



# THE VMARS NEWS SHEET

A publication of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society

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[www.vmars.org.uk](http://www.vmars.org.uk)

M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Handover: outgoing Chairman Stuart McKinnon G0TBI (left) with Ian Underwood M0YMK elected as the new Chairman at the AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

Photograph courtesy of Robin Maddison G0GNE

## VMARS CONTAINER SALE

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Commencing 10.00 a.m.

Wellesbourne Airfield, CV35 9EU

VMARS have acquired the entire contents of four containers once the property of late Member John Coggins G3TFC. The contents on one such container will be auctioned on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The auction will commence on site at the container at 10.00 a.m. No reasonable offer will be refused. Any unsold items will, regrettably, be sold as scrap. Please refer to the back page of this News Sheet for further information.

## From our Chairman

First, may I thank Members for the tremendous vote of confidence that you have given the Committee at the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The comments from the floor and the voting have shown strong support for the Committee, the way we work, and our determination to carry the Society forward in a professional and sustainable manner.

This is also my opportunity to thank Stuart McKinnon G0TBI for all his hard work and initiative over the past 3 years, and I recognise that his will be a hard act to follow. Saying that, I am pleased that he remains on the Committee, and especially in the new role of Public Relations Officer, for which he is eminently qualified. Stuart is also to be thanked for his work in organising the VMARS contribution to Armed Forces Weekend at Bletchley Park and coordinating the exhibits. At the same time, I thank the staff at Bletchley Park for allowing us to use the Library as our venue for the 2012 AGM.

The new Committee responsibilities are given on the front page of this and subsequent issues of the VMARS News Sheet for your information. You are encouraged to contact the Committee should you wish to comment or contribute in any way.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Brian Thomas who has retired from the Committee after serving as VMARS Treasurer for 7 years. Good financial management has been critical at a time when the Society has grown significantly and we have undertaken new activities such as SK auctions and sales. Our excellent financial status is a tribute to Brian's work for VMARS; his act will be hard to follow but Brian's legacy of 'best practice' will be greatly valued by his successor.

My thanks go to the Archive Group whose painstaking and dedicated work provides a unique service to Members and non-members alike. Colin Guy G4DDI, the Society Archivist, has provided, in the marquee at Bletchley Park, a demonstration of the amazing quality of reproduction achievable when originals are scanned and cleaned, and a hall-mark of the work of the Archive Group is this standard of their outputs.

VMARS Members' radio interests are as broad as they are deep and, if you travel around and visit our Members, you are just as likely to encounter a Mk5 Radio Altimeter, a Mk1 IFF, Gee II navigational radar or Air Interception AI17/AI23 radar in their shack, as you will find a little 7 W Codar AT5 amateur transmitter from the 1950's, or a radio truck on the drive! It's this fantastic kaleidoscope of inter-related interests, skills and knowledge that personally appealed to me and drew me into VMARS. It never ceases to amaze me when, having requested information in the NS or on the Reflector about some obscure and unknown piece of equipment or concerning some long forgotten historical detail, a Member is always rewarded with a wonderfully detailed explanation, often accompanied by photographs, offers of help with documentation or of free spares, all in a spirit of help, co-operation and friendship. As far as I'm concerned, this is what exemplifies VMARS and is the very essence of the Society and of its founding principles - and it's worth nurturing.

The Committee will continue to manage improvements to Member Services wherever we can. There will be no grand gestures, no sweeping changes and no wild deviation from the path that we are following. As always, our focus will be on Vintage and Military matters as they relate to our founding principles. In many instances, improvements are small and incremental, such as the improvements already

implemented in colour reproduction and the binding of Signal. You may not have noticed these individual changes, but together they add to our enjoyment as VMARS Members. Our document archive will continue to grow and exciting projects, such as the VMARS book, currently in preparation, will make a significant impact. We will continue to improve services for Members and we will continue to listen when you offer constructive criticism and suggestions.

You have elected the Committee as your representatives in the administration of VMARS. Apart from undertaking the general administration of the Society you have elected us to uphold the principles of the Society, to provide you with good quality Member Services and to take all necessary steps to protect your interests. The Committee take that responsibility very seriously and our promise to you is that we will continue to do everything within our power to make belonging to this Society a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

I look forward to meeting you at various events during the coming year and to hear of your interests and suggestions.

Ian Underwood M0YMK

## Worstead Festival 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Norfolk Amateur Radio Club exhibited at this year's Country Show for the first time. The Club stand was manned by VMARS Members Paul Burgess G3VPT and Bob Smith G7JTZ, and the exhibits included a 31 Set, TRA967, 38 Set, 19 Set MkII, PRC350, PRC352, PRC320.



General view of display tents

We were able to demonstrate our many aspects of amateur radio. We were next to a military vehicle display (some had limited radio but none working) and a lot of interest was shown by them in our gear. One guy had a PRC351 but did not know how to connect it up. He had a 12 V vehicle and fortunately a 12 V charger with leads. He was 'over the moon' when we demonstrated the set in use. Another told us he had a Land Rover with all the radio gear but was not licenced and did not know if it all worked. Sadly, he had a problem and could not bring it to the show. We have been invited to join them at some future event which Bob and I may take up.





**Bob Smith on the PRC320**

Our Club Chairman was pleased with the interest shown by the public and many took VMARS and Club information away with them. We hope to have some on our next foundation course run by the Club.

**Paul Burgess G3VPT**

**Visit to John Birkett G8OPP**

It had been an ambition of mine to visit John Birkett at his famous emporium in the Strait, Lincoln. I had been reading the advertisements and seeing that address for the last 25 years. Finally, after a visit to Cranwell, Anne and I ventured into Lincoln. Unfortunately, I had not done my homework because, on arrival, we found that John is closed on a Monday! So, we had to be content for now, only to marvel through the windows.



After Lincoln, the journey took us to Hornsea and, whilst travelling, I wondered if my contacts at Cranwell might have finished a particular task in which we were involved. So I rang on Tuesday and, believe it or not, all was sorted and "yes we can meet up on Saturday for lunch in Lincoln", ideal for the visit to John's place.

To say it reminded me of Aladdin's Cave is an understatement. There was radio kit and components all over the shop, accompanied by a live broadcast from RAF Waddington. So, not only did you have the avionics in the

shop, you also had the atmosphere of ATC and pilots chatting.



I know John won't mind me saying that he is now a sprightly 84 years young and, although he has recently been plagued with an eye problem, it does not stop him doing the things he enjoys in life. Sadly, the Private Pilot in him has had to come to a 'chocks on' situation but, for many years, he has flown out of Wickenby, a smallish field near Lincoln with his Cessna 172. John told me a tale of flying into Coventry to see the other John (G3TFC SK). John and John traded an awful lot of transmitters over the years, so now you know where your 1154 or TCS may have come from!



John has been at the Strait for over 50 years and is still going strong with the two shops, yes two, one more an overspill area, that has some goodies lurking!

Thanks John for the memorable visit, nice to chat with Michael also, a regular at Radiophile events.

**Stuart McKinnon G0TBI**



**VMARS at the Flixton Air Museum  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012**

The VMARS East Anglian contingent enjoyed a glorious Summer day at the Flixton Air Museum this year. There was a display of various WWII and vintage radios including WS68, two Clansman radios and a reception set R 208, together with an HRO. There was also an assortment of vintage amateur radio equipment, including two top band AM mobile installations and a more modern IC718.

Peter G0BLS demonstrated his legendary HF man portable equipment and succeeded in working stations in the Norwich area on top band over a distance of over 14 miles. Peter G3SUY set up his T1154/R1155 station with a 60 ft spiderpole which, together with the aid of a flagpole and the bloodhound missile display, supported the 80 m dipole. Stations were worked all over the UK, including the station at the War and Peace event at Beltring. During the midday 80 m doldrums, Lawrie G4FAA was busy working into Europe with the IC718 on 40 m SSB.



**From left to right: David G0SKE, Peter G0BLS, Owen G0TGQ, Lawrie G4FAA, Alan G4MOM, Peter G3SUY and John G0MGN**

Several members of the public showed interest in the displays, one of whom, an ex-RAF technician, felt encouraged to renovate his old R1155 receiver after hearing the quality of the received AM signals on the R1155. The day concluded with a spirited flypast by an Mk9 Spitfire with the characteristic roar of the Merlin engine, an excellent day.

With many thanks to Ray Kidd M0EVK for arranging the 2012 VMARS visit to the Museum.

Peter Bridgeman G3SUY

**Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota**

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> op	2 <sup>nd</sup> op	3 <sup>rd</sup> op
8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	G8AQN	M0YMK	G3XGW
15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	M0YMK	G3XGW	M0TCM
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	G3XGW	M0TCM	M0DAF
29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> op	2 <sup>nd</sup> op	3 <sup>rd</sup> op
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG

**Helplines queries**

**113/1 OKI Japanese Field Telephone**



Has anyone by any chance got any information on this OKI Japanese Field Telephone found at a flea market in France?  
Chris Ralf [christopherhdt@aol.com](mailto:christopherhdt@aol.com)

**Committee notices**

**Applications for Membership**

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

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr R Riley G4NQZ Nuneaton, Warwickshire	HF vintage military radio, aerials and homebrew, WWII re-enactments.
Mr J Haste G8UVY Chelmsford, Essex	Clansman HF and VHF radio.
Mr M John M5ZZR Ripple, Deal, Kent	Larkspur, Clansman and other military radio equipment.
Mr K Spicer G3RPB Woodbridge, Essex	

*[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](mailto:g4ddi@vmars.org.uk)

The copy deadline for the next issue of the News Sheet is **15<sup>th</sup> September**. 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.

## 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
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	22 <sup>nd</sup> Great Northern Hamfest	MetroDrome Leisure Complex Queens Road Barnsley S71 1AN	Ernie G4LUE 01226 716339 www.greatnorthernhamfest.co.uk	A	
28 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> September	National Hamfest	Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground Lincoln Road, Winthorpe Newark NG24 2NY	www.nationalhamfest.org.uk	A	
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Militaria & Electronic & Radio Amateur Hangar Sale	Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker Nantwich CW5 8AL	Rod Siebert 01270 623353 www.hackgreen.co.uk	M/V/A	
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Hornsea Amateur Radio Club Rally	Floral Hall 7 The Esplanade Hornsea HU18 1NQ	Rick M0CZR R106221@aol.com www.hornseaarc.co.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:** Wartime B28 receivers, three off complete sets for restoration. £40 lot.

**Ken Brooks G3XSJ 01453 845013 before 8pm please**

**FOR SALE:** Racal RA17T/18 HF Communications Receiver

This had been donated to the Salvation Army in Bridlington, Yorkshire. They wish to dispose of it and all proceeds will go to Salvation Army work in the Bridlington area.

**Offers/Enquiries to Peter Masters (NM) 01262 674524**

**WANTED:** Standard Radio modulator/DC power unit for Naval 612 (5AH) transmitter. Any condition considered.

Also sought: Racal RA17P. This is the wide band broadcast version of the RA17 without the crystal filter section.

**Charlie Watkins M0ZQI 01737 270878 (please leave a message if answer phone) charlie@boko.org.uk**

**WANTED:** A headset for a BC221AK heterodyne frequency meter either type P18 or the P20

**Lewis G4CRT (NM) 01283760842**

**lewiskirby@btinternet.com**

**WANTED:** I am looking for any information, manual, or schematic for a pretty hard to find Marconi receiver, model number B21B. It is part of the FH3 D/F system employed by the Navy during WWII.

I have some basic information which can be found on the internet, but what I am really looking for is either the manual (copy) or the schematic. Can anyone help.

**Pete Shepherd G7DXV 01375 640618**

**pete.shepherd4@btinternet.com**

**WANTED:** The Archive is seeking loan of the Bendix TA12 manual – our copy has some pages missing, particularly Fig. 24, the circuit diagram of the MP-28 power unit. We are

also seeking loan of the manual for the Racal PRM4021 HF manpack.

**Colin Guy G4DDI 01526 344715 or (preferably) g4ddi@vmars.org.uk**

**WANTED:** 5 Metal screw-caps off Control Unit Type 488 3¼ inch diameter.

**T Scrase, West Wood Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4QX**

**WANTED:** Panda PR 120-V in working or near-working condition.

**Ian Greenberg G8LOY 0113 226 2354**

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:** Airmec wave analyser type 248A. Buyer collects, donation to VMARS.

**Gerald G3MCK 01572 756444 before 10pm.**

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:** I have a number of 10.000 MHz crystals (IQD manufacture) suitable for anyone wanting to build crystal filters, etc., for the cost of postage. Please contact me with your requirements.

**Peter Chadwick G3RZP 01666 860423**

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## WELLESBOURNE CONTAINER SALE

### Wellesbourne Airfield

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Starting at 10.00 a.m.**

As all Members will know, VMARS have acquired the entire contents of the remaining four containers once the property of late Member John Coggins G3TFC. The intention is to completely clear three of the containers by the year end if possible, retaining one for the on-going use of VMARS for future storage purposes.

Due to the limited time available to the end of the year to complete these disposals avoiding, where possible, clashes with other rallies, we had to act quickly and the earliest date available is 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The first container auction will commence on site at the container at 10.00 a.m. All contents will be brought out of the container to the auction table and sold at low prices for using, renovating or stripping for parts. No REASONABLE offer will be refused, and any unsold items will regrettably be sold as scrap.

The items to be sold are loose stored in the container and, for safety and practical reasons, viewing of items in the container prior to the sale will not be possible. The sale team will do their best to bring out a good selection of items for inspection prior to the sale. Where an item of obvious rarity or value is discovered, the sale team may, at their discretion, hold the item over for sale at a later Society Auction.

There are adequate car parking areas adjacent to the container and a small gazebo will be provided to give some protection from the elements, although those attending are advised to bring suitable clothing or umbrellas.

The intention is to move items quickly and aim to complete the auction by 1.00 p.m. and move to the restaurant at the airfield (half a mile away) to have lunch. After lunch, we have arranged a visit to the aircraft museum at Wellesbourne to complete the day's activities.

The container site is situated a quarter of a mile north of the airfield main entrance on the same road, and a the post code is CV35 9EU to assist location. There will be a specially reduced entry donation to the museum of £0.50, arranged for Members on the day, and we hope to provide an enjoyable social event for those attending, as well as providing you with the opportunity to purchase interesting items of airborne radio, avionics and test equipment at low cost.

Finally, whilst the sale of this equipment is primarily for the benefit of VMARS Members, it will be OK for you to bring a friend with you on the day.

Your Committee hopes and trusts that you will give these three 'one off' purchase opportunities your

maximum support on each occasion, and enjoy the social get together at the same time.

If any of you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call Peter Jones G8CDC on his mobile on 07788 417 300.

## General conditions pertaining to VMARS Auctions

Unless otherwise stated, all items are as seen, and have not been inspected in detail, so no warranty as to them being authentic, complete, or in working order can be implied.

Buyers are advised strongly to check that mains operated items comply with current safety standards before connecting to the mains. Unless otherwise stated, no such checks have been carried out on equipment offered at this auction. Buyers should be aware that equipment may have been stored under damp conditions, with the risk of 'leaky' transformers which could trip RCCB protected mains supplies, or fail-to-chassis when powered. Equipment may not be adequately earthed, or earth connections may have corroded. Critical power supply components such as electrolytic smoothing capacitors require 're-forming' if stored for extended periods of time, resulting in spectacular failure if not treated accordingly! Some equipment offered in this auction operates at high voltage. Applying power to equipment which has not been dried out properly, or with accumulated dirt or corrosion, can damage the equipment whilst making it potentially hazardous.

Those intending to place bids at this auction will be issued with a bidding card before the start. All accounts must be settled by close on the day of the auction. **Those attending should be aware that the settling of accounts necessarily takes time and all are being asked to be patient and to allow sufficient time for this at the end of the day.**

**Reserve prices will be at the auctioneer's discretion.**

## Getting to Wellesbourne

The container site is north of Wellesbourne.

At J15 of the M40, take the A429 towards Wellesbourne. Pass Barford (on the left hand side); At the next roundabout continue on the A429 to a second roundabout. At this roundabout, turn right on to the B4086 Stafford Road (sign posted to the airfield) and then take first left (Loxley Lane). The airfield is on the left hand side. The track leading to the container is first right, a quarter of a mile down Loxley Lane (the container is visible from the main road) and this turning will be signed. This track is about a quarter of a mile before the main entrance to the airfield so, if you come to this entrance, you have missed the container site turning.