



RAG CHEW

GLOUCESTER AMATEUR RADIO AND ELECTONICS SOCIETY

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Go to the GARES web site for all the latest news www.g4aym.org.uk

This paper is formed of articles offered by you the members of the club:

Your ideas, information, projects, old stories, jokes or cartoons, trips, non radio interests or hobbies

The Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society (GARES) Olympic Torch Special Event Station By Andy 2E0CLZ

I've been licensed since September 2011, when I passed the Foundation Course with Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society (GARES), having longed to become a Radio Ham since I was in my early teens; this was a milestone for me. I was soon making contacts on all the popular bands available to me, with 10 Watts and my antennas installed in the attic doing me proud. The excitement of putting out a CQ call and waiting to be answered is just like fishing, only with access to central heating and freshly brewed cups of tea!

So what else could I be involved in that would give the same level of excitement and sense of achievement? So I volunteered to help to operate the GARES Olympic torch special event station, this is organised by the Worked All Britain group (WAB). <http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/> I just didn't realise what I was letting myself in for – I soon found out.

I arrived at the station's location at 9.50 AM. I was nervous and wanted to sit and watch how the station was being run before taking the microphone.

"You're on at 10 o'clock", was casually uttered in my direction, accompanied by broad grins and a couple of chuckles from the others - that chair in front of the radio never looked so big!

I sat myself down and the other station operators stood around to give advice and help this quivering novice.

At last I plucked up the courage, keyed the microphone and gave my first CQ call.

"CQ 40, CQ 40. GX4WAB. QRZ" - My world collapsed...

Back through the static came a cacophony of call signs and noise, I somehow I had to pick out a contact.

During my limited time on the air I had heard pile ups. Normally for me that would mean patiently calling and calling until finally I heard my call sign coming back through the mêlée. This was different, these people were waiting for me and I couldn't make out a single call sign.

The other operators suddenly started giving me call signs they'd heard, I felt lost. With all my effort I started bringing in operators, struggling to pick out signal reports, names and WAB squares, while trying to relay the information that they required. It was exhausting and after a very quick half hour I needed a break – to clear my head for another attempt.

While the other operators were in the hot seat, I listened and started picking out the call signs, after a while I realised that my ears were becoming more tuned to listen for particular signals.

With a greater confidence I took my next turn and I started to relax.

I was in control and they were chasing me for a change to get though to grab the square it was my job to maintain a sense of order from the madness - this was my kind of fun - I loved it!

Operating throughout the day, taking turns as and when other operators needed a break, the time seemed to fly by and before I knew it, I had to leave.

Arriving home, I put the kettle on, made a welcome cup of tea and I had only one more thing to do - Contact the station and log the square for myself. That's if I get through the pile up!

**The Radio Ham
submitted by Roy G3VZR**

My ol' man's a radio ham
'es got a radio set
'e listened to it daily
But he ain't heard nothing yet

'es busy sending signals
All the day and night
He ain't got a lot of sense
And 'e just can't get it right.

One day while listening to the waves
'e twiddled the knobs with glee
'e found 'e had picked up a sailor out at sea.
This sailor he was shouting
'elp me I'm in trouble!
The next sound that we heard
Was bubble, bubble, bubble.

My ol' man was so distressed
'e sat down with a fright
Then a 303 went bang
it blew him out of sight.
When 'e reappeared,
Shaking at the knees
'e found that 'e had set on fire
A whole darn line of trees

While messing with 'is aerial
Way up in the sky,
A big jackdaw dived down on 'im,
And 'it 'im fairly high,
'e ducked and the bird missed 'im,
"My What a close shave"
Then 'is 'ands slipped off the pole
And 'e landed in 'is grave.

Roy's Note: *The poet is recorded as Anon, but I think it was from a north-country comedian's ode - My old mans a dustman and he wears corduroy.*

The RAE (Radio Amateurs' Examination) of Summer 1968

In the late spring and early summer of 1968 I was busily preparing for the final examinations of the three year Electrical Engineering degree course I was taking at Rugby College of Engineering Technology (RCET). I had listened to amateurs on the 40m band during my schooldays on my fathers Ferguson radiogram which along with many domestic radios of that era had a Short Wave band. Although most of the signals were still amplitude modulated (AM), single sideband (SSB) was becoming more popular, and to demodulate the signals I built a little transistor BFO which was loosely coupled to an IF transformer in the set. But all thoughts of taking the RAE were put on the back burner at college as it was imperative that I got through the exams. On the same course as myself was Bob Rylett, GC3VXJ from St Peter Port, Guernsey. During my time at college Bob had introduced me to some other licenced amateur students who occasionally activated the college Radio Club call sign G3VWI from a ramshackle shack located in an old building on the campus otherwise known as the Student Union bar. Bob persuaded me that as we were all fired up with every electrical and electronic formula known to mankind as we approached our finals, it would be an ideal time to take the RAE - after all the theory had all been covered (and some more) in our degree course. All that was needed was a crash course in the rules and regulations and Bob's your uncle (so to speak). Well - I got my head down and learnt the licence conditions and duly enrolled to take the exam.

In those days you didn't have to register for an RAE course - which I wouldn't have had time to do anyway! The day of the exam came round all too quickly and just before 6.30 pm on Tuesday May 21st 1968, I duly presented myself at the examination centre - the East Warwickshire College of Further Education which was adjacent to the RCET. The format was as follows:-

3 hours were allowed for the written examination, which was in two parts. Part 1 - Licence Regulations - 2 questions both compulsory, each worth 15 marks. Part 2 - Radio Theory – had 8 questions, of which you could choose 6 questions to answer, each worth 10 marks. To quote the exam paper "Failure in either part will carry with it failure in the examination as a whole".

So, here are the Licence Regulations questions which I had to answer:-

1. What are the conditions of the Amateur (Sound) Licence as regards

- (a) Frequency control and measurement,
- (b) The entries to be made in the log,
- (c) The classes of emissions permissible in the amateur bands between 3.5MHz (3.5 Mc/s) and 29.7 MHz (Mc/s).
- (d) The maximum d.c. power input permissible in these bands?

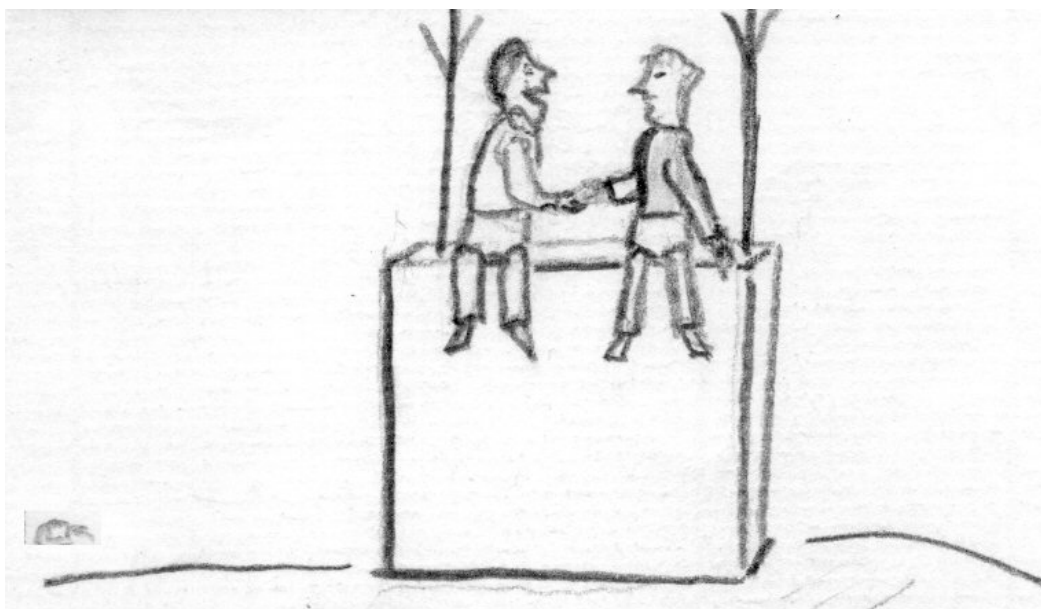
2. Describe two types of spurious emissions which can be emitted by radio transmitters.

Explain how they can be suppressed to such a level that they cause no undue interference with any other wireless telegraphy.

Brian G4CIB
(To be continued)

Heard on the Air
By Ian G4CLR

I'm Glad to meet you on the box



Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue
If you have an article to share
email it to me or give it to me on paper
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