



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



Meeting the Scouts and Public at the recent JOTA and ROTA activities

November
2014



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IN-MEMORIUM

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Geoff Nichols, a long time member of the Braintree club.

Those of us who new him will remember a kind and polite man who over the years has done a lot for the club. He was always a gentleman.

A keen short wave listener, Geoff spent his last years in sheltered accommodation, and enjoyed his copy of BARSCOM each month.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad tine.

Confusion over Cornish K prefix

The RSGB's website reports that it has received a significant number of enquiries expressing confusion and concern about the unexpected allocation of the secondary prefix "K" for Cornwall. Apparently Ofcom agreed the secondary prefix allocation in principle around mid-October. As a result, the Board has written to Ofcom asking them to review their decision and consult on the changes that they are proposing.

What is so special about Cornwall that it deserves being treated as another country within the UK?- Ed

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Monday 6th October was a scheduled as a JOTA planning/natter night. During the committee reports Dave GØDEC reported that he had at last had contact with the new Scout leader at Earls Colne Scouts, who had told him that she had forgotten all about JOTA and had made no provision for it in the Scout calendar. After discussion we agreed to contact Colin M6NCU to see if we could arrange to put on a club station with his scout group.

Meeting Reports

Tony, GØIAG

Edwin had brought along the newly purchased 2/70 co-linear which will be installed at the Hockey Club for our use.

Tony gave a short report on a very successful Railways On The Air SP/Event and thanked all those who participated.

The bulk of the evening was dedicated to general natter with a good deal of interest in a MyDEL Leixen W-898 purchased from ML&S by a club member. This miniature mobile 2/70 is ideal for foundation licence holders with

power rating of just 4 and 10 watts output. It could easily be used as a transportable and with a sealed lead acid battery of about 7 amps and a suitable antenna it would be very useful in the context of RAYNET. I might have to buy one myself.

Monday 20th October's meeting was a film/natter night. The formal part of the evening, (announcements/reports etc.) allowed me to announce that Dave G3PEN and Roy G6XCY, the Founder members of Braintree and District A. R. S., were to be given Honorary Life Membership. This decision was made by the committee and considered long overdue.

Congratulations were given to Joe Callaghan one of our newest young members. He has passed his Foundation exam and has the call



Rallies

9 NOVEMBER

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].

22 NOVEMBER

ROCHDALE & DISTRICT ARS TRADITIONAL RADIO RALLY – [www.radars.me.uk].

23 NOVEMBER

CATS RADIO & ELECTRONICS BAZAAR bazaar@catsradio.org.

PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB RALLY sheo@fsmail.net.

6 DECEMBER

SOUTH LANC'S WINTER RALLY - 01942 735 828.

7 DECEMBER

BISHOP AUCKLAND RADIO AMATEURS CLUB RALLY – <http://rsgb.org/main/news/rallies/>

The Radiometer Atmospheric Cubesat Experiment (RACE) and GOMX-2 CubeSats were among more than 2 dozen satellites lost after an unmanned Orbital Space Sciences (OSC) Antares 130 vehicle exploded about 6 seconds after launch at 2222 UTC on Tuesday, October 28. Both satellite packages carried Amateur Radio payloads.

Rocket Failure

ARRL

RACE was carrying a 183 GHz radiometer. The 2U GOMX-2 CubeSat was intended to test a de-orbit system designed by Aalborg University in Denmark.

Also on board was an optical communications experiment from the National University of Singapore and a new high-speed UHF transceiver and SDR receiver built by an Aalborg University team.

The Antares 130 launcher was on a resupply mission, carrying some 5000 pounds of cargo to the International Space Station, from which they were to be launched into orbit.

JO.T.A. Well, we managed it. Thanks to Colin M6NCU who persuaded Gt Yeldham Scouts to host JOTA at extremely short notice. We were not able to obtain a GB call sign at such short notice so it was decided to use the club call sign GX3XG/p for the event.

Sunday lunch time and packing up only took 35 Min's, a record. Over the weekend 79 contacts were made of which 30 were GB stations. Some contacts were made into Europe with the Scouts and Cubs passing Greetings messages when ever they could.

JOTA

Tony, GØIAG

After a site visit, it was decided that the club's HF trap dipole and 2/6m vertical would be used for the event. Set up was early on Sat 18th Oct. with the usual members of John, Edwin, Melvin and Dave plus Neil and Colin. The venue, Gt. Yeldham Scout hut, was ideal for radio with the football field adjacent. The aerials were erected on the edge of it.

The station opened about 10am and with some other club members turning up there was no shortage of operators. Several of the Gt. Yeldham scouts and cubs came along and were willing to pass greetings messages.

The station was operational until



For a hurriedly arranged event, it was very successful. Next year Colin would like to make the event bigger to involve Scout groups from all over the District. What a great idea.

DON'T FORGET.

The Christmas Party...

December 15th.

It was brilliant last year...

Come and join us again this year

The new RSGB membership website portal has now gone live. The new service offers Members a page where all RSGB online membership services can be easily accessed from one point.

From the Membership Services portal you can:

- Update membership details.
- Renew your membership.
- Reset the log-in password.
- Add or remove your membership account roles and preferences.
- Read the digital edition of Radcom, search the archive, and browse back issues.
- Download a free admission voucher for Bletchley Park.

In addition to these services, Members will also be able to browse news from their RSGB region and find the contact details of their regional team.

RSGB Portal

Graham Coomber, GØNBI

The affiliated clubs membership services portal is a separate project, and not scheduled to be launched until 1 November 2014.

The long-awaited searchable RadCom archive will initially contain 14 years of editions to search through by author and keywords.

Search results to editions since October 2013 also come with hyperlinks to digital editions so they may be read online.

BADARS Club Library

***Head librarian, Howard
G6LXK***

We hold a collection of books and DVDs that feature electronic construction, operation, the history of radio, shortwave listening and

other forms of technology to do with radio, including the ‘Secret’ work carried-out by amateurs during the war years..

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

Once again we were lucky enough to be hosted by the Colne Valley Railway for Railways on the Air 27th/28th Sept. For the third year running we operated GBØCVR from the MOTORAIL coach beside one of the platforms. We set up as usual on the Friday, 26th, and the usual crew were on hand to put the station together, John M5AJB, Edwin GØLPO, Melvin GØEMK, Geoff G1WRH and I, GØIAG.

Railways on the Air

Tony, GØIAG

It was decided to set up HF only as the location did not favour VHF and UHF contacts. So I decided to put in a Morse testing station with certificates for children who could send their name in Morse code. We also put in maps to record contact locations and a display of QSL cards received from the past two years.



Apart from Railways on the Air, Colne Valley Railway also was running a "Thomas the Tank Engine" weekend which drew many hundreds of people to the venue.

Over the weekend, we made 101 contacts, including, 22 R.O.T.A. special event stations and Air Ambulance special event stations.

Several club members turned up to support and operate the radio over



the weekend. Apart from those already mentioned, others included, Howard G6LXK, Geoff GØBYH, Jim GØDCR, Collin M6NCU, Eddy M6RHA, Owen M3OIL, Jenny (Edwin's XYL), Joe and Shane. If I have forgotten any one, my apologies.

Contacts were made in 6 countries, and Melvin made a contact with a German Special Event station at the site of the old "Checkpoint Charlie" on Sunday Morning.

Most of us managed to have a ride on the trains over the weekend and the weather was perfect for the event. We Packed up late on Sunday afternoon and were clear of the site by 18.00 hrs, local time.

Our Thanks go to the hard working staff and volunteers of Colne Valley Railway for allowing us to play with our toys while they played with their BIGGER toys. Finally, my personal thanks to our club members for their help and support over the weekend.

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This year's convention was at a new venue, the Kents Hill Conference Centre, Milton Keynes. I had decided on the lectures I wanted to attend, and arrived just in time for the start of the first, after registering at reception. Armed with a layout of the centre, timetable, and feedback form I headed for lecture room 4 for 'An Introduction to SMD' (Surface Mount Devices) workshop.

The first lecture was well presented and the speaker, Dave Powis, G4HUP, was quite knowledgeable, giving several good tips for dealing with these little critters, including putting some in the oven for a while to re-flow solder them and to keep a fridge in the shack to store the special paste solder/flux needed (and possibly any odd tins of beer).

RSGB Convention Report

Ian, G8MKN

The lecture was followed by coffee – or should have been if they hadn't have run out in the first 15 minutes (before my lecture finished) so off I trotted to the RSGB reception to make a complaint.

Here was the first strange thing – to reach the lecture rooms you have to go through the restaurant. OK when it's not full of people trying to get their meal but a nightmare at lunchtime when you have to squeeze past the food queue then avoid the prospective diners, crossing your path with trays full of hot food, if you want to go back to your car.

On to Lecture 2 – 'Datamodes', which dealt mainly with PSK31, which just needs an SSB transceiver, computer and a simple interface. Then after a short break - some unscheduled coffee and chats - on to lecture 3 'The Vector Network Analyser'. An interesting talk giving some practical uses for amateurs.

Cont. Overleaf



Following a quiet lunch in the relative comfort of my car seat it was onward and upward to 'Aerial Tuning Units'.

Time for a change of stream from Technology to Contests and 'Make The Most Of Your Antenna'

This was followed by another short break, during which I bought a book on antenna design called 'An Introduction to Antenna Modelling' before going to, hopefully, learn about 'Vertical Dipole Arrays' in the HF stream.

I was going to go to the final Technology lecture but by this time I was getting tired and had developed a 'flat' from sitting too long, so it

was time to bid farewell. Just before leaving, the chap sitting next to me commented on my book – it turned out to be the author, Steve Nichols, GØKYA, so I asked him to sign it as I have never had one signed before.

All the lectures were of a good standard with excellent slides and a good PA system, and the building was clean throughout. It's a pity more people couldn't benefit from them by them being video'd and made available to member societies, if not individuals, although many of the slides were to be put up on to various websites.

Unfortunately all the lecture rooms, the exhibitors hall, and refreshments were in one corner of the building making the narrow corridors very crowded especially where there was one line of people on one side of the corridor talking to another line of people on the other side and you had to squeeze past them to get anywhere.

Overall a busy interesting, but tiring, day - well worth a visit.



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Sale or
Wanted**

Is there something that you want , or
want to get rid of?

All members' ads are FREE.

Contact the editor to submit
your ad.

Club Meetings and Nets

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

November

- 3 Using Oscilloscopes GØDEC
- 10 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 17 Patch Lead Construction
(Bring your own cable & plugs)
- 24 Club Net - 2 Meters

December

- 1 Natter Night
- 8 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 15 Xmas Party
- 22 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 29 Club Net - 2 Meters

2015

*** Frequencies of Club Nets is to be decided**

January

- 5 Natter night. 'Tx Factor'
- 12 Club Net
- 19 Equipment testing part 1 / natter
- 26 Club Net

February

- 2 How to DF hunt the club event
- 9 Club Net
- 16 TBA
- 23 Club Net

A backward problem

Where you're given the answer and you pick the problem. Or something like that. Your guess is as good as anyone else's!

The answer is 30:

1. Average number of milliseconds to wait before calling CQ after asking if frequency is in use.
2. The time constant of a 1 M bleeder resistor connected across a 6000 μF power supply capacitor.
3. Five time constants for a 100 k bleeder resistor connected across a 60 μF power supply capacitor.
4. Peak inverse voltage across a diode in a full-wave bridge rectifier connected to a 6 V RMS secondary.

Answer on Page 13

March

- 2 Sausage and mash evening meal
- 9 Club Net
- 16 Talk Amateur Moon-bounce
John Regnault from the RSGB
- 23 Club Net
- 30 Club Net

April

- 6 Equipment testing part 2 / natter
- 13 Club Net
- 20 Rig clinic, Health check and
fault - Diagnostic
- 27 Club Net

May

- 4 Mills planning, / natter night
- 11 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 18 AGM
- 25 Club Net

June

- 1 Construction Contest
- 8 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 15 DF hunt
- 22 Club Net
- 29 Club Net

July

- 6 BBQ
- 13 Club Net
- 20 Aerial clinic
- 27 Club Net

Can you give a talk one evening? It doesn't have to be technical, or even about radio. Contact the committee to make arrangements.

August

- 3 TBA
- 10 Club Net
- 17 TBA
- 24 Club Net
- 31 Club Net

September

- 7 TBA
- 14 Club Net
- 21 Railway on the Air planning /
'TX factor'
- 28 Club Net

October

- 5 JOTA planning / 'TX factor'
- 12 Club Net
- 19 Surplus equipment sale
- 26 Club Net

November

- 2 TBA
- 9 Club Net
- 16 TBA
- 23 Club Net
- 30 Club Net

December

- 7 Christmas party with food
and entertainment
- 14 Club Net
- 21 TBA
- 28 Club Net

Contests

VHF/UHF

Times are UTC

November

- 1-2 1400-1400 144MHz CW
Marconi
- 4 2000-2230 (Local) 144MHz
UKAC
- 11 2000-2230 (Local) 432MHz
UKAC
- 18 2000-2230 (Local) 1.3GHz
UKAC
- 25 2000-2230 (Local) SHF UKAC
- 25 2000-2230 (Local) 50MHz
UKAC

December

- 2 2000-2230 (Local) 144MHz
UKAC
- 9 2000-2230 (Local) 432MHz
UKAC
- 16 2000-2230 (Local) 1.3GHz
UKAC
- 30 2000-2230 (Local) 70MHz
UKAC

Further information is not available at the time of going to print - Ed.

HF

All times are UTC

October

- 5 0700-1900 21/28 MHz Contest
HF Championship
- 8 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint
CW
- 23 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint
SSB

November

- 8 2000-2300 Club Calls (1.8MHz
AFS) AFS Super League
- 12 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint
SSB
- 15-16 2100-0100 2nd 1.8MHz
Contest HF Championship
- 27 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint

A backward problem

The question is no 3.
The time constant $T = RC$.
So $T = 100 \times 10^3 \times 60 \times 10^{-6} = 6$.

5 time constants is therefore 30

Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

The club meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Braintree Hockey Club, Church Street, Bocking. Doors open at 7.30 pm, meetings run from 8 pm to 10 pm.

Membership is £16 annually; Senior members (State Retirement age) and Junior members, under 18, pay £10. A door fee of £1 is also payable at each meeting by members and visitors.

Members may sell or exchange equipment etc. before the start of each meeting, during the tea/coffee

break and may advertise in BARSCOM free of charge.

Some members have problems with UHF and BZ access, and as an experiment the Club Net will operate on 2 metres only. This should make it easier for all members to remember the frequency, and for non-members to find the net. From September the net will use V30 (S15) 145.375 MHz, starting 20.00 hrs local time on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Mondays of each of the next three months. The decision will be reviewed in November.

For more information and pictures of events and projects see our Web Site at www.badars.co.uk

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 28th of the month. Items will be published in the first available edition subject to space availability.

Please contact our Chairman for details about commercial adverts.

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.

On September the 1st 2013, ML&S were appointed a direct factory distributor for Yaesu Musen Japan, a first for a UK retailer. ML&S are now able to liaise direct with the manufacturer on new products, repairs, support and advice. A proud moment in twenty-three years for the World's Favourite Ham Store.



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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. Using the newest down conversion and sharp edged crystal roofing filter technology, this fabulous radio attains

outstanding receiver performance inherited from Amateur Radio's leading HF radio; our proud FTdx5000. The market has been waiting for a reasonably priced transceiver that takes a major performance leap forward – the FTdx3000 is that feature filled compact radio package.

The Yaesu FTDX3000 transceiver provides ultimate weak signal receiver performance in crowded, strong signal environments.

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For more information see: www.hamradio.co.uk/ftdx3000

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