

THE VMARS NEWS SHEET

A publication of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society

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M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Merris Wood ('Y' Station operator), mother-in-law of Tim Cockburn M0DAS, taking CW in the VMARS marquee at Bletchley Park

VMARS AUCTION

Sunday 27th November 2011

10.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m.

Kinton Village Hall
Mill Street, Kinton CV35 0LB

The second batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC will be auctioned on Sunday 27th November. Doors will open for viewing at 10.00 a.m.

Catalogue and further information will be distributed with the October Issue of the News Sheet

To the VMARS Volunteers,
 I'd just like to say a big Thankyou
 to everyone involved in my Dad's auction,
 and making it so successful. It is a
 big relief knowing that my Dad's collection
 has been passed on to people who are
 as passionate about radio equipment as
 he was. Many thanks
 From Jan Coggins
 + family.

Card received from Jan Coggins, son of the late John Coggins G3TFC



Jan Coggins also wrote: "I took this picture of my Dad in front of his old aircraft (Percival Prentice). It was taken a few years ago after it had been restored by Classic Flight at Baginton Airport. My Dad loved working on old planes like this!"

Charley Project

In WWII, a top secret RAF unit was located in a field in the Charley area in Leicestershire. I understand three types of transmitters were operated to counteract Knickebein, X-Gerät and Y-Gerät signals. Two were in wooden sheds and the third was housed in a trailer parked inside a blast-proof bunker.

In September 2012, the Charley Heritage Group are planning to open the site to the public during the series of National Heritage Open Days and they would like to arrange a re-enactment of the wartime scene with working equipment.

The Group is looking for radio enthusiasts to help.

I wondered if any VMARS members would be able to give practical help and equipment for demonstrations including a trailer for a transmitter. Any information on the German systems would be appreciated.

The aim is to make the display as realistic as possible with communications taking place between radio hams at Charley and on the Continent.

Frank Whitby

RAF Harrowbeer 70th Anniversary Event

The Event was overall extremely well-attended by the

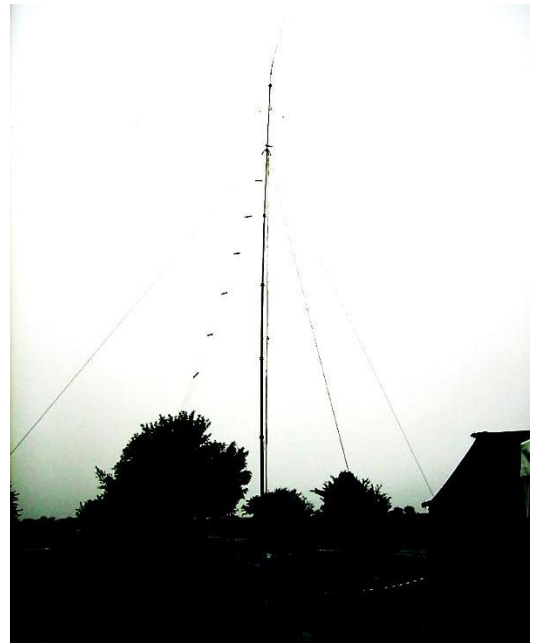
general public, who enjoyed a great variety of displays and activities. Unfortunately on the Friday, set-up day, the weather was appalling, but I did manage to put up a 10 metre Soviet Army mast and 50 metre dipole, with twin feeders down to a Soviet Army R130 ATU. Having set up my recently acquired tent, which failed dismally on its 'troop trials' on the Friday night, I then set up my Syncal 30 XH ready for the Friday Evening Net. I made good contact with G0TBI at Blandford, but nobody else came up, which was a pity, but there we are.

morning. I made good contact on the AM Net, but I realised that I would have to pack up, take the tent etc., home as the weather was coming in very wet and horrible. Reluctantly, I drew stumps and left the field.



Me under cover in action on the Friday Evening Net

I could not stay on the Net very long as I was joined that evening by Robert GORYL and Carol 2E1RBH and, having set up their 12 x 12 tent, we settled in for the night. The weather became absolutely foul, the tent leaked like a sieve, and I had a thoroughly uncomfortable night. The next morning, which was reasonably dry, I laid out everything to dry, and set up the Soviet Army R104 transmitter/receiver with an Italian civvy linear.



Antenna mast, drying out kit

Having spent Saturday sorting out my stuff as best I could, working against foul weather, I went up very early on the Sunday morning when, lo and behold, the weather was great. Robert and Carol had set up their tent, and I set up either side of the entrance. We did have to keep a very close eye on the weather, but for me to have moved inside their tent would have made it very difficult for people to move about and see things.



R104 and linear ready for the Saturday Morning Net

As soon as that was ready, I had to work on drying out my sleeping kit as I was leaving for Europe on the Monday



Interior of tent

On one side at the front of the tent, I laid out the display of Spy/Special Forces kit, with the Torn E.b and Soviet Army R326, with its issued DF loop. It was interesting to note that people soon understood my explanation of the WWII Torn E.b and where it was used, but seemed to have forgotten about the Cold War, and especially the spying by the East German Secret Police, the STASI, on their own people. They were very interested in their surveillance radios though. I demonstrated the SP15 RX and the SP20 TX, both working, and the SP20 burst-morse sender, as used by the BND and BW Fernspaehe, fascinated them. They also heard the Mk301 and Mk328 receivers in action.



Special Forces, Torn E.b and R326

On the other side of their tent, I laid out the R354 and the B2. Due to the lack of the 6 volt vibrator circuit on the B2, I used an ex-BW 220 V inverter running off 24 V batteries, with a great big earth spike into the ground, wired to the B2 and PSU. I had a complete burst-morse assembly from the Soviet R350 wired to the B2, as can be seen by the unit on top of the morse key in the photo, and then had the B2 transmitting to the R326, demonstrating the action of the loop antenna as I rotated the R326 on its tripod. They saw a demonstration of the burst morse as I turned the handle feeding the tape through the unit, but it was a bit quick for the B2 to cope with. You can just see my arms and hands working on the Soviet R354 which I had going as well, with its motor-driven burst-morse sender. Both the radios were big crowd-pullers, and they seemed to enjoy every minute of my demonstrations, especially when people listened in on the R326. The radios were a bit too close, though, for meaningful examples of DF'ing. I had to be careful regarding H&S with dummy loads etc., as neither radio has co-ax sockets, but the connections were well insulated. I had the PA coil and aerial connections of the B2 covered with a clear plastic cover, so that they could 'see but could not touch'. No chance of an RF burn. The other radios behind them were a WWII German domestic radio with its Nazi insignia, and an ES6 RX, part of the FuG 10 aircraft radio set.



R354 and B2

Inside the tent, Bob and Carol had some very interesting stuff, including a working field telephone exchange, which aroused considerable interest. Unfortunately I was kept so busy outside that I did not see very much of them. They

were certainly very busy as well, as their wartime kit filled everyone with nostalgia. Their military and civilian kit was very nicely presented, and of course the ubiquitous 19 Set, people remembering and reminiscing. Interestingly, they had an older type tent, which opened up to give a bigger aspect on their displays, unlike the 12 x 12 that I have become accustomed to at Blandford.



19 set, Exchange and 38AFV

It was good also to see a Royal Navy receiver and some bigger older valved domestic receivers. The WS17 was interesting to see but, as we did not have a mains supply, it could not be demonstrated with its battery eliminator.



19 Set, RCU, 17 Set and CR100

Summarising the situation, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and I am so glad that I went back to the show, demonstrating the concept of stickability, reliability, determination to achieve my objective, and willingness to take the rough with the smooth in order to complete the job, leaving my soaking wet kit to dry out as best it could, which it did. We all had such a good time with a very interesting and very interested general public, varying from professional radio operators, through various amateur levels to people who knew absolutely nothing, but who listened, asked sensible intelligent questions, and appreciated our efforts. Indeed, Carol was suitably impressed, and certainly felt that it was one of the best shows that they had ever done. Also,

thanks to my good looks, I am now a Member of BYLARA. Amazing what comes one's way in life. I was only sorry that I could not take my display to Bletchley Park, but as I had organised my leave before the Bletchley Park event was announced, that was not to be. I have now been asked to do a repeat display for a Plymouth City Council event, but as I have more than enough to do on the domestic front, that may have to be curtailed somewhat. Family - Job - Hobby is the concept.

Tony Helm G4BCX

Backyard Storage

Recently, I was attending a Radio Rescue. A guy had sold his house, and had delayed too long. The garage had to be emptied and the pile out the back had to go; otherwise he would have had to pay storage to the new owner.



There was 20 years of stuff. The pile in the backyard was covered in a tarp, but that had disintegrated 10 years ago, and the water had ruined everything.

The scrap merchant showed up with two trucks and it was a race to extract what we could.

The scrappie was in bad mood so, when he was in the backyard, I was in the shed, and vice versa. He suspected we were taking all the 'valuable' stuff. If he stormed off in a huff, the guy would have to pay, so we were careful not to upset him.

Underneath the pile (apart from the rats running around) was a WS19, a WS22, and two WS11, all ruined. All the headphones and mics were soaked, the rubber was falling off, the metal rusty or corroded, and the cotton cords were rotten.



Ray Robinson VK2NO

Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
15 th Oct	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
22 nd Oct	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN
29 th Oct	GW8TBG	G8AQN	M0YMK
5 th Nov	G8AQN	M0YMK	M0TCM
12 th Nov	M0YMK	M0TCM	M0DAF
19 th Nov	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
26 th Nov	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN

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Letters

From Simon Dabbs, G4GFN

Those who know me may know that my wife, Evelyn and I retired recently and have been preparing to emigrate to the small island of Samal in the Southern Philippines. We will be leaving UK for good in late September. I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank various Members for the amazing friendship, support and camaraderie they have shown to me since I joined in 2002. I wonder if many Members have had the experience of moving to a new town and trying the local radio club, only to be given the 'cold shoulder' and to find an array of impenetrable cliques? Well, that's the amazing thing about VMARS.....As soon as I joined, I was welcomed with open arms, and made loads of new friends very quickly. Clearly, this is quite the opposite experience to many local clubs, which is ironic as VMARS certainly does not have actual face-to-face meetings as regularly as most local clubs. This is a measure of the strength of VMARS. Long may it continue. It is to amateur radio what CAMRA is to beer!

We have bought a small home on Samal island, and I hope to be on the air from there soon with a modest antenna. But in the fullness of time, we plan to build a new home on a much larger plot of land we own nearby, where it should be possible to erect a large V-beam pointing at UK, so watch this space. I hope to obtain a DU9 callsign in due course. The Philippines is not very tolerant of civilians owning military kit, so I have had to sell all my collection. But I hope to be on the air with a 'rice burner' or two (I have already paid my fine to the Chairman!) and will be only too willing to set up skeds with Members. I plan to retain my current email address, [simon.n.dabbs\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:simon.n.dabbs[at]gmail.com)

So thanks, VMARS for a great job.

73 for now, everyone and please stay in touch.

Committee notices

Applications for Membership

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

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr AN Cullup G4FCI Wisbech, Cambridgeshire	Old military radio and receivers. QRP
Mr W Ward G4NRE Cromer, Norfolk	

[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.]

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

Please send copy to Colin Guy, G4DDI, by post or e-mail,

7 Herrick Court,
Clinton Park,
Tattershall, Lincs. LN4 4QU
Tel 01526 344715 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

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

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: 80 V 1500 cycle 6 amp type U alternator driven by mains motor with control panel.

J. Roper Day 01692 402134 Evening 01692 403768

FREE TO GOOD HOME:

I'm not a member of VMARS but I often hear some of your enthusiasts on 3615 kHz. I've been trying to clear some 'junk' from my garage and discovered a box containing several valve bases from when I used to build my own gear and modify exWD equipment. I'm no longer in that situation so when I heard Mervyn GW8TBG on 80 m, I asked whether he or anyone he knew in VMARS would like the old valve bases. The bases are as follows:-

Octal

3 x Paxolin type
7 x hard plastic – black
1 x ceramic
1 x plug with cover
1 x plug with home made B7G adaptor
1 x octal valve screened top cap connector

B9A

6 x ceramic with metal shield
1 x PTFE with metal shield
1 x McMurdo type with metal shield
1 x anti vibration type (McMurdo)
6 x valve metal shield cans

B7G

4 x McMurdo
9 x McMurdo with metal shield
15 x valve metal shield cans (type Z970009)

UX5

1 x ceramic 5 pin - fits 807 valve

B8H

3 x plastic type - pins are wider spaced than octal

VR92 thermionic diode with holder (B3G)

No payment required - just hope they go to a good home! I live in East Devon, near Exeter, so please let me know if somebody can collect. Otherwise I could put them all in a Jiffy Bag and post but that would cost.

Peter Lonsdale G3PVX g3pvx@ukfnsn.org

WANTED: An ATU for the Marconi T1509, believed badged Cossor? Willing to pay reasonable price, WHY?

Bendix TA-12 TX in complete condition, again willing to pay market rate

Any info on PSU/Modulator for above, many thanks

Stuart, G0TBI QTHR, 0044 1384 872157

WANTED: 2 off 813's and 2 off 811's working valves for restoration of the LG300 and ART13 bought at the last VMARS auction in Coventry. The last two 813's I bought had ok filaments but grid to filament s/c!

Also old case for HRO any condition.

Ted Beddoes 07785 200191 tedbeddoes@yahoo.co.uk

WANTED: The Archive are seeking loan of any available documentation for the BCC HF156. The archive records show that we have a copy but no location is given and I haven't so far been able to locate it.

We are also seeking loan of any available documentation for the Pye Dolphin marine HF TX-RX.

We would prefer loan of an original or good photocopy rather than a poorly scanned e-copy if possible.

Colin Guy G4DDI (VMARS Archivist) 01526 344715 or (preferably) email g4ddi@vmars.org.uk