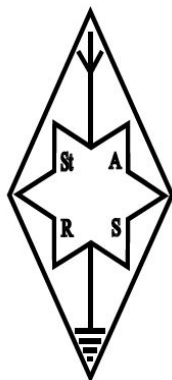


STARLITE

THE JOURNAL FOR THE STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT A.R.S.



**G6OI
G6SRS**



ISSUE: MARCH 2021



G4CVH

**STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
INCORPORATING
OLDSWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL RADIO CLUB**

MEETINGS NORMALLY HELD AT

**OLDSWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL
HEATH LANE
STOURBRIDGE
[8:00 TO 10:00 PM]**

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

**DURING COVID, THE SOCIETY HOLDS ITS MEETINGS
EVERY MONDAY ON 2M FM AND ZOOM**

RSGB AFFILIATED SOCIETY

STARLITE

Telephone Enquiries to:-

Hon. Secretary
John Clarke M1EJG
[01562] 700513

Or by Email to:-

honsec@g6oi.org.uk
johnclarke.m1ejg@btinternet.com

All correspondence/enquiries should
be addressed to the Hon Secretary at:-

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c/o The Mill House
21 Mill Lane
Blakedown
Kidderminster
DY10 3ND

StARS Website URLs:-

www.g6oi.org.uk
<http://g6oi.ross-lewis.co.uk/>

StARS Facebook Page:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stourbridge.ars/>

Forthcoming Meetings

March 1 st	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
March 8 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
March 15 th	Zoom Talk: Bantenna Sleeve Vertical by Wayne M5LLT. 8pm
March 22 nd	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
March 29 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
April 5 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
April 12 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
April 19 th	Zoom Talk: Callum M0MCX DX Commander. 8pm
April 26 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
May 3 rd	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
May 10 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
May 17 th	Zoom Talk: Measurements by Geoff G0KVK. 8pm
May 24 th	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm
May 31 st	Club Net 145.325MHz FM & Zoom Video. 8pm

Editor's Comment

As we have the ongoing situation of no meetings during the pandemic, I am sure you will be pleased to hear that, recently, there was a Committee meeting via Zoom. John M1EJG, the Hon Sec, sent an email to StARS members outlining the future of the Society. For those of you who may not have received this email, I include the content of it as the lead item, this month.

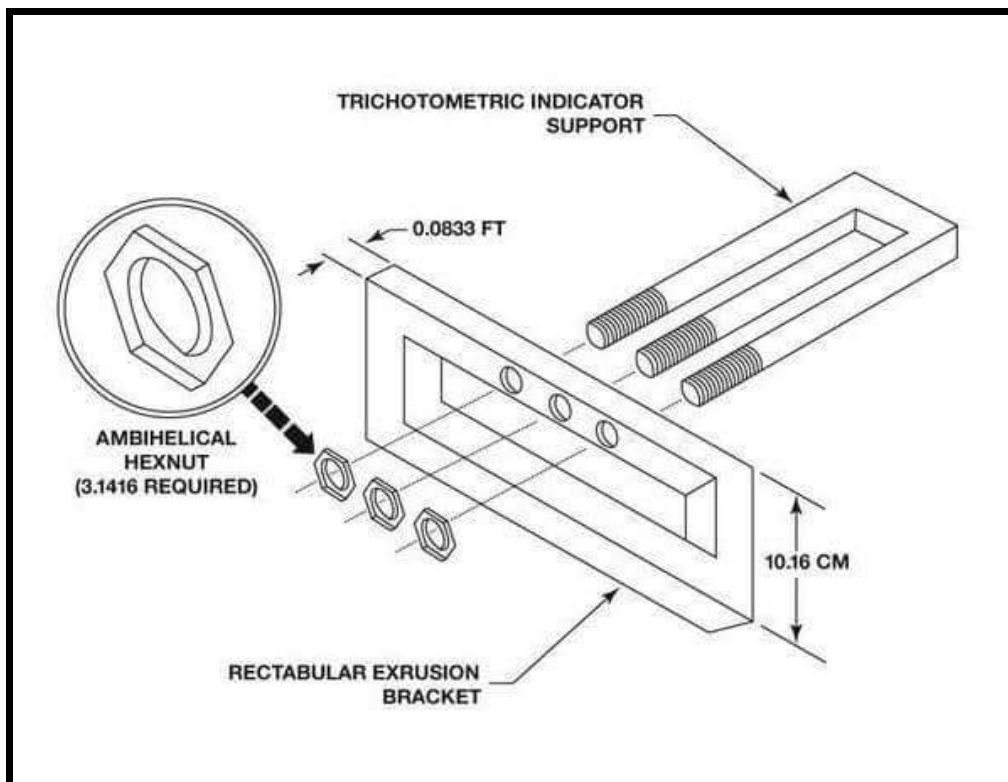
Welcome to the Society. Simon McPhee G0MWS recently joined StARS and I'm sure you would all like to welcome him to the fold.

If you haven't already done it, may I remind you that Ofcom ask that you **Revalidate Your Licence** prior to them varying the terms of all licences for their upcoming EMF conditions. This can be done at www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence . Simply follow this link and it should take no more than 2 minutes to complete.

I was unable to join the February Zoom meeting due to my own fault – I don't go on Facebook too often, so didn't see the notification until it was too late. Shame on me! Wayne reported to me that his presentation on the Yaesu FT991A was attended by 12 viewers and his 30 minute chat ended at about 10pm, so a lo-o-o-o-long half-hour indeed.

We have a couple of items, courtesy of Jim G4WAO, this month. They are links to “ATV From 100,000 feet” and “Antenna Project – 2m 145 MHz Rectangular Loop”. I hope you find them interesting.

There are a couple of photos of various connectors, this month. I found them on the internet and thought they may be of interest for reference information.



Information for all Society members

As you will realise, no AGM was held this year due to Covid 19 restrictions and the Treasurer has submitted a balance sheet to the committee for year ending 29/02/20. We will shortly be receiving a balance sheet for the current year. Based on the assessment of the 29/02/20 balance sheet and knowing that outgoings have remained minimal with no fees having been paid for the past year, the committee have decided that there is to be no request for recovery of back fees and that fees should be payable only for the year commencing 03/03/21. These fees to remain at the rate payable in the year up to 29/02/20.

The date when it might be possible to return to using school premises remains and will remain an unknown situation until the Covid pandemic has been overcome. The Secretary wrote to the Headmaster personally approximately ten months ago and the Deputy President also contacted the school at that time, but as yet no reply has been received. The question when we might be permitted to return to the school will be of low priority with the major issues facing the school.

The important thing now will be to maintain membership during this pandemic by providing on the alternative meeting ground of Zoom items of interest to members and help in projects they may be engaged upon. The following suggestions have been made :

- a) Talks on any subject by club members.
- b) Showing of RSGB films on items of interest and construction.
- c) A quiz night.
- d) Any items that you would like to see included. So please e-mail the Secretary.

The above items would then take place every third Monday with weekly Monday meetings on Zoom to continue for a general chat on your activities. Those of you who do not join us on Zoom on Monday evenings at 8.00 pm and wish to do so, please contact the Secretary for ID: and password for the site.

The society must be kept active during these troubled times, so please play your part in supporting these efforts. Let's not lose one of the oldest clubs in Amateur radio. I look forward to receiving all of your comments and suggestions.

John. M1EJG. (Hon Sec).

For Your Diary

March 15th ZOOM TALK NIGHT

Wayne M5LLT un-boxing, assembling and live testing of **The Bantenna Sleeve Vertical HF 100w Antenna**. With guest, Dave from Bantenna.

Wayne says the owner of Bantenna will be attending this meeting to supplement his talk.

Please attend, if you have the time.



April 19th ZOOM TALK NIGHT

LIVE GUEST:

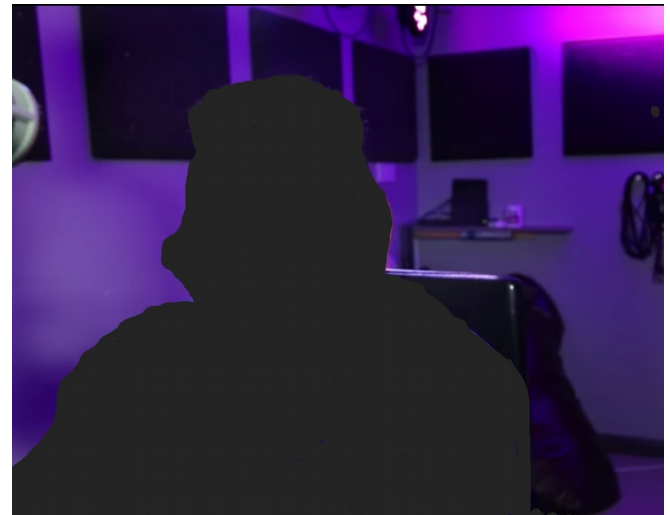
Callum M0MCX DX Commander

Monday 19th April 8 pm

Contact Wayne M5LLT for Zoom details

Free for society members.

£2 voluntary donation to club funds for admission to each Zoom talk/demonstration for non members



Live Amateur TV from 100,000 feet! - YouTube

This was live streamed recently by the [Amateur Radio Experimenters Group](#) in VK5. As the subject line says, this is about ATV and balloons (well, how else are you going to get the gear up there?)

It covers a number of aspects of Project Horus, including LoRa, Raspberry Pis and Software Defined Radios.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2hXeaxffYA>

At the 37-38 minute mark, they mention a proposed test flight on 7 March. The ATV signal likely won't reach us here, but you will probably be able to track the balloon at [HABHub](#). And they aim to live stream the video from the balloon on YouTube.

WARNING: LONG POST BUT PLEASE READ TO THE END

Well it's 2021 and The Society has to move on and prosper.

The one and only time since its inauguration in 1938 has The Society ever closed down was due to WWII. They were very testing times and radio silence was paramount, walls have ears and so did the enemy. I am glad to say we are friends around the world these days, with maybe the odd exception.

2020 however is a different matter, this is now a history marker in the timeline for Stourbridge and District Amateur Radio Society. This time the Society has had to close due to an enemy attack once more, this time the enemy is invisible but not invincible and can't hear us either. So while The Society can't meet at this time it can still use the mediums available to us and have not been exploited to the full before.

Most of you are aware that The Society meets on a Monday night at 8 pm, so we have set up a club net on 2m 145.325 MHz at the same time, some weeks we have a good turnout, some we don't. All I would ask is that you please try and join in, not everyone has loads of things to say, but there is usually a question that can be passed around and several solutions given. Here is the twist of the 21st century, I have added the advantage of vision with the radio, not intended to compromise the radio aspect, but to augment it to enable members to see each other as they would at a regular meeting, so video only is used. Once again, this can only prosper with your input in the form of attendance.

Now for the latest stage in our Phoenix from the fire, we have reinstated committee meetings on Zoom, these for obvious reasons are private ID, but I have set up and trying to organise something that The Society has had lacking in recent times. Every 3rd Monday evening will be classed as talk night, the contents of which will be varied and, I hope, of interest. I will be kicking off this new feature this Monday 15th Feb 2021. This will be the first time doing this and I am experimenting with some new systems integrated with ZOOM, so please give me some slack if it does not flow with professionalism. For those interested, the software is free and is a video handling and manipulation program called OBS studio, it enables you to have multiple cameras in a live feed.

The topic for the very first of these Live Talks was:

"A walk through the Yaesu FT991a, its facilities, operation and maybe some of its failings"

On these talk nights the 2m Net will not take place and all the evening will be on the ZOOM medium. The outline for the talk/demonstration will be a minimum of 30 minutes, but if it runs on then so be it. Zoom in its free version is limited to 40 minutes, but it will be restarted immediately, so just log back in.

This will only work if every member who can, or at least make the effort, to participate in this. Remember, I can see each one of you watching, so if I only see six feeds logged in it is a little disheartening.

I am going to provide as much of the content as possible, but I can't do it all and would expect (harsh I know but these are exceptional circumstances) everyone to offer to provide some content for these evenings. I already have had offers from Geoff G0KVK "*our man from Downing & Downing*", who has, no doubt, a wealth of experience to call on, so watch here or on The Society calendar for a date for that.

The rest is up to you. This will only succeed with your input or just by watching.

The March offering will be another from me. This time it will be an unboxing and setting up

of a new Antenna to this location. Followed by some live transmission testing and test readings and hopefully some contacts .

The antenna is the:

British made Bantenna sleeve antenna. HF all bands 160 - 6 m. 100W.

I am awaiting its arrival and will be doing my install and review of this innovative vertical discrete antenna. Let's hope it meets up to expectations.

April is my pride and joy if all goes well and April is when I will be wanting maximum viewing audiencei have secured.....a ham radio Celebrity to give us the the benefit of his knowledge, combined with cheeky wit and manner. You will not want to miss this. I don't want to reveal the identity of this guy yet, as it's not confirmed, but I do have faith that it will be happening. But it needs attendance or else we (I) will look foolish! So please put the 3rd Monday of April in your diary .

As a teaser see the picture in the April post.

If you are viewing this Facebook group, but not a member of the Society, you can still view/join in with the ZOOM meetings, but I would request that a voluntary donation per talk of £2 towards club funds, as all our members are paid up membership, which at only £20 per year is a bargain, so that is also an option.

That's all from me at the moment. Lots to ponder over and lots for me to set up and organise. If you want to view the ZOOM feed, direct message me for the ID and password and how to donate if not a member. PayPal friends and family will be the method used.

So let's move forward as we go into 2021 and make this year as normal as we can.

Thanks for reading this long winded post, but it was necessary to show that The Society might be down, but never out, no matter what is thrown at us. Keep safe. You don't have to go out to go to the club - bring your own drinks, relax and hopefully enjoy.

73 from Wayne M5LLT

RSGB consulting on their new Direct-To-Full exam

The RSGB's Examination Standards Committee has launched a consultation to ask for the views of the amateur radio community on a new, Direct to Full licence exam which would run in parallel with the existing three-tier system

Key points:

- A single 75-question multiple-choice exam (2.5 hours)
- You can take the exam online from your own home
- No need to take lower level exams (Foundation or Intermediate)
- Theory-only, no practicals required
- Pass mark 50/75 (67%)
- As per existing online exams, instant results at the end of the exam, and if passed, UK Full callsign typically within a week
- An exam pass will give you the internationally recognised HAREC qualification

The background to this consultation and a link to the proposed syllabus can be found on the RSGB website: <https://www.rsgb.org/direct-to-full>

There is also a link to a short survey which asks specific questions but also gives you an opportunity to add additional comments or questions.

The consultation will run until Sunday, March 14, after which the Society will gather the results and announce them in due course.

We would encourage everyone to take part in this consultation.

How does the UK's proposed Direct-To-Full exam compare with those of other countries?

Country	Questions	Minutes Allowed
UK	75	150
Eire	60	120
Spain	60	120
NZ	60	180
France	40	60

As a successful Direct-To-Full candidate will receive the HAREC qualification the online exam may prove of interest to people outside the British Islands. There are a number of countries in Africa, and even Europe, where it can be difficult, even impossible, to access amateur radio training or exams. Being able to access online training and get the internationally recognised HAREC qualification online from their own homes may help would-be amateurs get licences in those countries.

An overview of the consultation can be seen on the Essex Ham site

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/direct-to-full.html>

Comments on the web indicate considerable support for the new exam. It looks as though many Foundation holders will choose to skip the Intermediate exam and do the new Direct-To-Full instead.

Here is another short one from Jim G4WAO

Antenna Project – 2m 145 MHz Rectangular Loop

Novel (and easy-to-make) antenna to stick at the top of your squid pole; folds up nicely too:

<https://vk1nam.wordpress.com/2019/09/29/antenna-project-2m-145-mhz-rectangular-loop/>

(via Andrew VK1AD, who was doing VHF SOTA recently.)

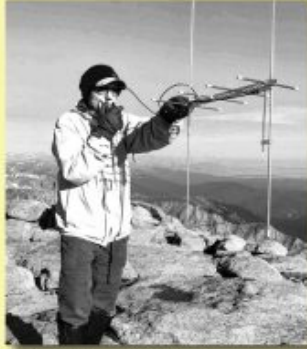
Do you have A WTH card?

By Dan KB6NU

A couple of day ago, Steve, WG0AT, who is a big [Summits on the Air](#) enthusiast, tweeted:

"Yesterday we had lots of tourist-hiker visitors wandering by wondering What The Heck we were doing? So I passed out a few of my WTH cards (inspired by Stuart/KB1HQS)"

He attached this image:



So What am I Doing??
Hi, My name is Steve Galchutt and my FCC call is wG0AT. I apologize if I disrupted your peace and quiet! I'm a FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator and Ham Radio is my hobby as is hiking to mountain summits. By using small portable radios and a temporary antenna, with morse code or voice I make contacts with Radio Amateurs all over the world. I also volunteer for local emergency communication services when needed!

Photo: Mt Evans -14,265 feet

Interested in Amateur Radio go to www.ARRL.org
And/or Visit: www.W0TLM.org (Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association)



Stuart, KB1HQS, referred to above, is a big Parks on the Air guy, and the author of [Portable Operating for the Radio Amateur](#). Here's his card:



Hi! I'm Stuart Thomas (callsign: **KB1HQS) and I am an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Amateur radio is a hobby and a volunteer emergency communication service.**

I enjoy the hobby of amateur radio by going out to parks, trails and other outdoor areas and temporarily setting up my radio and antenna with the purpose of talking with other radio operators throughout the world. I use low power (10 Watts) and radio modes such as voice, digital and Morse code to establish contact.

Interested in learning more about Amateur radio and getting on the air?
Check out ARRL.org on how to get started in this hobby!

For more information on my radio adventures:
KB1HQS.com



Both of these are great cards. I don't have my own card, like these two, but I'll often print up a flyer to hand out when I'm operating portable. Here's the flyer that I passed out last year when I activated the Pointe aux Barques lighthouse:

In retrospect, I see that I should have included more contact information.

In any event, these are great things to have when operating portable. You never know who might get interested in the hobby. Heck, they may even end up as good friends.

W8L

Special Event Amateur Radio Station

This weekend is the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. In commemoration of this event, members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) will be operating amateur radio stations set up at lighthouses and lightships all across the country.

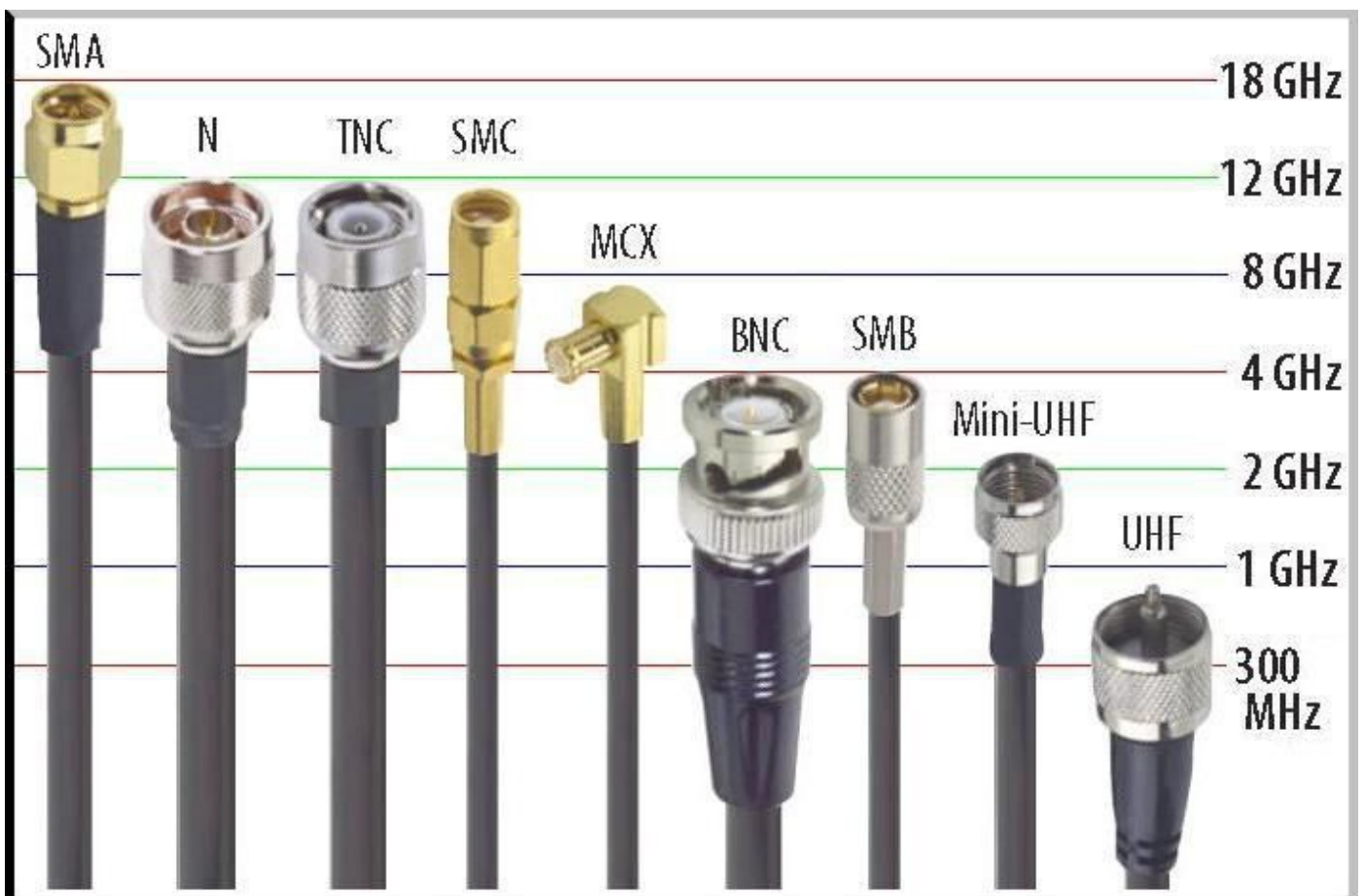
My name is Dan, and my callsign is KB6NU. Please feel free to ask me anything that you'd like about amateur radio. I have been an amateur radio operator for a loooooong time and teach amateur radio classes.

For more information about amateur radio, visit the website of the American Radio Relay League (arrl.org). For more information about the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, visit arlhs.com.



Connectors

I found these images on the internet and thought they may be of some use for reference purposes.



Reginald Aubrey Fessenden: Biography

An overview of the life and work of Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, the Canadian inventor and radio pioneer.

The name of Reginald Aubrey Fessenden is not as widely known as it deserves. Also he is often quoted as being an American, a fact which Canadians hotly contest as Fessenden was born in Canada.



In his life, R A Fessenden achieved a considerable amount, pushing back the frontiers of radio or wireless technology of the day. He held many firsts, and without his drive and insight, radio technology would have developed considerably more slowly than it did.

Fessenden's most notable achievements include the first audio radio transmission in 1900, the first two way transatlantic transmission in 1906 and the first broadcast of entertainment, also in 1906.

Many of Fessenden's developments and achievements were well ahead of their time, and showed his insight, not only into the technical aspects of radio, but also the commercial elements as well.

Fessenden's early years

Reginald Aubrey Fessenden was born on 6th October 1866 in the town on East Bolton, Quebec, Canada. He was the eldest of the four children of Elisha and Clementina Fessenden. His mother was a minister in the Church of England in Canada and as a result the family moved several times during R A Fessenden's childhood.

The young Reginald Fessenden was intelligent and was able to learn quickly. In 1877, at the age of 12, he entered Trinity College in Port Hope Ontario, and two years later he moved to Bishop's College (now Bishop's University) in Lennoxville, Quebec. However Reginald Fessenden left at the age of 18 having nearly completed his degree, but not gaining the final award.

As a result of leaving Bishop's College with no formal qualification, Fessenden found it more difficult to move forward. However he managed to secure a position at Whitney Institute in Bermuda as the sole teacher and principal. While he was in Bermuda he became friendly with Helen Trott to whom he later became engaged and in September 1890 they were married.

Work begins

Although Reginald Fessenden had been granted a mathematical scholarship at Bishop's College, much of his education had a classics orientation and this did not suit him for a career in the new and developing area of electrical sciences. To improve his chances of success, he moved to New York in 1886 with the hope that he might be able to secure some employment with Edison's company. His initial attempts were unsuccessful, but after

pursuing opportunities with Edison he was hired as an assistant tester for the Edison Machine Works, a company laying underground electrical mains cables in New York.

Fessenden showed an aptitude and keenness for the work and was promoted so that in 1886 he started to work directly for Edison himself at the new "invention factory" as it was termed at West Orange, New Jersey. Here Fessenden was involved in a number of sciences and he soon gained a considerable degree of experience.

Unfortunately the Edison company faced severe financial problems in 1890 and had to lay off a large number of employees and Fessenden was included in this number.

As a result of his experience with Edison, Fessenden was able to find employment relatively easily. He worked for a number of companies, but in 1892 was appointed as professor at the newly formed Department of Electrical Engineering at Purdue University in Indiana. Later he moved from here to the Western University of Pennsylvania, which is now the University of Pittsburgh.

Work at the Weather Bureau

During the late 1890s Marconi started to hit the headlines with his experiments that were pushing back the frontiers of wireless transmission technology. Marconi was something of a showman and was able to capture the news headlines. Reginald Fessenden too, started to become interested in wireless technology and as a result he started his own experimentation in this field, initially looking at some of the equipment used.

The possibilities that early wireless technology appeared to offer fascinated Fessenden. In 1900 he left Pittsburgh to work for the United States Weather Bureau. Fessenden saw the possibility of using wireless transmissions to link a network of coastal stations together rather than using a wired telegraph link. For his work, Fessenden was based at Cobb Island on the Potomac River in Maryland

Fessenden made several major advances, in particular in the area of receiver design as this was one of the major limitations of the time. He first developed a new form of detector, known as the barretter detector, and this was followed by the electrolytic detector which remained in use for many years.

Another major milestone, during this period was that Fessenden succeeded in making what is believed to be the first wireless transmission carrying audio sound. The experiment took place on 23rd December 1900 and the signal was received over a mile away.

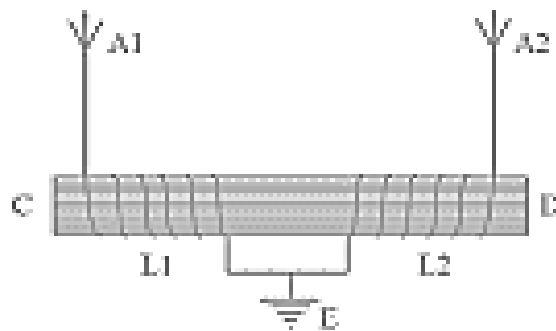
The equipment used by Fessenden was a spark transmitter with an interrupted to provide a continuous series of sparks. The output of the generator was modulated by placing a carbon microphone directly in the antenna lead. Although very crude by today's standards, the system nevertheless worked. It is reported that using the transmitter Fessenden spoke loudly into the microphone saying: *"Hello test, one, two, three, four. Is it snowing where you are Mr Thiessen? If it is telegraph back and let me know."* His assistant immediately returned a telegraph message to indicate he had heard Fessenden and that it was also snowing, which was hardly surprising as he was only a mile away. The received signal was described as being perfectly understandable, except that it was accompanied by a loud

disagreeable noise resulting from the irregularity of the spark.

Fessenden worked to improve the system over the following two years and more. By 1903 he had succeeded in obtaining reasonably satisfactory speech transmission by creating an almost continuous arc. However the system was still plagued by the very unpleasant sound of the arc itself.

Heterodyne principle

One of the other major advances made by Fessenden was the development of the heterodyne principle. He undertook experiments with this in 1901, but in view of the state of wireless technology, it was well ahead of its time and was not used for over ten years afterwards as it required the generation of stable continuous wave signals and these were not practicable until the thermionic valve or vacuum tube became available.



Fessenden's first heterodyne receiver

The network of wireless stations expanded and started to prove its worth. However during this time legal arguments started over the possession of the patents. As a result of this, Fessenden's time at the Weather Bureau came to an end in August 1902.

Fessenden at NESCO

The work that Reginald Fessenden had undertaken at the Weather Bureau had not gone unnoticed. Some saw the value of the work that he had undertaken and sought to enable him to carry it on. Hay Walker Jr, and Thomas Given financed the formation of a company named National Electric Signalling Company based in Massachusetts. Under the auspices of this company, Fessenden would be able to carry out research into several projects that would have a variety of applications.

As part of the development programme for long distance communications it was decided to set stations that would enable the first two way transatlantic contact to be established and a service to be introduced thereafter. Although Marconi had made the first transatlantic transmission in 1901, the transmission was only in one direction. Stations were set up at Brant Rock in the USA and another in Scotland at a location named Macrihanish. The result was that in January 1906 the first two way transatlantic communication was established. Unfortunately the full commercial service was not able to be introduced because the tower collapsed on 6th December 1906 when contractors were working on the steel guy ropes. The investment required to re-establish the station was felt to be too large and the service was abandoned.

Another major area of work was the development of a high frequency alternator. This would be able to provide a means of generating a continuous wave signal. Fessenden had first worked on the idea in 1900 and even when the first device was delivered in 1903 it would only operate up to a frequency of 10 kHz. A second alternator was ordered and eventually delivered in 1905, and the company that made it stated that it would not operate above 10 kHz. As a result Fessenden himself set about building an alternator that would operate at the frequencies he wanted. He used some parts of the one that was delivered to him and by late 1906 he had a machine that would operate at 75 kHz and developed an output power of 500 watts. This enabled him to transmit the continuous wave signals he needed.

Fessenden modulated his HF alternators in the same way he had his previous transmitters by placing a carbon microphone in the antenna lead. One night in November 1906 the station at Brant Rock was in communication with another at Plymouth, MA, USA. However this transmission was heard on the other side of the Atlantic in Macrihanish. Then on 24th December 1904 Fessenden and his assistants presented the first radio broadcast. The broadcast included a speech by Fessenden along with him playing Handel's Largo in the violin. The broadcast was heard by stations as far away as the West Indies, and it was repeated n New Year's Eve.

Fessenden also instigated a Christmas broadcast. He describes what happened:

"... first a short speech by me saying what we were going to do, then some phonograph music.... Then came a violin solo by me ... which I sang one verse of, in addition to playing the violin, though the singing, of course, was not very good. Then came the Bible text, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will, and we finally wound up by wishing them a Merry Christmas and then saying that we proposed to broadcast again on New Year's Eve. "

After NESCO

After Fessenden left NESCO he did not work directly on radio again, but he did continue to work on other projects and inventions. He became particularly interested in Sonar and in methods of detecting icebergs. At the outbreak of World War 1 he volunteered his services to the Canadian Government worked in London England on methods of detecting artillery, as well as means to detect enemy submarines.

After the war he continued to investigate a wide variety of ideas, refining some of his work on sonar as well as investigating seismology for oil wells, and inventing a fathometer.

As a result of his work, Reginald Fessenden held over 250 patents, but despite this his name was never really given the recognition that it should have received. However he did receive the Scientific American Gold medal in 1929.

Last years

Reginald Fessenden managed to settle a lawsuit with RCA over patent rights and using the money he gained he bought a small estate on the island of Bermuda where he spent

the rest of his days. He died there in 1932 and is interred in the cemetery of St Mark's Church.

Reginald Fessenden is certainly one of the unsung pioneers of wireless and radio technology. Although Marconi received much of the limelight with his work, R A Fessenden had a might greater insight into the workings of radio technology. He achieved many "firsts". He was the first to develop a method of generating a continuous wave signal and to use it. He was the first to transmit voice, and to make a sound broadcast. He developed and was the first to use the hererodyne principle that forms the basis of almost every radio today. He was the first to establish two-way communication across the Atlantic, and to send a voice signal across the Atlantic. In many ways, Reginald Fessenden made huge contributions to the technology of radio, and yet he is comparatively little known. Even when people do recognise his name, he is often thought of as an American, whereas in fact he came from Canada.

A man goes to the optician for his eye test. The optician asks him what he can see.

"I see empty, airports, empty football grounds, closed theatres and closed pubs."

"That's perfect", says the optician, "you have 2020 vision."

French special event

Nicolas, F4HZS, will be active as TM150PAR from Berlancourt, France, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the popular uprising of 1871 called Paris Commune (see QRZ.com for more details).

Activity will take place on the following days:

March 20-21st, April 4th/10-11th/17-18th/24-25th, and May 1-2nd/8-9th/15-16th.

QSL via F4HZS, direct or the REF Bureau

Online amateur radio talks from Denby Dale

The Denby Dale Radio Society has organised an impressive line-up of amateur radio talks for Spring which you can watch live on Zoom or later on YouTube

The planned talks, which start at 7:30pm on Wednesdays, are:

Wednesday 3rd March our speaker is Nick M0NTV. He is talking about building your own simple HF radio and the fun he has had since he took up amateur radio.

Wednesday 17th March our speaker is Bryan W2RBJ. He has produced a new Ham kit for his club with information and ideas about how to get your licence and move forward in the hobby. So this meeting will be of big interest to new amateurs and those starting in the hobby especially

Wednesday 24th March Anthony F4GOH will be introducing us to how radio amateurs can use the Raspberry pi and the Arduino

Wednesday 31 March Carl K9LA is going to talk about our upcoming HF propagation and sunspot Cycle 25

Wednesday 7th April Geoff W0CG / PJ2DX showing us around the Contesting station PJ2T and how they have had 1 million QSOs. Not that any of us are envious of the amazing location and station !!!

Wednesday 14th April John G8SEQ will talk about portable stations and Omni directional antennas . Appropriately here in Yorkshire with its huge coal mining history John started his working life in the mining industry.

Wednesday 21st April John NU0V is going to tell us about his homemade DC polarity checker he has built for use in the shack. At some stage all of us will accidentally connect our DC supply to a radio the wrong way round and more than likely destroy your equipment !

Wednesday 5th May Mike G4WNC will talk us through setting up the ZumSpot USB digital hotspot to connect your VHF/UHF digital radio to the digital network available to radio amateurs.

Wednesday 12th May our very own Tom ZS1AFS will be talking on Trapezing Antennas.

The Zoom meeting ID is 842 5221 3056

<https://zoom.us/j/84252213056>

For further information see

<http://www.ddars.net/>

Recordings of earlier Denby Dale online talks can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq9nFTkJJAjOdPZVytoPOcg>

Famous Hams Trivia Quiz

I took these questions from an American internet site, so some of the answers may need thinking about – unless you've been around for quite a long time!

His callsign was UA1LO. He was the first human to travel in space in 1961.

1. Gus Grissom
2. Yuri Gagarin
3. John Glenn
4. Alan Shepard

His callsign was GM3ITN. A Scottish ham who alerted the British that the Falkland Islands had been invaded by Argentina.

1. Prince Charles
2. Winston Churchill
3. Charles Darwin
4. Les Hamilton

His callsign is K2HEP. He is the former President of PepsiCo and became the CEO of Apple in 1983.

1. Steve Jobs
2. Steve Wozniak
3. John Sculley
4. Tim Cook

His callsign is A41AA. He became the Sultan Of Oman in 1990 and remained in power until his death in 2020.

1. Dee X Sultin
2. King Oso
3. Qaboss bin Said al Said
4. Haitham bin Tariq

His callsign is EA0JC. He reigned as King Of Spain from 1975 until his removal in June 2014.

1. Juan Ponc de Leon
2. Juan Peron
3. Juan Carlos
4. Juan Manual de Rosas

His callsign was KB2GSD. This American broadcast journalist served as a CBS anchorman for 19 years.

Tom Brokaw
David Brinkley
Walter Cronkite
Peter Jennings

His callsign was K7UDA. He was a 5-term Senator from Arizona and the Republican party nominee for President in 1964.

1. Barry Goldwater
2. Al Gore
3. Mitt Romney
4. George McGovern

His callsign was JY1. He reigned as King Of Jordan until his death in 1999.

1. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah
2. King Tut Ankh Amun
3. King Hussein
4. King George

Listed in the 1990 US Call Book as KC6IWA and N6YOS, she was married to Elvis Presley from 1967 to 1973.

1. Sharon Presley
2. Priscilla Presley
3. Jenna Presley
4. Gladys Presley

The answers will come next month.

Special ham radio callsigns to celebrate Greek Revolution

In 2021, Greece is celebrating the bicentennial of the 1821 Greek Revolution after a period of 400 years of occupation by the Ottoman Turks

"The Greek Revolution of 1821 is a key chapter in Greek history as well as a piece in the puzzle of world history." (www.greece2021.gr).

Additionally to the projects and events that are officially planned and organized in Greece and globally by state and private organizations, Greek radio amateurs will be active throughout 2021 with the following special call signs:

- Radio amateurs with a license of Class 1 will use the prefix SX200 followed by the suffix of their home call sign, e.g. SV1XXX will operate as SX200XXX.
- Radio amateurs with a license of Introductory Level will use the prefix SY200 followed by the suffix of their home call sign, e.g. SY1XXX will operate as SY200XXX. (Please take into consideration that there are restrictions of this license re. frequencies and modes.)
- Club stations will use the prefix SZ200 followed by the suffix of their home call sign, e.g. SZ1XXX will operate as SZ200XXX.

Natasha SV1KP. RAAG Secretary

<https://tinyurl.com/IARU-Greece>

Last Month's TV & Movies Trivia Quiz - Answers

This 1997 movie about extraterrestrials stars Jodie Foster.

2. Contact

This 2017 sniper movie features a Yaesu FT-817 throughout the movie.

1. The Wall

This 1995 movie features Charlie Sheen as an astronomer who discovers intelligent alien life.

3. The Arrival

The TV show “Alf” featured CB and radios. What was Alf’s last name?

1. Shumway

Which of these movies does NOT feature a Faraday cage?

2. Pirate Radio

In this film featuring ham radio, the main character uses a radio to talk to his deceased father.

1. Frequency

This TV series about a global pandemic featured some ham radio use.

4. The Last Ship

Ham radio was spotted in this 2016 Netflix film about supernatural beings.

2. Spectral

In this movie, aliens try to take over a radio telescope to call in an invasion.

1. Battleship

What HT was used by John McClane to talk to the bad guys in “Die Hard”?

1. Kenwood

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