



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

Vaughan M0VRR, Deputy Chairman

Lee G0MTN Contest Liaison

Peter M5DUO Antenna maintenance.

Mike G4VPD

Mel M0MAJ

Martin G7WBX

Colin M0GJM QSL manager

Neil 2E0TUX IT manager

Chairman's Message

Another year has come and gone and we are approaching AGM time again. I have now been chairman of the club for two years and I am stepping down this year. So this will be my last chairman's bit in the newsletter so I thought I would leave you with a thought or two.

I have been fortunate enough to be very busy with my PA hire business recently with a band called Flashback to the Eighties, who are using us for all their gigs. I have to say that there is a vast variation on the quality of management of establishments that we visit. You would think that very posh golf club's with a large function room would be well managed. Nothing could be further from the truth. And a popular local pub would have a welcoming landlady. Well not so. We packed the place and she did not smile once all night. So as you go through life smile and be friendly to people as they might just write a thing or two about you in a piece like this. It costs nothing to be pleasant and to respect others, especially when they work long and hard to produce a fantastic product. I hope that the club can continue to prosper next year, probably a lot better without me as chairman.

Martin
G8VXX

Newsletter

September - October 2009

Great Weather, Great Company and Great VHF NFD

The first weekend in July saw the club participate in its annual VHF National Field Day (VHF NFD). This is a UK wide contest organised by the RSGB VHF contests committee for portable stations operating on VHF and UHF frequencies. There are various sections clubs can register for, Open - max power limits, multiple antennas at any height, Restricted-100W PEP at

the antenna, single antenna at 10m max height. Low Power - 25W output power and single antenna at 10m max height. It is a 24 hour contest starting at 1400GMT on the Saturday and finishing at 1400GMT on the Sunday. Clubs can choose from up to five bands to operate on, 6m, 4m, 2m, 70cms, and 23cms, but only three or four bands can be submitted depending upon the section the club has chosen to enter. Wythall thought that we should indulge in a bit of nostalgia this, so we went low power, using the 30ft tubular masts we used many years ago and operate on 6m, 2m and 23cm. We did quite well really with a score that probably puts us in the middle of the low power section.

Lee G0MTN takes on the responsibility for organising and registering our entry with the necessary authorities, but many club members also help

out with the build up and knock down and the operating. The weekend starts at around 9am with loading up our Chairman's van from the club



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shack and driving all of ¼ mile to the operating site which is on a far field in Wythall Park. We are usually on site by 9.30am and this year two members had already pitched up the night before with their caravan and motorhome.



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The club's caravan was going to arrive around mid-day so we got on with building the antennas required, erecting the masts and having a laugh. The 6m antenna was its usual awkward self in displaying a very high VSWR and the gamma match doing anything else but match. (Luckily the auto ATU

on the 920 coped with the mismatch).

With the club caravan on site we could set up the operating positions, 2m was Chris

KMQ's IC910.

The 6m was the club's FT920 and the 23cms was the club's IC910 with 23cms module driving a mast mounted 25W RF amplifier made by Chris G0EYO. The latter had not been used for some years and I am pleased to say it gave sterling service throughout the

whole contest, although mounting it on the caravan telescopic mast proved challenging (Thanks Vaughan and Roy for some inspirational acrobatics). Power generators switched on rotators and rigs checked and we are all systems go by the appointed hour.

Progress was steady during the hours of operation. (We had choice of night time shut down and went for it), with the following QSO's numbers being recorded:

2m 83Q's 17000 pts
6m 56Q's 57000 pts
23cms 14Q's 1800 pts

This resulted in us being 7th out of 17 in the low power section—a very good score indeed!!

In the evening the club held its summer social with a BBQ, organised and pro-

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Emergency Lighting Unit

Another exciting project
from Barry's Bench

This project came about from me tripping the elcb on the house consumer unit when working on old valve broadcast radios, some had earth leakage problems and more often than not it was due to my carelessness. The shack is located in the attic of the house so it is a little precarious walking down two flights of stairs in darkness to reset the trip, so an emergency light was called for. The light (two are used here, one for each staircase) are powered from a redundant car battery which is float charged by the power supply unit. When a mains fail occurs a relay kicks in and turns the emergency lighting on. Once mains is restored the relay drops out and the emergency lighting is switched off.

As already mentioned the psu charges the battery but also the psu may be used for other purposes as well, in my case it powers some intercoms and the doorbell.

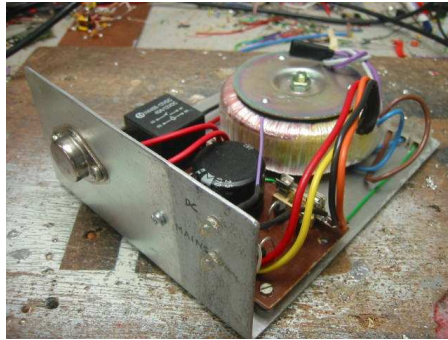
All of the components used came from the junk box so this was a very cheap project. The circuit is not critical so component substitution should not present any major problems.

How it works

Looking at the circuit you will see it is fairly straight forward. Incoming mains voltage is transformed down to approximately 18 volts at the secondary of T1 where it is full-wave rectified by the bridge rectifier (D1 -D4) and smoothed by the reservoir capacitor C1 to produce a DC voltage of about 25 volts. Any voltage between 20 – 26 volts will be okay here so a transformer with a secondary voltage between 13 – 18 volts AC will be fine.

The 25 volts DC is then presented to the

series pass regulator circuit (Ic1, Tr1). Here the 25 volts is dropped and regulated to 13.6 volts. The regulated output voltage (i.e. the psu output) from Tr1's emitter will be 15.0 volts (provided by Ic1) minus two junction drops of 0.7 volts (Tr1, D5) which gives us a psu voltage of 13.6 volts, good enough. Tr1 is used as an emitter

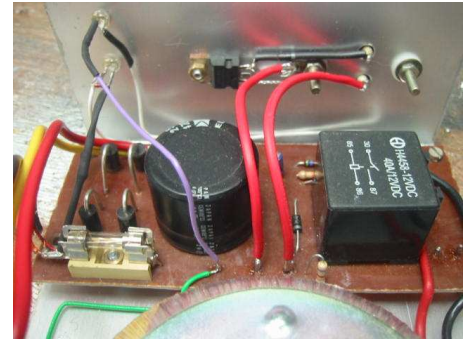


follower to increase the current output available from Ic1. So, we have a standard psu to charge the battery and power any ancillary equipment.

D6, R1 and C2 provide a steady DC bias voltage which keeps Tr2 turned on (fully saturated) but only in the presence of mains voltage, once mains is lost, so is the bias for Tr2. With Tr2 turned on its collector voltage will be near enough zero (saturation voltage, approx. 0.1 Volt) which in turn keeps Tr3 biased off and relay 1 de-energised. When a mains fail occurs Tr2 is turned off as it now has no bias via D6,R1,C2 and as a result Tr3 is turned on, relay 1 is energised closing its contact and presenting 13.6 volts to the emergency lights. Once mains is restored everything reverts back to normal.

Relay 1 should have sufficient contact current rating for the lights in use (I used a

couple of 21 W car bulbs), bear this in mind when selecting your relay (an automotive normally open type relay was used here). The transformer used here has a secondary



current rating of 3 amps, this is sufficient to charge the battery after a moderate discharge (a few hours or so with the bulbs used here). This will not be enough if the battery undergoes a deep discharge, an external heavy duty charger will be needed to bring the battery back to life. However, the circuit is only designed to power the lamps until mains is restored which in my case will only be a few minutes but it will run the lamps okay for a few hours if need be. Indeed, it will run the lamps until the battery voltage drops below the holding voltage of the relay (8 volts approx.), by this time you can probably say goodbye to your battery!

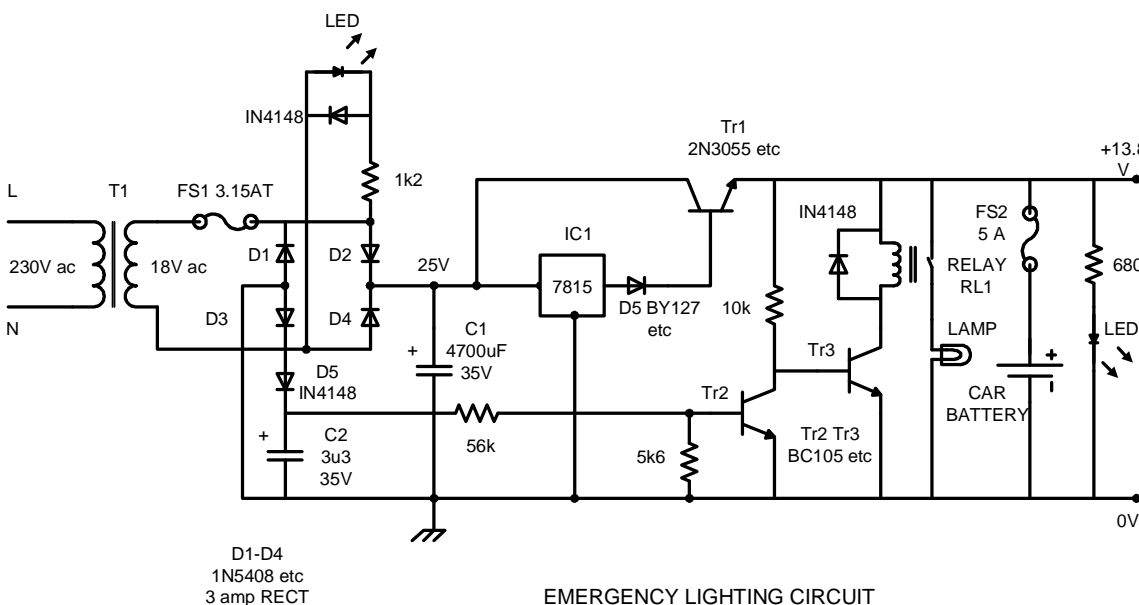
Construction

As you can see, mine was thrown together. Layout is not at all critical, usual precautions should be taken when working with domestic mains. Ic1 and Tr1 should be mounted on a large heat sink, the chassis is used here. Tr1 will require an insulating kit.

In use

Not much to say here, the circuit works flawlessly and has proved very beneficial. It's a shame it cant mute the abuse I get from my dear wife when the power is tripped halfway through the far too numerous soaps.

Barry M0DGQ.



G0EVY Dave Big Gun Antenna near Bromsgrove



This is a 80m beam near Bromsgrove at the QTH of Dave G0EVY. The crane get the beam height to 46m and it can be dropped in 3 minutes. The boom is two 60ft towers welded together. Has anyone worked Dave?. Let us have pictures of big gun antennas for future newsletters

VHF NFD continued from page 1



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thing was switched off and the big knock down was started. We had finished and got everything stowed away by



vided by Vaughan M0VRR and Sherryn M3SVR. A number of members came along just for chat, a drink and something in a bun. Everyone had a great time and the partying went on well into the evening.

On the Sunday we carried on operating until the appointed time and at 1400GMT every-

1530GMT (1630BST) and where on our way home. Tired but exhilarated. A great weekend.

Chris G0EYO



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How I became a Radio Ham—Martin G8VXX

Well now there's a question... Why would anyone want to become a radio ham. I suppose it's more a question of what interests you have as a person and what encouragement you get as a youngster. Well for me it all started very young. My earliest memory of being interested in anything mechanical/electrical was my father showing me the pistons going up and down in a car engine with the cylinder head removed. (My Father was at that time an Automotive Engineer he went on to become chief designer at Girling brakes) He and a work colleague were at the time overhauling the work colleague's car engine and as my father had a pit in the garage of the house in Walmley where we lived, then this was an advantage to enable them to do what was necessary. Anyway I was so fascinated by what I saw, I asked loads of questions of my father to the point



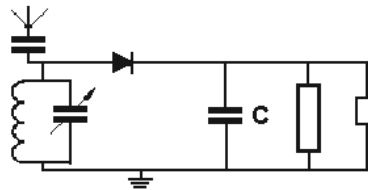
where he bought me a Ladybird book on how the internal combustion engine worked. I must have been around 6 years old and the theory of suck, squeeze, bang, blow (induction, compression, ignition, exhaust to give them their proper names) and how it was achieved, became second nature to me. This annoyed some of my school friends as they saw me as the mad professor.

I went on to become interested more in all things electrical and by the time I was about 8 years old I had my own valve radio in my bedroom having previously had a crystal set albeit a commercially built one. Now around this time I became aware of a radio ham that lived about half a mile away and was known to my parents through their connection with the church. This radio ham, Alan Dennis, his call sign I forget, used to cause a lot of interference to my crystal set when he operated, which at the time upset me greatly.

I must have been about 9 years old when I had my first real fight with my father I wanted to buy a TV set for my room from a Jumble sale. My father, rightly, was very worried about the high voltages inside a TV set. But I knew all this as I had had several shocks from inside the valve radio I had, but my father did not know this. Anyway it was the first time I was threatened with the cane by my father. In the end he gave in (probably because my mum had said something to him) and I eventually bought a

scrap set from Boyds of Bond Street (a well known chain of electrical stores in the late 50's / early 60's) This set worked fairly well apart from the fact that it kept arcing around the final anode connection on the tube. I got to know that one of my Sunday school teachers Mr Ernest Jaggs was a very good at fixing TV's and radios etc. he came and helped me fix it on the insistence of my father. Mr Jaggs taught me a lot about resistors, capacitors (condensers as they were called then) coils, and to a lesser extent valves. I got hold of a copy of Practical Wireless in which it described how to build a long wave / medium wave receiver. That was it, the circuit diagrams totally fascinated me I was hooked. I went out of my way to try to find out as much as I could. My father could not help it was not his subject. I went round to Alan Dennis's house but he brushed me off with "you are too young to understand"

Anyway time passed we moved house, to nearer Sutton Coldfield town centre and when I was around 12-13 I was told to go to Sutton Coldfield Amateur Radio Society by my father who had been speaking to Allan Dennis again. I went and started to ask loads of questions over the five or six times I visited the club, they shunned me. I must have been the annoying little geek from hell! However it made very unhappy with radio



hams I thought they were all a bunch of pompous, opinionated, selfish old men. I'm probably not far from the truth now if the RSGB is anything to go by. If I had had more encouragement when I was younger I might have had a better understanding earlier and thus had better career as a result. Sounds like sour grapes well read on.

I had nothing more to do with Amateur Radio for another 12-13 years. After having been a Lucas Engineering School (electrical) Apprentice, an electrician at Lucas Mere Green (the electronics division), Works Electrician at Healey Moulding in Oldbury (no longer in existence), A Hi-fi Salesman, and Road crew on the continent full time with a band. I ended up taking over the TV and radio repair business of Robert G8GEE in Handsworth. This was my break from working for other people. I have never worked for anyone else since, thank God! Robert was a very outgoing person with a weird sense of humour. I got to know him quite well, it was 1979 and loads of people

were taking the RAE as a jump up from CB. Robert told me how to get hold of a copy of the Manual and I read through it and thought this is easy. I bought a trio TR2200 and was introduced to repeaters and FM Channels. Not something that was around 12-13 years earlier. I listened to GB3BM for six months before I got my license. I knew everyone's name Ian G8PWE who we know at the club along with others who were well known on the repeater. The process of passing the exam was the easy bit. I simply went to Matthew Bolton College and applied to sit the exam and paid the fee. When the day came to take the exam there were about 150 people in the exam room. That was the peak time for the RAE with so many taking it to get away from CB.

I remember having to wait a long time for both the results and the license I think it was about 2-3 Months in all. Anyway I got a distinction in the exam (I should think so too with my training and knowledge from my time at Lucas Mere Green I would have been annoyed with myself had I not achieved at least a credit). The wait for the licence was agonising. However there I was 24 years old sitting in my workshop in Rookery Road Handsworth when finally the license arrived through the door I was on the air as soon as I had read my call sign G8VXX. My first contact was an old timer on BM but I was soon talking to all the people I had heard in the previous six months whilst listening. Brian G8FSN, Chris G8FTU, and many others who's call signs I forget. Two foot notes, Firstly I remember with resentment as a youngster how I had been pushed away from the hobby by ageism. It is very important that youngsters are given all the encouragement they need as they will soon lose interest possibly permanently. It nearly happened to me. I would probably not have bothered with my radio license, had it not been for Robert. I have sadly lost contact with him now. Secondly, I think the present system of a three tier exam is good for youngsters and the newcomer to electronics but if I had to do that now I would not have the time to waste so would not bother getting my license; there is no provision for people to jump straight in if they have the knowledge, experience and/or equivalent qualification. So there you have it that is how I became a radio ham.

Martin Moyes
G8VXX



Club Diary

Saturday	5th Sept	Advanced Course Session 1
Monday	7th Sept	Advanced Course Session 2
Tuesday	8th Sept	Natter Night
Monday	14th Sept	Advanced Course Session 3
Tuesday	15th Sept	Homebrew Night
Saturday	19th Sept	Hanbury Special Event Station
Sunday	20th Sept	Hanbury Special Event Station
Monday	21st Sept	Advanced Course Session 5
Tuesday	22nd Sept	Committee Meeting prior AGM
Saturday	26th Sept	Advanced Course Session 6
Monday	28th Sept	Advanced Course Session 7
Tuesday	29th Sept	Natter Night
Monday	5th Oct	Advanced Course Session 8
Tuesday	6th Oct	AGM Board Room 1st floor
Monday	12th Oct	Advanced Course Session 9
Tuesday	13th Oct	Committee Meeting
Monday	19th Oct	Advanced Course Session 10
Tuesday	20th Sept	Homebrew Night
Monday	26th Oct	Advanced Course Session 11
Tuesday	27th Oct	Natter Night
Monday	2nd Nov	Advanced Course Session 12
Tuesday	3rd Nov	UKAC 2m contest
Monday	9th Nov	Advanced Course Session 13
Tuesday	10th Nov	Committee Meeting
Monday	16th Nov	Advanced Course Session 14
Tuesday	17th Nov	Homebrew Night
Monday	23rd Nov	Advanced Course Session 15

Homebrew nights

Tom G3PQP will be re-starting his popular homebrew evenings in September, usually the third Tuesday of the month. In the weeks prior to the holidays, he demonstrated and talked about the G5RV antenna and antennas generally, also Baluns, ATU's, SWR meters and earth lead tuners in detail. At the last session he covered grid dip oscillators

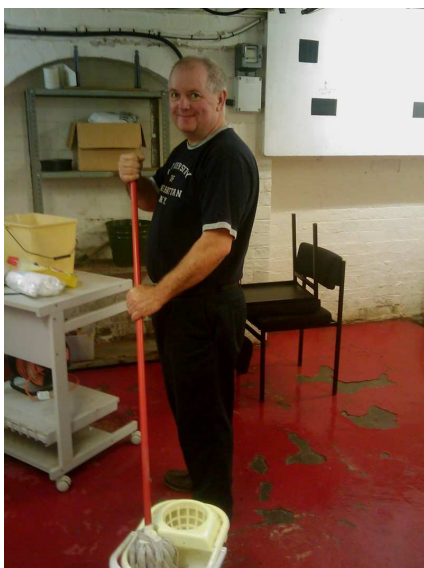
For the new season, Tom recognises that club members interested in homebrew encompass a wide range of knowledge and capabilities from Foundation holders to those who have experience of home brew. Tom intends to start his first session with "Cheap and Easy Ways to get onto HF". This will cover production of antennas using wire etc. readily available locally, he will also unveil an all new simple, cheap ATU, as a proposed construction project. This ATU will handle all types of antennas, balanced or unbalanced and if enough interest is shown a kit of parts will be made available at cost. Construction will be fully supervised in the shack, so no excuses for not building. Following this a discussion will be held regarding future projects such as VFO's TX's and RX's etc. Home brew nights will be the third Tuesday so put this in your diary and give Tom the support he deserves.



Chris GOEYO

Shack gets a makeover

The shack got a bit of a makeover last month. All the old tables and chairs were cleared out, junk moved and disposed of, dustbins and bins emptied and floor swept, washed and repaired with levelling compound. We have to thank Lee, Peter DUO, Neil, David and Chris EYO for their hard work one Saturday morning. David and Mel organised some new tables and chairs, which Martin G8VXX delivered and this



was all got ready in time for the start of the advanced class on Saturday 5th September. We still need to find a final solution to the floor and we have the option of giving it another coat of red floor paint if we want to.

I think you will agree that the shack looks more presentable. Members are urged to keep it



that way. Whilst realising that most of you cannot survive without the support of a good woman cleaning and tidying up after you, I would urge that you do your best to put rubbish in the rubbish bins provided, please don't leave bottles and glasses for others to dispose of.

GX4WAC at Evesham Steam Fair

Recently, a few club members attend the Evesham Vintage Steam Fair. For a few years now, the club has been asked to attend various steam rallies and vintage fairs organised by Keith Shakespeare, an old friend of WRC.

This year the station was based under the awning of my motor home. The weather was very kind to us, so the awning was the perfect place to put our hobby on display. We used the clubs' FT847 for HF and my FT-7800 for VHF. Antennas were a pair of dipoles nested together on 40M and 20M, and a dual band vertical for V/UHF. These antennas were mounted on my motor home's 10m antenna mast.

I arrived on site on the Friday evening, where I met Les (M0COK) and my wife Carol (MW3YKL)... Carol was working away, so she caught the train to Brum, where she met Les and he kindly delivered her to the site. After meeting with old friends, and chatting for a while, the call of the real ale tent became too great, so we gave in and went for a pint.

The next morning Les and myself started getting the station together as best we could. When Chris arrived, the station could be erected in earnest. The usual dad's army show was put on as we tried to untangle wires, tie guy ropes and attempt to get the mast, antennas and guying system looking something like a professional set up. Sadly we failed on the looking professional bit, but we did get the station on the air.

For a change, we were quite busy on the air, making numerous contacts, some of them being fairly good DX. This was despite us not having a GB callsign and operating as GX4WAC. On Saturday the main crew consisted of myself, Les, Chris, Neil and Tom. Tom decided he wanted to experience Dr

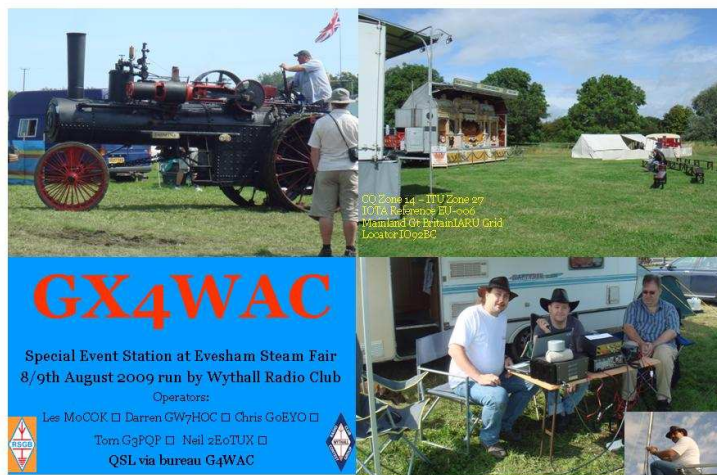
Busker, a very funny slightly rude performer who with his rather large band, The Revolting Peasants, keep us steam fair folk entertained during the long (drunken) Saturday nights at the fair.

I was a little scared at Tom's decision, as being a decent chap of very decent upbringing, he could quite easily take offence at the lewd song that the good doctor tends to sing.

I needn't have been worried, as Tom, who remained sober as he was driving, enjoyed himself thoroughly. Joining in and singing along with the rest of us drunkards. Les, also experienced Dr Busker live for the first time, but was aware of this great act thanks to CDs etc.

Sunday wasn't as busy as Saturday for QSOs, but this meant that those of us who were on site had time to look around and enjoy the great show that the Evesham fair always is.

We were even visited by an old friend of mine on his miniature(4" scale) Burrell traction engine. He took great joy in describing his engine over the air to one of the stations we were in contact with. About 4PM we decided that we had enough, and packed the station down.



Overall we all had a very enjoyable weekend. Free entry to the fair, free entertainment in the evening and a great weekend of radio, smoke, steam and fun. The good news is that for those of you who missed this great weekend, we are doing it all again on September 19th and 20th at the Hanbury Steam Fair with special event station GB0HSF.

This show is the highlight of the Shakespeare Rally year, and by far the biggest and best Shakespeare rally. The darker nights bring out the illuminated traction engines, the gas/petrol lanterns and the fun fair takes on a whole new atmosphere. You can't beat a steam fair at night, when all the public have gone home.

If anyone wants to come along to help at Hanbury drop me a line. Staying over is possible, but anyone wishing to bring a caravan will need to let me know so that I can inform the organiser. We mainly need help for setting up and taking down, early Saturday, late afternoon Sunday, but anyone is welcome at any time.

Also if anyone has collected anything old world in the radio/communications field it would be great if you want to display it, but you will need a table or similar to do this.

These shows are great fun and really interesting. It's not all steam. There are classic cars, motorbikes, cycles, stationary engines and various displays, dog shows and other things of interest, not to mention some of the best mobile catering vans I have ever eaten from - you really must try the Black Country chips!

If you have any time spare over the weekend of Hanbury Steam fair. Come along and help the club show our great hobby to the general public.

Darren
GW7HOC/MW5HOC

CQ Zone 14 - ITU Zone 27
IOTA Ref: EU-005 Mainland Great Britain
IARU Grid Locator IO82XH



Training Report

Chris G6KMQ and Martin G8VXX ran a 5 week course for four candidates for the Foundation Examination in July and August with support from Peter G4LWF. The exam was on August 10th and Mike G4VPD and David G0ICJ invigilated. Three of the four candidates passed, Sandy did a retake a few weeks later and passed with only two wrong. So congratulations to Gavin, Anthony, Mark and Sandy.



Left to Right: Sandy, Mark, Anthony and Gavin

Our next course is an Advanced course for which we have 8 or 9 candidates indicating that they wish to take it. This course will run for 15 weeks from September 7th on Monday nights. We are starting with a Saturday morning session on September 5th to recap on some of the technical stuff they learnt at the Intermediate stage and to give some extra tuition on how to deal with the formula manipulation that the Advanced course de-

mands. We have also set aside another Saturday to do demonstrations on the club's test equipment for the Measurement section of the course. This year we are also including video training aids downloaded from YouTube to help our candidates

I have been busy re-writing the CARS slides to incorporate the syllabus requirements and to make sure that the slides reflect the syllabus and the Advanced study book. The Advanced course is a challenge but we got 3

guys through it last year and are confident that our current students will also pass, provided they put the work in. There is a lot to read but we will provide everything the candidates need including the latest edition of the Advanced book, course materials, videos, course schedules, syllabus etc on CD-ROM.

The examination is set by RSGB for Monday December 7th at 6.30pm.

Once the New Year starts we will commence with another Intermediate course for those who passed their Foundation exams with us. We are also taking students now from other clubs who are unable to provide the necessary tuition. We will continue to offer Foundation courses on an on demand basis.

Chris G0EYO, Training Co-ordinator

Lord Pettitt's Shooting Competition

Each year the club run a clay pigeon shooting event for club members and friends and family. The whole event lasts a Sunday morning and is ideal for experienced and beginners alike. We have a cup for the winner and it has proved a very popular event for the six years we have run it.

This year the event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 27th September at 10am at the Hereford and Worcester Shooting Ground near Beoley. Cost is about £42 per person. If interested contact Chris G0EYO on g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk

Club's Xmas Social date arranged

Make a note in your diary the club's Xmas social will be on Friday December 13th. Same arrangements as last year. Quizzes, skittles, pool, darts, raffle with prizes, stand up bingo, American supper and plenty to drink. Starts 7.30pm onwards in the Brit Room.

Contest University

Contest University began as a day's programme of lectures and presentations about contesting held on the day before the Dayton Hamvention a few years ago, under the direction of Tim K3LR. The intent was to give both newcomers to contesting and the old hands some hints and tips. The first event was a great success, and has been repeated each year since with a graduate programme. The success in the USA did not go unnoticed, and Contest University UK was held last year as one of the lecture streams at the RSGB Convention in Bedfordshire. CTU has also been held in Italy, and overall many hundreds of contesters have participated.

CTU UK makes a return at the RSGB Convention this October 10th at the Wyboston Lakes Conference centre. This year, the format of the programme has been changed.

Following on from the USA version of CTU, the sessions will be split between what have been dubbed 'Multi-Sessions' and 'Short-Groups.' The Multi-Sessions are similar to last year, which will be a presentation followed by a Question and Answer session. The Short Groups sessions are held later in the day, and are 30 minute interactive sessions. These should allow the students to ask specific questions for their own situations, allow some more in depth discussion, and allow more interaction. I'm presenting on "Contesting for Beginners" at the start of the day, with similar short group in the afternoon.

This year there are specific sessions on Field Day and Portable Contesting, Logging Software, Single Operator 2 Radio technology and techniques, Dxpediton contesting,

RTTY, and finding out what goes on behind the scenes with the adjudication process. This is in addition to other topics such as antennas, propagation, station design, getting started in contesting, and station design.

The RSGB Convention has a variety of other HF and VHF related presentations and activities. You can stay for the weekend, or come as a day visitor. It's less than two hours drive from Wythall. See <http://www.rsgb.org.uk/rsgbconvention> for more details.

Lee G0MTN



Formerly known as HFC

Contest Group Report

Although it's still August as I write this, the air is already turning very autumnal outside. But before worrying about the dark nights, cold, wet and windy weather, don't forget that the major HF DX Contest season is about to begin.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll see the report from Chris G0EYO about this year's VHF NFD. Thanks to everyone who came along to enjoy the club's field weekend. As well as a contest it's very much a social event. Even for the radio side, there's extra help required to build antennas and masts, and ensure we have sufficient power for 24 hours. It was a little disappointing not more people wanted to operate – I hope we can improve on this for next year.

Fingers crossed the final of the club's RFI problems will soon be resolved, and with the plans to spring clean the club-room and refresh the furniture, there will be no reasons to see the club shack operational far more often. Before I had my own station at home, I was at the club on many a weekend operating HF and VHF. The club station is quite competitive too – so some certificates or trophies could soon be yours.

RSGB VHF C Contest Calendar

5-6 Sep.	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest	SF SO O 6S 6O	Runs concurrently with all or part of an IARU co-ordinated contest (S7)
6 Sep.	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers	3B 10H	Countries and Locators (M4), Special Backpackers Rules (Backpacker)
13 Sep.	0900-1200	Second 70MHz Contest	O SF	
3 Oct.	1400-2200	1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy	O SF	Runs concurrently with the first few hours of an RSGB 24 hour event (S6)
3-4 Oct.	1400-1400	432MHz-248GHz IARU	O SF	Runs concurrently with all or part of an IARU co-ordinated contest (S7)
11 Oct.	0900-1200	Second 50MHz Contest	O SF	Post Codes, Countries and Locators (M3)
7-8 Nov.	1400-1400	144MHz CW Marconi	SF O 6S 6O	Runs concurrently with all or part of an IARU co-ordinated contest (S7)

RSGB HF Contest Calendar

September	1900-2030.	80m Club Sprint	10th – SSB; 23rd – CW.
September 5/6	1300-1300.	SSB Field Day	3.5-28MHz, RS+serial.
October	1900-2030.	80m Club Sprint	8th – CW; 21st – SSB.
October 4	0700-1900.	21/28Mhz Contest (CW/SSB)	21-28MHz, RS+Serial+District.
November	2000-2130.	80m Club Sprint	12th – SSB; 25th – CW.
November 14	2000-2300.	Club Calls	1870-1990kHz, RS+Serial+Club Info.
November 21/22	2100-0100.	2nd 1.8Mhz Contest	1810-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District

Lee G0MTN

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Wythall Radio Club and Wythall Contest Group Tuesday 6th October 2009 at Board Room, Wythall House, Silver Street, Wythall commencing at 8.30pm AGENDA

1. Appointment of Minute Secretary
2. Apologies for absence
3. Proxy's Received (**if you wish for a proxy form contact the secretary below**)
4. Acceptance of minutes of 2008 meeting
5. Matters arising from 2008 minutes
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Secretary's Report
9. Matters arising and acceptance of reports
10. Constitutional issues proposed (**notice must be given to the committee of any proposed changes 7 days before AGM**)
11. Election of Chairman,
12. Election of Treasurer
13. Election of Secretary
14. Election of Committee
15. Appointment of Auditors
16. AGM of Wythall Contest Group
17. AOB

The next issue of the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter will be published at the beginning of November 2009

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