



THE VMARS NEWS SHEET

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M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Jackie Higginson 2E0JRF (left) and Anne McKinnon M3TBI serving up first class refreshment during the November G3TFC SK Auction at Kineton

VMARS RENEWALS VMARS RENEWALS

Subscription renewals are due for *most* Members on 1st January 2011. The renewal form was sent out with Issue 21 of Signal to ensure that everyone receives it. Additionally, those who receive this News Sheet electronically will have access to a copy by that route. You may also want to update your personal information we hold on our database. Can you please return the form with your subscription to the Membership Secretary and not the Treasurer.

The deadline for subscriptions is **22nd January**, to ensure that you continue receiving the News Sheet and Signal. A surcharge of £2.50 is due for renewals after this date.

From our Chairman

May I take this opportunity to wish all our Members a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that brings with it the best of health and all that you may wish for.

During the course of 2011, we have welcomed 70 new Members and, in addition, a number have returned to the Society after a period of absence. I hope that VMARS is living up to your expectations, and we look forward to working with you in 2012.

The Year end is also the time when most Members renew their VMARS subscriptions. With some 427 Members, the

Membership Secretary has his work cut out over Christmas and early January, not only to deal with renewals, but also the many queries that this raises. Can I ask you all to heed his plea for early renewal to facilitate the job because, like many of those who work for the Society, the task has to fit in with the 'day-job'. By the end of January we need to have the renewals confirmed to generate mailing lists for VMARS publications, to update the Reflector and to bank the subscriptions. So please help the Membership Secretary by renewing early, checking your payments (if by standing order) and please write clearly on your renewal form to save the need for follow up later or disappointment if your address is copied into the database incorrectly.

What a year it has been! The Society has been involved in a 'record' number of auctions, we had a superb weekend at Bletchley Park, enjoyed the banter at the AGM, and met many fellow Members at rallies throughout the Year. We have also made our mark through the RSGB Spectrum Forum, where our presence has been significant. All this activity has been no mean feat on the part of the few who work tirelessly to make things happen. For this reason, it is a pleasure to be able to acknowledge this contribution at the year end as we reflect on its success.

As I have said on many occasions, auctions don't 'just happen' and credit must go to the dedicated team who prepare the equipment and catalogue, and to all those volunteers who come on the day to set up. And let us not forget the auction administration, so ably run by John Keeley G6RAV and Brian Thomas GW4KYT, both of whom work long hours to complete the job outside of the auction room.



Brian Thomas (in front) and John Keeley giving a sigh of relief at the final count up after the auction, but not the end of the job by any stretch!

No VMARS event would be complete without the excellent catering provided by Jackie and Anne (pictured on the front cover of this Issue of the News Sheet) in which task they can be relied upon absolutely. And the food is out of this world!

Signal has received many accolades throughout the year and, indeed, one of our most technically astute Members has referred to it as 'the' UK technical journal for amateur radio. Bronek would like me to thank all our contributors to Signal because it is they who have taken the time and trouble to produce the very fine articles you read. Thanks are also due to the Publications Team who work with authors to create the final copy. If any Member feels that he has something to offer by way of an article, but perhaps is apprehensive about putting 'pen to paper', be assured that the Publications Team is there to help turn ideas into professional copy for publication. So please contact them because, as once was said, "what you read is what you write".

A major asset is the Archive. Colin Guy G4DDI and his team are doing a remarkable job adding to the Archive on a regular basis, and Members will be all too aware of the frequent accolades that we receive through the Letters pages of the News Sheet and elsewhere. The Archive Team should be complimented for the responsive way in which they deal with Members' requests for material, and the speed with which new material is scanned. It has to be said that scanning of paper archives is only a small fraction of what is involved. The clean-up of documents to achieve the professional output is specialised and time-consuming. In addition, thanks must go to Thorpe Camp, where the Archive is located, for providing space to store our precious material. Colin is always willing to offer advice to the Publications Team and to produce graphics and other material for Signal. He maintains the VMARS server, he is the contact point for copy both for Signal and the News Sheet, and sends out the notification of links to those who subscribe to the 'soft copy' of the News Sheet. How *does* he manage to do his day job?

This is also an opportunity to pass on Season's Greetings to our collaborators at Bletchley Park, John Pether and Dave Wells, and thank them for their continued engagement with us. There is, of course, a substantial team which makes all this possible, not least the management at Bletchley Park and the Milton Keynes ARS who provide many of the facilities for our displays. I hope that we may be able to continue to work with you all in 2012, and thank you to VMARS Members for all your support in this important work. Just because it is fun doesn't mean it is not hard work!

Let us not forget those who have volunteered and so ably act as Net Control Stations, sometimes under difficult conditions. Thank you for sticking with it and for your continued involvement and support.

In drawing attention to all these activities, I would not wish to overlook the contribution of the many Members who, I know, are unable to play an active part in Society events, be that through ill health, work or family commitments. So many of you reach out to help others in the Society to develop their hobby, and much of this work goes unseen and unheard, but I can assure all, that it is fundamental to our ethos. This generosity is a hallmark of VMARS.

I conclude this message by passing on my special Season's Greetings to the VMARS Committee whose team-work and camaraderie has been essential to delivering the quality you perceive. They have devoted hundreds of hours of personal time to Society business, and we are grateful to Peter Jones for providing the venue for our Meetings.

I look forward to meeting with you both in person and on the air in 2012.

Stuart McKinnon GOTBI

EC New Legislative Framework Alignment Package

The Following message is relayed by Peter Chadwick G3RZP from Thilo DL9KCE. Peter asks that this be included below, and will advise us of further developments.

As part of the New Legislative Framework (NLF) Alignment Package, the European Commission is reworking some directives. One of the affected directives is the EMC directive including some major changes. Most of them are neutral or even good from an amateur radio operators perspective. However, there are two slight changes piggyback carried, which very much affect us. Briefly:

1. The sentence "Kits of components to be assembled by radio amateurs and commercial equipment modified by and for the use of radio amateurs are not regarded as commercially available equipment." is to be deleted in the new version. That would render kits and modified equipment to be fully subjected to the EMC directive.

2. The definition of the term 'electromagnetic disturbance' will include the wanted signal of a radio as a possible source. This is not in line with the radio regulation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and not in line with the vocabulary of the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC).

IARU Region 1 will respond to it with a letter soon.

However, we strongly suggest that you contact your local MEPs and tell them about those two changes in the EMCD, that are neither in line with the reasoning of the New Legislative Framework, nor does it help to improve protection of radio services or equipment.

Membership renewal reminder

Further Seasons Greetings to our Members from myself as Membership Secretary, and as a Member of the Society.

Just a quick reminder to our Members that Membership subscriptions are due at the end of this month. Membership renewal forms were sent out with the last Issue of Signal.

A good number of renewals have been received to date and thanks to those Members for their prompt payment. I am now in the process of updating the 2012 Membership database.

It would be appreciated if all renewal forms could be sent to me at the address on the form, even if subscriptions are paid by standing order.

Please do not forget the new rates, and please update standing order payments at your bank.

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 January**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9th February 2012**, but copy would be appreciated as far in advance as possible.

Once again I wish all Members Seasons Greetings and best wishes.

Pete Shepherd G7DXV

Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
7 th Jan	MOYMK	G3XGW	M0TCM
14 th Jan	G3XGW	M0TCM	M0DAF
21 st Jan	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
28 th Jan	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
4 th Feb	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
11 th Feb	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
18 th Feb	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN

Christmas Day AM Net

It has become part of VMARS tradition to hold a short AM Net on Christmas Day morning, starting at 9.00 a.m. on 3615 kHz, to exchange greetings. All are invited to call in.

Helplines

105.1 Can anyone help me identify these items?

I have recently come across 2 items of Racal manufacture that I cannot trace, or find a reason for their existence. They are as follows:

MA 978F Charger This charger can charge 6 batteries at a time, and has a curious 2 pin plug on the end of every charge lead. The case of the charger looks as though it dates from when the Syncal 30 was first produced. I have not found any reference to it in any brochures or on the Internet.

MA 4705 Battery Again, no hint of any information.

And I am still looking for information on the **Racal** (VHF?) antenna kit **BCC 591**.

Any information, or leads to any information, would be most welcome.

Tony Helm G4BCX, email tony.helm@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 01752 296747.

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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 be 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 – its always best to check with the contact person if you are travelling a long way to attend.

Date (2012)	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
29 th January	Horncastle Winter Rally	Horncastle Youth Centre Lincolnshire LN9 6DZ	Tony G3ZPU 01507 527835 G3ZPU@yahoo.co.uk	A	
5 th February	27 th Canvey Radio and Electronics Rally	The Paddocks Long Road, Canvey Island	Dave G4UVJ 01268 697978 (eve) www.southessex-ars.co.uk	A	Many
12 th February	Harwell Radio and Electronics Rally	Didcot Leisure Centre Mereland Road Didcot OX11 8AY	Ann G8NVI 01235 816379 ann.stevens@btinternet.com www.g3pia.org.uk	A/V	M1CCF
26 th February	Swansea ARS Rally	Court Herbert Sports Centre Neath Abbey Neath SA10 7BE	Roger GW4HSH 01792 404422 www.radioclubs.net/swansears	A	Many
26 th February	BRATS Rainham Radio Rally	Rainham School for Girls Derwent Way Rainham ME8 0BX	Trevor G6YLW 0771 7678 795 trev@wig1.co.uk www.brats-qth.org	A/V	M1CCF

VMARS AUCTION

Saturday 11th February 2012

10.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Baginton Village Hall
Baginton, Warwickshire

The third batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC will be auctioned on Saturday 11th February 2012. Doors will open for viewing at 10.00 a.m.

Catalogue and further information are enclosed with this News Sheet

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.

WANTED: Green vitreous clip-in type resistor R3, for T1154B, 7.25" long (184mm) 50,000 ohms. Stores Ref. 10W/1043

Keith Strong; 01784 253990 keith.strong@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED OR SWAP: I require some parts for the T1083 transmitter;

Rotary transformer 80 W Type E (12 V to 1200 V),

Range D coils both MO and PA,

3 Meters, (150 mA, 2.5 A thermocouple, 3 A thermocouple).

I will pay cash and postage, or alternatively, I have some coils for swap, your choice, Range A,B,C; both MO and PA.

Ray Robinson VK2NO robinson@tuberadio.com

WANTED: Racal TA4044 100 W Amplifier

PSU No 4 for WS22

Peter Lamb 01822 860277 (Devon)

Peter.quither@talktalk.net