

Web Edition



BARSCOM



G3XG

GX3XG

G6BRH

DUNMOW

STEBBING

RAYNE

HALSTEAD

COLCHESTER

NOTLEY

WITHAM

BRAINTREE

COGGESHALL

Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

November
2013



Plotting local Aircraft and a
quiet weekend with the Scouts

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* Member's E-dition only

Amateur Licence Review

Trevor, M5AKA

Ofcom are considering improving the clarity of the current licence, and changes to their management of amateur licensing and progression, through the licence structure and the RSGB is to run several Litmus Tests over the next few months to provide

feedback to Ofcom prior to their setting up of their consultation questions.

The first discussion forums are on:

- Single call sign per station
- Regional Secondary Locator

The RSGB intend to run more tests on subjects from Ofcom's presentation, such as the use of /AM for telemetry, command and control, etc. for un-crewed airborne platforms and remote Station operation, licence progression, etc. Read the RSGB licence review preparation or participate in the Ofcom Consultation discussions via the RSGB website.

Silent Key Sale

Icom IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF All-mode Transceiver.

Instruction Book, HM-151 Mic, OPC-1457R DC Cable with EMC filter, Original Box

Good clean working order

Used for ONE afternoon only!!

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2014

Club Meetings and Nets

Club Net - 08.00 pm local time
2 Meters (145.375 MHz)
70 cms (433.575 MHz)

November

- 4 Fibre Optics - Dave GØDEC
- 11 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 18 Baluns - Melvin
- 25 Club Net - 70 cms

December

- 2 Natter Night
- 9 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 16 Xmas Party
- 23 Club Net - 70 cms
- 30 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

January

- 6 Natter Night
- 13 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 20 Portable Appliance Testing - I
- 27 Club Net - 70 cms

February

- 3 Radio Mobile (Coverage Prediction Software) - G6DEC
- 10 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 17 Construction Night
- 24 Club Net - 70 cms

March

- 3 Morse
- 10 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 17 Raynet
- 24 Club Net - 70 cms

Jim's Duxford Visit

Tony, GØIAG

On Sunday Sept 30th. There was a 40s theme day. this coincided with Edwin and I going on one of our volunteering days. As you are all probably aware we are both keen users of Clansman equipment, and this bug has been caught by Jim GØDCR, so we took him with us on to collect his own Clansman 320 that we had sourced for him.



You must draw your own conclusions from the picture, perhaps he's listening to ITMA, or Churchill, or the Goons.

Rallies

10 NOVEMBER - NEW DATE

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW (Kempton Rally) – Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ. TI, free CP, OT 9.50/10am. TS, FM, B&B, SIG, C, DF, WIN, LEC. Paul, M0CJX, 08451 650 351, info@radiofairs.co.uk. [www.radiofairs.co.uk].

16 NOVEMBER

HALTON & DISTRICT RADIO AMATEURS RALLY – The Heath Business & Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX. OT 10am, £1. TS, B&B, C, DF, SIG, cash machine, prize draw. All proceeds after costs to charity. George Low, G0RLF, 07919 935 725 (daytime), g0rlf@talktalk.net. [www.haltonradiatorally.webs.com].

24 NOVEMBER

CATS RADIO & ELECTRONICS BAZAAR – 1st Coulsdon Scout HQ, r/o Council Car Park, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. OT 10am, £1, B&B, C, DIS, free CP. Glenn, G4FVL, chairman@catsradio.org.

24 NOVEMBER

PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB RALLY – Harewood House, The Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AS. CP, TI, OT 10.00, £2, TS, C. Contact pippa117@hotmail.co.uk.

30 NOVEMBER

18th ROCHDALE & DISTRICT ARS TRADITIONAL RADIO RALLY – St Vincent's Church Hall, Cutgate, Rochdale OL12 7QL. OT 10.15, £2.50 (concessions U12 & Seniors), B&B, C. Pitches £7.50. Dave, G0PUD, 0161 285 1600, info@vintage-radio-repair.co.uk. [www.radars.me.uk].

1 DECEMBER

BISHOP AUCKLAND RADIO AMATEURS CLUB RALLY – Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Co Durham DL16 6DB. CP, TI S22 (V44), OT 10.15 /10.30, £2 (U14 free). TS, B&B, C, LB, DF, FAM. Mark, G0GFG, 01388 747 497.

How I became a radio amateur

Ian, G8MKN

It all started a long time ago...

We were proud possessors of a televisor (sorry, TV) that was fed via a piece of twin lighting flex from 'the point' (a 5A round pin socket - the only one in the house). It was on other side of the room. The modern stuff (then), not the old red cotton covered rubber twisted flex, but the clear plastic figure-of-eight type.

The socket was in an almost inaccessible corner of the room, about 2 inches from the floor, and, at the age of 5, being smaller than everyone else and capable of getting into the restricted space, I was 'allowed' to plug and unplug the TV.

One fateful day I gripped the plug top and bottom, as usual, which I found easier than the normal side-to-side method. The only trouble was that after many months' service the flex's plastic insulation had hardened and become brittle, and with daily plugging-in and unplugging, it broke away right under the plug. The result was that I was immediately bitten by the bare wires. Fortunately, some say, the 240 V didn't have a return

path through me to the adjacent pipe-work of our back-boiler and the shock was only minor - I wasn't thrown across the room or killed (even temporarily). This was my first introduction into electrics and sparked my interest in all things electrical.

It wasn't until another 5 years or so, though, when I started 'big school' and got my first pocket money that I found my first 'adult' magazine, Practical Electronics, which I read from cover to cover. Slowly I learned about diodes and transistors and the more common valve, and how to make a photo-transistor by pulling an OC71 apart and scraping off the paint to make an OCP71.

Obviously there were articles about radios among the other projects for rain sensors and other really useful things; and gradually I started tinkering with the household's valve radio, the transistor radio and other sundry items. This was generally not too shocking an experience, even though the mains radios generally had a live chassis. For those without knowledge of these, they had no power transformer and the valve heaters were wired in series along with a dropper resistor directly across the mains. The mains cable

was simple two-core and, with a lack of household sockets, the plug on the end was a bayonet type that could be fitted into the nearest lamp-holder, which being symmetrical could be put in two ways - the first with the live connecting to the radio's power dropper and the neutral directly to the chassis - the other way meant the chassis was connected directly to the live; hence the term live chassis! Not the way to have it while servicing it.

Around the age of about 13 I found that sleep often did not come easily at night and a radio under the pillow would give me two or three hours of entertainment from stations like Radio Luxembourg, the offshore 'pirates', and AFN - although even after listening to numerous sports' commentaries, the vagaries of American Football and Baseball never became much clearer. Tuning around one morning I heard a broadcast from Radio Peking, which finally pushed me into looking more deeply into radio, although other interests came along at the same time.

Finding time for radio, around school activities, only allowed reading up on it all, as no-one I knew had anything to do with radio or electronics. Later school work became college work, other interests came along like cricket, and

drinking, socialising in almost every pub in Havering, and going to see various bands (and drinking); so although I managed to fit in a City & Guilds course in Amateur Radio, it had to wait until I was working at Dagenham before I met someone who was a real amateur Tommy Hill, whose call, typically, I can't recall, but he prompted me to apply for my licence and one afternoon after a lunchtime drink he turned on his mobile rig and switched to the London repeater and after a couple of minutes listening I spoke (a bit nervously) with a guy from the USA - my first contact.

After that I bought a rig, a converted Pye Cambridge, and some crystals and started to construct my first antenna, a simple dipole made from two TV aerials from our loft, one a band one (BBC) aerial and the other an ITV (band 3) aerial. The elements from the band 3 aerial fitted with a bit of a push into the band one dipole and with a bit of calculation and a hacksaw I made an adjustable vertical dipole that could be adjusted to match the crystal channels I wanted to use. Fitting this to a 10 ft wooden mast I was off and running, at least on FM - my favourite, SSB, was still to come....

Next Month: Edwin GÖLPO

Radio Jamming Station

Geoff, GIWRH

The Friends of Braintree Museum publish their magazine *Chronicles* on a regular basis with many interesting, mainly local articles. A recent edition (No.40) relates the story of the WWII wireless site off Queenborough Lane (which Maylands Drive and Oaklands Close now occupy) as recalled by a member of the Unit, Harry Cullum in 2012 to Ben Joscelyne and Clive Copsey. Harry worked his way up from the ATC (308 Squadron) through the RAF where he trained as a wireless mechanic, until in 1943. He was posted to 80 (signals) Wing, Bomber Command, at the Queenborough Lane site constructed in 1940.

There were many such stations especially around East Anglia, administered from Radlett in Hertfordshire. The purpose was to intercept and divert incoming German high frequency radio beams for their bombers. Braintree had four or five aerials linked to equipment in four huts where the diversions were transmitted, but there also had to be a receiving station, one hut, which had to be six miles away, so

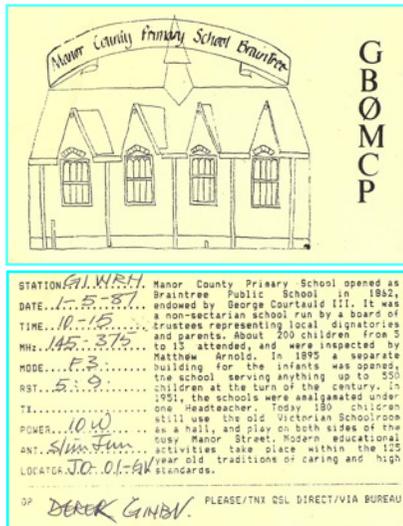
for this site it was located in Great Waltham. Information was passed on to US as well as RAF bases.

There were 60 personnel attached to the unit all billeted in private homes. Shifts were maintained around the clock, and for entertainment several sports teams were organised. The airmen attended the United Services Club behind the former Crittall and Winterton store (now George Yard) and visited the YMCA café at the old chapel in High Garrett, and also for refreshments, the London Road Congregational Church. Before the masts and buildings were removed in the late 1940's several Polish refugees took up residence.

Ben Joscelyne adds a technical note: The German VHF blind bombing system was known as "Knickebein" and was used to guide their bombers to UK based targets. After identifying the beams, initial jamming was by transmitting a "mush" noise, this system being known as "headache". However, this was superseded by a higher powered system code-named "asprin" which transmitted signals imitating the Knickebein beam to cause confusion. Another method was to mask the transmissions and then re-broadcast them, this being known as Meacon.

The Friends of Braintree Museum is based at the former Manor Street School, and the magazine containing the full version of this abridged article can be obtained from them. Also membership can be applied for in person or by using this link. www.friendsofbraintreemuseum.co.uk/membership/ at a very reasonable cost.

and my mother in law taught there. On a personal note, after many years of listening only, this was as I recall almost certainly my first amateur radio contact.



This leads me nicely on to the school itself. Just a shade over quarter of a century ago BADARS ran a special event station GBØMCP to celebrate the 125th year of its opening. The QSL card for the event gives a chronological but concise history of the school so I need not elaborate, save to say that my wife attended,

JOTA 2013

Tony, GØIAG

This year's event was hosted by Steeple Bumpstead and Yeldham Scouts, hence GBØSYS, at Wildings Farm just south of S.B. We turned up at lunch time on Friday to set up on the edge of a grassy private private airstrip. The usual crew of Dave GØDEC, Melvin GØEMK, Edwin GØLPO, John M5AJB, Neil MØNAS and I, set up the 2 tents and all the aerials on a



somewhat blustery day. We set up HF in one tent and VHF/UHF/Satellite in the other.



On Saturday the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from both troop's arrived and soon made their presence felt, there were about 60 of them. We soon had them arriving in groups to pass greetings messages on all bands, and I took groups of them in the mess tent to teach them Morse and message passing. Unfortunately with so many youngsters there it was not possible to get all of them on the air. The other problem once again was the usual one, lack of manpower. Most of Saturday there were only 4 club members there. SHAME!



Dave managed to track a couple of satellites, and after dark on Saturday managed to show some of the youngsters the Space Station as it passed over head, unfortunately no radio contact could be made. On Sunday Morning the Scouts, most of whom had camped, started packing up. At this time the weather was grotty with very heavy rain, and that is when we found that one of our tents leaked like a sieve, it has been chucked and will be replaced. We managed to pack up on Sunday between downpours.

Over the weekend we made just over 50 quality contacts, about half to other JOTA stations and lots of greetings messages were passed. There was also serious interest shown by a few of the youngsters in our hobby, GREAT! The Braintree Club was formally thanked for it's help at the Scouts closing flag pole ceremony on Sunday morning. All of us that took part thoroughly enjoyed it, rain and all. ■

5 MHz Rig Mod's - DANGER

Tony, GØIAG

Having recently obtained my N.O.V for 5 MHz, I thought I would enquire about the mod for my IC 7500. I

mentioned this to Dave GØDEC, who checked on his i-phone and told me there may be a problem with the mod.

I contacted the service manager at Icom UK, who informed me that the simple mod could be done but was NOT recommended. I

asked why and he explained that my radio did not have a band pass filter for 5 MHz and as the mod was based on the 7 MHz band this would cause problems with the P.A. stage if output over 20 Watts was required.

The same problem can occur on most of the older radios, including:- IC's 706 (all models), 726, 735, 746, 756 series and many others. Most of the latest Icom radio's have 5 MHz fitted. For those of you who are not

Icom owners, I suggest that you contact the manufacturers regarding the mod.

When I contacted one of the emporiums, they did not tell me about the possible problems, but said they could do the mod for a fee. If you choose to do this mod you may end up with a large repair bill, why not buy a Clansman 320, the new band is built in. ■

The Air-Nav Dongle

Tony, GØIAG

Monday 21st October saw the welcome return of Richard 2EØXRS, with another interesting talk, this time an Air Nav system on your computer for about a fiver.



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Sourcing the hardware from eBay, the dongle and aerial plus a couple of free downloadable programs gets you going.

Richard was able to show real time and time lapse scans of aircraft flying around the south of England and northern Europe, based on transponder information from the aircraft as they flew. This is the same information that Air Traffic Control use to keep the skies safe. It also shows the type of aircraft that you may be watching, and a lot more. The better the aerial and its positioning and height, the more you can see. Combine this system with your air-band scanner, hours of fun for the price of a packet of fags. As usual Richard's talk was entertaining, and we are grateful for his time. ■

What started as a shack tidy up...

Howard, G6LXK

Back in the summer, I was standing in my shack thinking that it needed a good tidy-up (as you do) then I started to think on further about even having a shift about. After all, a reorganisation can refresh the hobby somewhat. In order to achieve this, a lot of small stuff would need to come out, something that I would need to do before I could even try to move any of the tables about. So I did that, putting all the small stuff and boxes in the shed. At that point the XYL came in and spotted all the drilled holes in the wall (cable holes, shelf brackets etc.). I explained that I was going to plug these with filler and leave them. She exclaimed that I can't do that, why don't we get the decorator chap in to paint?

So the call was made, and I set about completely emptying the room of wires, shelving and cupboards, leaving the three benches in the middle of the floor for him to cover up.

At this point we discovered that this decorator chap was not available for 5-6 weeks. Then it was decided that I needed a new carpet, as there were burn marks and an oily stain in the

middle -can't think how that happened! So, no shack for 6 weeks, also with my

workshop shed rammed full of gear – so no engineering activity either. Oh well. This gave me time to think about the refit carefully, improve the lighting, plus storage of the boxes elsewhere. As well, I can produce my annual cider batch, do the autumn gardening jobs and go metal detecting.

The time for moving in came in October. The empty room looked very presentable, and relocating the benches found them nesting very nicely in their new positions. The trouble came with the antenna cables for the ham radio station, all eight of them. They needed to cross the room. Before I had them trunked along the top of the wall, using garden tool hooks for hangers. Kind of visible - perhaps I could do better this time. I wanted to use the black beam that runs along the length of the room, so I box trunked the bunch of cables to the beams and then guided them all along using size 16 large black cable clips. It all looked very neat. Now that my radios are in new positions, all of the patch leads need lengthening or shortening. At least I can join the club nets again after a short break. 

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.

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 visitors.

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 local time on V30 (S15) - 145.375 MHz and SU23 - 433.575 MHz, unless QRM. In months with 5th Monday the net operates via GB3BZ 430.850 MHz.

BARSCOM is sent to members by e-mail on the first of the month; paper copies are available at the first meeting of the month. Members unable to attend club meetings may lodge S.A.E.s with the Editor for printed copies. Usual deadline for copy is the 28th of each month.

Members advertisements are published free of charge.

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 December 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is November 28

Please contact our Publicity Officer for details about commercial adverts.

Contests**VHF/UHF****November**

2-3 1400-1400 144MHz CW

Marconi

5 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC

12 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC

19 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC

26 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC

December

2 0900-1700 144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest

4 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC

11 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC

18 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC

25 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

25 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC

26-29 1400-1600

50/70/144/432MHz Christmas Cumulatives Contest

2014**January**

7 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC

14 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC

21 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC

28 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

28 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC

February3 0900-1300 432MHz Affiliated Societies Contest O SF
Affiliated Societies contest (S3)
O SF Cumulative contest (S5)**HF****November**

9 2000-2300 Club Calls SSB

13 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint
SSB QRP16-17 2100-0100 2nd 1.8Mhz CW
Contest28 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint
CW QRP**2014*****All 2014 dates are subject to
confirmation****January**12 1400-1800 AFS Contest CW
AFS Super League18 1400-1800 AFS Contest
PHONE AFS Super League**February**

3 2000-2130 80m CC SSB

8-9 2100-0100 1st 1.8MHz Contest
HF Championship

12 2000-2130 80m CC DATA

20 2000-2130 80m CC CW

March

3 2000-2130 80m CC DATA

8-9 1000-1000 Commonwealth
Contest HF Championship

12 2000-2130 80m CC CW

20 2000-2130 80m CC SSB

April6 1900-2030 RoPoCo SSB HF
Championship

