



MARL



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan

Radio Amateurs

Number 5

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## Smoking is Prohibited



**at the Centre**



### From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to the Christmas edition which is the fifth edition of this magazine.

As everyone who comes to the Club knows, we have installed or are going to install antennae so that whoever wants to can use our radio apparatus on all its frequencies.

We are going to install an antenna for 1.8 Mhz that was donated by the Netherlands team that have for a long time been coming every year to operate from Malta. We thank them for this antenna.

There would therefore be no excuse that whoever wants to cannot operate on 160 metres. You have till 8 in the evening every Tuesday and Thursday when the Club is open to do so.

We have also installed an antenna for 80 Metres so that whoever wants to can work on this frequency.

We have also installed an antenna for 40 Metres, which as you know has been extended and we can use between 7.0 Mhz and 7.2 Mhz. It is to be further extended in the future up to 7.3 Mhz as it was years ago, although it appears that this part is going to be shared with other services.

We remind you that this had to be extended to 7.2 Mhz from 2009 onwards.

However, since the authorities of every country can grant it before that time, we made our representations with the Wireless Telegraphy Office where as you know we succeeded in being granted the extension from this year.

To be sure that we have antennae dedicated to all frequencies we have also installed an antenna for 10 Mhz, while someone is going to make a rotary one for 10 Mhz, 18 Mhz and for 24 Mhz.

An antenna had been bought for the transceiver to be used on 50 Mhz, 144 Mhz and 430 Mhz. Instead, this antenna was used for the 50 Mhz beacon because the previous antenna had broken down.

Now we have an antenna that can be used on the beacon, thanks to one of our colleagues, while the antenna that was bought for the transceiver may be connected to the transceiver so that the apparatus could also be used on 50 Mhz and 144 Mhz

Since the new IC7400 Transceiver did not have all the frequencies because it is an Italian model, we had arranged for it to be modified so that it could be used on frequencies which we can use in Malta.

Now that we have antennae for nearly all frequencies we hope to see you more at the Club.

Lawrence  
9H1AV / 9H9MHR



### From the History Book

So that everything remains written in the history book, today we are going to give you the Statute of the first Maltese radio society which was known as the Malta Radio Society.

This Statute was written in the English and Italian languages since at that time the Maltese language was still not given the importance that it deserves as the language of the Maltese people.

With thanks to Walter Gatt, 9H1DU, who gave me a copy of this Statute.

**1. Title-**

The name of the Society is “The Malta Radio Society.”

**2. Object -**

The object of the Society is the furtherance of all matters connected with Radio Telegraphy and Telephony; to promote the general advancement of Radio Science and its applications and to instruct young men to become wireless operators on ships or abroad.

The members will have the following advantages:-

- a) Technical advice regarding their receivers;
- b) Instructional Lectures by competent persons about Radio;
- c) Eventually, a meeting place where books, journals and periodicals pertaining to wireless will be found with reports as to the progress and development of Transmitting Stations and also Receivers;
- d) Letters of recommendation to members who would like to visit stations in foreign cities.

**3. Membership -**

The Society consists of Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding Members.

Members are entitled to bear the letters M.M.R.S. after their names.

**4. Admission of Members –**

Every candidate for admission must be proposed and seconded by two members.

No person whose application has been rejected may be again proposed for admission before one year from the date of rejection.

**5. Resignation –**

Members may resign by informing the Secretary in writing, at least one month before the expiration of the year.

**6. Expulsion –**

Any member whose conduct or behaviour render him unworthy to form part of the Society will be expelled.

To expel a member it is necessary that two thirds of the votes in a General Meeting are in favour of expulsion.

**7. Subscriptions –**

Members shall pay five shillings<sup>1</sup> a year, payable half-yearly in advance, i.e. from 1st January to 30 June and from 1st July to 31st December.

Whatever the date of the admission, new members shall pay the whole half-yearly subscription during which they are admitted.

The subscription is binding from year to year. Membership of persons admitted during the second half-year of 1927 is binding up to 31st December 1928.

Any member resigning during a half-year already commenced, is bound to pay for the whole six months.

**8. Member in arrears –**

A member whose subscription is in arrears for two consecutive six months shall be notified by the Treasurer and should he fail to pay within fifteen days from the date of notification his name may be cancelled from the Society’s List of Members.

Any member thus cancelled from the Society’s List of Members may be reinstated without ballot after paying what is then due and before any judicial proceedings are taken.

**9. Officers and Members of the Committee –**

The officers are: a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary who together with six Members form the Managing Committee.

**10. Election of the Committee –**

The Managing Committee shall be elected by secret ballot and by a majority of votes during the last fortnight in December of each year with the exception of the present Committee which shall remain in office till the 31st December 1928.

**11. The President and Vice President –**

No member shall be eligible for the post of President unless he has been a member of the Committee for at least one year.

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<sup>1</sup> 25 Cents

**The President is to :-**

- a) Preside at Committee Meetings and General Meetings.
- b) Sign social deeds, the minutes and all other important documents of the Society.
- c) See that the Society's rules are carried out.
- d) Maintain order during meetings
- e) Procure the good management and the progress of the Society.
- f) Summons Ordinary as well as General Meetings.
- g) Deliver a report of the working of the Society during the year

In the absence of the President his duties shall be performed by the Vice President and in the latter's absence, by a member, chosen by the Committee.

**12. The treasurer –**

The Treasurer is entrusted with all the Society's receipts and payments; and will look after and be responsible for the social funds. He shall not spend any sum above five shillings without the consent of the Committee and it will be his duty to note all expenses.

He shall deposit in a bank selected by the Committee any amount above ten pounds sterling, and shall withdraw money by cheque signed by himself and the President or the one acting for the latter.

He shall collect all subscriptions during the first fortnight of every half-year, and shall render an account of the previous year in the meeting held in January, so that it will be audited by two members chosen in the same meeting who will report on same during the next meeting.

He shall represent the Society in Court, in financial matters.

**13. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary –**

- a) He shall keep a record book of the Committee Meetings and General Meetings and note therein the respective minutes;
- b) He shall affix to every minute the order of the day;

- c) He shall have charge of all the correspondence and shall keep a file for all letters received and copies of those he sends;
- d) He shall notify by a circular, Committee Meetings as well as General Meetings not less than four days before the day fixed for every meeting, except in urgent cases when the time of the meetings shall be fixed by the President;
- e) He shall read out the order of the day, showing every motion to be discussed and eventually decided upon;
- f) He shall notify by letter every new member within a week of his admission, and send him a copy of the Society's rules;
- g) He shall keep the Society's List of Members wherein he shall note the names and addresses of members and the date of their admission.

The assistant Secretary shall help the Secretary as may be necessary and do his duties during his absence.

**14. Forfeiture of rights of Committee Members –**

Any Officer or Member who is absent without justification during three consecutive Committee Meetings shall be considered to have resigned and a substitute will immediately be elected.

**15. Meetings –**

The President shall fix the day and the hour of all meetings; he shall call General Meetings whenever he is requested in writing by ten members of the Society or by five members of the Managing Committee who shall state the object of the request for such meeting.

The President may not accede to the request if same is not intended to promote the social interests.

**16. The Quorum –**

At General Meetings a quorum of ten members is required, or which at least three are Committee members, and five

members to form a quorum will be required for Committee Meetings.

Should a meeting not take place for want of the quorum above mentioned, a second meeting to transact the business shall be held whatever the number of those present.

### **17. Representation –**

The President, Treasurer or Secretary as the case may be, shall represent the Society at any legal procedure or deed, exception being made to the contents of Art: 12.

18. The present regulations shall come into force on the day of their approval.

Approved in the General Meeting held on the 22nd July 1927.

Carm. Cauchi Gera  
Hon: Secretary.



## **News**

### **136 khz**

Although we still haven't succeeded in getting this frequency we are still working to get permission to be able to use it.

However, it is probable that we will have to wait for a decision from the 2007 World Radio Conference where there is a proposal for this frequency to be granted to radio amateurs on a world-wide basis.

We are very sorry that we are not able to be among those who have already been granted the use of this frequency and who are taking giant strides in the methods and in the development of methods of communications on this frequency.

It is a shame that in Malta we will probably be the last or among the last to be given that which others had been given years before, and cannot be among the first people who make new developments.

### **500 khz**

We have also not yet been successful in acquiring this frequency, but like 136 khz we are still trying to be able to use it if possible.

What we have said about 136 khz also applies to this frequency.

### **5Mhz**

We are also still trying to obtain this frequency.

However, what we have said about 136 khz and 500 khz also applies to this frequency.

### **70Mhz**

First of all we should state that we are asking that Maltese radio amateurs will be able to use frequencies between 70 Mhz and 70.5 Mhz.

This frequency has been given years ago to radio amateurs in certain countries, while during the last few years it has been given to radio amateurs in different European countries, including ex-Soviet Union countries, not to mention other countries in other continents.

Presently it does not appear that there is a chance that we will be given this frequency because according to the national frequency band plan, frequencies between 68 Mhz and 74.8 Mhz are reserved for Government use. Do not forget that we are only asking a very small portion, 500 khz only.

We cannot understand the reasoning not to be granted this frequency as has been granted to radio amateurs in other countries, probably arising from a fear that radio amateurs may hear some ongoing communications.

You should know that in the ex-Soviet Union countries, frequencies between 66 Mhz and 75 Mhz are used for FM broadcasting instead of frequencies between 88 Mhz and 108 Mhz.

Therefore, whoever has a radio to receive broadcast FM stations from Eastern European countries can also listen to all communications on these frequencies.

We also remind you that no one knows how many people have radios to listen to any frequency they want without anyone knowing about them.

We have no doubt that radio amateurs are responsible people known to the authorities, and we also have no doubt that if they accidentally were to hear anything they will not divulge it.

Do you think that whoever wants to do something wrong would apply for a radio amateur licence so that the authorities would know about him?

We also have no doubt that the authorities also know that today there are means with which speech is scrambled if they want their communications not to be understood by whoever happens to listen to them.

This is why we cannot understand the reasoning and fear by the Maltese authorities who do not want to give us this frequency to be like radio amateurs in other countries.

When will the Maltese authorities change their antiquated mentality which is not valid today and learn to encourage development in every sector as is done in all other countries instead of making all kinds of imaginable obstacles to anyone who wants to be at the forefront of development in his sector?

Let me now show how a Maltese radio amateur can transmit and receive on a frequency of 70 Mhz without the Maltese authorities would be able to do anything to stop him.

He can do this by acquiring, for example, a British licence, buys a boat and registers it in England. It would thus be considered as an English boat and he could keep it in Malta just the same.

Whenever he wants he can take his boat out and listen and transmit as much as he wants because this frequency can be used by radio amateurs having an English licence and he will also be on an English boat.

Another example is for a person to be on a foreign ship not registered in Malta where he will also be able to listen on any frequency even when the ship is in port.

Do you think that the authorities would become aware how they are keeping Maltese radio amateurs from being in the forefront of international developments with their unfounded reasoning and fear?

Lawrence  
9H1AV/9H9MHR



## For History

Previously we carried an article regarding developments that were and are still being made by Maltese radio amateurs on 10Ghz. We have done this so that such things remain written down in history so that they will not be lost.

Do not forget that we have also told you that whoever does something new, worked a station on some frequency for the first time in Malta or invented something, to tell us so that we write it down to remain recorded.

I am going to again give a list of stations that I have worked on 160 metres, which list appeared in the December 1983 – February 1984 MARL magazine.

This list shows a number of stations from different countries which was the first time that a station from Malta had communicated with them on 160 metres.

To tell you the truth, when I had a look at that magazine I had a shock because I realised that more than 30 years had passed from the first contacts that appear on the list. You wouldn't believe how time flies without you becoming aware about it.

I hope to start receiving similar lists for each frequency and mode of transmission from Maltese radio amateurs so that

everything will remain written down in the history books.

Where QSO's are not marked they are on CW and where marked they are on SSB.

19.11.1975 OK3KFF  
19.11.1976 DK2QL  
21.11.1975 OE5NT  
21.11.1976 HB9AQA

11.01.1976 GD4BEG  
14.01.1976 5B4YK  
17.01.1976 GW4AEC  
17.01.1977 OH1SJ  
24.01.1976 PA0HIP  
25.01.1976 G4BUE

07.02.1976 K1PBW  
08.02.1976 GM3YCB  
08.02.1977 K1PBW (SSB)  
08.02.1976 EA8CR (SSB)  
08.02.1976 W8LRL  
08.02.1976 W2DEO0  
10.02.1976 OH0NI (SSB)  
14.02.1976 W3GMV  
14.02.1976 W4BRB  
22.02.1976 W1HGT  
28.02.1976 AC9SZR/3

14.03.1976 PY1RO  
20.03.1976 W6BYB/VE1  
21.03.1976 ZB2CY

10.04.1976 VE1MX/XJ1

06.11.1976 ZC4IO  
10.11.1976 GI3JEX  
27.11.1976 9D5A (Iran)  
28.11.1976 HB0AZD

19.12.1976 YT9A (Jugoslavja)  
19.12.1976 I4AMO  
22.12.1976 JA3ONB

26.11.1977 YU1BCD  
26.11.1977 F9RM  
16.12.1978 JA5DQH

27.01.1979 SP3DOI  
27.01.1979 4X4NJ  
28.01.1979 W8LRL  
28.01.1979 W9NI

25.10.1980 RB5GPM

25.10.1980 UK5IGO  
25.10.1980 EA5HM

20.11.1980 UA6YAO  
20.11.1980 UK2PCH  
24.11.1982 UQ2GII  
24.11.1982 UB5SBI  
24.11.1982 5N8ARY (CW/SSB)  
25.11.1982 HZ1AB  
26.11.1982 SM6EHY  
27.11.1982 EW6V (via UK2PCR)  
28.11.1982 LZ1KDF  
28.11.1982 RG6G

I want to make a correction because when I again had a look at my logbook I found out that I had contacted LZ1CL on 26.11.1982, two days before LZ1KDF.

I also want to add  
04.03.1984 FC8TT

Lawrence 9H1AV/9H9MHR



## Foreign Radio Amateur Associations

As a service to you so that if you are overseas you would know whom you can contact, we are going to start publishing details about foreign radio amateur associations which are in Region 1. We hope that you finding them useful.

**BFRR BELARUS FEDERATION OF RADIOAMATEURS AND RADIOSPORTSMEN**  
P O Box 469, Minsk 220050, Belarus.  
Telephone: +375 17 289 3045  
Fax: +375 17 289 3045  
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Web: <http://www.www.bfrr.net>  
President: Vladimir V Sidorov, EU1SA  
Secretary: Raissa V Volkova EU1YL  
IARU Liaison: President

**CARS CYPRUS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 51267, Limassol 3053, Cyprus.  
Telephone: +357 22 435 114  
Fax: +357 22 433 416  
E-mail: [ssltd@spidernet.com.cy](mailto:ssltd@spidernet.com.cy)  
Web: <http://cyhams.org>  
President: Aris Kaponides, 5B4JE

Secretary: Spyros Stavrinides, 5B4MF  
IARU liaison: Secretary

**CRAM CLUB DES RADIOAMATEURS  
ET AFFILIES DU MALI**

Address: BP 855, BAMAKO, MALI  
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75 58

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YATTARA, TZ6HY  
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Secretary: Petr Cepelak, OK1CMU  
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Secretary: Mrs Helga Gautsche  
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**EARA EGYPT-AMATEURS RADIO  
ASSEMBLY**

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Secretary: Johannes Sørensen, OZ2KS

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**FRR FEDERATIA ROMANA DE  
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Secretary: Vasile Ciobanita, YO3APG.  
IARU liaison: Secretary

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President: George Badalian, EK6GB

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GARS GIBRALTAR AMATEUR RADIO  
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IRTS IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS  
SOCIETY  
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### **Comnections Protection**

One of the problems for those who make antennae is the protection of the connections between the antenna and the coaxial cable.

With a little thinking one becomes aware that this is not a big problem, but is something which can be fixed with a little thinking and a few cents.

All we need to solve this problem is a 3x3 inch plastic box used for electrical apparatus.

We also need a cover and screws, plastic adhesive, and two pieces of 18 millimetre plastic conduit pipes

Let's say that we are going to make an 80 metre dipole for the cw portion. By formula  $234/F\text{Mhz}$  we find that for a frequency of 3.545 we need a length of 66 feet for each side.

Lets say we use 2.5 mm wire. We cut two lengths of 66 feet and at the end of each we pull the insulation so that it is longer than the copper wire.

Then we put some plastic adhesive so that the end is sealed and water will not enter.

We cut two lengths of 18mm conduit pipe whose length is a little more than the length of the box.

Now we punch out four blanks in the holes facing each other. The 18 millimetre pipes are fitted into these holes. They are shown in the drawing with dashed lines, one red and the other blue.

In the conduit marked blue which is fitted at the lower end of the box drill two holes to pass the antenna wire such that when the conduit is fixed in the box they will be on the inside facing the middle part of the box in the drawing so that water will not seep in with the wire.

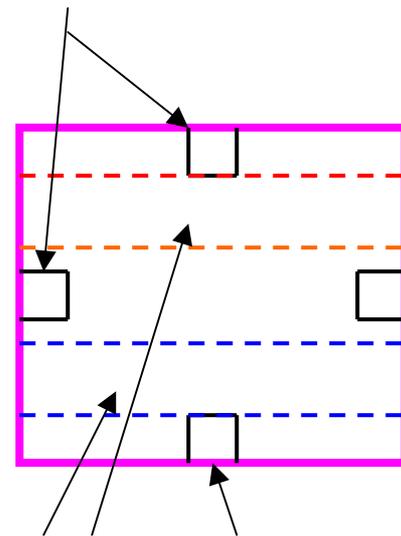
Now fix the conduit one by one. If the box has four fixing screws holes you have to heat the conduit because that part where the screws fit falls between the conduit holes. When heated, the pipe can be bent a little to pass into the holes.

Probably the holes will be a little loose, and if so heat the end of the conduit and widen it to be a tight fit in the holes.

When you have done so to the two conduit pipes put plastic adhesive around them on the inside and outside so that they will be solidly stuck and also sealed.

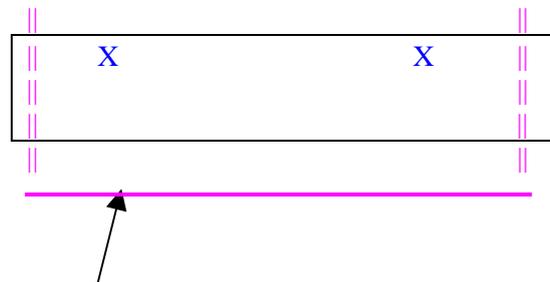
Now we have to pass the antenna wires into the box so that we can connect them to the coaxial cable.

#### Screw Holes



Conduit 18mm      Hole for coaxial cable

Feed the wires through the holes that you had previously drilled in the conduit pipe, and loop them so that you make a knot to prevent it from being pulled out.



Box.      Holes for antenna wires marked X

Drill a hole in the underside of the box for the coaxial cable entry. You can drill this hole before assembly, and I think it would be better, which has to be in the middle of the column for the screws

This hole has to be a tight fit for the coaxial cable and the cable has to pass between the conduit where we passed the antenna wire and the box. There is enough space for RG52 coaxial cable to pass comfortably.

Continue behind the upper conduit and loop the coaxial cable with the upper and lower conduit. You can tie the cable with a strong thread or something else to prevent it from being pulled out.

Connect the antenna wires to the coaxial cable either by means of plastic connectors or better still by soldering them.

To protect the connections and the wires you can either brush them with vaseline or coat them with glue to prevent the ingress of water or condensation in the cables. You can also use plastic glue to seal them.

Now you can close the box by screwing the cover but you should also put some grease on the screws so that you can unscrew them when required

Pass a nylon string or some other material with which you want to support the box through the upper conduit. If you want to you can thread it also through the lower conduit and cross it so that if the box breaks the antenna will remain suspended.

If you want to you can paint the box to protect it from ultra violet rays which have a tendency to destroy plastic.

The box cover protects the connections from direct rain, but does not perfectly seal it. Water could seep inside, but this would also seep from the lower end of the box. If you want you can seal the box, but you have to drill a small hole at the bottom so that condensation can dry out.

I hope that now no one will have any excuse for not making his own antennae.

Lawrence 9H1AV/9H9MHR

### Wisdom

-Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio, replied:

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

### Activities at MARL



#### Annual Social Function

The Committee would like to inform the members that the annual social function will be held at the MARL premises on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2006. There will also be food and drinks.



#### Membership Fee

Payment of 2006 membership has started. The Financial Secretary will be waiting for you to dig deep down into your pockets to pay your membership fee.



#### Annual General Meeting

The Committee would also like to inform the members that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

See You



SEASONS' GREETINGS