



## Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

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**UPDATE  
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## Autumn 1993

### Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Autumn / Winter edition of Update where we hope you will find some future activity or event which you will find of interest.

During the Spring/Autumn period a number of special club events were held and I think warrant a mention, namely the Special Event station GB8WA and the visit to the Citadel in Liverpool.

As in the previous year GB8WA was housed in Perch Rock lighthouse, off New Brighton. This years Special Event station was activated to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, (Western Approach) which most locals will know was controlled for the major part of the Second World War from within a Building in Liverpool.

Many helpful hands erected the aerials and transported the equipment to the lighthouse during low tide on the Wednesday night. As a result the station was fully operational from early Thursday morning through to late Sunday. By this time most of the operators had taken on a lethargic appearance and, whilst operating standards remained fairly high throughout the period, some classic bloomers were made on the air. To quote but one, which was made by yours truly, "The name here is RON Romeo, Oscar, Bravo".

As in the previous year both HF stations had a constant pile up during daylight hours. This did ease during the early hours of the morning but at no time was it necessary to put out a general call. In summary; a great success with over 2000 stations contacted in some 87 countries. Thanks to the very many stations for putting GB8WA on the air.

Some twenty club members visited the Battle of the Atlantic headquarters and operations rooms in the city centre, which was organised by the club treasurer Gerry G8TRY. This turned out to be a nostalgic and memorable occasion as one tends to forget the cramped conditions and noisy unreliable equipment that was available during that era (*only some of us forget, the others weren't there to remember! -Ed*).

A event that was not classified as a club activity was the trip to Friedrichshafen, Southern Germany, by five of our club members, to visit the largest Ham Radio rally outside of the U.S.A. The journey was made in a hired motor home equipped with a FT757 transceiver and mobile aerial and a number of our members were contacted during the outward and return journey. This adventure will be the subject of a talk with video and can be found listed in October's club calendar.

Finally, the Great Egg Race IV was held recently in which the object was to construct an oscillator and make it function in the VHF band. Five teams took part in the race of which two did not complete the construction, two failed to function, (both had FET wiring errors). The final kit constructed by the team of Paul GOJZP worked and was found to oscillate at a frequency of 174MHz (*YES!! Tortoise 1, Hare 0, -Ed*) and was thereby declared the winner.

73 From your chairman, Ron G3HFA.

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## CLUB EVENTS for AUTUMN 1993

### October

- Oct. 6 D&W at Chimneys, Hooton.
- Oct. 13 Talk - "HMS Plymouth" (To be confirmed)
- Oct. 20 VISIT to Mersey Tunnel, 6.45 pm Wallasey entrance. Includes Wallasey and Georges Dock Liverpool sites. Limited number. Contact Gerry G8TRY. Followed by D&W at The Magazines, Wallasey.
- Oct. 27 Talk - "The Friedrichshaven Adventure", Ron and the crew of German rally explorers.

### November

- Nov. 3 D&W at The Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight.
- Nov. 10 Talk - "Microwaves", Mike Dixon G3PFR.
- Nov. 17 D&W at The Saughall Massie Hotel.
- Nov. 24 Home Construction Competition, Social & Presentations.

### December

- Dec. 1 D&W at The Ferry Hotel, Egremont.
- Dec. 8 Talk (TBA)
- Dec. 15 D&W at The Hotel Victoria, Lower Heswall.
- Dec. 22 Chairmans Night. This years Chairmans surprise talk.
- Dec. 29 D&W

### January 1994

- Jan. 5 D&W .
- Jan. 12 Annual General Meeting, 8pm at Irby C.C.
- Jan. 19 D&W The Black Horse, Lower Heswall.
- Jan. 26 Surplus Equipment & Junk Sale.

**CONTESTS** - The club enters a number of contests through the year. The small team responsible for our success would like your support, even if it only means calling in to give them a point. Contact Andy, G7HUD, for details.

**QSL CARDS** - Have you been sent any QSL cards for any of the clubs contest of special event stations? Experience shows that distant operators often QSL to the wrong place. Pass them on to our QSL manager, Alan, G1XYP.

**PUBLICITY** - For further information on any of the above, contact our publicity manager, who is Paul Robinson, G0JZP, 15, Cornelius Drive, Pensby, WIRRAL, Merseyside. L62 9PY. 051 648 5892.

## EVENTS NOW AND THEN

At last, here is the long-awaited Update. Its been all too obvious, to me at least, that there has been no Update covering September, although I am glad to say that the needs of the regulars was met by the distribution of a blue fly-sheet, giving the basic information to the end of the year. About 30 copies of the sheet went out, but only at a D&W and a club meeting, and naturally this does nothing to encourage those who had not been along recently, anyway.

By the way, if you had one of those sheets, then you will have noticed that there were still two events to be confirmed, and had been this way since June while we waited on other people. The other changes affected the locations for the D&W's. All the dates were filled in until March next year, and then events dictated that we change our visiting list.

No!, we didn't get barred. Far from it. The management at several of our regular watering holes have taken to holding quizzes, live music and discos' in an effort to encourage customers. This has encouraged us to move our custom elsewhere after having already moved away from some pubs charging extortionate prices. Also, the selection and quality of some of the beers on offer has caused some dissent, so watch out for some new venues, and please give them a try. One or two of the new locations have proved popular, but we would like to try some more suggestions from you, or else you might find that all the D&W's are all in Wallasey!

Earlier, I made mention of regulars to the club events being able to take advantage of up-to-date information, and this was particularly true when it came to filling the places on the visits to the Western Approaches and the Mersey Tunnels. I got the OK for both of these visits on the Wednesday when the D&W was at the Greave Dunning. Most of the regulars were there, and I asked if there was any takers. Needless to say, I filled most of those seats that evening.

Remember, Wednesday night is radio night, so be there. If you are in doubt about what's on, try giving a shout on 433.800 (or even S20) as somebody should know. The club calendar is also available on packet from GB7OAR and connecting to WADARC. (Will those stations with packet please let those without know of any late changes if they can.)

I am very pleased that the visit to the Western Approaches went so well. At the time that the callsign for the Battle of the Atlantic celebrations was applied for, for use at the lighthouse, we had no idea that the Citadel was to be refurbished and opened as a museum, in fact only about half knew it had existed there at all. The choice of GB8WA was to avoid any confusion with any possible combination using 'BOA' or similar at another special event station.

The people at the Western Approaches kindly let me put up a notice in their foyer, giving details of our station. Similarly, after the event, they were very interested in the stations that GB8WA had worked. This has led to a relationship with the management there that could have very interesting possibilities in the future, but the initial thing to do then was to arrange a special visit for the club members.

Following on from this, I am sure that some ideas have passed that will help them recreate their radio and other comms facilities, and I know that they are very grateful for the criticism, comments and advice that we were able to offer them. The party who went were well pleased to have shared the experience.

The next visit, which is to the Mersey Tunnel, is long awaited and long since fully booked. I shall be contacting each of the party with details. Don't forget that we shall be back in time for the D&W afterwards, at the Magazines in Wallasey.

The past few years has seen a steady migration in ATV activity away from UHF operation and into the microwave region together with an increase in voice activity there, largely due to the availability of 23cm handhelds, mobiles and repeaters. None of this has stopped anybody from using mustard tins, intruder alarms and butty boxes into operation in order to use these frequencies. Explaining all will be by Mike Dixon, G3PFR, RSGB Microwave committee member and RadCom columnist. It is a number of years since Mike came to the club on a previous occasion, and a number of devices and techniques have changed since then, all of which make microwave communication easier and cheaper for everyone. Mike shows us how.

There has been a lot of home construction and PMR mod's going on amongst the club members this year. The time to show off your handiwork is at the home construction contest in November. Don't be shy. There are several prizes available in various classes. So, get your entries in before the food is served, because that's when the judges do their judging. Good luck!

(N.B., If you are the current holder of a cup/shield/trophy for one of the clubs' prizes, would you please make sure that they are clean, polished and available for the night, thanks.)

The usual Sunday afternoon fox-hunts (one for VHF, one for UHF on separate Sundays) had a new twist this year by combining both on the same afternoon, and turned it into a two-band, two fox DF hunt. Two teams of foxes and five teams of hunters all seemed to have their problems on the day, and were not helped by the driving wind and rain that set-in for the afternoon. A breakdown of the times and placings makes for interesting reading, but is too large for here. TEAM placings as follows, using aggregate time:

1) G3UVR. 1:24. 2) G6IIM. 2:31. 3) G0JSB. 2:35. 4) G4EWJ. 2:50. 5)G7MMM. 2:39. (UHF only).

Foxes - VHF (Willaston) G1XYP & G3HFA. - UHF (Tranmere) G8TRY & G1NXB. Watch out for variations on a theme for next year.

The rain looked like it was going to ruin the Barbeque, but in fact it turned out to be one of the nicest evenings of that week. The event was a little later than usual this year, so it was cooler, darker etc. than some we have had their, but by all accounts, it was one of the best that we have had lately. The reason for the lateness was so that DF Hunts, treasure hunts and other mobile activities could take place against the need for low tides during the evening at Heswall. Obviously the water was not low enough for Frank, G8REQ, who got his car stuck where the path had shifted. Thanks go to all those who helped free the car. I hope to schedule the BBQ earlier next year. Perhaps just in time to do a round-up of bodies to help with NFD?

MEMBERSHIPS. New members joining the club this year are:

Brian, G4ZQP, from Moreton; Eric, G3MAJ, from Greasby; Tom, G7MMM, from Oxtou; Dave, G0TCL, from Bebington; Tim, G3LRJ, from Bebington; John, G0JOQ, from Prenton. Re-joining us after a break from the club are: Ken, G8NZC, from Pensby; Steve, G8WOF, from Oxtou; Bill, G6HKY, from Bromborough; Gordon, G4MUP, from Oxtou; Ray, G0EMI, from New Brighton, and Dave, G4PGO, from Wallasey.

I am pleased to see that two other past members have started to come along again, namely Tom, G4BKF, and Peter, G8WQQ. I hope to include both in the membership list next year, and I hope to include all our existing members, too.

Reminder. Have your membership details changed; are they wrong? I need to keep an up-to-date record. Please let me know of any errors.

See you at the meetings.

Gerry Scott, G8TRY.