



Wythall Radio Club

Wythall Contest Group

G1WAC G4WAC G7WAC G0WRC M5W



g1wac@wythallradioclub.co.uk

http://www.wythallradioclub.co.uk

Wythall Radio Club meets from 8pm every Tuesday evening at Wythall House, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, B47 6LZ, near Birmingham.

Visitors are very welcome. **Wythall Radio Club** is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

Officers

Chairman: Martin G8VXX
Secretary: Chris G0EYO
Treasurer: David G0ICJ

Committee -

Chris G6KMQ Dep Chairman
Vaughan M0VRR Web Site
Team Leader and Child Protection officer
Lee G0MTN Contest Liaison
Peter M5DUO Antenna maintenance.
Mike G4VPD
Graham G7NJW
Jim 2E0BLP
Mel M0MAJ
Tim M0URX QSL Manager

Chairman's Message

This month has seen great success for both foundation and advanced candidates at the club with all candidates being successful in passing their exams. We are as a club, extremely proud of this achievement and hope that the people concerned will continue to support the club and take an active roll in all club activities. Which bring me to NFD (National field day) I hope all that are able will attend. For the uninitiated it runs from Sat 5th July to Sun 6th July and is a 24 hour radio contest. As much help as possible is needed to bring this about particularly on Sat morning and Sunday afternoon with set up and crackdown. There is also a BBQ on Saturday night which is always good fun. This years will be the first for 2 years due to the weather. I hope to see you all at this years event.

Martin Moyes
G8VXX

Newsletter

July–August 2008

100% pass in Advanced and Foundation Examinations for Wythall Members

It is with great pleasure and some pride that we saw the three candidates who undertook the club's first 14 week Advanced course recently pass their examinations to become full licence holders. Well done Colin (now M0GJM), Mel (now M0MAJ) and James (now M0GJQ). Tim 2E0SDE who was not able to do the course with us and took the exam at another venue also passed and is now M0URX. Congratulations to all four of you.

Not only can we report on the 100% success rate for our members in the Advanced Exam but our recently concluded Foundation Class also scored a 100% pass rate with new M6 licences on their way for Lynne (xyl of member Chris G0MLY), Jan (xyl of Dave G3YXM) and Rob (well known trader at the annual Wythall Rally). Well done you three, are you planning on signing up for the Intermediate Class starting in September I wonder?

These results now show us that the Wythall approach to tuition

for the Foundation. Intermediate and Advanced classes works. By using a team approach we can bring fresh minds to the challenge of imparting what can be quite difficult concepts to understand. We now have a large team of club members (8 in all) who can be drawn upon to tutor and demonstrate the requirements of the various syllabus' for the licence courses.

So, all you M3's out there, why not have a go at the Intermediate Licence and the same applies to you 2E0's, why not go for the Advanced one. The tutors at Wythall will get you through it.

The current licence structure came out of the demise of the old Radio Authority and the decision (accepted by most countries) that morse was no longer a



*Successful Advanced Licensees:
L-r: Colin M0GJM, James M0GJQ and Mel M0MAJ*

examination in that country.

What of the Future?

Well, the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF - the charitable part of the RSGB) are charged by Ofcom to continuously look at the licence syllabus' with a view to changing technology and international requirements. It would appear that there is a move afoot to make the full licence have some recognition as a vocational qualification (NVQ? BTEC?) so that its holder can put it on a CV for a job application. What we also need is to continue to show people how easy it is to get into amateur radio as the holder of the Foundation licence and encourage as many people as wish to do so, to move on up through Intermediate and Advanced to the full licence by offering easily accessible courses at a time convenient to them in a friendly and welcoming environment.



*Successful Foundation Licensees
L-r Rob, Jan and Lynne*

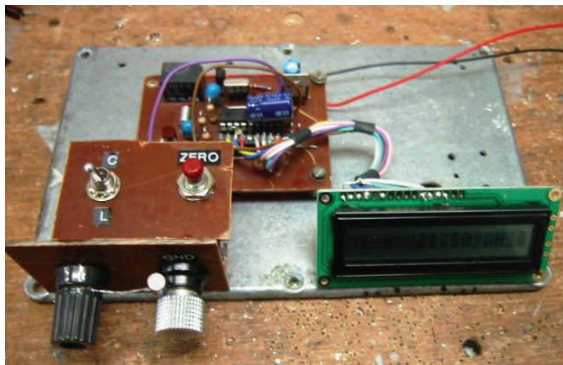
pre-requisite to operate on the HF bands. A full Amateur licence (at Advanced level) is equivalent to the Harmonised Licence requirements of the European Union enabling UK hams to operate through Europe and other parts of the world without having to take an

LC Meter and Frequency Standard

Another exciting project
from Barry's Bench

Two projects from Barry this month, an LC meter using the PIC microcomputer and a scrap box Frequency Standard. Enjoy!

higher current/voltage relay used for the auto calibrate (I didn't have any 5 -6 volt relays).



LC METER

Tom (G3PQP) spotted this project in Rad-Com a month or so ago, I came across it on the net some time ago when looking for PIC VFO displays and have just got round to building it.

This is the later version using a 16F628A, there is also an earlier version using a 16F84A and an additional op amp. I modified the original circuit slightly to cater for a

On the initial tests I found initial results with capacitors were good, but now that I have had a good play with this now, I have resolved a few issues and know how to drive correctly. As it was, loose on the bench, it was a bit temperamental regarding accuracy and stability, and I could not get the inductance function to work at all. The cure was to mount the PCB on a ground plane and install a 4.4pF cap (4.7pF should be fine) between pins 1 and 2 of the PIC. This seems to calm the free running oscillator down (may have been producing harmonics

in the HF region). I had to find the value by trial and error - too little pF the oscillator was still unstable, to much and it effected the accuracy of the inductor reading. The other thing I noticed is that it is best to leave the unit for 3 to 4 minutes before use from switch on, doing this produces constant accuracy of readings (I think the free running oscillator needs time to stabilise from switch on, it runs at about 540kHz). The 470 microfarad and 100nF decoupling caps should be mounted as close

as possible to pin 14 of the PIC.

Anyway it works great on both capacitance and inductance. So why not have a go at building one.

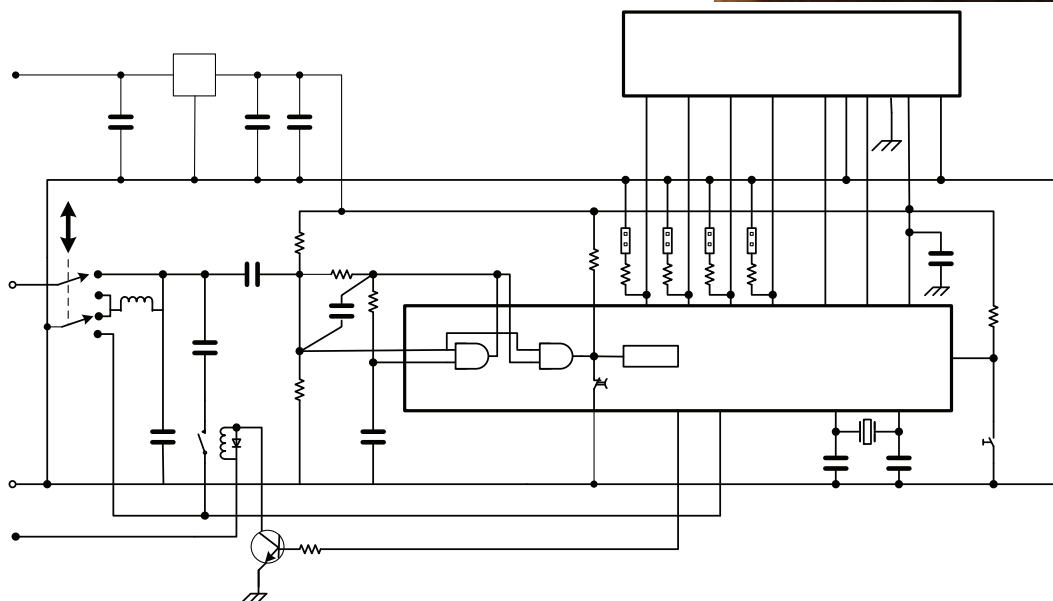
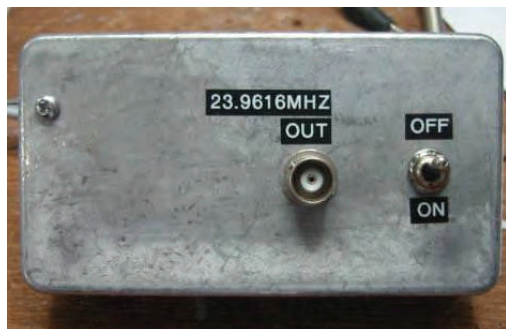
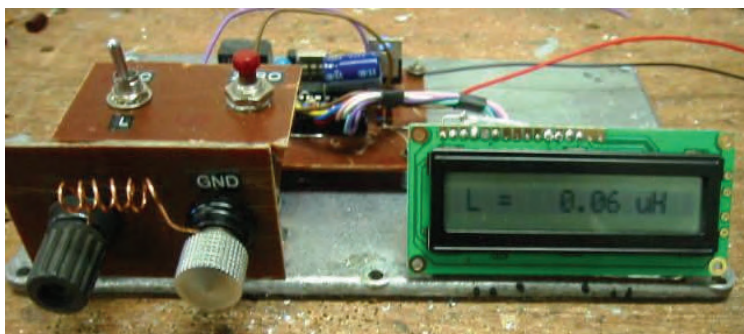
It would be interesting to know if anyone else experiences these problems.

For anyone who does not subscribe to the RSGB for Radcom (myself included), Google VK3BHR to bring you to his website.

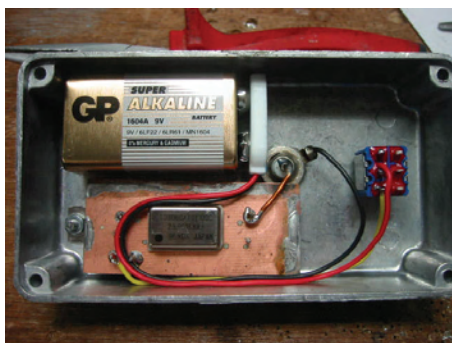
FREQUENCY STANDARD

Nothing technical or complicated about this, but I thought it may be of use to someone.

Having built several frequency counters / vfo dial displays lately and not having a frequency reference for calibration at home, this fills the bill and is cheap. These tin can temperature compensated crystal oscillators (TCXO) are often found on scrap pc boards etc and are extremely accurate (look up the specs). I used a 9 volt battery and a 5 volt regulator (7805) to power this. This one produces a 23.961600 MHz sine-wave. Output is just over 1 volt peak to



peak. Obviously it does not compare to a rubidium reference, but for homebrew amateur use it is excellent.



Barry M0DGQ

Special Event Stations GB0ESF and GB0HSF

Members are reminded that we have two special event stations planned this summer:

*Evesham Steam Fair GB0ESF on
8th/9th/10th of August and*

*Hanbury Steam Fair GB0HSF on
12th/13th/14th of September*

*Do come along and support these events.
They are great fun, you get free entry in the
shows and there is lots to do and see.*

*Darren GW7HOC is organising these and
he can be contacted via e mail
daz@motorhomer.co.uk or via the Wythall
List.*



Training Project Report

We have already reported elsewhere in this newsletter on our successes with recent Advanced and Foundation Examinations and our hosting of the Training for Trainers weekend at Wythall House in May.

At the time of writing in addition to Vaughan M0VRR and Chris G6KMQ, three more club members have gained their official instructor registration from the RSGB (an exercise which has taken nearly 7 months). They are

Chris G0EYO
Mike G4VPD
David G0ICJ

Others still being processed by RSGB include

Tom G3PQP
Peter G4LWF
Martin G8VXX

All the above can teach but only those registered can be the lead instructor. Needless to say the RSGB's performance in registering our instructors has left a lot to be desired and we have complained to the Board Member responsible for Amateur Radio Advancement, Brian Wilson, but more on that in a later issue of the newsletter.

Morse Certificate?

Having attended the TtT session, your instructors have been invited to join an RSGB Tutors Reflector and it has been entertaining seeing some of the things that some of our colleagues in other clubs worry about. There was a long diatribe between a couple of anally retentive correspondents on the definition of tidal waters for operating maritime mobile!! A similar situation occurred on the subject of whether it is important to remember the resistor colour code.

There is a serious purpose behind the RSGB Tutors Reflector and that is to discuss the development of the Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced License classes.

One subject which caught my attention was a proposal that the RSGB initiate a certificate for morse competence at 5wpm and 12wpm, although we seem unsure whether this for other than peer proof of capability or for use in those countries that still insist on morse to operate on the HF bands.

There has also been a discussion on when do we introduce the new technologies such as DSP and Software Defined Radio.

How do we get more candidates?

We have now completed a cycle of courses and examinations, starting with the two week-end Intermediate in January, the 14 week Advanced and the 6 week Foundation. We have a break now over July and August and then start a 10 week Intermediate course, assuming that we can attract candidates. I guess we ought to be able to get candidates for the Advanced and Intermediate courses from Foundation students who we know have passed but we do need to find a way of attracting people for the Foundation courses. I would be happy to receive any suggestions that readers might have on where best to advertise the courses, local papers, libraries, post offices etc. Now that we are getting instructors registered we should be able to get a club entry on the Region 5 part of the RSGB website but this seems to take ages. Word of mouth is probably best and pushing the courses on our own web site is another way we can go.

Chris G0EYO

Lord Pettitt's Shooting Party

Each year the club hold a clay pigeon shooting competition at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground in near Beoley, Red-ditch. This is a Sunday morning activity and it costs around £44 per person for about 50 shots. Beginners are well catered for and we get personal tuition. We have yet to fix a final date but it looks like it might be 28th September or 12th October and most probably the latter. If you are interested, contact Chris G0EYO.



Wythall Host the RSGB Train the Trainers Day in the Midlands

Wythall Radio Club recently hosted the first RSGB Train the Trainers Day in the Midlands. We booked the Britannia Room from Wythall House for Sunday the 18th of May and invited local clubs to send their trainers (and would be trainers) along.

Dave Wilson M0OBW and Dave Bibby G1PIX came along from RSGB to do the presentations and lead the discussions. These guys are running the TtT sessions in the North and North West and kindly agreed to take on the Midlands as well. They are based in Cheshire so had an early start that Sunday morning.

We had 24 trainers sign up from the day and only 4 failed to show. Clubs represented included, Melton Mowbray ARS, Coventry ARS, Telford and District ARC, Tamworth ARS, Sutton Coldfield ARS, West Bromwich Central Radio Club and Kidderminster DARC, Trevor Bailey M0KMB who is the

tear Radio Development Committee, is also keeper of the GB3MP Repeater Group, took us through the first session. This covered introductions, the relationship between Ofcom, the Radio Communications Foundation and the RSGB and who does what. He reviewed the procedures for requesting examination papers, registering instructors and the conduct of examinations. He stressed the importance of using the RSGB facilities to promote courses and these include the national and regional websites and GB2RS.



Questions were encouraged and certainly not slow to come. We were able to get over some of our own frustrations with regard to instructor registration and CRB identity document sighting.

After a short break, Dave G1PIX (for obvious reasons also referred to as Pixie), gave a rather controversial but thought provoking presentation on what the tutor needs to know to successfully present a

After a short break for lunch, Dave M0OBW presented Session 3 which took a look at course planning and the importance of stating the objectives of each lesson, what you are going to cover and then to summarise what you have covered. The course schedule or scheme of work is a vital document to ensure everything is covered, and the lesson plan for each individual lesson is no less important to ensure all the points are covered. Off the cuff teaching can appear to work, but a well planned lesson is likely to be more enjoyable, more effective and cover all the points. The final session was devoted to questions and answers some of the topics covered concerned ambiguous questions, examination appeals, the question bank, demonstrations for foundation courses. A interesting and thought provoking day and certainly judging from the reaction of our own members, was considered a great success.

Chris G0EYO Training Co-ordinator



Region 5 RSGB Regional Manager was also present. Chris G0EYO, and Chris G6KMQ together with Peter G4LWF, Tom G3PQP, Vaughan M0VRR, Mike G4VPD, David G0ICJ and Martin G8VXX were also present representing the complete Wythall Training Team. Chris G0MLY who is also a member of Wythall club came along as sub regional manager for the RSGB in Midlands.

The day called for a 9.30 start although Wythall members got there earlier to set up the equipment, arrange the room and layout the refreshments. The club also laid on a buffet lunch for the delegates and speakers.

The day was split into four sessions. Dave M0OBW, who as well as being an RSGB Board Director for Emerging Technologies and Conventions and a member of the Ama-

course. He concentrated on the technical requirements of the Advanced examination. This session was highly interactive, with a never ending debate on the common emitter amplifier and whether you needed to teach everything there was to know about it or just enough for students to answer questions correctly. Dave G1PIX has been teaching the RAE (C&G) since 1985 and runs Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced courses in Cheshire and is a member of the Widnes and Runcorn ARC.



QSL Manager's Report

Firstly this month I am pleased to report that I have finally passed the Advanced Amateur Exam, which I have to thank the encouragement of the Wythall Club this means that all Wythall radio activity will now be QSL Via M0URX I have changed the QRZ.com databases and I am also in the process of informing the other QRZ search engine databases.

The RSGB Bureau has now been taken over by Norcomm Services and I would like to remind all members that the address to send outgoing RSGB Bureau cards is now: RSGB QSL Bureau, P.O. Box 5, Halifax, HX1 9JR, ENGLAND.

I have not received any mail from the RSGB Bureau since early in February and I am informed unofficially that they have about a two month backlog of mail to sort through. We wish Norcomm our very best wishes with their new venture.

One project ongoing at the moment is a DX'pedition to Spratly Island in the South China Sea, I am not in the team going out to

Spratly but I am QSL Manager for the team. We have been working on a website for the last month and this has now just gone live. You are welcome to visit the site to keep up with the progress of the expedition <http://www.spratly2009.com>

Band conditions have been poor with the Solar Flux Index at 65 in recent days. The lowest ever recorded was 64.4 so this shows you that we really are and have been for several months at the lowest point in Cycle 23. The only way is UP! Although conditions in the mornings have been good on 20m and 40m to Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii so for those of you even with small beams or good verticals for 40m should still be able to work DX! I have noticed good conditions in the afternoons to South East Asia, I have been in regular contact with 9M6XRO John on 20m for whom I am QSL Manager for.

I now have a new email address m0urx@btopenworld.com
Tim M0URX

New Members

We have been adding to our numbers lately and therefore welcome some new and re-joined members to our club in last couple of months.

Ian Ashford G8PWE and family, Lynda, Elisabeth and Victoria all licensed of course have rejoined

Peter G0HPH and Lauren G0HPG Brookes who used to be members when the club was founded some 27 years ago.

New members with foundation passes who will be getting their M6 callsigns soon
Rob Brough, Jan Pick, Lynne Rolinson

Alan Allcot M3XSB and Roger Mansell M3RXV who have rejoined

And new member Martin Childs G7WBX

Welcome one and all.

Midlands Repeater Frequencies and CTCSS codes

Talking about repeaters at the club one night, I was told that Birmingham had its own repeater again on 2m. GB3BM is back!. This made me realise how out of date I was with repeater frequencies and particularly with the requirement on some of them to gain access with CTCSS tones rather than the 1750Hz tone burst of old. So in order to continue to give our members the very best of service, I have listed those repeaters that should be accessible from the Midlands (basically 50 miles or less from Wythall). This list has been edited from one taken off the UK repeater website so I hope it is up to date. Apologies if it isn't.

73

Chris G0EYO

	callsign		rx freq	tx freq	locator	town	ctcss code	ctcss freq Hz	keeper
6m	GB3BY	R50-1	50.7200	51.2200	IO82XH	Bromsgrove	J	118.8	G8OXG
	GB3UM	R50-3	50.7400	51.2400	IO92IQ	Markfield Leics.	C	77	M1NAS
	GB3SX	R50-8	50.7900	51.2900	IO93BA	Stoke on Trent	G	103.5	G8DZJ
	GB3VI	R50-15	50.8600	51.3600	IO92BL	Birmingham	A	67	G8NDT
	GB3CF	RV48	145.6000	145.0000	IO92IQ	Leicestershire	C	77	G4AFJ
2m	GB3NW	RV50	145.6250	145.0250	IO82VE	Worcester	A	67	G4IDF
	GB3NF	RV50	145.6250	145.0250	IO92KX	Nottingham	C	77	G0OQQ
	GB3IN	RV51	145.6375	145.0375	IO93FE	Chesterfield	B	71.9	G4TSN
	GB3BM	RV53	145.6625	145.0625	IO92BL	Birmingham	A	67	G8NDT
	GB3BX	RV54	145.6750	145.0750	IO82XP	Wolverhampton	A	67	G4JLI
	GB3DC	RV55	145.6875	145.0875	IO92GW	Derby	B	71.9	G7NPW
	GB3VT	RV58	145.7250	145.1250	IO83WA	Stoke on Trent	G	103.5	G8DZJ
	GB3TA	RV59	145.7375	145.1375	IO92EO	Tamworth	A	67	G6NHG
	GB3IP	RV61	145.7625	145.1625	IO82VS	Stafford	G	103.5	G7PFT
	GB3WK	RV62	145.7750	145.1750	IO92FH	LeamingtonSpa	A	676	G6FEO
70cm	GB3KD	RV63	145.7875	145.1875	IO82VJ	Kidderminster	J	118.8	G8PZT
	GB3WU	RU66	430.8250	438.4250	IO82VF	Worcester	J	118.8	G8TIC
	GB3VN	RU74	430.9250	438.5250	IO82QI	Ludlow	G	103.5	G4OYX
	GB3ZI	RU78	430.9750	438.5750	IO82XT	Stafford	G	103.5	G8VPR
	GB3WN	RB0	433.0000	434.6000	IO82XP	Wolverhampton	A	67	G4OKE
	GB3UI	RB01	433.0250	434.6250	IO92CK	Solihull	A	67	G4LCH
	GB3ST	RB02	433.0500	434.6500	IO83WA	Stoke on Trent	G	103.5	G8DZJ
	GB3KR	RB03	433.0750	434.6750	IO82UJ	Kidderminster	A	67	G8NTU
	GB3SV	RB04	433.1000	434.7000	IO82UI	StourptSevern	J	118.8	G1ZRN
	GB3LE	RB04	433.1000	434.7000	IO92IQ	Leicester	C	77	M1NAS
	GB3IC	RB05	433.1250	434.7250	IO82WO	Wolverhampton	A	67	M0VRR
	GB3ME	RB06	433.1500	434.7500	IO92JJ	Rugby	A	67	G0JEW
	GB3MS	RB07	433.1750	434.7750	IO82VE	Worcester	J	118.8	G7WIG
	GB3NM	RB07	433.1750	434.7750	IO92KX	Nottingham	B	71.9	G4IRX
	GB3TF	RB08	433.2000	434.8000	IO82SQ	Telford	G	103.5	G3UKV
	GB3CV	RB09	433.2250	434.8250	IO92GK	Coventry	A	67	G7TRJ
	GB3DY	RB10	433.2500	434.8500	IO93FB	Wirksworth	B	71.9	G3ZYC
	GB3MW	RB10	433.2500	434.8500	IO92FH	LeamingtonSpa	A	67	G6FEO
	GB3HT	RB11	433.2750	434.8750	IO92HN	Hinckley	C	77	G4ALB
	GB3GB	RB12	433.3000	434.9000	IO92BN	Birmingham	A	67	G8NDT
	GB3SM	RB13	433.3250	434.9250	IO93BA	Stoke on Trent	G	103.5	G8DZJ
d-star	GB3CB	RB14	433.3500	434.9500	IO92BL	Birmingham	A	67	G8VIQ
	GB3TH	RB15	433.3750	434.9750	IO92DP	Tamworth	A	67	G1BCZ
	GB7IR	GMSK	439.6125	430.6125	IO82UT	Stafford			G7PFT
	GB7IQ	GMSK	439.6125	430.6125	IO82WS	Stafford			G7PFT
	GB7IP	GMSK	439.6125	430.6125	IO92AQ	Cannock			M0OML
	GB7WF	GMSK	439.7875	433.7875	IO82UJ	Bewdley			G1ZRN

User Review of Yaesu FT2000

I bought one of the first FT-2000s in the UK and in fact it was one of the first collected from Martin Lynch & Sons from Surrey. My reason for buying this radio was that I wanted a top performing radio to work in the field of competitive DX'peditioning, DX'ing and Contesting and in the days since its purchase it has not let me down on any of my requirements.

The ergonomics of the FT-2000 are perfect for my style of operating, this is not a "Plug and Play radio" if that is what you are looking for then perhaps this beast is not for

panel. I very rarely find the need to go into Menu Settings as all the Functions for everyday DX'ing and Contesting are well laid out on the fascia. One criticism would be for me is that in a poorly lit room the front panel is difficult to read and a desk lamp is needed to be able to see well. Certainly for the future development of this radio some form of "Back Lighting" on the front panel would be an ideal investment.

AGC Pumping – The factory default setting for the AGC is too fast and causes pumping of the AGC every time a light or electrical

Anthony found that he was not able to cope with this radio on 40m, I am pretty sure it was because he had not used the FT-2000 before in anger and just needed to hone his skills at using the filtering on a crowded band. So with hindsight if you are using ANY radio in extreme contest situation, be sure that you are familiar with the radio's facilities.

For weak signal work the transceiver performs very well the Digital DSP takes some getting used to but does work well in pulling out stations deep in the noise floor. Not as

well as the K3 performs though to compare like for like. The Digital Noise Reduction DNR is in my opinion in need of further development but does work.

So from the operator's perspective this transceiver is an excellent performing piece of equipment that I believe is well worth the £1695 it is a pleasure to

use and will be in my shack for many years to come.

Maybe I could take the radio to "Barry's Bench" for the technical review?

Tim M0URX



you!

For sure the Audio Microphone Equaliser with separate Menu settings for High, Mid and Low ranges does take some setting up. But you do not need to be a sound engineer to achieve a pleasant audio tone. This radio has been designed by engineers of the highest standard and they understand that each one of us is individual in how we sound, and you and I will have a different microphone for our different style of operating. So this is why the "Mic EQ" has been designed for "Individuality" I use the Heil HC4 insert although I equally like the HC5 audio insert for its audio qualities, it is easy to find the Mic EQ settings that suit the Heil the best and if anyone needs these settings I have them on a database file. Just email me!

I do not see the argument that many have, that the audio on this radio is bad. We are Radio Amateurs and by its own definition our hobby is about experimentation and if you can't take an hour or two to sit down and EXPERIMENT then this radio nor the hobby just might not be for you. In contrary I have had dozens of compliments about the audio quality of this radio.

Once you have set up the Mic Eq to your liking then you can really start to enjoy the ease of use of the very well laid out front

switch in the house is turned on or off. This is easily corrected by slowing down the action of the AGC to 1800 m/sec setting on Menu number 5 AGC SLW DLY.

My big test for this radio came in the 2007 CQWW Phone Contest in Wales operating as MW5W with the call sign of Wythall Radio Club. We had two Yaesu FT-2000s one operating on 40m and the other on 20m with another 4 stations in the shack in a 6 station Full legal power contest station so you can imagine the RF flying around the shack was quite high in fact during the first night time one of the Computers developed an RF related problem and finally packed up. The FT2K was in a class of its own in my opinion we were using individual Stub Filters home made by OA0OAA Viliam for each Band and these worked very effectively the only RF Breakthrough experienced was on each exact Harmonic +/- 10kc which given the close proximity of each radio and each antenna is quite impressive.

I spent most of the contest on 40m running up 1,300 QSOs in very tight band width due to the excitement that CQWW makes on the band, I had no problem with the QRM either side of my transmit the FT-2000 was able to cope with this admirably. To balance this I can say that MW0JZE



Club Diary

Sat/Sun	5/6th July	VHF NFD.
Tuesday	8th July	Committee Meeting
Tuesday	15th July	Natter night
Tuesday	22nd July	Using an Oscilloscope - practical demonstration by Chris G0EYO
Tuesday	29th July	Measuring a 2m dipole antenna for resonance and feeder radiation
Tuesday	5th August	Talk by Tom G3PQP on home brew equipment and Club Contest 2m
Fri/Sat/Sun	8/9/10th August	Special Event Station at Evesham Steam Fair GB0ESF
Tuesday	12th August	Committee Meeting
Tuesday	19th August	Natter night
Tuesday	26th August	Using a Spectrum Analyser - practical demonstration by Chris G0EYO
Tuesday	2nd September	Talk by Vaughan M0VRR on Echo Link Repeaters and Club Contest 2m
Tuesday	9th September	Committee Meeting
Fri/Sat/Sun	12/13/14th	Hanbury Steam Fair Special Event GB0HSF
Tuesday	16th September	INTERMEDIATE Course starts week 1
Tuesday	23rd September	Intermediate class week 2
Tuesday	30th September	Intermediate class week 3
Friday	3rd October	Intermediate class week 4
Tuesday	7th October	Talk by Chris G0EYO on Antenna Modelling and Club Contest 2m
Friday	10th October	Intermediate class week 5
Sunday	12th October	Lord Pettitt's Shooting Party
Tuesday	14th October	Committee Meeting
Friday	17th October	Intermediate class week 6
Tuesday	21st October	Intermediate class week 7
Tuesday	28th October	Intermediate class week 8
Tuesday	4th November	Talk on D Star repeaters by Ian G8PWE (to be confirmed) and Club Contest 2m
Friday	7th November	Intermediate class week 9
Tuesday	11th November	Committee Meeting
Friday	14th November	Intermediate class week 10
Tuesday	18th November	INTERMEDIATE EXAM

NFD BBQ Sat 5th

Don't forget that it is VHF NFD Weekend on Sat/Sun 5/6th July and the club holds its Summer BBQ on the Saturday evening. Members and their families are most welcome, food will be provided, just bring your own drinks and a chair to sit on. However in order to cater for everyone make sure you have told Chris G0EYO on g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk if you are coming and how many by 3rd of July.



VHF NATIONAL FIELD DAY 2008 Saturday 5th July / Sunday 6th July



144 MHz / 2 metres

Time (UTC)	Operator1:	Operator2:
14:00	Les M0COK	
15:00	Lee G0MTN	Sylwia M3SSP
16:00	Darren G7HOC	
17:00	Chris G6KMQ	
18:00	Roy G0HDF	
19:00		
20:00		
21:00	Chris G0EYO	
22:00	Les M0COK	
23:00	Lee G0MTN	
00:00		
01:00		
02:00		
03:00		
04:00		
05:00		
06:00	Vic M0AEJ	Neil 2E0TUX
07:00	Lee G0MTN	Neil 2E0TUX
08:00	Chris G0EYO	
09:00	Les M0COK	
10:00	Vic M0AEJ	
11:00	David G0ICJ	Jim 2E0BLP
12:00	Les M0COK	
13:00	Lee G0MTN	Sylwia M3SSP

50 MHz / 6 metres

Time (UTC)	Operator1:	Operator2:
14:00	G7HOC / G4VPD	Vaughan M0VRR
15:00	Mike G4VPD	
16:00	Les M0COK	
17:00	Lee G0MTN	Sylwia M3SSP
18:00	David G0ICJ	Tom G3PQP
19:00		
20:00	Les M0COK	
21:00		

Setup helpers:

Lee G0MTN	Les M0COK	Vic M0AEJ
David G0ICJ	Darren G7HOC	Vaughan M0VRR
Sherryn M3SVR	Martin G8VXX	Roy G0HDF
Peter M5DUO	Jim 2E0BLP	

Cleardown helpers:

Lee G0MTN	Les M0COK	Vic M0AEJ
David G0ICJ	Darren G7HOC	Vaughan M0VRR
Sherryn M3SVR	Martin G8VXX	Peter M5DUO
Jim 2E0BLP		

Catering manager:

Chris G0EYO

Thanks for your support !

Contest Group Report

As I write this, VHF NFD is just one week away. Vaughan, David G0ICJ, Mel and myself have given the Versatower a quick check a few weeks ago – making sure important things like the wheels still turn, and there's a half even chance of putting antennas on it and getting them into the air. I'm preparing a presentation to give at the club on Tuesday – using some of the photos from previous events to give a visual reminder for everyone about how things go together on the weekend. A picture does paint a thousand words – especially when trying to explain how we fit stacks of yagis onto a tower, or manage to manhandle the big 2m linear amplifier into the operating caravan. It's been fun looking back at many year's of field events from the club. Although it's sometimes been hard work, and a few times the weather was a little too inclement for comfort, overall everyone has fond memories.

Last year, as many of you will remember, we cancelled our VHF NFD activity for the first time ever due to the severe rains and floods that most of the country had experienced. Our usual field on the park was too wet to use, and the access track to it literally underwater in places. But this year, the ground is firm, and the weather outlook much better. Hopefully we'll

be blessed with good band conditions too. Listening to 6m last night, I was hearing several USA stations on my HB9CV antenna, which is fixed on Europe, and inside the loft. Imagine what a yagi at 30 metres would be like in comparison. Let's hope for similar conditions next week. If we manage to transport the 144 MHz linear amplifier too, this should make operating much more of a lively experience.

Even so, it's proved a little difficult to persuade members to come and operate. I'm not exactly sure why this is. We've given 'contest operating' presentations in the past, and there will be another training session given before the contest weekend. It's still a 'fun' event, with plenty of other club members around to support and assist. With perhaps up to 40 club members, plus family and friends visiting the site for the annual summer social barbecue, it should be a lot of fun.

Away from VHF NFD, the (slightly) better weather has tempted Les M0COK to try the 144 MHz Backpackers contest again. It's been good to see a regular G1WAC club station entry in the 2m UKAC Tuesday evening contests by Mike G4VPD, along with M0COP/P on the Long Mynd, and usually Vic M0AEJ and myself making up

the team entry. The 80m Club Championships usually see entries from Pete M0COP, Vic M0AEJ, David G0ICJ and myself. We could do with some more entries here if we want to aim for a good 'top half' position in the final results tables – surely more club members can operate on 80m and spare 90 minutes once or twice a month? The club station is also available for use if need be.

There are more VHF events in the next couple of months whilst the weather is better. HF tends to take a back seat in the mid-summer, but there are still popular events like IARU and IOTA to try. Good news is that 10 metres is coming back to life, with some transatlantic contacts now possible once again. For the sunspot counts, the only way is up!

Lee G0MTN

Rules & Info:

HF: <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>
<http://www.sk3be.se/contest>

VHF: <http://www.vhfcc.org>

Contest calendar July to September:

RSGB HF Calendar:

July	1900-2030.	80m Club Championships	7th – CW; 16th – SSB; 24th - Data.
July 20	0900-1600	Low Power Field Day	3510-3580, 7000-7040kHz, RST+Serial+Power.
July 26/27	1200-1200.	IOTA Contest	3.5-28MHz, RS(T)+Serial+Reference.
August	1900-2030.	80m Club Sprint	14th – CW; 27th – SSB.
August 3	0700-0900.	RoPoCo 2	3520-3570kHz, RST+Postcode Received.
September	1900-2030.	80m Club Sprint	11th – SSB; 24th – CW.
September 6/7	1300-1300.	SSB Field Day	3.5-28MHz, RS+serial.

International HF Calendar:

12-13 July	1200 – 1200	IARU World Championship
2 August	1200 – 2359	EU HF Championship
16 – 17 Aug	Various	SARTG RTTY
30 – 31 Aug	1200 – 1200	SCC RTTY
6 – 7 Sep	1300 – 1300	SSB Field Day

RSGB VHF Calendar:

5-6 Jul.	1400-1400 VHF NFD
6 Jul.	1100-1500 3rd 144MHz Backpackers
20 Jul.	1100-1500 4th 144MHz Backpackers
2 Aug.	1400-2000 144MHz Low Power Contest
3 Aug.	0800-1200 432MHz Low Power Contest
17 Aug.	0900-1500 70MHz Trophy Contest
6-7 Sep	1400-1400 144MHz Trophy Contest
7 Sep	1100-1500 5th 144MHz Backpackers
14 Sep	0900-1200 Second 70MHz Contest

The next issue of the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter will be published at the beginning of September 2008

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