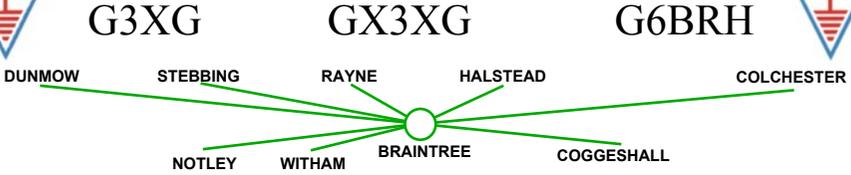




Web Edition

BARSCOM



Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

Club members awaiting for another contact? - or just the local QRM



October 2013

Dave's last look around before moving to pastures new

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* Member's E-dition only	

Don't forget!

October 21st at 20.00
Air Nav Dongle - Richard G8DJO

AGM - RAC

ARRL

The Radio Amateur of Canada (RAC) annual general meeting will take place in Ancaster, Ontario, on October 5 from 1 pm. A question-and-answer session will follow a business meeting, with a chance to discuss the future of RAC with the president and members of the board.

For those unable to attend, a webinar is being set up. (***RSGB take note!***)

Railways Event?

Ian Wager

2 m SSB was completely killed-off (at least during my time on board, Saturday) by a fast, incessant chuff-chuff-chuff (not from the steam trains) that was S9+ and seemed to be coming from the local overhead power lines. Apart from that the day was very enjoyable.

FOR SALE.

Altron SM 30 crank up mast with tilt over assembly and base plate, needs a little TLC, hence £175.00 ONO.

Also for sale, Alinco DJ195 vhf only handheld, has CTCSS fitted + charger. £40.

**Contact Roy, G6XCY
01376 324718**

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November

Club Meetings and Nets

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

October

- 7 JOTA Planning
- 14 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 21 Air Nav Dongle - Richard
- 28 Club Net - 70 cms

- 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

Meeting Report

Tony, GØIAG

On Monday 2nd September, the annual "Junk Sale" took place at the clubs qth. We had a lot of donated items and a small selection of commission sales. A good proportion of the donated items



came from the family of a "silent key", and were useful home brew shack items such as band pass filters, receivers, transmitters, etc. There



were also items of test equipment up for grabs, at the right price.

With the usual team running the auction, Dave G0DEC on descriptions, Melvin G0EMK on the gavel, Edwin G0LPO on the cash box (sounds like a pop band!) and John M5AJB running interference, the event raised over £90 for the club. Thanks to all who turned up, including visitors from CARS, (nice to see them) and spent their money and had fun. And, of course thanks to the auction team.

Rallies

6 OCTOBER

AUTUMN MILITARIA & ELECTRONICS & RADIO AMATEUR HANGAR SALE – Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8AL. OT 10am, civil, military and vintage radio equipment plus vehicle spares and more. Contact Lucy Siebert, 01270 623 353, coldwatr@hackgreen.co.uk. [www.hackgreen.co.uk].

6 OCTOBER NEW DATE

24th GREAT NORTHERN HAMFEST – Barnsley Premier Leisure Complex, Queens Road, Barnsley S71 1AN or follow the brown Metrodome signs. GNHF in association with SYRG. OT 10.30, £3.50. DF, TS, SIG, RSGB book stall, LB, C, FAM. Ernie, G4LUE, 07984 191 873. [www.gnhf.co.uk].

13 OCTOBER

HORNSEA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RALLY – Floral Hall, 7 The Esplanade, Hornsea, East Yorks HU18 1NQ. OT 10.30, CP, TS, B&B, SIG, RSGB, RAFARS, LB, C, DF, WIN. Details from Rick, M0CZR, 01964 533 712, R106221@aol.com. [www.hornsearc.co.uk].

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].

How I became a radio amateur

Danny, GM3YXJ

When I joined the RAF in 1941 I knew nothing about radio or wireless, as it was called in those days but hoped, perhaps to train as a wireless operator, but the ‘Raff’ had other ideas, and decided I should be a wireless mechanic; they knew I am red/green colour blind...but perhaps they were desperate in those days...

So after a couple of weeks ‘square bashing’ in Boston United football ground, I joined a group of lads in Leicester, where we lived in civilian billets and attended the Technical College for six months’ instruction in the principles and operation of wireless. How I remember our first lecture when our teacher said, “there are three names you must know,” writing them on the board “Ambrose Fleming, Lee de Forest, and my name is Steeples”...!

Anyway, we built simple receivers and transmitters for frequencies from broadcast to early RDF as it was known then and became familiar with their circuits but still did not qualify to be known as mechanics; this was only achieved after a further six months in Bolton, where the Raff

had filled the college with all their radio equipment from its earliest days. How can I forget that receiver which not only sat on a table but covered it, and was tuned by separate AF and RF circuits, so you had to be ambidextrous to operate it!

I was not enamoured with the large transmitters, particularly after a fatality with one lad who had attempted some adjustment to the pa without first removing the power.

Now we had our sparks badge and was due to be posted to West Africa but, along with another lad, I was selected to go to an airfield at Watchfield where Standard Radio built and maintained their transmitters and receivers for operating with their beam, and as this was the Lorenz system you may have already guessed that it was of German origin and had been used to guide their aircraft over cities such as Coventry. The Raff, however were using it to train pilots in Blind Flying and I found myself in a unit known as a Bat Flight with Ansons and Airspeed Oxfords for such training. Suffice to say that whilst

this was interesting, I soon tired of the routing and asked to be sent overseas;- which they did but only as far as Sollom Voie in Shetland..., and I enjoyed it, trips by boat out to service the Sunderland and Catalina flying boats where Bendix Equipment familiarised us with American radio equipment as well as the colourful Marconi gear.

By this time the Raff were looking for experienced mechanics for some new Squadrons so I joined 298 with Halifax aircraft and with a pal from Bat flight days, we became 'B' Flight Signals at Tarrant Rushton in Dorset. Here, our station Commander believed that all aircraft were meant to fly, and he could be found at all hours on the airfield ensuring that this objective was carried out; so there was no 'bull' but plenty of work.

You may, or should have, heard of operation 'Deadstick' where airborne troops captured the vital Pegasus Bridge, and we were pleased to see that our CO led that operation.

After the war in Europe we were prepared to go to Japan, but, thanks to the two atom bombs dropped on Japan we only got as far as Meiktila in Burma, and, instead of bombs, our

aircraft carried rice and other food supplies to starving people and carried POWs to hospital in India; a heartbreaking and never to be forgotten sight until eventually the Squadron was disbanded in Mauripur, but I had left to return home by then.

Radio was always an interest now but had to take a back seat with priority to marriage, family etc., but an R1155 for 10 shillings from a junkyard was our first domestic radio until I built one from scrap!!

Amateur radio crept in slowly, as we lived in Broomfield and enjoyed the Chelmsford Marconi club, and at work I had aerials at maximum height on top of school buildings; no health and safety man to catch me when I fell off the roof..!!

Now, with a mini garden and too many other distractions I listen only occasionally on the bands but BARSCOM is an interesting magazine - keep it up!! - and I enjoy the articles courtesy of Melvin who sends me the magazine. Apologies if I have bored you with my tale but it shows that anyone can become a 'Ham'...

Next Month: Ian Wager, G8MKN

Radio hams to say "HI" to Juno on 10 m

NASA - JPL (via Trevor, M5AKA)

NASA's Juno mission is inviting amateur radio operators around the world to transmit a coordinated message on the 28 MHz band to the Juno spacecraft.

NASA's Juno spacecraft will fly past Earth on October 9, 2013 to receive a gravity assist from our planet, putting it on course for Jupiter.

To celebrate this event, the Juno mission is inviting amateur radio operators around the world to say "HI" to Juno in a coordinated Morse Code message‡. Juno's radio & plasma wave experiment, called Waves, should be able to detect the message if enough people participate.

Juno will have a better chance of detecting the signal from many operators if the signal is spread out across the spectrum. The Juno Waves instrument is a broadband receiver, and the detector being used for this event has a band width of 1 MHz. It is better for detection of the signal to have a broadband

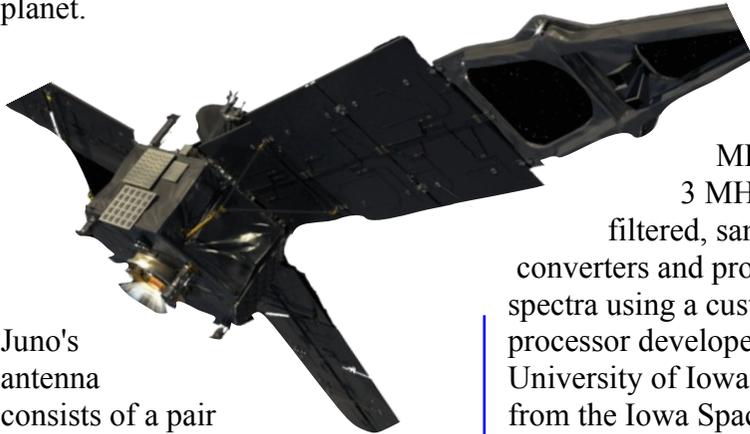
‡ *QSS 1/25 wpm - di = 30 seconds*

signal coming in.

For this experiment, we would like to ask those participating to spread out in frequency across the 10 meter band. We have supplied a table of suggested frequencies between 28 and 29 MHz, based on the last letter of your call. When the HFR receiver is tuned to 28 MHz, the centre frequency is 28.5 MHz. A 50 kHz high pass filter limits low frequencies hitting the detector, so the frequency table excludes 28.5 MHz \pm 50 kHz. The natural signals we expect to measure at Jupiter will consist of a large number of discrete tones, so spreading the signals out in this manner is a good approximation to the signals we expect to detect. But at Jupiter, we don't expect to be able to decode CW in our telemetry!

The 28 MHz band was chosen for this experiment for several reasons. The Waves instrument is sensitive to radio signals in all amateur bands below 40 MHz, but experience with the University of Iowa instruments on the Galileo and Cassini earth flybys shows

significant shielding by the ionosphere at lower frequencies. As sad as it sounds, we hope for lousy band conditions on October 9, so an appreciable fraction of the radiated energy escapes the ionosphere into space, and is not refracted back down to the ground somewhere else on the planet.



Juno's antenna consists of a pair of tapered 2.8 meter long titanium tubes, deployed from the bottom deck of the spacecraft under the +X solar array and magnetometer boom. A high impedance radiation resistant pre-amp sits at the base of the antenna and buffers the signals from 50 Hz to 45 MHz. The elements are deployed with an opening angle of about 120 degrees. Ten meters is above the

resonant frequency of the antenna and NEC analysis indicates a lobe generally along the spin axis of the spacecraft. This will be good for detection on the inbound part of closest approach to Earth.

The Waves

instrument uses four receivers to cover the frequency range of 50

Hz to 41 MHz. Signals up to 3 MHz are band-pass

filtered, sampled by A/D converters and processed into spectra using a custom FFT processor developed by The University of Iowa under a grant from the Iowa Space Grant Consortium.

Please join in, and help spread the word to fellow amateur radio enthusiasts!

More info at 'NASA - Say "HI" to Juno!'

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/hijuno/>

See the 'How do I participate?' Section for the frequency list.

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

Library Titles - III

The current selection of titles that can be borrowed are listed in the July edition, this edition and the next edition of BARSCOM. Additions will be published as appropriate.

Loans are charged at 20p for each period between meetings. Contact the Librarian if you would like a specific book brought to the next club meeting.

This month's categories are: Listener's Guide, Technical Radio and Other.

Title	Year	Author
AFQR 2006	2006	Air Britain
Airband Radio Handbook	2002	David J Smith
BJQR 2006 Aircraft guide	2006	Air Britain
Ferrell's Confidential Frequency List	1997	Geoff Halligey
Shortwave Listeners Confidential Freq List & DTI UK spectrum chart	1989	Spa Publishing
Shortwave Radio Listener's Handbook	1987	Arthur Miller
The UK Scanning Directory	1999	Interproducts
UKQR 2006 Aircraft guide	2006	Air Britain
Ultimate Scanning guide	2000	Richard Allport / RadioToday
World Radio TV Handbook	1997	WRTH
Digital Photography & Computing for the older generation	2003	Jim Gatenby
Powerpoint user's guide	1994	Microsoft
Amateur Radio Techniques	1991	Pat Hawker G3VA
Amateur Radio Techniques	1978	Pat Hawker G3VA
Elimination of Electrical Noise	2010	Don Pinnock G3HVA
HF Amateur Radio	2001	Ian Poole
Intermediate Licence book	2011	RSGB
Radio Communication Handbook	2005	RSGB
Radio Frequency Interference	1989	ARRL
Receivers Past & Present	1997	Fred Osterman

RSGB Technical Compendium	1999	RSGB
RSGB Yearbook Callbook 2011 & CD	2011	RSGB
RTTY/PSK31 for Radio Amateurs & CD	2011	Roger Cooke G3LDI
Surplus 2-way Radio Conversion	1989	Chris Lorek
Technical topics scrapbook & CD	2008	Pat Hawker G3VA
Test Equipment for the Radio Amateur	1978	RSGB
The Amateur Radio Operating Manual	2004	RSGB Don Field G3XTT
The ARRL Handbook 1988	1988	ARRL
The Secret of learning morse	1989	Mark Francis
VHF/UHF Manual	1985	G.R.Jessop RSGB
VoIP Internet linking for Radio Amateurs	2006	ARRL

Railways on the Air

Tony, GØIAG

On Friday 20th September a good crowd of members turned up at the Colne Valley Railway to set up the radio station for the weekend.



Having the same Motorail carriage as last year made the setting up easier, and within 2 hours we were able to operate the radio's. As last

year we set up HF one end and VHF/UHF the other.

Over the 2 days we made a decent number of contacts on HF for both ROTA and BWFB, but VHF was very quiet.

All the operators who had promised their time duly turned up, and with steam and diesel trains running, there was a lot going on.

I also brought my Clansman 320 along and we made a few contacts on that. It is always a good weekend with lots going on and I look forward to next year.

We broke station late on Sunday afternoon, and cleared site about 5.30 pm. I wish to express my personal thanks to all who helped over the weekend.

G3PEN & G6TAF QSY...

Tony, GØIAG

At the junk sale on Sept 2nd, Dave, G3PEN, announced that the following day he and XYL Pat, G6TAF, would be exchanging contracts on the sale of their home. This has now happened and they moved to their new home in Norfolk just over a week later.

Roy, G6XCY, first met Dave and Pat some years ago when Dave helped him with some answers to a technical problem. After that Dave pushed Roy into getting his RAE.

As many of you know Dave was one of the founder members of the club, along with Peter West, Nick Shepard, and Roy. It was those originals who came up with the Founders Trophy, so if you ever win it, think of them.

In 1975 the 4 of them decided that Braintree needed a radio club, so they composed a leaflet which Dave duplicated and Roy hand delivered to known amateurs in the district. Roy managed to get the use of room 3 at the community centre for 2 nights (free). About 15 people turned

up and Braintree and District ARS was formed.

Dave and Pat have since then been great supporters of the club in many ways. Dave with his practical and technical skills, and Pat with her tolerance of Dave.

In the early 80s I became a member of the club and I soon noticed that Dave and Pat had a fun side to their personalities, this soon spawned what we called the "Lunatic Fringe" which meant drinking, eating and having fun, three great hobbies.

Over the years Dave has held most (if not all) of the committee posts, and has given scores of technical talks to the club and written even more articles for BARSCOM. We have all had a chuckle about his hoarding of gear, which I think Pat calls JUNK, and who hasn't been offered a teleprinter at some time? Well that's Norfolk's problem now, Pat will have her grand child to play with and Dave will take years sorting out his-----STUFF.

I will miss their company but I am sure I speak for all in wishing them GOOD LUCK for the future in their new home.

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 November 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is October 28

Please contact our Publicity Officer for details about commercial adverts.

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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

February

- 3 0900-1300 432MHz Affiliated Societies Contest O SF
 Affiliated Societies contest (S3)

HF

November

- 9 2000-2300 Club Calls SSB
 13 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint SSB QRP
 16-17 2100-0100 2nd 1.8Mhz CW Contest
 28 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint CW QRP

2014

January

- 12 1400-1800 AFS Contest CW AFS Super League
 18 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

* All 2014 dates are speculative

New Allocation

RSGB

Portugese amateurs may now be heard on the new 472 to 479kHz band. Also changes to conditions for access to the 50 to 52MHz and 1270 to 1300MHz bands have been made for some licence classes.

New Yaesu FTdx3000 HF/6m Base



The new FTdx3000 HF +50 MHz 100 Watt Transceiver is another exciting new product that is certain to capture the hearts of determined DXers and Contesters as well as casual operators looking for solid communications.

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