadcal HF solid-state manpack. (top of picture) 5W 2-7MHz USB/CW/AM. 29 channels, each from a single crystal. In good cosmetic order. Has battery-interface blanking cover, but no handset or other accessories. For spares or repair. Repair is feasible, due to discrete components on PCBs. £45 ono.

Racal TRA922 Comcal HF solid-state manpack (bottom of picture). 5W or 20W 2-8MHz LSB/USB/CW/AM. 49 channels each from a single crystal. In good cosmetic order. Complete with battery box, which is empty and clean, but no handset or accessories. For spares or repair. Again, repair is feasible due to discrete components. £55 ono

**Simon Dabbs, G4GFN (Southampton) 023 8039 4912
simon.dabbs@yahoo.co.uk**



SWAP/WANTED: Available for swaps to complete a couple of radios:

1. Adaptor Unit AN/GRA71-PRC316, NSN 5820-99-110-7964
2. Keyer, KY-468/GRA-71. This is the heart of the above set-up.

Needed for the Mk 123: Universal Mains lead assy, no 123-20, Crystal adaptor, Plug-2 pin P201, phones, condenser reformer, transit case, valve 5A/163K, earth rod and ring, B8D pin aligning tool, shorting link, and reel aerial.

Needed for the A16/PRC316: Headphones/boom microphone.

Needed for WS no 128 Mk2. A large-sized circuit diagram showing clearly the circuits of the vibrator and battery box connections. Headphones/throat mike/send-receive switch assembly.

Tony G4BCX tony.helm@blueyonder.co.uk

WANTED: KW Valiant or similar 160/80m coverage AM/CW up to 100W.

Also interesting old marine radio's.

**John Beaumont G4EIM 07903 720009
jb@beaumonts.karoo.co.uk**

WANTED: Two IF Transformers by Electroniques type S2/DIF-1-46 or S2/DIF-6-46.

Gerald Stancey G3MCK 01572 756444 before 10pm.