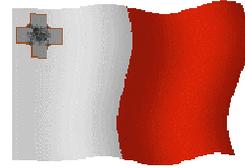


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

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Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for November 2009, which is issue 44 of this series.

MARL members on the weekend of 17-18 October took part in the **Scouts Jamboree** from a number of places in Malta. You will find some details and photos in this magazine. We encourage anyone who can install a station whenever the Jamboree is held to attract more people to our hobby.

One can also speak to the Local Council where he lives to see if there is any activity being organized by the Council, and many Local Councils organize activities related to their localities, both personally as well as **MARL** can take part as we have taken part in the Military Day that was organized by the Mtarfa Local Council.

As usual you have a few internet web pages that are really interesting about Centres that study the geomagnetic and geophysical activity of the earth, among them earthquakes in the Mediterranean region where many earthquakes occur although we do not feel them or do not notice them.

For those who are interested in working with small transmitter power, that is **QRP** there are also a few internet links that I have no doubt are going to interest you.

For those who like to listen on very low frequencies you have information about the station **SAQ** which is declared as world heritage because it is the only station in the world that uses an **Alexanderson** alternator.

This is operated on special days and is going to operate again on **24 December on Christmas eve at 08.00 UTC**. I remind you that the frequency of this station is **17.2 kHz** and one can find computer programmes and can make an **SDR** receiver to listen on this frequency and other low frequencies.

Do not forget that for these occasions this station sends a **QSL** card to those who send it a report and therefore all those who like to collect these cards should not miss this occasion. At the same time they would know that this station can be heard on these low frequencies and how capable they are to receive it.

As always, I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box or you can send it to me on my e-mail **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Problems for the Mind

A man was given two lengths of fuses which were of the same length and he was told that both would burn in two minutes but not in a linear manner. He was told to burn them together in such a way that both would burn in **1.5 minutes**. How did he do it?

Remember that they did not burn in a linear manner, that is, one might burn one third of the way in one minute and the other might burn only a quarter or three quarters in one minute.

Fuse 1

Fuse 2

The answer is quite simple. It does not matter that they do not burn in a linear manner or that one might burn for a third of its length and the other might burn for a half or three quarters of its length.

What he did was to join them together at the centre and light the fuses at both ends. After exactly 1 minute, he lit both fuses at the centre where he had joined them, so that each fuse burned the remaining length in half the time it would have taken had it continued to burn from one end only. Therefore, each fuse took exactly 1.5 minutes to burn and both were burned in 1.5 minutes.

Thanks to **Dominic 9H1M**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

9H1M Dominic

I am still waiting for the photos and exact details from **Dominic's** group that established a new world record by making contact by means of television between **Malta** and **Corfu** at a distance of **620 kilometres**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Scouts Jamboree stations

Qawra

One of the radio stations that were set up by radio amateurs was together with the **Qawra** Scouts group. This group has some **85** Scouts while around **30** were present for the **Jamboree**.

The call sign used was **9H9QSG** and the operators were **Chris 9H1BW** u **Robin 9H1ZZ**. Also present were **George 9H1AA** and **Joe 9H1VW**.

The equipment they used was

HF **FT757GX 100Watts**
VHF/UHF **FT8900 50Watts**
Antenni HF **TH3 MKIV 3 element tri-band Yagi**
 Windom
VHF/UHF **GP**

This is the first time that the **Qawra** Scouts Group took part in the on air **Jamboree** because usually they take part in the internet **Jamboree** and we hope that they continue to do so every year.

A week prior to the **Jamboree**, **Chris 9H1BW** went for a meeting with the Scouts where he explained to them our hobby, how contacts are made, etc. Note were also distributed and each Scout had written information that could be used during all the contacts that they made.



AN electronic logbook prepared by the **Dutch** Scouts was used during the **Jamboree** as well as a **QSL** card designed by the Scouts themselves and which was printed for the occasion.

The frequencies that were most used were **40**, **20** and **15** metres due to propagation while the best contact was with **Khartoum** in **Sudan**. Echolink was also used, both on **VHF** u **1-UHF** for contacts both in Malta as well as outside Malta.

The local contacts helped the Scouts understand how contacts are made without interference as well as without language difficulty, while contacts were also made with stations from the **United Kingdom**, **The Netherlands** and **Taiwan**.

All the Scouts showed interest and took part in the contacts and requested that next year they again take part in the on air Jamboree apart from the internet. This looks good for our hobby and thanks should go to **Chris 9H1BW** and **Robin 9H1ZZ** that stimulated interest for our hobby in the **Qawra** Scouts.

Mellieha

The **Mellieha** Scouts also participated in the Jamboree by means of the call sign **9H9MSG** that was operated by **Steven 9H1SF** and **Joe 9H1AJ**





There were other Scouts groups that took part in this **Jamboree** that I don't have photos of.

We hope that in the coming years there will be more radio amateurs who encourage more Scouts to start our radio hobby.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Condolences



Personally and on behalf of **MARL** we give our condolences to the family of **Frits van Rossum – PAØBEA – 9H3IE** and his friends who come every year to work from Malta who died on 28 September a few days after he went back from Malta. We unite with them in their grief.

Another piece of sad news comes from America where four radio amateurs were going to take part in a DX-pedition lost their lives when the twin-engine aircraft that was being piloted by one of them crashed while taking off from the airport.

The aircraft belonged to **Peter Radding, W2GJ** (69 years) who was piloting it, while the other three were **Ed Steeble, K3IXD** (68 years), **Dallas Carter, W3PP** (67 years), and **Randy Hargenrader, K4QO** (55 years).

This reminds us of the sacrifice made by those who go on a DX-pedition so that we could say that we have talked to a new country. We give our condolences to their families.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

SumbandilaSat

In the last issue of this magazine I mentioned the SumbandilaSat satellite that was built by South Africa and was put into orbit from **Baikonur** in **Kazakstan**. This satellite was tested and is working correctly and is now known as **SumbandilaSat-OSCAR 67** or simply **Oscar 67**.

When it is totally commissioned and the repeater is operational it could be used by radio amateurs where I remind you that the frequencies are: uplink to the satellite is **145.880 MHz** while the downlink frequency back to earth is **435.350 MHz**. It also has a speech radio beacon on **435.300 MHz**.

I remind you that the method of how the repeater is controlled is by means of **CTCSS** whose frequencies will be announced later on. As soon as I have further information I will inform you.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Alexanderson's transmitter on 17.2 kHz

I have written at other times about the Alexanderson's transmitter that works by means of an alternator on a frequency of **17.2 kHz** with the call sign **SAQ** and is found in **Grimeton, in Sweden**. The internet link for this historical station is <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

This station is the only one that has remained in the world that uses an alternator and is switched on every now and then to remain in good condition. Whenever it transmits it requests a report from those who hear it and also sends a **QSL** card.

The next transmission will be on **24 December on Christmas eve at 08.00 UTC**. Therefore all those who want to can listen to the transmission and if possible record it and if they send a report they can receive a **QSL** card from this historical station.

Reports can be sent either on the e-mail **info @ alexander.n.se**
or Fax on **+46-340-674195**
or via **SM bureau**
or by snail mail **Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner, Radiostationen, Grimeton 72, S-430 16 ROLFSTORP, SWEDEN**

Whoever happens to be in **Sweden** and near and wants to visit this station, every Tuesday evening in summer visitors are shown around the station and the alternator is switched on although no transmissions are made.

VLF

It is also interesting once we are talking about such low frequencies that **Frank 9H1BM** told us that on 2 and 3 October there was a station on a frequency of **24.3 kHz** at 8.00 in the morning with the call sign **RJH69** sending high speed Morse code and continued doing so until around 08.30.

Later, **Frank** sent more information about these stations. **Frank** found that this station was **RJH69** and **RJH66**. **RJH69** is from **Belarus, Melodecno** and **RJH66** from **Bishkek in Russia**. **RJH69** transmits from **0600 – 0630Z** while **RJH66** transmits from **0900 – 0930Z**. The frequency if the two stations is the same, that is **24.3 kHz**.

Frank also told us that there are stations that transmit time signals on **16 kHz** and **60 kHz** from **Rugby in England**.

Germany also has stations that transmit time signals on frequencies of **74.3 kHz** and **77.5 kHz**. There is also another station on **65.6 kHz** that is not yet identified.

This is apart from other stations that also sent messages called **NAVTEX** and weather charts that one needs a computer and special programme to receive them.

Among other stations there is **RDL** from **Arkangelsk** that sends **OBS** that is meteorological bulletins on **19 kHz**.

In Malta they used to receive these bulletins at station **9HD** from ships and which were passed on to the **Meteorological Office** at **Hal-Luqa** by **RTTY**.

It would be very interesting if one tried to listen on these low frequencies and sends us information so that we can publish it in this magazine. Thanks to **Frank** for this information.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Interesting links

Prague Institute of Geophysics

<http://www.ig.cas.cz/en/welcome/>

Geomagnetic Activity

<http://www.ig.cas.cz/en/structure/observatories/geomagnetic-observatory-budkov/forecast-of-geomagnetic-activity/>

To see how the both Europe and the Mediterranean are full of earthquakes go to the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre

<http://www.emsc-csem.org/index.php?page=home>

Earthquake Hazards Program (USA)

http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsww/Quakes/quakes_all.html

Swiss Global List and Waveforms (Around the World)

http://www.seismo.ethz.ch/redpuma/redpuma_ami_list.html

Local earthquakes in West Bohemia

<http://rebel.ig.cas.cz/seismo/Webnet/AutLoc/czech/startCZ.html>

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

QRP Links

The following are internet links that interest everyone, but especially those who like to work **QRP**. A lot of them have internet links to other **QRP** organizations.

Learn CW

<http://lcwo.net/>

QRP ARCI (Amateur Radio Club International)

<http://www.qrparci.org/>

Adventure Radio Society

<http://arsqrp.pbworks.com/>

American QRP Club

<http://www.amqrp.org/>

CW Operators' QRP Club Inc. (VK)

<http://www.users.on.net/~zietz/qrp/club.htm>

DL QRP Club (in German)

<http://www.dl-qrp-ag.de/projekte/index.html>

EA QRP Club (in Spanish)

<http://www.eaqrp.com/>

Flying Pigs QRP Club International

<http://www.fpqrp.com/>

G-QRP Club

<http://www.gqrp.com/>

HF Pack

<http://hfpack.com/>

I-QRP Club (In Italian. They have a very interesting magazine in Italian and English)

<http://www.arimontebelluna.it/>

JA-QRP

<http://www.jaqrp.org/> **In English** <http://en.jaqrp.org/>

North America CW QRP Club

<http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>

OK-QRP Club (They have a lot of internet links)

<http://okqrp.fud.cz/>

QRP-Canada

<http://www.qrp-canada.com/wp/>

RU-QRP Club in Russian. On the right hand side there is English. Go on it and all the articles will be translated into English when you click on their links.

<http://www.qrp.ru/modules/news/>

Sardinia QRP Club

<http://www.sardiniaqrp.com/>

6000 internet links

<http://www.ac6v.com/>

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

First repeater on different frequencies

On 3 November a permit has just been issued for a repeater on two different frequencies in England. This repeater is operated by the **WesseX Repeater Group** works on **10 metres** and on **6 metres**.

When it is not being used as a repeater it is used as a radio beacon so that one can compare propagation on two frequencies simultaneously. The two systems have the same **ERP** and use the same omnidirectional antenna.

The repeater call sign is **GB3WX** and provides the possibility when the propagation is good for one to connect with it.

Further details about how this repeater is going to work can be found on this group's internet link which is <http://twxrg.web.googlepages.com/home>

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

QRSS

Stanley 9H1LO sent an e-mail to the **MARL** group where he is offering a **QRSS** receiver on **30** metres to receive QRSS signals and sends them to **Stanley's** internet webpage on <http://www.9h1lo.net/grabber/>

For this scope whoever has the receiver must have a computer that is switched on and connected to the internet all the time.

The computer need not be dedicated for this work and you can use it for other purposes, but if you don't have a computer **Stanley** may find you one.

If you don't have an antenna **Stanley** will give you a dipole (as a coaxial feeder you can use **RG58**) and also install a special programme on your computer.

Since he is operating a **QRSS** beacon on the same frequency he cannot also have a receiver on the same frequency and is therefore making this offer.

These links were sent by **Stanley** for anyone who wants more information on **QRSS**.

<http://www.qrss.thersgb.net/Receiving-QRSS.html>

<http://www.w0ch.net/qrss/qrss.htm>

<http://www.ussc.com/~turner/qrss1.html>

www.9h1lo.net

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

500 kHz

For those who like to listen on **500 kHz** today we have good news. **Canada** issued two licenses for frequencies between **504 kHz** to **509 kHz**.

These licenses were issue to **VE1ZZ** who was given the call sign **VX9PSO** to use it on this frequency and the other to **VO1NA** who was given the call sign **VX9MRC**.

VO1NA already talked to **Finbar EI0CF** on this frequency on 25 October where **Finbar** even reduced transmitter power to **35 Watt** in one of the **QSO's**.

It's good that one should know that these are two great amateurs who already were the first radio amateurs from **Canada** who were working on a frequency of **136 kHz**.

Apart from this, the transmission of **Gus SM6BHZ** on this frequency was also heard by **Laurence KL1X** who is near **Tianjin Bohai** bay in **China**.

We would like to know when the Maltese authorities are going to decide to decide themselves and not wait for a decision to be taken by the **ITU** before they also give us this frequency as it was given to other radio amateurs from a number of countries around the world.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

70MHz

Interesting news about this frequency is that as from 5 November radio amateurs in **Norway** <http://www.lovddata.no/ltavd1/filer/sf-20091105-1340.html> were given the use of this **70 MHz** frequency or as it is also known as **4 metres**.

This includes not only **Norway** itself but also **Svalbard, Bear, Jan Mayen, Bouvet, Peter I Islands** and **Norwegian** land in **Antarctica**.

Finnish radio amateurs were also given permission to use this frequency as from 4 November.

Information collected from <http://www.70mhz.org/index.php?categoryid=1>

In Malta as usual we are still waiting and perhaps we may be given permission when the white flies come.

This information is about the year **1957/58** that was declared as the geophysical year where radio amateurs were given frequencies to experiment on between **50 MHz** and **72 MHz**.

Here you have a list of countries and frequencies that radio amateurs were given. It's good to remind you that the English radio amateurs have celebrated 50 years that they have been given the use of the **70 MHz** frequency.

Eire:	70,575-70,775 MHz
France:	72,0-72,8 MHz
Finland:	70,2-70,3 MHz
Germany:	70,3-70,4 MHz
England:	70,2-70,4 MHz, 50 W, A1, A2, A3
The Netherlands:	70,3-70,4 MHz
Norway:	50,0-54,0 MHz, A1, A2, A3, F3
Norway:	70,6-72,0 MHz, A1, A2, A3, F3
Sweden:	50,0-50,5 MHz, 150 W
Yugoslavia:	72,0-72,8 MHz

This information had appeared in the **Danish** radio amateurs Magazine. For them England meant all the **United Kingdom**. There was also a note that the Scandinavian countries except Denmark were still negotiating and further information was to be given later.

Ten special licenses were also issued in **Austria** for this frequency, **OE6AP (SK)** who held the first contact with **Yugoslavia YU3** although the details about the date and who the **Yugoslav** radio amateur was are not known.

OE2JG/P had made contact with **Germany** with **DL1EI fl-1957**, while there was also a radio beacon **OE7IGY** operated by **OE7AR (SK)**.

As you can see the authorities of other countries see what they can do to include radio amateurs in technological experiments, but we always lag behind in Malta.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

MARL Activities

Exam

The **Malta Amateur Radio League** will be holding the examinations at its premises in Notabile Road, Attard, on Saturday 21st November.

The exam consists of two parts: Written (from 9 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.) and (Practical) Morse Code (from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.) Please be aware that if candidates finish from their written exam earlier than allocated, the Morse Exam may commence before the time announced so please try to be a bit earlier.

Applications should be submitted by Sunday 8th November.

For more information call the secretary on 79437808, or email to: Exam Info ivan.privitera at gmail.com or in person at the club's premises on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon.

New Course

We remind everyone that a new course leading to the examinations to acquire the radio amateur license started at the **MARL** Centre and will be held on every Sunday.

Payment of Membership

We remind you that now that next month we would have arrived at the last month of the year the time has come for one to pay his/her membership to remain a **MARL** member. The cashier is always ready to accept membership fees whenever the **MARL** Centre is open or if you cannot some you can pay by cheque to **MARL**.

Yahoo Group

Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold. Do not forget that we may have activities which may not be able to appear on this magazine because it may have already been issued and therefore the notice will be sent on the yahoo group. Therefore make sure that if you are not already in the group to become members so that you will not lose any activity that we will be organizing. Send an e-mail to Ivan, **9H1PI** ivan.privitera at gmail.com to become members in the group.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR