

# RADIO TODAY

News about amateur radio compiled by Richard Lamont G4DYA

## AMATEUR LICENSING MOVE

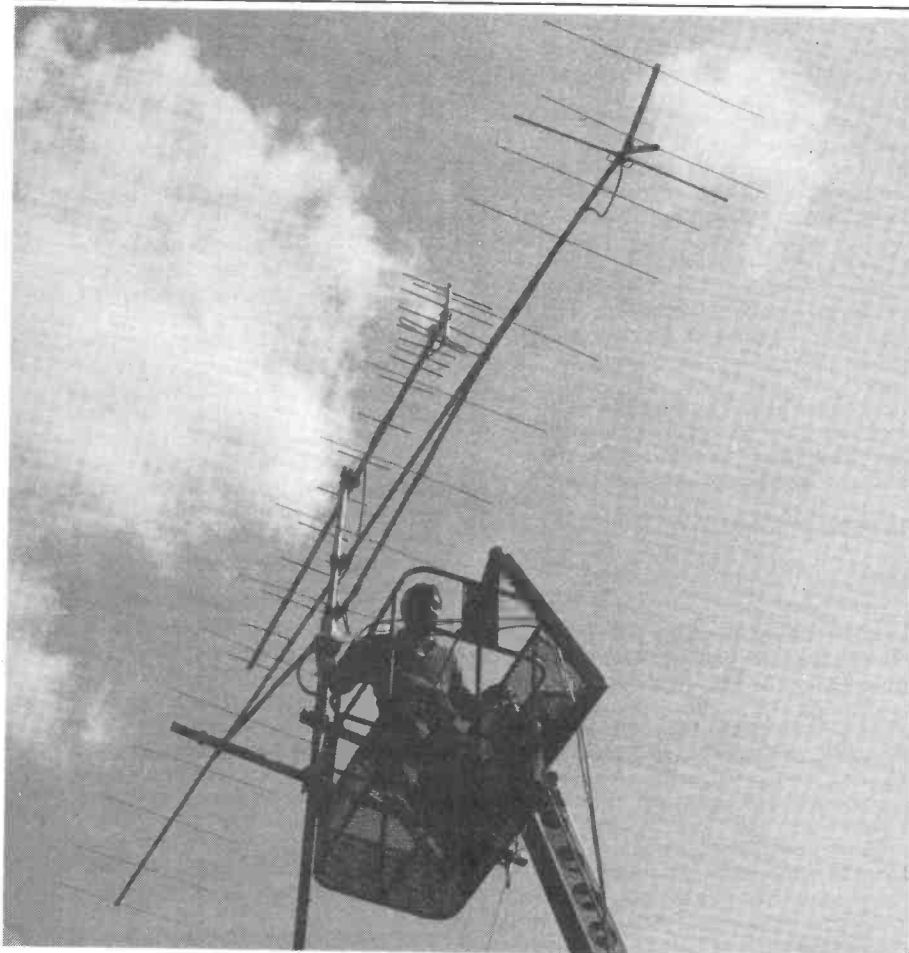
Amateur radio licences will be issued and renewed by the Post Office as from 19 September 1983.

The transfer of amateur licensing from the Department of Trade and Industry's Radio Regulatory Division to the Post Office was announced by Alex Fletcher MP, minister responsible for corporate and consumer affairs at the DTI, in reply to a Parliamentary question from Geoff Lawler MP (Bradford North). Mr Fletcher said "The Post Office, who will computerise the operation as soon as possible, are prepared to guarantee a turn-round in normal conditions of five working days and at

peak times of ten. This will help to ensure that the recent improvement in the speed of issue of these licences is maintained".

Applications for new licences on or after 19 September should be sent to the Radio Amateur Licensing Unit, Chetwynd House, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S49 1PF (Tel: Chesterfield (0246) 207555). Application forms can be obtained from the same address.

Amateurs who hold licences due for renewal during or after October will receive a reminder from the Post Office — these will be sent out from 19 September onwards.



## 50MHz FOR ALL?

UK radio amateurs will get a 50MHz band when 405-line TV closes down next year, providing that there is room for it in Band I (41–68MHz).

At the moment a team of frequency planners is deciding how the VHF TV bands will be used when the old black-and-white transmissions close down. The majority of the space will be allocated to civil land mobile radio, but the planning engineers have been told to find room for amateurs at 50MHz if at all possible.

The Government has not yet decided whether Class B licencees would be allowed on to any new 50MHz band. Whitehall sources say this would depend on the outcome of talks with both any other users sharing the allocation, and the RSGB.

## BELGIUM — UPDATE

More news of the Belgian saga is emerging day by day: this is the latest position at the time of writing.

Apparently pressure from CB groups was behind the idea to introduce a novice licence. With minimal technical qualifications, apparently a very simple questionnaire of a semi-technical nature, this licence would have allowed the use of 15W of FM anywhere in the two metre band. After strong protests from the UBA, this proposal has been cut to 145–145.8MHz. Also, all of the other changes (listed in the September *Radio Today* pages) have been postponed by a few weeks. They were originally going to take effect from 15 July.

The UBA's reaction to the news was to lobby leading politicians and to get maximum media coverage of their views. They pointed out that amateurs had shared primary status on these bands, and that the Belgian Government is a signatory to WARC '79.

The RSGB says that although it is extremely concerned by what has happened in Belgium, it seems that it is an internal Belgian matter rather than the "thin end of a European wedge".

## MAY RAE RESULTS

5,307 people passed the Radio Amateurs' Exam in May; this is 70.5% of those who sat it. 2226 failed. A further 444 people applied to take the exam but never turned up.

◀ Here's a novel way of supporting special event station aerials. The Sefton Amateur Radio Club borrowed this 52ft high hydraulic platform for GB4WMS at the Wigan Motor Show.