

# Now its the zero's

1. You try to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played patience with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail your work colleague at the desk next to you to ask "do you fancy coming down the pub?" and they reply "yeah, give me five minutes".
5. You chat several times a day to a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken to your neighbour yet this year.
6. You buy a computer a week later it is out of date.
7. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
8. You consider Royal Mail to be painfully slow or call it "snail mail".
9. Your idea of being organised is multiple coloured post-its.
10. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.
11. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
12. When you make phonecalls from home, you accidentally insert a "9" to get an outside line.
13. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies!
14. Your company welcome sign is attached with velcro.
15. Your CV is on diskette in your pocket.
16. You really get excited about a 1.7% pay rise.
17. You learn about your redundancy on the 9 o'clock news.
18. Your biggest loss from a system crash is that you lose your best jokes.
19. Your supervisor doesn't have the ability to do your job.
20. Contractors out number permanent staff and are more likely to get long service awards.
21. Board members salaries are higher than all the third world countries annual budgets combined.
22. It's dark when you drive to and from work, even in the summer.
23. You know exactly how many days you've got left until you retire.
24. Interviewees, despite not having the relevant experience or knowledge, terminate the interview when told of the starting salary.
25. You see a good looking, smart person and know it must be a visitor.
26. Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
27. The work experience person gets a brand new state of the art laptop with all the features, while you have time to go for lunch whilst yours powers up.
28. Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in hospital.
29. You're already late on the assignment you have just got.
30. There's no money left in the budget for the five permanent staff your department is short of, but they can afford four full time management consultants advising your boss's boss on his strategy.
31. Your boss's favourite lines are: When you've got a few minutes...Could you fit this in...?...in your spare time... when you're freed up, I know your busy but...I have an opportunity for you.
32. Holiday is something you roll over to next year.
33. Every week another brown collection envelope comes round because someone you didn't know had started is leaving.
34. You wonder who is going to be left to put in your leaving collection.
35. Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers".
36. The only reason you recognise your kids is because their photos are on your desk.

37. You only have make-up for fluorescent lighting.
38. You read this entire list kept nodding and smiling.
39. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "mates you send jokes to" e-mail group.
40. It crosses your mind that your jokes group may have seen this list already, but you can't be bothered to check so you forward it anyway.



This is my first report of the year 2000 the Millennium (as if we didn't know!) So I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and trust you all had a good Christmas. But I must go back before Christmas for my first item. I was unable to attend the funeral of Bob G3NOW at the end of November because on the Tuesday before Glenys received a delayed letter to attend Wordsley Clinic for x-ray tests which would take up a large part of the day. I believe the chapel at Bushbury Crematorium was packed.

Moving on to the 20<sup>th</sup> November I was reading in the Express & Star about former speedway star rider Ross Gilbertson who is now 66 years old, who once rode for such clubs as Aldershot, Eastbourne, Southampton, Exeter, Newport and Canterbury in the 50, 60 and 70's and at one time was the British League Champion (1969). He now lives in Poole and has the callsign M0BTH and operates on a regular

basis, wonder if anybody has worked him? I also noted in the Express and Star while ill in bed with the flu that Leslie Smith aged 71 collapsed and died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November at Birmingham airport while returning home from holiday. He formally lived in Stourton and was a director of Mark & Moody in Stourbridge. His callsign was G4SUJ. I found contacts with him in my logbook in 1985, as far as I can remember he was never a StARS member although he may of come to the odd meeting. I also found out that Len Cutler who filmed the air ambulance event about six years ago also passed away. His interest was not in amateur radio but film making. I first met him in Deran in Dudley while he was making a film there.

I have a copy of the video he produced if anyone would like to borrow it.

Leading up to Christmas day I had a spell on 2m and came into contact with two new people. The first was G1DYC from Drotwich and a local G0OIY Chris, from Lower Gornal. He is mainly active on HF and has a super VHF location on Milking Bank. I also put out a few calls on Christmas and Boxing Day, but to no reply.

I did keep my Christmas day tradition and go to a country pub to meet my old school friend of 60 years. When we were at school (King Edwards, Stourbridge) Graham and myself used to breed tame mice. This tradition goes back over 20 years. On Boxing Day I was chauffeur driven to Hereford to see my Mother in her nursing home.

Well that's all for 1999 and now the year 2000 to look forward to...

Once again Happy New Year,

Malcolm G8BOP

# Old Swinford Students

## Actual student GCSE answers

- Mummies inhabited ancient Egypt and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sahara Desert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sahara is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
- Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada. Solomon had three hundred wives and seven porcupines.
- The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.
- Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.
- Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went round giving advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a massive decline.
- History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.
- Magna Carter provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offence.
- Another story was William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.
- Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin queen." As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before her troops they all shouted "hurrah."
- Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking. And Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper.
- Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miquel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.
- The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.
- One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally the colonists won the war and no longer had to pay for taxis.
- Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, 'A horse divided against itself cannot stand.' Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.
- Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands.
- Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in autumn when the apples are falling off the trees.
- Johann Bach wrote many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced to an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote very loud music.
- The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West.
- Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. She was a moral woman who practiced virtue. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

# from the archives

STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

"Sandhurst,"  
Vicarage Road,  
Amblecote  
STOURBRIDGE Worcs

22nd February 1946

The Secretary,  
Radio Society of Great Britain,  
New Ruskin House,  
Little Russell Street,  
LONDON, W.C.1.

Dear Sir

I wish to thank you for the publicity given in the "Bulletin" to The Stourbridge and District Radio Society. We held our first meeting on 19th February, 1946 and I enclose a copy of the minutes in case you are interested. Unfortunately, there were only a few members present, due to a number being away in the forces, or on duty, etc. As a result we made only temporary arrangements for or the Committee etc., and have left over the question of Fees until we have a accommodation finally settled. We hope to have a room in the very near future, and then our numbers should be once again, ready to build up the Society to its pre-war strength.

A point was raised at the meeting which we could not get clear, and I wonder if you can help us. We have a lot of B.R.S. members (two new ones thanks to your publicity) who desire, code practice. The most satisfactory arrangement would be for a fully licensed ham to do it on the air, as I did pre-war This was very much appreciated by the B.R.S. members. However, there is some doubt as to whether or not such code practice transmissions are now permitted under the terms of the new licence, so could you give us any information?

Activity is only just starting G.2NV and G.3UK have both been on the air (28 m.c.) but others are busy building, etceteras However, it seems that in a month or two Stourbridge area will be helping to create QRM along with all the other districts.

Once again thank you for or your publicity, and, as I have already said, It has brought immediate results.

Yours with 73's

G.8 P.R.  
Secretary / Treasurer

# and now its Gordon's turn

Happy New Year to you all and hope you have recovered from the excesses of the festive season. Apologies to those of you who turned up for the main meeting in December. I did try to contact those members I thought were likely to be there but missed **John M1EJG**. Sorry about that John. John has recently undergone an operation for a hernia but glad to report the he is now well on the road to recovery. Wonder if that hernia was the result of carting about that PSU he's been building?

Thank you all for the Xmas cards and apologies for not sending any myself. Never know what to write on them.

Managed to get **Tom's** Callsign wrong ... again. **2E1HLT!!!** At time of writing haven't heard if he passed the RAE in December. Early days yet, I guess what with the holidays etc.

Received a Xmas card to the Society from former member **David Barlow G3PLE**, now residing in Cornwall, together with a donation to club funds and a report on his activities over the past year as a member ROARS (Radio Officers ARS). See report.

Many Thanks David. David is on the mailing list for Starlite and I have asked him if he would relate some of his experiences as a professional Radio Officer. I look forward to that. Should make interesting reading.

Spoke to **Alec G8GF** and glad to report that he and **Daisy** are in good health. They have recently become Great Grandparents. I remarked that I should be about 95 before there is any chance of Maria and myself attaining that status!

Alec expressed concern about the loss of a cutting from the County Express (July or August 1939) reporting the last meeting of

the Society that was held before the start of hostilities and which he had passed on to John G8UAE for inclusion in the archives. Anyone know of its whereabouts? (**Bob XOM ???**) If so, please pass it on to **Tony CZH**. Tony has executed a search at Stoubridge Library but couldn't find it.

Alec says the meeting was held at the **Toc-H club in Duke Street Stourbridge** and that the proceedings were "lively"! Some things never change do they?

**Missing Person.** The last copy of Starlite posted to member **Julian Gardner G7BVV**, was "Returned to Sender". Anyone know his new address?

Latest copy of the Rules of the Society included in this issue. Please retain for future reference.

I would like to take this opportunity of informing members that I shall not be standing for re-election as secretary or committee member at the forthcoming AGM in March. However, if required, I will be willing to help whoever takes over the post in any way I can.

Regards es 73 de Gordon G0TZV

This year has been a very busy and rewarding one for me as a former radio officer and one who today enjoys amateur radio. I have enjoyed myself and this is very much owing to the help and participation of many friends locally, nationally and worldwide. All this is through email and using the postal Service.. My email address book has over 300 entries

All who receive this letter will have been part of it and I would like to say a big THANK-YOU to everyone. The experience at the Portishead radio Receiving station at Somerton was a fortnight of sheer pleasure. The messages that came from all over Europe just before close-down gave me a tremendous mixture of feelings - sadness at the closure of so many of the old maritime stations, but great happiness that so many stations had joined in an international celebration of their work.

1999 saw the closure of many well known stations. PCH, SVA, VIX, KPH and others. Many UK stations became "de-manned" and one has to say that it seems very strange that landsendradio GLD is remote controlled from Stonehaven in Scotland

At the time of writing Portishead Radio is still operating on HF - but traffic is very light - the operators must get very lonely at times ! No doubt BT Maritime Services will close down the last remnants of the HF maritime service as it is patently a non profit making exercise. The hope lingers that a 24 hour cross band last fling may be possible.

I am pleased to write that April 1999 — International Maritime Radio Month was a great success. I hope that those in the UK have seen the write up in 'Radio Active'.

The DX event did not meet my hopes, but this can mainly be put down to conditions which were, to say the least, very hard indeed. After three months when the 10 and 15m bands had been active — the curtain came down and all DX became very difficult indeed. We had hoped to get a large number of American and Antipodean contacts and raise money by the sale of certificates but this was not to be. however we did make a moderate number of contacts and nearly 100 DXCC countries were contact. The Coast Station event on 10th and 11th ' April started as an UK event, developed into a European and ended as World wide - a total Of 126 stations. Some who put on stations really braved the elements. GLV Anglesey run by the Dragon ARC in a caravan felt their station rocking in a gale as if at sea! GLD worked CW for 48 hours, It is fair to say that we won the Spanish Contest which was on the same weekend.

I want to say a big thank you to EVERYONE who helped in any way at all. With an average of five operators per station I would have to write 600 letters to thank you all. When I returned from Somerton there were over 150 messages in my entail box! The postman was weighed down with the mail bag. I have tried to answer every one BUT some may have got lost and I know some emails went astray when I had a computer crash. Please forgive me if you were missed.

THE RESULT, cheques have been sent for £500 to the Missions to Seamen and £500 to the RNLI. I think the Radio Officers Association can be proud of its achievement. The RNLI also benefited from a donation of £400 from the station GB175RNLI .run 1mm Poldhu by my friends Mike and Alison Soars G4TCI and GOALO) 0 HUGE pile ups and a most popular event — even if sending the call sign on the key was a bit wearing!

Mike and Alison also helped at Somerton and at GB2LZL. at Lizard lighthouse. Four ROA members enjoyed working from this location. The air had a distinct salt flavour and the passing shipping reminded us that the light was often our first sight of home after a long voyage.

The result of all these doings in 1999 is that my radio shack has changed dramatically. BT Maritime Services kindly gave me one of the consoles used at Somerton. Probably built in the 1950's or 60's from the chrome fittings) I have retained all the switch panels and refused to change even the screw tappings. But I have built in a computer, two 2m rigs, my Kenwood TS 870 and a linear amplifier. With A Marconi Marine key given to me by Paul Durkin and the Chairman for the work I did for the event. It is all very comfortable. I also managed to secure one of the old loudspeakers (wooden moured 8" speaker) and I have to say it performs better than the plastic modern rubbish. I you hear me on air I use a full size G5RV made of ex GPO aerial wire.

My wife Diane reckons that it all looks like the starship "Enterprise". However I am pleased that I have managed to save one console which may in years to come become a museum piece

So that is it for a very busy year. My thanks everyone who has helped to make it a very happy one. A very Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year to all.