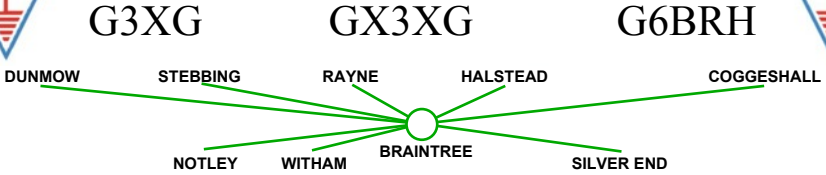




BARSCOM



Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

March 2012



‘Badars’ Home Brew - All alcohol-free



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David Aslin, G3WGN

RSGB

David Aslin has decided to leave the RSGB's Interim Board. He has reluctantly come to the conclusion that the heavy demands of the RSGB cannot be reconciled with his other responsibilities. During his short

time on the Board, he has been able to bring his wide experience to bear on the challenges facing the Society.

National Radio Centre


RSGB

The National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park opened its doors for the first time on Saturday 25 February. It is initially operating for three days a week, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, while the displays and exhibits are put through their paces. The formal opening is expected to take place in late spring. The date will be announced later.

Improved 5Mhz Access

RSGB

Following proposals from the RSGB to Ofcom, aimed at harmonising NoV access to 5MHz with that access enjoyed by radio amateurs in other countries, the Society has received an offer from the MoD. It was reported earlier that the MoD were unable to meet our request for access over a continuous range, ie a band, so at our request have offered a number of small frequency blocks, which include all of the present 3kHz wide channels.



Since the response is quite complex, the Society is to seek views using its new Litmus Test process on how it should respond. This Litmus Test will be open to all UK radio amateurs and will commence on 1 March. More information can be found on the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org/consultations .

New 500kHz band

RSGB

The Plenary meeting of WRC-12 agreed on the revised text for Agenda Item 1.23 in its first and second reading. This means that the conference concluded on a global secondary amateur allocation in the band 472-479 kHz with a maximum radiated power of 1W (EIRP). Administrations, however, may permit stations located more than 800km from the borders of countries listed in a footnote a maximum radiated power of 5W (EIRP).

New VHF Manager

RSGB

Terry Stevens, G8DKS has been appointed VHF Manager, with immediate effect. The role covers the development of the hobby and spectrum management issues, both

nationally and internationally, on frequencies between 30MHz and 1Ghz.

PLA/PLT devices

RSGB

New PLT products placed on the market should be much more spectrum friendly than earlier products which have caused many spectrum abuse complaints.

The latest revision of EN55022:2006+A2:2010 is the only Harmonised EMC Standard that can be applied specifically to new IT products. It specifies emission level limits that will both protect radio services, and allow other equipment to operate as intended.

The EU has confirmed that PLT devices are now included in this standard (earlier revisions of the standard could be misinterpreted on the test procedure). Equipment already meeting EN55022:1998, which was withdrawn on October 1st 2011, will be allowed to be sold for three years.

If any member notes the release of a new PLT product that does not appear to comply with EN55022:2006 where it has

Club Meetings and Nets

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

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
- 30 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

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
- 25 Club Net - 70cms

July

- 2 Club BBQ
- 16 DF Hunt

August

- 6 TBA
- 13 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 20 TBA
- 27 Club Net - 70cms

September

- 3 TBA
- 10 Club Net - 2Mtrs
- 17 TBA
- 24 Club Net - 70cms

October

- 1 TBA
- 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 TBA
- 26 Club Net - 70cms

December

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

February's Net Report - see page 15

▶ been applied in full, please inform the RSGB EMC Committee (55022@rsgb.org.uk) even if it does state that it is compliant.

Sudan - New Prefix

ARRL

After a wait of more than seven months after being accepted as a member of the United Nations, the Republic of South Sudan received its prefix block from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU): Z8.

New Satellites

ARRL

At 1000 UTC February 13, a European Space Agency Vega rocket lifted off from Kourou, French Guiana on its inaugural flight. It carried the Laser Relativity Spacecraft (LARES) to orbit along with eight student-built MicroSats and CubeSats. The student satellites will transmit telemetry in the VHF, UHF and microwave amateur bands, with one satellite also including a voice repeater. The lineup includes:

ALMASat-1: from the University of Bologna, Italy, transmitting 1200-

baud packet data at 437.465 and 2407.850 MHz.

Xatcobeo: a collaboration between the University of Vigo and INTA, Spain, transmitting telemetry at 437.365 and 145.940 MHz.

Robusta: from the University of Montpellier, France transmitting 1200-baud packet telemetry at 437.325 MHz with one 20-second data burst every 3 minutes.

PW-Sat: from the Warsaw University of Technology, Poland, which includes a voice repeater mode in addition to its telemetry functions. The voice repeater will listen for transmissions at 435.020 MHz FM and retransmit at 145.900 MHz SSB. PW-Sat telemetry will be sent as 1200-baud packet and CW at 435.020 MHz.

E-St@r, a project of Politecnico di Torino, Italy, sending 1200-baud packet telemetry at 437.445 MHz.

UniCubeSat GG from the University of Rome, which will transmit 9600-baud data at 437.305 Mhz.

MaSat-1: from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, sending 625/1250 bps GFSK data at 437.345 MHz.

▶

Ann Scherer

The members and committee wish to pass on their condolences to Eddy, M6RHA on the passing of his wife, Ann, who died on Tuesday, 14 January.

The funeral service took place on 28 February at the three Counties crematorium, High Garrett, Bocking.

Our thoughts are with Eddy and his family at this difficult time.

▶ Goliat: from the University of Bucharest, Romania, transmitting 1200-baud packet data at 437.485 MHz.

Canvey Island Rally

Howard, G6LXK

The rally was on the usual first Sunday in February, as per usual. This year it was on the morning after the big snowstorm. Some of us saw 4-6 inches of snow on our driveways. A number of us were planning to go to this rally as per usual, however a few phone calls early in the morning suggested that although we could possibly meet up at Braintree, we were unsure that we could get down to Canvey Island. So we decided not to go, even though the organisers said the event will be on, whatever the weather. By 10.30am, I had heard on the BBC that the roads were now clear and my

wife saw me looking miserable doing the washing up - so she suggested that I should go. It would be a good test for the 4X4 truck, so I grabbed my coat. My own road was treacherous. The little main road was slippery, although passable with care. The main A131 and A130 were wet but clear. I found it funny that it took me less time than usual to get down to Canvey Island, due to lack of any traffic! At the rally, there were car park spaces - despite there being 6 - 8 inches of lying snow down there! Inside the rally venue, it was just under half full with stalls, about a third full of people. The usual traders were there, some having stayed locally overnight. Unfortunately, not many of the private traders or club stands with real bargains were there, so I did not come back with many interesting items. The organisers on the front desk thanked me for making the trip all the way from Halstead.

New Additions To The Radio Club Library

Howard, G6LXX

RTTY/PSK31 for Radio Amateurs, RSGB Book 2011. 32pp.

A brief introduction to the world of digital modes. RTTY is as old as the hills, although PSK is a newer development. There is CD included, with some software on there.

Did you know, that at least three of our members use PSK31 and are considering having a club net using this mode?

Shock & Awe – The Story of Electricity part 4.

DVD, BBC programme covering the discovery and marketing of radio waves (Lodge, Hertz & Marconi) and moving onto electronics. Enthralling viewing.

G-QRP Club Antenna handbook, G-QRP book, 142pp.

A collection of build projects from many of their members, relating to

antenna and related technology. Lots of projects for the experimenter.

Intermediate Licence, Building on the foundation, RSGB book, 79pp.

Planning in moving on from the foundation licence, M6? Or are you just a bit rusty and need freshening up?

Great Military Blunders, Channel 4 Book, 192pp.

Interesting book, blunders through the ages. I am sure there would have been far more blunders during WW2, if radio had not been involved in allowing us to decode the German enigma code - thanks to all of the people at Bletchley Park. Interestingly, when we told the Americans that we had cracked the enigma code they were amazed. Not quite as amazed as when we told them that we had cracked their own code some time before then.

Don't forget!

Talk on Op Amps

Ian Wager G8MKN - March 19 at 20.00

Know the Band Plans

RSGB

7.0 MHz (40m)

- 7,000-7,040 200 Hz CW
7,030 kHz - QRP CoA
- 7,040-7,047 500 Hz NB #2
7,047-7,050 500 Hz NB, ACDS
7,050-7,053 2.7 kHz AM,
ACDS, #1
7,053-7,060 2.7 kHz AM,
digimodes
7,060-7,100 2.7 kHz AM, SSB
CPS
7,070 kHz digital voice
7,090 kHz SSB QRP CoA
- 7,100-7,130 2.7 kHz AM,
7,110 kHz - R1 Emerg'y CoA.
- 7,130-7,200 2.7 kHz AM, SSB
CPS
7,165 kHz - Image CoA
- 7,175-7,200 2.7 kHz AM, P1

#1: Lowest LSB carrier frequency (dial setting) should be 7,053 kHz.

#2: PSK31 activity starts from 7,040 kHz. Since 2009, the narrow band modes segment starts at 7,040 kHz.

LICENCE NOTES:

7,000-7,100 kHz Amateur and Amateur Satellite Service - Primary User.

7,100-7,200 kHz Amateur Service - Primary User.

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)

CPS - Contest Preferred Segment

CW - Telegraphy

NB - Narrow Band

CoA - Centre of Activity

Priority:

P1 - inter-continental operation

Strange signals heard on 2-metres during the February 13 club net.

Plain carrier was followed by F3 modulation breaking into the net.

Inter-stellar signals from a Galaxy 30 light-years away were found to be coming from closer to home when a call-sign, G8MKN was heard. calling in. Thoughts of someone pirating a local call-sign were dispelled when it was proved to be a long lost transmission from Ian: last transmission from Romford in 1981!

The Magic Eye

Danny GM3YXJ

One of the most popular collectible receivers of WW2 vintage must be the R1155. Unlike many other military receivers it actually looks like a proper wireless set with a large tuning dial and multi coloured identification of various ranges and even had, what must have been an innovation of that time, a 'Magic eye' tuning device.. This was a valve with a section which showed a closing shadow as a station was tuned in for maximum strength and must have been a strong sales point in any domestic receiver to enable a housewife to visually tune for maximum volume! Perhaps it was

cheaper and looked more attractive than an 'S' meter so now the designer included it in the R1155.

With hindsight we can see that it is superfluous for a trained operator who will tune for maximum signal aurally in any case, but it was included in the production of the receiver, and unlike all other valves, the top of the valve must be visible on the front panel so it's base would require a special mounting above the chassis. This may have proved rather difficult to create so a slotted clip was designed to hold the valve in place on the front panel and this is what you see on every production model of the 1155.

Now, I am not criticising the designers of this receiver, it is an excellent receiver of it's time, including a DF section, but it is impossible to cover every eventuality which may happen on active service and perhaps no one tried to use it in total darkness or very poor light, but it seems that the magic eye could be so bright that it became an annoying distraction and there was no means of controlling it, so how did our wireless operators, solve this problem? They found a very simple answer. Some tried stuffing paper over it, but this was not very successful, and the perfect

▶ solution lay with that very rare wartime fruit, the orange! The clever operator simply nibbled a piece of orange skin to the size of the aperture for the magic eye and pushed that in the hole; - a perfect blackout!!

Unfortunately for the poor mechanic who had to service the equipment daily, it was not just a case of extracting orange peel, as the valve had now been pushed back in its holder, so the chassis had to be removed to replace the valve in it's original situation; - a task which may have caused the ears of the magic eye designer to burn, and I must add that I have never met an operator who actually made use of that magic eye, even in normal daylight! So, if you are the fortunate owner of a

Next Month

Latest News from the RSGB

For Sale and Wanted

Op Amp History - Part 3

Plus the usual ...

Events, Rallies, Contests, etc.

???

Your Photos

working R1155, please don't be tempted to stuff orange peel over the hole, but do note how bright it can be in total darkness, and think on....!

Home Brew Evening

Ian G8MKN

A variety of construction projects were on show at the Club showing diverse methods of construction and complexities from RF Sniffers through Antenna Tuners (left) to full transceivers...



Rallies

4 MARCH

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RALLY – Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, A1198 London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2NH. OT 10:00, CP, £3, TI S22, TS, B&B, LB, C, DF, SIG, FAM, Contact John, GØGKP, 01954 200 072, j.bonner@ntlworld.com. [www.cdarc.co.uk].

EXETER RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY – America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe Exeter EX4 8PW. TS, B&B, C. OT 10.15/10.30, £2. Pete, G3ZVI, 07714 198 374, g3zvi@yahoo.co.uk.

10 MARCH

DUTCH NATIONAL RADIO FLEA MARKET – 'Autotron', Rosmalen ('s-Hertogenbosch), The Netherlands. TI S20 (V40), OT 9am, €7, TS, FM, SIG, C. Details: info@radiovlooiemarkt.nl [www.radiovlooiemarkt.nl].

11 MARCH

WYTHALL RC RADIO AND COMPUTER RALLY – Woodrush Sports Centre, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, nr Birmingham B47 5JW A435, 2mi from J3 M42. TS, C, £2.50, B&B, CP, TI S22 (V44). Contact Chris, GØEYO, 07710 412 819, g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk [www.wrcrally.co.uk].

25 MARCH

SPRING MILITARIA & ELECTRONICS & RADIO AMATEUR HANGAR SALE – Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8AL. OT 10.00, civil, military and vintage radio equipment plus vehicle spares and more. Contact Rod Siebert, 01270 623 353 or coldwatr@hackgreen.co.uk. [www.hackgreen.co.uk].

1 APRIL

LOUGH ERNE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNUAL RALLY – The Share Holiday Village, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh BT92 0EQ N. Ireland. Access from Erne/Shannon Waterway. OT 11.30, CP, B&B, TS, LB, C, DF. Details Iain 02866 326 693, iain@learc.eu. [www.lougherneradioclub.co.uk].

Titanic Centenary – Station GR100MGY

Sutton & Cheam Radio Society

The sinking of White Star Line's RMS Titanic on 15th April 1912 sent shock-waves around the world. Those who perished in this disaster will be remembered on its 100th anniversary during many commemorative events. Within amateur radio we recognise that this event marked the first time that Morse code saved so many lives at sea. Jack Phillips (1887-1912) was the liner's Chief Marconi Wireless Operator. He perished only after sending distress signals in Morse right until the ship foundered, thereby saving hundreds of lives. A group of radio amateurs commemorated his heroism on the 90th anniversary of the sinking by setting up a radio station in Godalming with the call-sign GB90MGY. The letters 'MGY' were used by RMS Titanic for all its radio transmissions.

Five years later, the Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group (WVARG), activated a similar commemorative station in Godalming, this time using GB95MGY. For the 2012 centenary a much larger project to honour Jack's memory will be mounted in Godalming by the Wey Valley club.

From Tuesday 10th April (when Titanic sailed from Southampton), until the day of the sinking, Sunday 15th April, two transmitters will be manned continuously, with the special call-sign GR100MGY (Godalming Remembers the Centenary of the Titanic Disaster). There will be a short pause in transmissions at 05.47 GMT on the Sunday, the time when distress messages ceased minutes before the liner sank. The transmitters will make contacts around the world, mostly in Morse code, targeting 15,000 two-way exchanges. Each contact may be confirmed with a specially printed card depicting Titanic and Jack Phillips.

During Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th April, from 12.00 noon until 4.00pm, the general public will be welcome to visit the station to observe the transmissions and to participate in this memorable commemorative event.

Further information:

Michael Shortland, G0EFO,
michaelgs1@talktalk.net

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

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.

Titanic (cont.d)

Some fifteen operators will man two 400 watt transmitters on the eight HF bands from 3.5 to 28 MHz , using directional antennas. Only CW will be used except on the open days, 14-15th April, when SSB will help the public to understand the operation. Activity on VHF is also planned.

QSL information can be found at: <http://www.QRZ.com>.

GR100MGY will be located at 0° 37' 18" West, 51° 11' 49" North, Locator IO91qe: Charterhouse, Hurtmore Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2DX. 

Net Report - Feb 2012

Melvin, GØEMK

BARS net #590 was held at 8 pm local time, on 145.375 MHz, Monday, 13 February.

Melvin, GØEMK acting as net controller was using the club's call sign G6BPH/A.

Stations checking in were John, M5AJB; Howard, G6LXK; Dave, GØDEC; Geoff, GØBHY; Ian, G8MKN and Edwin, GØLPO.

The net closed at 21:32

BARS net #591 was held at 8 pm local time, on 433.575 MHz, Monday, 27 February.

Melvin, GØEMK acting as net controller was using the club's call sign G3XG/A.

Stations checking in were John, M5AJB; Howard, G6LXK; Brian, G1ILG; Edwin, GØLPO and Colin, G3UGG.

The net closed at 21:23

Many thanks to all for calling-in to the club nets in February. Vy 73

Next Net (2m) - Monday 12 March - 8pm

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 April 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is March 26

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