

# The VMARS News Sheet

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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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Our Chairman, Stuart McKinnon, G0TBI, in festive attire, presumably taking calls from Members placing their Christmas orders with Santa.

## VMARS RENEWALS VMARS RENEWALS

Subscription renewals are due for *most* members on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. The renewal form was sent out with Signal last month 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 **20<sup>th</sup> January**, to ensure that you continue receiving the News Sheet and Signal. A surcharge of £2.50 is due for renewals after this date.



**A Christmas Message from the Chairman**

Dear Members. How refreshing it is, at this time of year with not a member stirring (I can even hear the dynamotors a whirring from near and far), to be in quieter times. I am sure that many of us are relieved that we have moved to a 'New' VMARS — a bolder, friendlier and, above all, caring VMARS. Despite our problems, it is nice to see that, over the past year, we have had several new Members join the Society. I know they have been made welcome.

As many will know, I have not been well recently, and I would like to thank all those who showed concern; it hasn't quite gone away yet, but we are getting there. It is important also to remember that there are a number of Members who are not in the best of health. I am sure I speak for all when I say our thoughts and best wishes are with you all.

It is an understatement to speak of the enthusiasm of our Members. Over the past year I have heard an unprecedented selection of homebrew and military equipment on the air, testimony to the restoration work and interest in getting it going. Signals, from Members and non-members are heard regularly from all parts of the UK and beyond. If you are QRV on a Saturday morning, and you have HF transmitting equipment with AM capabilities, please call in on the Net, and you will be made very welcome.

I would like to thank all those internal and external to VMARS for making 2009 the success it truly was. What a great time we had at Bletchley. And don't forget our various sales and get-togethers. Thank you to the back-room boys who do such a fantastic job in producing all that copy for Signal and the News Sheet. You are a credit to us all.

There will be much on offer in 2010, and I propose we make it the friendly year, with swap events, military and amateur radio shows where VMARS has a presence, some old and some new events. Look out for the diary. Sadly, for various reasons, the Kemble show is being wound up. However, I am pleased to be able to tell you that there will be a replacement show at Cambridge, Nr Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, in Mid June. Look out for the date. Anyone wishing to organise the VMARS contingent please sing out!

You have already seen how good our auction-swap-meets have been. Also in this issue of the News Sheet there is an invitation to anyone wishing to host AGM 2010. Maybe we can hold it at an interesting new venue, with fresh ideas.

With best wishes from Mr and Mrs Christmas, G0TBI and M3TBI.

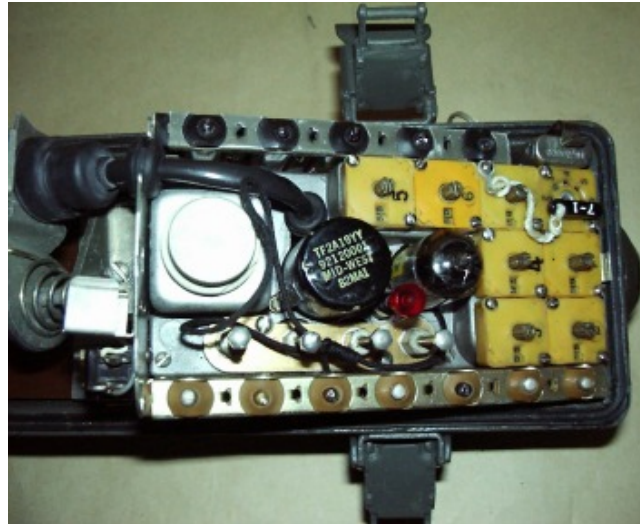
**Korean War Memorial, Washington DC**

Following the question in the November News Sheet (NS80) regarding the type of hand held radio shown on the memorial statue in Washington. Since I have five working samples renovated over the past few years I can confidently say that it should have been the AN/PRC6 otherwise known as the banana phone.



As far as I am aware this was first used in the Korean War and lasted until 1980, used by the German Army, the French, and probably others. It is very well designed. It is

sealed (waterproof) and for the day it is exceptional for its miniature construction.



Some of the technical details are:

- 47.0-55.4 MHz (covers the current amateur band.); mine are all crystallised on 50.4 MHz.
- Frequency Modulation, channel spacing 200 kHz,
- Single channel crystal controlled. Preset tuning.
- Range 1 mile approximately, transmitter power 0.25 W

The radio uses 13 wire ended valves (still available from Fair Radio). The receiver is a single superhet with an IF of 4.3 MHz and the transmitter is frequency locked using the receiver as part of an AFC system with a shift VFO.

The only problem today is availability of the batteries, and to overcome this, I have fitted a homebrew inverter system (see earlier article in Signal) which used 5 off C size cells to produce the HT of 45 V for the RX and 90 V for the TX, and a regulated 1.5 V for the LT.

In operation, the radios will do about 1 mile, their performance being similar to the current day 446 MHz license free hand-helds (a tenth of the size of the PRC 6).





There are only three controls: the on/off switch, the volume control, and the PTT. There is also a handset socket and a remote BNC aerial socket for a DF loop.



The aerial is a 24 inch tape whip which can be stored folded around the radio.

The frequency locking system, which requires the VFO to be adjusted until it locks, is a bit iffy on some of the sets I have.

They are somewhat limited in use but I have enjoyed restoring them. I have now given up collecting them but I am happy to provide assistance or information to anyone doing a restoration. Perhaps we should use them for field days to allow Stuart to contact his outposts at Bletchley Park, etc! Beware, there is no Squelch system but the noise is not very loud!



**Ted Beddoes G8MTQ**

**Would you like to host the AGM?**

Members have often raised the issue of the location of our AGM, which for the past few years, has taken place in the environs of Warwick. This News item is to invite any Member wishing to host AGM 2010 to submit a tender for consideration by the Committee. The tender should demonstrate:

- A hall of a size appropriate for an attendance of at least 40 Members plus space for a swapmeet or auction.

- A reasonable day-rate for hall hire, and exclusive use of the space between 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. on a Saturday or Sunday.
- Toilet facilities.
- Food preparation area and catering arrangements.
- Seating and tables for equipment.
- Car parking (preferably free) and access for delivery of heavy items.
- Reason for the suggested location.

Tenders, including a detailed budget, should be sent to the VMARS Secretary (John Keeley) by the end of January, at which point the Committee will consider proposals to fix the venue for next year.

**Special Interest Groups SIGS**

The Committee invites Members to apply for small grants to form Special Interest Groups to assist them undertake special projects within the scope of the Society. Examples of such projects include the restoration of a rare piece of equipment, reconstruction of something of historic importance but which no longer exists, or to research into the historical aspects of our hobby, but this list is by no means exclusive, and is meant to be indicative of the wide range of activities which fall within the SIGS definition.

If you would like to apply for funding, please send your proposal to the VMARS Secretary (John Keeley) explaining the purpose of your proposed work, the likely cost and the reason for the support requested, and the method of dissemination of the final outcome. You may wish to place your reconstruction/restoration in a museum, or write up the project for Signal. The Committee may impose restrictions regarding the proceeds of any sale of equipment which has been restored/ rebuilt with the aid of a VMARS SIGS grant.

There is no deadline, but applicants are advised that decisions will be taken at the Committee's quarterly meetings so there may be a delay before you hear the result.

**VMARS Members' Badges**

Once again, Stuart McKinnon G0TBI is taking orders for VMARS Members' badges, which he orders several at a time. If you would like to order a badge (at very reasonable cost) please let Stuart have details of your name and callsign as you would like for it to appear on the badge. My own is reproduced below to show the format.



**Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF**

**Christmas Day and New Year's Day AM Net**

As has become traditional amongst VMARS Members, there will be a short net at 0900 UTC on Christmas Day and New Year's Day to exchange Greetings. This is likely to be a relatively short net, so please be there at 0900 UTC, if you want to catch the others.

**Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF**

## Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Contact detail: 01233 756296 [brstood@waitrose.com](mailto:brstood@waitrose.com).

Richard Stoodley G3UNW

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> op	2 <sup>nd</sup> op	3 <sup>rd</sup> op
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	G8AQN	G1EDP	M0TCM
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	G1EDP	M0TCM	M0DAF
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN

**Helplines – Queries****81/1 R1155 in need of repair**

On a visit to Bletchley Park last weekend I was given details of your organisation and, hopefully, some hope for my 'sick' R1155.

I have had this fellow from 1962-3 which was bought from NSF in Keighley by my father, a radio engineer who worked for various government departments in their electrical QA department. Sadly he is no longer with us and I have had the receiver repaired by Amberley Chalk Pits Museum to whom I made a good donation and who were also recipients of my father's Air Ministry books and various valves. I have approached them but they do not have sufficient expertise (their own admission) to be able to bring the R1155 back to full life. Tangmere Aviation Museum had an expert but sadly he has recently gone blind.

So it is with some hope that I write this piece and maybe someone who is known to you could be of help and possibly take on repairing my R1155. I only use it as a casual listener (i.e., not as a ham) but get a great deal of enjoyment from listening to various stations from around the world with my limited aerial and ATU plus home built BFO.

I do realise that many of your members spend a lot of time keeping their own equipment up to speck but maybe someone could help. As you see I am prepared to make a donation to your organisation.

I suppose you do get quite a lot of similar requests and maybe you have a policy of not accepting 'outside' repairs and this I can understand.

**Colin Welburn (non-member)**

Colin lives near Chichester in West Sussex and if any member wishes to offer help he can be contacted on [cbfrei@talktalk.net](mailto:cbfrei@talktalk.net)

**81/2 Marconi AD21 and PTR 5401S**

Can anyone help with information please on Marconi AD20 aircraft RX from around 1930. All I have is the beautifully rivetted ally case, panel, and wooden (!) chassis.

Can anyone please identify a Plessey Military Communications PTR 5401S Handheld Transceiver, about 10x3x1 inch overall with LCD display, powered by 9.6 V Nicad.

**Letters****From David White G3ZPA**

QSL the excellent VMARS News Sheet. I especially liked the Duxford report. I have only joined in the net once this year with my home brew AM rig, but always listen and find the net normally is handled very well indeed.

**From Mike Buckley M1CCF**

Since the formation of VMARS it has been customary to publish an annual membership list; indeed this is envisaged when members are asked if they want to restrict publication of any of the provided information.

This has not happened so far in 2009; it is said because the Committee had other things on their "plate".

As this is a very simple thing to do, all the data being held in the VMARS database and therefore readily accessible, and with the press of a key or two, extraction and printing into a viewable form is quite straight forward, I have questioned why.

In reply I have been told, there is no urgency in this, it will be distributed with the September publications, and then again in the November publications, but nothing has transpired.

Well it is now December, and the question I still ask is, please may we have this list?

I hope that this need can be satisfied with the December publications.

*[The Reader is referred to the Report of the recent Committee meeting in the November 2009 News Sheet (NS80, item 6 on page 4.) Ed]*

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

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The copy deadlines for the next issue of the News Sheet is **15<sup>th</sup> January**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9<sup>th</sup> January**, 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 – its always best to check with the contact person if you are travelling a long way to attend.

Date (2007)	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Horncastle Winter Rally	Horncastle Youth Centre	Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 g3zpu@yahoo.co.uk	A	Many expected
7 <sup>th</sup> February	25 <sup>th</sup> Canvey Radio and Electronics Rally	'The Paddocks' Long Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 0JA	Dave G4UVJ 01268 697978 (evenings) <a href="http://www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk">www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk</a>	A	G7DXV
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Swansea ARS Rally	Afan Lido (Aquadrome) Aberavon Seafront Port Talbot SA12 6QW	Roger GW4HSH 01792 404422	A	Many expected
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition	Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre Blackpool	Dave M0OBW 01270 761608 <a href="mailto:dwilson@btinternet.com">dwilson@btinternet.com</a> <a href="http://www.g1gyc.demon.co.uk/NARSA">www.g1gyc.demon.co.uk/NARSA</a>	A	Many expected
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Callington ARS Rally	Callington Community College Launceston Road Callington PL17 7DR	Mike Bayliff M0XGG 01822 834373 or 07967 809299	A	M0XGG
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Dambusters Hamfest	Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre Nr Coningsby	G1ZQC <a href="mailto:tcrm@hotmail.co.uk">tcrm@hotmail.co.uk</a> Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 g3zpu@yahoo.co.uk	A	Many expected
25 <sup>th</sup> 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:** Eddystone EA12 ham band HF receiver covering the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands. In very good working condition except for the cracked diacon cover to the meter, complete with original manual, used often. Only one mod: the aerial socket changed from a Belling & Lee to a BNC type. £150.00

Philips PM 3217 50 Mc/s double beam scope with probes and manual, in good working order, used frequently until I purchased a Tektronix scope. £50.00

Trio TR9130 2 metre multi-mode transceiver with PSU, mike and manual. £55.00

Anttron mobile vertical aerials for mag mounts, covering the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 metre bands. £25.00

Callers only please for transport and demo.

**Ralph G4EBL, Herefordshire, 01568 780 396**  
[ralph@razel.plus.com](mailto:ralph@razel.plus.com)

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit SB 303 amateur bands receiver. Untested, no handbook or mains lead, good nick, bought as restoration project but I've got too many already. £55 plus carriage.

BC221, built-in mains PSU, OK when last used, good nick £35.

**John Teague 01963 240319 garonne47@waitrose.com**  
(Somerset: delivery to Ludlow area possible.)  
(SB303 manual available from the Archive if required – Colin G4DDI)

**For Sale:** H<sub>2</sub>S Mark II and ASV Mk IIIa & b Manual (photocopy)

Bubble Sextant in case.

**J. Roper 01692 402134 day, 01692 403768 evening.**

**FOR SALE:** RA17 plus SSB adapter

3 off R1155, various versions

Hallicrafters S27

WS38 Mk2 and Mk3

Marconi CR300

Minimitter Receiver

Plus lots of "bits".

**Colin Baker 01332 700222 (Derby)**



**FOR SALE:** Racal transportable VHF Log Periodic Antenna type 751, 30 – 76 MHz, 400 W pep VSWR 2.6:1, gain 7dBi, 50 ohms, length 3.2 m, width 3 m. PVC coated nylon bag. New Condition. £90 ono.

Clark Masts Ltd centre fed broadband dipole 36 – 60 MHz 3 sections, 2" diameter. Total length 135". Spike 0.75" dia, 4.5" length. In PVC bag. Used condition. £15.

Clansman Adapter Telegraph Radio (ATR) in good used condition. Siemens teleprinter module 1000 mil, new condition in transit case. £85 the pair.

Clansman VHF vehicle set UK/VRC353. Good physical condition, faulty PSU. £40.

Racal Field Kaynard Transmitter/Receiver (20 watts) 3 MHz to 29.9 MHz. Frequencies independently selected in 1 kHz increments. AC mains or 24 VDC. Used condition with brief description. £90

Racal HF receiver type RA329B, incorporates RA217D. AC mains or 24 VDC. New condition, both units housed in Czech transit case. £120

Russian receiver type 326 with handbook in Russian. 1 MHz to 20 MHz. Front panel and interior in new condition, receiver faulty. £40.

**Alwyn Stagles G3RBY 023 92 251218**

**FOR SALE or SWOP:** Three Luftwaffe R3 receivers for restoration - see Radio Bygones 33.

Monitor Crystal Type 2 for TR9, R1082, R1116.

HT Power Unit type 173 and RX tuning box for TR9.

Neutralising Unit for T1083.

Tuning panel, relay and aerial ammeter for T1154.

DF Meter for R1155.

Control Unit for R4187 / T4188.

RAF Type 13A double beam scope.

RAF Signal Generators type 106 , 6-52 Mc/s.

Battery backpack for WS46 , no wiring.

RF unit for R209.

WS31 chassis.

Box Spare Parts for R103 Cdn.

**Richard Stoodley G3UNW (Kent) 01233 756296**  
[brstood@waitrose.com](mailto:brstood@waitrose.com)

**WANTED:** Panel type 192 for A1134.

Rebecca Mk4 cylindrical TR unit TR3624.

Rebecca Mk2 Control unit 222 and TR 3173.

Eureka Beacon Mk2 TR3174 or TR3558.

**Richard Stoodley G3UNW (Kent) 01233 756296**  
[brstood@waitrose.com](mailto:brstood@waitrose.com)



**John Pether, operating GB2BP at Bletchley Park.  
 This station is well known to those who operate AM on 3615 kHz.**