



# THE VMARS NEWS SHEET

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M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Some of the attendees at the VMARS Container Sale on 27<sup>th</sup> October looking on with great interest

## From our Chairman

2013 is the Centennial Year of the founding of the Radio Society of Great Britain and, to mark the occasion, RSGB Director John Gould is giving a lecture to an invited audience of technology company bigwigs at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London. The theme of the lecture is the contribution of amateur radio to technological advances over the last 100 years. VMARS have been approached by the RSGB and asked if we can assist with providing historical information on significant types of equipment and techniques used by amateurs during each decade and with possible ideas of how they were translated into wider applications. Practical examples would have been developments made by experimenters in the 5 m amateur band during the 1930's, which resulted in rapid improvements in airborne communications in WWII. Another example is the extent to which 1920's

amateur experimenter licence holders, having been corralled into wavelengths that the authorities believed had little practical use, set about refining techniques to achieve reliable communications on those wavelengths over thousands of miles. These developments eventually paved the way to the introduction of long range communications support networks for aviation and shipping.



Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF with his laptop

Our second Container Sale on October 27<sup>th</sup> was well attended and proved to be a great success. A lot of credit for this has to go to Committee Member Peter Jones, G8CDC, who went to a great deal of trouble to organise an event that went very smoothly. However, this was very much a team

effort and it would be wrong not to mention our bearded auctioneer, Stuart McKinnon G0TBI, who managed 4½ hours of shouting in two stints, our financial gnome and Treasurer, Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF, who was frozen to a laptop inside one of the containers for the same period and Pete Shepherd G7DXV, our Membership Secretary, who spent the whole time lugging equipment between containers and to the auctioneers table. In fact, with all his physical exertions, Pete was the only person who managed to remain warm throughout the entire event.

Paul Higginson 2E0PRF uncomplainingly acted as the auctioneer's porter, while Chris Suslowicz G8KGS and Les Thacker 2E0IBN, were kept busy shuttling auction items. Chris was also our primary source for identifying some of the more inscrutable pieces that emerged from the containers. Having the opportunity for Members to socialise and chat over lunch in the pub proved to be most enjoyable and is something that I hope we will be able to replicate at future events.

Ian Underwood M0YMK

**VMARS Container Sale**  
**Rosswood Farm, Baginton, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The second of the planned series of three container equipment sales to Members, originally from the estate of the late John Coggins G3TFC took place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at Rosswood Farm, Baginton, close to Coventry Airport. The equipment in the containers was urgently purchased on behalf of the Membership by the Society last August in order to prevent it from being sold for scrap and to provide Members with an opportunity to acquire it.

About 40 Members and their guests braved the cold northerly wind to attend the sale but the extent to which it was necessary to be swaddled in coats, hats and scarves sometimes made it very difficult to identify who was who without close scrutiny. On this occasion there were two containers to be emptied and several items of equipment from the first were removed for inspection prior to the commencement of bidding. This received mixed reviews from the assembled onlookers, with some expressing disappointment while others rubbed their cold hands in anticipation.



**Our inimitable auctioneer, Stuart McKinnon G0TBI**

Auctioneer Stuart McKinnon introduced the sale and briefly outlined the terms, followed by some good humoured banter, before getting down to business. A quantity of trays and boxes containing everything from instrument panel bulbs, relays, switches and equipment knobs, to valves, crystals and filters were taken up by enthusiastic bidders who saw good value on offer. Once again, airborne equipment made up the bulk of the items, reflecting John Coggins' passion for aviation, along with test equipment such as bench voltage meters, Meggers, power meters and some beautifully made purpose built test sets, some of which looked unused. A variety of aircraft transceivers appeared, including some early airborne WWII equipment from fighter aircraft. A complete and nice looking Collins 400 W 618T, one of several in various states of repair and condition, was snapped up for £65 and there were numerous opportunities to purchase those awkward to find remote control units frequently required to operate airborne equipment correctly. Various pieces of aircraft instrumentation, gyro-compass units and cabling were also acquired for Members' collections.



**The two T1154s**

After 2 hours of fairly brisk bidding, the containers were closed up while about 20 cold and hungry VMARS Members tramped the short distance to the Oak Pub where some enjoyed a convivial lunch over a pint of Spitfire and the opportunity to warm up in front of a wood-burning stove. The auction sale resumed at around 1:30 p.m. for the afternoon session, during which a good restoration project T1154, looking rather tired but appearing to be complete, was fought over, with the winning bidder acquiring it for £230. A similarly tired, but somewhat incomplete T1154 was won by the same bidder for £20. Towards the end of the auction and with 25 or so Members holding out against the elements, a clean looking Heathkit SSB adapter for the Heathkit DX100

AM transmitter was knocked down for a bargain £20. The sale ended at 4:00 p.m. with about a third of the equipment and components in the second container still remaining. These items will be added to the contents to be sold at the third and final John Coggins Container Sale which will be held during the Spring of 2013.

Ian Underwood M0YMK

### RSGB Centenary Lecture: request for assistance

John Gould G3WKL has sent us the following request:

“I’m working up some ideas for a lecture at the IET, Savoy Place sometime next year to mark the RSGB Centenary. It is just an emerging idea, but I have been thinking along the lines of a timeline talk that is illustrated with some remote operation, streamed into the lecture theatre via the Internet. What do you think that your VMARS contacts could offer? I was thinking of perhaps a webcam streaming of a 1920s transceiver for one, and perhaps wartime radio such as the HRO, or even the T1154/55 pair and perhaps a 1950s or 60s vintage radio. The actual clips used would be very short, as I am thinking of about around 6 for a 35 minute talk. I’d like to do them live, which would mean some careful management both in terms of the link to London, but also getting QSOs queued.”

If any Member would like to be involved please contact Ian Underwood M0YMK, or any Member of the Committee, as soon as possible.

### Saturday AM Net-Controller’s Rota

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> op	2 <sup>nd</sup> op	3 <sup>rd</sup> op
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	G8AQN	M0YMK	G3XGW
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	M0YMK	G3XGW	M0TCM
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	G3XGW	M0TCM	M0DAF
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG

## Letters

### From Bob Tucker G6AVI

#### A Garden Shed and R.A.F. Watton

When I moved to the West Norfolk village of Caston in 1975, there was an interesting shed in the garden. It was octagonal in shape and about 12 feet across and 12 feet high with a tapering roof. I asked the previous owner about its history, and he said it was built by the Americans when they moved into R.A.F. Watton during the War and that it was a *camera obscura*. I had heard of *camera obscura* before as being a novelty attraction at the seaside, which showed views of the surrounding area by projecting the image through a lens onto a table within a room. But what was a *camera obscura* doing in a garden in East Anglia? After looking at the shed in detail I discovered that the very top of the shed was removable and, after taking it off, I could

see a square hole that could be for the fitting of a lens. There was a slot in the middle of the floor that could have been for a table, so the story may have been true. It was not until I had the opportunity to go to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton last year by way of taking a wavemeter to Roger G3VKM, that I was able to find out more by speaking to the curator, Ray Kidd. At that time he thought that the story of my shed was very unlikely. However, after some weeks I received an email from him saying:

“I have confirmed that the USAAF used *camera obscura* for checking bombsights but have never heard of one in East Anglia. A short description of one for training can be found at [www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/s.douglasfeir.html](http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/s.douglasfeir.html). I have also read of one being used to check GEE or OBOE but cannot find it at the moment. Regards, Ray.”

The short description from the website says: “Early bomb sights were simple devices which contained a compass and a set of arms at right angles to each other on which the bombardier could fix his altitude, speed and wind. By peering through his collection of hardware at the target, he could determine when to press the release button. Bombing runs were practiced on the *camera obscura*. It was a windowless shack, somewhere on the airfield, with a lens in its roof. This formed an image of the sky on a large table. As the bomb release was pressed, a light flashed on the aircraft. Its position was marked on the table and from this the accuracy of the bomb determined.



The shed was double-walled and made from half inch exterior ply, and this one had three small windows made (oddly) from laminated bullet proof glass. It was in poor condition when I moved in and was steadily rotting at its base and, by 1992, it was replaced. As yet I have not found out why it was built in a garden and not within the airfield as others were. But as the concrete road I live off was laid by the Americans to service a sewerage plant that they built for the growing numbers at the airfield, they may have just requisitioned part of the garden to build the *camera obscura* under war-time powers. It is good to have an opportunity to record the existence of this building as it is part of the history of R.A.F. Watton. The following is an extract from <http://www.historyofwatton.org.uk/raf/briefhistory.htm>

“Soon after their arrival, the Americans expanded the airfield and built the single runway at Watton and, in July 1944, the 25<sup>th</sup> B.G. commenced operations; these were mainly to do with weather and photo reconnaissance, but also some O.S.S. (secret service) missions supporting the resistance

organisations in Europe. Sharing the runway were also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Air Depot, operating on the south side of the airfield at a site they called Neaton. Their purpose was to provide engineering support for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and many crippled aircraft landed at Watton to be repaired by them. The Americans remained until August 1945 when the camp was returned to the Royal Air Force."

## Helplines

### 115/1 Spider's web of wires

Gordon Whiting's G3MMS son Steven took this photo of an installation "somewhere in Australia". Steven wrote: "Any idea why they would build a spider web of wires. A wire from a large horizontal aerial comes down (anchored to the white pole via an insulator). The aerial then goes to a white box and then a building. Just curious why they inserted a ring of spikes with wires all connected to an inner ring that doesn't appear to be connected to the aerial".

It is my guess that it is some sort of counterpoise though electrically small in comparison with the aerial itself; enlarging the electronic photo it is possible to see that the 'spikes' look to be galvanized angle iron and the centre 'ring' is supported on three similar posts with a wire radiating from it to each of the spikes. If anyone has any ideas about this installation please let me know by email and I'll pass it on to Steven.

Colin Guy G4DDI g4ddi@vmars.org.uk



## Committee notices

### Committee Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012

Committee Meeting No 1 of 2012/13 was held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 beginning at 1030 BST. The meeting was kindly hosted by Peter Jones G8CDC at his QTH near Leamington Spa.

The following were present: Ian Underwood M0YMK (Chairman); John Keeley G6RAV (Hon Secretary); Pete Shepherd G7DXV (Membership Secretary); Bronck Wedzicha M0DAF (Treasurer and Publications Manager); Peter Jones G8CDC (Committee Member); Stuart Mckinnon G0TBI (Committee Member and Public Relations and Publicity Officer).

The principal decisions taken and topics discussed were as follows:

### 1. Email Decision: Purchase of Remainder of G3TFC SK Equipment

The decision taken by unanimous email vote to purchase the remaining items of the G3TFC collection was formally recorded.

### 2. Health and Safety

Ian Underwood had circulated a draft Risk Assessment Procedure and Pro-Forma prior to the meeting for comment and discussion. Some reservations were expressed in respect of the extent of the proposed procedure but the consensus view was to adopt the procedure subject to possible later revision. It was suggested that provision be made to document risk severity and probability on the Pro-Forma as this would then be reflected in the mitigating action proposed. This change was agreed.

The agreed assessment procedure and Pro-Forma will henceforth be issued to those proposing to run VMARS stands at rallies and shows. It was noted that the final risk assessment could only be completed on the day of the event as local conditions need to be considered. A draft risk assessment would, however, be required as part of the event approval process.

### 3. Matters Arising from the AGM

#### (i) Catering

Although the 'nibbles' provided after the meeting had been catered for on the basis of 40 people, the quantity appeared insufficient and a number of Members were left out. After discussion, it was agreed to settle the catering bill but, in future, to be aware of the limitations in providing catering on this basis.

#### (ii) Conduct of Meeting

The general view was that the meeting went very well.

#### (iii) Committee Service and Succession Planning

Noted that full consideration must be given during the course of the year to Committee Service and Succession Planning. Agreed that each Committee Member would provide names of two possible candidates for the next meeting.

#### (iv) Voting Procedure

In the light of the comments made concerning the secrecy of Postal Voting, JK asked whether it would be better if those standing for election be asked to withdraw during the floor and proxy votes in order to 'harmonise' the confidentiality of postal and floor voting. The general view was that this wasn't really necessary and, if a situation ever arose when a vote was required on a sensitive issue, the meeting could always be provided with voting slips.

#### (v) SK Sales Policy – Bequest Forms and Sales Policy

It was agreed that the proposed SK Sales Policy document should include an example bequest form. A form of wording was drawn up some years ago but this will need to be reviewed. In the light of the comments made at the AGM regarding the disposal of collections bequeathed to a charity, it was noted that the draft SK Sales Policy clearly states that SK sales are restricted to Members of the Society and that the Society is unable to hold public auctions. It must, therefore, be accepted that, in some circumstances, the Society may not be able to assist with the disposal of SK equipment.

**(vi) Editorial Policy – Advertisements on the Email Reflector**

There was considerable discussion as to whether adverts should be permitted. Varying opinions existed but it was agreed that commercial advertising would not be permitted. The matter was held over for further discussion and final decision at the next Committee meeting.

**(vii) AGM 2013 – Implications of Changes at BP**

It is known that a number of changes are to take place at BP during the coming months, some of which have implications for the Society both as a meeting venue and participation in events such as the Armed Forces Weekend.

It was agreed that Ian Underwood draft a letter to the Museum Director as to likely changes and how VMARS could contribute to future events.

It was further agreed that alternative venues for AGM 2013 need to be considered by the end of the year in case BP was no longer available. Possible alternatives were the RSM Blandford, Thorpe Camp and the Yorkshire Air Museum.

**4. Society Membership**

Pete Shepherd reported that Membership now stood at 431 paid-up Members. Three new applicants would be posted in the September NS. Pete also reported that a small change was required to the current application form in respect of standing orders – this will be put in hand.

Members badges were also discussed and it was agreed that some changes are needed to the current format as details on the badge were difficult to read.

**5. G3TFC Container Acquisition Project**

The first sale at the Wellesbourne Container had been very successful grossing around £2,500 for the Society. Rental for the container had been paid up to the end of September. The Container was cleared on the day and the rental has now been terminated.

Some problems occurred with the disposal of the scrap items. The contractor had been booked to collect the skip at 1500 on the day. In fact he arrived at around midday and was unwilling to wait. The skip was eventually collected on the Monday morning. The contractor then reported that a quantity of unexpected 'domestic items' had been found in the container making it necessary to sort the contents before weighing and settlement could be made. Peter Jones had expended considerable effort in phone calls to progress the matter and eventually visited the contractor's yard in an attempt to get the settlement. His view was that some 'fly-tipping' had occurred during the time the skip was left unattended at Wellesbourne. After some further delay a settlement of £250 for the scrap items was made.

It is clear that, for subsequent Container Sales, the scrap disposal process must be carefully monitored. The container must either be removed on the day of the sale or secured in some way if removal on the day is not possible. The weighing of the scrap must also be witnessed.

The two Containers at the Farm Shop will be cleared next and the date of the sale is to be 27<sup>th</sup> October. The final container at Russell's Nursery will be cleared early in the New Year.

**6. Society Finances****(i) Matters Arising from AGM 2012 – Valuation of Archive for Accounts**

Bronek Wedzicha is to progress this in consultation with Colin Guy as an on-going activity with the aim of proposing a value for the end of year accounts 2012.

**(ii) Reimbursement of Travelling Expenses**

Bronek Wedzicha proposed that, in future, routine travel expenses be dealt with on the basis of an agreed mileage rate and suggested this be set at 20 pence per mile. Claims would be entered using actual recorded mileage travelled. In the event of a query an online route finder may be used to determine a nominal mileage for the journey claimed. Reimbursement of fuel costs for high fuel consumption vehicles attending approved VMARS stands, etc., would continue to be dealt with on an individual basis and be subject to Committee approval.

The proposed change to the reimbursement of travelling expenses was accepted by an unanimous vote.

**(iii) Current Balance at Bank**

This was reported to stand at £22,936.

**(iv) Investment of Surplus Funds**

The level of the current bank balance again raises the question as to whether surplus funds should be invested in a suitable financial product in order to make good use of such funds. Bronek Wedzicha is to investigate suitable products and report back.

**(v) Improving Methods of Paying Subscriptions**

Comments continue to be received regarding the current options for paying Society Subscriptions especially those from overseas Members. Bronek Wedzicha is to undertake a review of the current payment options and report back.

**7. VMARS Handbook**

Bronek Wedzicha reported that, following his request at the AGM for editorial assistance with the Handbook, three Members, Peter Mellett, Mike Bayliff and Peter Chadwick had volunteered offers of help which have been gratefully accepted.

**8. Signal Index**

Bronek Wedzicha reported that a comprehensive index for Signal was in preparation.

**9. Society Archive**

Colin Guy's report had been well received at the AGM and due acknowledgement was given to the painstaking work of Colin and Martin Longmore in scanning and preparing documents for the on-line Archive. It was noted that work was in progress to index bound volumes of Radcom and Practical Wireless that had been acquired by the Archive. While acknowledging the value of these journals, it was questioned whether this work perhaps be more of a background activity as it was considered that the majority of requests to the Archive would be for equipment manuals rather than journal articles.

**10. Society Website**

In response to questions at the AGM, Colin Guy had indicated that a project to re-vamp the website was in

hand. However, because of other pressures during the course of the year, priority had been given to the Archive and no work had been possible on the website.

In discussion, it was considered that the website, being the public face of the Society, was indeed in need of a re-vamp and it was agreed that Ian Underwood would write to Colin to find out what help was needed with the website and how this could best be provided given the Society's healthy financial state.

## 11. Public Relations Strategy

Stuart McKinnon had now taken up the post of PRO/Publicity Officer and it was now necessary to formulate PR strategy for the Society. The overall aim was to promote the Society using available opportunities in amateur radio journals, develop contacts with vintage radio museums and kindred societies.

It was noted that Practical Wireless carried News and Events pages each month as did RadCom. Contacts, therefore, needed to be established with the respective editors and information regarding Society activities provided in the form of press releases. A good example was VMARS participation in the recent Armed Forces Weekend at Bletchley Park. Information regarding the Society display/operating schedules would be provided in a suitably timed and attractive press release for publication in advance of the event. Opportunities with museums could include the setting up of special event stations using vintage equipment, demonstrations, technical assistance and practical help with restoration projects. Regular updates on PR matters would be given in the NS

## 12. Practical Wireless "Valve & Vintage" Feature

John Keeley reported that draft copy for an article on the Collins 618T had been submitted to PW but, beyond initial contact with Rob Mannion (PW Editor), nothing further had been heard. John mentioned that Rob Mannion usually attended the National Hamfest at Newark and suggested using the opportunity to seek a short informal meeting with him. This could be used to introduce Stuart as our PRO and to discuss opportunities for VMARS to contribute to Practical Wireless. It was agreed to pursue such a meeting.

## 13. Rally Calendar for 2013

It was now time to begin the process of identifying rallies and events where VMARS attendance is likely. As a start, it was considered that VMARS will attend the Canvey Island Rally scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013.

## 14. Improvements to Members Services

Colin Guy G4DDI (Society Archivist) reported at the AGM that he now had access to a professional plan scanner that can handle paper sizes up to A0.

## 15. Further Committee Meetings

Subject to final confirmation, further Committee meetings have been scheduled as follows:

8<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (G8CDC QTH)  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (TA Centre Stourbridge)  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (venue TBA)

## 16. Any Other Business

### (i) Presentation Valve

From Peter Jones: A large transmitting valve had been acquired from the G3TFC Collection and some

consideration had been given to having this professionally mounted as a presentation item; was this to be progressed? The view was that this was an interesting idea but there was no immediate opportunity for it to be used as a presentation piece. The valve should be carefully stored and the idea reviewed at a later date.

### (ii) Purchase of Folding Tables/Exhibition Displays and Gazebo

From Peter Jones, Stuart McKinnon, Ian Underwood and Pete Shepherd: It was considered there was need for a number of sturdy folding tables, display stands and some form of gazebo to provide protection in the event of bad weather. These items can be used for a variety of purposes ranging from outdoor sales, field events and enhancing VMARS presence at rallies and shows. It was agreed there was a need for these items and it was agreed that those concerned would identify suitable products and bring details to the next meeting for consideration.

### (iii) G3TFC Container Acquisition Project: Retention of Container

From Stuart McKinnon: The Acquisition Project included the retention and subsequent rental of one of the ex-G3TFC containers for Society use. Stuart advised the meeting that a possible alternative of indoor heated storage space located in Wolverhampton was shortly to become available at a low rental. It was agreed this should be given serious consideration.

### (iv) RSGB Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

From John Keeley: The RSGB had recently circulated a reminder regarding this policy to all affiliated societies and clubs. While this was primarily intended for those who provided amateur radio training, the RSGB was keen that all affiliates be aware of the policy and its implications.

It was accepted that the policy did not apply directly to VMARS but the following was agreed:

(a) Society Members bringing children or vulnerable adults to Society events are deemed to be responsible in all respects for the safety and protection of children or vulnerable adults in their care.

(b) Society Members responsible for displays or demonstration at which children or vulnerable adults are invited to participate, or may seek to participate (for example, listening to a radio on headphones or posing for photographs in a military vehicle) must ensure that the parents or responsible adult are in attendance and have given their consent to the participation.

### (v) Pitstone Museum

From Pete Shepherd: An enquiry had been received from the museum in respect of possible Society participation in a weekend vintage radio event during the course of 2013.

It was agreed that Pete respond and indicate our interest participating in such an event.

### (vi) Vintage Equipment Demonstrations in Museums

From Ian Underwood: He had noted that a number of museums that displayed vintage radio communications equipment used current generation amateur radio equipment for demonstration purposes. Would this

provide opportunities for VMARS to demonstrate working vintage communications equipment?

It was agreed that Stuart McKinnon bear this in mind when contacting museums to introduce and promote the Society and seek opportunities for working demonstrations.

There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 1625 hours.

### **Submission by VMARS to the RSGB Radio Spectrum Forum**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

VMARS currently has 430 registered Members and among the aims listed in our Society Constitution is :

*To work with the RSGB and other appropriate bodies to promote the continued and full use of radio equipment on the amateur bands using all modes available on those bands, but especially historic modes such as amplitude modulation, frequency modulation and CW.*

VMARS Members pay £25 a year and receive a monthly News Sheet and a quarterly 40 page colour A4 technical journal called 'Signal'. Our Members meet several times a year, frequently at the popular vintage and military equipment auctions held by the Society for Members, or at rallies and fairs around the country where we often have a display stand. Our 2012 AGM was held at Bletchley Park to coincide with Armed Forces Weekend, where we mounted an exhibition of WWII military radio equipment, much of it working on air.

#### **Primary Aims**

At present, VMARS has three primary Spectrum aims:

AM Recognition  
60 m expansion  
80 m expansion

#### **AM Recognition**

Many of our Members regularly operate vintage, military and modern AM equipment on the 160, 80, 40, 20 and 10 m bands and some use AM on VHF. Regrettably, AM operators are still subjected to occasional bouts of abuse and deliberate QRM from fellow amateurs who believe that the only acceptable phone mode on the HF bands is SSB from modern synthesised VFO transmitters. VMARS' view is that the allocated amateur radio spectrum is available for use by all licenced radio amateurs, whatever their specific interest and is not solely for the use of individuals who simply wish to operate 'black boxes'. Many of our Members feel that the RSGB give insufficient exposure to matters concerning AM and, because of this, the mode has fallen from the consciousness of many people. Despite our Membership growing at around 5% each year, our concern is that this mode will come under increasing pressure from those who have little or no interest, knowledge or understanding of it. This particularly applies to new entrants to the hobby.

VHF AM. Although we have not received any representations from our Members on this subject, we have received second hand information that there are moves to block the use of AM on VHF/UHF bands. We are not certain of the facts surrounding this rumour but, if true, this is a move that would be strongly opposed by VMARS. Please can Forum Members provide any clarification on this matter and of the RSGB position concerning it.

#### **60 m Expansion**

This is a primary aim and VMARS fully supports the RSGB negotiations with OFCOM and through them the MoD for agreement to extend the existing spot frequency allocations in the 60 m band to a fixed allocation of bandwidth for general amateur use. As more countries release bandwidth allocation around 5 MHz to amateur radio licence holders, we are very pleased to see that this is also a WRC-15 agenda item upon which the RSGB will be making representations. VMARS would value the opportunity to comment on any RSGB proposals on this matter prior to WRC-15 taking place.

Our Members are delighted with the unexpected proposal made earlier this year by the MoD through OFCOM for additional allocations of spectrum in the 60 m band. In particular the inclusion within the proposal of the acceptance of the use of AM where suitable bandwidth is available. We hope that now the Olympic workload has diminished, rapid progress will be made to implement the changes. Our Members would appreciate an update on progress in this matter.

#### **80 m Expansion**

The Society has adopted the expansion of 80 m as a primary aim. This allocated band appears to become more congested every year, not helped by significant increases in power levels being permitted by a number of countries. VMARS Member Peter Chadwick has highlighted the possibility of extension of the 80 m band from 3800 kHz to 3900 kHz due to the low levels of activity allocated to that part of the spectrum. A report on this, and other bands where expansion might be possible, was submitted to the Spectrum Manager by Peter last year. An additional 100 kHz of bandwidth, moving closer to that available in the USA, would greatly relieve congestion on this band and provide greater opportunities for DX working. This matter was raised at the last Spectrum Forum meeting and was met with general approval from the meeting. VMARS seek the active support from all Members of the Forum to urge the RSGB to adopt and pursue this aim.

#### **VHF Expansion**

VMARS supports the recent proposals put forward by the RSGB as a result of OFCOM's invitation to propose alternative uses for additional allocations of spectrum released by the Home Office. An update on progress would be helpful.

#### **Interference**

Our Members are reporting increased levels of interference from household electrical appliances, TVs, PLT networks, mobile phone chargers, etc., causing them to abandon operating on the lower HF bands. This problem is becoming worse every year. In some cases the OFCOM engineers called in to trace the source of interference are advising that there is so much of it they are unable to do anything about it. VMARS firmly believe that the appropriate control of interference levels should be by good design practices and the installation of effective filtering at the point of manufacture, not by tracking down individual sources of interference. Our Members continue to give the RSGB support in maintaining efforts to ensure that legal obligations of OFCOM to minimise spectrum pollution are fully adhered to and manufacturers are held fully responsible and accountable for ensuring that their product's emissions are kept within maximum permitted levels, which many are clearly not.

Ian Underwood MOYMK

### 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 **15<sup>th</sup> October**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9<sup>th</sup> November 2012**, but copy would be appreciated as far in advance as possible.

### Copyright Notice

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### Applications for Membership

There were no new applications received in October.

## 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 – 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
11 <sup>th</sup> November	West London Radio & Electronics Show (Kempton Radio Rally)	Kempton Park Racecourse Staines Road East Sunbury on Thames Middlesex TW16 5AQ	Paul M0CJX 08451 650351 www.radiofairs.co.uk info@radiofairs.co.uk	A	
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2013	28 <sup>th</sup> Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally	The Paddocks Long Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 0JA	Vic G6BHE 01702 308562 nvr@blueyonder.co.uk www.southessex-ars.co.uk	A	
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2013	Spring Militaria & Electronics & Radio Amateur Hangar Sale	Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker Nantwich Cheshire CW5 8AL	Rod Siebert 01270 623353 www.hackgreen.co.uk	V/M/A	
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Blackpool Rally	Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre Blackpool FY2 9AA	Dave M0OBW 01270 761608 dwilson@btinternet.com www.narsa.org.uk	A	

## 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:** LF signal generator SG66 by Advance.in working order. Reasonable offers. To be collected from Bedford.

**Joe G4MGX g4.mgx@virgin.net**

**FOR SALE:** B40 complete but needs restoration. £40.

Large selection of Clansman cables £1 - £3 each

Large selection of Bowman earth straps, all sizes, £1 each

Some Bowman power and control chassis mount sockets £5 each.

**Dave Waters 2E0NBC 07542 947501**

**WANTED:** For ART 13 TX. Audio module or parts such as connectors, transformers or anything. Also need aerial changeover vacuum switch. All for restoration for personal use on VMARS activities. Any help much appreciated.

**Clive Young M0BGA rcry100@yahoo.com**

**WANTED:** Heathkit DX40U mains transformer.

**Ian Underwood 01403 820185**

**m0ymk@btconnect.com**

