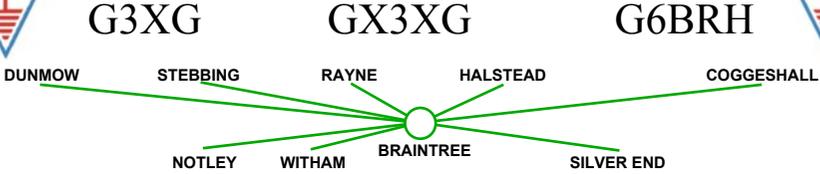




BARSCOM



Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society



Safety Testing Night

Isn't this supposed to be wire less communication?

February 2012



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Second-hand Books

Dave/G3PEN

If anyone wishes to donate good-quality (clean) second-hand paperbacks or hardbacks to the local Braintree Community Hospital Shop (a Charity that raises money for the many "extras" that a hospital always needs but can't afford), please bring them to club meetings. I doubt that technical, gardening or cookery books would sell, but most others seem to go quite well.

Word Search

No one came up with the correct solution to last month's puzzle.

10 years of training

Chelmsford Weekly News

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society celebrated 10 years of running training courses for prospective amateurs this year.

Its first training course started in January 2002, and has since trained more than 300 people.

More 'officialese'

"Let's get together on this....."

"Note and initial....."

I'm assuming you're as confused as I am.

Let's spread the responsibility for this

Feedback

Peter Chadwick G3RZP

I was interested to read the January BARSCOM newsletter, especially on the history of op amps.

Plessey Research Caswell Ltd had a monolithic op amp called the SL701 some 3 months before Fairchild, but they had no capability to produce more than a few samples - they were using 1 inch wafers so even a full batch of 40 wafers didn't produce many, especially as the yields weren't brilliant. So they were there, but not on the market - at that time, there wasn't a production capability for integrated circuits in the Swindon plant of Plessey Semiconductors.

Caswell's probably most successful part (and most copied product) was the SL521 radar logarithmic amplifier, designed under an Admiralty contract in 1963 for £15,000. Copied by Thomson in

France, RCA, Analog Devices and Raytheon, the device went out of production in 1997. The royalties paid to the MoD over the years totalled over £4 million!

By the mid 1980's there wasn't a major US military programme without a Plessey IC in it: during the 1992 Gulf War, there was a problem at Bendix in Baltimore with the AN/APX100 IFF with the SL 521s, and as the Applications Engineer I was sent over there to sort out the problem. Incredible that a design so old was still going on.

I had 32 years with Plessey Semiconductors, right through being part of GEC, then Mitel, then spun off as Zarlink before being made redundant on July 1st at age 64. Over a year's pay, and I picked up a 2 year contract to do much the same work (European radio standards and regulations) for 60% of the time for 60% more pay. Not all bad.

Turkey gets 'F' grade in English

A study by the research foundation TEPAV, which warns about poor foreign language skills in Turkish society found:

“Turkey ranked a dismal 43rd out of 44 countries in the English Proficiency Index (EPI), possibly hindering its economic competitiveness.”

It also found that Turkey ranked marginally higher than Essex...

Club Meetings and Nets

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

February

- 6 Ham Radio Deluxe - Richard (2EØXRS)
- 13 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 20 Construction Night - Previous construction entries & Wire Antennae
- 27 Club Net - 70cms

March

- 5 HF Propagation - Melvin (GØEMK)
- 12 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 19 Operational Amplifiers (G8MKN)
- 26 Club Net - 70cms

April

- 2 Rig Clinic - Checking Working Sets (PROVISIONAL)
- 9 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 16 Construction Contest
- 23 Club Net - 70cms

May

- 7 Equipment Testing - Part II (PAT)
- 14 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 21 AGM
- 28 Club Net - 70cms

June

- 4 Rig Clinic - Fault Finding
- 11 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 18 TBA

July

- 2 Club BBQ
- 16 DF Hunt

ISS Amateur Radio

In a recent podcast Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) member Pete Sipple 2EØPSL asked NASA astronaut Julie Payette about the Amateur Radio station on the ISS.

Julie Payette was a flight engineer on two ISS missions, STS-96 and STS-127, and her answer can be heard in the ISS Essex Ham podcast in which Pete 2EØPSL also speaks

to the Chair of CARS John Bowen G8DET.

Listen to the ISS Essex Ham podcast at www.essexham.co.uk/audio/essexham_iss.mp3

Read about the interview at www.essexham.co.uk/news/working-the-international-space-station.html

Latest WRC news

RSGB

RSGB Past President, Colin, G3PSM is attending the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (Jan 23 - Feb 17) in Geneva, & posting daily news on www.rsgb.org/WRTC-12-news/. The agenda items to be discussed were established at the previous WRC in 2007. Since then there have been many committee meetings to try to arrive at solutions that will satisfy each of the agenda items.

There are some items that impact Amateur Radio, immediately or in the future. Each of the items is assigned to a committee and also sub-working groups where the items are discussed in detail, proposals from regional telecom organizations analyzed and the discussion proceeds towards developing a consensus on the agenda item.

Item 1.23: *To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis.* This has been discussed widely in the amateur community over the last five years. Many member states are in favor of granting the Amateur Radio Service an allocation. The

current proposal suggests a 7kHz segment between 472-479kHz. Initial indications are that this could be acceptable generally.

Item 1.10: *To examine the frequency allocations with regard to operation of safety systems for ships and ports.* This might have impacted the goal of achieving a secondary allocation under Agenda Item 1.23; however, with the dropping of an amateur allocation between 493-510 kHz, there should no longer be a conflict between maritime service objectives and Amateur Service objectives.

Item 1.22: *To examine the effect of emissions from short-range devices on radiocommunication services.*

Item 1.15: *To consider possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications.* Meetings leading up to WRC-12 have identified the following sub-bands to be studied under this item:

5.060-5.450 MHz, 13.870-14.000 MHz, 24.000-24.890 MHz and 29.700-30.000 MHz. The IARU position is that these applications are incompatible with the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services in the range 3-50 MHz and should not be allocated in the relevant bands.



Know the Band Plans - 2

RSGB

3.6 Mhz (80m)

#See key for abrieiations

3,500-3,510 200 Hz CW #P1
3,510-3,560 200 Hz CW- contest preferred.

3,555 kHz - QRS #CoA

3,560-3,580 200 Hz CW
3,560 kHz - QRP #CoA

3,580-3,590 500 Hz NB
3,590-3,600 500 Hz NB
3,600-3,620 2.7 kHz #AM #1
(Note 1)

3,600-3,650 2.7 kHz #AM,
Phone contest preferred, #1
3,630kHz - digital voice CoA

3,650-3,700 2.7 kHz #AM,
3,663 kHz may be used for UK
emergency comms traffic.
3,690 kHz SSB QRP CoA

3,700-3,800 2.7 kHz #AM
Phone contest preferred
3,735 kHz Image mode CoA
3,760 kHz IARU Region 1
Emergency CoA

3,775-3,800 2.7 kHz #P2 (SSB)

Changes have been made to some of the Band Plans on 40m and up.

Note 1.

Lowest LSB carrier frequency (dial setting) should be 3,603 kHz.

Primary User - Shared with other user services:

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.

AM 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:

CW - Telegraphy
NB - Narrow Band
Phone - Telephony
CoA - Centre of Activity
AM - All Modes

Priority:

P1 - inter-continental operation
P2 - inter-continental telephony

Self Build Kits

As a result of the growing interest in home construction the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will have a talk about amateur radio DIY kits. Mark Sanderson M0IEO will be having a look at the likes of Softrock, Bitex and some of the other kits you can buy quite cheaply and construct yourself. The talk takes place on Tuesday, February 7, at the Marconi Social Club (MASC); the

Microsatellite launched

RSGB

The Chibis-M microsatellite, also known as RS-39, was jettisoned from the Progress M-13M cargo spacecraft Tuesday 24th January.

The satellite is designed to study atmospheric phenomena such as

Rally News

Next weekend, 5th February, the 27th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally will be held at The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA, which is at the southern end of A130. Doors open at 10.30.

Details from Dave, G4UVJ, on 01268 697978 during the evening please.

doors open at 7:10 pm and the meeting gets underway at 7:30 pm.

Admittance and car parking are free and a bar is available for refreshments.

For directions download the PDFs at www.g0mwt.org.uk/linkfold/links/meeting-01.pdf

Visitors from BADARS are most welcome.

New RSGB Board web page

You can now read about some of the activities and decisions of the RSGB Board in a new running log on the RSGB website. Check out www.rsgb.org/boardprogress/.

Terrestrial Gamma Ray Flashes associated with lightning.

RS-39 has CW beacons on 435.315 and 435.215MHz and amateurs are asked to submit reception reports via e-mail to the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences at amateur-rs39@chibis.cosmos.ru.

Each report will be acknowledged with a special QSL.

Heat Dissipation

Dave G3PEN

It is common practice to drill rows of holes in boxes and similar containers for electronic gear, to allow hot air to escape, thus avoiding over-heating. These holes can look quite rough, especially if the edges of the holes can be seen, or if a surface finish (crackle paint etc) becomes slightly chipped.

An answer is to use aluminium eyelets, which can be purchased very cheaply from DIY outlets, and also from craft shops. For preference, buy the plain aluminium eyelets, rather than the coloured, unless you are trying to match or complement a paint job. These need a mounting hole of about 3/16ths of an inch diameter (but check this for the actual items you buy), which can be arranged in rows or patterns on the surface of the box being dealt with.

Did you know?

You can borrow the club's Aerial Analyzer for only £1/day and the Morse Tutor (Less Battery) for 50p/2-week session.

Ask one of the Committee for information

About 3/4" spacing is usually effective and good-looking.

Depending on the particular situation, you may be able to use the pliers that are normally used to "set" these eyelets, but these generally require access to both sides of the surface being treated. This can be OK if you are using sheet PCB, before soldering it together to make a box, or if you can find the sort of pliers that act like a pop-riveter, allowing the eyelets to be "set" from one side of the surface.

If this is not practical, the simple method is to push the eyelet through the hole from the outside of the box, and then expand the shank of the eyelet with a small countersink. This is hammered lightly into the shank, cutting and expanding the metal, while supporting the outside of the eyelet against a flat surface. The cut edges can then be flattened against the inside of the box, using a suitable flat-ended piece of metal - I have used a 4" to 6" wire nail, upside down, to complete this job.

Obviously, this method requires clear access to the inside of the box - don't leave it until after you've installed the electronics!

Disaster For Thailand Amateurs

Derek HS0ZJH/G3MMA

The world hears no more about the floods in Thailand, but sadly, families without homes, and businesses in trade, technical and industrial environments are struggling to replace and rebuild.

Though there were warnings of flooding, the flood-water arrived very suddenly and it rose to head-height in the space of an hour. To describe how bad the flooding has been, and to illustrate the effect it has on property and equipment I would refer you to these photographs which show the devastation that the water caused to our Radio Amateur Society club station in Bangkok.



The level of the water mark on the station building was over 'head-height' and the whole station and all of the equipment built up by

amateurs over many years was reduced to water-logged trash.



Indeed, the whole surrounding area was totally immersed and inaccessible for over one month. When we finally gained access to the site the accompanying photographs go some way to expressing our utter dismay at our total-loss. Cleaning-up

was made even more difficult because everything and all floor areas were covered in a layer of dark-brown mud and sewage, we were forced to wear full protective suits and face masks during our clean-up operations.

The monsoon rains started early this year and they were particularly heavy. The government announced that they would not release any



water from 4 very big dams in the north of the country which were brim-full. It was announced that the water would be released under controlled conditions to enable the farmers to grow two rice crops in one year and the country would retain its position of being the biggest rice exporter in the world.

danger of failing and that they would release the water to a safe level over a period of two months. Meanwhile the monsoon rains continued harder and longer than expected and the water released from the dams combined with the monsoon rainfall to give rise to a national flood disaster.



For hundreds of years, farmers relied on the monsoon flood waters to grow their rice crop. The water drained into a natural system of irrigation waterways and very wide rivers, eventually reaching the sea through the hundreds of man-made canals of Bangkok, the capital city.

The rains became the heaviest seen in living memory, limited flooding began in low-lying areas. The government then stated that the four very big dams in the north of the country are well over their designed capacity but they are safe. These dams are 300 miles north of Bangkok and the area covered by each one of these dams is vast. They capture the rainfall from the mountains in the north and look like vast inland seas.

The population lived along-side of these canals, building their houses on wooden 'stilts' above the maximum water level and the dangers of snakes and crocodiles. Photographs taken in 1950 show the capital on the very wide river Phraya as being a major port, but the edges of the river were crammed with thousands of these flimsy houses constructed on stilts or floating on bamboo-rafts. The city itself was known as 'The Venice Of The East' because it was criss-crossed with a thousand canals.

In the first few days of September the government reversed its decision and stated that the dams are now in

Over the years the surrounding land was drained and eventually a national water-management system was devised including the construction of four very large dams and hydro-electric systems. As the capital and its port grew into an important commercial point in the far-east, the land in and around the capital was reclaimed, hundreds of canals which led flood-water to the sea were filled in and converted into roadways. Gradually, shops, offices, businesses and sky-scrappers were built along these new highways and all the 'shanty' houses and floating dwellings were swept away to make way for a 'concrete-city' which rivals the skyline of New York. It was said that at the time of the monsoon rains that the drainage system of the country could still cope with only minimal flooding. Of course, no one ever thought that nature would one day send an exceptional monsoon, but this year she did. The rain which was incessant, started almost one month earlier than usual and carried on for one month longer than usual. However, it was first seen as good news because the water would be retained and could be released at a controlled rate and would enable the farmers to produce two crops of rice. This was good for the farmers, the dealers, the banks and the country because it would keep Thailand as

the worlds number one rice exporter. Covering a distance of 300 miles north of Bangkok where the maximum height above sea level is only about eight feet, the northern and midland areas of Thailand became severely flooded. People there were being rescued by air and boats. Thousands of people were without food or drinking water and were reliant on the army and the flood relief organizations. The residents of Bangkok then went about their daily business in panic mode. Every one built sand-bag walls or 'breeze-block walls round their houses and doorways and bought provisions for a month - the supermarket shelves were empty of all items that one needs daily - toilet paper became more valuable than gold. The cost of one sand bag rose to 50 Baht (£1). Quick-profit traders appeared like mushrooms selling sand-bags, plastic boats, long Wellingtons, water-pumps, life-jackets, floating cages for cats and dogs, torches and chemical-lavvies ! ! The television and broadcast stations became devoted to the forecast of where the flood-water was heading and its expected depth. Additionally, there were constant warnings about the contamination of the water and the health dangers that might arise from it. The flood-water gently flowed down from the



north inundating towns, villages and industrial centres. Thousands were thrown out of work, some areas were under water for six weeks. Thousands of new cars at the factories of Toyota, Isuzi and Mazda were submerged and scrapped. Factories manufacturing car-components suffered the same fate. Thailand produced one third of the worlds computer hard-drives and all the main computer brands suffered a production problem outside of Thailand.

The flooding was un-stoppable, it has gone round, through and under many of the make-shift barriers and overflowed the rivers and canals in some places to a depth of 10 feet. The three authorities which control the drainage, canals and water-ways were fighting each other and there was no co-ordinated plan. The building housing the main flood control authority itself was flooded and the staff moved to the Bangkok International Airport at Don Muang which they said would not be flooded. This airport was also converted to be a reception centre for flood victims. One week after this announcement, the airport at Don Muang was flooded and the flood control authority and the 3,000 evacuees had to be relocated. The

aircraft which could not get away in time were up to their bellies in flood water. The race was then on to save the main International Airport of Survarhnburni. To protect it, thousands of soldiers and volunteers built a flood barrier 10 feet high and 10 km long to divert the flood-water to the west of Bagkok.



This was very effective, it also minimized the total flooding in our area to a depth of 8 to 10 inches which meant the water only lapped at our patio doors. During all this confusion the radio amateurs effectively created a RAYNET which no doubt you read about in the last issue of BARSCOM, although my contribution was small, it gave me a great sense of pride to be part of it. To see more pictures go to www.ql.net/rast.

Best wishes from Derek - The Bangkok Boy

Solar-Power Electricity

Anon

Apart from the potential problems of allowing a company to "rent" your roof for 25 years (eg as with HomeSun), which can create all sorts of legal and practical hiccups, there is another aspect to be considered, whether you buy a solar system or "lease" it.

Apparently, the inverter systems used to convert the DC electricity from the solar cells to mains can cause radio interference, the severity of which can vary according to the type of inverter used, the wiring layout and the power involved.

The earlier systems used one inverter for all the power, usually with this being positioned inside the house,

with relatively long DC leads back to the panels, but now there is an option of having an inverter for each solar panel. This is mounted close to the panel (underneath, I assume), and the reduced wiring lengths and the lower power level per inverter can reduce the interference levels considerably.

If you are considering having such a system installed, it may be very worthwhile asking the company about the type of installation, the interference levels to be expected, and what they can do to reduce the problem.

Luckily, for many people this may not be a serious problem, except at weekends, as the system should be quiescent during the nighttime, without generating any interference (or power).

Harwell Amateur Radio Society Rally

will be holding its 15th indoor Radio & Electronics Rally on Sunday February 12, 2012 from 10.30am-3.30pm (set up from 8am).

The rally will be held in the Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, 3 miles from the Milton Interchange on the A34, midway between Oxford and Newbury. The venue will be sign posted from the A34.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Ann on 01235 816379 or ann.stevens@btinternet.com.

Hackers*, Makers and Innovators

Trevor M5AKA

A new promotional video has been released to attract Hackers, Makers and Innovators to amateur radio.

The video features well known hacker and maker Diana Eng KC2UHB along with Ham Nation's Bob Heil K9EID and ISS Astronaut Doug Wheelock KF5BOC. It follows some of the innovative, imaginative and fun ways "hams" use radio technology in new and creative ways and points out that amateur radio clubs are similar to hacker groups. Watch the video in HD at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlDwVhx7miQ.

Featured in the video is the HSMM-MESH™. A high speed, self discovering, self configuring, fault tolerant, wireless computer network that can run for days from a fully charged car battery, or indefinitely with the addition of a modest solar array or other supplemental power source. The focus is on emergency communications. www.hsmm-mesh.org/

** These 'Hackers' are not the same as computer hackers.*

AMSAT-UK publishes a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, which is full of Amateur Satellite information. Free sample issue at www.uk.amsat.org/on_193_final.pdf. Join online at tinyurl.com/JoinAMSAT-UK

Hackers and Makers in AMSAT-UK are building the amateur radio satellite FUNcube. FUNcube is AMSAT-UK's first cubesat project – it is designed to provide educational outreach for schools and colleges around the world and a linear transponder for radio amateurs.

Members of London Hackspace are working on HackSat1. This is planned to be deployed into earth orbit by KickSat in 2013 and will have a downlink of just 10 milliwatts on 437 MHz.

www.uk.amsat.org/2011/11/20/london-hackspace-work-on-hacksat1/Calculating Wire Lengths for Winding Toroids
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Rallies

5 FEBRUARY

27th CANVEY RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY – 'The Paddocks', Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA (southern end of A130). Free CP, OT 10.30, C, DF, TS. Dave, G4UVJ, 01268 697 978 (evenings) [www.southessex-ars.co.uk].

RADIO-ACTIVE RALLY – Civic Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5DG. CP, OT 10.30, TS, B&B, C. Simon Chettle G8ATB, 01270 841 506. [www.midcars.org].

10-12 FEBRUARY

ORLANDO HAMCATION® AND COMPUTER SHOW – Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando, Florida. TI, Free CP, TS, FM, CBS, LEC, SIG, FAM, WIN. [www.hamcation.com].

12 FEBRUARY

HARWELL RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY – Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot. TI V44 (S22), free CP, OT 10.15/10.30, £2.50 (u12 free), TS, FM, SIG, LB, C, DF. Ann, G8NVI, 01235 816 379, ann.stevens@btinternet.com. [www.g3pia.org.uk].

NORTHERN CROSS RALLY – Thornes Park Athletic Stadium, Horbury Road, Wakefield WF2 8TY. OT 10.30 (10.15), £3, C. free CP, TS, RSGB bookstall, B&B. Ken, 2E0SSQ on 07900 563 117 before 8pm please 2e0ssq@wdrs.org.uk. [www.northerncrossrally.com].

26 FEBRUARY

RAINHAM RADIO RALLY – Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0BX. 10.00, TI, C. Trevor, G6YLW, 07717 678 795, trev@wig1.co.uk.

SWANSEA ARS RALLY – Court Herbert Sports Centre, Neath Abbey, Neath, SA10 7BE. OT 10:30, £2. Free CP, TS, B&B, SIG, C. Details from Roger, GW4HSH, 01792 404 422. [www.radioclubs.net/swansears].

Calculating Wire Lengths for Winding Toroids

*Robert Olson, WD4OHD QST August 2000 (ARRL)**

Many home-brew designs using toroids for inductors specify the toroid type, and the number of turns needed for a particular value of inductance, but generally fail to specify the length of wire needed for construction. This can be a real nuisance when trying to put on a fairly high number of turns, as the extra length one has to allow for contingency can make threading the wire a nightmare.

WD4OHD has come up with a simple table of Core Types, with what he calls the IPT value ie the Inches Per Turn required for any winding. He says that you simply need to multiply your core's IPT value times the number of turns specified to be wound on the core, round-up the result to a whole number of inches, and add 3 inches (or slightly more, as required for terminating the coil) to the result, arriving at the correct wire length without problems.

** This data.appears on the web in several places. This is believed to be the original data compiler.*

Table 1 - Core Types and IPT value for Calculating Needed Wire Length.

T12 - 0.163, T16 - 0.202, T20 - 0.252, T25 - 0.327, T30 - 0.412, T37 - 0.426, T44 - 0.529,

T50 - 0.577, T68 - 0.700, T80 - 0.800, T94 - 1.006, T106 - 1.364, T130 - 1.394, T157 - 1.760,

T184 - 2.3, T200 - 1.850, T225 - 1.950, T225A - 2.850, T300 - 2.080, T300A - 3.080, T400 - 3.050,

T400A - 4.350, T520 - 3.720, FT23 - 0.230, FT37 - 0.438, FT50 - 0.595, FT50A - 0.688,

FT50B - 1/188, FT82 - 0.809, FT87 - 0.835, FT87A - 1.335, FT114 - 1.045, FT114A - 1.070,

FT140 - 1.500, FT140A - 1.692, FT150 - 1.250, FT150A - 1.750, FT193 - 1.930, FT193A - 2.180

FT240 - 2.000

Don't forget!

Jan 20 Construction Night -
Previous construction entries &
Wire Antennae

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 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
- 4 1900-2030 80m CC DATA LOW QRP

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.

Uses for old CDs

Dave G3PEN

Apart from using old Cds, & DVDs, as mats for the coffee cup, another use is as book-ends. The discs are heated (boiling water or hot-air gun??) and then bent across a diameter to a right-angle. The result

is a handy book-end for normal-sized paper-backs etc.

Another use is as bird-scarers, The recording layer soon peels off but if two discs are put back to back, silver sides outermost, and tied at the top & bottom, the reflecting surfaces last much longer, and both sides reflect sunlight, so increasing the flash effect. Has anyone any other uses?

Transformers & Chokes

Dave G3PEN

I have a reasonable number of these still available, although I did unload a large number at the Rishworth G-QRP Convention (ex-Rochdale), Roll on Canvey Island Rally!! Please let me have any requirements you may have, and I will see whether I can meet your needs. My collection tends to favour voltages from about 200 volts to at least 500-0-500 volts, plus a few at over 2kV and several

hundred milliamps, and some EHT units that are suitable for oscilloscope tubes. There are a few low-voltage low- and high-current types as well. I also have a small selection of relays, with 12V, 24V, mains and other odd voltage operating coils. I estimate that the transformers weigh about half a ton, with the largest transformers (ex-Admiralty C-cored oil-filled types) up to nearly 40lb each Moving them about, to check whether one meets a need, is quite a job, so please have patience if you do want something.

Next Month

Latest News from the RSGB

For Sale and Wanted

Continuing the Band Plan Review

Plus the usual ...

Events, Rallies, Contests, etc.

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Your Photos

For more information and pictures of events and projects see our
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