



Wythall Radio Club Newsletter

Autumn 2005

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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

The club has, as ever, been pretty active over the summer period and you will find articles about most of this inside. We also still have plenty of events before Christmas.

The Telford Radio Rally was held at the Agricultural Showground in Shrewsbury this year as RAF Cosford is undergoing remodeling. Although the venue was good, the number of people visiting the Bring and Buy was very disappointing. It did mean,

however, that although there were only six of us, we were able to cope even with the panic buying. Many thanks to Lee, Chris, Vaughan, Reg and Pauline. I, unlike Chris, managed to hang on to my money.

Finally, with the AGM in less than a month, now's your chance to decide who runs the club for the next year. Get nominating.

P.S. I apologise for the pictures on page 14!

Contest Report

This edition of the Contest report takes the calendar up to the end of the year; it seems strange writing about Christmas contests when the weather is hot and sunny.

There are lots of interesting contests in the list below, something for everyone. The main contests of the autumn season must be the CQ WW DX series, the RTTY in September, the SSB in October and the CW in November. There are some 10m and 160m contests to make life interesting as well as several RTTY contests. The final flourish of the year is of course the Wythall Christmas Contest that seems to get more competitive every year.

The popular 80m Club Championship contests finished in July with the Club putting in a great final effort with 9 members entering the last SSB session. In the June results Wythall Radio Club was 13th out of 70.

The best session for the Club was the May SSB with 10 members on the air.

In the year-long 144MHz Club Championships, Wythall is at present 6th out of 14 clubs. This contest is run on the first Tuesday of each month and is popular with the new licensees, Matt M3LTH, Craig

M3XCR and John M3UKX operating from the club shack. Individual entries are welcome from any Club member operating from their home station.

In the Backpackers series of contests 3 members took to the hills this summer, Les, M0COK/P, entered 3 of the 144MHz contests whilst Chris, G6KMQ, and Vaughan, M0VRR, aired GX4WAC/P in the 2nd 50MHz contest.

Wythall ARC finished well in the December 144MHz AFS, placed 2nd out of 16 clubs. With 8 members taking part we managed to enter 2 teams.

Lee, G0MTN, again was the most active and successful tester with Callum, M0MCX, putting in some good efforts in several contests. There seems to be a core of about ten club members who attempt contests. We could do with a few more, especially in the Club events such as the 2m and 80m Club Championships. If you're not sure how to start, just ask any of the Contest committee for help.

There's a report of the Club's efforts for the VHF National Field Day contest elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Pete, 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.

Also, the 144MHz Club Championship contest takes place on the first Tuesday of every month.

September

HF

3-4	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest — SSB
3	Sat 0000 - 2400	Russian “Radio” RTTY WW Contest — RTTY
3-4	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	RSGB SSB Field Day
3-4	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	IARU Region 1 Field Day — SSB
4	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Cont. “Corona” — DIGI
10-11	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest — SSB
10-11	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	CIS DX RTTY Contest — RTTY
16	Fri 2100 - 2400	AGB NEMIGA Contest — CW/SSB/DIGI
24-25	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest — RTTY

VHF

3-4	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB 144MHz Trophy
4	Sun 1100 - 1500	RSGB 144MHz Backpackers Contest #5
11	Sun 0000 - 1400	WAB 144MHz QRO Contest — Phone
18	Sun 0900 - 1200	RSGB 70MHz Contest #2

October

HF

1	Sat 0000 - 2400	The PSK31 Rumble — PSK
1-2	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest — Phone
1	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn — SSB
2	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest — SSB
2	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest — SSB
8-9	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest — CW
8	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn — CW
9	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest — CW
8-9	Sat 12:00 - Sun 12:00	WAB HF Phone
15-16	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	JARTS WW RTTY Contest — RTTY
15-16	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest — CW/SSB
16	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest — CW
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest — SSB
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW SWL Challenge — SSB

VHF

1-2	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB 432MHz-248GHz Co-ordinated with IARU contest
1	Sat 1400 - 2200	RSGB 1.3GHz Trophy & 2.3GHz Trophy
2	Sun 1000 - 1400	RSGB 432 MHz Phone
16	Sun 0900 - 1200	RSGB 50MHz Contest #2

November

HF

5-6	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest — CW/SSB/RTTY
6	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest “Corona” — DIGI
12	Sat 2000 - 2300	RSGB Club Calls 1.8MHz
12-13	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest - RTTY
12-13	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest — Phone
12	Sat 1100 - 1200	SL Contest — CW
12-13	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest — CW
12	Sat 1230 - 1330	SL Contest — SSB
18	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest — PSK31
19-20	Sat 2100-Sun 0100	RSGB 2nd 1.8Mhz Contest
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest — CW/SSB
19-20	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest — CW
26-27	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest — CW
26-27	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW SWL Challenge — CW

VHF

5-6	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB and European 144MHz Marconi Contest — CW
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December

HF

1	Thu 1800 - 2100	SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest — CW/SSB/FM
2- 4	Fri 2200 - Sun 1600	ARRL 160 Meter Contest — CW
3	Sat 0000 - 2400	TARA RTTY M�el�e — RTTY
10-11	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL 10 meter Contest — CW/SSB
17-18	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	MDXA PSK DeathMatch — PSK-31/PSK-63
17	Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest — RTTY
17	Sat 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest — CW/Phone
17-18	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest — CW
17-18	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge — CW
17	Sat 2100 - 2300	Russian 160m Contest — CW/Phone
25	Sun 0200 - 0959	RAEM Contest — CW
26	Mon 0830 - 1059	DARC XMAS-Contest — CW/SSB

VHF

4	Sun 0900-1700	RSGB 144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest
24-1/1	Sat 2000 - Sun 2000	Wythall Christmas Contest — All bands, all modes.
26-29	Mon - Thu 1400 - 1600	RSGB Christmas Cumulatives Contest 50/70/144/432MHz

Contests Entered

April

144MHz CC		G1WAC 61 Q (M0MCX, M0COP, G0MTN)
432 MHz UKAC		G1WAC 9 Q (G0MTN, M0COP)
RSGB 80m CC	CW	G0MTN 114 Q, M0COP 30 Q
	SSB	G0MTN 115 Q, M0COP 120 Q, M0MCX 130 Q,
	QRP	M0AEJ 10 Q
	DATA	G0MTN 62 Q, M0COP 54 Q, M0MCX 11 Q
SP DX		G0MTN 130 Q
RoPoCo1		G0MTN 62 Q
EA RTTY		G0MTN 29 Q
UBA Spring	SSB	G0MTN 13 Q
EU Sprint	SSB	G0MTN 183 Q
YU DX		G0MTN 49 Q
Holyland		G0MTN 7 Q
SP RTTY		G0MTN 324 Q

May

RSGB 80m CC	SSB	G0MTN 132 Q, M0MCX 126 Q, M0COP 84 Q, G0ICJ 51 Q, G6KMQ 49 Q, M0VRR 35 Q, M0KQU 5 Q
	QRP	M3UKX 14 Q, M0AEJ 5 Q
RSGB 80m CC	CW	G0MTN 103 Q
RSGB 80m CC	Data	G0MTN 64 Q
RSGB144MHz CC		G1WAC 35 Q
RSGB 50MHz UKAC		G1WAC 2 Q
RSGB 144MHz		M0COP 25 Q, G0MTN 6 Q
RSGB 144MHz BP#1		M0COK/P 44 Q
ARI Int DX		G0MTN 138 Q
Volta RTTY DX		G0MTN 30 Q
CQM Int DX		G0MTN 51 Q
EU PSK DX		G0MTN 8 Q
Baltic		G0MTN 288 Q
King of Spain	CW	G0MTN 17 Q
CQ WW WPX	CW	G0MTN 1478 Q

June

RSGB 80m CC	DATA	G0MTN 57 Q, M0COP 57 Q,
	QRP	M0AEJ 4 Q
RSGB 80m CC	CW	G0MTN 98 Q, M0COP 28 Q
RSGB 80m CC	SSB	M0MCX 100 Q, G0ICJ 44 Q, MW5HOC 30 Q

RSGB 144MHz CC	G1WAC (M0MCX, M0COP, M3UKX) 56 Q
RSGB 144MHz Backpackers#2	M0COK 47 Q
ANARTS WW RTTY	M0COP 53 Q, G0MTN 481 Q
NFD	G3NKC/P 1387 Q (inc G0MTN)
Practical Wireless 144MHz QRP	G0MTN 14 Q
432MHz UKAC	G1WAC 2 Q (G0MTN)
All Asian CW	G0MTN 12 Q
RSGB 50 MHz Trophy	G1WAC 26 Q (G0MTN, M0COP)
RSGB 50MHz UKAC	G1WAC 14 Q (M3LTH, M3XCR, G0MTN)

July

RSGB VHF National Field Day	144MHz 173 Q, 432MHz 33 Q, 1296MHz 6 Q
50MHz 81Q,	G1WAC (M3LTH, M0COP, G0MTN) 34 Q
144MHz UKAC	G1WAC (M3LTH, M0COP, G0MTN) 8 Q
12/07/05 432 UKAC:	M0COK/P 34 Q
RSGB 144MHz Backpackers #4	GX4WAC/P (G6KMQ, M0VRR) 10 Q
RSGB 50MHz Backpackers #2:	G0MTN 131 Q, M0COP 119 Q, M0MCX 119 Q,
RSGB 80M CC SSB:	G0ICJ 55 Q, G6KMQ 46 Q,
	MW5HOC 43 Q
QRP:	M0AEJ 27 Q, M3UKX 20 Q
CW:	G0MTN 102 Q, M0COP 37 Q
Data:	G0MTN 63 Q,
DL-DX RTTY	G0MTN 105 Q
CQ VHF	G0MTN 13 Q
IOTA	G0MTN 640 Q
IARU HF	G0MTN lots @ GB5HQ

Contest Results

RSGB 144MHz CC	
JAN	G1WAC 3/5
FEB	G1WAC 2/4
MAR	G1WAC 2/5
RSGB 144MHz CC	
Club	Wythall ARC 7/10
RSGB 80m CC	
MAR CW	G0MTN 3/116, M0COP 92,
MAR SSB	M0COP 19/149, M0MCX 24, G0MTN 26,
QRP	M0AEJ 20/22
RSGB 80m CC Club	Wythall ARC 13/66
CQ WPX SSB 2003 DX	All band single el
	M0COP 107, G0EYO 112, G0ICJ 120
CQ WPX RTTY	G0MTN 18 SOABLP

Baltic Contest 04 G0MTN 11/41 Eu sec. A
 ANARTS RTTY 04 G0MTN 252/276
 DL DX RTTY 04 G0MTN/P 4/6 Multi Op, All Bands,
 Ops: G0MTN, M0AEJ.
 Wythall Radio Club 32/62 1st G
 EA RTTY 2004 M0COP 106/206, G0MTN 179/206
 CQ WW RTTY 2004 G0MTN 17/513 (top G) SOABLP
 SARTG New Year G0MTN 26/116 (#2 G)
 SARTG WW RTTY 2004 G0MTN 3/191 SOABLP
 RAC Winter 2004 G0MTN SOABLP 89/152
 SCC RTTY 2004 G0MTN 8/205 (top G) SOABLP
 Ukrainian 2004 G0MTN 53/165 (top G) SOABLP
 YO Int PSK31 M0COP 60/67 (1st and only G!)
 Club Calls G0MTN 27/119, M0COP 62/119
 Worked All Europe 2004
 CW G0MTN 3/6 (G LP), G0MTN SSB 1/2 (G HP)
 RTTY G0MTN 2/7 (G LP)
 RSGB 21/28 MHz
 CW G0MTN 19/22 UK Restricted,
 SSB G0MTN 20/26 UK Restricted
 RSGB 80m CC April
 Club Wythall RC 11/67
 CW G0MTN 7/113, M0COP 97
 SSB M0MCX 18/135, M0COP 28, G0MTN 30,
 QRP M0AEJ 23/25
 DATA G0MTN 3/77, M0COP 14, M0MCX 68
 RSGB 144MHz CC April Wythall RC 6/12,
 G1WAC 2/4
 RSGB 144MHz AFS 2004
 Club Wythall ARC A 2/16, Wythall ARC B 14/16
 Multi-op G1WAC 2/4 (G0MTN, M0COP)
 Single-op G6KMQ 19/56, G0EYO 21, M0COK 26,
 G6ZDQ 38, M0AEJ 49
 RSGB 80M CC May Wythall Radio Club 11/70
 RSGB 80M CC May
 SSB G0MTN 24/146, M0MCX25, M0COP 45,
 G6KMQ 78, G0ICJ 84,
 M0VRR 110, M0KQU 145
 QRP M3UKX 20/24, M0AEJ 24
 RSGB 80M CC May
 Data G0MTN 4/66
 RSGB 80M CC May
 CW G0MTN 19/108

RSGB 144MHz CC May	G1WAC 4/5
RSGB 144MHz Backpackers #1	M0COK/P 8/22
RoPoCo 1 2005	G0MTN 10/28
CQ WW RTTY 2004	M0COP 15m 32/34 1 st G, G0MTN All LP 16/92 1 st UK
SCC RTTY 2004	G0MTN SOAB LP 8/205 1 st UK
RSGB 144MHz Backpackers #2	M0COK/P 15/18
RSGB 144MHz CC	Wythall Radio Club 6/14, G1WAC 2/5
RSGB 80M CC June	Wythall Radio Club 13/70
Data	G0MTN 6/69, M0COP 9.
QRP	M0AEJ 14/16
CW	G0MTN 19/95, M0COP 77
UBA 04 SSB	G0MTN 44/128 SOAB
UBA 04 CW	G0MTN 20/212 SOAB
Worked all Germany	G0MTN 1 st G, M0MCX 3 rd G SOLP Mixed
ARRL 10m SSB	G0MTN 3 rd G mixed HP, G0EYO 3 rd G Phone LP
DARC Xmas CW	G0MTN 7/14 non-DL

One Mile Radius

When one looks at one's past, it is sometimes good to look back and try to recall things that we did that may or maybe not be of interest to others and I thought that as a young fellow with very little knowledge of Radio I would pass on my early attempts at trying to make sense of a new-found hobby. It seems some time since I put pen to paper and to come up with some sort of material that might be of interest to those of us who put pieces of wire together which we hope will make sounds (like this is the BBC's Light Programme or the Home Service days — which have long gone but its good, to remember these things).

My early years were spent looking up at the sky and seeing lots of aeroplanes and seeing things called doodle bugs that Uncle Herman and his best friend Adolf sent over to us which made loud bangs and houses disappear (“Whats down the hole mate?”

I asked — “Buzz off” [or perhaps another word with off in it], “its an unexploded bomb”) so the scene was set. D day and lots of X WD goodies for me to try and make some sense, together with a man called F. J. Camm who edited a magazine called Practical Wireless. Somehow this clever guy managed to design circuits for me to play around with and drive my parents into near bankruptcy due to my thirst for bits of green painted aluminium stacked full of resistors, capacitors and valves! So, armed to the teeth with all these amazing pieces of what can only be described as junk (according to my Father — heaven from my point of view) and with Mr Camm's lines on a piece of paper, called circuits, I managed to construct some form of radio called a T.R.F. set, and very pleased with myself. As you can imagine, that interest was gaining ground and I ended up making quite a few of these “Well kind of radio”s.

Before we go any further I must add that fire fighting equipment was not at hand as all materials had gone to the war effort. These were very exciting times for me — a radio by my bed, “luxury”, but I had a problem, the valve heaters were 6.3 volts and the anode 120 volts DC of course. With this in mind I built a power supply unit! To do the job, testing took place in the storage area under the staircase where I had mains power. The PSU was powered up and a fire broke out necessitating my Father to throw a bucket of sand over the PSU and the radio, the bucket having the letters A.R.P. on the side, which I took to be air raid prevention. (It became obvious that this had been nicked from some disconcerting air raid warden.)

After a period of regrouping and making crystal sets, my wonderful friend at practical wireless included in his deliberations a circuit which would transmit using a frequency changer valve made by Mullard called an ECC33.

This 9 year-old set to and made this piece of equipment, PSU now working all set for firing up. Unfortunately I had used a medium wave wearite coil. So my first efforts in making a transmitter killed the BBC’s Light Programme within a mile radius of my home and because the transmitter was

coupled to my 78 rpm record player a considerable number of folks listened to my selection of music and not the BBC’s.

At this time I was ordered back to the piano and had to continue my studies, However, not to be dismayed, into the final stage! It was decided (well me and a few mates as our houses all backed on to each other) to install our own telephone system. Permission was obtained to run a light 2 core cable under the top rung of our neighbours fences then up the gardens into our respective bedrooms. This worked like a dream until I was given a buzzer (bit like a morse key) so that I could call up anyone of our group and have a chat. However the action of using the buzzer shot a load of RF down the telephone system — you’ve guessed — and killed off everybody’s reception of the BBC for about one mile radius.

So if those amongst you reading this small contribution might well say what in hell’s name was he doing — the answer — putting pieces of wire together. Thanks for your time in reading what amounts to my baptism into the world of radio.

Geoff G6UEU

*(now one of HM government’s pensioners
outside and age 28 inside)*

Club Diary

Lord Pettit Shooting Trophy	Saturday, September 18th, 2005
Leicester Radio Rally	Fri / Sat, Sept 30th / Oct 1st, 2005
Wythall Radio Club AGM	Tuesday, October 4th, 2005 8.30 pm Board Room, Wythall House
10 Pin Bowling	Saturday, October 15th, 2005
Christmas Party	Friday, December 9th, 2005
Wythall Radio Rally	Sunday, March 19th, 2006 To be confirmed.
Tolkien Weekend 2006	Sat / Sun, May 13 / 14, 2006

Chairman's Report

The last three months seems to have passed off somewhat quicker than we all hoped. Whilst the weather has undoubtedly helped to keep all smiling in the face of adversity, the club has been active in a number of events.

The club shack, whilst still not finished, had previously seen the laying of the carpeting and re-installation of radio equipment. This has brought much use back on a Tuesday night, being helped partially by the activity nights on the air (RSGB) and the influx of newer members.

The July VHF field day event was well attended and proved successful in respect of build, barbeque and knock-down, operating being somewhat secondary. The main thing is all seemed to enjoy the two days and no one as far as I know will not be back next year!!

The Wythall carnival was well supported and for a change was held on a rainless day. This year we encountered no problems with undesirables intent on spoiling the day. A few ideas were also tried for the first time with a view to raising interest and hopefully some monies for the club. This proved popular with some visitors and highlighted an area we might well be able to capitalise on in future events.

Following on from what was a pleasant stress-free event we were then asked by Telford to organise and attend to the bring

and buy stand at yet another new venue — Shrewsbury. Whilst we were asked with just two weeks warning, the club again rose to the challenge. This was no mean feat with half the club away on holidays or otherwise engaged. The day went well and resulted in me parting with yet more cash. I might just be able to work out what is being sent via CW at last!

This moves us on to the future. Coming up over the next few months are several exciting events, The Lord Pettit Shooting Trophy, the AGM for the club and a night-out ten pin bowling. Also let's not forget that Christmas is now just three months away and with it the Christmas social, so perhaps it's time to start looking in the cupboard to see if we can find a few raffle prizes for the event.

I cannot finish without expressing my thanks to all involved in the events of the last few months. I could name many, but what has been shining through is the true team effort by all involved, from the initial organisation right through to task completion. Well done all and thank you. It's your efforts that ensure we are a thriving successful club.

Till we meet at the AGM (October 4th) take care and Happy DX'ing

Chris Meadows
g6kmq@g6kmq.me.uk

Wythall Radio Club Christmas Social

Britannia Room

Wythall House

8pm Friday December 9th 2005

Are you coming to the party?

You will remember my CQ World Wide report from 9 months ago or so, detailing the fun and games many of us had last year during the biggest contest of the year — midnight to midnight across 48 hours. I thoroughly recommend it. This is a chance to make contacts with some of the biggest stations in the world. And you only need to do a couple of hours here and there to experience the thrill.

I am already making preparations for the weekend with a new portable, lightweight 12 meter sectional mast on order. I shall mount it on a heavily guyed 3 meter stub mast with guy wires running the length of the mast to keep it stable. I'm planning on either a delta loop, similar to the experimental one I put up on field day — or perhaps a simple wire dipole. I can't wait.

As a tip, just listen out the week before the contest and you'll hear the big guns, testing out linears, antenna systems and software. The night before CQWW started last year, I spoke to a station in Kazakhstan — a very rare treat on 40 meters.

Don't be worried about logging software. The weekend before, we'll all be preparing with you and the email list will no doubt be a busy place. Of course, on the day you will recall that many stations logged into the Chat Room, mostly contesters — but some observers too. You will get help in real-time there. In any case, the chat is great fun, seeing a "flash" popping up as a club member cracked a new multiplier or a "new" country or perhaps a personal "high-score". Of course, the banter was fun, but it also held us all together with an "Esprit-de-corps" rarely found these days at play or in industry.

2005 CQWW Results

G0MTN	1 st	(All bands, high power)
M0MCX	1 st	(40 meters, low power)
GW7HOC	1 st	(40 meters, low power - Wales)
G1VDP	1 st	(10 meters, low power)
G0EYO	4 th	(15 meters, low power)
M0COP	14 th	(All bands, low power)

Isn't that a super result? Well done chaps!

When: Last weekend in October.

See you at the party!

Callum M0MCX

Postage Stamps

If you have any old postage stamps, Reg G7OJO is collecting them for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The money raised is put towards the training needed for these working animals.



VHF National Field Day July 2-3

The weekend started at 0900 when there was a good turn-out of members for the setting-up. The equipment was delivered from the shack in Martin's van and was quickly assembled by two well-drilled teams.

Three masts and the tower were erected and the four stations set up, 2m and 70cm in the Club's caravan, 6m and 23cm in the motor home.

A small village had sprung up by now with Darren and family turning up in their motor home along with friends in theirs, Reg's caravan and tents for Callum and Matt completed the settlement.

There was an enthusiastic start for the beginning of the contest, with the 6m, 2m and 70cm stations all manned, but as the QSO rates started to fall the social aspect of the weekend came to the fore. Callum's



experiments with 40m and 80m loop antenna experiments created a diversion, along with kite flying and even floodlit tower photography in the evening!

The Saturday evening barbecue went down very well as more members turned up with friends and families to join those already on site, making it a very sociable occasion.

The weather was fine and warm for the weekend and Reg's endless supply of cold drinks went down well. The dismantling of the site at 1400 on Sunday was as efficient as the set-up with plenty of willing hands.

The contesting side of the weekend was a little relaxed and having a few more operators would have helped improve the qso totals. The 2m station was manned most of the weekend but on 70cms it was a struggle to get contacts and eventually it was more or less abandoned. The





Saturday when a connector problem was solved. Then a slow 6 contacts were made.

The final qso figures were down on last year with the exception of 6m where sporadic E propagation boosted the score.

	2004	2005
50 MHz	59	81
144 MHz	214	173
432 MHz	57	33
1296 MHz	-	6

6m station which was run on Saturday did a bit better than last year, helped by bursts of sporadic E propagation, whilst the 23cm station failed to get started until late on

Thanks to all who helped make it a great weekend.

Pete M0COP

Thanks to all for another successful VHF NFD. There was a conscious decision this year to simplify the setup where possible. One way this was done was to run 144 MHz in the Restricted section, leaving the big amplifier at home in the shack. Those that have manhandled the amplifier to the field in previous years were very glad. Even with 100 watts the 144 MHz station was certainly potent enough — the increasingly common problem we have is getting people to man the radio. From looking at the logs from other stations I think we missed a few good openings into



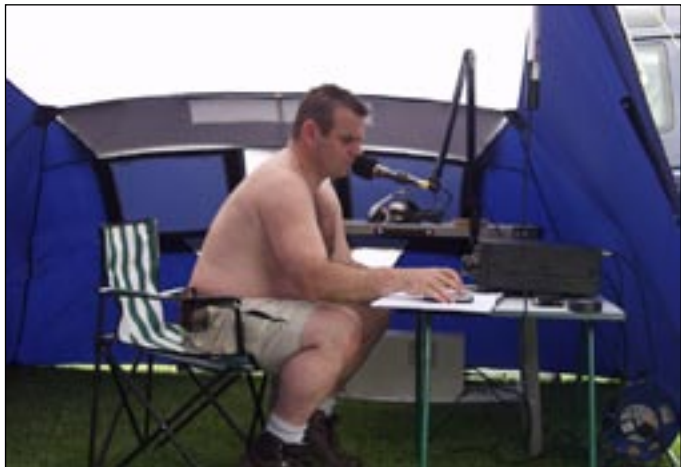
Europe!

50 MHz was in operation on Saturday afternoon, and we enjoyed some good Sp-E conditions that swept across southern Europe. 432 MHz was not quite so lively. A change this year was to try 1296 MHz instead of 70 MHz, as we'd never really tested the 1296 MHz module in our IC910 in anger before. We knew this was going to be a struggle, but every QSO on 23cms is worth so much more of course!



More Morse keys will be required next year — I remember running from 432 MHz to 1296 MHz with the key in order to make a contact. More inter-station running was useful for some QSO passes between 432 and 1296. With very narrow beamwidths sometimes this is the only way to be heard and make some QSOs — especially with only 10 watts.

I'm working on the results with the VHF Contest Committee right now. I don't expect our results will win us any certificates this year, but having fun and taking part seems to be more of our niche than death-or-glory contesting operating, at least for this event.



It was good to see our new M3 operators Matt and Craig visit and get stuck in. Matt especially learnt a lot over the weekend and was notably more confident in calling and running stations by the Sunday — well done! As well as the VHF contest, Matt also joined me in the DL-DX RTTY contest using the Writelog software on HF.

Speaking of HF, Callum constructed a variety of HF antennas over the weekend which he operated from his luxury tent with his FT1000 and monster Heil microphone. Not to be outdone, Darren and Carol brought along an inflatable castle, and also some new friends from Wales. I don't really know what might appear for next year!

Thanks to everyone who attended the weekend — especially those who helped with catering, transport, logistics, lending equipment, or simply keeping everyone in good spirits. The setup and clearaway went smoothly, no-one overworked themselves, and even the weather was kind! Suggestions for activities for next July's event will be gratefully received...

Lee GOMTN

Orkney Wireless Museum

June's Radcom featured some of our Wireless Museums and one that caught my eye was the Orkney Wireless Museum in Kirkwall, because this was a stop on a holiday cruise that we were taking in June. In fact the Radcom feature was about International Museums Weekend which was to take place on 18/19th June at the very time our ship stopped in the Orkney's for a day. Such a combination of circumstances

could only result in one thing, a visit to the museum in question. Harry Bloomfield's (M1BYT) RadCom article gives a good description of the museum and its history but I thought readers might be interested in my own experiences.

The Orkney Wireless Museum was founded in April 1983 by the late Jim MacDonald (GM8BFG) after a lifetime passion working with and collecting all things electric. Unfortunately, Jim died in 1988 before he could enjoy the fruits of his work in retirement.

The museum is in one large room of



what I think was formerly a double-fronted shop on the harbour front. It is jammed packed with items both broadcasting and communications, all of which have a link with the island. I didn't notice any Eddystones on display and the chap on the door was vague as to whether they actually had any. However I can't imagine any museum of wireless that did not have one or two so lets assume that they were in store somewhere.

Orkney's wartime history is strongly represented because unbeknown to the public it formed part of an intense communications network involving radio and telephone communications which was operating to protect the Home fleet at Scapa Flow, which is in the southern part of the islands. A radar station was set up at Netherbutton in Orkney and equipped with top secret equipment. There is also an amateur radio station which is used for special events and GB2OWM was being



worked by Steven (call sign unknown) when Wendy and I visited the museum. Some of the displays have to be moved out to make

room for the special event station. Being right on the harbour front, the sloping wire antenna, which was centre fed using slotted

twin feeder into a Z match ATU, did a very good job. The museum attracts a regular flow of visitors and is promoted by the local tourist board. It is open daily from April to September and is entirely staffed by volunteers. If you ever get the chance, pop in!

Chris Pettitt GOEYO



Wythall Carnival August 2005

In remarkable contrast to last year's difficult conditions, the Club's annual act of community responsibility of providing car parking marshals for the Wythall Community Association Annual Carnival turned out to be a very enjoyable day for all concerned. Although showers threatened, they never materialised and a nice sunny day was the result. Following our comments of last year, the rally organisers did really well to satisfy our concerns. This year there was no classic car event so we had the whole of the rugby and archery field to park the cars in and this turned out to be just sufficient for the several thousand visitors that turned out. We also only had the one car park to marshal, although we did man the second gate which was for

access by stall holders and helpers.

The car parking turned out to peak around 3.30pm and so we all had a chance to look around the stalls and pick up the odd bargain and have a go at the several tombola's being offered by various local organisations. I particularly liked the birds of prey that were being shown. Eagle owls, barn owls and buzzards to name but a few.



The club set up its caravan and the new telescopic mast, upon which we had M0COP's 5 element 2m yago. Conditions were poor with only a couple of contacts worked. A display of G6ZDQ's morse key again attracted some interest, particularly amongst the youngsters. I was the face that met the public, Chris KMQ manned the radio (and got a crafty kip in!) and Reg and Pauline provided the refreshments and offered a

couple of games that the public could have a go at doing. A case of three fat blokes and an XYL!

One elderly couple that stopped by turned out to be a husband and wife who met during the war when he was a radio operator on bombers and she was a radio operator on the ground. Her morse was still a respectable 15wpm and she claimed to be much better than him. I also met a chap who had been in the Royal Signals, stationed at Garrets Hey, Leicestershire, which was next to the GCHQ station at Beaumanor Park, to which I was attached as a green 18 year old. There was also a couple of other radio hams, one of whom had just moved into the area and was from Sandwell club.



Helpers in the car parking included Colin, Vic, Lee, Peter COP, Pete and Anita, Graham, Mike, Helen and Martin.

Everyone seemed to think that the day had been a good one with no real problems or difficulties. There were a few highlights such as Pete having to deal with Mr Lightfoot from the corner house and Colin having to drag a Discovery off the car park where it had been left the night before. A big thanks to Reg and Pauline for providing the food and drink during the day. Bob Green, the Chairman of the Carnival committee thanks the club for its help and support and hoped we would turn out again next year.

Chris G0EYO



Standards

In the May of 1990 I sat my RAE
I sat it after spending 10 years on CB
It appears I need not bothered
As all I hear today
Are scores of brain dead morons
And their lazy CB ways.

There's "Mootchy are you on yer"
and I'm called breaker not old man
I fear this easy licence
Will send our hobby down the pan.

Now I'm not against the newbies
In fact I'll help or lend a hand
But I really do feel saddened
When I hear CB talk on the band.

Now, some say that it's snobbery.
Some say sour grapes.
That I took months to pass my RAE
Not minutes like these apes.

But surely that's the problem?
They've had no real time
To adjust to what our hobby is
A hobby broad and fine.

For our hobby is a wide one
It's too broad for them to see
That an FT-847
Is not a glorified CB.

We have our ways and sayings
They've passed down throughout the years
But losing our traditions
Is my fastest growing fear.

Not everyone's a problem
Just the brain dead few
But these can be quite dangerous
They spread their ways like flu.

So it's down to us to stop it
When we hear it on the band
We must try to correct them
And lend a guiding hand.

So come and put your helmets on
And don your Kevlar fleece
Wear the badge that tells the world
You are the Band Police.

Ok you might get shouted at
And some might even swear
But you know the job's worth doing
Let's get standards back "On Air".

Darren GW7HOC



*No M3s were harmed during the production
of this item - Ed*

WWYC Meeting — Poland 2005

After last year's meeting in Croatia, the World Wide Young Contesters regrouped in Darlowko, on the north Polish coast, for their 2nd International meeting this August. I flew to Warsaw with Simon M0CLW, met up with Dom M0BLF and then caught a train for the coast. There were visitors from OH, 9A, YU, OE, DL, I, and of course SP, and the total party was around 40 people. The meeting was organised by Donata SP5HMK who visited our club during May.



The programme saw DXpedition and contest presentations, exploring the local towns and national parks, and of course a lot of parties, campfires, and trips to the beach. The event coincided with the Lighthouse on the Air weekend, and I operated the 3Z1LH station from Darlowko lighthouse. During an extremely long walk through a forest, some sand dunes, and the beach, we found another lighthouse special event station. The station organiser did not know we were coming — imagine his surprise operating in the middle of nowhere and almost 40 hams from all over Europe suddenly appear!

The meeting 'base' itself was the Laguna hotel, which is also the home of the SN1D contest station. So every morning when you woke up and looked out of your



balcony you saw a 6 element monobander for 15m. This station was activated using the SP0WWYC callsign.

After the meeting was over, I returned to Warsaw and then did some sightseeing, meeting up with Sylwia who most of you know works at the Wythall club bar. We visited Krakow for a couple of days, and on our final return to Warsaw visited the famous SP5ZCC radio club, where I was introduced to vodka drinking. It was a short introduction — I have the honour of being one of the very few international visitors to be sick at SP5ZCC.

Next year the meeting moves on to Serbia, but in the meanwhile, I'd recommend Poland to anyone who's thinking of a "different" holiday location in Europe.

73, Lee G0MTN

