

**THE**

# SARC

**MAGAZINE**

Issue 3 - May 1984

## From your Chairman

To all those who have continued to support us through the winter meetings, my thanks. I must however admit that on one or two Fridays, we have been a bit thin on the ground. This can be a little embarrassing when an outside speaker has taken a great deal of time and effort, preparing an interesting talk. Of course, as I have said many times, this is your club and please make of it what you will. If the Club is not catering for your interest, then please feel free to organise or make suggestions for Club activities. I sincerely look forward to your continued support during our forthcoming D.F. hunt and field day season.

As members will be aware, Ted Knight has been in hospital with eye trouble, recently. Although Ted is now back with us, I'm sure all members will hope his sight will soon improve and that he will be restored to full health.

Is there anyone who would like to write band reports for each SARC Magazine issue? Also is anyone interested in helping with D.F. hunts?

Bob, G4BWB

## From your Editor

Club members will be pleased to see the third issue of "The SARC Magazine", after a slightly longer delay than expected. Apologies, but I have been rather busy, then lazy (all that sunshine) and the mighty Nascom has been subjected to surgery on its I/O system from which it is now almost recovered...

Previous issues have been printed courtesy of Addy, G4AYB for which many thanks. This issue has been printed at the G4FRD works and had to be paid for by the Club. I trust you think it worthwhile.

A brief return to 4 metres recently (with indoor aerial) enabled me to work several locals recently active on the band - welcome - and best dx of Manchester, with EI9Q a gotaway. How about more Club members on 4 metres?

Several goodies this issue - now read on.

Garry, G4FRD

SHIREHAMPTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Twyford House, Lower High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol.

## Blast from the past

(The following are extracts from minutes of committee meetings)

9.5.74 - NFD - We will not enter, no members can perform suitable c.w.

3.3.75 - Totally against any money being put into 2 metre or any other gear, because of complete lack of interest.

21.7.76 - In the past our money should have been put into a building society, however we were now going to spend this money. The reason why the projects had not been presented to the Club was due to spectral purity.

1.9.76 - We cannot run a Club with such stupidity amongst our members. We have also lost about 30 members due to the failure of the Committee to keep them here (at gunpoint? - G4GTD)

8.2.77 - People in the RAE class must ask more questions especially when the tutor abbreviates into radio "jargon" which the class cannot understand.

21.10.77 - Talking in the shack was quite off-putting for operators. Rooms were available for chatting.

7.2.78 - VHF aerial, guying to be finished off when the lighter evenings came along, a roof ladder being required for the final guy. The shack must be kept clear of nosey interlopers as it makes operation of either rig almost impossible.

23.6.78 - A discussion took place regarding the disappearance of the morse class (the police were not informed).

Ron, G4GTD

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## Events

6 May 1984 (Sunday)  
DF hunt on 2 metres

Charge about D.S. sheet 172 looking for the hidden station (G4NBV)

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2 & 3 June 1984 (Sat/Sun)  
HF NFD

Keep this weekend free  
Lots of help needed - not just sending cw

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## Club CLASSIFIED

No ads received this time

You may place your ad in SARC Magazine Club Classified at no charge. Simply write your ad on a piece of paper and hand it to G4FRD for inclusion in the next possible issue.

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## The Sultanate of Oman

Firstly a bit about the country: it lies at the southeast end of the Arabian peninsula, facing the Indian Ocean. In area it is a little bigger than the United Kingdom and has an estimated population of one and a half million. The land frontiers are with Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of Yemen in the south, in desert terrain, and with the United Arab Emirates in the north, bounded by high mountain ranges.

Because of these geographical barriers, the history of Oman has been to a great extent isolated from the main area of Arabia. The Omanis are the greatest Arab seafarers, and for centuries they have traded with the Indian sub-continent and East Africa. In fact, the Sultan of Oman was until quite recent times also the Sultan of Zanzibar. They have also parted from the mainstream of Islam, which is generally divided into the Sunni and Shia sects, whereas the Omanis belong to a third and minor grouping known as Ibadism. This, together with their outward looking history, has made them a proudly independent nation. Indeed, the country was never subjugated by the colonial powers who once roamed the area, firstly the Portugese then the British.

Until 1970 the Sultanate was a feudal kingdom, years behind the times, but after the accession of Sultan Qaboos, who deposed his father, the country leaped into the twentieth century. Oil has been exported for many years, but now other industries have been developed, one of the most important being copper, in the north of the country. Copper has been mined there since prehistoric times, but now a modern industry has been established. Other minerals such as chromium have also been discovered. The Sultanate exports dates and citrus fruits, and is rapidly becoming self-sufficient in agriculture. With the gigantic continuing improvements in such things as roads, health, agriculture and fishing since 1970, the country is well placed economically. In social matters too, the country is more advanced than some of its neighbours in particular

with a much more liberal attitude to the position of women within society.

Amateur Radio is alive and well in the Sultanate. The Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society (ROARS) was founded in 1972 and has the Sultan AXXAA as its patron. The Society enjoys a high standing with the authorities, and several members of the royal family and government ministers hold licences and are active on the bands. The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications is very interested in the work of the Society and recently opened the temporary headquarters building which is near Muscat (the capital). At some time in the future, a building specially designed for ROARS HQ will be developed. The present HQ has its own radio station A4XRS, which is very active, with an imposing collection of equipment. There are about 50 licence holders, less than half of whom are non-Omani. There are also about 50 swl members. The enthusiasm of the membership is very great, and in 1983 several special event stations were operated, eg A4XYX to celebrate Oman Youth Year. There is a very efficient QSL bureau run by A4XJV, and there are also Oman awards. Most A4X stations will be found on ssb, there being only half-a-dozen regular CW operators.

When I was operating as A4XYJ, I found it a fascinating experience to be a "rare" callsign. Just a few taps on the key, and instant pileup! Anyway, now back to the common-or-garden G4... Many thanks to all those in SARC who contacted me during 1983/84.

G4DPJ ex-A4XYJ, Dave

SHIREHAMPTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

LIST OF MEMBERS

G1DBX	Ron			
G3HKA	Garry		SWL	Reg Beasant (Auditor)
G3YHV	Colin	(Committee)	SWL	Jean Fletcher
G4AYB	Addy		SWL	Geoff Herbert
G4BWB	Bob	(Chairman)	SWL	Hazel Moore
G4BWE	Steve	(Auditor)	SWL	Jean Roberts
G4DPJ	Dave		SWL	Stephen Mass
G4DVV	John		SWL	Walter Winter
G4EDP	Andrew		SWL	Les Wooldridge
G4FRD	Garry			
G4GAR	John	(Treasurer)		
G4GTD	Ron	(Secretary)		
G4HHL	Vince			
G4KKU	Andy			
G4KXD	Maurice			
G4LSX	Gary			
G4NAD	Clive			
G4QQM	Pete	(Committee)		
G4RKY	Matthew			
G4WBV	Roger	(Committee)		
G6DYB	Jeff			
G6EGD	Harry			
G6FDV	Dave			
G6IQF	Richard			
G6SVR	Terence			
G6UPF	Paul			
G6XFC	John			
G6YWJ	William			
G6ZTX	David			
G6ZTY	Chris			
BBYJM	Nick			
BBZOE	Steve	(Committee)		

That, I am advised, is the complete list of members with posts held. If anyone has been missed, apologies; please write your name on a piece of paper (complete with magazine article) and pass it to me.

G4FRD, Garry

Home construction contest

The message which rang out loud and clear from SARC on 24 February was that the business of home construction is most certainly alive and well within the ranks of Bristol radio amateurs. Although possession of a factory assembled Japanese transceiver seems mandatory in this high-tech age, SARC members have definitely not surrendered to the advance of the "ready built" brigade and on oh-so-many winter evenings, hoards of amateurs clearly face a painful choice - will it be the microphone or the soldering iron (don't forget the keys, rtty & cw - G4FRD).

Despite a smaller than hoped for attendance, there were no fewer than 9 separate entries, each one vividly demonstrating a different aspect of the constructors art. A direct conversion 3.5 MHz transceiver, 2 metre masthead preamplifier, RTTY terminal unit and Morse practice oscillator were amongst the items on show. However, following a "secret ballot" of members, joint first prizes were awarded to Ted Knight and Terry, G6SVR. Ted's entry was a carefully constructed 2 metre pa and Terry brought along a lovingly constructed gdo, complete with hand wound coils.

G4BWE, Steve