



Wythall Radio Club Newsletter

Autumn 2004

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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

This newsletter has been a wierd one to put together. Having waited weeks for a few key articles, they arrived all at once and I ended up struggling to make them fit. I hope I haven't missed anything out.

The summer is always an active time for the club, with rallies, contests and summer projects. Most notable this year are the silent key sale, NFD and

the Wythall Carnival, more details of which can be found deeper into this exciting publication. Details of the Pettit Trophy Clay Pigeon Shooting Event will be in the Winter issue.

I must remind all members that the club AGM will be held on October 19th in the Board Room, Wythall House, starting at 8.30pm.

Contest News

The monthly RSGB 80m Club Championship contest ended in July with Wythall ARC finishing 7th out of the 62 Clubs that entered, an excellent result. The contest created a great deal of interest in the Club with up to 8 members taking part in the SSB sessions, although the CW and Data sessions didn't attract so much attention. Hopefully a bit of training on contest logging and digital modes will encourage a few more to take part in next year's contest.

The VHF Field Day weekend went well, the slightly disappointing results on the air being compensated for by the social side of the event. The club callsigns have not been aired since as there doesn't seem to be any interest

in operating from the shack at present. Perhaps when it's been sorted out some training on the rigs can take be organised and a few contests entered.

A total of 10 members entered contests over the last few months, mostly in the 80m Club Championship contests, but Lee, G0MTN has been hard at work, with big entries in many contests including 2110 QSOs and 2.1 million points in the CQ WPX CW contest.

There's a good choice of contests in all the modes over the next few months, look out for the CQ WW DX Contests, RTTY in September, SSB in October and CW in November.

Peter M0COP

Contest calendar

Rules & Info

HF: www.rsgbhfcc.org/
www.sk3bg.se/contest/

VHF: www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/

Activity nights each month:

First Tuesday: 144MHz, Second Tuesday: 432MHz,
Third Tuesday: UHF, Fourth Tuesday: 50MHz,
Fifth Tuesday: 70MHz.

October

HF

2	Sat 0000 - 2400	The PSK31 Rumble - PSK
2-3	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest - Phone
2	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn - SSB
3	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28Mhz Contest (SSB)
3	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest - SSB
3	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - SSB
9-10	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest - CW

9	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn - CW
10	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest - CW
16-17	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	JARTS WW RTTY Contest - RTTY
16-17	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest - CW/SSB
17	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 Mhz Contest (CW)
17	Sun 0000 - 0200	Asia-Pacific Sprint Contest - CW
17	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - CW
30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest - SSB

VHF

2-3	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB 432 MHz - 248 GHz (& IARU)
2	Sat 1400 - 2200	RSGB 1.3/2.3 GHz Trophies
17	Sun 0900 - 1300	RSGB 50MHz

November

HF

6- 7	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY
7	Sun 0900 - 1500	Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest - PSK31
7	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" - DIGI
13	Sat 2000 - 2300	RSGB Club Calls 1870-1990kHz
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest - RTTY
13-14	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest - Phone
13-14	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest - CW
19	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest - PSK31
20	Sat 2100 - 0100	RSGB 2nd 1.8Mhz Contest
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest - CW/SSB
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	RNARS CW Activity Contest - CW
20-21	Sat 1600 - Sun 1600	Carnavales de Tenerife - SSB
20-21	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest - CW

VHF

6-7	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB 144 MHz CW (& European Marconi Memorial)
7	Sun 0800 - 1400	RSGB 6 hour 144 MHz CW

December

Wythall Christmas Contest 24 Dec 2000 - 1 Jan 2000 All bands, all modes.

HF

4	Sat 0000 - 2400	TARA RTTY M_I_e - RTTY
11-12	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL 10 meter Contest - CW/SSB
17	Fri 2100 - 2300	Russian 160 Meter Contest - CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	MDXA PSK-31 DeathMatch - PSK-31
18	Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest - RTTY

18 Sat 0000 - 2359 RAC Canada Winter Contest - CW/SSB
 18-19 Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 Croatian CW Contest - CW
 18-19 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500 Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge - CW
 26 Sun 0830 - 1059 DARC XMAS-Contest - CW/SSB

VHF

5 Sun 0900 - 1700 RSGB 144 MHz AFS
 26-29 Sun 1400 - Wed 1600 RSGB 50/70/144/432 MHz Christmas Cumulatives.

Contests Entered

May

RSGB 80m CC: SSB	M0VRR 11 Q	M0MCX 49 Q	M0COP 49 Q
	M0AEJ 29 Q	G0MTN 113 Q	G6KMQ 51 Q
DATA	G0MTN 39 Q	M0AEJ 20 Q	M0COP 42 Q
CW	G0MTN 89 Q		
RSGB 144MHz UKAC:	G1WAC (M0MCX, M0COP) 48 Q		
RSGB 144MHz	GB2ME 45Q		
CQ WPX CW	G0MTN 2110 Q - 2.1 million points....		
ARI	G0MTN 967 Q		
Welcome to EU Contest	G0MTN 336 Q		
Baltic	G0MTN 260 Q		
CQM	G0MTN 102 Q		
Anatolian RTTY	G0MTN 21 Q		

June

ANARTS RTTY	G0MTN 54 Q		
Marconi Memorial	G0MTN ~300 Q		
RSGB 80m CC Data	G0MTN 45 Q	M0COP 37 Q	M0AEJ 22 Q
	G6KMQ 18 Q		
RSGB 80m CC CW	G0MTN 90 Q		
RSGB 80m CC SSB	M0COP 90 Q	M0MCX 80 Q	
	G6KMQ 61 Q	M0AEJ 39 Q	MW5HOC 35 Q
	G0ICJ 32 Q	G1VDP 10 Q	

July

National Field Day	50 MHz	G0WRC 59 Q	
	432 MHz	G7WAC 57 Q	
	70 MHz	G4WAC 43 Q	
	144 MHz	G1WAC 214 Q.	
RSGB 80m CC SSB	G0ICJ 42 Q	G0MTN 114 Q	G6KMQ 49 Q
	M0AEJ 30 Q	M0COP 102 Q	
	M0MCX 72 Q	MW5HOC 38 Q	
Data	M0AEJ 17 Q		

DL DX RTTY	G0MTN/P - 177 QSO
IOTA	9A2004YC (inc. G0MTN) - 1100 QSO - 2.0 million
pts - EU110	
IARU HF World Champs	GB5HQ (inc. G0MTN) - 15,600 QSO

August

RoPoCo2	G0MTN 59 Q
SARTG RTTY	G0MTN 600 Q M0AEJ 51 Q
SCC RTTY	G0MTN 527 Q
WAE CW	G0MTN 121 Q

Contest Results

IARU Marconi 2003 2m CW	G1WAC 308/356
RSGB 144MHz AFS 12/2003	
Wythall Radio Club A	(G1WAC, G0NES, M0COK, G0EYO) 7/21
Wythall Radio Club B	(G1KEA, G7OJO, M0AEJ, M5DUO, G6KMQ) 15/21
Multi-op:	Wythall Radio Club G1WAC (G0MTN, G0ICJ, M0COP) 4/7
Single-op:	G0NES 35/67 M0COK 38 G0EYO 43 G1KEA 57 G7OJO 60 M0AEJ 61 M5DUO 62 G6KMQ 63 M1EOQ 67
RSGB AFS 80M SSB 2004	
Wythall CG 'A'	(M0COP M0AEJ G0EYO) 32/86
Wythall CG 'B'	(G0NES M0MCX G6KMQ) 69/86
Single op:	M0COP 55/195 M0AEJ 131 G0EYO 139 G0NES 156 M0MCX 183 G6KMQ 194
RSGB AFS 80M CW 2004	Wythall Contest Group 72/76 M0COP 195/224
RSGB 1st 1.8MHz 2004	G0MTN 21/39
RSGB 144MHz UKAC 2004	Wythall ARC 4/7
RSGB 80m CC	Wythall ARC 10/55
March SSB G0MTN 8/105	M0COP 34 M0MCX 62 G0EYO 81 M0AEJ 84 M0VRR 100 G6KMQ 105
WAE SSB Sep '03	G0MTN 2nd G
SARTG HNY 2004 RTTY	G0MTN 25
RSGB 144MHz UKAC April:	G1WAC 3/6 Wythall ARC 4/10

RSGB 80m CC	Wythall ARC 9/58		
April CW	G0MTN 16/86	M0COP 79	
April SSB	G0MTN 25/105	M0COP 29	
	M0AEJ 82		
April DATA	G0MTN 1/44	M0COP 8	M0AEJ 25
May SSB	G0MTN 11/98	G6KMQ 50	M0COP 51
	M0MCX 52	M0AEJ 80	M0VRR 96
Ropoco 1, 2004	G0MTN 2/43		
HF Championship 2003	G0MTN 11/74		
SAC SSB 9/03	G0MTN 4/5		
SAC CW 9/03	G0MTN 1/7		
DARC Christmas Contest 03	G0MTN 1/4 (non DL/Mixed)		
AGCW HNY 03	G0MTN 93/122		
RSGB 80m CC Club June	Wythall ARC 7/58		
May Data	M0COP 1/41	G0MTN 3	M0AEJ 21
May CW	G0MTN 8/81		
June Data	G0MTN 1/34	M0COP 4	M0AEJ 23
	G6KMQ 27		
144MHz UKAC May	Wythall ARC 4/10	G1WAC 3/6	
RSGB 80m CC Club	Wythall ARC 7/62		
June CW	G0MTN 7/73		
June SSB	M0COP 19	M0MCX 28	
	G6KMQ 42	M0AEJ 65	MW5HOC 68
	G0ICJ 74	G1VDP 87	
RSGB 144MHz CC June	Wythall ARC 5/10	G1WAC 5/6	
ARRL 10m 12/03:	G0MTN 2nd G Mixed HP		
	G0EYO 3rd G Phone LP		
CROATIAN CW 2003:	G0MTN 1st G SOAB		
RAC WINTER CONTEST 03	G0MTN 141/162 SOAB LOW		
CQ/RJ WWDX RTTY 03 SOLP	G0MTN 28/468	M0COP 192.	
BARTG SPRINT 2004 SO	G0MTN 26	M0COP 239	
EAWW RTTY 2004 SOAB	M0COP 106	G0MTN 179	
ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP 04	G0MTN 40 SOLP		
RSGB 80m CC 2004 Final Club Placings:			
	Wythall ARC 7/62 (5th Data, 7th SSB, 20th CW)		
July SSB	G0MTN 12/105	M0COP 19	M0MCX 38
	G6KMQ 57	G0ICJ 70	
	MW5HOC 81	M0AEJ 86	
July Data	M0AEJ 16/30		
UK 2M AC	Wythall ARC 5/10		
UK 2M AC	G1WAC 4/5		

VHF NFD 2004



The 2004 VHF NFD contest weekend will be remembered as being successful for a variety of reasons but, as usual, not because we managed to win the contest. The setup, contest operation, barbecue and station breakdown all seemed to go smoothly enough, and some people even confessed to be enjoying themselves!

New this year was an experiment to put the 144 MHz and 432 MHz stacked antennas both on the top of the versatower at 100 feet. This was a partial success — we did manage to get 4 antennas on top of the mast, but at high power we found there was just too much interference with so little physical separation between them. At low power or restricted power levels it may not have been a problem. Still, this was a lesson learnt and we will know not to try it again!

We also operated on 50 MHz and 70 MHz as we have done for the past few years, using one of the sectional masts. A new 70 MHz antenna had been purchased in the last year, to replace the homebrew antenna made by Simon

G4TVR many years ago, which had sadly not stood up to the test of time. Both yagis were quite time consuming to tune, but a good SWR match was eventually found before they were needed for contest QSOs. The club's SWR Analyser was again worth its weight in gold. There was no repeat of the great 50 MHz sporadic E openings of previous years, and frustratingly the band opened to Canada just after the end of the 50 MHz contest at 11pm.

There was a good turnout of people to help with the setup which was encouraging to see, including Field Day newcomers David M3EUN and Chris G1VDP. This was despite some drizzly weather, as everyone soon switched to waterproofs. Martin G8VXX had managed to borrow a big white van which was very useful as we were able to take all of the equipment to site in one go. The heavy and large equipment such as the amplifiers and the rigid coax loops were also more easily transported this way. We did have the usual drama, heart stopping moments, and potential for



hernias when trying to get Dale's 144 MHz amplifier up the shack stairs, but I'm pleased to report it survived another NFD, as did the people carrying it!

Soon after the main versatower was at full height, we realised that the weather was not going to improve, and we became quite concerned at the gusts of wind. After some discussion about the best location for guying points, we lowered the mast to around half height to prevent any catastrophic failures occurring. This loss of height, coupled with the inter-station interference between 144 MHz and 432 MHz, is a major reason our 144 MHz scores are quite far behind our 2003 results. Conditions and activity did seem to be lower too, although from looking through all of the entrants logs (one of the few perks of being on the contest committee!) there was still a good deal of choice DX into central Europe that could be worked if you were at the right place at the right time.

A new record for operators in the main contest caravan was achieved at the start of the contest. I was playing on



HF in one corner, we had an operator for 432 MHz, two ops for 144 MHz and an observer all crammed in, all sitting on our new comfy office chairs sourced

by Chris G6KMQ. There was some last minute confusion over what equipment we were using for the 50 MHz station, but we were on air for about 3pm anyway thanks to Chris G0EYO, and a lightning dash from Martin G8VXX !



We were pleased to welcome back Darren, Carol and Philip for the weekend. Darren was keen to show off his new 30 foot mast on the back of their motorhome, which soon had a doublet connected, and some transatlantic DX was worked on Darren's FT817 during the Saturday evening.

The traditional Saturday evening BBQ was very well received as usual, and we had a few additional visitors. We realise that a lot of the club membership may not want to / be able to take part in the Field Day weekend overall – but this needn't stop you from popping to site just for the evening social enjoying some good company, food and drink in the open air. Let's try to get the numbers up next year. Special thanks to Reg, Anita and Mick for the catering arrangements for the whole weekend. It is much appreciated by everyone.

The weekend was more in the spirit of a true "field day" — lots of people



playing with radios or antennas in the fresh air. We had 3 separate FT817 installations running on HF with antennas in various guises. As well as Darren's station, Chris G6KMQ put up a vertical HF antenna connected to his 817, and Vaughan had a very long wire running from a tree to his Discovery. It was suggested we could have had an FT817 shootout — call the same station with the different QRP radios, and see who gets the best reports. This would be certainly one way of field testing the best antenna setups.

We almost had a kite antenna going on the Sunday, but ironically most of the wind from the Saturday had died away. We even had some reasonable sunshine on the Sunday. All this looked

far more fun than trying to persuade anyone to operate 432 MHz with no preamp — it was difficult though not impossible to make QSOs.

Another 'new' aspect to the weekend was my participation in an HF RTTY contest. Conditions seemed good on 20m. 15m was very quiet, and I didn't have much time for 40m and 80m. I worked Japan, Ethiopia, and Qatar, although I couldn't persuade anyone else to have a go, but did get a few spectators, and made around 170 QSOs.

For next year, there was a feeling to scale back the size of the contest station slightly, as it is a big effort to put together. A 1296 MHz station may make a comeback. And despite a lot of badgering, there was not a huge demand to operate the station! Next year, I guess there will be more antenna experimenting, and probably even more FT817s in evidence.

Thanks to everyone for their help and support that made it a great club weekend.

Lee G0MTN

Band summaries

50 MHz	G0WRC/P	59 QSO
Total Claimed Score	9938	
Best DX	CT3FT in IM13TA2448 Km	
432 MHz	G7WAC/P	57 QSO
Total Claimed Score	7786	
Best DX	ON4KBE/P in JO20BI	474 Km
70 MHz	G4WAC/P	43 QSO
Total Claimed Score	5041	
Best DX	GM3TAL/P in IO75IU	444 Km
144 MHz	G1WAC/P	214 QSO
Total Claimed Score	34942	
Best DX	F5AHL/P in JO18EL	727 Km.

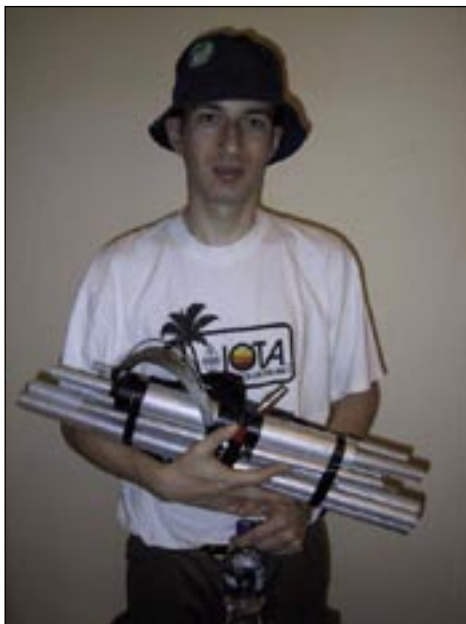
WWYC Meeting + IOTA Contest

For several years I've been a member of the WorldWide Young Contesters club, which has just celebrated its 5th anniversary. The club is internet based, with its 400 or so members spread all over the world. The main aim of the club is to get young people enthusiastic about contesting, and have as much fun in the process. This July, around 40 WWYC members and their friends from all over Europe descended upon the town of Pazin in beautiful Istria, Croatia.

As expected at DX meetings, it was a great opportunity to meet and chat with contesters I've had QSOs with for years, but never met. The meeting programme included several presentations on DXpeditions and contests, and also a great social programme including boat trips, time on the beach, quizzes, games, and even a disco. The whole event was organised superbly by the Pazin Radio Club, 9A7P. More details can be found at:

<http://www.wwyc.net/meeting2004>

The meeting coincided with the IOTA Contest. I was lucky enough to be able to take part from Sv. Andrija in the EU-110 IOTA group with a group



Our own G0MTN packing some serious heat of 9 operators from Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, and Yorkshire. In the past I've mostly operated this contest from home or the club station, so it made a refreshing change to be standing on the sunny dockside at Rovinj on the Saturday morning, armed with just an overnight bag, and between us, two radios, two laptops, and some vertical and windom antennas, which were all easily carried between us. The 100w Dxpedition class is to be commended as very good fun, and a lot less stressful to organise and set up than you might think.

The setup itself took little over an hour, after we'd found a suitable place to site the antennas in the gardens of the Hotel Istra where we were staying. With a clear take off out to sea, even



