

RADIO TODAY

Pilgrim Fathers Celebration

A special-event station in Massachusetts, WA1NPO, will be operating on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 24th, from a site overlooking a replica of the Mayflower at Plimoth Plantation, which is a living history museum depicting life as it was in the early days of America's history. On the UK side, a complementary station, GB2PRC will be operated by Plymouth Radio Club from Plymouth Hoe in Devon, from which the original Mayflower sailed in 1620. The operating schedule at WA1NPO will be:

20 metres: 14180 or 14255 from
1300 to 1600,
14355 from 1600 to
2000

15 metres: 21260 from 1300 to
1430
21385 from 1730 to
2000. All times GMT.

WA1NPO will welcome contacts with any UK station, and an attractive certificate featuring the Mayflower and suitable for framing, is available.

Amateur Radio will link Plymouth Devon and Plymouth Massachusetts on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November

ber 24th when WA1NPO and GB2PRC will be in contact during the day on 14180, 14255 & 14355 between 1300 and 1600, and on 21260 from 1300 to 1430, and 21385 from 1730 to 2000, GMT.

The US Station will be located at Plimoth Plantation, a living museum devoted to re-creating the lifestyle of the early New England settlers, and will be alongside a fullsize replica of the Mayflower; GB2PRC will be on Plymouth Hoe from which the original Mayflower sailed in 1620.

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Tuned Feed Without Tears

300 ohm ribbon cable makes a very convenient feeder for multi-band tuned-fed antennas, such as the G5RV dipole. However, moisture, laying along the cable can cause severe variations in the SWR of the antenna. The only way to combat this problem was to cut slots in the feeder — usually with a pair of scissors — a laborious and often painful process.

Now, W.H. Westlake of Holsworthy, Devon, have managed to track

down a slotted ribbon cable from a manufacturer in Sweden — and sore fingers will now be a thing of the past. The Bofa GMP-6 is claimed as "being superior to existing closed gap types and not affected by rain or dampness of the feeder" ...although... "a little more expensive".

Electrical Characteristics are claimed as follows

Impedance	300 ohms
Capacitance	11pF/m

Attenuation at 20C	
50 MHz	2.1dB/100m
200 MHz	4.6dB/100m
500 MHz	8.0dB/100m

The cable is available from W.H. Westlake at West Park, Clawton Holsworthy, Devon EX22 6QN and is priced at 20p per metre (postage 3p a metre).

Stolen Yacht Located by Radio Amateurs

There are many Amateur Radio Maritime networks round the world. One of the oldest, the UK Maritime net, recently received a report from a sailing 'ham' in Alicante that the 40ft ketch 'Frizzelle' had been stolen. Such reports are repeated twice a day at our regular Net times, 0800 and 1800 GMT on 14.303 and the news spreads worldwide via other 'relay' stations in a remarkably short time. About two weeks later an alert member of the network in the Canary Islands spotted what looked like 'Frizzelle' entering Arrecife in Lanzarote. Registration and engine serial numbers were obtained and identified her as the stolen yacht, no doubt on its way to South America, where, incidentally, other sailing 'hams' had already been alerted.

While these nets are basically for the informal exchange of positions, weather and harbour information, some dramatic rescues have been assisted by Amateur Radio, not least Richard Broadhead's remarkable rescue of his fellow competitor, Jacques de Roux sinking in the South Pacific in the Whitbread Round the World Race. Initially alerted by the French boat's 'Panic button' on his satellite-tracking transponder, Newport R.I.'s Ham relay station alerted the U.K. Maritime net who passed the message to our New Zealand counterpart who was in touch with Richard, the nearest boat (300 miles away) in that remote part. Jacques had just inches of freeboard left when he was taken off.



When can
we have
out telly
back, Dad?