# Wythall Radio Club Newsletter Spring 2005

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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

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2005. This issue has turned out to be bigger than I expected, as the winter is normally a pretty quiet time for the club. There are articles on the Christmas Contest and Foxhunt, a minor emergency at the club, our new Foundation Licence holders and some of what our members get up to. Also no newsletter would be complete without Darren's dubious poetry.

The big event this quarter is of course the Rally, but we also have 2 special event stations in May, and a talk by yours truely on April 19th on my recent visit to the Panama Canal.

Hopefully by the next newsletter we may also have broadband access, so I expect to include an article on that next time.

*Alban G7UGC*

Editor: Alban Fellows, G7UGC
Email: newsletter@wythallradioclub.co.uk
The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the committee.

## Contest News

The final results of the 2004 80m Club Championship contests make good reading with good positions for the Club and members, 12 entered the SSB sessions, 5 in the Data and 2 in the CW. Let's keep up the good work in 2005 and see if we can do better — some more entries in the Data and CW sessions will help. There seems to be a bit more interest in contesting at the moment with up to 8 logs being entered in some of the HF SSB and VHF contests, which is very encouraging.

Despite the shack undergoing refurbishment, there has been some activity from the Club with the 2m Club Championship sessions on the 1st Tuesday of every month and multi-op entries in the 144MHz and 432MHz AFS contests. Please feel free to join in and operate from the Club.

There is a good selection of contests on HF over the next few months, notably the ARRL International DX SSB and the CQ WW WPX SSB contests in March and on VHF the Backpackers series of contests start in May.

The full reports for the Christmas Contest and the Fox Hunt are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

*Pete Wesley, M0COP*

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## 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

**March**

**HF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Mon 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — DATA |
| 5-6 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | ARRL International DX Contest — SSB |
| 5-6 | Sat 2200 - Sun 0159 | Open Ukraine RTTY Championship Low band |
| 6 | Sun 0800 - Sun 1159 | Open Ukraine RTTY Championship High band |
| 6 | Sun 1100 - 1700 | DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" — DIGI |
| 12-13 | Sat 1000 - Sun1000 | Commonwealth Contest 3.5-28MHz, RST+ Serial |
| 12-13 | Sat 1000 - Sun 1000 | RSGB Commonwealth Contest — CW |
| 13 | Sun 0700 - 1100 UBA | Spring Contest — CW |
| 16 | Wed 2000 - 2130 80m | RSGB 80m Club Championships — CW |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19-20 | Sat 0200 - Mon 0200 | BARTG HF RTTY Contest — RTTY |
| 19-20 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | DARC SSTV Contest — SSTV |
| 19-20 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | Russian DX Contest — CW/SSB |
| 24 | Thu 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — SSB |
| 26-27 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | CQ WW WPX Contest — SSB |

**VHF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5-6 | Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 | 144/432 MHz. 24hr or 6hr sections |
| 13 | Sun 1000 - 1200 | 70 MHz Cumulative |

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**April**

**HF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Sun 0700 - 0900 | RoPoCo 1 3520-3570kHz |
| 2- 3 | Sat 1500 - Sun 1500 | SP DX Contest — CW/SSB |
| 2- 3 | Sat 1600 - Sun 1600 | EA RTTY Contest — RTTY |
| 4 | Mon 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — CW |
| 7 | Thu 1700 - 2000 | SARL 80 m QSO Party — SSB |
| 9-10 | Sat 0700 - Sun 1300 | Japan International DX Contest — CW |
| 9 | Sat 1500 - 1859 | EU Sprint Spring — SSB |
| 10 | Sun 0600 - 1000 | UBA Spring Contest – SSB |
| 13 | Wed 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — SSB |
| 13-15 | Wed 1400 - Fri 0200 | YLRL DX to NA YL Contest — SSB |
| 16 | Sat 0000 - 2359 | Holyland DX Contest — CW/SSB |
| 16 | Sat 0000 - 2400 | TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest — PSK |
| 16-17 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | YU DX Contest — CW/SSB |
| 16 | Sat 1500 - 1859 | EU Sprint Spring — CW |
| 21 | Thu 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — DATA |
| 23-24 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | DX Colombia International Contest — CW/SSB |
| 23-24 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | SP DX RTTY Contest - RTTY |
| 23-24 | Sat 1300 - Sun 1300 | Helvetia Contest - CW/SSB |

**VHF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | Sun 0900 - 1200 | First 70MHz Contest |
| 24 | Sun 0900 - 1200 | First 50MHz Contest |

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**May**

**HF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Mon 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — SSB |
| 7 | Sat 1100 - 1200 | SL Contest —CW |
| 7 | Sat 1230 - 1330 | SL Contest — SSB |
| 7- 8 | Sat 2000 - Sun 1959 | ARI Int. DX Contest — CW/SSB/DIGI |
| 11 | Wed 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships — DATA |
| 14-15 | Sat 0800 - Sun 2300 | Portuguese Navy Day HF Contest — CW/SSB |
| 14-15 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | A. Volta RTTY DX Contest - RTTY |
| 14-15 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | CQ-M Int. DX Contest - CW/SSB |
| 14-15 | Sat 1800 - Sun 2100 | Anatolian WW RTTY Contest - RTTY |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 19 | Thu 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships CW |
| 21-22 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | EU PSK DX Contest - PSK31 |
| 21-22 | Sat 1300 - Sun 1300 | Portuguese Navy Day HF Contest - PSK31 |
| 21-22 | Sat 1800 - Sun 1800 | H. M. The King of Spain Contest - CW |
| 21-22 | Sat 2100 - Sun 0200 | Baltic Contest - CW/SSB |
| 28-29 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | CQ WW WPX Contest – CW |

**VHF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7-8 | Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 | 432MHz-248GHz Contest |
| 7 | Sat 1400 - 2200 | 432MHz Trophy Contest |
| 7 | Sat 1400 - 2200 | 10GHz Trophy Contest |
| 15 | Sun 0900 - 1200 | 70MHz CW Contest |
| 21-22 | Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 | 144MHz Contest |
| 22 | Sun 1100 - 1500 | 144MHz Backpackers Contest #1 |

**June**

**HF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4- 5 | Sat 1500 - Sun 1459 | IARU Region 1 and RSGB National Field day - CW |
| 6 | Mon 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships DATA |
| 11-12 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | ANARTS WW RTTY Contest - DIGI |
| 11 | Sat 0000 - 2400 | Portugal Day DX Contest - SSB |
| 11-12 | Sat 0000 - Sun 1600 | WW South America CW Contest - CW |
| 11-12 | Sat 1500 - Sun 1500 | GACW CW DX Contest - CW |
| 12-12 | Sat 1600 - Sun 1600 | DDFM 50 MHz Contest - CW/SSB |
| 15 | Wed 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships CW |
| 18-19 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | All Asian DX Contest – CW |
| 23 | Thu 2000 - 2130 | RSGB 80m Club Championships SSB |
| 25-26 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | SP QRP Contest - CW |
| 25-26 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest - RTTY/PSK31 |
| 25-26 | Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 | MARCONI Memorial Contest HF - CW |
| 25-26 | Sat 1800 - Sun 2100 | ARRL Field Day - All |
| 26-26 | Sat 1800 - Sun 1800 | H. M. The King of Spain Contest – SSB |

**VHF**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12 | Sun 0900 - 1300 | 144MHz Backpackers Contest #2 |
| 18-19 | Sat 1400 - Sun 1400 | 50MHz Trophy Contest |
| 19 | Sun 1100 - 1500 | 50MHz Backpackers Contest #1 |

## Contests entered

**November**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ON | SSB | G0MTN | 15 Q |
| | CW | G0MTN | 23 Q |
| RSGB 21/28 | SSB | G0MTN | 19 Q |
| | CW | G0MTN | 12 Q |
| Worked All Germany | | G0MTN | 237 Q |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU Sprint | SSB | G0MTN | 186 Q | | |
| | | M0COP | 40 Q | | |
| EU Sprint | CW | G0MTN | 196 Q | | |
| CQWW DX | SSB | G0MTN | SOABLP | 1524 Q | 1,208,070 pts |
| | | M0COP | SOABLP | 281 Q | 116,200 pts |
| | | G1VDP | SO28LP | 178 Q | 30,240 pts |
| | | G0EYO | SO21LP | 238 Q | 34,775 pts |
| | | MW5HOC | SO7LP | 320 Q | 25,389 pts |
| | | M0MCX | SO7LP | 386 Q | 20,496 pts |
| | | G6KMQ | SO? LP | 25 Q | 506 pts |
| YO International PSK31 | | M0COP | 14 Q | | |
| RSGB Club Calls1.8MHz | | M0COP | 41 Q | | |
| | | G0MTN | | | |
| WAE RTTY | | G0MTN | | | |
| CQWW DX CW | | M0COP | 142Q | | |
| | | G0MTN (5U5Z) | | | |

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**December**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wythall Christmas Contest | 2E0KEG | 2E0PPH | G0EYO | G0ICJ |
| | G0MTN | G0NES | G1KEA | G3MZU |
| | G4DPZ | G4KQU | G4LCH | G4TVR |
| | G4VPD | G6KMQ | G6UEU | G6ZDQ |
| | G7OJO | G7OKF | G7UGC | G8MYK |
| | G8PWE | GW7HOC | M0AEJ | M0COP |
| | M0CZE | M0COK | M0KQU | M0MCX |
| | M0VRR | M3JKZ | M5DUO | |
| RSGB 2m AFS | G6KMQ | 66 Q | | |
| | G6ZDQ | 25 Q | | |
| | G1WAC | 94 Q (G0MTN, M0COP) | | |
| | G7UGC | 20 Q | | |
| | M0AEJ | 14 Q | | |
| | G0EYO | 47 Q | | |
| | M0COK | 35 Q | | |
| ARRL 10m SSB | G0MTN | 45 Q | | |
| | M0MCX | 9 Q | | |
| | G0EYO | 52 Q | | |
| OK RTTY | M0COP | 131 Q | | |
| 9A CW | G0MTN | 473 Q | | |
| DARC Xmas | G0MTN | 35 Q | | |
| Stew Perry | G0MTN | 27 Q | | |
| RAC Winter | G0MTN | 335 Q | | |

**January**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RSGB 80m CC CW | G0MTN | 60 Q | | |
| | M0COP | 15 Q | | |
| RSGB 2m CC | G1WAC 32 Q (G0MTN, M0COP, M0MCX) | | | |
| RSGB 80m AFS CW | M0COP | 90 | | |
| | G0MTN | 236 | | |
| RSGB 80m AFS SSB | G0MTN | 260, | M0MCX | 140, |
| | M0COP | 118, | G0EYO | 61, |
| | G0ICJ | 60, | M0AEJ | 15, |
| | G1VDP | 5, | M3UKX | 2 |
| RSGB 80CC SSB | M0COP | 98, | M0MCX | 63, |
| | G0EYO | 23, | G6KMQ | 20, |
| | G0ICJ | 8, | GW7HOC | 5, |
| | M0AEJ | 3 (QRP), | M3UKX | 2 (QRP) |
| RSGB 80m CC DATA | M0COP | 14, | G0MTN | 4, |
| | G6KMQ | 3 | | |
| UBA DX | M0MCX | 196, | G0MTN | 564 |
| SARTG Happy New Year | G0MTN | 66 | | |
| AGCW Happy New Year | G0MTN | 40 | | |
| REF CW | G0MTN | 17 | | |
| CQ 160 CW | G0MTN | 228 | | |

## Contest results

NFD Results Open Section:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overall | Wythall CG | 11/13 |
| 50MHz | G0WRC/P | 12/15 |
| 70MHz | G4WAC/P | 10/10 |
| 144MHz | G1WAC/P | 12/16 |
| 432MHz | G7WAC/P | 8/11 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stew Perry 2003 | | G0MTN | 119/180 |
| RSGB 144MHz May 2004 | GB2ME | 9/9 Section M | |
| First 50MHz 4/04 SO fixed | G0EYO | 10/18 | |
| | | G7UGC | 11/18 |
| EU Sprint Spring 2004 | SSB | G0MTN | 19/101 |
| | CW | G0MTN | 17/112 |
| EU Sprint Autumn 2004 | SSB | G0MTN | 14/102 |
| | | M0COP | 81/102 |
| RSGB 144MHz Club Champs | Wythall ARC | 5/11 | |
| ARRL CW 2004 | G0MTN | 4th G HP | |
| ARRL SSB 2004 | G0MTN | 4th G HP | |
| | G0EYO | 10th G LP | |
| SARTG RTTY | G0MTN | 3/191 SO Low power | |
| ARI | G0MTN | 6/123 Mixed mode | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IOTA Island Multi-Operator | 9A2004YC (inc. G0MTN) 26/85 | | |
| RSGB 80m Club Championship 2004 Final Club Placings | | | |
| Overall: | Wythall ARC | 7/62 | |
| | (5th Data, 7th SSB, 20th CW) | | |
| 2004 RSGB 80m Club Championship Individual Positions | | | |
| 100W CW | G0MTN | 17/160 | |
| | M0COP | 114 | |
| 100W SSB | M0COP | 15/240 | |
| | G0MTN | 16 | |
| | M0MCX | 62 | |
| | G7UGC | 67 | |
| | M0AEJ | | 80 |
| | G6KMQ | 89 | |
| | G0ICJ | | 132 |
| | MW5HOC | 137 | |
| | M0VRR | 187 | |
| | G0EYO | 193 | |
| | G0NES | | 210 |
| | G1VDP | 222 | |
| 100W DATA | G0MTN | 3/86 | |
| | M0COP | 5 | |
| | M0AEJ | | 15 |
| | G6KMQ | 58 | |
| | G7UGC | 66 | |
| QRP SSB | M0MCX | 53/57 | |
| Wythall Christmas Contest 2004 results | | | |
| (See report for details) | 1 G6KMQ | 1898 points | |
| | 2 G0MTN | 1664 | |
| | 3 M0COP | 1650 | |
| | 4 2E0KEG | 1587 | |
| | 5 M3JKZ | 1281 | |
| RSGB 80m CC CW- 3rd Jan 2005 | | | |
| Club Placings. | Wythall ARC | | 23/42 |
| Individual Sessions | G0MTN | 25/109 | |
| | M0COP | 75/109 | |
| ARRL Int DX Phone 10/04 | G0EYO | 10th G Low power | |
| | G0MTN | 4th G High power | |
| ARRL Int DX CW 08/04 | G0MTN | 4th G High power | |
| ARRL RTTY Roundup 07/04 | G0MTN | 1st G, 9th DX | |
| ROPOCO 2 | G0MTN | 5/53 | |
| Region 1 VHF 03 144 MHz | M0COP | 489/711 Single op | |

## Chairman's Report

The last three months for the club have seen a number of events, some planned, some not so.

The Christmas social started the ball rolling and proved a great success, from feedback received believe all that attended had a great time. To cap the night we even made a small profit and this will assist later in the year with our other activities. This was followed by the hotly contested Christmas contest, and I am pleased to be able to congratulate the winner G6KMQ!!

Soon after this we started work on the radio shack refurbishment, comprising of a number of members volunteering their time to help clear the area, dispose of the rubbish and paint the walls. Whilst the shack is not yet finished, getting people together for such hard work does seem difficult, I am pleased that the final plans have been agreed and the floor and shelving has been organised with installation taking place shortly after the rally. It was noticeable that in times of trouble, as when the 70cm antenna became broken by the wind on its mast, members respond and get together to put things right. Thank you all.

It has been great to see the enthusiasm of some of the newer members in taking to the air. We have seen Craig M3ZCR and John M3UKX both taking part in calls from the shack on a Tuesday evening and with the callsign regularly on the air it does really help raise the club's profile.

I cannot close without expressing my appreciation to all involved in the rally organisation, to Chris G0EYO, Callum M0MCX, and Vaughan M0VRR. Without their help the organisation would have been impossible. And a BIG thank you to all THE CLUB who will be providing the essential manpower for the event on the day.

See you all at the rally Sunday 13th March 2005

Chris g6kmq@g6kmq.me.uk

## Club Diary

**March 13th** **Wythall Radio Rally**
**Woodrush Sports Centre**



| | |
|---|---|
| April 19th | Talk on the Panama Canal by Alban G7UGC |
| May 7th - 8th | Mills on the Air<br>Danzey Green Windmill at Avoncroft Building Museum |
| May 14th - 15th | GB2ME Tolkien Weekend Special Event Station<br>Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, Birmingham. |
| July 2nd - 3rd | VHF NFD |

# Antenna Emergency at Shack



The high winds in early January resulted in the destruction of our Tonna 70cms Yagi on the club's antenna stack at Wythall House. Spotted and reported by Lee G0MTN, the committee meeting agreed to put up a maintenance team the following Sunday 16th January. Thus it was that Colin G6ZDQ, Peter M5DUO, Pete M0COP, Vic M0AEJ and myself found ourselves at the Club House at 10am. The 70cms was the top antenna in the stack and the boom had snapped at a junction point with the support arms, and this part was hanging down suspended by the feeder cable.

Working on the club's antennas involves turning the antennas south and pulling the mast over so that the antennas are lying on the roof of the Britannia Room which is adjacent to the mast. To enable access to the VHF/UHF antennas we have to remove the elements from one side of the HF beam. This way the stub pole on top of the mast can be brought right over onto the pyramid shaped roof at the centre of the Britannia Room.

Before we embarked on this we measured the VSWR on all of the antennas (except of course the 70cms) using the analyser and these were satisfactory. The mast was then lowered onto the roof. Pete M5DUO volunteered to climb up the roof to get at the antenna because it gave him a better view of the ladies and their aerobics in the Park Hall. It was a relatively simple job to remove the broken 70cms antenna and replaced it with an equivalent from our contest stock. Examining the broken antenna it looked as if it could be repaired with a joining piece inside the broken boom. The guys on the roof, (basically everyone except me) felt that the antenna had worked loose on the pole causing it to



vibrate in the winds and eventually break the boom. The mast was pulled up partially and the VSWR measured. This looked good so it was wound all the way back to vertical. We finished just in time for the bar to open at noon and treated ourselves to a well-deserved drink.



The antenna was used a few weeks later on the 70cms AFS but unfortunately without the 400W linear, which again gave problems on switching on the EHT. We now have the circuits for this amplifier so we should soon get this fixed.

*Chris G0EYO*

# Contest Club Finland Meeting 2005

The CCF have organised very popular mid-winter DX and Contest meetings for the past 10 years. In recent years these have been held in hotels in the cities of Helsinki or Tampere. For the special 10th anniversary meeting, the CCF teamed up with the OH DX Foundation (OHDXF) and held the meeting whilst cruising between Helsinki and Stockholm. This ferry trip is a popular weekend social activity for the Finns and Swedes, with a real party atmosphere on board. We don't get the same level of restaurants and nightlife on our own cross-channel ferries. The events see up to 100 contesters and DXers present, from many European countries as well as OH and SM, and usually a few from further afield too.

There had been no snow in Helsinki for quite some time, but as soon as we arrived on the Friday, many inches of snow also arrived with us. It was fun to experience the cold and snow for a long weekend, but if we had to live with it for months I am sure we would not be as amused by it!

The formal part of the meeting are the presentations on the Saturday, but these are secondary to meeting up with old and new friends at meal times and during the breaks. It was great to be able to meet with some people for the first time after many QSOs on the air. Ironically, this would be one of the few times that the British contesters and DXers get to meet up too. We do have some domestic meetings of course, but some will have said "See you next in Finland / Friedrichshafen / Dayton etc."

As the 10th anniversary milestone had been reached, a number of the presentations were themed around looking back into history, considering how different elements of DXpeditioning and Contesting have changed over the years. Despite being at sea, there was a large conference room available to us for the presentations.

There was much interest in the presentation from Ville OH2MM looking at 4 decades of CQ WW scores, with some projections at what we might have to reach in 2010 to claim the #1 spot. Whilst some variations with the solar cycle can be seen, there was a definite upward trend. Leading Single Ops must now stay awake for the full 48 hours, and be using 2 radios. Multi-Multis can't get away with just 3 stations any more. The effects of better radios, on average bigger and better antennas, more countries being active during the contest, and an overall increase in participation are also driving up the scores.

Oms PY5EG gave an update on the preparations for WRTC 2006, and gave some practical information about the Florianopolis region and what competitors and general visitors to the event should expect.

Roger G3SXW gave an insight into the golden days of DXing and how organising Dxpeditions has changed over recent years. Many people are fortunate to have more disposable income these days, which ,combined with the relatively cheap costs of international air travel, has meant travelling to far flung places has become easier. What was once a "trip of a lifetime" is now acceptable to make 'just' for a contest. Licensing has now become a lot easier, partly in thanks to the power of the Internet — the world is becoming more open.

We were also treated to a view of Radio Arkala by Veijo OH6KN on the new superstation in Northern Finland. Of most interest was the results received by their 20m station which possibly lays claim

to the highest 20m yagi in the world — 130 metres above the ground ! Toni OH2UA gave us a tour of the OH2BH station. For us UK guys, the stations are far bigger than we could build at home, although we never forget it's a lot tougher for the Finns at 60 degrees north.

Other presentations included a history OH contesting and DXing by Jukka OH2BR, the life of Guglielmo Marconi by Rich K2WR, and a preview of the much awaited Peter I expedition by Pertti OH2RF, complete with an early morning call to Ralph K0IR in the USA.

Apart from the presentations, the visitors had plenty of time for socialising at the dinners, and some made an excursion to Stockholm on Saturday morning, braving the cold winds coming in from the sea. There are also some reports that the UK visitors briefly invaded the Aland Islands during the very short stop to let off passengers. If only someone had brought an FT-817 along with them.

*Lee G0MTN*

## Christmas Foxhunt



At 10 a.m. on Monday 27th December eagle-eyed passers by travelling near the Henley-in-Arden Golf and Country Club would have seen a suspicious amount of cars parked together, all sporting strange antennas. More strange were the occupants who occasionally appeared brandishing pieces of aluminium, waving them around as if part of a mid-winter pagan festival. Yes, it could be only one thing — the great annual Wythall Radio Club Christmas foxhunt!

The rules of the game are very simple. One team hides at a location inside a pre-determined playing area in their car, and puts out a transmission on 2 metres for 2 minutes every 10 minutes. The other teams attempt to locate the 'fox' by the use of a mixture of triangulation using small directional antennas, guile, luck, and listening to the arcane clues given out as the chase progresses. This year the weather was bright, if cold. The temperature was only a couple of degrees above freezing, but fortunately no accidents, or unplanned off-road adventures occurred, despite the ice that remained in places.

This year we had a good turnout of 5 teams which is better than in recent years, despite some of the foxhunt regulars not being able to attend. The teams were: Pete M0COP / Alban G7UGC, Chris G6KMQ / Lee G0MTN, Ian G8PWE / Victoria, Vaughan M0VRR / Sherryn + children + friend (!), Peter G4KQU / Steve M0KQU.



Chris and Lee were the first fox, hiding at a farm at the north of the playing area, just by the M40. Despite our clues not being very helpful — "we can see a fence" — we were found at 10.54 by Ian and Victoria. Ian then became the next fox, choosing to hide at Lowsonford. Team VRR were the first to locate them, literally beating the KMQ/MTN rally team by 30 seconds. Vaughan and co then took the unusual step of then hiding near the centre of Henley-in-Arden itself. The rest of us had visions of needing to navigate through fords and dirt tracks, knowing Vaughan's love of off-roading in his Landrovers, so for him to hide in a side road in suburbia was a surprise.

Chris and myself were perhaps thrown off by some strange reflections, and for most of the time were driving further away from the fox rather than towards it! Eventually, Ian, Pete and Alban, and Chris and Lee were all visible to each other driving up and down Henley High Street, so it was going to be very close who finally tracked Vaughan down. Pete and Alban were the successful team, and they as the last fox hid not too far away at the Royal Oak, found by Chris and Lee. Apart from Peter and Steve who had some bad luck, and had to return home early, all of the others managed to be the fox and find a fox, so it worked out well.

As is tradition, most of the remaining party adjourned for some food and drinks. This year we chose the Reservoir in Earlswood which was excellent, and we exchanged some war stories as we shook off the effects of the wintry weather.

With the ban of foxhunting in England, for this year we will either have to rename the event to something more politically correct, or perhaps ask all the participants to wear balaclavas, with the revised rules being the first team not to get arrested wins.

Thanks to Pete for organising the event, and for everyone who was able to take part. There has been talk of a repeat in the summertime if there are enough people around, perhaps on foot, perhaps on HF, or perhaps over a much larger playing area. Stand by for more details !

*Lee G0MTN*



# Quotes

Here are some quotes heard on air from various parts of the world. I have taken some of these from the Radio Active publication, but I don't think there should be a problem with copyright, and others are what I have heard on air and been told about over the years.

*Chris Colcough G1VDP*

"How much does a pussy cost over there?" Dell K4NBN

"What do you mean "pussy Dell"?" Pete G0CSK (And other club members listening in the shack one club night).

"A Cat, only my pet alligator has just eaten next door's. And he don't look too happy!"

It took all of 10 minutes for Pete to reply to this comment, and then all Dell received was "Hooo Hooooo" and other laughter from the members of the Mexborough Radio Club.

This was a famous one from the days on 11M and this again was on a club net, this was the MCB dx club founded by Peter, Keith and a few other locals.

"What Power are you running Aldo." Keith MCB 009

"I only use 1000 watts." Aldo MCB 084 (In a village somewhere in the Italian Alps)

"What do you do about TVI?" Chris MCB 019 (Yes, this was me.)

"When I am on my radio I no watch TV." Came the reply from a Northern Italian Village (Aldo). "And when I am on my radio no one in my village watch TV!!!!!".

Again there was a stunned silence (Laughter without a mike being keyed) in South Yorkshire until a brave soul (Pete MCB 001 now G0CSK) piped up.

"Doesn't your wife watch Coronation Street (or the soap of the day, early 80's)?" This was said with the innocence of a baby and then the laughter was broadcast for all to hear.

This was recently heard on 2m FM in the South Yorkshire area by one of the members of the Mexborough radio club.

"Just been on 20M" G3??? "And worked into the states."

"I was going to go on there but all I could hear was foreigners" M3???

"If people can't take it seriously they shouldn't be allowed on the air" — Heard on 27Mhz (Many thanks Radio Active), and I thought radio should be fun!

"Radio Amateurs do not die, they just evaporate through their aerials". (Many thanks Radio Active.)

"I can't seem to be able to pick up the signals at all on the ground plane, no matter which way I turn the rotator". (Many thanks Radio Active)

"Of course you're a solid 5-9 here; I am beaming the collinear right at you". (Many thanks Radio Active.)

"My wife doesn't like me playing radio" Said station A. "So I have had to set the shack up in the greenhouse".

"Never Mind" replied station B. "At least the greenhouse is good for propagation". (Many thanks Radio Active.)

A fresh-faced G1 many years ago..... "You are a strong 5-9 here, but then I always receive GB3NA (Nasty Albert, the Barnsley repeater) at 5-9".

Not so much a comment but what actually happened when I was still taking my course for the RAE.

The course tutor, Eric G3MWN, was a big microwave enthusiast (in fact I think he still is) and he brought his portable kit to the club to do a demmo and a talk.

We set the dish on a Tripod outside the front doors, which are directly onto a road in Mexborough, and pointed the dish up the road towards Erics beacon at his QTH.

As we were listening to the beacon's tones a car came speeding over the brow of the hill, and the driver saw the dish. I have never before or since seen sparks coming off the front Valance of a car under braking. He thought it was a speed trap! Needless to say his face changed when he got level with the club and then saw no police officers. This happened on a couple of occasions as cars came over the hill, but not with the severity of the first vehicle who was speeding well over the limit.

Again not a comment but a story of what happened one VHF field day (My first and awaiting my licence).

We had set up all the equipment and the station was trotting along in the contest nicely, all bands operational and all the fresh-faced guys who had taken the RAE that year doing the logging. Eric then decided that the new guys needed to see some proper Amateur radio and produced a weather balloon. This was fastened to the end of a cable drum of rope and filled with Helium (or some other gas lighter than air) and some of the rope paid out. Eric then connected what must have been about 100 meters of antenna wire to the rope, and started to let the balloon loose in an upwardly direction.

The balloon reached a terrific height and we had a top band long wire almost vertical, what would the night bring we wondered. As this was pre 50MHz (6 Meters) we had a spare tent that was used as the kitchen/socialising area, so we set up a HF station complete with a 1KW amplifier. We tuned up on top band using full legal power(!) and started to call CQ. This was at approximately 22:00ish.

It was the blue lights that startled us all the most. At somewhere near midnight the police arrived to see where the "UFO" was, and what it was all about. Apparently the police switchboard had been jammed with callers saying "There's a UFO over Cusworth!" For some reason (maybe the physicist out there would be able to explain) the balloon started to glow with the RF that was running through the antenna, and because of the position of the station on the high ground around Cusworth Hall museum, the glowing balloon could be seen for some distance. Needless to say the police were apeased with some bacon butties and a nice warm cup of tea, but they thought we were mad being out in a field playing radio! And the story made the front page of the Doncaster Evening post.

## Wythall Radio Club Christmas Contest 2004/5

The most important contest of the year for Wythall Radio Club is the world famous Wythall Christmas Contest, from the 24th of December to New Years Day. This year there were a record 31 members on air, with many of the recent new members joining in.

It was a lively contest this year with as many as 3 nets on some days, as well as the odd call from the rare "DX" that caught most people out. You would have had to be listening out all day, everyday to log everyone. As it was, no one got all the multipliers, which made for a tight finish. The contest was eventually decided on who had worked the most of the 31 club members who made an appearance.

Chris, G6KMQ, ran away with it this year, leaving Lee, G0MTN, and Pete, M0COP, to fight for the minor places. Ken, 2E0KEG, gets a certificate for being the leading Intermediate licensee, and Jack, M3JKZ, gets a certificate for being the leading Foundation Licensee — well done all.

Thanks to everyone who took part and to Alban, G7UGC, for providing the certificates.

*Pete, M0COP*

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**Wythall Christmas Contest 2004 results**

Logs received

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 G6KMQ | 1898 points | cup & certificate |
| 2 G0MTN | 1664 | certificate |
| 3 M0COP | 1650 | certificate |
| 4 2E0KEG | 1587 | certificate for best intermediate call |
| 5 M3JKZ | 1281 | certificate for best foundation call |
| 6 G7UGC | 1239 | |
| 7 G7OJO | 924 | |
| 8 M5DUO | 900 | |
| 9 GW7HOC | 646 | |
| 10 G0ICJ | 396 | |
| 11 M0AEJ | 372 | |
| 12 M0MCX | 247 | |

No log, declared scores

G6ZDQ 1472
G0EYO 1380

No log, no score, in "qso out" order

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| G4TVR 68 | G6UEU 51 | G8MYK 47 | M0KQU 31, |
| G7OKF 25, | G4LCH 24, | G4KQU 23, | M0VRR 20, |
| G4VPD 19, | G1KEA 12, | G0NES 10, | 2E0PPH 9, |
| G8PWE 5, | M0CZE 5, | G3MZU 4, | G4DPZ 4, |
| M0COK 1. | | | |

## Local Repeater?

VE3 and NP2
Is all I hear coming through
Before that it was KC4
My "local" repeater is no more.
Gone are the days when "listening through"
Caught a station near to you.

Now in the days of the internet
You never know who you are going to get.
A station near, or across the Pond
I'm not sure if I'm against or fond.

Do I prefer chatting with local friends,
Or strangers from the World's far ends?
It's nice to hear a distant voice
But often we don't have the choice.
Two US hams on their local node
Put the network into overload.
All linked countries, one and all
Have to listen to their Yankey drawl.

I'm sure we too keep the network groaning
By filling it with British moaning.
A local box or a DX link?
Which is best? What do you think?

I must say that one thing I like
Is to work through DX when I'm on my bike.
I link up to my local gate
And get to talk to my much missed mates.
Cardiff to Brum doesn't seem that far
Thanks to Steve GW6CUR
For it's his gateway that I link through
To allow me to talk to you.

So all in all I think I'm fond
Of being able to talk across the Pond
So of the technology that makes this so
I guess I am more friend than foe.

*Darren GW7HOCM*

## Foundation Course Update

All three students passed their Foundation exams on Thursday 16th November. There were 25 questions and in "pass" order: Chris passed on 100%, Dan on 96% Craig (M3ZCR), our "junior" 10 year old passing on 84%.

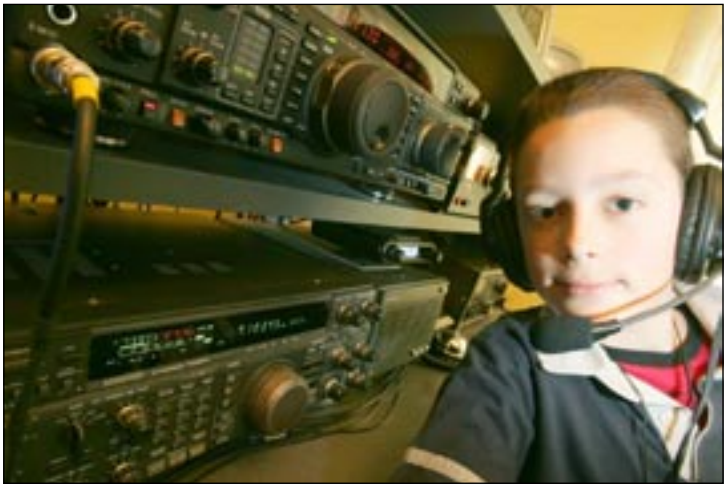
Craig is turning out a fabulous find and a potential heavy-weight contester! Craig and his Father, M0DGQ has joined the club as a "family" and we are regularly visited by Niamh (Craig's sister) and Ann (Mum!).

Picture shows Craig at Lee's shack following Chris's (G0EYO) press release to the local newspapers regarding the club Rally and the interest generated in the local press. Must be great being famous Craig!

A big thank you to Chris Meadows for being a 100% support to me and taking the time to check the rules and regulations from time to time regarding exam procedures etc — and also to Reg who attended every Thursday night and became our Senior Invigilator for the exam evening. Also thanks to Lee who donated an evening to do the Morse assessment and lastly Chris (G0EYO) and John (M3UKX) for helping out on 20 meters for HF assessment.

Onwards and upwards!

*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.



# 40 Meter Delta Loop

"Height is Might", Nigel (G4NRR) exclaimed during his club talk on antennas during 2003. Of course he is right, but there is one style of antenna that does benefit from actually being closer to the ground; the NVIS antenna where we make use of the ground itself as a radiator. NVIS stands for "Near Vertical Incidence Skywave" and relates to a style, or type of propagation, which best suits around 10Mhz and frequencies below. For amateurs



using SSB, that'll suit the 40 meter and 80 meter bands.

We all know the typical radiation pattern of a dipole mounted high in the air — it's like a doughnut. What happens to the radiation pattern of a dipole mounted closer than a quarter-wave to the ground, say an 8th? It starts sending out strong lobes into the sky. You can even put a radiator on the ground and improve the NVIS properties. I'd like to concentrate on one antenna and discuss my results with you as I really do believe that money can't buy better, that's assuming you have roughly a 10x 10 Meter back garden; the 40 meter horizontal Delta Loop.

What does it look like? Basically a delta loop; "Delta", from the Greek alphabet, is a triangle. It consists of a wire held in three (or more) corners at about 4 to 6 meters (around 12.5% of the wavelength) horizontally above the ground. I say "more" corners because you can have as many points on the loop as you like. The perfect antenna builder is actually trying to build a complete circle of wire, but a pentagon, square or delta loop will work just as effectively as far as the amateur is concerned. A vertical delta loop will also work, but you will need a very high support to hold up the highest point.

The only restriction is that you mustn't build your loop with internal angles greater than 180 degrees, in other words don't fold the loop in towards a figure of 8 for instance, although this might be in interesting experiment another day. Just remember to make some sort of loop but the exact shape is pretty irrelevant.

How big is it? It's just about exactly one wavelength of the lowest frequency you want to work with, so for 40 meters, it's 40 meters! Some theorists suggest that a delta loop should be 106% of the wavelength. My personal building experience demonstrates that you need a loop just equal to the wavelength in question, perhaps a whisker bigger. My best 40 meter loop is actually 41 meter in length, slightly shorter than the theorists and I get better than 1.5:1 SWR across the whole 40 meter band. It also tunes on 20, 15 and 10, but more about that later.

According to the Foundation License material, you can calculate the wavelength from the frequency by making a calculation: 300 divided by the Target Frequency. So let's say we target 7.1 MHz as being the middle ground for our loop, the calculation

will be:

300 / 7.1 = 42.25 (meters)

In essence if you were to build a loop with 4 sides, all 10.5 meters in length, you won't be far off. I chose to have a three-sided loop with one side 16 meters, one 12 and the other 13. Just remember that experiments show that the optimum loop is actually 106% of the above calculation, so maybe it's best to build it larger and chop off half a meter at a time to "tune it in".

How do we feed it? You have a choice but my favourite is based on the assumption that a full wavelength closed loop antenna has an impedance of around 150 ohms. A 4:1 balun helps match this design to the 50 ohm impedance required by modern day rigs. A balun does something else that is very important, it stops all that RF whizzing around the loop and coming back down the outside of the coax into the shack. Not only would it completely muck up your dimensions, but the capacity for causing interference is now exaggerated a great deal.




So basically, feed coax out of the back of the rig and up to the point where you want to feed your loop — probably at one of the mechanical supports, connect the coax to the 4:1 balun via a PL259 and connect each side of the loop of wire to the two points on the balun. Job done.

You might also get away by building a basic balun out of coax, just make about 8 to 10 turns of RG58 around an 8 inch imaginary former. This can stop RF current coming back down the outside of the coax, but will not particularly help match the impedance. For testing though, this shouldn't matter if you have a tuner. Connect the inside of the coax to one side of the loop — and the braid to the other side. A home-brew dipole centre will be sufficient and an inbuilt ATU will cope with tuning this up, so you might be able to build this for next to nothing.

Regarding performance, the main difference will be around two S points over a G5RV on transmit and a huge difference on receive, even on par with my 3 element mini-beam on 20 meters. On 40 meters, you will be one of the loudest stations in the UK and will comfortably work right across Europe, from Finland in the North down through the Ukraine into Greece and Turkey in the far South East. Your signal will be 9+10db on 100 watts for at least 25% of days and you will easily compete with lofty 40 meter dipole stations working 400 watts and more.

Bearing in mind that most of the RF will be going skywards, there's a surprising amount of DX you can work at a pinch, although the same lofty 40 meter dipole stations will now overtake you as you stretch your legs into the 3,000 mile diameter DX circle. My loop has worked into CQ Zone 4 and 5 in the US down through Zone 8 and Zone 9 in Venezuela, Zone 10, Bolivia and also into New Zealand at 5:30am in the morning, breaking a pile up. Quite amazing!

*Callum M0MCX*