

and RAYNET work together as they did in some areas during the Great Snowstorm some years ago?

Possibly Home Office refused to let RAYNET do the job? Will we fare better under our new bosses, the Department of Trade and Industry? I doubt it unless we are prepared to take action when annoyed!

LS CHASE G8BHT

UPGRADING THE FT200?

Frank, I read your articles with great interest. In fact all of the magazine. I find the reading very entertaining and educational. I have read the articles of upgrading the KW2000 with some interest. It is an old but good rig and I am sure many of your readers have welcomed this article. Now, how about a follow up on another equally good rig, the Yaesu FT200. It was a toss up as to which one I bought. The FT200 came up first and I am very pleased with it. I can't operate it yet, but I don't intend it to be long before I am licensed to do so. Dah di Dah.

I am waiting for the results of the May exam, so keep your fingers crossed for me.

GORDON CROWHURST

RF SWEEP GENERATOR

Sir, look forward to each month's issue, this month's Omega project being especially interesting. I intend building this for my future Class A licence. Must say I would rather the A licence was G1, and not G ZERO!

Could a good RF sweep generator design be a future project? I have wanted one for a long while but the few published designs I have seen were either too simple or restricted in range, others required 'special' parts and a couple did not seem repeatable! Please consider this request if you would be so kind, low LF to high VHF should cover most requirements, and I have a feeling that quite a few home-brewers would like to build one. Like the *Technicalities* design this month — keep up the good work.

MIKE SHEPHERD G8YZW

Yes, a sweep generator is a useful gadget. The only thing stopping us publishing a design for one is that we don't have a suitable design to hand. Any offers? Money awaits — Ed.

TERRIFIED

Frank Simpson's letter (July) in defence of the RSGB terrifies me! Effective representation of the interests of radio amateurs can never be based upon the idea of "... obtaining concessions from the Home Office..." and it is high time the supposed champions of amateur radio recognised this fact, acted upon it, and stopped filling their collective trousers with terror that some nasty civil servant will revoke all their licences overnight. Good radio men they may be; as politicians they are totally outclassed.

But I might just be wrong.

For a start, Frank, let's have a £10 licence fee and a total rewrite of existing licensing conditions. As you are so confident of the expertise of the RSGB, I should be content to leave the fine points to them for negotiation but the final draft must apply equally to all UK transmitting stations and include effective means of preventing violations. It is also an essential prerequisite that I see some action immediately — no, I don't mean the start of three years of desultory skirmishing prior to the opening of out-of-date talks — I mean the formation of The Radio Amateurs Rights Association which lobbies Members of Parliament, makes a nuisance of itself in the interest of radio amateurs and tells the Home Office what it wants and is determined to obtain.

Otherwise, let's all do our DXing on HF with no age limits, no exams, no licences and no restrictions; then there's no need for the RSGB at all. This approach has the added advantage of solving your problem of alleged prejudice by *Ham Radio Today*.

JG STORRY G4OID

VINTAGE PHONETICS

Frank, As a comparative newcomer to the gentle art of amateur radio, I felt quite proud of my knowledge of the international phonetic alphabet in current use, and also the fact that I well remembered from my service days with the RAF the 'Able Baker Charlie Dog' pronunciations.

I also excelled from those good old CB days in the humorous versions such as Hay for horses, Beef for dinner and Cee for yourself, etc, therefore feeling a certain invincibility during phonetic exchanges on air!

My illusions are now shattered, having been informed by a G3 veteran that amateurs and service personnel also used a phonetic style which has now practically died out and is remembered by only a few... I refer of course to such designations as "Ack-Ar 88" — for that particular receiver, "Ack-Emma" and "Pip-Emma" for morning and afternoon, and lately, just heard on air, the revived Marconi Radio call sign '2MT which comes across as "Two Emma Tock".

Can any reader or magazine staffer please enlighten me and the Radio Malt Club members as to the remainder of this wonderful and vintage phonetic code?

PETER MURRAY G4UBV

OTT

Frankly Frank you have gone OTT with your first comments on page 63, August *Ham Radio Today*. 2m FM is a million miles apart from 27MHz FM. You obviously don't listen to either band. Subject matter is up to the individual, and what you call banal is other amateur's choice. I agree that some radio procedure is suspect, especially for a month or two after new licences are issued en masse, ie. March/September, but this normally settles down in Kent anyway. I take it from your comments that you don't like B licencees even though these are the majority of your readers.

Once again the same old arguments about the multi-choice and home brew. Multi-choice is with us to stay Frank, whether you like it or not. What you are really saying is it's not the elite little club it used to be. Many G6s and new G4s do make their own equipment and experiment but you are too biased to notice.

Many new amateurs and future amateurs did, and are, studying very hard (not wiring plugs). Lorry drivers, dustmen, ordinary working class people, not only electronic whizzkids and equipment reviewers.

You are far too out of touch to be the editor of a new magazine.

And to my last comments, I don't think even you or many other amateurs are capable of making transceivers 1% as good as the equipment you constantly slag. The word amateurs means what it says, not professional.

I look forward to seeing if you have the bottle to print this.

PETER STONELL G4TLB

Frank, Brilliant. Scintillating. All is forgiven. When I first picked up a copy of *Ham Radio Today* and thumbed through it I exclaimed to myself. 'Oh. not another!'

Your review of the Asden PCS4000 deserves a gold medal, as do your opening remarks. I've been reading the hobby mags since the early thirties and seldom have I read such an honest and outspoken review that does not kow-tow to the manufacturer and/or importer for fear of losing their advertising revenue. Whilst some of your reviews do lack some technical detail, their general excellence is the main reason why I am hooked on *HRT*. But keep up the standard.

Another gold medal for catering for the newcomer wherein the future of our hobby lies. *Radcom* and the RSGB seem not to have realised that the majority of today's hams are relative newcomers and they fail to cater for the G6/8s. I've been frequently criticised for knocking the RSGB, albeit they, as our representative body will continue to have my loyal support. I'd wager that less than half of the class B licencees understand the type of article that is written up in the official journal. Pat Hawker's TT column is probably the exception.

Although licenced since 1946 and active on 80m through 2m, most modes including Oscar and RTTY, I freely admit that the best of my technical years are long since passed and there are many G6/8s who know one hell of a lot more about radio than I have known and ever will know. At the other end of the scale the state of the hobby is appalling. Last Sunday I was doing some antenna tests and was told — "You've gone up one on the meter. One dee bee. It says dee bee under the needle". In all other respects, other than radio, this person was most interesting to talk to. A little later a G8 put me right about something I had not understood about a repeater.

The newcomers greatest asset lies in their enthusiasm for this all absorbing hobby. They should be given every encouragement to improve their technical knowledge before and after the RAE. You are doing just that. Congratulations.

V J COPLEY-MAY G3AAG