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**Published by:**

Argus Specialist Publications Ltd.,  
145 Charing Cross Road,  
London WC2H 0EE.  
Telephone: 01-437 1002.

**Distributed by:**

SM Distribution Ltd.

**Printed by:**

Q. B. Ltd.

**Subscription Rate:**

UK £12.80  
O/Seas Sur: £13.25  
O/Seas Air £25.80  
Ham Radio Today,  
Sub Dept.,  
513 London Road,  
Thornton Heath,  
Surrey,  
CR4 6AR.

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Welcome to HAM RADIO TODAY, the brand new amateur radio magazine with a different view. We care to think that we reflect the best in amateur radio: traditions of home building, discussions of operating practice and an interest in advanced RF design.

We also know that many operators coming into the hobby simply do not have the time to spend with a soldering iron but prefer to spend money instead. We haven't left you out. Our equipment reviews offer some of the finest and most objective appraisal on either side of the Atlantic while our servicing features should take the worry out of buying second-hand gear.

Above all, we recognise that amateur radio is a broad-based hobby. It means experimentation, communication, design and construction. It means scaling chimneys in the face of a full gale to put up a new aerial. It involves gently shivering on a remote hilltop in pursuit of a decent contest score.

It means different things to different people and those people will themselves be different. Some will be highly technical and look at radio from an angle elevated well beyond the rest of us. There will be those that just manage to scrape through the RAE but have the right sort of mind to become good CW operators. The great majority will fall somewhere in between. This is where HAM RADIO TODAY takes a different view. Whatever your interest in amateur radio, the common denominator should be enjoyment. It's our opinion that some people are in danger of losing sight of this.

There has been much debate that Class B amateurs are regarded as second class citizens by the RSGB. Perhaps there is some truth in this assumption about the RSGB and this particular view. Without doubt the Establishment which the RSGB represents is slow to respond to the widening of the amateur radio hobby. This generally translates into the belief that the RSGB is disinterested in the needs of G8's and G6's.

The fact that that person is willing to commit around a quarter of an hour/day over a period of three months to learning morse simply means that he has a desire to operate on the HF bands. It doesn't make him more knowledgeable about radio theory or less likely to operate his station incorrectly. It just means that he learnt morse. No question of class A good, class B bad.

It's a personal opinion that access to the HF bands offers an interesting extension to an already fascinating hobby. As long as international regulations call for morse as part of class A licence conditions then that, I'm afraid, is the way it has to be. Go-ahead and learn morse to enjoy your hobby even more.

HAM RADIO TODAY will be about the enjoyment of amateur radio as a hobby, never underestimating the different qualities and interests of enthusiasts who make up our readership.

73 and see you all further down the log.

Frank Ogden G4JST  
Editor HAM RADIO TODAY