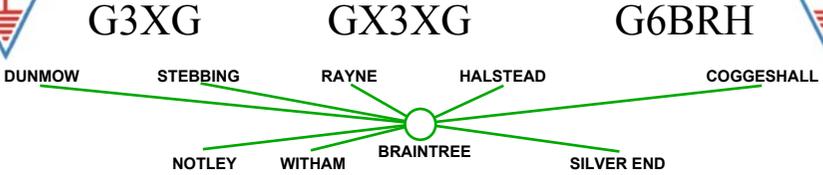




BARSCOM



Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

August 2012



Fox, Melvin sur-hounded by
Geoff and John after the hunt

Club Exhibitions, Raynet, and Special Events

Tony, GØIAG

The following, is a list of club and special events we are taking part in during the summer and autumn:

Some of us help with the RAYNET events, but we could do with more members.

August

- 8 Club radio demonstration day
George Yard Shopping Centre.
- 10-13 Summer camp, come and enjoy, play radios and relax.

September

- 2 Action Research, Essex
100 mile bike ride (RAYNET)
- 9 Farleigh Hospice
Cycle for Life (RAYNET)
- 15-16 British wireless for the Blind
- 22-23 Railways on the air.
Colne Valley Railway,
Castle Hedingham.

October

- 20-21 J.O.T.A.
To be confirmed

Contents

Hunters and Hunted	Cover
Club External Activities	2
USA News	3
Ancient Information	3
Club Meetings and Nets	4
Ham Radio Deluxe	5
Thailand Update -II	6
Know Your Ropes	8
Fox-hunt Reports	9
Band Plans - VII	10
Equipment Stolen	10
Rallies	11
A British GPS?	12
Contests	13
B-B-Q Report	14
Club Info	15
Contact Info	Back cover

Heathkit bankruptcy

The Herald-Palladium

Heathkit Education Company has declared bankruptcy and has officially closed its doors after defaulting on its lease. Heathkit employed more than 1800 people in its heyday after World War II; when it finally closed, its workforce totaled fewer than six people. This is the second time since 1992 that Heathkit Educational Services has shuttered its doors. In August 2011, Heathkit announced it was returning to the kit building business, and in September, that it would once again be manufacturing Amateur Radio kits.

Ancient Information

Dave G3PEN

In a book on Signal Training, of 1936, I found the following information, which someone may find of use, or interest. Below are the types of aerial, the dimensions, whether a vertical or an inverted L with single or multiple-wire flat-top, the nominal inductance and capacitance, and the natural frequency of resonance. These should be scalable to suit our bands. The book used kc/s of course!

The situation was purely one of the economy. Heathkit was primarily dependent upon federal and state funding for schools but spending in education continued to drop down, and it was economically unfeasible to continue operating. When they re-entered the kit business, they were losing the education business faster than they were growing the kit business and it was not sustainable.

Membership Overdue?

Have you paid your subs for this year (2012/13) yet?

Annual membership is £16 with a reduction for anyone under 18 or of state retirement age.

Vertical rod - 70 feet high, 10 microHenries, 310 pf, 2,860 kHz (105 metres).

Inverted L, 15 feet high, single wire 200 feet long, 50 microH, 400 pf, 1,125 kHz (267 metres).

Inverted L, 48 feet high, single wire 300 feet long, 83 microH, 530 pf, 758kHz (396 metres).

Inverted L, 48 feet high, two 300-foot wires spaced 10 feet apart, 45 microH, 910 pf, 788 kHz (382 metres).

Club Meetings and Nets

*Club Net - 08.00pm local time
2Mtrs (145.375Mhz)
70cms (433.575Mhz)*

August

- 6 Summer-Camp Planning/
Natter/Show & Tell
- 13 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 20 Aerial Clinic
- 27 Club Net - 70cms

September

- 3 Scanning - Howard
- 10 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 17 Natter Night
- 24 Club Net - 70cms

Mast For Sale

DAVE G3PEN

Telescopic mast, comprising 5 sections of galvanized steel tubing, from about 2" to 1" diameters, each about 10 feet long, so about 47 feet high overall. Complete with guy ropes. Very heavy! (maybe ex-military?). A similar one was on sale this year at the Rainham rally for about £180, so this one is cheap at £65. Buyer inspects and collects, please.

See Back Cover for contact details.

October

- 1 Video Evening/JOTA Planning
- 8 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 15 Wildlife of Essex - Talk by
Mr/Mrs Jiggins
- 22 Club Net - 70cms
- 29 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

November

- 5 Club "Junk" Sale
- 12 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 19 Metal Detecting - Howard
- 26 Club Net - 70cms

December

- 3 Christmas Social
- 10 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 17 Natter Night
- 24 Club Net - 70cms

‘2 Oscar’ Stations On Air

RSGB

Both of the ‘Two Oscar’ Olympic Flagship Special Event Stations are now up and running.

The progress of ‘Two Oscar Twelve Lima’ in London and ‘Two Oscar Twelve Whisky’ in Wales can be followed on Twitter.

Details can be found on their websites just search for the callsigns 2 Oscar 12L and 2 Oscar 12W.

Ham Radio Deluxe

Richard 2EØXRS

Thanks to all the members who attended my talk on Hamradio Deluxe. I have been using Hamradio Deluxe since I have been licensed.



There are many different software packages available that allow rig control and digital modes. MixW (Costs \$50) , Digipan (Free but limited programs), Hamradio Deluxe. (Free at the moment)

with. I have a basic station set-up : A simple antenna, a manual tuner, a Yaesu FT450, and a Laptop running Hamradio Deluxe via the CAT interface. I can control my rig and even turn it on and off directly from the computer. It makes remote control very easy. The software includes, Logbook, DX Cluster, and Satellite Tracking and the excellent DM780 digital software. I find it works for me.



I am currently messing around with WSPR on the computer. (Future talk ??)



I have limited experience with other programs due to the fact I find Hamradio Deluxe so easy to get on

Thailand Update - Part II

Derek Mayes HS0ZJH/G3MMA

Contacts with Thailand from around the world using the WARC frequency bands are very highly valued and the HS72B callsign will be an extremely popular one. Licensed expatriats who live here, and Thai operators will be able to improve their skills by engaging in radio contacts with as many stations as possible using this call-sign.

Mr Gerrard who is the Vice president of RAST, said that although the station was not yet complete it had been "launched like a new ship with the hull and infrastructure in place."

Furniture and computers will serve five operating positions. Two of these are now equipped with radio transceivers, and four antennas are in place. There are two directional Yagi beam arrays (a C3 7 element tri-band beam covering 14,18, 21, 24 and 28 MHz bands, and a 4 element monoband yagi for 21 MHz) and two wire dipoles for 10 MHz and 7 MHz. - these are mounted on two support towers of 24 metres (66 feet) and 27 metres (87.775 feet); being amateurs there are already plans to expand this aerial installation.

Incidentally, a Thai amateur licence is considered equal to a commercial station in terms of an antenna tower. An amateur can erect a tower of 60 metres, or nearly 195 feet (and they do) - no permission is required and neighbours do not have the right to prevent such an 'erection'.

The station building includes some special features such as a robust electrical supply system, a specialised grounding system, and an antenna feeder interface panel which provides lightning protection.

The station has been built on the premises of a former electricity sub-station by AIT staff and contractors along with volunteers from the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand over a period of nine months.

The location is on high ground (4 metres is high in Bangkok) and the total construction has cost of over 450,000 baht, (?9,375). The work was jointly funded by AIT and RAST, with generous financial support from the YASME Foundation, a California-based organisation that supports radio operations from exotic and hard-to-contact parts of the world.

Missed Part I ? - BARSCOM back copies are available on our website.

It is planned that computers will be used for electronic logging, continuous internet access and for modern digital modes such as PSK31, slow scan television, and radio teletype. The station includes ancillary equipment such as antenna rotators, power supplies, VHF radio equipment, microphones, switches, and electronic keyers, all of which have been donated by visitors and radio societies who have visited the Thailand station over many years.

The principal donor organizations are the Japan UNICEF Ham Club for equipment, the Central Arizona DX Association USA with tower hardware and Western Digital Corp of Thailand with furniture. The full list of donors and supporters run into many hundreds, and is of course far too long to publish here.

“The station is open for operation to all licensed members of RAST and reflects a long relationship between AIT and the national radio society, that dates back to 1983, when amateur radio operations were restricted during the drafting of new Post and Telegraph regulations to govern the activity”, explained RAST President, Mrs Mayuree. (I am looking forward to that, and on the opening day I intend to take my

bedding-roll and ample grub supplies with me)

A vice president of RAST, Professor John Hugh-Jones, who was then also a vice-president of AIT, was the key mover in proposing that members establish a station on the campus to activate major international contests and to keep Thailand's amateur radio voice active on the international short wave bands.

Over the years, the activities of the members of RAST has enabled the “HS” prefix denoting Thailand to be heard worldwide, and this certainly accelerated the passage of the amateur radio act of 1987 that governs ham radio activities today in Thailand.

RAST now has over 600 members who are amateur radio operators with transmitting licences that enables them, through self-training, to improve their skills that are important during emergencies and that serve as an important national resource.

H.M. the Queen’s Birthday Celebrations take place on the 12th of August. To demonstrate their loyalty and to honour Her Majesty Queen Sirikit on the occasion of her royal birthday, the Thai people



▶ will decorate their houses and public buildings with national flags. The areas around Bangkok's Ratchadamnoen Avenue, the Grand Palace, and all other well-known locations are bedecked with millions of coloured lights and truly magnificent adornments.

When you read about this in Barscom there will only be about eleven days to the official opening. Please make a note of the date and listen-out for us. Who knows, if conditions are favourable I might just 'pop-up', after all we are only 7,000 miles from you! ■

Guy and Aerial Support Ropes

Dave G3PEN

Two or three years ago, I hoisted my "long wire" HF aerial by using an egg insulator to hold the wire. The egg was held to the top of my 30ft. pole by means of a polypropylene rope, running through a small pulley, as an endless loop. This allowed me to lower the wire if needed.

To my surprise, this has lasted only till this month, when the rope gave up the ghost and released the egg insulator. At present therefore the wire is lying slack and in a neighbour's tree, making it fairly useless. The rope had become very rough on the surface of each twist, with lots of breaks in each individual fibre, and lost virtually all its strength, not just where it passed through the pulley but along most of its length.

The rope was a blue polypropylene type, of about 1/3" diameter, that is

readily available in DIY stores etc., and is used a lot for aerial supports and the guying of poles and small towers. Clearly, the type I used was of an inferior make (and probably very cheap)!!

Don't forget!

Aerial Clinic

August 20th at 20.00

What I wish to emphasise is that on the basis of getting what you pay for, it is advisable to buy quality rope, even though it may be a lot more expensive than the cheapest. Probably the best source of quality ropes is a ship's chandler (such as in Maldon), or a canal chandler, as the ropes they supply have to be very reliable. The ones I have on my canal boat have lasted over 10 years without any sign of deterioration, although admittedly they are a bit thicker at about 3/4" diameter.

UHF Fox-Hunt Reports

Ian, G8MKN

Four teams set out on July 16 in search of Melvin 'the Fox' Kendal; Chairman Howard and Shane, Geoff and John, Richard and Jim, and Ann and Ian.

Only two teams managed to find the lair, and they were within two minutes of each other, Richard nearly found the fox but the wind direction changed just at the wrong time and blew the scent, and hound, off in the wrong direction.

Tony GØIAG

For once a dry evening for an outside event. Melvin GØEMK set off about 7.30pm to 'hide up', at about 8.10 pm his first transmission on 433.575 sent the four chasing teams to different points of the compass.

The four teams were Richard 2EØXRS and Jim GØDCR, Ian

Ian and Ann circled around the general area but didn't mount a serious challenge; it being one of the few good evenings weather-wise, they took it slow and steady - severely tempted at every passing ale house - and enjoyed numerous parts of the Essex countryside along their route including outer Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Coldnailhurst Road and Bocking cemetery (!) - just getting back to the club-house in time for some well deserved refreshments.

Geoff and John's winning time was 24 min, runner's up came in at 27min.

G8MKN and Ann King, Howard G6LXX and Shane, Geoff GØBYH and John M5AJB. Geoff and John were the first to find Melvin parked up at Greenstead Green, followed by Howard and Shane. The other teams went else where. Congratulations go to Geoff and John as winners, and commiserations to the others, it was a good evening.

73 Tony *(Photo: Front Page)*

Next Month

Latest News from the RSGB and ARRL

For Sale and Wanted

Plus the usual ...

Events, Rallies, Contests, etc.

???

Your Photos

Know the Band Plans-VII

RSGB

24 MHz (12m)

24,890-24,915 200 Hz CW
24,906 kHz QRP CoA
24,915-24,925 500 HzNB
24,925-24,929 500 HzNB - ACDS
24.929-24.931 IBP - reserved
exclusively for beacons
24,931-24,940 2700 AM - ACDS
24,940-24,990 2700 AM
24,950kHz SSB QRP CoA
24,960kHz digital voice CoA

LICENCE NOTES: Amateur and Amateur Satellite Service - Primary User.

The band is not to be used for contests or bulletins.

Necessary bandwidth: For a given class of emission, the width of the frequency band which is just

sufficient to ensure the transmission of information at the rate and with the quality required under specified conditions.

The use of Amplitude Modulation is acceptable in the all modes segments but users are asked to consider adjacent channel activity when selecting operating frequencies.

Foundation and Intermediate Licence holders are advised to check their licences for the permitted power limits and conditions applicable to their class of licence.

Key:

ACDS - Automatically Controlled Data stations (unattended)
AM - All Modes
CoA - Centre of Activity
CPS - Contest Preferred Segment
CW - Telegraphy
IBP - International Beacon Plan
NB - Narrow Band

Stolen Equipment Alert

RSGB

Michael, M1CCF had his Kenwood TS-50S and AT-50 tuner stolen at the W&P Show, at Beltring, in Kent, while operating the special event station GB4WP. The mounting bracket, power and connecting leads

were not with the set when stolen. If you get an inquiry for these items, please contact Michael via m1ccf@talktalk.net.

For Sale or Wanted

Is there something that you want , or want to get rid of?

All members' ads are FREE.

Rallies

RSGB

12 AUGUST

FLIGHT REFUELLING ARS HAMFEST – Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 3DA. TI S22, CP, OT 10.00, TS, CBS, LB, C. Details Mike, M0MJS, 01202 883 479, hamfest@frars.org.uk [www.frars.org.uk].

2 SEPTEMBER

TELFORD HAMFEST – Enginuity Technology Centre, Coalbrookdale, Telford TF8 7DU. OT 10.30. TI S22 & GB3TF 433.200MHz. TS, SIG, free CP, LEC, FAM. Details from Martyn, G3UKV, 01952 255 416 [www.telfordhamfest.co.uk].

9 SEPTEMBER

FRISKNEY & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNICATIONS CLUB RALLY – The Friskney Village Hall, Church Road, Friskney, Lines, 6.5 miles south of Skegness. Details Bren, 2E0BDS, 01754 820 060, Ian Donnelly, 2E0XOD, 07554 362 020 [www.felcc.com].

23 SEPTEMBER

22nd GREAT NORTHERN HAMFEST – Barnsley Premier Leisure Complex, Queens Ground, Queens Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S71 1AN. OT 10.30am – 3pm, £3, DF, TS, SIG, RSGB Bookstall, LB, C, FAM. Ernie, G4LUE, 01226 716 339 [www.greatnorthernhamfest.co.uk].

28 & 29 SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL HAMFEST – brought to you by the RSGB in association with the Lincoln Short Wave Club. George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY (close to junction of A1/A46/A17). TS, B&B, CB, C, SIG, Morse proficiency tests on demand, RSGB Bookstall, RSGB Services & Committees, DF, FM [www.nationalhamfest.org.uk].

How about giving a talk on your hobby or work? Book a date with our Secretary in next year's calendar. NOW!

Is GPS going to be lost?

Ordnance Survey Website

BAE Systems has developed a new positioning system to rival GPS, marinelink.com reports.

Whilst GPS is favoured by many to track their running, walking or cycling routes, the technology is still not perfect as signals can be blocked, jammed or even "spoofed" into incorrectly identifying locations.

In response to this, British defence, aerospace and security firm BAE has created a new system that is claims could complement or even replace GPS.

Navsop, as it has been called, uses the same signals as used by mobile phones, radios, TVs and Wi-Fi rather than navigation satellites. In using this method, it is claimed, devices could be used indoors, underground

and in remote areas more successfully than GPS would.

Whilst the prototype is a clunky box placed in the back of an antenna-equipped car, it is thought that once put into mass production, the technology could be put into a portable dongle the same size as current GPS devices.

Explaining his device, Ramsey Faeragher, BAE's principal scientist at the Advanced Technology Centre told bbc.co.uk: "Let's be clear - for Navsop to start learning, you have to have a GPS signal, to know where you are on the face of the earth.

"The more the system is used, the less it relies on GPS for further learning, and reaches the point where it doesn't need GPS at all to function or to carry on learning about new signals. So if the GPS signal disappears, we'll still be able to navigate.

12th of August 2012 (the birthday of the Queen of Thailand)

The Radio Amateur Society Of Thailand (RAST) is to officially open a new club station at Pathum Thani University (PTU) campus of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Operations will begin at the station with the use of the special callsign HS72B any contacts from BADARS members welcome.

Contests

VHF/UHF

March

- 3-4 1400-1400 March 144 432MHz
- 6 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 11 1000-1200 70MHz Cumulatives #2
- 13 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 20 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 27 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 27 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

April

- 1 0900-1200 First 70MHz Contest
- 3 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 10 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 15 0900-1200 First 50MHz Contest
- 17 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 24 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 24 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

May

- 1 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 5 1400-2200 432MHz Trophy
- 5 1400-2200 10GHz Trophy
- 5-6 1400-1400 432MHz-248GHz
- 8 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 13 0900-1200 70MHz Contest CW
- 15 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 19-20 1400-1400 144MHz May
- 20 1100-1500 144Mhz #1 Backpackers
- 22 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 22 2000-2230 SHF UKAC
- 27 1400-1600 70MHz Cumulatives #3

HF

March

- 5 2000-2130 80m CC DATA LOW QRP
- 10-11 1000-1000 Commonwealth Contest OPEN RESTRICTED Multi-Op HQ Commonwealth Contest (S2)
- 14 2000-2130 80m CC CW LOW QRP
- 22 2000-2130 80m CC SSB LOW QRP

April

- 2 1900-2030 80m CC CW LOW QRP
- 8 1900-2030 RoPoCo SSB ALL
- 11 1900-2030 80m CC SSB LOW QRP
- 19 1900-2030 80m CC DATA LOW QRP

May

- 7 1900-2030 80m CC SSB LOW QRP
- 16 1900-2030 80m CC DATA LOW QRP
- 24 1900-2030 80m CC CW LOW QRP

June

- 2-3 1500-1500 NFD Open Restricted LowPower

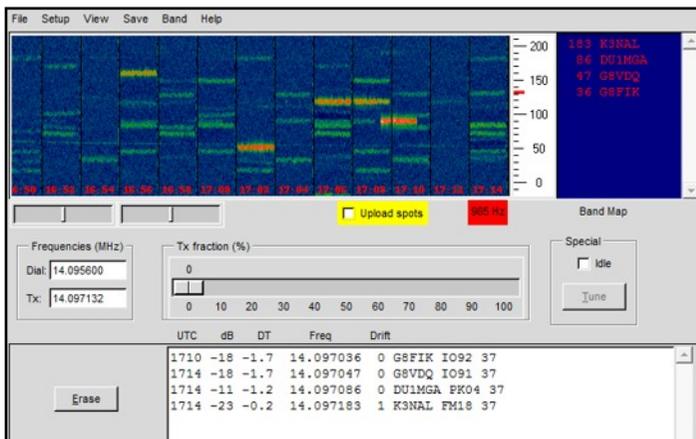
WSPR - pronounced whisper stands for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter.

It is a computer program used for weak-signal radio communication between amateur radio operators. The program was initially written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, but now is open source and is being developed by a small team. The program is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands.

WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential

propagation paths with low-power transmissions. Transmissions carry a station's call sign, Maidenhead grid locator, and transmitter power in dBm. The program can decode

signals with S/N as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations with internet access can automatically upload their report.



Screen shot of my WSPR station. Note K3NAL received at -23db

B-B-Q

Tony GØAG

On Monday 2/7/12 we held the annual B-B-Q as usual the weather did its best to ruin the evening, it rained the whole time. However the bulldog British spirit prevailed, (stiff upper lip and all that) and we enjoyed anyway. Edwin GØLPO, as

usual provided the B-B-Q, and of course looked very fetching in his apron. Melvin GØEMK did his normal good job with the other bits and pieces, sorry no photos. It was nice to see so many xyl's at the B-B-Q. Pat G6TAF, Betty, Jenny, Ann, and Angela. Of course as it was time to pack up the rain stopped, so what's new?

Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

Braintree and District A.R.S. meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at The Clubhouse, Braintree Hockey Club, Church Street, Bocking. Doors open from 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start to the meeting. Prior to 8 pm, and during the refreshments break, when a cup of tea or coffee is available free of charge, members have the opportunity to sell or exchange equipment etc. Meetings normally finish at 10 pm.

A Club Net operates on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) under the callsigns G6BRH and G3XG. The net commences at 20.00 clocktime on V30 (S15) - 145.375MHz and SU23 - 433.575MHz, unless QRM. In months with 5th Monday the net operates via GB3BZ 430.850Mhz.

The Club Membership fee is £16 annually; Senior members (State Retirement age) and Junior members (under 18) pay a reduced club subscription of £10. Door fees are payable per meeting. Rates are £1 for members, and £1 for visitors.

This magazine "BARSCOM" is issued free to members, usually at the first meeting of the month by e-mail. Members unable to attend club meetings may lodge S.A.E.s with the Editor for printed copies of BARSCOM. Usual deadline for copy is the 3rd weekend of each month.

Members advertisements are published free of charge.

The club operates a no smoking policy at it's meeting.

For more information and pictures of events and projects see our Web Site at www.badars.co.uk

The next edition will be published on September 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is August 28

When disposing of this booklet please shred or destroy the back page to protect members' privacy.

© Barscom Editor on behalf of BADARS 2012 - E.& O.E.