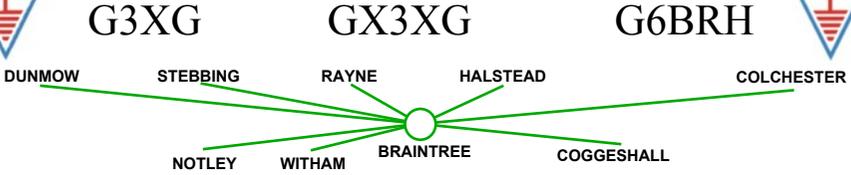




BARSCOM



Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society



A table full of Morse keys, old calculators or a table full of food - which would you pick?



April 2013

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Tony GØIAG

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Club Activities

Tony GØIAG

Club Dinner

11 of us met at Timbers, Blake End, on Saturday 2nd March at 7.30 pm. 8 club members and 3 xyl,s sat down

to a good meal at 8pm. We all had chosen in advance from the a-la-carte menu, and were rewarded with ample portions of nicely cooked and well presented food. During the meal there was good conversation and light hearted banter.

The restaurant staff were attentive and helpful throughout the evening, and every one seemed to have a good time. Those who did not attend missed out. The lack of interest by most of the club members makes me wonder if organising social events of any sort is really worth while, however I will to organise something during the summer.

Rally report

Sunday 3rd March saw Edwin and I, along with Edwin,s xyl, Jenny attending the annual Cambridge & District ARC rally, at the Wood Green Animal Shelter.

The first thing to mention is the weather, it wasn't snowing, in fact it was almost pleasant. After arriving about 10.45 am, we had a good look round, and armed with our wants lists, proceeded to start ferreting. There seemed to be a few stalls missing, but we managed to find quite a lot of the components we were looking for. Dave G3PEN was there with his stall -

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Club Meetings and Nets

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

April

- 1 Equipment Safety Testing - II
- 8 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 15 RSGB Regional Officer
- 22 Club Net - 70 cms
- 29 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

May

- 6 Mills w/e Planning - Natter Night
- 13 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 20 AGM
- 27 Club Net - 70 cms

June

- 3 Essex Air Ambulance
- 10 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 17 Construction Contest
- 24 Club Net - 70 cms

BADARS Club Library

*Head librarian, Howard
G6LXK*

Most hires are 20p per session. (It is hard to collect a weekly rate)

Contact Howard for the latest acquisitions from the recent rallies.

July

- 1 Rig Clinic
- 8 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 15 Evening DF Hunt
- 22 Club Net - 70 cms
- 29 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

August

- 5 Club BBQ
- 12 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 19 Aerial Clinic
- 26 Club Net - 70 cms

September

- 2 Junk Sale
- 9 Club Net - 2 Metres
- 16 TBD
- 23 Club Net - 70 cms
- 30 Club Net - GB3BZ Repeater

October

- 7 JOTA Planning
- 21 TBD

Errata

In Tony's article last month, on the Lincolnshire airfields, the picture at the bottom of page 7, showed 2 of the red ARROWS in the service hanger with a HAWK trainer waiting for a livery change before joining the display team. The picture was taken at RAF Scampton, the home of the Red Arrows (not the Red Devils).



supervised by Pat G6TAF (his xyl and boss); I understand he had a reasonable day selling.

Also we met our esteemed chairman, Howard clutching a metal detector he had purchased for a friend, and some books for the club library.

After a break for lunch, the three of us returned to the hall looking for late bargains and we found some. I bought a home brew power supply, a project box (new), and some other bits for £4.50. Edwin bought a 2nd world war Morse key and a very nice new transformer for £15.50, the transformer was only 50p.

We enjoyed the rally but thought it could do with more stalls selling cable, pcb's etc. We left about 1.30 pm having enjoyed the rally.

Club meeting 4th March

We were lucky enough to have a visit from members of the Essex C.W.club. Jonathon G0DBJ, along with Andrew G0IBM and Steve G4ZUL, gave us a brief history of how and why the Essex C.W. club was formed. A few years ago a few stalwart fans of Morse code did not want to see it disappear as a medium, and set up the club. Having done this, word had travelled, and after a while the club drew members from other counties and countries.

The theme of the talk was to encourage us full licence holders to remember and re-use the oldest form of data transmission, and to get the other licence holders to give it a try. With the aid of slides and a wonderful display of Morse keys, Jonathon demonstrated how to recognition the the sounds and rhythm of Morse code letters and slowly increase listening speed before using a key.

Daily practice is important and when you are happy with your listening speed then choose a key that suits you and start practicing your sending.



After a very interesting talk, which was appreciated by all, some of us had a go on the key and nearly everyone managed to send C.Q. Oh well, it's a start.

I for one have decided to get back into C.W. How about you?

Chelmsford Morse Class

Trevor M5AKA

The Morse class run by Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) member Andrew Kersey GØIBN recently restarted in a new venue. It is now held at 7pm every Thursday evening in the friendly atmosphere at The Bell Bar and Bistro, 128 Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4DT.

There are two classes one for beginners, the other for the more advanced. If you are a beginner you will be made very welcome, Andrew can start you off on this great aspect of our hobby.

If you would like to improve, or just need encouragement to get on the air, please join the class. Instruction is also given on all aspects of CW - which include good manners on the air; how to have that CW chat; DX manners; Contesting and operating skills on the pump key and twin paddle keying. Andrew also operates Slow Morse transmissions at 5, 7 and 10 wpm on 3.550-3.560kHz +/-QRM at 2015hrs (local) every Wednesday evening.

Tests are not compulsory but they enable the student to have a target, an essential part of the learning CW process. Andrew is an RSGB CW Examiner so contact him if want to test your skills and obtain a certificate for the shack.

The Morse classes are open to all, for further information speak to Andy Kersey GØIBN on 01621 868347 or gØibn@kersey1.freemove.co.uk



The attached picture shows: Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Morse Class From left to right:

Colin Wilson M1OCN, Oliver Prin MØWAG, Robin Davies G7VKQ, Brian Debenham M3OGM, Andrew Kersey GØIBN (instructor), John Roe G4IMS

Don't forget! Meet Your Regional Rep

A chance to talk with your RSGB regional officer - April 15th at 20.00

Meeting Report March 18

Edwin, GØLPO

The meeting commenced with 13 members in attendance with 3 apologies.

The planned talk on Baluns by GØEMK Melvin had to be postponed due to ill health but will be re scheduled for a future date. The evening reverted to a natter night with a difference; the following topics were covered.

The new club transceiver the FT897 was demonstrated and hooked up for the first time to a matching auto tuner, the LG FT817 plus.

I provided a project update showing the prototype regulator board for his power supply project.

Roy White G6XCY, a long standing member of the club, had donated a number of items and books to the club. These were viewed with interest and members were given first option to purchase prior to any items being sold on e bay for the club. The items included:-

Scanner
2m mobile transceiver
4m Converted PMR set

VHF Handheld
UHF Handheld
Multi Charger Unit

Offers for the hand held transceivers were made and accepted. The remainder will be placed on E Bay. Roy also donated a number of books for the Library.

Brian G3TGB offered a pair of hi fi speakers to the club any member interested should contact Brian.

The Club Polo and Sweat shirts, and baseball hats had arrived and these were distributed to members who had ordered them. The club has spare items if any one missed the first round. Stocks held are as follows:

Polo Shirt Med and Large - £10.72 each

Sweat Shirt Med & Large - £12.19 each

Base ball Caps Single size at £6.59 each

The committee asked members present if they had any spare storage space which may be used by the club. More details from John M5AJB.

Sandford Mill Radio Collection Open Day

73 Trevor M5AKA

The radio collection at the Sandford Mill Museum in Chelmsford will be open to the public on Saturday, April 27 from 10am-5pm to celebrate the birthday of Marconi who was born on April 25, 1874.

The Sandford Mill museum is home to an extensive collection of historic radio equipment, including spark transmitters from the late 1890's and a fully equipped Ships Radio Room.

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be operating GX0MWT from the historic 2MT Writtle Marconi hut inside the museum.

Displays at the museum include, ship's radio cabins 1900s to 1970s and historic collections from Marconi and other Chelmsford industries. There are also special displays on the New Street factory, ship's radio officers and the steam yacht Elettra - Marconi's floating laboratory. Plus, there will be plenty of family fun with mechanical Morse code sending and activities with sound, light and electricity.

Sandford Mill is run with the help of the Friends of Chelmsford Museums and other ex-industry volunteers. It relies on the support of several voluntary bodies including Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society, the Radio Officers' Association, the Marconi Veterans Association and the The Susan Trust. Susan is the last wooden Chelmer Barge and is moored at Sandford Mill.

The museum is open to the public between 10-5pm on Saturday, April 27. Admission and parking are free.

A map showing Sandford Mill (Postcode CM2 6NY) can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/7mh7b>

Chelmsford Council
<http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/marconi-day-sandford-mill>

CARS at Sandford Mill

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandford-mill/index.htm>

2MT hut teaches pupils of past

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/april2010/2mt-hut-teaches-pupils-of-past.htm>

Next Month

Latest News from the RSGB

For Sale and Wanted

Plus the usual ...

Events, Rallies, Contests, etc.

And ...

Your Photos, Articles, etc. ???

Blocked e-mails

ARRL

The ARRL was notified in early March that Microsoft had blocked e-mail to more than 20,000 members who use the arrl.net e-mail forwarding service to forward e-mail to Microsoft domains (hotmail.com, msn.com, live.com and outlook.com).

In addition, the blockage affected members of the ARRL's Field Organization and other ARRL volunteers who use an arrl.org alias e-mail address to have e-mail delivered to an address with a Microsoft domain. The issue was resolved by the middle of the month.

Digital modes for France

RSGB

Pierre, F1SHS, President of Digital Radioamateur France, reports that all digital modes and experimentations are now possible for French amateurs. Until now, French radio amateurs had been banned from using digital modes such as D-Star. It is reported the new draft regulation was signed by the Minister on Wednesday morning, March 6.

Obituary

Margaret Andrews

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Margaret, Andrews. Margaret, 86, died on Wednesday 6th March in Kilkey Lodge, Braintree, where she had lived for some years. Margaret was the wife of the late George G1XWN. Margaret had remained an honorary member of the club and looked forward to reading her BARSCOM.

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to her son Nigel and his family at this sad time.

Calculators

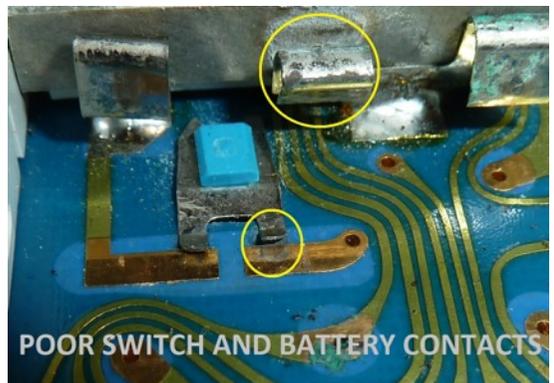
Geoff GIWRH

Recently rummaging in a cardboard box I came across my collection of a handful of Sinclair calculators added to at last year's club junk sale (Front cover picture). Common forty year old models can be picked up for anything between five and fifteen pounds compared with the original purchase price in the mid 70's of about £27 which, using an inflation calculator, works out at about £140 in today's money. I bought one, a Sinclair Scientific (centre in picture), in 1974, and it still just about fires up. It took nearly two months from the date of ordering until it was delivered.

Sinclair, and other developers in Cambridge's Silicon Fen did not have any "cornseed" or venture capital and so taking the money (sometimes well) in advance of delivery was pretty much a business model which eventually partly became Sinclair's downfall. Although innovative, there was little choice amongst these early calculators, with Hewlett Packard (HP) being one of the few other developers. So whilst thankful for their existence,

on the other hand we had to put up with their shortcomings. One of the issues was the narrow viewing angle of the light-emitting diodes (LED's) and the short running time of the battery powered models as a result of the current drain of these displays. Battery life in the Executive, the flagship model costing £79.95 in 1972, was extended by pulsing the power to the LED display and then a further development was to rapidly pulse the calculator main chip. Capacitance within the chip retained information during calculation. Good working Executive models now change hands at two or three times the original cost price.

Another problem was corrosion of the battery contacts from leaking zinc carbon batteries, and finally the poor slider switches (illustration)



which were prone to fuse into the "on" position from the use of



cheap nickel coated contacts, which were affected by oxides from air, exacerbated by battery leakage. Most of the 40 year old models which I come across these days not surprisingly also have a keypad or display fault.

Sinclair's entire personal computing range and the "Sinclair" brand name was sold to Alan Sugar's Amstrad in 1986 after predicted Christmas 1984 personal computer sales failed, in combination with customers tiring of Sinclair's business model.

Part 2 Next month

Digital Test Transmissions

ARRL

Last weekend (16-17 March) the Voice of America (VOA) Radiogram program conducted a digital test sending streams of text (and one image) while inviting listeners to submit reception reports. According to Radiogram host Kim Andrew Elliot, KD9XB, the response from the amateur and SWL community was impressive with reception reports from 16 countries and many US States.

Spectrum Planning

RSGB

Two IARU spectrum planning committees are meeting in late April this year. All UK amateurs are invited to comment on the papers submitted for this meeting. They can be found online at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukc4discussion> & <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukc5discussion>.

In early April 2013 the RSGB IARU Committee will review all comments and agree the brief for the RSGB delegates at the meetings.

Thanks to the successful test, Radiogram will officially debut this weekend as a regular VOA program with continuing digital transmission experiments.

Radiogram airs:

Saturday from 1600 to 1630 UTC at 17860 kHz

Sunday from 0230 to 0300 UTC at 5745 kHz

Sunday from 1300 to 1330 UTC at 6095 kHz

Sunday from 1930 to 2000 UTC at 15670 kHz

Reception reports are welcome at radiogram@voanews.com. More information is available at the Radiogram website.

Rallies

7 APRIL

CAMBRIDGE REPEATER GROUP RALLY - Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, Cambridge, Cambs, CB22 6RN. OT 10:00 (07:00), £2, TI, TS, B&B, C, DF. Lawrence, M0LCM, 01223 711 840, rally2013cambridgerepeaters.net. Website: www.cambridgerepeaters.net

LOUGH ERNE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNUAL RALLY- Share Discovery Village, Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh BT92 0EQ, N Ireland. Access from Erne/Shannon Waterway. OT 11.30, CP. B&B. TS, LB, C, DF. Contact Iain, 028 6632 6693, iainlearc.eu.

NORTHERN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION (Blackpool rally) - Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre, Blackpool FY2 9AA. TI, CP, TS, B&B, SIG, MT, LB, C, DF, RSGB book stand. OT 10.15 /10.30. Dave, M0OBW, 01270 761 608, dwilsonbtinternet.com.

Visit website: www.narsa.org.uk

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AMATEUR RADIO RALLY - Scout Activity Centre, Woodhouse Park, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4LX. OT 10.00, B&B, CP, C, CBS, TI S22 (V44). Mike, M1DPB, 07806 310 095, southglosradiatorallycoordinator@gmail.com. [southglosradiatorally.org.uk

21 APRIL

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW (Kempton Rally) - Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ. TI, free CP, OT 9.50/10.00. TS, FM, B&B, SIG, C, DF, WIN, LEC. Details Paul, M0CJX, 08451 650 351, inforadiofairs.co.uk.

Visit website: www.radiofairs.co.uk

28 APRIL

29th YEOVIL QRP CONVENTION - Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AA (adjoining the central shopping car park). OT 9.30am, TI S22, CP, TS, LEC, B&B, C, DF. Steve, G7AHP, 01803 666 407, steveg7ahp.co.uk.

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) - 145.375MHz and SU23 - 433.575MHz, unless QRM. In months with 5th Monday the net operates via GB3BZ 430.850Mhz.

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 May 1

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is April 26

© Barscom Editor on behalf of BADARS 2013 - E.& O.E.

Contests

VHF/UHF

April

- 2 0900-1200 First 70MHz Contest
- 7 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 9 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 14 0900-1200 First 50MHz Contest
- 16 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 23 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 23 2000-2230 SHF UKAC
- 30 2000-2230 (Local) 70MHz UKAC

May

- 4 1400-2200 432MHz Trophy
- 4 1400-2200 10GHz Trophy
- 4-5 1400-1400 432MHz-248GHz
- 7 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 12 0900-1200 70MHz Contest CW
- 14 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 18-19 1400-1400 144MHz May
- 19 1100-1500 144Mhz #1 Backpackers
- 21 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 26 1400-1600 70MHz Cumulatives #3
- 28 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 28 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

June

- 4 2000-2230 144MHz UKAC
- 9 0900-1300 2nd 144MHz Backpackers
- 11 2000-2230 432MHz UKAC
- 15-16 1400-1400 50MHz Trophy Contest
- 18 2000-2230 1.3GHz UKAC
- 23 1400-1600 70MHz Cumulatives #4
- 23 0900-1200 50MHz Contest CW
- 25 2000-2230 50MHz UKAC
- 25 2000-2230 SHF UKAC

HF

April

- 1 1900-2030 80m CC CW
- 7 1900-2030 RoPoCo SSB
- 10 1900-2030 80m CC SSB
- 18 1900-2030 80m CC DATA

May

- 6 1900-2030 80m CC SSB
- 15 1900-2030 80m CC DATA
- 23 1900-2030 80m CC CW

Jun

- 1-2 1500-1500NFD
- 3 1900-2030 80m CC DATA
- 12 1900-2030 80m CC CW
- 20 1900-2030 80m CC SSB

New Yaesu FTdx3000 HF/6m Base



The new FTdx3000 HF + 50MHz 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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E-mail: sales@hamradio.co.uk

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