



# Wythall Radio Club Newsletter

## Summer 2004

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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

I apologise that this edition is a little late. A family holiday and a lack of material delayed its production. I was hoping that it would be nice and full of writeups as the club has once again been pretty busy with events. Unfortunately articles have not been forthcoming.

I must thank those that have provided me with material. The newsletter is your chance to tell other club members what the club and individual members have

been doing.

In the past few months, the club has run a rally, put on a special event station, organised a silent key sale and had a number of interesting talks. We also visited a Short Wave transmitter site at Wooferton. Hopefully there will be a writeup for that in the next issue, along with VHF NFD.

*Alban G7UGC*

## Contest News

The popularity of the RSGB 80m Club Championship contest continues to grow with more people entering each month. Wythall Radio Club is holding its position at 10th out of about 55 clubs at the moment. In March we had 8 entries for the SSB session. If we could get that support each month we should do really well by the time the contest finishes in July.

The summer months are the Backpacker contest season on 2m and 6m and there are several short VHF contests that can be done portable too, so head for the hills and enjoy some fresh air with your radio. Masts and antennas can be borrowed from the club.

The most important portable contest for the club is RSGB VHF Field Day which takes place on the 3rd and 4th of July. We will need as many members on site as possible that weekend for setting up, and especially for operating during the night which would improve our competitiveness. It's a great social

weekend too.

The Club Championship contests seem to dominate the contest entered and results lists, but Lee, G0MTN, has been busy, with some excellent entries and results in the HF contests. With all the activity from members installing HF antennas it looks as though Lee might have some company in the coming months.

There's a good mix of contests coming up, both on HF and VHF, with all modes represented, so there must be something for everyone. Amongst others, there's the IOTA contest and the HF World Championships in July, the European HF Championship in August and the CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest in September. Also in September is the RSGB SSB Field Day. Should we think of entering that this year?

Good contesting,

*Pete, M0COP*

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## Contest calendar

Activity nights each month:

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

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### June

#### HF

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 5 to 1459Z, Jun 6
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 5 to 1500Z, Jun 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Jun 7
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Jun 12 to 2400Z, Jun 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Jun 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Jun 24
UK DX Contest, CW	1400Z, Jun 25 to 1400Z, Jun 26

Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 26 to 1400Z, Jun 27
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1800Z, Jun 26 to 1800Z, Jun 27

## VHF

144 MHz Backpackers #2	0900Z-1300Z 13 Jun
Practical Wireless QRP contest.	0900Z-1600Z 13 Jun
50 MHz Trophy	1400Z-1400Z 19-20 Jun
50 MHz Backpackers #1	1100Z-1500Z 20 Jun

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## July

### HF

RAC Canada Day Contest,	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 3 to 1059Z, Jul 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Jul 5
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Jul 14
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1600Z, Jul 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Jul 22
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z, Jul 24 to 2400Z, Jul 25
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 24 to 1200Z, Jul 25

### VHF

VHF NFD	1400Z-1400Z 3-4 Jul
144 MHz Backpackers #3	1100Z-1500Z 4 Jul
50 MHz Backpackers #2	1100Z-1500Z 11 Jul
144 MHz Backpackers #4	1100Z-1500Z 18 Jul

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## August

### HF

RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0900Z, Aug 1
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 7
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 14 to 2359Z, Aug 15
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 21 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 21 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 22
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 28 to 1200Z, Aug 29
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 28 to 1159Z, Aug 29

### VHF

144 MHz Low Power	1400Z-2000Z 7 Aug
432 MHz Low Power	0800Z-1200Z 8 Aug
70 MHz Trophy	0900Z-1500Z 22 Aug

## September

### HF

IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 4 to 1259Z, Sep 5
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 4 to 1300Z, Sep 5
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 11 to 2359Z, Sep 12
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 18 to 1200Z, Sep 19
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Sep 25 to 1200Z, Sep 26

### VHF

144 MHz Trophy	1400Z-1400Z 4-5 Sep
144 MHz Backpackers #5	1100Z-1500Z 5 Sep
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z Sep 26

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## Contests Entered

### February

RSGB 80m Club Championship:

SSB:	G0NES	16 QSOs
	M0AEJ	28 QSOs
	M0COP	81 QSOs
	M0VRR	6 QSOs

DATA:	M0AEJ	12 QSOs
	M0COP	25 QSOs

CW:	G0MTN	96 QSOs
	M0COP	16 QSOs

RSGB 2m Club Championship:

G4WAC	416 Points
G0NES	36 Points

RSGB 432 MHz AFS:

G1WAC	3060 Points
(G0EYO, G0MTN, M0COP)	

G4VPD	493 Points
M0VRR	55 Points
G0RQO	19 Points

UBA SSB:

G0MTN	425 QSOs
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ARRL CW:

G0MTN	1358 QSOs
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XE RTTY:

G0MTN	260 QSOs
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WPX RTTY:

G0MTN	684 QSOs
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RSGB 160m:

G0MTN	109 QSOs
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PACC:

G0MTN	56 QSOs
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Russian PSK WW

M0COP	112 QSOs
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UBA DX CW

G0MTN	942 QSOs
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## Mills on the Air at Avoncroft Museum

Mills on the air is the highlight of my calendar because this is the third year the club has put it on and I have taken part in all of them. It also gives me a chance to use our old caravan, so Pauline and I spent a couple of days getting it ready by washing off the winter grime.

On Saturday morning I set off feeling a little disappointed with the weather as it was raining very heavily. On my journey I called CQ on 145.500, 145.225 and GB3DX several times but had no response.

On my arrival I was informed that the rest of the gang were down the field. I was asked to wait a while as they had just received news that the museum director had died overnight and it may mean closing down for the whole of the

weekend. They were waiting for the other directors' decision.

After a while I was taken to a building where I met the rest of the gang and they gave us all a cup of tea. The gang was Peter M5DUO, Lee G0MTN, Peter M0COP, Colin C6ZDQ, Chris G0EYO, Mark M0CZE and me G7OJO.

After a while they came and told us that they were closing down for the weekend in respect. So I left the gang to break down their gear and I made my way home even more disappointed — but never mind, there is always next year.

I would like to thank all the lads for their support. It was a very good turn-out and I am sure we will do as well next year.

*Reg G7OJO*

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## Forthcoming Events

**Sat/Sun July 17th/18th**

**Shack Refurbishment.**

**Sunday August 15th**

**Wythall Carnival**

As usual the radio club will be providing marshalls for the car parking.

**Sunday September 19th**

**Lord Pettit's Shooting Cup**

Once again here is your chance to win the prized trophy from our illustrious leader, by spending a morning shooting at defenceless clay discs. Great fun, tuition included

Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground.

**Sunday September 5th**

**Telford Amateur Radio Club Rally**

RAF Cosford

**Fri/Sat September 17th/18th**

**Leicester Amateur Radio Rally**

Donnington Park

**Sat/Sun September 4th/5th**

**HF Field Day**

Restricted section station for a bit of fun.

**October**

**Dog Racing**

## **We Didn't Charge the Wire**

Gilbert;amber,Franklin; flying kites with static in,  
Galvani,medicine man, Volta and his tin can,  
Faraday, blows me away, he's the man who showed the way.

They're the ones who charged the wire  
Keep the current flowing and the fuses blowing  
They're the ones who charged the wire  
They keep our hopes raising and the lights ablazing

Edison and Joseph Swan,  
Made filaments that light comes from,  
Generators, DC, lighting up NYC  
Westinghouse and Tesla,  
saw that AC was better,

They're the ones who charged the wire  
Keep the current flowing and the fuses blowing  
They're the ones who charged the wire  
They keep our hopes raising and the lights ablazing

James Watt, steam engine,  
Turbines by William Rankine  
Andre Ampere, George Ohm  
Common names in every home

They're the ones who charged the wire  
Keep the current flowing and the fuses blowing  
They're the ones who charged the wire  
But when we're gone,  
Their names will still live on and on and on.....

*Darren GW7HOC*

## Chairman's Report May 2004

The big event since the last newsletter has been the Rally. And what a success it turned out to be from our new venue, the Woodrush Sports Centre. Financially I reckon it was the best rally ever in its nineteen years existence. It was a new experience for us all and of course we had a few teething problems with the new site. One we never foresaw was the huge bulge of visitors to the site early on in the day. In previous years we had them come through a bus full at a time. Anyway, the Sports Centre seemed happy with the day and we should be able to get back again next year, but this needs to be confirmed. We had a problem with the single toilet but the Sports Centre say the toilet facilities will be improved next year.

Next year Martin will delegate responsibility on the day to a manager for each of the halls, and put someone on the door to direct traders to the correct hall. We will need to appoint a Bring & Buy Manager and a Parking Manager. Each manager will be required to recruit and manage a team of people to do whatever has to be done on the day to keep things smoothly running. We will also need others doing the signage on the day, so that we can man the car parks earlier.

The sudden rush early on from the public also affected the catering. This needs to be rethought. They need to be onsite earlier and have sufficient food to provide a service to the traders and

helpers. We may consider moving the B&B to the gym. We shall need to invest in some trolleys and trucks to move tables and traders gear around more easily and police the entrances better to ensure the non-traders don't get in by pretending to be with someone. Dealers and customers had a good day and we were complimented in another magazine on our sign posting. Well done to all those who helped out and a big well done to Martin G8VXX for a job very well done (and for agreeing to organise it again next year).

We had a talk from Peter G4KQU and Steve M1KQU, Mark and Ian on GB3DX the local Echo-link repeater (145.7125MHz). A number of club members now use this repeater and through the internet VoIP it is possible to talk to amateurs anywhere around the world. Each day there are regular skeds with hams in the US, Australia, Japan and South Africa. And as I type this I can hear an SV from Greece calling CQ through it. In fact I have been so inspired by the concept that I have bought a new rig for the car so that I can start listening to repeaters again. Peter and the others from GB3DX have now joined the club and are regular visitors on a Tuesday night. The club donated a 2m colinear antenna we had surplus to requirements to GB3DX following damage to theirs during recent gales.

We did a little bit of shack refurbishment in February and the classroom is looking pretty neat and tidy at the moment. Vaughan M0VRR gets to the club

early on Tuesday nights and has been regularly cleaning down the tables. Thanks Vaughan. We also now have some coat hooks on which to hang our coats. The next big job is the radio room itself. We will need to remove everything from the rooms, and paint the walls and renew the floors with some sealing compound. Not a five minute job and will probably need a whole weekend to break the back of. Something for later in the year. We shall also be renovating the caravan this year with a repaint, (thanks to Chris G6KMQ) and some internal refitting to make it more useful as a club's operating caravan.

After the rally, Vaughan, Callum M0MCX and myself gave a short demonstration to the local beavers (cubs) on amateur radio so that they could take their communicators badge. We showed a video and Callum and Vaughan acted as hosts so that the cubs could communicate individually with your Chairman who was sitting in the car in the car-park with his new mobile. The cubs had fun and I think even us oldies enjoyed it!

Our participation in contests continues with more club members having a go. The RSGB 80m Club contests are being chased hard with Pete M0COP pushing us all to participate so that the club remains in the top 10 of the league. See Peter's report on our contesting

activities earlier on in the newsletter. The next big contest we have is VHF NFD. This is on 3/4<sup>th</sup> July and we shall need lots of volunteers to build and knock down the station plus a schedule of operators who can keep them going for the whole 24 hours. If you have not offered your services for that weekend then please do so.

Other special events which we will have had by the time you read this, are the Mills on Air weekend at Avonscroft Museum, Bromsgrove on May 8/9<sup>th</sup> and the Tolkien weekend at Sarehole Mill on May 15/16<sup>th</sup>. Social events are being considered for this year and include the Shooting event where we are playing for the Lord Pettitt cup, and the visit to Wooferton Short wave site on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The carnival is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> and no doubt we will be called upon to provide parking marshalling.

We have given up on the idea of setting up a packet station on the club premises, but we are looking at ways we can introduce broadband capability to the site, although we are handicapped by the fact that the 01564 82 exchange does not have it fitted as yet.

Well I think that covers everything we have done in the past few months.

Best 73s,

*Chris GOEYO  
Chairman*

## Tolkien Weekend — May 15th & 16th — Sarehole Mill



Once again Wythall Amateur Radio Club were invited to take part in the annual Tolkien Weekend at Sarehole Mill in Birmingham.

The weekend is run by a group including the Millstream Rangers, Birmingham City Museums, The Tolkien Society and Birmingham Libraries, and is held each year to celebrate the influence the local area had on the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien.

This year the theme was “The Return of the King”, so the club did not bother with the “Two Towers” of the previous year, opting for our own 100’ mobile Versatower with a 19 Element Tonna for 2m, a 2m Colinear and a Windom for HF.

As we had done the previous year, we tried to get as much equipment as we could on site and erected on the Friday. This gave us much more time than trying to get everything set up on the Saturday. Vaughan M0VRR arranged to meet Chris G6KMQ at work in Smethwick to collect the Caravan, while

Colin G6ZDQ, Chris G0EYO and Pete M0COP met at Wythall to collect the radio equipment, log books etc. and, most importantly, the tower.

Once I knew the tower was on the way I went over to the field where I found Reg G7OJO already parked up. As soon as Colin arrived with the tower we were able to start the task of laying out and setting up our area. With more activities each year we had to allow space this time for a “War of the Roses” re-enactment group between us and the river.

Peter M0COP started assembling the Tonna while most of the others started setting up the tower. Callum M0MCX had great fun pounding the stakes into the ground with the sledgehammer. With the antenna and rotator fixed to the top of the tower it was time to test the rotator. Unfortunately the starter rope on the small generator snapped, so we were without power.

Meanwhile, Chris and Vaughan had arrived with the caravan which was placed at the corner of our area facing down the field. The main generator, now off the front of caravan was man-



handled into the space between the caravan and the tower and coupled up to the battery and a large cylinder of gas. Within a few minutes the generator purred into life and we were able to check the rotator. All tested, the tower was winched vertical and the lower guys tied off.

With the main tower ready for the following day, work switched to the small mast for the internet link. I had spent the previous few weeks assembling a couple of Linksys access points into waterproof boxes, and had already attached one to the top



With everything ready to connect in the morning everyone dispersed, leaving me to stay overnight to look after the equipment. The evening was brightened up by a short visit from Callum M0MCX.

Saturday morning the usual crew were there to finish setting up. As usual Reg provided bacon butties and the whole station was operational, including internet link by 9.30. We had the club's IC910 for 2m, and the FT920, along with Lee G0MTN's linear, letting us run QRO on HF.



of my father's tower at about 60' along with a 24dBi mesh dish. I returned home to collect the motorcaravan, the other access point and a big box of sandwiches for the workers.

Once back on the field, it was not long before another 24 dBi dish, an 18dBi colinear and the access point were attached to the small mast and hoisted into the air. We could align the dishes roughly by sight but leaving my laptop connected to one end and going home to check the signals from the other end allowed us to tweak the dishes for best performance and we soon had a working internet link.

Although the weather was warm and sunny, the heavy rain and hail earlier in the week had left parts of the field somewhat soft. Various 4x4s were





# The M0VRR Self-build Shack Part 3

A trilogy in 19 or so parts

Well, I can't believe that I'm writing part 3 already, and still not a brick in sight.

Not much to report in this part, as I have been devoting my radio time allowance to my bedroom shack...(breaking the rules again). Basically a loop of wire approx 48ft round the bedroom ceiling fed with 75 Ohm twin feed to 6 inch stub of 50 Ohm RG58 coax, this is then fed into the (my new toy) LDG Z100 Auto tuner. What a great bit of kit the Z100 is, tuning the loop from 6 thru 160 m. The loop is almost resonant on 20 m and can be used without the tuner. Using the FT817 I have mainly been listening but did have a nice QSO with Chris G6KMQ on 80 m.

Back to the main Shack: I have been pondering over some design sketches of the shack and working out the total square footage of blocks needed for the walls.

My calculations work out to approximately 147 square foot; I still need to work out how many blocks are needed.

That's about it for this short update, In part 4 I intend to have more detailed plans and costing for materials, and types of blocks available for this project etc.

73's

*Vaughan M0VRR.  
Staggering Baggins.*

