



Vol. 1 No. 1

GLASGOW RADIO AMATEUR DIGEST.

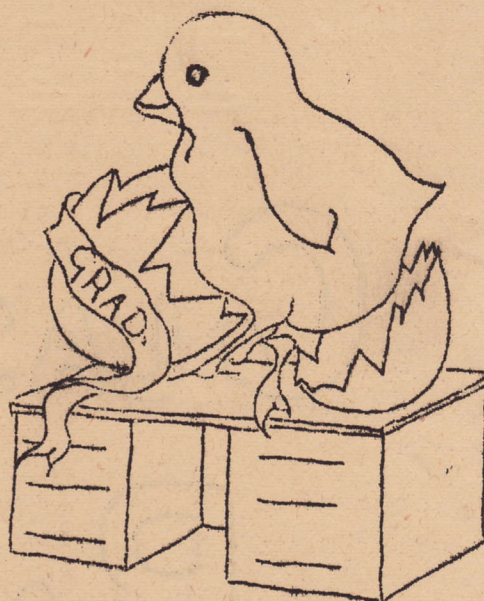
A newsletter for and by the Radio Amateurs of Glasgow and District.

Published by: W. R. Eadie, GM4JO
32 Mitre Rd.,
Glasgow, W.4.



VOL. 1 NO. 1.
APRIL 1952.

THE EDITOR'S DESK



ABOUT OURSELVES.

You will recall that in January of this year we tried the experiment of issuing a newsletter. Its favourable reception made us pause and think again about the whole idea. From the many letters and verbal comments it was clear that something a bit more ambitious than we had originally planned would be even more acceptable. The result is "GRAD".

At the outset let us be quite clear that this is not intended to be a technical journal in the normal sense of the word. It will supplement rather than supplant the orthodox press. It is a newsletter for the interchange of ideas and information among the radio amateurs of this district. As such its success will depend almost entirely on the use which local amateurs make of it.

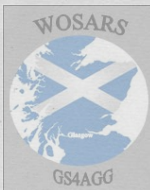
Glasgow is a large district where in there must be many interested in the hobby of radio. So far we have been able to make contact with only about one hundred at the monthly RSGB meetings. Moreover, these meetings, as explained in our last newsletter, can only play a limited part in our amateur life. As a district we are very loosely knit together, so that any idea which will bring us more closely in touch with others having kindred interests, merits every encouragement.

It is therefore up to you, fellows, to keep "GRAD" posted with what you are doing and thinking. If you have any snippet of news or information, pass it along. Never mind whether it is written in good English or not. We will thrash it into shape. Technical articles will also be very welcome and the same thing applies.

Let us hear too from the newcomers. We were all newcomers once upon a time tomorrow you will be the old-timers. Your ambitions and ideas are therefore of very great importance. Let us hear them.

You will note that in the "make-up" of "GRAD", no mention has been made of the RSGB. This has been done after very careful thought on the subject. It does not mean that RSGB news will not be reported - far from it. As you will see from this issue such news will be treated as if this were an RSGB newsletter. It does mean, however, that "GRAD" can at all times devote itself entirely to the special interests of the radio amateurs of our district without having first to consult or be answerable to anyone but ourselves. I know that after mature consideration of the subject you will agree that this is most definitely the best policy for all concerned.

Now about the cost of "GRAD". We have been simply appalled on finding the present day cost of paper. The greater part of the price of "GRAD" is in the



paper and there is no way out of it. The subscription of 4/6 for six issues post free, is the result of much thought and calculation.

"GRAD" is of course being run on a non-profit-making basis for the sole benefit of the Amateur Radio movement in our area. All time involved is being given free. The only professional charges are for the typing of the stencils and the printing.

You will note that the type is smaller than usual. This will give the maximum "gen" for a given amount of paper. The number of pages too will vary with the number of subscribers, the copy available and the actual running costs as we find them. The more subscribers we have the cheaper it will be to produce, so do a spot of propaganda wherever you can.

"GRAD" will be available only on a subscription basis. The sale of single copies would be quite unworkable as also would distribution of copies at RSGB meetings.

Well, there it is fellows. To the many radio friends I now have in the district and whom, alas, I see only too seldom, I hope to add many more through these pages. No doubt, being amateurs at this game too, we will make mistakes but I know you will be indulgent over them. Difficulties will arise in plenty but there again, with the versatility and perseverance which is the essence of the good radio amateur, we will surmount them all.

Remember, no matter what line you are working on, there is bound to be someone else to whom it will be of interest and who may be able to help you with his experience. So let's hear from you, for "GRAD" - your own newsletter - is on the air!

4JO

TOP-BAND.

by C.H. Robertson. GM3DOC.

The following notes regarding commercial activity in the shared band 1715 to 2000kcs may be of general interest. D/F constructors may find such activity useful, as rough bearings could be taken of several transmissions. The exact latitude and longitude of each station is available, should this be required. The regulations regarding secrecy of correspondence are stressed, but I feel that a knowledge of commercial working may prevent QRM incidents, and provide more satisfactory communication for both amateur and commercial.

Commercial transmitters in and near the band are generally British marine coast station radio telephone equipment operating on their working or traffic frequencies. Countless European and other transmissions are also of marine origin, and may be heard using CW or ICW. In addition, the band is used by lighthouses, coastguards, and other marine special services.

All coast stations maintain continuous or regular watch on 1650 kcs. This frequency is used for radio, telephone, marine distress, urgency, safety and initial calls prior to shifting to working frequencies. The working waves of British radio telephone ships are confined to the bands 2005-2020 kcs. (149 mtrs. approx.) and 2100-2115kcs (141mtrs. approx.). For transmissions between ships, the bands 2125-2145kcs (140mtrs. approx.) and 2215-2235kcs (134mtrs. approx.) are used. Almost all transmitters are crystal controlled. The arrangements for telegraphy working are quite different, and use frequencies which do not affect any present amateur band.

The following list (British section,) gives the station name (which is used for R/T working), call sign, (mostly used on telegraphy frequencies only), and the working frequency which falls in the band shared by amateurs, or close



to the band.

Most marine coast stations regularly transmit lists of ships for which traffic is on hand. British shore stations transmit this list at either 3 or 33 minutes past each odd hour. The figure 3 or 33 given in brackets after the working frequency in the list will indicate which is appropriate. Other traffic working is almost continuous, however, and safety warnings etc. are broadcast immediately they are received at the station.

It is hardly necessary to mention that all commercial marine stations operate under very strict regulations, and maintain an extremely high standard of operating and watch-keeping. Their primary function, to preserve the safety of life at sea, is much appreciated by all ships crews. British coast stations are controlled and operated by G.P.O. personnel, who will immediately record and report any infringement of regulations, whether from commercial or other sources.

G. BRITAIN ETC.

NEWHAVEN	RADIO	(GUV)	1715kcs	(no fixed hours)
WICK	RADIO	(GKR)	1835kcs	(3 mins.)
STONEHAVEN		(GND)	1825kcs	(33 mins.)
CULLERCOATS	RADIO	(GCC)	1845	(3 mins.)
HUMBER	RADIO	(GKZ)	1825Kcs	(33)
NORTH FORELAND	RADIO	(GNF)	1835kcs	(3)
NITON	RADIO	(GNI)	1825kcs	(33)
JERSEY HARBOUR	RADIO	(GUD)	1710kcs	(33)
GUERNSEY HARBOUR	RADIO	(GUC)	1710kcs	(33)
LANDS END RADIO		(GLD)	1845 kcs.	(3)
BURNHAM RADIO		(GRL)	1835 kcs.	(33)
SEAFORTH RADIO		(GLV)	1845 kcs.	(3)
FORTPATRICK RADIO		(GPK)	1825 kcs.	(33)
OBAN RADIO		(GNE)	1841 kcs.	(3)
FOLKESTONE HARBOUR	RADIO	(GUR)	1705 kcs.	(No fixed hours.)

IRISH REPUBLIC

MALIN HEAD RADIO (EJM) 1835 kcs. (3)
VALENTIA RADIO (EJK) 1825 kcs. (33)

FRANCE:

DUNKERQUE PORT (FFF) 1725 kcs.
TOULON & BALISAGE (TRO2) 1975 kcs.
(Most others above 2 mcs.)

SWEDEN

GOTEBORG (SDG) 1755 kcs.
STAVSNAS (SDJ) 1763 kcs.
(Most others above 2 mcs.)

NORWAY

HAMMERFEST (LGI) 1785 kcs.
VARDO (LAV) 1792 kcs.
OSLO (LGO) 1785 kcs.
TROMSO (LGE) 1792 kcs.
BODO (LGP) 1785 kcs. And several
HARSTAD (LGH) 1778 kcs. others on the
RORVIK (LGD) 1792 kcs. same fre-
ALESUND (LGA) 1785 kcs. quencies
FLORO (LGL) 1792 kcs. (i.e. 1778,
BERGEN (LGN) 1778 kcs. 1785, 1792)
HAUGESUND (LGM) 1785 kcs.
STAVANGER (LGQ) 1792 kcs.
FARSUND (LGZ) 1785 kcs.
TJORNE (LGT) 1778 kcs.

DENMARK:

THORSHAVN (OXJ) 1746 kcs. (See Faeroe Islands)
RINGSTED (OXC) 1725 kcs.
RONNE RADIO (OYE) 1850 kcs.
LYNGBY (OXZ) 1746 kcs.
BLAAVAND (OXB) 1736 kcs. (also receives traffic on 1928)
VYL LIGHT VESSEL (OUY) 1736 kcs.
(Many others above 2 mcs.)

BELGIUM:

OSTEND (OSU) 1867 kcs.

PORTUGAL:

LISBOA RADIO (CUL) 1928 kcs. (receives some traffic on 1714 kcs.) Most other stations transmit on 1714 kcs.

GERMANY: (Most others above 2 mcs.)
ELBE-WESER (DAC) uses 1885 kcs. (A1, A3) and 1895 kcs. (A1/A2) for fishing vessels.

NETHERLANDS:

BRANDARIS (PIB) 1715 kcs.
KIJKDUIN (PIA) 1715 kcs.
SCHEVENINGA (PCH) 1800 kcs.

FAEROE ISLANDS:

THORSHAVN (OXJ) 1746 kcs. (receives some traffic on 1928 kcs.)

POLAND:

ADYNIA (SPC) 1818 kcs.

RUSSIA:

ARKHANGELSK RADIO (UTS) 1880 kcs.
ASTARA (UIU) 1700 kcs.
ARTEMA OSTROV (UIV) 1700 kcs.
DEBARKADER DONBASS (UCL) 1700 kcs.

A NEW ACCUMULATOR

Most of us regard the lead-acid accumulator as a necessary evil. The care and attention it requires to keep it in good condition and obtain from it a reasonable life is a strain on one's memory and patience. The "NIFE" accumulator is in many respects a marked improvement on the lead-acid. It gives a considerable reduction in weight and is less easily damaged when left in a discharged condition. Its higher internal resistance is undoubtedly a draw-back and perhaps accounts for it not coming into more widespread use.

The introduction of a new type of accumulator, having none of the defects of the older types is therefore quite an event in the battery world. The newcomer has plates of silver and zinc in an alkaline electrolyte. The specification is quite remarkable. It can be stored indefinitely in a discharged condition, its size is half that of others and only one third to one fifth the weight. The ampere hour efficiency is well over 90%. There are no fumes or spray and topping-up requirements are negligible.

For many purposes, such as miniature receivers and measuring instruments, these accumulators are ideal. The voltage is 1.5v. per cell and the discharge curve is very flat. The one disadvantage is unfortunately the high cost, which will limit the field in which they can be economically used. In the smaller sizes however, they should prove extremely useful.

As an indication of the cost, a 1.5v 1 a.h. capacity is priced at £1. 5/- while a 1.5v. 10 a.h. is £3. 2. 6. The makers are Messrs. Venner Accumulator Ltd. Kingston By-Pass Road, New Malden, Surrey

NOT HEARD ON THE AIR!

A well-known radio amateur was bemoaning the rising cost of living.
"Ah've seen the day when it wus wine, wummin an' soang. Noo it's a hawf pint, the wife an' the wireless!"

PROGRAMME FOR R.S.G.B. MEETING 26th MARCH 1952.Discussion - "Phone v. C.W."

In days gone by the greatest source of controversy which ever hit the radio amateur movement was undoubtedly the merits of phone operation versus those of C.W. To merely mention the subject was sufficient to reduce the most orderly meeting to a state bordering on chaos. We have, of course, progressed a pace from those savage and barbarian days. It takes a subject like "VFO operation" to rouse our fighting blood now-a-days!

Since the war, our ranks have been swelled by many to whom this two-fisted combat is quite unknown. These law-abiding citizens must however, have formed views of their own on this "phone v. C.W." question and it is primarily for their benefit that this discussion is being held. Should phone operation be banned to reduce the interference problem? Should the brasspounders, with their habit of squeezing in where there just isn't room for them, be suppressed or given only certain bands? Is the present "band plan" too severe on the C.W. man? Is speech clipping as successful as was hoped? Should first year men be given phone tickets? Should old-timers be required to pass periodical morse tests?

These, and many more similar questions, actively concern the present-day amateurs. Let us hear what YOU think of them.

(NOTE):-- A rack will be provided outside the door for razors and bicycle chains.)

TALK - "SUGGESTIONS FOR REDUCTION OF TVI".

BY

Mr. Ian Hamilton, GM3CSM.

With the arrival of T.V. the long awaited problem of T.V.I. suddenly looms into reality. There is no doubt either, that it is the most serious problem with which we amateurs have yet had to contend. It is a subject about which we cannot learn too much or too quickly. For that reason the Committee are arranging to have something on the subject in every programme until they are confident that the danger is over.

CSM's technical talks have in the past been much enjoyed and we therefore look forward with interest to what he has to say on this topical question.

PROGRAMME FOR 30th APRIL 1952.

"The R.S.G.B. Harmonic Checker" by Mr. J. Sey, GM8MJ.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY, 7th - 8th JUNE 1952.

Arrangements are now well in hand. Station leaders will be as last year i.e., Station "A" - Mr. J. Sey, GM8MJ; Station "B" - Mr. Ian Hamilton, GM3CSM. After giving careful consideration to the question of a new site it has been decided that, all things considered, Lickprivick Farm, is still the most suitable and both stations will therefore be erected there as before.

A change is however being made in the staffing arrangements. During the past two years we have tried to make Field Day a social event as well as a contest. This has enabled many more to come out and enjoy the fun. The Committee think that this year a special effort should be made to keep the shield in Scotland, and have decided that everything be eliminated which has no direct bearing on the



contest itself. To that end it is proposed to prune the staff to the minimum required and employ only the minimum of equipment. Volunteers for operating are invited to give their names to the T.R. From these will be chosen teams for each station. Volunteers will also be required for the erection and dismantling of the stations.

Let us make a mighty effort this time and see if we cannot bring the much coveted trophy to our fair city.

T.V. COMES TO SCOTLAND

I am no stranger to the subject of television, but watching the opening ceremony of Kirk o' Shotts on Friday and the music hall programme the following evening I must admit that it did give me a thrill. Although it can all be reduced to a question of receivers, time-bases and power supplies - things which are to no every-day contraptions - there is still an element of magic, I feel, in that unique assembly of them that we call a T.V. receiver. Twenty-seven years ago I built my first closed-circuit T.V. transmitter and receiver, yet I still think it astounding that I can sit back at my own fire-side and watch something taking place in London. Will some of the old-timers please tell me, is this the first signs of senile decay?

As I watched, I began to realise why the public in this country and in America, have gone crazy over T.V. There is no doubt about the fact that it gets a hold on you and I can see that it will take a considerable amount of will power to keep it in its place. I can also see that a wounded mamba will be a child's toy compared with a T.V. owner who, having spent a hundred or so pounds on his set, finds that reception is marred by some local radio amateur whose transmitter is not 100% T.V.I. proof. I wonder which Glasgow Hospital will be the first to enjoy the dainty task of removing a nineteen inch rack of steel panels from behind the gills of some unwary amateur.

R.S.G.B. DANCE

As was to be expected, the R.S.G.B. dance, of 13th February last at Cranworth House, was a most enjoyable evening - to those who attended. Of the 80 guests present, only 20 were radio amateurs. The object of running the event, which was to bring local amateurs and their wives and friends together was therefore not achieved.

It would seem that this is not the kind of "do" which appeals to the local boys. This is a very great pity, as experience in other districts has shown that the social side of our hobby can add a tremendous lot to its enjoyment. The lack of interest is of course no new thing to the old timers of the district. It would therefore be of great interest to have views on the subject. For example, are dances not popular because few amateurs can dance? Would some other form of social evening such as a dinner or else a tea and theatre, be more popular?

"GRAD" will be happy to publish your views and comments.

At the same time it should be made clear, that the foregoing remarks are in no way intended to detract from the efforts of Mr. Alex. Mason, G.M.6MS. and his worthy right hand Mr. Alister Fraser, GM3AXX who by their efforts provided a most excellent evening's fun and entertainment. Putting on a show like this calls for a great amount of work behind the scenes, not only before but during and after the event. The evening ran very smoothly and the surprise with which we realised that midnight had come, was a measure of the success achieved by the organisers.



7.

"THE MAN BEHIND THE MIC"



"One of the pillars of Amateur Radio in Scotland", would be a fitting description of Mr. D.W.R. Macadie, GM6MD, 154, Kingsacre Road, Glasgow, S.4. Dave is one of our old-timers and because of his many activities, is probably one of the best known.

In his time off from amateur radio he works on the mechanical staff of Kemsley House wire room - you know, teleprinters, pictures by wire and so on. The rest of the time he divides between amateur radio, model engineering and - housework!

Dave started radio in 1931 and was at one time T.R. for Glasgow. For the past five years he has been R.R. for Region 14. He runs the Scottish QSL Bureau, handling some 25,000 cards per year. His chief interests in radio are building equipment and hunting rare DX. Here are a selection from his successes; First Scottish holder of "Empire DX"; second Scottish holder of "DXCC"; BERTA; WAS; WAC, 14m.c. W.B.E. 14 m.c. WAC, 28 M.c. fone and CW; WBE, 28mc. fone and CW; 151 countires worked on crystals; total score 158 countries worked; 39 zones conformed; first G M to QSO San Marino; first GM to QSO ZK1 (Cook Island); first GM - KP6 (Palmyra Island); has worked Franz Josef Land, Manchuria, Napal, Tonga, Tristan da Cunha etc.etc.

For the past two years Dave has been QRT, rebuilding a TVI-proof station. He is now looking for zone 23 (Tibet) Is anyone willing to help?!!

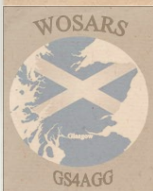
The other "man behind the mic" this month has to "coorie doon" a little, being a mere 6'4" in height. He is Mr. W. Wright GM 3 IBU, Craigmount, Ranfurly Rd. Bridge of Weir. Bill is by profession a man of law (no not the polis!) and as an amateur is a brand new recruit to the ranks of the fully licensed. He became interested in radio in 1945, started "gemming" in 1947 and passed his exam. in 1948. Being a brainy guy of course it took him till Jan. 1952 to pass his morse test! He hails from across the border and likes our weather so well that he means to stay. (Yes girls, wait a minute.) He is interested in all branches of radio and is willing to have a bash at anything. (Yes girls, I'm not forgetting) At the moment his TX is a 6V6 as a crystal oscillator. For an RX he is using a modified type 78 but has a DST100. He would like to hear from anyone who has handled the latter. (Don't be impatient girls.) His other interests are reading, although he doesn't get as much time for it as he wouldlike, as he is studying Scottish Law.

Good luck Bill. The whole world of Amateur Radio awaits you - and, yes girls, he's single!

"THE WALLY DUG"

The Wally Dug is this month presented to that amateur who fought for months to get sufficient drive to a pair of 807's. The record of his struggles would bring tears to the eyes of the most hardened QSL collector. - And what was the cause of it all? Why! that cute little feed-through insulator turned out to be a cute little feed-through decoupling condenser!

If you know of anyone who merits a wally dug send along the "gen" - but no names, no pack drill.



8.

SMALL ADS.

If there is a demand for it, a "small ad" section will be run. A charge of one penny per word (including the address) will be made.

If a box number is required there will be an additional charge of 6d.

All adverts. should be in by the 15th of the month at the latest.

Address to: "The Glasgow Radio Amateur Digest",
32 Mitre Road,
Glasgow, W.4.

TAILPIECE

So we come to the end of No.1. We have learned many things about editing a newsletter! Most important is the amount of space we will have at our disposal. It will no doubt be a surprise to learn that there are nearly 5000 words in this edition. Much material has had to be held over but no doubt we will find ways of squeezing it in. For instance, we hope to run a monthly review of radio journals, a query corner, a correspondence column, descriptions of stations and so on. There is ample material available. The major restriction will be the cost.

If you like this new venture drop us a line. If you don't like it, write just the same and let us know why. "GRAD" is being produced for your benefit and yours alone.

Until next month then.

73

RON.



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MAY 1952
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