



BARSCOM



G3XG

GX3XG

G6BRH

DUNMOW

STEBBING

RAYNE

HALSTEAD

COGGESHALL

NOTLEY

WITHAM

BRAINTREE

SILVER END

Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society



June 2012



May 12-13
Windmills On
The Air

Contents

WOTA	Cover
Committee Update	2
Dxpedition to Xmas Is	2
Windmills Event	3
Club Meetings and Nets	4
PLT Checks	5
Foxton Rally Report	6
RSGB/ARRL News	7
Band Plans - V	8
Survey	9
Earth Mats	10
Rallies	11
Contests	13
Editor's Award	14
Club Info	15
Members' Info	Back cover

Vange Talk - Xmas Is

Steve. G0KVZ

On the 21st of June, the Vange Amateur Radio Society have a Talk and presentation about the 2011

Committee 2012/3

Ian G8MKN

Howard, G6LXK changed hats and took over as Chairman at the club's AGM on May 21 and Tony, GØIAG took over from him in the Publicity role.

I would like to thank Richard for his contributions over the last year, his position was taken over by Dave, GØDEC who stepped down from the chair after many year's service.

I was elected as Editor after serving for 11 months on a 'trial' basis.

The remaining members of the committee were re-elected for a further term.

Please feel free to make contact at any '*reasonable*' time.

DXpedition to Christmas Island, T32C, by Fred Curtis, G3SVK.

DVD's of the DXpedition will also be available on the night at a discounted price.

Subs

The rate of subs remain unchanged and are now due - see Edwin or John

Windmills on the Air

Melvin GØEMK

Fair weather favoured us the weekend of May 12/13 when we set up just down the road to the clubhouse about three meters from the Bocking Windmill - although the bands didn't necessarily follow suit, with 80 m and 2 m being very quiet.

On VHF out of a total 33 contacts overall only 11 'mill' stations were worked, although most of the nearby fellow mill stations were contacted.

The HF bands fared a little better, giving us a total of 38 contacts; these were spread out over 80 - 40 - 20 - 17 and 12 metres with contacts totalling 11 - 24 - 1 - 1 - 1 respectively. 28 of the contacts were via SSB the remaining 10 contacts were achieved by Richard, G4ICP using Morse at a blistering pace.

The best DX was to Italy, IY4FGM on 17 m by Martin, MØFAQ.

Various members visited for Friday's setting-up, Sunday's decamping, and the intervening operating period; a few amateurs

from around Essex and Suffolk shewed-up including Mark, MØMJH. A shortage of operators occurred as there were a few Raynet members helping at the St Helens Hospice 'Walk For Life' event on the Sunday.

Some members of the public took the opportunity to look around our station while visiting the mill, which was open to the public on the Sunday.



The windmill is a post mill constructed about 1680, although it was then moved piece by piece twice, first in 1721 and then again in 1830 to the position it is in now.

We would like to thank all of our operators and volunteers and look forward to next year, with some better band conditions.

Club Meetings and Nets

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

June

- 4 Rig Clinic - Fault Finding
- 11 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 18 TBA
- 25 Club Net - 70cms

July

- 2 Club BBQ
- 9 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 16 DF Hunt
- 23 Club Net - 70cms
- 30 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

August

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

September

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

October

- 1 Jota Planning and Video
- 8 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 15 TBA
- 22 Club Net - 70cms
- 29 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

November

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

December

- 3 Christmas Social
- 10 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 17 Natter Night
- 24 Club Net - 70cms
- 31 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

Do you have any interests outside Amateur Radio?

Potholing, freefall parachuting, geology, Haute Cuisine...

We would like to hear from you if you are involved in anything that may be of interest to our members either as a club-night talk or in an article in this magazine.

PLT Checks

RSGB

New PLT products placed on the market that comply fully with the EMC standard should be much more spectrum friendly than the earlier products which have caused many spectrum abuse complaints. Unfortunately there has been some confusion about the current position on standards and the EMC Committee are aware of at least one new PLT device which does not comply.

Market surveillance conducted by Trading Standards and by Ofcom should eventually pick up on non-compliant devices. However, to help with market surveillance, if any member notes the release of a new

PLT product that does not appear to comply with EN55022:2006 where it has been applied in full, please inform the EMC Committee. Even if it does state that it is compliant, if it is new to the market, there could be an issue.

Taking action quickly is important as any product that has been shipping for 3-4 months is automatically deemed compliant (the actual deadline is 6 months but the administrative processing involved in a complaint can easily use up 2-3 months).

If you have any concerns about a new device it is very important that you inform the RSGB EMC Committee immediately by contacting 55022rsgb.org.uk

Scarecrow Event

Don't forget about the Scarecrow Event on June 16/17.

Any help welcomed.

Theme: Olympics and Diamond Jubilee

Years 1948 and 1952

Foxton Radio Rally, April 15th

Howard G6LXK

I took the journey to Foxton, near Cambridge, for their annual rally - despite the feeling that I was in for a heavy cold. The organisers always seem to be able to receive good weather, useful as most of the rally is outside. On arrival, most people are there already.

Foxton is a pleasant village located on the A10 Great Cambridge Road, south west of Cambridge. There is a large level crossing right in the middle.

The rally is at the village hall, with the playing field used for parking and the boot fare. There were not as many stalls as a few years ago, although the quality of items was still very good.

One of my plans was to see if any of the stalls had any second-hand rolls of my favourite coaxial cable, RG223. This type is hard to find. I try not to use RG58 for my long VHF/UHF cable runs although need

to use thin cables, not RG8 or RG213. RG223 cable is double screened, with silver plating on the conductors, with a good RF performance. The third stall was selling end-of-reels of such cable, at about 90p per meter, so I bought as much as I needed. I have seen lengths on EBAY for about £6.00 / meter, and have only been able to buy second hand pieces. This will allow me to re-cable my VHF cables for the scanning receivers as well as for the transceiver.

I met Tony & Ann, Edwin, Mark amongst the crowds. Tony was lugging a large PSU unit.

The CRG (Cambridge Repeater Group) van was there, with a tower loaded up with 23cm beam antennas.

The fish & chip stand was doing a roaring trade. Another stall was selling useful items (some very useful) for 30p each, so I filled-up my bag!

Errata

Unfortunately a number of errors crept into the club's Net Report last month. It is acknowledged that the correct information was supplied.

HORYU-2 Satellite

ARRL

Amateurs are asked to listen for the Japanese HORYU-2 research satellite that was launched May 17 at 1639 UTC as part of a mission that included the JAXA climate observation satellite Shizuku.

HORYU-2 was built by students at the Kyushu Institute of Technology (KIT) and it carries the call sign

JG6YBW. The satellite will conduct a variety of experiments including high-voltage power generation and space debris measurements.

Amateurs have been asked to monitor HORYU-2's Morse code and 1200-baud AX.25 packet telemetry at 437.375 MHz. Telemetry decoding software is available for downloading from KIT. To encourage hams to submit reports, KIT will conduct a monthly prize drawing.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

RSGB

This Weekend is held in August every year. Registrations are going well, with Australia on 42 entries ahead of its rival Germany, with 36 registrations. There are 215 entries from 30 countries and the numbers are rising each week.

Among those activating ten lightships are Australia, Belgium, England, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, and the USA.

The basic objective of the weekend is to increase awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, and at the same time to promote amateur radio and foster international goodwill. International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is on 18 and 19 August and registration is available on the website www.illw.net.

Wanted

Ian, G8MKN

HF ATU in reasonable condition. E-mail any details to address on back page, or see me at the next meeting.

Know the Band Plans-V

RSGB

18MHz (17m)

- 18,068-18,095 200 Hz CW
- 18,086 kHz QRP CoA
- 18,095-18,105 500 Hz NB
- 18,105-18,109 500 Hz NB - ACDS
- 18,109-18,111 IBP - reserved
exclusively for beacons
- 18,111-18,120 2.7 kHz AM -
ACDS
- 18,120-18,168 2.7 kHz AM,
- 18,130 kHz SSB QRP CoA
- 18,150 kHz digital voice CoA
- 18,160 kHz Global Emergency
CoA

LICENCE NOTES:

Amateur Service - Primary User.
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

Priority:

- P1 - inter-continental operation
- P2 - inter-continental telephony
- P3 - Priority for Dxpeditons

Jubilee Celebrations

We wish all members, and their families best wishes for
the coming holiday and celebrations.

BARSCOM Survey 2012

Please rate the topics below in how interested you are in reading about them in BARSCOM. Mark one column for each topic ranging from 0-Not Interested to 4-Very Interested.

Topic	0	1	2	3	4
Members' technical contributions					
Members' general interest contributions					
Items on club activities					
News from RSGB					
News from ARRL					
News from AMSAT					
Updates to band-plans					
Current/latest books in our library					
Dates for rallies					
Dates and topics for meetings					
Dates of Contests					

Should features like Rallies, Club Meetings and Contest Calendars appear:
 Monthly Every-Other Month

Do you think the number of photos is:
 Too few Just right Too many

Should BARSCOM be published
 Monthly Bi-Monthly Quarterly Less Frequently

Please print this sheet, complete it and hand it in at a club meeting or e-mail it to me.

Please feel free to add any comments and suggestions for other topics.

Earth Mats

Dave G3PEN

About 20 years ago, I did some serious work in my vegetable garden area, including sieving the top foot in depth to remove the larger stones and builders rubble. (The sieve was an 8ft long trough of suitably sized mesh at about 40 degrees from the horizontal. I simply threw the dirt at the top, and gravity did the rest. Very effective!)

While replacing the soil, I had the (bright?) idea of laying in a length of 1m-wide galvanized wire netting, about 6-8 inches down, with one end by the radio shack, and the far end about 50 feet away. I had this earth mat connected as part of my earthing system for a number of years, although I disconnected it a couple of years ago. To be honest, I have no idea if it helped my transmissions on HF, but every little helps....

The point of this note is that I recently did some deep digging (a new runner bean trench) along the edge of the netting, and to my surprise found that the netting was still in very good condition, with at least some galvanizing still on it. I suspect that the life would be much shorter in some soils, but this example will probably still be functional for another 10 years or more.

One word of advice - if you do the same thing in your garden, try to get the netting further down - a 6-inch depth is OK unless you do deep digging, when the fork prongs keep catching the mesh! Perhaps the best bet is to put such a system under the lawn, where it won't be disturbed. An easy way to install such an earth mat is to mow the lawn, lay the wire netting down flat, with wire pegs to hold it in place, and let the grass grow through. In a few months the netting will have disappeared under the grass. It stops the moles as well!!

Next Month

Latest News from the RSGB

For Sale and Wanted

Rally/Event Reports

Plus the usual ...

Events, Rallies, Contests, etc.

???

Your Photos

Rallies

2 JUNE

CENTRAL SCOTLAND MINI HAM RADIO CONVENTION – Crofthead Farm Community Education Centre, Templar Rise, Livingston EH54 6DG. OT 10am/9.50, TS, FM, B&B, LEC, RSGB, WIN, C. [uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/cshrc].

3 JUNE

SPALDING & DARS ANNUAL RALLY – The Sir John Gleed Technology School, Halmer Gardens, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 2EF. Free CP, OT 10am, TS, C, CBS. John, G4NBR, 07946 302 815, rally-secretary@sdars.org.uk [www.sdars.org.uk].

17 JUNE

25th NEWBURY RADIO RALLY AND BOOT SALE – Newbury Showground, next to M4 J13. Big display area of amateur radio stations, exhibitions, special groups, clubs and societies. TI S22 (V44), free CP, OT 9.00, £2, TS, C, DF, FM, SIG. Sellers have access from 8am and pitches cost £10. Details from rally@nadars.org.uk [www.nadars.org.uk].

22 – 24 JUNE

HAMTRONIC SHOW, FRIEDRICHSHAFEN – Messe, Friedrichshafen, Germany. TS, FM, CP, SIG, LB, C, DF, LEC, CS. Large RSGB bookstall [www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en].

24 JUNE

WEST OF ENGLAND RADIO RALLY – Cheese & Grain, Bridge Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE. TS, RSGB Books, C, CP, DIS. Contact Shaun, G8VPG, 01225 873 098, rallymanager@westrally.org.uk [www.westrally.org.uk].

7 JULY

BANGOR AND DISTRICT ARS RALLY – Donaghadee Community Centre, County Down BT21 0HB. OT 11.30am, £3, TS, B&B, SIG. Bill GI4AAM 02891 816 707, bill.langtry@btinternet.com [www.bdars.com].

June 2012

15 JULY

QRP IN THE COUNTRY – Upton Bridge Farm, Long Sutton TA10 9NJ.
QRP & homebrew in a country setting. TS, FAM, SIG. Tim Walford,
G3PCJ, walfor@globalnet.co.uk.

29 JULY

HORNCastle SUMMER RALLY – Horncastle Youth Centre, Willow
Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6DZ. 10.30, £1.50, DF, C. Tables £5,
free power. Tony, G3ZPU, 01507 527 835.

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, Lincs, 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

Contests

VHF/UHF

June

- 5 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 10 0900-1300 2nd 144MHz
Backpackers
- 12 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 16-17 1400-1400 50MHz Trophy
Contest
- 19 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 24 0900-1200 50MHz Contest CW
- 24 1400-1600 70MHz
Cumulatives #4
- 26 2000-2230 SHF UKAC
- 26 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC

July

- 3 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 7-8 1400-1400 VHF NFD
- 8 1100-1500 3rd 144MHz
Backpackers
- 10 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 17 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 22 1000-1600 70MHz Trophy
Contest
- 24 2000-2230 SHF UKAC
- 24 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 31 2000-2230 70MHz UKAC

August

- 4 1400-2000 144MHz Low
Power
- 4 1300-1700 4th 144MHz
Backpackers
- 5 0800-1200 432MHz Low
Power

HF

June

- 2-3 1500-1500 NFD Open
Restricted LowPower
- 4 1900-2030 80m CC DATA
LOW QRP
- 13 1900-2030 80m CC CW LOW
QRP
- 21 1900-2030 80m CC SSB LOW
QRP

July

- 2 1900-2030 80m CC CW LOW
QRP
- 11 1900-2030 80m CC SSB LOW
QRP
- 19 1900-2030 80m CC DATA
LOW QRP
- 22 0900-1600 Low Power Contest
A B C D
- 28-29 1200-1200 IOTA Contest
Single Operator
Unassisted Single Operator
Assisted Multi Operator IOTA
Points (M4)

August

- 5 0700-0830 RoPoCo CW ALL
- 8 1900-2030 80m Club Sprint
CW LOW QRP
- 23 1900-2030 80m Club Sprint
SSB LOW QRP

Editor's Award

Ian, G8MKN

I was a little bemused, even non-plused, when I discovered shortly before the AGM that I was expected to name a winner of the Editor's "Harold King Memorial" Award for contributions to BARSCOM.

One or two names came to mind quite quickly, but in the end I decided upon Derek Mayes for his item on the floods of Thailand.

In true spirit of journalism he brought out news to the outside world while having to bear the unpleasant state of affairs which plagued him personally.

Congratulations!



Pictures of some of the effects of the floods.



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 July 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is June 28

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

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