

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club.

Newsletter 11.06.21

My Life With Radio.

The continuing story from John G4PKW.

It begins in January 1940 when leaving school at the age of 14. I was very thrilled to obtain employment as a trainee Radio Service Engineer in a local radio retailer.

Surprisingly we had rather a large workload during WW2. The public relied on their radios for new and government instructions. As many parts of Bromsgrove were not connected to the local electricity supply, we had to charge several hundred 2 Volt lead acid batteries every week. Rather a messy job, with a high mortality rate on trouser legs.

We had plenty of radio repairs and modifications from 110 volt to 240-volt AC for the American Service Men based at the local US Army Hospital.

One customer I remember well was a very large Land Army Girl who used to bring me a very heavy "portable" radio to repair. A large suitcase type with five valves across the centre, a huge 130-volt high tension battery and a non-spill 2-volt low tension battery. It took me all my effort to lift it onto the work bench, but I always managed to get it going, so she went away happy.

The shop manager, who due to his age or medical condition, was not called for military service but was conscripted to work at the local aircraft factory used to come down to the shop most evenings where we drank tea, smoked and repaired radios. Some nights I would didn't arrive home until 11pm. This carried on for four years when in February 1944 I was expecting my call up papers.

However, nothing happened until December 1944. It was only years later that I learned my boss had applied for a delay in my call up due to the importance of radio in keeping the public informed, so I was delayed by ten months in which time a great deal was happening in all the theatres of war. I believe these facts were the first time my connection to radio really started to impact on my life.

My boss had a friend who was caretaker at a local school. He was interested in old radios and I used to help him repair them in the school basement. Now this gentleman had a very pretty daughter whom I rather fancied, but my luck was out as she already had a boyfriend.

A little later in August 1943 two small girls came into the shop and asked to speak to John. Would I like to come to their elder sister's Birthday Party on Sunday 29th August, her 18th? As I had no idea of who she was I said that if I get my bicycle back together, I would possibly come. The party was a huge success and I think it would have ended there if her father had not asked me to come again and look at his radiogram which had been to several dealers but was still not right. I readily agreed to return but I think it was his daughter who was the greater attraction.

I think I will close now but there are a few amazing events in this story.

To be continued...

Online archive.

An impressive archive of radio and technical publications, including Practical Wireless can be found at:

https://worldradiohistory.com/Practical_Wireless_Magazine.htm

Thanks to Graeme Coultas

Exam Success.

Michael M7MBA has passed his next exam and is 2E0UNK.

Russian District Award.

I have received this from Roy G6NYG. "I have checked my log against the RBA logs and they seem to match and I could apply for an award but I would not pay 10 euros for the award".

It therefore appears to be genuine.

Club history.

This is a start of the club's history. I am looking for news clippings from past issues of Practical Wireless, Short Wave Magazine and Radio Communication if you have any.

1965

Inaugural meeting. January 8th in meeting room above Co-operative grocery. Next meeting to be held on February 5th at 8pm. Secretary John Harvey SWL.

April 9th. Club Chairman, G2CLN, talk on mobile operation.

11th June. AGM.

26th June. Get together of OM's, YL's & XYL's at Ewe and Lamb. 7pm.

1st August. Mobile picnic.

10th September. Home Brew Receivers – talk by G3GVA

October. Curing TVI by G5SS.

November. BBC announced the installation of even more refined equipment for frequency control. The 200 kc signal was now accurate to 1 part in 10 to power of 10 (about 1 cycle)

12 November. Meeting to plan field days for 1966.

10th December. Antenna systems & coupling units. Talk by G2CLN. 8 members attending local college for RAE course. CW classes half an hour before each monthly meeting.

1966

11th February. Surplus sale.

Whit Monday. G3VGG/A on the air from local football club fete. 40 contacts in four hours.

13th. May. General Club Topics.

June AGM. G2CLN re-elected as Chairman, G3TQM as treasurer, J. Dufrane (SWL) as Secretary

10th June. All band station at Bromsgrove Rovers FC Fete.

8th July. Demonstration of Heathkit apparatus by Daystrom LTD.

28th August. Mobile picnic.

1967

1st January. Decorate newly acquired shack.

10th February. Talk on Birmingham Post Office Tower.

28th April. Trip to Central Automatic Exchange in Birmingham.

1st July. Exhibition station at the Garden Party for the Ladies Branch of The Royal British Legion.

14th July. Natter night.

August. Demonstration of Heathkit Sideband gear by G3HXN.
13th October. Junk sale.

Tonight's Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7911047603?pwd=dlhZWkNnd0lvMU41TXF1YVV5U1hLZz09>

Meeting ID: 791 104 7603

Passcode: Jme9Qe

Clubs nets.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. 7.30 local time. 145.400MHz FM.

All welcome.

For Sale.

Icom IC7300.

Absolutely mint. Boxed with everything as supplied by ML&S. Purchased February 2021 so still under warranty. Never used on transmit.

I bought this as a dedicated 6M & 4M radio but the offer of a DB6NT transverter means it will no longer be required. £950.00

As always, articles for next week's newsletter to me ASAP please.

Alan G4LVK.