



Radio Society of Great Britain



City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

[At the Bristol Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Redland Green, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HF](#)

Monday June 25th 1930hrs

“Christmas” Meal at [The Swan Tockington](#)

Tockington Green, Tockington BS32 4NJ

- a short distance from the Almondsbury Radio Rally site



Our traditional night out; members only of the group are invited, along with their partners. We help to supplement the drinks, you buy the food !

An excellent varied menu to cater for all - Good prices as well!

Contact [Mike G3SJI](#) for details



Coming soon : Dates for your diary

July 30th : Potted Talks & Natter Night

August 27th: Tom Boucher G3OLB LF band operations

Sept 24th Phil Whitchurch G3SWH 3DA0PW Swaziland



Wheels On Fire

By Mike Maude G1UPP

Around 45 years ago, my Dad came home one night in Bolton with what he had been told was the rear wheel off a Spitfire. My Dad found it in an old cupboard at work; it was wrapped up carefully in greaseproof paper and had never been used. Being the thrifty, practical type and after a scratch of his head, he came up with the (non-PC) brainwave of knocking a shaft through it and making a roller wheel for my mother to 'get her figure back' after she had me. Jobs a good-un!

When my Father passed away, the wheel came to me.

The wheel slept through several of my house moves until earlier this month, when I was merrily soldering some PL259's. I suddenly smelt burning rubber (*well, more than normal*) and the wheel started sending smoke signals at me. After dampening everything down, I finally resigned myself to finding out if there was any truth in the Old Man's story.

My opening salvo was to co-opt the help of anyone that might know what it was. I sent pictures to Gordano and Shirehampton Clubs, and also the Norton Owners Club – surely some of the 'mature elite' and 'Radio Royalty' must know what it was? Phrases like "Fork Lift Truck" and "Bomb Carriage Wheel" were sniffed at me from ex-service personnel. Undeterred, and with the bit between my teeth now, I turned to the internet and posted pictures on a couple of WW2 aircraft appreciation sites.

Generally, this followed the same line as the Club but also with references to tank tracks (yes, really) thrown in for good measure. Most of this was because the wheel used solid rubber for traction, was a porky 12 lbs and was therefore unlikely to be aircraft fodder. The websites did throw up one vague possibility though. One chap thought it looked like the tail wheel off a Grumman F8F Bearcat and provided a photo nicked off someone's website. It did look similar, but not the same. After 3 weeks and being no farther forward I decided on one last-ditch attempt to nail it, and wrote to the guy in the States who had taken the picture of the F8F (but didn't know that someone had whipped it off his website). He turned out to be a 747 commercial pilot who played around with old US WW2 warplanes for fun in his spare time.

A couple of days later the riddle was finally solved as he'd handed it to some of his colleagues and one of them had immediately recognised it as the tail wheel off a US Navy Curtiss SB2C Helldiver (Dive-bomber). To prove that this was indeed the case, he supplied two photos, one of a genuine new-old-stock wheel in profile view and one of it in plan view. The one in plan still had the original SB2C instructions on from 1944 and mine was a carbon copy of these photos.

Given the fact that the Helldiver was a Navy Dive-bomber and therefore had to land again on an Aircraft Carrier, I'm guessing that due to the 'pancaking' effect of landing on a Carrier, the designer felt that brute strength was more important than aero prowess and this was why it looked like it had been made to fit a tank

Mike Maude

GIUPP

Profile View of SB2C tail-wheel



Plan View of SB2C tail wheel with mounting instructions



Curtiss SB2C Helldiver in action



Shot of Last flying Curtiss SB2C Helldiver's tail wheel

Thanks Mike - a really interesting story ; can anyone else match that ??

Local Clubs Why not support them and try to make a meeting or two ?

Blackmore Vale <http://www.radioclubs.net/bvars/events.php>

Chepstow and District ARC <http://www.gw4lwz.org.uk/>

Chippenham & DARC <http://www.g3vre.org.uk/archive.asp>

MidSARC <http://www.midsarc.org.uk/>

North Bristol ARC <http://www.nbarc.org.uk/>

Shirehampton <http://www.shirehampton-arc.org.uk>

South Bristol ARC <http://www.sbarc.co.uk/>

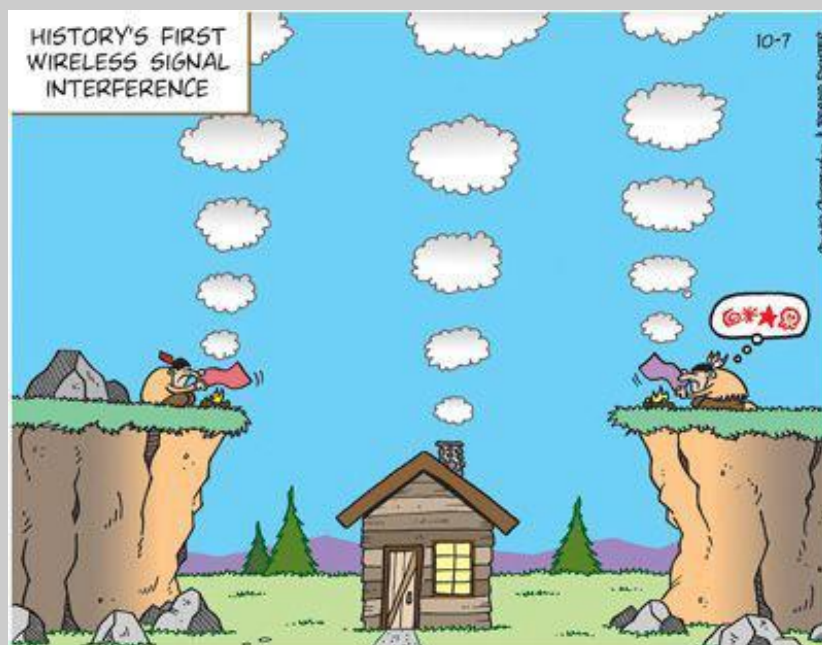
Thornbury and South Gloucs ARC <http://www.tsgarc.ham-radio-op.net>

Trowbridge and District ARC <http://www.radioclubs.net/trowbridgedarc/events.php>

RSGB 50Mhz Trophy Contest June 16/17th listen out for GJ6YB/P on Jersey

“Islands on the Air” July 28/29th listen out for GJ6YB/P (again!)

Conditions on the 80m CC (cw) tonight were a little like this!



73

Robin G3TKF

**RSGB Bristol Group
Hon.Sec.**

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