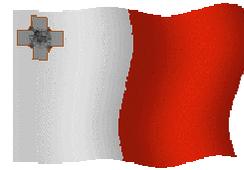


MARL



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 March 2008, which is issue 24 of this series.

A world-wide emergency exercise was held on 4th May, where stations from around the world passed messages on to each other. Use was also made of the internet to pass on a number of messages, but one should remember that in an emergency, internet will probably be cut off.

It is therefore important that everyone will be able to communicate by means of his equipment even by means of batteries or emergency generators.

In Malta we had two emergency stations operated by two emergency groups. These stations were at the Civil Protection Department Centres, one at Ta' Kandja and the other at Kordin. The two stations passed a number of messages on **HF** as well as messages they had received on **VHF**.

It is interesting that we had a message from the USA where radio amateurs have long been providing an emergency communications service where they are so well equipped that they were also using **2.4GHz**.

It good to remind you that in Malta we have officially started last year, although services were previously provided such as when the Pope came to Malta and when we had the Albanian illegal immigrants, the group also provided a service by means of television.

To some to something else, I wish to mention that sometimes there may be someone who grumbles with other members on some things that are not to his personal liking. Sometimes even certain unfounded allegations were made against Committee members.

This is leading to some members, especially new ones, not to continue to come to our Club and thus harm is being caused to **MARL**.

The Committee is always ready to listen to the complaints of every member, and whoever has some complaint or suggestion to make should present it in writing to the Committee to discuss it and give a decision.

When the Committee takes a decision it should bind and it will not be just that if that decision will not be to the liking to whoever had made the complaint or suggestion he continues to grumble with other members because this is not good conduct at **MARL's** premises as provided by our statute.

Don't forget that as radio amateurs our aim is not only to communicate by radio and develop our knowledge in this sector, but also to be of help to others and do nothing if previously we had not calculated if it could hurt or cause damage to others.

To better understand, further down you have what is called the Radio Amateur's Code that had been drafted by **Paul M. Segal**, ex-**W3EEA**, **W9EEA**. Although the **ARRL** is mentioned, this should be read, in our case, as **MARL** as the National Organization that represents Radio Amateurs in Malta both with the National Authorities as well as international ones.

Read this code and ask yourselves whether you are as is provided in that code, and if not whether you are ready to do all that is necessary to change so that you will be really worthy of being called radio amateurs.

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.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Radio Amateur's Code

One

The Amateur is considerate... He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

Two

The Amateur is loyal... He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and to the American Radio Relay League (here insert MARL), through which amateur radio is represented.

Three

The Amateur is progressive... he keeps his station abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

Four

The Amateur is friendly... Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are marks of the amateur spirit.

Five

The Amateur is balanced... Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.

Six

The Amateur is patriotic... His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

Paul M. Segal, ex-W3EEA, W9EEA

I hope that you read and seriously think about this code.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

Digital Radio

As many of you know, the majority of equipment has something digital. How much digital it has depends on the particular equipment, but there is no doubt that it will be interesting to everyone, at least basically, to know how the digital systems works.

For this purpose, **Robin, 9H1ZZ** is giving two lectures as an introduction to the digital system. These lectures are being held during the last two Sundays in May between 10.00 and 12.00, with the first lecture having been held on Sunday 18 May.

I encourage you to become MARL yahoo group members to be updated with the latest information because there may be some changes which we will not be able to put in this magazine on time.

No one can have an excuse that he doesn't have internet because he can go to the Local Council of his locality and he can use internet free of charge.

Robin will probably write something on this subject so that it will be presented on this magazine.

Lawrence

9H1AV / 9H9MHR

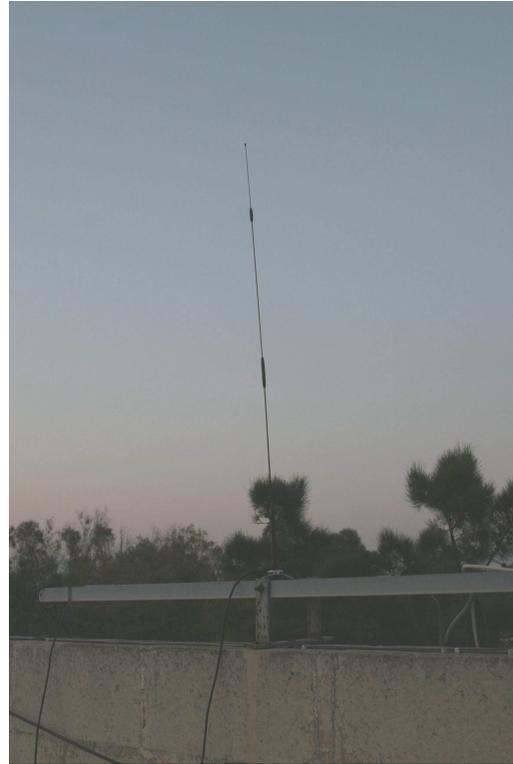
Civil Protection Department Group

Further up we have mentioned that at the beginning of May an international exercise was held where a group of **MARL** volunteers that are working hand in hand with the Civil Protection Department took part from Civil Protection Centres. Further down you have some photos pf the operation that were held from the Civil Protection Department Centre at Ta' Kandja, while the members of the group are the following.

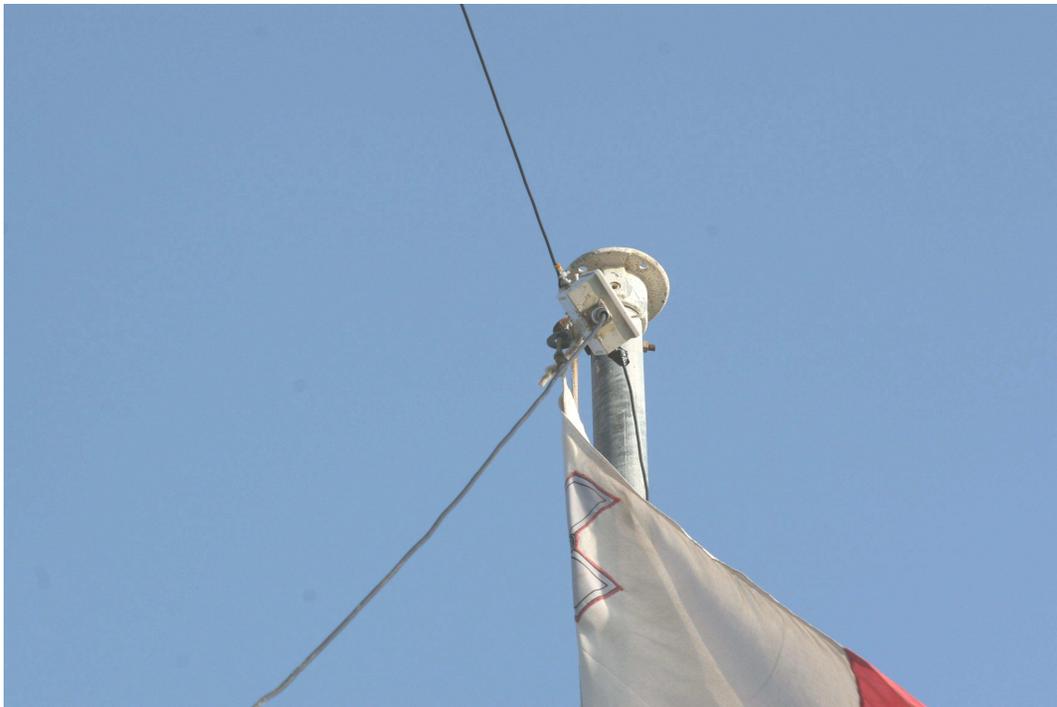
9H1M Dominic , 9H1AA George , 9H1AK Alfred , 9H1AV Lawrence , 9H1BW Chris , 9H1CS Steve Cesare , 9H1ES Fortunato Bonnici , 9H1HQ Anthony , 9H1PI Ivan , 9H1PS Arthur , 9H1RA Ray , 9H1SF Steve , 9H1VC James , 9H1VW Joe , 9H1XE Edwin , 9H1XS Ronald , 9H1YZ Silvio , 9H5OU Joseph



**VHF/UHF 1.5 Wavelength vertical
(2 X $\frac{3}{4}$ wave mobile whips)**



VHF/UHF Antenna



Windom attached to the flag pole



Unfortunately we did not have access to the towers, but there is no doubt that we will have access in a real emergency



9H1SF Steve



9H1AV, 9H9MHR Lawrence



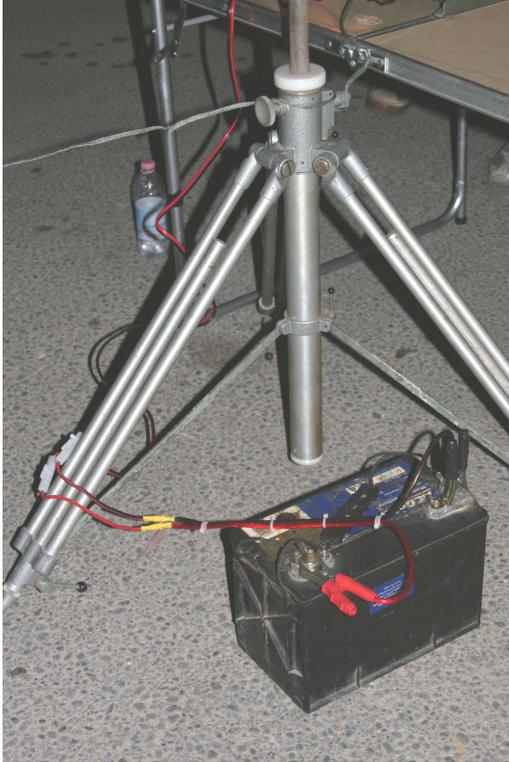
9H1SF Steve, **9H1ES** Fortunato, **9H1BW** Chris, **9H1RA** Ray enjoying a joke



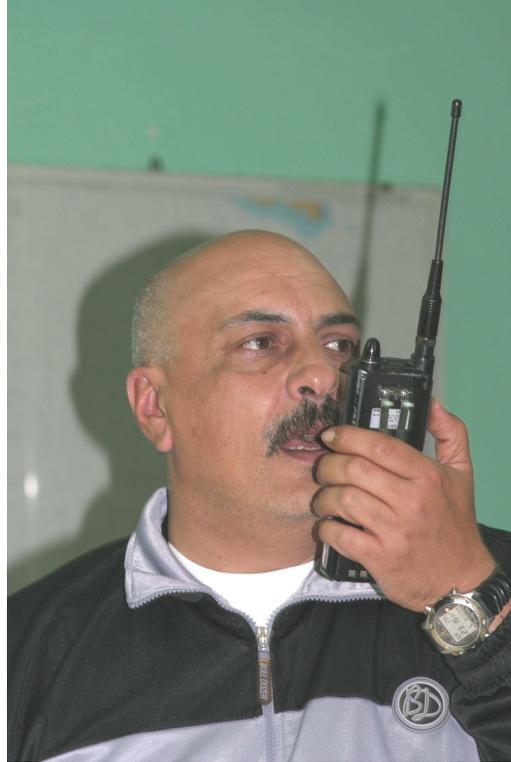
9H1ES Fortunato praying for divine intervention with the necessary spirit nearby



9H1BW Chris, 9H1VW Joe, 9H1XS Ronald, 9H1SF Steve, 9H1ES Fortunato tuning the vertical antenna on 80 metres



Battery for the 80 metre equipment



9H1RA Ray

**Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR**

Photo



Some time ago I had brought you an old photo. Apart from the foreigners I did not know who was the last person on the right. Today I have information from **Ivan, 9H1PI**. From left: **George Galea 9H1CX**, **Christopher Warren 9H1BW**, **W??, W??**, **Karmenu Fenech 9H1AQ**, **Fortunato Bonnici 9H1ES**, **Carmel Bonello 9H1ED (SK)**, **John Bartolo 9H1ET**, **Tony 9H1EW**. Tony, or someone who knows where he is. We will be happy to see you again.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Telegraph Plant



This plant produces yellow flowers is known as the Telegraph Plant. We have to remember that previously before the discovery of radio, messages were sent by means of wires fixed to wooden poles. These wires went from one telegraph office to the other.

This plant grows near railway lines and telegraph lines where the soil had been disturbed. The English name is camphorweed, but because it grows along telegraph lines it was nicknamed as the Telegraph Plant.

I thank **Ivan, 9H1PI** for this information.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Lighthouses

In a previous edition we had brought you information on operations from lighthouses or lightships that were and are still used to warn ships of danger, such as low water or nearby land.

An organization which organizes weekend operations every year in August is the **ILW (International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend Organization)**. This is the 10th year that this operation is being organized where radio amateurs are invited to communicate with as many stations as possible which are lighthouses or lightships or near lighthouses or on lightships.

Operations will have to be conducted either from the lighthouses themselves or other adjacent building or field and not as happens in another activity where operation can be held from up to 1000 metres away.

This operation is not a contest and there is no obligation to send with whom you have communicated and there are no prizes, although if you send the information it will be useful.

In other years there were Maltese radio amateurs who took part in such operations, and I have no doubt that there are some who would like to take part.

What I suggest is that you communicate with the organizers so that you will be put on the list of those taking part so that they will know about you and look for you. This year operations will be from Saturday 16 0001 UTC to Sunday 17 August 2359 UTC.

You can use any frequency and transmission mode that you are authorized to use, but hereunder you have some frequencies where operations are recommended to take place.

CW, PSK, etc.

M	Frequency MHz	Centre MHz +/-	USA +/-
80	3.510 – 3.540	3.521	
40	7.005 – 7.035	7.021	
20	14.010 – 14.040	14.021	
15	21.010 – 21.040	21.021	
10	28.010 – 28.040	28.021	

Voice

80	3.650 – 3.750	3.721	3.950
40	7.040 – 7.1	7.051	7.270
20	14.125 – 14.275	14.221	14.270
15	21.150 – 21.250	21.221	21.370
10	28.300 - 28.400	28.351	28.370

CW stations can add **/L** if they are operating from a lighthouse or lightship, while those on voice can say **LIGHT**, **LIGHTHOUSE** or **LIGHTSHIP** after their call sign.

This Organisation's internet webpage is <http://illw.org/page2.html> and you can register on <http://illw.org> while you can become members of this Organization where membership is free.

This operation is totally supported by the **Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society ARLS** whose internet webpage is <http://arlhs.com>

Do not forget that this is separate from the contest which is held by the ARLHS mentioned in the previous line and which is held in the first weekend of August. If you want details go to <http://arlhs.com>

Do not forget that if you are going to work from a lighthouse or adjacent to it make sure that you have permission from the authorities responsible for the lighthouse.

There is the Dellimara lighthouse, that of Valletta and Tal-Ġordan Għawdex. Those of you who like to go portable be ready to activate these lighthouses.

Thanks to **Ivan, 9H1PI** for the information.

Lawrence
9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Activities

Activity for radio amateurs

An activity for radio amateurs is going to be held on 6 and 7 June 2008 continuously including during the night.

This activity is going to be held at the MARL Club and operations will be both on HF as well as on VHF.

Whoever want to there will also be pasta available for food, prices to be fixed later.

All those interested should book beforehand, but not later than 3rd June, so as not to be disappointed, and should talk to someone from the Committee or to Joseph 9H1AJ.

Yahoo Group

The Committee has decided to use the yahoo e-mail as a means of information with the members especially when something is urgent.

Therefore all members are encouraged to become members in the group by sending an e-mail from our internet webpage.

Nowadays everyone can have internet access because if he does not have access at home he can go to the Local Council where he can use a computer and internet free of charge.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR