Wythall Radio Club Newsletter Autumn 2003

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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

Contents

Editorial	1	**Wythall Comunity Club Quiz**	11
Contest News	2	**Telford Radio Rally**	12
Contest Diary	2	**RSGB Club Calls**	14
Contests Entered	5	**Wythall Carnival**	15
Contest Results	6	**VHF National Field Day**	17
Chairman's Report	7	**Club Diary**	18
Big Yellow Morse Key	9	**News**	19

Editorial

Despite my best intentions this issue is a little late again. As the summer is our busiest time of the year it is always hard to try and fit everything we have done in the newsletter.

Thanks go to all who have contributed to this issue, but more articles and photographs are needed. If you come across something radio related on your holidays why not write a few words to go with a couple of snaps.

I will need all material for the Winter Edition by November 4th in order to get it ready for issue on December 2nd.

Finally as a result of the announcement by the RA and the RSGB regarding the end of morse as a requirement for access to the HF bands (see News) I have decided to drop my M5UGC callsign and will now be using G7UGC.

Alban G7UGC

Editor: Alban Fellows, G7UGC

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or committee.

Contest News

Welcome to the Autumn Contest News. With the temperatures falling there will probably be more incentive to stay indoors and turn on the rig so why not have a look at the calendar below and pick out some of the contests to try, there's a good selection.

September has the RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives for those that want to try out their CW, on SSB there's the RSGB Field Day and the Worked all Europe contests. RTTY fans are catered for with the CQWW contest. On VHF the RSGB 144MHz trophy takes place.

In October the big contest is the CQWW DX SSB; the EU Sprints and RSGB 21/28 MHz are also very popular. November sees the CQWW DX CW and SWL contests and the Worked all Europe RTTY and in December we have the RSGB 144MHz AFS. We put in a good entry for this contest last year and got a good result, so let's see if we can better it this year. To finish off the year in style we mustn't forget our own Christmas Contest, so start planning the excuses for your absence from the family gatherings. January 2004 has a good mix of contests, long, short and all modes.

There were several members operating during VHF Field Day, and thanks to them all, but in the rest of the contests entered this quarter only three callsigns appeared and Lee, G0MTN, did the majority; perhaps the new Full licensees would like to try contesting and swell the numbers.

A good turn out in the RSGB 144 MHz and 80 MHz AFS contests produced some good team and individual results and again Lee earned some good finishes in a number of contests to reward his efforts.

Pete M0COP

Contest Calendar

September
HF

1	Mon 1900 - 2030	RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives 3540-3580kHz CW
6-7	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	RSGB Field day - SSB
6-7	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest - SSB
7	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Cont. "Corona" - DIGI
9	Tue 1900 - 2030	RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives 3540-3580kHz CW
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest - SSB
13	Sat 1300 - 1900	Swiss HTC QRP Sprint - CW
17	Wed 1900 - 2030	RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives 3540-3580kHz CW
19	Fri 2100 - 2400	AGB NEMIGA Contest - CW/SSB/DIGI
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest - CW

25	Thur 1900-2030	RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives 3540-3580kHz CW
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ/RJ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest - RTTY
27-28	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest - SSB

VHF

6-7	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	RSGB 144 MHz Trophy
7	Sun 1100 - 1500	RSGB 144 MHz Backpackers #5
21	Sun 0900 - 1300	RSGB 70 MHz #2
6	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	144 MHz IARU Region 1 VHF
6	Sat 1200 - 1400	144 MHz W/X District, DL
14	Sun 0800 - 1100	144 MHz DAVUS, OZ
14	Sun 0900 - 1700	WAB 144 MHz Phone

October

HF

3	Fri 0700 - 1000	German Telegraphy Contest - CW
3	Fri 1900 - 2030	RSGB Slow Speed Cumulatives 3540-3580kHz CW
4	Sat 0000 - 2400	The PSK31 Rumble - PSK
4-5	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest - Phone
4-5	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	F9AA Cup Contest - CW/SSB
4	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn - SSB
5	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest - SSB
5	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - SSB
5	Sun 0900 - 1500	WAB 432 MHz Phone
11-12	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	OCEANIA DX Contest - CW
11	Sat 1500 - 1859	EU Sprint Autumn - CW
11	Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Fall Sprint - CW
11-12	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	WAB HF Phone
12	Sun 0600 - 1000	ON Contest - CW
18-19	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	JARTS WW RTTY Contest - RTTY
18-19	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest - CW/SSB
19	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest - CW
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest - SSB
26-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW SWL Challenge - SSB

VHF

4	Sat 1400 - 2200	RSGB 1.3/2.3 GHz Trophies
19	Sun 0900 - 1300	RSGB 50MHz
5	Sun 1000 - 1600	144 MHz & up VERON PA

November

HF

1-2	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY
2	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest “Corona” - DIGI
8-9	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest - RTTY
8-9	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest - Phone
8	Sat 1100 - 1200	SL Contest - CW
8- 9	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest - CW
8	Sat 1230 - 1330	SL Contest - SSB
9	Sun 0900 - 1500	Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest - PSK31
6-17	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW
21	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest - PSK31
22-23	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest - CW
23-24	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest - CW
23-24	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW SWL Challenge - CW

VHF

1-2	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	144 MHz RSGB/IARU Memorial Marconi Region 1 CW
2	Sun 0800 -1400	RSGB 6 hour 144 MHz

December

24 Dec 2003 - 1 Jan 2004 Wed 2000 - Thurs 2000
Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest. All modes, all bands

HF

6	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	MDXA PSK-31 DeathMatch - PSK-31
6-7	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	TARA RTTY MÍIÈe - DIGI
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	28 MHz SWL-Contest - CW/SSB
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL 10 meter Contest - CW/SSB
19	Fri 2100 - 2300	Russian 160 Meter Contest - CW/SSB
20	Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest - RTTY
20-21	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest - CW
20-21	Sat 1600 - Sun 1600	International Naval Activity - CW/SSB
26	Fri 0830 - 1059	DARC XMAS-Contest - CW/SSB
27	Sat 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest - CW/SSB
27-28	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge - CW
26 Dec 0001 - 6 Jan 2359		WAB Christmas Party, 12 Days

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

1	Thu 0800 - 1100	SARTG New Year Contest - RTTY
1	Thu 0900 - 1200	AGCW Happy New Year Contest - CW
1-2	Thu 1200 - Fri 1200	*?* CCCC Millenium Contest - Digital
3-4	Sat 1800 - Sun 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup - Digital
10-11	Sat 1600 - Sun 1100	Cray Valley SWL Contest - CW/SSB
11	Sun 0800 - 1000	NRAU-Baltic Contest - SSB
11	Sun 0900 - 1059	DARC 10m-Contest - CW/SSB
17-18	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Hungarian DX Contest - CW/SSB
17	Sat 1200 - 2000	LZ Open Contest - CW
24-25	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ 160-Meter Contest - CW
24-25	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest - CW
24-25	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest - RTTY
31-1	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest - SSB

Activity nights each month:

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

Contests Entered

June

UKSMG 50 MHz			M0COP 39 QSOs	
RSGB 144 MHZ Backpackers#2			G1WAC 65 QSOs	
RSGB 50 MHz Backpackers#1			G1WAC 12 QSOs	
IARU Field Day CW			G0MTN (at Lichfield)	
ANARTS Rtty			G0MTN 15 QSOs	

July

VHF National Field Day				
2m	362 QSOs	96056 pts	ODX YO3JW @ 2236 km	
70cm	95 QSOs	18903 pts	ODX DF2VJ @ 705 km	
4m	24 QSOs	5408 pts	ODX S51DI @ 1432 km	
6m	126 QSOs	58323 pts	ODX 5B/G1JJE @ 3342 km	
RSGB IOTA		G0MTN 667 QSOs (1,000,000 pts!)		
		M0COP 16 QSOs		
RSGB 144MHz Low Power		M0COP 25 QSOs		
IARU HF Championship		G0MTN at GB5HQ 80m SSB - 992 QSOs		

August

EUHFC	G0MTN 665 QSOs
RoPoCo	G0MTN 66 QSOs
SARTG	G0MTN 261 QSOs

Results

RSGB 432MHz AFS Feb 2003
G4VPD 18/25 SF
G1WAC 4/4 Multi-op (M0COP, G0MTN, M0AEJ)
Wythall Contest Group 8/12 overall

ARRL 10m 2002
G0MTN 2/5 G HP Mixed Mode
M0COP 4/8 G LP Phone
M5UGC 7/8 G LP Phone
G0EYO 8/8 G LP Phone
MW5W 1/1 GW QRP Phone (MW5HOC), also 1/2 UK

EU Sprint CW
G0MTN 26/85

RSGB 80m AFS SSB

G0MTN	24 (out of 208),	M0COP	62
M5UGC	121,	M0AEJ	146
G0EYO	154,	G0ICJ	161
Wythall A	20 (out of 90),	Wythall B	52

RSGB 80m AFS CW
G0MTN 18/265

RSGB 21/28 SSB
G0MTN 17/20 open section
M5UGC 18/20 open section

144MHz AFS 1/12/02

G1WAC	26/65,	M0COP	28	
G6ZDQ	32,	G0EYO	43	
G4VPD	48,	M5UGC	50	
M0AEJ	59,	M5DUO	65	
Wythall RC (A)	G1WAC, M0COP, G6ZDQ, G0EYO, G4VPD			7/21
Wythall RC (B)	M5UGC, M0AEJ, M5DUO			18/21

50MHz Backpackers #1 22/6/03 G1WAC/P 7/7

EA RTTY 5/4/03 M0COP 192/224

2nd 144MHz Backpackers Contest 2003
G1WAC/P 7/17 3W Single Op

EU Spring Sprint SSB G0MTN 11/82 1st G

ARRL International DX CW 2003
G0MTN 3rd G HP

ARRL RTTY Round Up 2003
G0MTN 2nd G

Jubilee Contest 2002 G0MTN 7/8
Commonwealth Single-Operator Unassisted Mixed

PACC 2003 G0MTN 12/16 G

CQ WPX RTTY G0MTN 1st G all band low power

Chairman's Report

I wrote the last report in June which is not so long ago but still a great deal has been happening at the club since then. The big event was the VHF NFD in July which saw us enjoy fine weather and better propagation conditions and consequently a better score than last year. Like last year we ran G3XBY's "big bertha" on 2m and made 362 QSOs. On 70cms, using a 400W linear borrowed from the BBC club, we made 95 QSOs, on 4m we were again troubled by antenna problems and only made 24 QSOs. 6m held up well with 126 QSOs. The club held its usual barbecue but numbers were well down on last year so it wasn't quite the social occasion that it has been. The 'usual suspects' put in a lot of hard work over that weekend and to all who came and helped a big thankyou. We have decided to buy a new 4m Yagi to replace the home made one that has let us down so many times. We will also purchase a second 21 element 70cms Tonna to enable us to run stacked antennas in the big contests like we do on 2m.

The club held a social event at the end of July, going to Hall Green Greyhound race track for a night at the dogs. Some 20 club members and partners enjoyed a nice meal, a few drinks and the loss of a few quid in the pursuit of the gambling bug. One or two canny members managed to come out ahead and a few more managed to break even. Those that lost could be generally identified by the stream of tears that led from their table to the exit. One incident which gave us all a good laugh was the late arrival of Simon and Debbie who had gone to Perry Barr racetrack instead. "Doh!".

We have made no further progress with the shack refurbishment due to the other activities — have no fear this will come back on the agenda for the autumn and winter months. We have been troubled by mindless vandalism on our trailer in recent months. The local "scrotes" have smashed the running gear lights and cables, let the tyres down and generally tried to destroy it. Temporarily and with the clubs assistance we put some fencing around it and since then we have put it back where we used to store it. We still have some work to do on the trailer and also to replace the jockey wheel that got bent on the Tolkien weekend.

The other major event was the Wythall Carnival where we again provided the parking duties as well as setting up a radio station on the site. This year the event was free and was meant to be a showcase for all the constituent bodies of the Association. Because the event was bigger we had more parking duties to perform. We just about had enough bodies to do it but no-one got a break from 8am til 4pm. A long day and again the usual helpers.

We are also planning to run a JOTA station in October and we are discussing this with the local Scout commissioner. We will also be doing the Telford Rally B&B at RAF Cosford again this weekend. The Contest Group as been as active as ever with contests being entered most weekends — or

so it seems (mostly by Lee G0MTN) and this will have been reported on separately.

The Web site has continued to grow, with photos of many of the club's events and outings being regularly posted to it. Vaughan is always looking for captions and articles to go with the photos so if you can help on this contact him.

There has been a major change in the licensing rules since the last newsletter. B licensees can now operate with the same privileges as A licensees so it has been good to hear a few of our G6s on HF.

We have not made any progress in our own development of a Foundation course to be run at Wythall as we all seem to be too busy so this has been put on the back boiler.

We have made very few purchases of equipment in recent months. The loan of the 70cms linear required me to make up an external relay switching box and this cost around £40 for the coaxial relays, the rest coming out of my scrap box (otherwise known as my garage!).

Last year Lee gave us a very interesting talk on the World Radio Sport Contest held in Finland. This year he ran the video of the event one club night and this proved to be very interesting.

Alban, Chris KMQ and Vaughan are continuing to work on setting up the packet node at the club and we have plans to refurbish the caravan some time this year.

There has been no further news of the impending TV to be installed in Wythall House so perhaps they have had second thoughts.

The AGM has been booked for 21st October and we plan to have our Christmas Social on 12th December in the Britannia room where again the main entertainment will be "Horse Racing".

It has been a busy 2003 so far. I thank those who give their continued support in our activities. It troubles me that out of membership of some 44 less than half ever turn out for any activity and of those that do it seems to be the same 6-10 or so people who support most things. None of us are getting any younger and I for one find it harder each year to summon up enough energy and sometimes enthusiasm to keep turning out and working hard at every event when others seem to be not bothered. The club has certain major functions each year which are advertised well in advance. Is it too much to ask for members to keep those days (or whatever) free to turn out for the club. The fewer that participate then the more is expected of those that do turn out. I feel we are beginning to creak a bit at the seams.

Chris G0EYO



The theme for next years Tolkien weekend is the return of the King. This is the QSL card suggested by Lee.

Big Yellow Morse Key

They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot
With full HF access and full power That's what they got

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til its gone
They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot
(Ooh wop bop bop bop)

They took all the keys, and put them in a key museum
And they charged all the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til its gone
They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot
(Ooh wop bop bop bop)

Hey Mr RA man, give me my key back now
Give me my dots and my dashes and leave me with my keys (please)

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til its gone
They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot
(Ooh wop bop bop bop)

Late last night I heard a faint CQ
A class B and a key, he was learning what to do (yipee)

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til its gone
They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot
(Ooh wop bop bop bop)

Now most class Bs they deserve to be on HF
But only long timers, keep the morse test for the rest.

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til its gone
They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot

They took away morse and gave the class Bs the lot.

Darren GW7HOC

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Wythall Radio Club and Wythall Contest Group

21st October 2003 at Board Room, Wythall House, Silver Street, Wythall commencing at 8.30pm

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Acceptance of minutes of 2002 meeting
3. Matters arising from 2002 minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Matters arising and acceptance
8. Constitutional issues proposed
9. Election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary
10. Election of Committee
11. Appointment of Auditors
12. AGM of Wythall Contest Group
13. General Discussion and AOB

Members who are unable to attend can request a proxy voting form from the Chairman



Wythall Radio Club Xmas Social
Friday 12th December — 8pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
IT'S RACE NIGHT IN THE BRITANNIA ROOM

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN HAVE A FLUTTER
AND SEE IF YOU CAN WIN A FEW BOB
£1 ENTRY PROGRAMME
WHICH INCLUDES TICKET TO RAFFLE
YOUR CHANCE TO BE A WINNING OWNER
OR JOCKEY OR JUST A LUCKY PUNTER

*

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

*

BAR TIL 11PM

*

RAFFLE

FIRST RACE 8.15pm

*

8 RACES THIS YEAR

*

Bring plenty of money and HAVE A GREAT TIME!!

Why not bring your friends and family for a great WRC Xmas Social

*

ALL RACES SHOWN ON TV

RACE Sponsors £5 – OWNERS £2 – Jockeys £1
PRIZES FOR WINNING OWNERS AND JOCKEYS
Contact Chris G0EYO 0121 246 7267 for details

Wythall Community Club Quiz

On Friday 15 August, two Radio Club teams entered the Wythall Community Club Quiz. Leading "The Alan Griffin Appreciation Society" was Lord Pettitt, ably assisted by Peter, Mike, Colin and Simon. The other team originally comprised Anita, Wendy, Janet and myself — so we called ourselves "Lee's Ladies", which was fine until Lawson made a late arrival, hi.

Overall there were ten teams filling the Britannia Room, with Alan Griffin presiding as question master. As well as the main quiz, there was another competition to do with Birmingham districts which kept us thinking. This had cryptic clues such as "now it's charcoal" (Burntwood) or "religious pavement" (Monkspath), and T.A.G.A.S. pipped L.L. by a single point when the results were read out.

Also there were spot questions, with our own Colin being successful at one and winning a multitude of unusual prizes. Whilst it soon became clear that neither of our two teams were likely to win, it came down to a matter of pride with a personal battle between us. As the scores were read out after each round, there was only a very narrow margin between us.

After a lot of questions, much fun and a little nail biting, the final result was that "Lee's Ladies + 1" scored 51 points, to "The Alan Griffin Appreciation Society's" 46 points. We came 4th and 5th out of the 10 teams, which was quite respectable. My team was also just 2 and a half points away from winning a prize for third place — maybe next time…

Another quiz will be hopefully held later in the year. And I hope everyone still remembers that the capital of Mali is Bamako!

Lee G0MTN

Has anyone any suggestions for another club social evening. We have had greyhound racing which proved very popular but feel that another event ought to be different. So far we have had:

Clay pigeon shooting,
Medieval Banquet,
Black Country Night,
Riverboat Shuffle,
Bavarian Evening,
Ten pin bowling

Any ideas and particularly any information on how we can organise such an evening please pass on to Anita or Chris EYO

Telford Radio Rally — RAF Cosford



The 2003 Telford Radio Rally was again held at RAF Cosford. Several hangars were filled with trade stands, complimented by a large open air market which provided a wide range of amateur radio, computer and electronics equipment.

At Wythall the previous week we were a little concerned that we wouldn't have enough people to help man the Bring and Buy, but after a little coercing on club night most of the regulars had been signed up. It was a shock to hear on the Saturday before the rally that Anita had suddenly been taken ill and was in hospital. Whilst our thoughts were with Anita and Peter, we still had the job of running the Bring and Buy.

So it was a pleasant surprise to see Peter M5DUO on the Sunday morning in between visiting sessions, although suddenly getting my nipples tweaked by him was a different sort of surprise altogether. (Mental note: Don't let Peter go to a rally without Anita in future.) Darren and Carol had also come up from Cardiff to see us, and little Phillip found a new fascination for the coloured dots we put on the equipment to designate "sold as seen" or "working" etc.



The rally started officially at 10am, but there were already hundreds of people on site at 9.30, and very soon the Bring and Buy was busy. It was certainly the busiest I can ever remember it, and there was a non-stop rush of booking people in. Items also seemed to sell well too — when the dust settled we would realise we had taken over £3,000, resulting in a healthy commission for both our club and Telford. This makes a pleasant change from some of the quieter rallies where it seems one could stand around all day with hardly anything being booked in or sold.

One of the organisers told us that last year's attendance



was a little over 3,000 and for this year it was looking like at least 3,500 people would have visited. No doubt some of this growth was due to the recent withdrawal of the morse test requirement for access on to the HF bands. Certainly it seemed on the Bring and Buy that most of the HF radios, antennas, ATUs and the like were very quickly snapped up. The only downside was that there would be no morse tests taking place inside the vintage aircraft this year. The weather was kind — it was certainly pleasantly warm inside the hangars.

I seemed to bump into a lot of old friends and some work colleagues, although often there wasn't enough time to say more than 'hi' before something else needed to be booked in or sold. Another visitor to the Bring and Buy was RSGB President Bob Whelan G3PJT, of whom Darren was quite in awe when I introduced him. (Me?, misquote?, never!)

Other highlights were being able to speak to Anita by phone — she was making sure we were making a proper job of it without her — and Darren trying very hard to locate pretty YLs for me (a very hard job at a radio rally). The only disappointment was the lack of interest in the world famous award nominated XT2DX expedition videos. I guess compared to Darren's Tony Hancock collection, or Reg's set of DVDs, I would have needed a better marketing campaign.

This year at 4pm there was only a small amount of unclaimed goods, most of which belonged to club members, or Telford organisers, and so we didn't have to wait around too long to find their rightful owners. After a long and tiring day, we were all off site by about 4.30 pm, and we joined the traditional Sunday evening traffic jam on the M6 trying to get back home, before being able to play with whatever new "toys" we'd treated ourselves to earlier on.

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped out on the day, and especially to Colin and Carol for stepping in and making sure things ran smoothly at the 'sharp end' without Anita. As a postscript we were all relieved to see Anita back at the club, and hope she's fully recovered before our next Bring and Buy adventure !

Lee G0MTN



RSGB Club Calls — Top Band

Saturday 8th November is the RSGB Club Calls Contest on Top Band. This is an interesting club participation event, and in previous years we've managed 4 or 5 Wythall stations on air. With the removal of the morse requirement, perhaps we can swell those numbers this year.

Most people I guess haven't even operated on 1.8 MHz because they think you need 250 feet of garden to put up any usable antennas. But, it's possible to make a resonant antenna very easily that doesn't take up too much room. Why not try a little antenna project over the autumn and get ready to try it out in the contest. The middle of the contest band is 1.930 MHz — and so if you make a 1/4 wave inverted L antenna, your antenna wire is only 121 feet long.

The idea of the inverted L is that there is a vertical section, and a horizontal section, which form the 'L' shape. If you have a mast on the side of the house, fit a pulley or a halyard to it. Then you could take the wire antenna 20 feet up in the air, and then take the remaining 100 feet along into your garden. It doesn't matter too much if it snakes around, or goes around both sides of the garden fence.

Attach the bottom of the vertical section of your new inv-L to the inner of some coax, and a "choc block" connector or similar to the outer. Then attach more wires to the "choc bloc" as radials, and lay these out on the garden — the more the better. As this is only a temporary antenna, don't worry, you can always quickly collect up all of the wires and put them away before drawing complaints from your other half.

Having a resonant antenna will be much better than trying to achieve success with a G5RV or similar which is not designed to work on 160m.

The contest itself is from 8pm to 11pm on the Saturday evening. The exchange is RS + serial number + name of Club + "Club Station" / "Club Member".

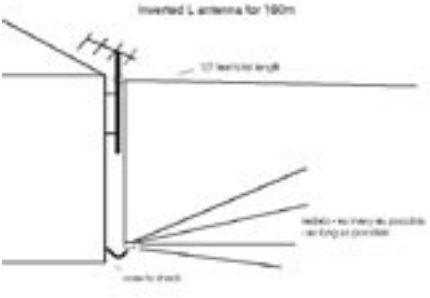
e.g. Hi, you're 59 005, I'm a member of Wythall Radio Club. (It probably helps to spell Wythall.)

Full rules are on the RSGB HFCC website at http://www.rsgbhfcc.org

Pete M0COP or myself will be able to give you any help you need.

For anyone who'd still like to take part, but doesn't feel like they could put up an antenna, the club station G4WAC is always available. The club long wire isn't the best, but a reasonable number of QSOs have been made in previous years, with the added attraction that being the "Wythall Club Station" is worth a lot more points than being a plain old "Club Member".

Lee G0MTN



Wythall Carnival — August 10th

Once again Wythall Radio Club was asked to provide people to look after the car parking arrangements for the Wythall Carnival and Classic Car Show. This the Radio Club did, as well as setting up a station on the park.

The layout was a little different from previous years with the main arena on the football pitch and the classic cars and parking on the area behind the tennis courts. Thanks to a subsidy from Wythall Parish Council there was also no admission charge.

Pete M0COP and myself arrived reasonably early, and proceeded to fill Pete's car with cables, radios and antennas. When we reached the field the tower had already been positioned in the corner of the football pitch nearest the cricket pavillion. Assembly of the antennas and cables was repeatedly delayed by sudden downpours — a bit of a change from the previous week's sweltering weather — which had club members diving for the shelter of their cars.

Reg arrived with his caravan, and we were soon able to winch up the tower with the 2m beam and the trap dipole attached. The sunny spells were punctuated during the day by heavy thunderstorms, and I am sure some club members were glad they were as far away from the tower as possible.



Once the station was operational, most of the members dispersed to handle their car parking duties, leaving a few to man the station.

One of the main changes this year was the car parking. In previous years the traders and classic cars entered one entrance and the general public entered another. It was always a problem making sure they each used the right entrance. This year the fair on the main car park put that entrance out of action leaving just the one on Silver Street for both classic cars and the general public. The parking was then on opposite sides of field behind the tennis courts. The traders used the entrance in Bateman's Lane and once set up parked on that side of the field.



I believe the arrangement of the car parking made the job easier, however the sheer number of vehicles at some times was more



than we could cope with. A better turn-out of Radio Club members would have helped. It also proved necessary to man the car parks until much later than in previous years which may in part have been due to the unsettled weather.

The number of people attending the Carnival was quite high despite the rain, and as the afternoon brightened up the numbers swelled. This may have contributed to the extended car parking necessary.

The carnival itself was bigger than in previous years, with the fairground taking up the whole of the main car park. There were arena events from both professional groups and local Wythall groups including The Battling Cumberland Giants, The Shakespeare Morrismen and The Wythall and District German Shepherd Dog Display Team. Other attractions included a climbing wall, narrow gauge steam railway, fairground organ, archery and numerous small stalls.

Alban G7UGC

Advance Notice

19th Annual Wythall Radio Club Rally
Sunday 14th March 2004

Woodrush Sports Centre
Shawhurst Lane
Wythall.

Please Note Change of Venue this year

On site parking, 2 Large Halls

VHF NFD — July 2003

In the absence of a full write up here are a couple of short snippets for VHF NFD:



Field Day for me was:

- Trying to track down a suitable 70cms linear after deciding to go QRO on all bands
- Having found the linear, finding some coaxial relays to make up a switching box. Thank goodness for Drayton Rally
- Having set it up on field day finding that the EHT relay would not drop in after the prescribed time.
- Relief at establishing that the generator was not delivering enough volts for the relay and that switching over to the caravan generator gave us 400-500 watts output at the linear.
- Blessed relief that the linear and switching box and preamp operated without any problems for the full 24 hours



M1EOQ's NFD Bedroom

- Having got some power sorted for 70cms I now needed to solve the problem of antenna height. With the trailer carrying the pair of 2m antennas we only had lightweight 30ft masts for the other bands. Dale G3XBY came to the rescue with a 50ft steel mast and 7/8" coaxial cable. Luckily he also came along and took responsibility for building the mast with help from others. They pulled it up safely using a car!!
- Wishing that more people had turned up for the BBQ. However, those that were there managed to eat all the food over the weekend.

Chris G0EYO



There is a weekend in July
When our antennas are put in the sky.
We shout out on 4 bands
To get the cup in our hands,
But when we don't win we all cry.

Darren GW7HOC

October 26th

Clay Pigeon Shooting Event!

Wythall Radio Club are organising a Clay Pigeon Shooting Event at
Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground,
Brock Hill Lane,
Nr Tardebigge,
Redditch

The cost will be £38 per person which includes the following:

9.45	Tea/Coffee Briefing
10.00	Under Full Supervision, Practise and Tuition
11.15	Competition
12.30	Finish

Light recoil cartridges are used and the score rate is approximately 65-70%. The event is very action packed with lots of shooting.

We will probably go for a lunch afterwards as we do on Fox Hunts (not included in the fee).

We have arranged this for Sunday October 26th

Don't delay! Book today!

Chris G0EYO

Club Diary

Sept 19th/20th	Leicester Radio Rally		
Oct 18th	JOTA		
Oct 21st	AGM	8.30pm	Board Room, Wythall House
Oct 26th	Clay Pigeon Shooting		
Nov 16th	MARS Rally		
Dec 12th	Christmas Social	8.00pm	Britannia Room
Mar 14th 2004	Wythall Radio Rally	Woodrush	

News

News from the RSGB

The RSGB is pleased to announce that, with effect from Saturday the 26th of July, there is no longer a requirement to have passed a Morse code test in order to operate on the HF bands in the UK. All Full and Intermediate Class B licensees are therefore automatically granted their respective Class A operating privileges and may operate on the HF bands using their existing callsigns from the 26th of July. Class B licensees need not take any action to obtain these additional operating privileges.

This long-awaited move comes about following the decision taken at the recent World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, which agreed that a Morse code test should no longer be an international requirement in order to hold an HF amateur licence. The Radiocommunications Agency is to be thanked for moving quickly in introducing this change in the UK. The official 'Gazette Notice' to bring in the change in the UK is scheduled to be published on the 25th of July.

A series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' and answers about these changes will be published on the RSGB website. Please note that these changes do not affect Foundation Licensees.

The RSGB welcomes all former Class B amateurs on to the HF bands and hopes that they will obtain even greater enjoyment from their hobby.

Amateur Radio to be Exempt from Ban on Driving While Using Mobile Phone

The Department of Transport has issued a paper on the results of its consultation on a proposal for the introduction of an offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. The consultation document suggested that "two-way radio microphones" should be included within the proposed ban, which would effectively have banned mobile amateur radio in the UK. In its submission to the consultation document, the Radio Society of Great Britain pointed out that amateur radio had been operated from motor vehicles since 1955 without any accidents being recorded. The Department of Transport report on the results of the consultation states that, "Amateur radio operators, some commercial drivers such as taxi drivers and hauliers, and some of the emergency services use [two-way radio] to communicate with a base station. We accept that such 'press to talk' devices keep conversations short and are likely to have a lower risk… While the details of the extent of the exemption remain to be determined, the new offence will exempt the use of such devices."