



Wythall Radio Club Newsletter

Winter 2003

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<http://www.wythallradioclub.co.uk>

Wythall Radio Club meets from 8pm every Tuesday evening at Wythall House, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall near Birmingham. Visitors are very welcome.

Club callsigns: G1WAC, G4WAC, G7WAC, G0WRC and M5W

Wythall Radio Club is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain



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Editorial

Well, the AGM has come and gone with no major changes. In recognition of his bacon butty services at special event stations Reg G7OJO has been voted onto the committee.

Apart from the AGM the club has run the Bring & Buy at the MARS rally at King Edward's School in Kings Heath, and spent a morning Clay Pigeon shooting near Reddich.

Although the recent change in the law regarding the use of handheld mobile phones does not affect mobile amateur radio, it does make one consider ways of going hands-free in the car. In the next issue I intend to have a little article on how mobile radios can be made "hands free". Feel free to send me your own personal favourites to include.

Contest News

With Christmas on the horizon, you must be wondering what to do with all that spare time. Don't worry, just turn on the rig, tune to 2m FM and call "CQ Wythall" and your world will be transformed with the happy chatter of the Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest. With 18 members taking part last year it was quite lively and was eventually won by Chris, EYO. Now that most members have access to HF perhaps we should try some 40 or 80 metres sessions to include the "DX" members. The rules are printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Another Christmas event is the Fox Hunt, but last year only 3 teams entered. It was fun, but it would be better if there were more teams taking part. If enough people are interested

we will run it again this year, so let me know as soon as possible if you want to take part.

There are plenty of interesting contests coming up in the next few months, covering all bands and modes, so make a New Year's resolution to fire up the rig, sort out the software and have a go at some of them. If you can't do them from home, ask about using the club shack.

The RSGB Contest Calendars for 2004 aren't available yet (November), so the RSGB contest details are a bit vague, but they will be updated when the information is available. Lee tells me that there will be some changes for 2004.

Pete, MOCOP

Contest Calendar

Activity nights each month:

First Tuesday	144MHz	Second Tuesday	432MHz
Third Tuesday	UHF	Fourth Tuesday	50MHz

December

Wed Dec 24th 03 2000Z — Thurs Jan 1st 04 2000Z

Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest. All modes, all bands

HF

ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5—1600Z, Dec 7
PSK31 Death Match	0000Z, Dec 6—2400Z, Dec 7
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z—2400Z, Dec 6
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13—2400Z, Dec 14
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z—2300Z, Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z—2400Z, Dec 20
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20—1400Z, Dec 21
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 20—1600Z, Dec 21
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z—1059Z, Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z—2400Z, Dec 27

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 27—1500Z, Dec 28
WAB Christmas Party, 12 Days 0001Z, Dec 26—2359Z, Jan 6

VHF

7 Sun 0900-1700 RSGB144 MHz AFS, 5 stations per team
26-29 Fri—Mon 1400-1600 RSGB 50/70/144/432 MHz Christmas Cumulatives

January 2004

HF

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 0800Z—1100Z, Jan 1
CCCC Millennium Contest—Digital 1200Z, Jan 1—1200Z, Jan 2
ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 3—2400Z, Jan 4
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW 0530Z—0730Z, Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB 0800Z—1000Z, Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter Contest 0900Z—1059Z, Jan 11
Cray Valley SWL Contest—CW/SSB 1600Z, Jan 10—1100Z, Jan 11
LZ Open Contest, CW 1200Z—2000Z, Jan 17
Hungarian DX Contest 1200Z, Jan 17—1200Z, Jan 18
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 0000Z, Jan 24—2359Z, Jan 25
REF Contest, CW 0600Z, Jan 24—1800Z, Jan 25
BARTG RTTY Sprint 1200Z, Jan 24—1200Z, Jan 25
UBA DX Contest, SSB

VHF

70 MHz Cumulatives

February

HF

Mexico RTTY International Contest 1800Z, Feb 7—2400Z, Feb 8
CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 14—2400Z, Feb 15
SARL Field Day Contest 1000Z, Feb 14—1000Z, Feb 15
Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW 1100Z—1300Z, Feb 14
Dutch PACC Contest 1200Z, Feb 14—1200Z, Feb 15
YL-OM Contest, CW 1400Z, Feb 14—0200Z, Feb 16
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Feb 14—0100Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 21—2400Z, Feb 22
YL-OM Contest, SSB 1400Z, Feb 21—0200Z, Feb 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 28—2359Z, Feb 29
REF Contest, SSB 0600Z, Feb 28—1800Z, Feb 29
UBA DX Contest, CW 1300Z, Feb 28—1300Z, Feb 29

VHF

432 MHz AFS
70 MHz Cumulatives

March

HF

RSGB Slow Speed Cumulative Contests CW

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Mar 6—2400Z, Mar 7
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2200Z, Mar 6—0159Z, Mar 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z—1700Z, Mar 7
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW	1000Z, Mar 13—1000Z, Mar 14
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z—1100Z, Mar 14
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 20—0200Z, Mar 22
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 20—1200Z, Mar 21
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 27—2400Z, Mar 28

VHF

144/432 MHz

70 MHz Cumulatives

April

HF

RSGB RoPoCo 1 CW

RSGB Slow Speed Cumulative Contests CW

SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 3—1500Z, Apr 4
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 3—1600Z, Apr 4
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 10—1300Z, Apr 11
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1500Z—1859Z, Apr 10
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z—1000Z, Apr 11
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z—2359Z, Apr 17
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 17—1200Z, Apr 18
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1500Z—1859Z, Apr 17
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 24—1200Z, Apr 25
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24—1300Z, Apr 25

VHF

1st 70 MHz

50 MHz

Contest Calendars and Rules

HF: www.blacksheep.org/HFCC/
www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html
www.sk3bg.se/contest/

VHF: www.vhfcc.freereserve.co.uk

Contests Entered

September

CQ/RJ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest	M0COP	274 QSOs
	G0MTN	824 QSOs
WAE SSB	G0MTN	147 QSOs
SSB FD	G0MTN	24 QSOs
SAC SSB	G0MTN	62 QSOs
SAC CW	G0MTN	215 QSOs

October

RSGB 21/28 MHz	G0MTN				
CQWWDX SSB					
	G0MTN	2030 QSOs	1,621,894 pts	M3MCX	161 QSOs 6,392 pts
	MW5HOC	288 QSOs	23,205 pts	M0COP	337 QSOs 129,285 pts
	G0EYO	138 QSOs	12,740 pts	M3EUN	
	G0ICJ				

Results

2nd 144MHz Backpackers Contest 2003	G1WAC/P7/17	3W Single Op
EU Spring Sprint SSB	G0MTN 11/82	1st G
ARRL International DX CW 2003	G0MTN 3rd G	High Power
ARRL RTTY Round Up 2003	G0MTN 2nd G	
Jubilee Contest 2002	G0MTN 7/8	
		Commonwealth SO Unassisted Mixed
PACC 2003	G0MTN 12/16 G	
CQ WPX RTTY	G0MTN 1st G	All band low power
50MHz Backpackers Championship 2003	G1WAC/P	14/14
RSGB AFS CW 2003	G0MTN 18/179	
		Individual Section (with Lichfield)
66th RSGB Commonwealth Contest 2003	G0MTN 52/71	Restricted Section
ARRL DX Phone	G0MTN 2 / 3 G	High Power
	M0COP 6 / 6 G	Low Power
Stew Perry	G0MTN	
CQWWDX SSB 2002	G0MTN 2/15 G	Low Power All
	M3ANB 15/15 G	Low Power All
	G0ICJ 4/4 G	Low Power 28 MHz
	G0EYO 1st G	21 MHz
	MW5HOC 1st GW	Low Power 7MHz
RSGB144MHz Trophy Contest 2003	M0COP 3/4 SO	
RSGB 144MHz Low Power July 2003	M0COP 9/12 SF	

Report on AGM 2003

The AGM was held on 21st October, being well attended by 29 members. The election of Officers and Committees for both the Club and the Contest Group went through quickly. All agreed to serve for a further year and were duly elected. The only difference from the previous year was the election of Reg G7OJO to the Club Committee. The full line-up for 2004 is at the bottom of the page.

Chairman and Secretary's Report

Chris G0EYO said that it had been a busy year for the club. He thanked the Officers and Committee and club members for their support.

He ran through the year's activities. Highlights had been the making of a surprise profit at the Christmas Social of over £200, two very successful Special Event Stations, the Mills on the Air GB0DGW at Avoncroft Museum, the other the GB2ME station run at Sarehole Mill for the Tolkien Weekend. The Bring and Buy at the Telford Rally held at RAF Cosford had been a success and provided income for both clubs.

The barbecue held on NFD had not been quite the usual social occasion that it has been because numbers were down. Only 3 cars had taken part in the post Christmas DF hunt. Unfortunately there had been vandalism to the club trailer whilst stored at the Park.

Socially, apart from the Christmas Social, there had been an enjoyable visit to Hall Green Dog Track. The club had entered 2 teams in the Wythall House Quiz coming 4th and 5th out of 10 teams. A clay pigeon shoot was planned for the end of October.

Very little had been spent on equipment, the main item being the purchase of a new rotator controller and also the refurbishment of the rotator itself.

It was hoped that redecoration of the shack commenced earlier would continue.

Chris went on to appeal to members to support the contests, social events and rally activities in the coming year. He thanked Anita as Secretary and

Wythall Radio Club Committee 2004

Chris	G0EYO	Chairman
David	G0ICJ	Treasurer
Anita		Secretary and Social Secretary
Martin	G8VXX	Rally
Vaughan	M1EQQ	Website
Lee	G0MTN	Special Events
Chris	G6KMQ	Quartermaster
Peter	M0COP	Contests and Vice Chairman and QSL Manager
Colin	G6ZDQ	Logistics
Peter	M5DUO	Antenna Maintenance
Reg	G7OJO	Special Event Catering

David as Treasurer for their support. Chris indicated that 2004 would probably be his last year as Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

David G0ICJ circulated copies of income and expenditure. This showed a loss of £158.

On the income side the Rally produced £385, social events £168, Bring and Buys £424, subscriptions realised £325.

Main items of expenditure were Rent and Insurances £585, Licences £85, Stationery etc. £168, Field day £141.

The Club balance stood at £2,228.16. Total paid up members 44.

Dealing with the 2004 Rally this would be held at Woodrush Sports Centre. The 2 halls cost £460 for 10 hours use. Car Parking is adjacent. No alcohol will be allowed on the site.

David advised the Club that if the Rally did not make a good return then it would be necessary to raise club subscriptions from the current £10 to £15 over a 5 year period, though this would still not cover basic running costs.

David thanked Lee G0MTN and Martin G8VXX for auditing the accounts.

Following acceptance of the reports under matters arising, referring to the 2004 Rally, Martin G8VXX said that press releases had been made to relevant magazines. Local advertising was important and the club should make use of the MARS Rally in Kings Heath to distribute printed hand-outs. It was emphasised that the Rally was to

be held at the Woodrush Sports Centre and not Woodrush School.

The Wythall Contest Group AGM followed with Peter MOCOP delivering his report.

Chairman's Report

The Club Shack had only been used 3 times in contests during the year and occasionally on Tuesday nights. The club call signs had been aired in 2 Backpacker contests and by Darren on NFD as MW5W, and 2 contests had been entered as GB2ME.

21 members had entered at least one contest. Lee was the most prolific with some excellent results.

The club had been well represented in CQWWDX (5), 144 AFS (8), ARRL 10m (6) and 80m AFS (6). The A and B teams had come 20th and 52nd out of 90 in the 80m AFS and in the 144 AFS 7th and 18th out of 21. In all 67 contests were entered, 7 more than last year. 18 members took part in the Christmas contest, Chris G0EYO being the winner.

Peter closed his report by urging more members to use the shack and encouraged those who did make a few QSOs in contests to submit an entry.

Under any other business the main items raised were the need for action if vandalism continued, the existence of a club policy to encourage the influx of younger members into the club and hobby as a whole. There was a feeling that the club shack could be used more.

Vic M0AEJ

Deadline

I'm writing this with panic
As I'm sure that it is late
It was said that mid November
Was the final cut off date.
But I hope that Alban prints this
Cos it wouldn't be the same
To read this rag's contributors list
And not to see my name.

So Alban I am sorry
If you get this a little late
Please do your best to print it
As a favour, will you mate.
Cos you see I tend to worry
That if I don't send in a rhyme
That you all will forget poor Darren
Through the ravages of time

I can't get up to Birmingham
As often as I'd like
It costs a bomb in petrol
and it's too far for my bike
We'll be at the Christmas Party
And that should be good fun
A night of racing horses
And Chris holds the starter's gun

Now Chris he is our leader
Another year in the chair
I think the pressure gets to him
As he's losing weight and hair
I hear a little rumour
That this year will be his last
He will step down in September
But we've heard that in the past

But whatever happens next year
I'm sure things will turn out fine
The only thing that worries me
Is that I can keep on writing rhymes.

Darren GW7HOC

Clay Pigeon Shooting Day Scores

Name	Kills	Score	Hit Rate	Notes
Colin	24	27	59%	
Pete M5DUO	28	30	68%	
Jon	25	27	61%	
Chris	28	32	68%	Cup Winner
David	25	27	61%	
Geoff	24	27	59%	
Martin	32	34	78%	Previous experience
Pete M0COP	25	28	61%	
Lawson	23	24	56%	
Simon	24	28	59%	

Clay Pigeon Shooting Day

As one gets older, one realises that life is a clock ticking away and you get to think about the things that you have not yet experienced. Sometimes the opportunity arises such that others can help you tick off these experiences of life at the same time.

This is true of the clay pigeon shooting when I realised that I had never had the opportunity of firing a shot gun. Not being someone that likes to shoot living creatures, the opportunity to fire at some clays seemed the perfect answer to satisfying my desire to let rip with cartridge and shot.

Anita found that the Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground was nearby in the Redditch district of Brockhill. They would be happy to accommodate a party of novices for the morning for the sum of £38 per person. Eleven of us signed up for the session. Peter M0COP, Pete M5DUO, and Jonathon, David G0ICJ and his friend Geoff, Lawson G7DCM, and his son Simon, Martin G8VXX who



had some previous experience, Colin G6ZDQ and myself G0EYO.

Our Host Ian Bannister and his son Gareth, proved patient teachers and we were split into two teams of 5 or 6 six shooters. The instructors concentrated their efforts on showing us how to stand correctly, how to mount the shotgun into our shoulders, which eye to keep open and which to keep shut and what to do to consistently break clay targets. We moved on from basic practice up to a light-hearted competition from different butts. The clays came from left to right or away from us, or bounced along the ground or towards us or at high level. Each was simulating the characteristics for different birds or animals. In all we fired some 40+ shots each and everyone had a great time.

Pete M5DUO decided that we should shoot for the Lord Pettitt's Shooting Cup and guess who won. Yes, Lord Pettitt himself. A great day out, and sure to become an annual event. As usual we finished off in the nearest pub for a drink and something to eat.

Chris G0EYO



Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest 2003 Rules

1. Objective:

The objective of the contest is to promote amateur radio activity amongst members of Wythall Radio Club, and to gain some 'on-air' publicity for the club. The contest is open to members of Wythall Radio Club.

It is a social affair — no need to take it too seriously! Most of the activity takes place on 2m FM — usually from a "CQ Wythall Radio Club" call on S20, and most contacts end up on 145.225 MHz.

[Ed: With the changes to the licence it would be nice to see some contacts on HF]

2. Dates and times:

Starts: 2000Z 24th December 2003

Ends: 2000Z 1st January 2004

3. Bands:

Any amateur band may be used. Cross mode and cross band contacts are allowed. Packet radio and repeater QSOs are allowed.

3. Exchange:

Signal report + QSO number.

4. Scoring / multipliers:

Contact other members of Wythall Radio Club as listed in the club members list at the end of the newsletter. You can use any mode and any band. You score 1 point per QSO for each club member worked each day.

In previous years some entrants were disadvantaged by not being able to be on air for a few days due to family or work commitments. Then they just could not catch up with the leaders! So only the best 5 daily QSO totals will count for the final score.

Each Wythall Club Member worked over the contest counts as a multiplier. The total score for the contest is the total of the best 5 days' QSOs, multiplied by the number of different club members worked over the whole contest. For example, if Les M0COK works 35 stations in his best 5 days + 10 different club members during the contest, his score is 350. If Chris G6KMQ claims only 30 stations, but 15 different club members, his score is 450. The multiplier total is the number of different club members worked over the entire contest — not just those worked in the best 5 days.

5. Logs

Logs in any format to me, Pete M0COP, as soon as possible (31 Jan 2004 at latest), if you cannot calculate your score please send me your log and I will score for you. Full logs are better as the adjudication software will calculate the best 5 days and can cross check multiple logs.

6. Awards

The winner will receive the Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest Cup (retained for one year). The winner, the second and third placed entrant will receive certificates of merit.

The results will be published in the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter following adjudication.

Disputes will be settled by the contest committee, whose decision is final.

Cheers, enjoy yourselves

Pete, M0COP

The M1EOQ Self-build Shack Part 1

A trilogy in 19 or so parts

This trilogy will hopefully document the building of the M1EOQ Shack. For those of you who don't know I moved house back in April of 2003 and currently do not have a shack. At my old house my shack consisted of a 6X4 shed that while small was perfectly adequate. The task in hand is I would like a bigger and more secure shack, so I have gone for the Self-build option.

Building a shack for yourself is seen as a way of getting a shack of your own. To get the shack that you want, where you want and at a price you can afford.

Building your own shack has been found by those who have done it to be a way of learning while doing, and of course this is the whole point of the hobby. Getting not just a shack out of all the time and effort, but a station.

Self-build is not an easy option though. It entails much careful planning and negotiation, followed by hard physical work. Once the commitment to self-build has been made, it is hard to be patient while the many time-consuming procedures are gone through and before the actual transmissions can begin.

Well, that's the plan, and my first job was to pick the location. Lets face it this has to

be in agreement with the xyl. My plan is a temporary construction using the rear and side walls of my garden and garage to form two of the outer walls of the shack. Now my definition of temporary may be different to yours. In photo 1 you can see construction corner, the washing machine and my first attempt at my own design of a home made arguer-cooking drum. Comments are of course welcome at this point.

Actions for part two — the site should be cleared and the plans drawn up (well probably drawn directly onto construction corner). I feel I must point out that any measurements used in this trilogy are to my own unique scale and never wrong. If you have any comments or helpful suggestions please feel free to email wackyshacks@syncnet.co.uk

Well, time for me to go.
So until part 2 73's

Vaughan M1EOQ

