

The Newsletter of the
Royal Naval
Amateur Radio Society
Winter 2014



Paul presenting Joe with his award at the AGM

www.rnars.org.uk
The RNARS is affiliated to the RSGB

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Christmas Greetings

*The President, Chairman & Committee wish you
all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year*



Chairman's Chat

Welcome to this excellent winter edition of the Newsletter. Colin certainly produces a very good and interesting read even though most of the membership rarely sends him articles. It is demoralising for any editor when he has to research and find articles suitable for publishing. Those that have never had anything interesting happen in their lives worthy of mention must have led very dull lives and have my deep sympathy. So please support your editor before he decides to that it is a job not worth doing. If you go back through past editions you will find that it is a few dedicated members who keep the Newsletter afloat. It would be nice to see a few more technical articles submitted as I am sure many of you have built equipment, possibly kits, and it would be interesting to hear what problems you may have had and how you overcame them.



It was a pleasure to meet all who attended the AGM especially those who had travelled considerable distances. I know the tot went down well but now that civilians do all the catering in naval establishments the food quality appears to have deteriorated. We will have to rethink this one for next year's AGM.

The nights are now drawing in as is 2014 and before we know it the festive season will be upon us. I sincerely hope you all, and those dear to you, remain in good health so that you can enjoy it.

Doug G4BEQ

Sea Story © 2012 Eric Bray

Chapter two: In the beginning.

How did I end up in the Navy, you may ask. It is a long story that I won't bore you with, other than a resume. Probably it was my parents' fault because I wanted to be a pilot in the R.A.F. I didn't fancy driving a train or a fire engine, which seemed to be the height of ambition of my friends and acquaintances. I used to buy those ready-cut-out toy aeroplane kits, made of thin balsa-wood, and fly them. I was always adding embellishments that I thought just might make them fly better, but which, in reality, just added weight. Later on, with a quantity of knowledge of aerodynamics that could be written in large script on the point of a fine pin, I began 'creating' my own designs. I would save up my weekly sixpence pocket money until I could afford a sheet of balsa, the standard length of which was three feet, the width three inches, and the thickness was 1/16". The following week, I would get a tube of balsa cement and a sheet of tissue paper.

To my uninformed eyes, these creations looked like aeroplanes, not that I had ever seen one, except way off in the distance, as they flew by. Later, I joined the local Air Training Corps, which seemed a better option than the church choir. There, I learned to walk in step while carrying a carved pine mock-up of a Lee Enfield .303 short model rifle. With them, I very nearly got to go flying in a DeHavilland Chipmunk trainer, based at R.A.F. Woodvale, near Liverpool. I had been strapped into a parachute, and was all set for stuffing into the front seat, when the Chief Flying Instructor noticed that my parents had 'forgotten' to sign the permit! So, I had to sit on the grass, raging with fury and embarrassment, while the rest of the lads went flying, and got airsick. The next opportunity would be the following year, when we Cadets went gliding. Before that happened, my parents moved house. There were no Cadets within my limited travelling distance on a bicycle.

When I left school, I was given the ultimatum of find a job, or get out. So I did both. Because I hadn't been to college or Uni, the result of my parents claiming poverty, the R.A.F.

didn't want me. I didn't want to fill shelves at the local grocery store, and there were few other openings. So I signed on, to my parents' consternation!

H.M.S. Raleigh, a concrete 'ship' across the water from Devonport dockyard, welcomed me, and many others, with open arms, then proceeded to introduce us to the world of the sailor by means of humiliation, bullying, and general unpleasantness. Some couldn't take it, dropped out, and went home, falling at the first hurdle. To me it was no different to being at home, except that I was expected to bathe, communally, on a daily basis, instead of once a week, and there were no doors on the toilet cubicles.



Each day started abruptly, at six am, when we were driven from our beds by the duty staff hitting our feet with billy-staffs, then it was wash, dress, breakfast, parade, drill, p.e., drill with rifles, lunch, drill, seamanship, p.e., evening meal, bookwork until nine pm, then we were allowed a cup of tea and a 'sticky bun', after which we had to clean and polish the mess-room, bathe, and be in bed for ten-thirty. We did that every day for the first week, except Sunday, which began at eight am. Wash, dress, breakfast, church parade, clean the mess-room, lunch at twelve, then the rest of the day was free. Free, that is, to clean our clothes - by hand.

That first week thinned us out by 50%. They all got a free rail ticket back to wherever they had originated. Summer in Torpoint was hot, that year, and some of our number discovered the 'pleasures' of sunburn. They paid for it, on Monday, when after breakfast, we were marched off to the Medical Centre, where we were all examined for the possibility of life. (Some were found to have more than was required, and were sent on for de-lousing!). We were stripped, then stood in a shivering, embarrassed, line, while all our orifices were examined. We were tested, prodded, stethoscoped, X-rayed, had our teeth done, our 'bits' lifted with a stick (Cough!), our eyes and ears tested. Then we were

allowed to dress again. The minor fact that the dentist was a woman didn't seem to matter, to THEM!

After lunch, we were marched to the Lecture Theatre, where the speaker, telling us of all the delights we could expect once we signed up properly, bent our ears. From there, we visited the Barber's shop, where we were all scalped, then charged 2/6d for the privilege.

On Tuesday, it was kit issue, for those of us who were left. This took place in the morning, which, we were informed, was now called the forenoon. Loaded down with piles of issue clothing, everything from socks, underpants, and vests, to boiler-suits, dress suits, working clothes, gym shoes, parade shoes, boots, and a kit bag to keep it all in, we staggered individually back to the mess. There we were required to change into the working clothes, a blue denim shirt, and darker blue denim trousers, which we had to call number eights. Our civvy clothes were bagged up and posted home. An 'Able Seaman', posted to Raleigh on a temporary basis, while waiting for a fresh ship, showed us how to fold everything, and where to put it in our locker, as per the postsize drawing pinned to the wall. He also taught us the proper way to make our beds, and how to put on the various uniform sets. He also used every opportunity to tell us, that as new recruits, we weren't worth the space we were occupying, and that we were lower forms of life than amoeba's, and much less useful.

In the afternoon, which was still called the afternoon, we drilled, learning how to walk in step in our new stiff leather boots. The polished leather soles of which slid and skated all over the place on the tarmac surface. When the Gunnery Instructor, or G.I., had decided that we were sufficiently crippled, we were marched off to the classrooms, where we were each issued with a yard of rope, and a Seamanship Book. There, we began to learn the mysterious art of tying weird knots with silly names, such as 'Reef', 'Sheetbend', 'Sheep-shank', 'Clove-hitch', and many others. For the last session of the day, we marched back to the

mess, changed into boiler suits, and were introduced to the delights of the obstacle course.

Thoroughly muddy, plastered in stinking green slime, and with sore, chafed feet, we had fifteen minutes to get back to the mess, bathe, change into 'number two's', a coarse wool two-piece suit, with a white square-necked tee-shirt beneath, and a separate collar which was half scarf, half corset, and a complete damn nuisance, added to which was a piece of white string called a lanyard, and our parade shoes, then get back to the canteen for the evening meal.

We were then 'allowed' to clean our muddy boots, and attempt to restore the toes to a mirror shine, and wash our muddy boiler suits, ready for tomorrow - before ten-thirty, lights-out!

Wednesday forenoon, after breakfast, began with kit maintenance lessons. Sewing, ironing, laundry, now called dhobying, boot cleaning, polishing, and shining. The 'Able Seaman', again, took us for this. He explained that the badge on his sleeve, in the shape of an embroidered propeller, meant that he was a 'Propulsion Executive'. We later learned that in truth, he was an Engineering Mechanic, (E.M.) better known as a stoker, or more caustically, a 'spanner-wanker!' With our boiler suits re-cleaned again, and our boots re-polished again, we cleaned the mess again. This time, we also had to polish the steel lockers, the steel window frames, the glass, and the linoleum floor, which had become the deck. It was our responsibility to do this, every day, in our spare (ha!) time. Everything had to be kept immaculate and tiddley, whatever that meant. There was to be no bits of kit, (scran), or litter, (gash), lying about. Any scran we found and couldn't identify the owner of had to go into a scran-bag, which wasn't necessarily a bag. To reclaim the item, a fine had to be paid. Along the way, we absorbed this strange new language, with names for the different parts of the day, and equally obscure names for different parts of the barracks. In the afternoon, we drilled again, learning to stamp our feet in time to our walking in step. The first Dog Watch, (4 to 6 pm in English), saw us at the obstacle course again,

getting our still damp boiler suits muddy again. That was followed by the mad scramble for the showers, so we could change into number two's, in time for the evening meal. By the weekend, a few more had dropped out. One fell off the top of the ten-foot wall, part of the obstacle course, and broke his leg. A couple couldn't take the pace, and a few more said "Sod that!" and demanded to be released, only to find that they were redirected into something less stressful, such as spud-bashing, weeding the parade ground, painting the coal pile white, etcetera, until they decided to continue being baby sailors. As they found out, once signed on, you stayed signed on, until you died, served your time, or were rejected. Those with their heads 'switched on' used Sunday afternoon to clean their kit, practice knots, and study the Seamanship Manual.

Monday came round too soon, and we repeated the previous week, with minor variations. Because there were less of us, the Instructors had more time to spend humiliating us individually. If you protested, you heard the retort, - "If you can't take it, you shouldn't have joined", or "It'll make a man of you!"

When we became partly competent at the Obstacle course, a new hazard was introduced. The Instructors began throwing 'thunder-flashes', dirty great firecrackers, at us. If you happened to tread on one as it detonated, the concussion would knock you over, and your ears whistled for hours, afterwards.

On the fifth week, we trooped into the lecture hall, where we discovered that we were about to take the N.A.M.E.T. examination, or Naval Maths and English Test, the results of which would help decide which 'Branch' we would be directed into. The basic maths I could cope with, but when the questions advanced into Algibberish and the more exotic realms of higher math, I was lost. These things we had never covered at school. Half the time, I couldn't even figure out what the question was, never mind fail to answer it! After lunch, we did the English section, which I breezed through,

double-checked, triple-checked, my answers, then sat gazing through the window, listening to all the head-scratching that surrounded me.

Eventually, the Instructional Officer, seeing me gazing and doing nothing, wandered over. “Stuck?” He stage whispered.

“No, Sir, finished.”

“Then double check it, to make sure.”

“I did, Sir!”

“Then do it again!”

“I have, Sir!”

“Don’t argue!”

“No, Sir.” I quadruple-checked it, then a bit later, did it again, just to make sure.

Later that week, we were given the results. I scored 32/99. When I asked why not 100, I was told that I had an extraneous full stop in a grammar question, and if I complained, they might find some more errors. Ah, well, if that is the way the game is to be played.

The sixth and final week of training began in the lecture theatre, again. This time, all the different ‘branches’ that made up the R.N. were explained to us, describing what the job was called, and what the individual actually did. Then we were given time to think about it, and ask questions relevant to the selected branch, of the Instructors.

I had always been interested in aircraft and radio, so they were my choices. In the event, I was too thick to be a Pilot, and too small for any other related job, (I was built like a miniature stick-insect), so I was steered into the Radio Communications branch. That also split into three, buntingtossers, sparkers, and gollies, designated by the badge letters ‘T’, ‘G’, or ‘W’ above the ‘butterfly’ identifier. (These were alternately described as Tactical, General, or Wow, it worked!). But that was for later. The rest of the week was much the same as normal, with the exception that P.E. was replaced by the swimming test.

This meant putting on the boiler suit again, jumping into the pool, swimming two lengths, float for three minutes,

then swim another length, without touching the sides or the bottom.

Some made it, some sank, and two never got wet. They went home. Then there was a second chance to try the failed part of the N.A.M.E.T. test. I scored thirty-one.



Rally Reports - McMichael Rally

Started out at 07:00 as usual and arrived on site a bit before 08:00 to find plenty of activity already underway.

The day progressed slowly, a noticeable drop in numbers attending this year. Having said that, there were still plenty of people looking for that all elusive bargain! Quite a lot of components and various radio associated items for sale also plenty of cheap plastic crap which seems to pervade the rallies nowadays.

Footfall at the RNARS stand was steady, with a number of bargain-basement commodities sold between myself and Doug G4BEQ, whose assistance at the stand was much appreciated as it allowed me to take a wander into the fresh air. A total of eleven members signed in, sadly down on last year.



"My turn to buy a round?
Here's a pound; I want the change."

The main raffle draw was at 13:00 for a transceiver donated by Martin Lynch & Sons which pretty much saw the close of the rally. So we packed up the stand around 14:00.

Many thanks again this year to the McMichael team of members (BBRC & RADARC), it is their organisation that makes this rally go so smoothly.

Dave G4JBE 0434

Milton Keynes

The Gods were good to us, and the sun shone all day, in fact we didn't bother with the gazebo, and sat enjoying the weather which was a lot better than last year when it poured all day.

About fifty stalls set up outside, and a few inside were soon busy trading. The stream of Amateurs kept flowing till about 13:00, then diminished so we packed up and made our way home.

A tot was made available to all concerned, but most of us are on medication, so very sadly had to decline; seven members signed in.

My thanks to MKARS and BADARC. for another splendid rally.

Glenn GØGBI 3481

Huntingdon

We lost our favour with the Gods and it poured all day, luckily we had a table in the hall which got quite full as a lot of traders were also inside. The class rooms were also put to good use, leaving about ten stalls outside to fight the weather. Our stand was next to the RSARS and the RSGB

A tot was again available to all that could imbibe. Only four members signed in.

Most people were leaving by 13:00, so we did the same. Many thanks to the Huntingdon club and BADARC for doing so well in the atrocious weather.

Glenn GØGBI 3481

No report from the **Torbay Rally** but this picture of Paul Kalas G3VCN and Peter Lamb M1AYI / VP8DNY was sent in by Mick Puttick.

And a quick note from the **Tunbridge Wells** rally. Only three members signed in and I was one of them. The others were Gavin G6DGK and Brian G4CJY.

Phil G1LKJ



Newark (National Hamfest)

Once again Allen and I arrived at our hotel mid-morning Thursday and settled in before making our way to the show ground and proceeded to set up our stand so as to be ready for the opening on Friday.

Friday was, as usual, the best day of the two days with twenty-six members signing in:

G4DIU	2E1HHA	M0VNB	G3ZYY	2E0MUW	G4JVJ	M0VNB
G3WNQ	G1LKJ	G3ZNR	M0MOL	GW3ZNR	M0EHL	G0TOC
M0NCN	G4UKR	G4SSH	G0EHO	G4CJY	G4NMD	G3KQF
G4WZI	G8LTW	M3IAA	M6RSB	G4NXG		

On Saturday only four members signed in: G1VYK, G1LKJ, M0ZAE & M1BED.

Thanks to Phil (G1LKJ) for his help during the two days and he got his due rewards by winning one of the Raffle Prizes. On Friday we sold £73-00 worth of commodities. On Saturday I managed to sell one log book and one lanyard. So Saturday was a bit of a waste of time.

As always Lincoln Short Wave Club did an excellent job in hosting the event. Tea and coffee was supplied to the RNARS stand by club members due to the incapability of Allen and Wally not being too able on their feet. It was very nice to see Trevor G3ZYY after so many years and have a good old natter on the set-up day. The only mishaps occurred when Allen's trouser belt snapped and then his credit card would not work so I settled his account.

All in, it was a very enjoyable week-end despite Saturday's very poor attendance. We look forward to next year's event which we are already booked in to at both the hotel and rally.

Wally Walker



Following Wally's mention in dispatches at the AGM, Bill visited Wally to present him with his award.

Wally also received an engraved tankard and bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale. (Neighbours are now complaining about Wally's singing)

Di Cardell - G3ZUC 763 back on the air

Every year Penny and I drive up to Harrogate to attend the annual FOC dinner. This is a good opportunity to take time visiting family and friends on our way back to Waterlooville.

We had contacted Di Cardell during the year to say we would call in to see her. Di had informed me that she would like to get back on the air, but had no one local to put up an aerial or set up her radio station for her. I said to Di, that when we called in to see her, I would see about getting her back on the air.



I thought you would all like to see the photographs of Di and her station. I'm sure Di will not mind me saying this; at ninety years young, Di must be our eldest lady member of the RNARS.

I took Di's radio equipment out of the boxes where it had been packed away, checked it still worked and had a QSO over to Europe. Since then, I have had a QSO with Di on 80m and 40m. Di has also had a QSO on 40 with other members. Do welcome Di back on the air when you talk to her. A lovely lady and is an ex Wren.



Ray G3KOJ 594

RNARS involvement in the annual HMS Collingwood Open Day

doesn't just happen; it needs organisation, planning, volunteers and a lot of hard work before, during and after the event.

Fortunately our relationship with HMS Collingwood is a very good one, and three young ratings under training were tasked to help the RNARS ATV camera crews who provided the live video feed seen around the world through the internet.

From all accounts, it would appear these lads proved a great asset, as not only did they prove very competent as guides, but also demonstrated they were very adept at using the cameras and acted as interviewers which added greatly to the overall production. The lads even gave up their lunch break and showed willing enthusiasm throughout the day.

In view of all their help, the committee overwhelmingly decided to award the lads with a Certificate of Appreciation and Doug as Chairman, wrote a letter of thanks to their training officer.

The awards were made in the Presentation Hall, Mercury Block, HMS Collingwood.



Thanks to Julia Tribe for the photographs.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Colin,

As an operator with a very small garden and simple antenna, can I ask you to print the following plea to all involved in club nets?

Many times I have tried to call into nets knowing that I can be heard by one or two stations, but not control. Therefore can I suggest more regular breaks for stations to call in throughout the duration of the net, not just at the start, giving an opportunity for others to tell the control station of weak stations trying to join in.

It would also help if stations didn't transmit immediately it's their turn, allowing a second or two for a weak station to call in. And please don't start a lengthy conversation between the first station to call in on your next hospital visit or car MOT when others are waiting in the to call in. It would also help if the standard phonetic alphabet was used for clarity when band conditions are poor.

Colin, I know some will take umbrage at this polite request and will probably ex-communicate me, so can I ask you to please withhold my name and call.

~~~~~

Noted author of sea stories and marine model maker; **David Thomas** has just published a new book: "**A Seafarers Guide to Life at Sea; Or How To Deal With A Drunken Sailor**"

David sailed with Buries Markes, starting as a catering boy, and before coming ashore, singed off as Second Cook & Baker. David has penned a number of books about his time at sea, all are easily read and highly recommended.

David's books can be found and ordered using this link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/nf7mwtq>



Net control said  
to wait my turn





**RSGB Field Day Report** from **Caithness Amateur Radio Society**, of which I am a member (RNARS 4938), took part in the RSGB Field Day event, which ran from 1300 GMT on Saturday 6th September to 1300 GMT on Sunday 7th September.

We set up the station beside the Lighthouse on Friday afternoon, finishing off the final installation on Saturday morning. We had our 40ft SCAM mast with a 20, 15 and 10m beam antenna, a 80/40m fan dipole strung east to west, a 40m dipole strung north-south, a 20m magnetic loop and a Hustler multi-band vertical.



We used our mobile training unit as the base station, and power was provided by a generator, backed up by battery power. There was a delay in starting, due to a generator problem, but the station was up and running by 1500 UTC. The 24 hours was divided into 3 shifts, each shift having a full licence holder and two foundation licensees. All went well until about 05:00 when a fierce storm hit - strong wind and driving rain, but the station ran on. By close-down time, both dipoles were down and the chairman's (MM0HDW) people carrier had to be tied to the windward side of the 40ft mast to stop it from bending and damage.



All was tidied and packed up on Monday, with no lasting damage to equipment. The photographs show us setting up the station, with Duncansby Head Lighthouse beside us and the Pentland Skerries in the background when the sun was shining!

*Gail (MA6SZA)*

## **Church Parade for our friends in RAF ARS**

I pitched up at the RAF Signals Museum Henlow which was today masquerading as Saint Michaels Church Henlow. I had registered our permanent SES station to take part in Churches and Chapels on the Air, which is a one-day event. I had previously arranged that, although building 104 which houses the RAF Signals Museum was no longer a place of worship it had been such in the past.



Picture by Dave Thompson

GB4SMH was on the air from 10:00 – 16:00 with a constant pileup on 7.14MHz. We cheated! We were using a top of the range Kenwood transmitter working into an Icom linear which produced 350W. The antenna was a 40M dipole strung up at forty feet.

During the day the operators GØTAK and M3DPQ made 124 contacts and worked nineteen out of the previously advertised thirty-five active churches. At the same time other members of the museum staff were demonstrating vintage radio equipment as well as teleprinters sending and receiving traffic across the room, so it got a bit noisy at times. Nevertheless everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and we're looking forward to next year's event. The museum has an excellent web site: [www.rafsignalsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafsignalsmuseum.org.uk)

*73 Roy Walker*



## **Breaking news from Joe our web site manager:**

There is a new menu choice on the website called **Members' Reports**.

When you click it you will be invited to enter a password. This will allow you to access Newsletters and Minutes without having to enter the password for every document. The password is the same one it has always been.

## **A very warm welcome to our new members and up-dates**

### **New Members**

|                               |        |      |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|
| Tristan Thomas                | MW3VJV | 4960 |
| Bedford & District ARC        | M1BED  | 4961 |
| Judith Bowen                  | SWL    | 4962 |
| John Grint                    | M6RNS  | 4963 |
| Christopher Tidwell           | GØDAE  | 4964 |
| Robert Tickle                 | M5RPT  | 4965 |
| Pitsford School ARS via M5RPT | SWL    | 4966 |
| Chris McCarthy                | G3XVL  | 4967 |
| Bert Matthies                 | DL2HCB | 4968 |

### **Re-joiners and Reinstated**

|                           |        |      |
|---------------------------|--------|------|
| Don Jones                 | G4LIH  | 2014 |
| John Rennie               | GM4LFL | 2015 |
| Michel Woltman was PA3HTW | F4VQK  | 2162 |
| Alison Johnston           | G8ROG  | 4836 |
| Graham Smith              | G4NMD  | 1535 |
| David Bondy               | G4NRT  | 4148 |
| Kelly College ARC         | G4COF  | 2808 |
| Kevin Wood                | G4JOA  | 2336 |
| Lasse Hinrichsen          | OZ1FJB | 2087 |
| Hans                      | KØHB   | 4420 |

### **Changes**

|                          |        |      |
|--------------------------|--------|------|
| Mike Bookham was M6TXT   | 2EØDFF | 4942 |
| Nathan Bookham was M6INV | 2EØINV | 4943 |
| James Bookham was M6OBJ  | 2EØJLB | 4944 |
| Mark Atfield was 2EØZPT  | MØMTA  | 4871 |

### **Silent Keys**

|                       |        |      |
|-----------------------|--------|------|
| Roger van den Bussche | ON6WR  | 1282 |
| Adrian Donaldson      | GMØSRD | 4053 |
| Ken Wheatley          | G3BBR  | 2817 |
| Cliff Taylor          | GW4GJT | 2617 |
| Peter Clark           | G4IUV  | 1462 |
| Alan Stanley          | MØAST  | 4426 |
| Peter Smith           | GØRRF  | 3949 |
| Simon Baird           | GMØFHS | 4512 |
| Francis Harris        | GW4LNK | 2060 |
| John Powell           | G3GYF  | 3653 |
| Les Mitchell          | G3BHK  | 0382 |
| James Copeland        | W1ODA  | 2723 |
| Harm Vos              | PA3CTK | 3521 |

## **MARCONI AMATEUR RADIO CIRCLE RNARS MEMBER 4937 - UPDATE**

This group started as the Mellieha Amateur Radio Circle (MARC) in 2010 and had the call sign 9H9MSG. It was based with the Mellieha Scout Group at the old fort in the town. They were very active and started to refurbish the building which they had been given for their sole use. Part of their remit for being on site was to train the local Scouts in communications and operated in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). They arranged many social events and barbecues which generated much needed cash for the refurbishment of the building which they occupied. Unfortunately, after a time of being on site, there was a disagreement and they left Mellieha.



During the following six months, they surveyed many locations in Malta looking for a suitable new building and eventually found one. In order to secure the site from the Mtarfa local council, they had to set themselves up as a non-government organisation (NGO) which they did and were then offered the building where they are currently based. They were re-formed as the Marconi Amateur Radio Circle retaining the initials MARC with the new call sign of 9H1MRC (RNARS 4937). The daughter and family of Guglielmo Marconi graciously granted permission for the use of the name. The site contract was signed in March 2013, then the hard work began.

This site at Mtarfa was derelict and the ground outside the building was best described as a huge mound of earth with a complete jungle grown on it. The building itself was a mess with no doors or windows, no water and no facilities of any kind. A small team from the group set about clearing the dead dogs, rubble and car wreck that were in the building. They then built a wall between their portion and the drama group who had managed to acquire the other half of the building as well as clearing and levelling the ground outside. This outside area will become a garden area with pergolas, benches, etc., where members and their families can congregate on social occasions and barbecues. The ethos of the club includes socialising as well as radio.

They set about purchasing doors and windows, bricks and tiles in order to refurbish and secure the building. Donations of various amounts of furniture, white goods, crockery, etc., were received as well as cash donated by members and supporters which paid for equipment, including a generator to power their tools, lighting and cooking facilities. So far they have spent around €5,000 (about £4,100) on materials. All the work has been



carried out by members themselves calling on their own skills. The results are astounding in the twelve months which they have been on site.

The Circle is now thriving and has around 30 fully paid-up members. They generally meet in the mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The weekend meetings are for socialising and operating radio but the weekdays are for completing the essential works. However, they always warmly welcome any visitors who wish to just see what they've done or to get involved in the many tasks that are still to be done to make the place even better than it is already. They participate in various "field days" and other activities including "Military Mtarfa", an event which Armed Forces Malta and many other organisations take part.

As well as furniture and other equipment, some aerials and a few radios have also been generously donated, the first of which was by the RNARS which provided the FT747GX in 2011 (See the RNARS Newsletter for Spring 2012). Some computers have also now found their way to the club site. In addition to this, they are assembling a historic collection of some military radios and other equipment including such things as a complete Sailor Marine radio, teleprinter, power supplies and control as well as and telephones, bells, etc.

The Mayor of Mtarfa officially opened the club on 12th January 2014 and a plaque on the wall commemorates this. In October this year too, the Circle will be assisting scouts in the Jamboree on the Air at four different locations in Malta. In December there is a Maltese national event - the Flame of peace - which we are told is similar to the Olympic flame journey where the flame of peace will be coming to Mtarfa with the Baden Powell scout group and eventually secured in the president's palace in Attard. MARC have been officially invited to be a part of this event.

In February 2015, MARC will have its first major general meeting in which the members will have the opportunity to elect a committee, etc., to take the club forward. The current "committee" consists of Joe 9H1AJ, Steven 9H1SF (RNARS 4898), Joe 9H1YP, Maurizio 9H1IT, Franz 9H5FM, Albert 9H5AP and Freddie 9H1AK. The members are represented by Phil 9H5HP and Ronald 9H1XS.

As well as the RNARS, MARC is associated with the Central Amateur Radio Circle (CRAC) in the West Midlands of the UK. Various of their members have been in Malta assisting with painting and other works on site in Mtarfa.

*Bill 9H1BX RNARS 328, MARC member.*



## **Return to Paxos**

We left a warm UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> June for two weeks on the small island of Paxos, much hotter than the UK at 86F. Paxos is 14 kilometres and a two hour ferry ride south of Corfu and 20 kilometres from Parga to the east on mainland Greece. The island covers approximately nineteen square miles in the Ionian Sea with a permanent population of approximately 2,300.

There are three main villages; Gaios to the South is the capital with a port that is protected by two small islands, Agios Nikolas and Panagia. Further down the east coast is Loggos with a small bay and waterfront Tavernas, then on to Lakka at the northern end of the island and is the second largest of the villages, where Chris and I always stay. Most visitors regard Lakka as the most picturesque of the three, it has a

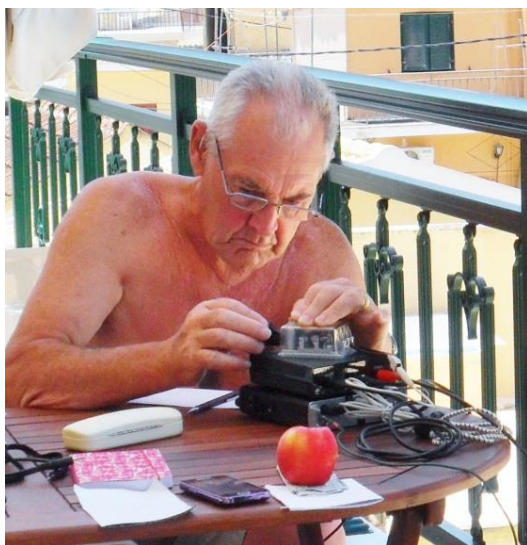
beautiful almost enclosed bay with a white sandy bottom, waterfront tavernas and in the main square.

Noinois is the oldest taverna on Paxos dating back to 1945. The food there is excellent but also very busy with staff rushing to and fro. Chris and I have two favourite restaurants in Lakka; Stasinis Garden Restaurant where we are now treated like long lost friends, and Alexandros situated in a quiet courtyard. Both are typically Greek where you are invited in to view the food in the kitchen.

Between Mythos beer, copious amounts of Ouzo and 7UP that do not come in small measures in the Fanis bar on the waterfront, I tried to operate as SV8/G4ZMP/QRP from our villa terrace. The station consisted of my trusty Yaesu FT817, Ramsey 20 watt amp' for 20 metres, Hi-Mound keyer, Miracle Whip, SPX-100 multi-band whip and my Watson Power Mite power supply. The antennas were lashed to the top of the terrace railing which was made of aluminium with bungee straps. I had purchased the SPX-100 especially for QRP operation as it would accept the 20 watts output from my amp' and hopefully give me a much better chance to work into the UK on 20 metres.

On our first day, amateur radio was a no-go as our take off from Gatwick with Monarch Airways was nearly an hour late, so it was getting on for 19:00 local time (two hours ahead of BST) before arrival at our villa and very high on our priorities was finding a table at Stasinis for our evening meal.

Next day I was up and running and began working on 20 metres using the 20 watt amp' and the SPX-100 antenna. My location was



probably 60-70 feet ASL facing over the bay looking towards the UK.

Conditions were not good, the noise came in waves and strong enough to blot out all but the very strongest stations which were coming from Italy. I made my first contact at 11:09 GMT with IZ1DPS who gave me 559 QSB which I thought rather respectable. I did not have another until 12:00 GMT, this was with IK2RMZ who gave me 449. After trawling the band and not making any more contacts I reverted to my trusty Miracle Whip. At 13:31 GMT had a QSO with UR5TG/A who was using 15 watts, he was 449 QSB to me but I failed to get his RST during our four minute QSO. My last contact was with another Italian at 14:18 and received 449, but due to the conditions called it a day. The 25<sup>th</sup> was hardly worth the effort making only 1 QSO with HB9DAX who gave me 449 QSB.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> a total of ten contacts into France, Serbia, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic and Spain with reports ranging from 449 QSB to a 579 from Belgium and a 599 from Spain which may be the obligatory 599 every one gets!

The big moment of the day was between 12:10 to 12:15 working GB7ØDDAY who was 599 to me and I received a report of 449 QSB to me. I managed to catch him just as he started to call CQ. I was on 14.052 and heard him when he fired up on 14.053. After working me he disappeared.

As this was a holiday and not a DX'pdition, some days I did not go on air, but for the remainder of my stay conditions remained much the same. On one day twenty metres was dead apart from noise so I tried fifteen metres which had a few stations but did not manage any QSO's.

Sweden, Poland, France, Holland, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Special Event Liberation of Crimea – R70SEV and HF33GC (Poland?) were all added to the log, but apart from GB7ØDDAY not one RNARS station heard though quite a few G stations heard and all seemed to be on very long 'rag chews'. The station was closed on our final day, 6<sup>th</sup> July and with a degree of ceremony I lowered my antennas.



Ponderously drinking a cold beer I wondered if the aluminium rail had any effect on my SPX-100 antenna? It was secured with the tuning coil section against the railing where as my Miracle Whip could be secured with the tuning coil on the top of the rail and the antenna raised at 90 degrees. I had measured a length of sheathed antenna wire for the various frequencies I intended to use lowered down over the terrace as a ground plane attaching it to my TCVR at the appropriate length.

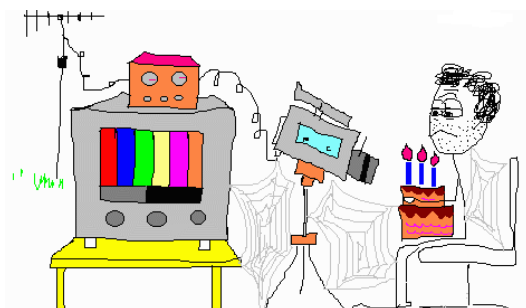


One great failing was the fact that I had access to free Wi-Fi in local tavernas, and I was able to send messages using three of my e-mail addresses all except for the one I have for RNARS/Yahoo Groups, so was unable to say when I would be on air. I have already provisionally booked the same spot for next year and look forward to getting some UK stations in the log as I did in 2006.

The ring depicting the Sparkers badge I had made by the jeweller in Lakka who makes rings to order. He made me two silver rings, repaired one and resized another of Chris's all in two days and did not charge for the repair or resize. Where would you get service like that in the UK?



*Dave G4ZMP 2616*



*Andy celebrated his third year year of waiting for a signal on his ATV monitor*

## **RNARS Awards**

Are you an award hunter? The society offers a number of attractive awards including a new one for data modes. So check back your log books and tally things up, you might be eligible for one of these attractive awards. Ian Pitkin is our Awards Manager and his contact details are on page two.

## **Mercury Award**

The award is for contacting or hearing members of the RNARS on or after 1st October 1960. It is issued on a points basis of 1 point per member heard or worked per band. Two points are given for RNARS special calls (i.e. GB3RN etc.) and 2 points for contacts with RNARS members above 30 MHz.



The Award is issued in 3 classes:

Class I requires 20 points, the minimum for G stations

Class II requires 10 points, the minimum for EU stations.

Class III requires 5 points and is only available for stations outside Europe

Stickers are available for 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 250, 500, 750 & 1000. There is no fee for stickers except SAE.

## **Hampshire County Award**

This award for contacting or hearing ANY stations (not only RNARS) in the English County of Hampshire. (Please note that the Isle of Wight does not count) on or after 1st October 1960. Each station counts 1 point with RNARS special stations counting 2 points. The award is issued in 3 classes:

Class I            UK 50 points, EU 20 points, DX 15 points.

Class II           UK 30 points, EU 15 points, DX 10 points

Class III          UK 20 points, EU 10 points, DX 5 points.

## World Wide Award

This award is for contacting or hearing members of the RNARS in 10 DXCC countries and on at least 2 continents after 1st October 1960. Stickers are available for 25, 50, 75 & 100 Countries and 3, 4, 5 & 6 Continents. A member signing /MM can be claimed if close to the shores of a missing continent but does not count for a missing country.



## Kaleidoscope Award

This award is for contacting or hearing RNARS members, using the last letter of the callsign to spell out: "ROYAL NAVAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY". No more than one member may count for any single letter. All contacts valid on or after 1st January 1986.

Example: G4JBRY, G4SFOY, G3ZAYY, GW4MVAY, G3VLLY = ROYAL etc

## International Navy Award

This became available from 1st January 2004, therefore contacts before 2004 do not count. It is available to all Amateurs and Short Wave Listeners.

Class I: Work or Hear 10 RNARS Members, 10 MF Runde Members, 3 INORC Members and 1 MARAC Member. Plus one member from ANARS or BMARS or FNARS or YO-MARC or MFCA.



Class II. Work or Hear 5 RNARS Members, 5 MF Runde Members and 1 INORC member. Plus one member from ANARS or BMARS or FNARS or MARAC or YO- MARC or MFCA.

**Class III.** This class is for DX stations outside Europe only. Work or Hear 3 RNARS members, 3 MF Runde Members plus one member from ANARS or BMARS or FNARS or INORC or MARAC or YO-MARC or MFCA.

**Joker:** A contact with a valid Museum Ship counts as a missing contact. Only one per application will count i.e. 10 x RN, 10 x MF, 3 x INORC, 1 x MARAC, 1 x Joker instead of missing Club.

### **RNARS Digital ('BITS') Award**

The award is for contacting or hearing members of RNARS in any digital data mode, PSK, RTTY, MFSK, SSTV for example on any band. A list of digital modes can be found via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/avywqkl>

Scoring will be 1 point for every member heard or worked per mode per band with 5 points for every special call or NOV call such as GB3RN, GB2RN or GB6COD. Different speeds within the same mode will be classed as the same mode, e.g. PSK 31 and PSK63 are the same and RTTY Normal and Inverted are the same mode.

Like the Mercury Award this award is issued in 3 classes:

Class I – 60 points    Class II – 40 points    Class III – 20 points.

In addition anyone with 100 points will be awarded a special decorative plaque.

### **Fifty years' continuous membership of the RNARS**

is now recognised with this attractive certificate.

Please contact **Wally**, our Membership Officer, for qualifying details.

Wally's contact details can be found on page two.



## **My Shack**

Or in this case; **my old service shack revisited** when Carl K8BBT paid a return visit to his old ship; USS The Sullivans; named after the five Sullivan brothers (below) who enlisted in the navy after Pearl Harbor and insisted on serving together; their motto; “we stick together” were assigned to the light cruiser USS Juno CL-52 and all perished when it was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal in November 1942.



Carl served aboard USS The Sullivans from 1962 to 1963 during the Cuban missile crisis and during the search and rescue for the submarine USS Thresher that went down off the coast of Boston. She is now a museum ship in Buffalo NY. Carl is the chairman for their next reunion in May 2015 in Jacksonville, Florida.



*Thanks Carl for a very interesting contribution.*

*Over to our membership, do you have a face picture of you in your shack; or as in Carl's case your old service shack?*

*Pictures help put a face to a voice over the air. Please read the end of my editorial on how to contact me by e-mail.*

*Colin*

## **Report on the 54<sup>th</sup> RNARS AGM ~ October 2014**

**Present:** G3ZDF, G0LFI, M6UBI, MONAF, G0IUUY, G0IEY, G3KOJ, G4BEQ, G3LIK, President, G3TSM, G4JBE, G1LKJ, G4PZV, G0FOD, G4TNN, G0PSE, G6DGK, G0TOC, M0IMJ, M0LRE (Guest), G4PIJ, G0MIU, G3RDR, G0LDJ, GW0VSW, M0EHL, M1AFM, 2E0JVM, GM6HW

**Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed our President and fellow members to the AGM and said that their support was greatly appreciated. He said that we had members from Wales, Scotland, Somerset in the West and East Sussex in the East attending not forgetting our President's journey from Yorkshire. He said that it was the first time that we had members coming from further afield than the President and that put to shame the large number of members who lived within 30 miles of Collingwood. He was delighted to see strong support from the HMS Belfast Group and hoped they had all taken advantage of naval tradition of 'Up Spirits' and the lunch provided in the Mess. He then called on our President Commodore Paul Sutermeister to formally open the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence:** Stephen Palmer, GM0EQS, Danny Sharpe, G3ZUN, Dr Ken Lown., G4PTE, Glen, G0GBI, Raymond, G0PJK, Iain Hill, ZL2BJC, Carl Thomson, G3PEM, Hans-Juergen Kempe, DK9OS, Maren Kempe, DK9MOS, Alan Croft, G8CJM, Wally Walker, G4DIU, Peter, HZ1PS/VK6APW, Diana, G0RNO, Paul, PA5UL, Bob D'Imperio, N4XAT, Dave Butler, G4ZMP, Doug Turk, G3PQC, Geoff Bulleyment, G3XIV, Bob Wilson, G0FEK, John Short, G1DJI, Ian, G3APO, Dave G3WQG

**President's Report:** Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 54th AGM of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society.

To call my address a report is a bit of a misnomer as I suspect that most of you know more about the year's activities than I do, even though Golf 4 Bravo Echo Quebec keeps me well informed.

Some achievements during the year, however I will mention: the creation of one accurate Master Data Base for the Society, the update of our Constitution, BT allowing us to pay fees at the private rate rather than the professional rate, the introduction of a Certificate of Appreciation for where a Certificate of Merit is not appropriate and the move into Digital Voice Communication.

I met up with our daughter's Australian in-laws in London earlier in the year and father had been advised by friends in Australia to visit HMS BELFAST which had obviously made a big impression on them. I went round with him and what I assume was the Bridge Wireless Office was a hive of activity, impressive and of great interest to the visiting

crowds. I did not attempt to speak with anyone for fear of interrupting the flow, but it was good to see another operating base.

In closing, I would commend to you your Committee and in particular the Chairman and Secretary. The Society is effective and runs smoothly, however this does not just happen, it takes guidance, time and effort to make it happen and they do this. I am delighted that Doug is remaining as the Chairman for another year and wish him every continuing success - and finally thank you all for attending today.

**Minutes of the 2013 AGM:** Proposed by Dave G4JBE and seconded by Bill G3TZM and accepted unanimously.

**Chairman's Report:** Before giving my report I would like to draw to your attention to the listing of those of our members who have crossed the bar during the past and those whose passing we have been notified. In the time honoured tradition I would therefore ask you to stand and join me in one minutes silence as a mark of respect.

I trust you have all enjoyed your tot and lunch and have taken advantage to inspect the shack as well as purchasing/ordering commodities.

The year has passed quickly and of course like all other societies we have had our ups and downs. I would however like to pay tribute to that small band of dedicated members who are responsible for keeping our society alive and kicking. Like all societies and clubs large or small you have the doers and those who belong. The ratio rarely varies with the doers representing around 1 or 2 % the remainder just belong. T'was ever thus. Let me introduce you to that dedicated few that keep this Society afloat and to whom we owe our gratitude.

**Diana, GORN0**, for all the hard work and effort in keeping all informed and policing our data comms.

**Dave, G4JBE**, also has considerable input here as he is Diana's silent partner. Between them they ensure that anyone stepping out of line using these public modes are quickly brought back on station.

**Wally, G4DIU**, another bulwark of the society, has maintained the membership side of things often when being far from well. He is dedicated to the society and a great believer in "if you have a job to do, then do it well"

**Colin, GM6HGW**, who I am delighted to see here today, maintains our News Letter to a very high standard and only asks for two things. 1. Articles. 2. Before you contact him make sure he is the right person you need. He is the Editor, not the Membership Secretary, responsible for RNARS Nets or commodities or any other duty within the society

**Adrian, M3ZNU**, our treasurer, who works tirelessly in the background keeping a firm grip on our finances and is always keen to see we get the best value for money.

**Doug, GOMIU**, another strong supporter who has taken on several roles over the past years and continues to supply an excellent commodity line at very low prices, if you do not believe me when you are next at a rally you compare our prices to those of other societies. Another very demanding and time consuming task he undertakes is getting the NL printed and mailed to all those who have hard copies. Incidentally if you fail to receive your hard copy – he is the man to contact, not Colin

**Nigel, MONAF**, Shack Manager, is an extremely dedicated and hardworking member who puts a tremendous amount of hours in maintaining the shack as well as operating. As you will hear when he gives his report we are well to the front where equipment and operating modes are concerned.

**Mick, G3LIK**, always on hand to step in and help albeit his health is unfortunately restricting his activities. It is Mick you have to thank for once again setting up the facilities for this AGM. He will accept all your thanks in the form of purchasing all his raffle tickets.

**Bill, G3TZM**, looks after our publicity and has proved a great help in the maintenance side of our antennas as well as supporting our members in Malta in a practical way.

**Marc, G0TOC**, QSL Manager, maintains our bureau and has proved a very useful contact for those visiting HMS Belfast.

**Ian, G4KJD**, Awards Manager. Ian would very much like to be more active but unfortunately he is prevented from being so by you, the members. We have some very attractive awards for various events but members seem reluctant to claim them. Strange really as unlike other societies we do not charge for them. I had thought perhaps if we did so maybe people would want them? Maybe not.

I have not forgotten all those members who ensure we have a presence at the Rallies who deserve our thanks but I will correct that later on. Finally and without doubt the hardest working member of all and is, in my opinion, the most important officer within the Society **Joe, our Secretary**. His skills in dealing with all enquiries and prompt actions do credit to us all. He maintains a first class Web Site that is possibly one of the most up to date of any site on the Internet. He is always keen to improve it and I know spends many hours maintaining it.

The Collingwood Radio Society, G3BZU, although small in numbers, is very active and meets regularly here in the shack on Tuesday evenings. The third Tuesday of the month is dedicated to ATV. I am sure you are all aware that providing you have a computer you can watch ATV



by going to [www.batc.tv](http://www.batc.tv). Earlier this year some of the members made a visit to HMS Belfast where they were very well looked after by our London members. It would be more truthful if I said they were spoilt.

The big event of the year was HMS Collingwood Open Day which thanks to our TV teams events were broadcast worldwide resulting in many messages being sent back to Collingwood stating how impressed they were with the coverage. This always goes down well with the hierarchy and keeps us well to the front within the establishment. Sounds simple but I can assure you a lot of hard work and planning goes into this. We are already preparing for next year's event.

The HQ Shack is an official examination centre for which Joe is responsible as the registered secretary for all licences. We have not to date held courses there as these are held under the control of our affiliated club, Horndean Radio Club. This club is well populated with RNARS members who are very active and provide us with all the support we need here at Collingwood during Open Days. The main instructors for radio classes are in fact Simon, GOIEY and Nigel MOMAF who I might add are all kept firmly under control by Julia GOIUY, like Diana a very formidable lady who tolerates no nonsense. She even ropes me in to do the CW appreciation side, the fact I am old, fragile and have a 38 mile round trip to carry out this task does not come into it.

At this point I would like to make an appeal to all members to help me achieve the final goal I set myself when taking over the chair and that was to increase the membership. We are actually holding our own, but only just. At present any new members we have recruited have either come through our members who man stands at rallies, the odd one or two from visiting our web site or through an occasional member. During my term as Chairman I have recruited 20 new members. Can I therefore appeal to you all to make it a resolution to recruit one new member before the next AGM? This appeal is to all members and not just those here in this room. If only 20% of our members manage to recruit just one person then our numbers would rapidly increase to 4 digits. Where else can you get three superb newsletters in glorious Technicolor for £5 a year and that is only one benefit the RNARS provides.

*Doug G4BEQ*

**Secretary's Report:** The HQ Shack continues to operate as an examination centre, usually for the Advanced Exam. Our next exam will be on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

At the suggestion of a Committee member the Committee reviewed the 2010 Constitution particularly the Society's affiliation to the RSGB. A new Constitution was drafted and discussed and this will be presented for

endorsement at the EGM immediately following this AGM. The Society continues to be affiliated to the RSGB.

At the suggestion of one of our members the Society now has a 50 year membership certificate. There is also a blazer badge that will be funded by the Society for every recipient of the certificate.

Thanks to work by Bill G3TZM the Plymouth Group which had formally been wound up, has now been absorbed back into the main Society.

A new digital award – the BITS award was started to encourage digital mode activity among members and Peter HZ1PS was able to claim certificate number one.

Lapel badges with the new logo were ordered and have proven to be very popular.

*Joe G3ZDF*

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Current membership stands at 650. Six members have applied for the 50 year membership certificate of whom two, G3LIK and G3LCS have the necessary length of service. The certificates and blazer badges will be sent to Mick and Des.

*Wally G4DIU*

#### **Treasurer's Report ~ 2013 - 2014**

Balance carried forward at 1 April 2013: £46,777-09

Un-presented cheques 2012-13: £282-19

Subtotal: £46,494-90

Total income: £56,997-60

Expenditure: £7,025-36

Balance of Accounts at 31 March 2014: **£49,972.24**

This report has been summarised for the Newsletter, a full copy of the accounts and auditor's statement can be had on request.

*Adrian Mori 2E0JVM*

#### **Presentation of RNARS Awards ~ G3WJN Trophy RNARS Merit Award:**

Colin GM6HGW for his long service as Editor of the Society's Newsletter.

**Certificate of Merit to:** Ray G3KOJ for his service as Shack Manager and Vice-Chairman. Hans-Juergen DK9OS & Maren DK9MOS for their hospitality to visiting members and for their technical assistance with copies of The Communicator.

**Robert Sharpe G3AWY Award:** Ken Randall, (G3RFH No 175) for his article on a balanced ATU in the Winter 2013 NL. **Certificates of Appreciation:** London (HMS Belfast) Group, Wally Walker G4DIU, Alan 2E1HHA, Phil G1LKJ, Paul G3VCN, Dave G4JBE, Glenn G0GBI, Joe G3ZDF, John GM4VUG, George G3NIR.

**Manager's Reports – Shack manager:** Since the last committee meeting the D-star radio has been purchased and installed. It is now fully working (thanks to Neville (G0FOD) for putting in the repeaters) and is usually in use on a Tuesday afternoon.

A stock check has been done with Ray (G3KOJ) on handover of the role.

On Tuesday 9th the HF (south) mast was lowered and examined. As a result the VHF co-linear was condemned and removed. The raising wire cable is in a poor condition. It has to be replaced on safety grounds. Doug (G4BEQ) is going to check if this can be done through Collingwood contractors. If not then we will have to get quotes and have the work done by an external firm. A big thank you to Simon and Julia tribe, and Christine and Frank Cotton for their invaluable help with the HF mast on Tuesday.

In future a check will be made on each mast every year in an attempt to use routine maintenance to prevent the corrosion and damage that was found on Tuesday.

A 7 element 2M Yagi has been donated to the club and this will be fitted to the HF mast for 2M SSB and CW use. This will provide yet another facility that we do not have at the present time.

Work is in hand to tidy the end wall by the HF rig, and also to box in the cables in each bay and add the edging to make each bay look tidier. Drawers are being investigated for storage of computer keyboards, again to make the bays look more efficient and streamlined.

*Nigel Auckland, MONAF*

Carl Mason GW0VSW said he knew of the disposal of some video equipment by the BBC and would be willing to put Nigel in touch with the appropriate people. Nigel did not need to be asked twice.

**Manager's Report – QSL Manager:** Since the 2013 AGM the QSL bureau has received 165 cards, which is a 53% decrease from the 348 reported last year.

The 165 cards received were for 91 callsign holders and of these, Mick G3LIK received 7 and the LG and Bob N4XAT both received 6 cards each. No other member received any more than 4 cards. Of the 165 cards, over half were sent by 3 members; Bill G3TZM sent 33, Mick G3LIK, 30 and Bob N4XAT, 24. 36 cards and 3 cards were also received from the Royal Signals and Royal Air Force ARS bureaus respectively. Of the remaining 39 cards, 37 were received from 6 members and 2 from two American non-member stations. No cards were received from the FISTS bureau.

Once again, as stated last year, during the past 12 months I have seen the lowest QSL activity since taking on the role as bureau manager in 2008. I recently spoke with Bryan Downes M00IC, who manages the Royal Signals QSL bureau. Brian said that there has been a small decline in QSL cards coming through the RS bureau however the number of cards that Bryan sees far exceeds those being processed by me. Bryan handles more in a single month, than I have in the past year.

Since the last AGM, 75 cards have been distributed either by post, here at Collingwood or at the London Group AGM / Easter Activity Week, to 22 members; a 63% decrease when compared to the 205 cards distributed over the previous period. Of these 75 cards, 18 were sent to Carl GW0VSW and 10 to Dave G4ZMP for their GB50RNARS activations. Of the remaining 47 cards, 6 were for the London Group and 5 were for Mick G3LIK. The rest were for another 23 members of whom nobody received more than 4 cards. 1 card was sent to the RSARS bureau – in fact, I passed the card to my Royal Signals counterpart at the National Hamfest at Newark and 4 cards were sent to the RAFARS bureau. I'll take this opportunity to thank Peter Lambert DL8BEL for taking a number of uncollected cards back to Germany for onward distribution to DL members after the London Group's Easter Activity Week. I would like to remind members not to send me cards for MF, MFCA or INORC as these organisations do not provide a QSL bureau service for their members.

The number of cards in the bureau currently stands at 304 and of these, 52 are for 21 overseas members and 127 are for 70 UK members who either have no SSAEs or have made no provision to collect their cards from the bureau. The bureau also holds 902 SSAEs for 249 callsign holders.

Payment via PayPal remains an option to cover the cost of overseas postage, with the balance of each subscriber's postal funds openly viewable on the RNARS QSL Bureau Yahoo! Group online lookup service. Members might have noticed, however, that their QSL card and SSAE data on the Yahoo! Group is in need of updating. This backlog has been brought about by changes implemented by Yahoo to their online database system, which has made editing somewhat more time-consuming and onerous – so much for progress! Members should, however, feel free to contact me to check their QSL card and / or SSAE status here after the AGM or by the usual communication channels.

I have already informed the Secretary, but will state here that, pending approval of the AGM, I am happy to continue managing the QSL Bureau and to remain on the committee of the Society.

*Marc Litchman, G0TOC*

**Manager's Report – Data Comms:** The RNARS Yahoo Group was launched nine years ago. Membership of the group is restricted to current members of the society. Anyone who becomes lapsed, or who resigns, is removed from the group membership list but can of course re-subscribe once they are again a current member or have re-joined the society.

The group's website shows the amount of activity in the last seven days, and a table listing the number of messages sent over the years.

It also has a link for joining the group:  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/RNARS/info>

The group is an ideal way for members to send out activity reports, ask questions, reminisce about times past, old ships etc. It is also used for any "Stop Press" items that may crop up in between my weekly RNARS eNews bulletins.

Another source of news is the society's website where Joe G3ZDF, the RNARS webmaster, has a news section on the front page.

My thanks to the RNARS Committee and Managers for all they do on our behalf, to all those who send me updates and snippets for the news and to Dave G4JBE for his assistance as group co-moderator.

*Diana GORNO*

**Manager's Report – Webmaster:** On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Bob Jennings, G3NXV for continuing to provide free hosting facilities for our website.

I have continued to add to the range of content available on the website. Contests results.

The RAFARS and RSARS skeds are now in our skeds page.

Current activity in the HQ Shack during Open Days or periods of special activity.

Details and recipients of the Robert Sharpe G3AWY Award.

Details and recipients of the Submarine ARC Award.

Additional copies of the The Communicator. A photo in the Summer 1956 copy of the magazine enabled someone to find their biological father whom they had been searching for something like 25 years. The photo was of a football team from Ceylon West in 1955. The person's wife noticed the similarity in appearance and name of one of the players and used that to trace the husband's birth family. Unfortunately the birth father had died but this person is now in touch with a whole new family. I still have 4 issues to scan. Someone in Yorkshire contacted me and offered to lend me copies of issues I had not scanned and I will be taking up the offer.

I am currently testing a facility where it will only be necessary to enter the password once when you come on to the site rather than having to enter it for every document.

I am always looking for suggestions about new items on the site.

*Joe G3ZDF*

**Manager's Report - Area Rep Co-ordinator:** We continue to be present at a range of Rallies across the country. My thanks to those who represent us.

Robert our Australian representative submitted a report on the Australian Branch which is attached.

**Manager's Report – Newsletter Editor:** President, Chairman, members all, good afternoon. Knowing you'll all be keen to socialise, I'll be brief.

As editor of the Newsletter I am totally reliant on submissions from members, no articles, equals no Newsletter. I am also reminded that for many members who can't get on the air, access the internet or use e-mail, the Newsletter is their only contact with the society. Therefore I give priority to news of the society such as committee minutes, rally reports, news from affiliated clubs and membership updates; ever mindful it is as its name suggests, a newsletter. A few reports and pictures from our affiliated clubs would be welcomed as it lets the wider membership know about their activities.

However, criticism comes from some quarters regarding the lack of technical items. The answer is quite simple, if I don't receive them, I can't publish them. Having said that, I refer to what I've already said about keeping news about the society to the forefront. It is interesting to note that Practical Wireless and Radcom carry fewer constructional articles than they did some years ago, perhaps because the internet is full of homebrew projects and technical subjects with which our newsletter is not in competition with.

A working relationship has been established between myself and the editor of the Radio Officers Association newsletter for swapping articles of common interest. I am also in contact with the RAF-ARS with a similar reciprocal arrangement. But to date have heard nothing from the Royal Signals ARS.

One point concerning submissions to our Newsletter, I often receive articles copied directly from web sites or published sources; due to copyright laws I will not use them. If it is a web site, I will print a link, but not copy verbatim the supplied script, the same goes for photographs and images, I require the owner's permission to use them.

Finally, please, can I ask you all to read and note the last few lines of all my editorials concerning how to e-mail me? The reason I use a filter

sensitive to characters in the subject of e-mails is to protect my computer and ultimately all the members in my Newsletter distribution list. The filter has successfully blocked a very high number of infected e-mails from members who have had their accounts hacked to carry out phishing attacks and transmit viruses. E-mails with anything other than RNARS in the subject are automatically deleted and I don't see them. All you have to do is insert RNARS into the subject of your e-mail for it to be received at my end.

In closing, my thanks to all the members who have supported me; a special mention to Joe Kirk our secretary, Doug Bowen and his wife for the postal distribution of the Newsletter, Doug Hotchkiss as chair and a very special thank you to Wally Walker our membership officer for his personal encouragement, assistance and all the hard work he does in the background for the society.

*Colin Topping*

**Manager's Reports – Awards Manager:** Herewith the list of claims for the period in question. It's been another quiet year on the awards front – even more so than last year. No doubt it's a reflection on the general decline in activity levels on all bands. The awards issued have been as follows:-

World Wide Award – No Applications.

International Navy Award – No Applications.

Mercury Award – No Applications.

Kaleidoscope Award – No Applications.

Hampshire County Award – No Applications.

BITs Award – Peter/HZ1PS.

*Ian Pitkin G4KJD*

### **Australian Group**

Membership- We gained four members during the year but Lost Eric Leach at ninety on Good Friday 2014.

Finances are slowly falling from approximately \$1500 to around \$1350. The greatest expenses have been postage, renewal of VK1 and VK6 RAN licences, photocopy paper, inks for the printer and envelopes. VK6RAN has been activated and VK5RAN SK. (Eric was RNARS-A treasurer)

Each month we publish a newsletter called the "SIGNAL" with subjects covering; HMQS ship GAYUNDAH, the first radio contact between ship and shore in Australia. ANZAC DAY tribute to merchant marine sailors and liner ships lost in WW2. The ENIGMA MACHINE published over 3 months. John Trists article on patrolling and radio operation in the Malaysian Emergency. The FUZZY WUZZY angels during the NEW Guinea campaign in WW2. The BIKA PAKA battle to close down the German radio

station on New Britain Island. Australians first ground force and naval action of WW1 on 9/9/1914.

The story of the EF50 valve which helped to win the WW2 war. Approximately 250 sheets of paper was required.

A weekly net on 7.085MHz at 0400 UTC on Saturdays is run by Ron Hanel with an average call in of around fourteen members and non-members. This is a change from the old frequency of 7.090MHz.

*Robert Dew VK1DE / VK1RAN*

### **Election of officers.**

The following were elected unanimously:

Chairman - Doug Hotchkiss G4BEQ

Treasurer - Adrian Mori 2E0JVM

Secretary – Joe Kirk G3ZDF

Membership Secretary – Wally Walker G4DIU

**Election of new Committee for 2014/2015:** The following were elected unanimously as members of the Committee Bill Mahoney G3TZM, Dave Lacey G4JBE, Doug Bowen G0MIU, Marc Litchman G0TOC, Nigel Auckland MONAF, Neville Grant G0FOD, Al Terry G4PZV. The Chairman said he would be appointing Simon G0IEY as Maintenance Manager and Julia G0IUY as Almoner.

**Election of Auditors:** We will continue to use the services of our existing auditor.

**Date of next AGM:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015

The AGM was followed by an **Extraordinary General Meeting** to consider the proposed 2014 Constitution.

The Chairman said that the proposed Constitution had been published in the Summer Newsletter. He pointed out that the list of membership qualifying organisations had been widened. It was proposed by Bill G3TZM that the list of organisations be widened to include 'reserves'.

The revised Constitution was approved unanimously with the proposed changes.

Due to lack of space, pictures from the AGM will be in the Spring edition, my apologies to all who took the time to send pictures in.

Colin



**Summer Caption Competition winner is Ken Randall** with a quotation from the book *Treasure Island*; "Have ya got a bit 'o cheese for ole Ben Gunn".

This was very closely followed by **Ken Lown's** entry; "Just been down the job centre to get a job as Father Christmas".



And the **Winter Caption Competition**; see what you can come up with to fill the empty speech balloon. What's the officer saying to David Cameron as two armed matelots take to rowing boats?

~~~~~

QRT- Editorial

Thanks once again to all who have taken the time to submit articles and contact me. I've had a few enquiries as to the font I use. Knowing that some of us are optically challenged and resort to reading glasses, I took advice from a friend who works with the partially sighted as to the best typeset to use and was advised to use Bookman Old Style as it is much wider than other fonts, so now you know.

You may well have noticed in the Summer edition that our Commodities Manager has sourced a number of exciting new lines, the clothing items in particular are of very high quality and most can be personalised with name and callsign. With the increased range I have spread the commodities over two pages. If I'd retained the previous layout, the order form would have reduced in size to the extent that it would have required a magnifying glass to complete the form.

Returning to the lack of submission I receive from members, the Radio Officers Association produces their Newsletter four times a year set out on A4 size paper and comprises of around fifty pages. Surely there must be a fair few of you out there that have ideas for articles. Don't worry about the spelling and grammar, I can sort that out. All I ask is that it is submitted by e-mail or sent in on a disk as I do not have time to decipher hand writing and type it all out.

I've been asked by a number of members why the need to **only enter RNARS** in the subject field of e-mails to **rnars@colinsmagic.com**. For mail to this address, I use a server run by a friend. To protect myself against infected e-mails and spam, the server uses a filter that only allows mail to pass through based on characters in the subject. Over the years that the Newsletter has been available by e-mail and I started a list of members who have subscribed, the filter has blocked a good number of infected e-mails from members on the list who have had their e-mail accounts hacked. Therefore not only does the filter protect me, if you receive your Newsletter by e-mail it is protecting you as well.

Got to close now, so nothing else to do but wish everyone all the very best for the festive season which is only weeks away, and I promised a friend who is an atomic research scientist and is having problems with hemorrhoids a lift to the doctor. I think he's got nuclear piles.

Regards, *Colin*

Contacting the editor

E-mail: rnars@colinsmagic.com **Remember; only enter "RNARS" in the subject.**

Telephone: 01592774085 Outside UK 00441592774085

Mobile: 07871959654 Outside UK 00447871959654

Postal Address: 26 Crathes Close, Glenrothes, KY7 4SS, UK

Subscribing to the Newsletter via e-mail

Open a blank e-mail

Address it to: rnars@colinsmagic.com

In the subject only enter Newsletter Subscription

In the body of your e-mail, enter your name, postal address, membership number and callsign.

Web Watch

Have you found an interesting web site, pass it on and I'll share it in the Newsletter. If you receive your Newsletter by e-mail, you should be able to click directly on the URL's below to open the web site.

LORAN makes a come back	http://tinyurl.com/le6dv23
Balun and aerial information:	http://tinyurl.com/p53jr56
Lots of RN goodies for sale:	http://tinyurl.com/oqvws18
Myths of Nelson's Navy	http://tinyurl.com/qc366c9
Titanic Myths	http://tinyurl.com/p5tvfej
Navy Lark Film	http://tinyurl.com/phgyfn9

RAFARS Nets

With an invitation to RNARS members to join in.

RAFARS Nets	Time	Freq	Control / Notes
Daily	1100 A	3.71	G2AFV G3HWQ
	1830 A	3.71	GI4SAM MØRGI
Monday	1900 A	3.7	G3PSG GØBIA
Tuesday	0730 A	14.27	
	1400 A	7.015	
	1900 A	3.567	G4IYC
Wednesday	1500 Z	14.29	
	1530 Z	21.29	
Thursday	1830 Z	14.17	ZC4RAF
Friday	0730 A	14.055	CW Net
Sunday	0900 Z	5.403	
First Monday of the month	1000 A	3.71	

RAFARS Calling Frequencies (MHz)								
1.855	1.993	3.515	3.71	7.015	7.045	10.112	14.055	14.27
18.07	18.11	21.055	21.29	24.892	24.93	28.065	28.590	

Joint Service Net

Day	Time Local	Frequ	Control
Sunday	09:00	5.4035	G3RAF
Tuesday	19:00	5.4035	G3RAF



RNARS Nets

All frequencies +/- QRM. DX nets are GMT; UK nets are GMT or BST as appropriate. The list is compiled by Mick Puttick G3LIK
mick_g3lik@ntlworld.com Telephone: 02392255880.

UK Nets	Time Local	Frequ	Net	Control
Daily	2359-0400	145.727	Midnight Nutters	Vacant
Sun	0800	3.667	News 0830	G3LIK
	1000	7.088	Northern Net	GM4VUG
	1100	145.4	Cornish Net	GØGRY
	1100	7.02	CW Net	G4TNI
Mon-Fri	1030	7.065/3.743	Bubbly Rats	GØGBI/GWØSFI GØOKA/MØZAE
Mon	1400	3.575/7.02	QRS CW	GØVCV
	1900	3.742	North West-News 2000	GØGBI
Tue	1900	3.528	CW NET	G3LCS
Wed	1400	3.74/7.088	White Rose	G4KGT
	1930	3.743	SSB News 2000	GØOAK
	2000	145.4	Stand Easy	Vacant
Thur	1900	3.542	Scottish CW	Vacant
	2000 GMT	1.835	Top Band CW	GØCHV/G4KJD
Fri	1600	10.118	CW	SM4AHM
Sat	0800	3.74/7.088	GØDLH Memorial Net	GØVIX
DX	Time GMT	Frequ	Net	Control
Daily	0800	14.303	Maritime Mobile	G4FRN
	1800	14.303	Maritime Mobile	G4FRN
Sun	0800	7.015/30555	MARAC CW	PA3EBA/PI4MRC
	1430	21.41/28.94	RNARS DX	WA1HMW
	1900	14.33	N American	WA1HMW
Mon	0930	30615	VK SSB	VK1IRAN/VK2RAN
Wed	0118-0618	7.02	VK CW	VK4RAN
	0148-0648	10.118	VK SSB	VK4RAN
	0800	3.62	ZL SSB	ZL1BSA
	0930	7.02	VK SSB	VK5RAN
	0945	7.09	VK SSB	VK1IRAN/VK2RAN
Thur	1430	21.14	DX Net	WA1HMW
Sat	0400	7.09	VK SSB	VK2CCV
	1330	7.02	VK CW	VK2CCV
	1400	7.09	VK SSB	VK2CCV
	1430	21.41	RNARS DX	WA1HMW

RNARS activity frequencies									
FM	145.4								
CW	1.824	3.52	7.02	10.118	14.052	18.087	21.052	24.897	28.052
SSB	1.965	3.66	3.74	7.088	14.294	14.335	18.15	21.36	28.94

RNARS Commodities – With the all new ‘personalised’ range.

Item	Price	
NEW Logo Polo shirt embroidered with RNARS logo, Name and Callsign Colour: Navy only Sizes: S to XXXL	£16-00 P&P £3-00	
New Logo Sweatshirt embroidered RNARS logo, Name and Callsign Colour: Navy only Sizes: S to XXXL	£16.00 P&P £3.00	Clothing items marked “New Logo” are embroidered with your Name & Callsign as above.
NEW Logo Fleece jacket embroidered with RNARS logo, Name and Callsign Colour: Navy only Sizes: S to XXXL	£21-00 P&P £3-00	
NEW Logo Gold blazer badge	£10-00 P&P £2-00	
New Logo Lapel badge	£2-00 P&P £1-00	
RNARS Tie with old logo	£4-00 P&P £2-00	
Baseball cap with old logo	£4-00 P&P £2-00	
RNARS Log Book	£4-00 P&P £2-00	

RNARS Commodities Order Form
PLEASE write clearly and use block CAPITALS

Photocopies of this form are accepted

Callsign | RNARS No: _____ | _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Post Code: _____
Telephone: _____

Advisable to check before ordering as to availability in your size.

Item Description	Size	Colour	Qty	Price	P&P	Sub Total
Total Enclosed £						

Overseas members, please add £5 to cover additional postage.

Please send completed order form together with a postal order or cheque made payable to **RNARS** to:

Doug Bowen GØMIU, 14 Braemar Road, Gosport, PO13 0YA
rnarscommodities@btinternet.com

Please allow fourteen days for delivery and while these prices are correct when going to press, prices do vary and are subject to change.