



**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: Vaughan M0VRR

Secretary: Chris G0EYO

Treasurer: David G0ICJ

#### Committee -

Martin G8VXX

Chris G6KMQ

Lee G0MTN Contest Liaison

Peter M5DUO Antenna maintenance.

Mike G4VPD

Mel M0MAJ

Martin G7WBX

Colin M0GJM QSL manager

Neil 2E0TUX IT manager

Tom G3PQP Homebrew Leader

#### Chairman's Message

Well, I guess I can only begin by saying that I am overwhelmed and I thank you for the great honour and responsibility with which you have entrusted me. I would like to acknowledge and thank the previous chairman Martin VXX, the officers and the membership for all the encouragement and support.

To the elected members of the Committee I also congratulate you all upon your successful elections. I believe that as a club we each have a roll to play and no matter how small a roll we do it's the combined effort that make this club one of the best if not 'the' best Radio club.

The club's mission statement is to have FUN in everything it does.

With that in mind and with PA's cooling down from CQWW the club has forged new links with Wolverhampton South Scout district as we receive thanks for putting on a JOTA station for the first time in over 30 years in the district.

A plethora of activities are continuing from the homebrew ATU project that's well underway, the 2 metre activity contest and club championship to studies for the advanced course culminating in the advanced exam on the 7th of December (Good Luck Guy's) Don't forget its Party Time on the 11 December; we also have the Club Christmas Contest for the Reg Brown Trophy over the holidays and the Christmas Fox Hunt where it would be good to see a few more teams have ago.

So let me be the first to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

# Wythall Radio Club

## Wythall Contest Group

G1WAC G4WAC G7WAC G0WRC M5W



glwac@wythallradioclub.co.uk

http://www.wythallradioclub.co.uk

## Newsletter

### November -December 2009

#### Great Weekend with GB0HSF at Hanbury Steam Fair

A nice sunny weekend, excellent company and lots of interesting things to see made our special event station at the Hanbury Steam Fair in September a real pleasure. As usual I made the arrangements for us to be there with the organiser Keith Shakespeare. We had a position near the public entrance and oper-



other rally folk. We had quite a gathering around our plastic table. 15 people at one stage. All was going great until Les M0COK got his cock out. It's an impressive cock, but he should not have put it on the table. Everyone wanted to hold and/or

G8VXX supported the event over the weekend and being right next to the main entrance meant that we had quite a few visitors, and a couple of them were interested in our training courses. HF worked very well, VHF was surprisingly busy. A decent number of QSOs were made, America being about the

stroke his cock. One or two even kissed it. Just in case anyone has a dirty mind.... See page 4 for a picture of Les's infamous cock.

This event really is a cracking event. One of the best steam rallies I go to. It may not be the biggest, but it's atmosphere is the best of them all. Those who don't come along do not know what you are missing. Some of the machinery on display is a real joy to see, hear and smell. Come and see us at Stratford in December.

Darren GW7HOC



ated the station under the awning of our motorhome. Using the usual "lite" set up of FT847, PSU and ATU with a pair of nested dipoles for 20m and 40m. We couldn't find the club banner in the shack (must be in the caravan) we put up a blackboard (that was really purple - your secretary is colour blind, ) and listed those countries we worked. For 2m we used my FT7800 and a colinear.

Les M0COK, Chris G0EYO, Tom G3PQP and Martin

best DX, though a couple of islands and special event stations are in the log too. The Dr Busker show was a joy, and the Wythall group were joined in the beer tent by a couple of Fowler lads and a few



# NOVEL CW CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

Another exciting project  
from Barry's Bench

This code practice oscillator produces a "clickless" CW note along with a good audio sinewave. A lot of practice oscillators produce key clicks which can be tiresome after a short time. I came across a clickless oscillator on the web but it was quite elaborate using VCA's etc. ( voltage gain controlled amplifiers ), the circuit presented here is simple and novel in its approach. The audio note is produced by mixing two RF sine-

## THE CIRCUIT

Looking at the circuit you will see two crystal controlled oscillators, in my case these are running at 3.096 MHz ( I bought a bag of 100 xtals for a pound off Ebay for making lattice filters ). Any crystals between 2 and 5 MHz should be okay, colour burst crystals would be ideal. One of the oscillators differs in frequency by 800Hz with respect to the other, this is achieved by the lower value capacitor in series with the crystal in one of the oscillators, one is a 120pF and the other is a 5pF. The 5pF capacitor can be adjusted to produce a preferable audio note. One of the oscillators is keyed via the BC557 while the other oscillator is running continuously, so, only when the key is pressed are there TWO sinewaves produced simultaneously.



waves which are close in frequency to each other ( they differ by 800Hz ) at a frequency of approximately 3MHz. The DIFFERENCE frequency is selected from the other three frequencies produced by the mixer using a simple audio low pass filter which is then amplified to speaker volume.

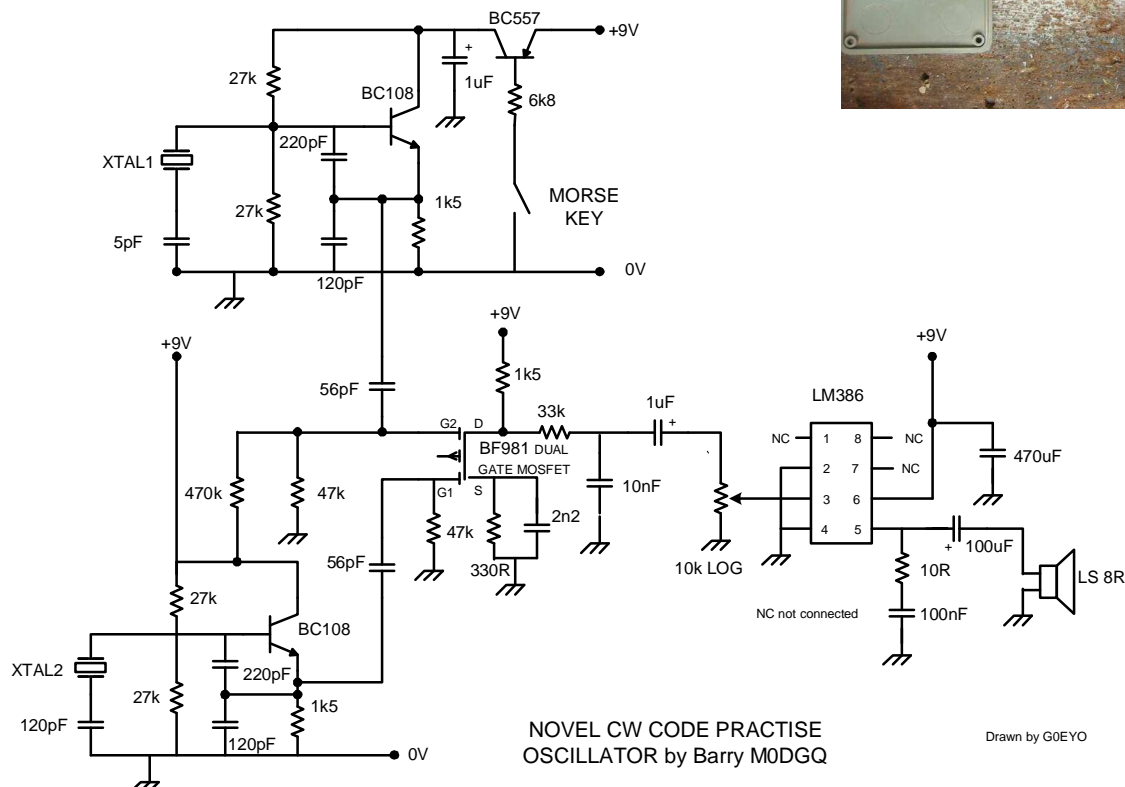
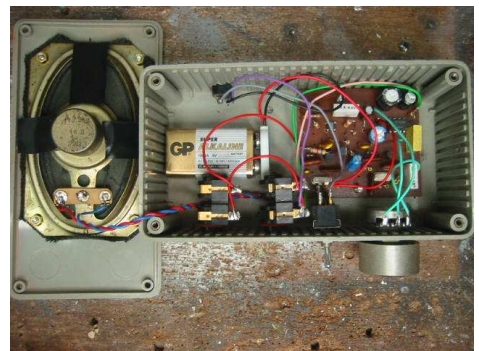
The two RF sinewaves produced by the oscillators are coupled to the two gates of the BF981 dual gate mosfet which is configured as a simple mixer. The difference frequency ( 800 Hz ) is extracted from the drain of the mosfet via a simple RC low pass filter consisting of a 33k and a 10nF. The other three frequen-

cies produced by mixing ( osc 1, osc2, and osc1 + osc2 ) are blocked very effectively by this simple filter. This audio signal is then passed to the volume control and then to the audio power amplifier ( LM386 ). So, when the key is pressed, what you are hearing is the "beat note" between the two oscillators, there is plenty of info out there explaining mixer theory but this will not be dealt with here for the purpose of this project.

## CONSTRUCTION

A small PCB was built and housed in a ABS plastic box. The box also houses the speaker and PP3 battery. Veroboard would also be suitable instead of making a PCB. Dead bug style would be okay but I recommend glueing the oscillator components to the board. The mosfet used here is a BF981, however, any N-channel dual gate mosfet will work here.

Barry M0DGQ.



NOVEL CW CODE PRACTISE  
OSCILLATOR by Barry M0DGQ

Drawn by G0EYO



# WSPR—the new kid on the block?

Funny how you see something you had never noticed before and then suddenly it seems that you see it all the time. Well this happened to me when I noticed an article in the latest G-QRP bulletin on the subject of “WSPR” – pronounced Whisper. Then I noticed a mailing on

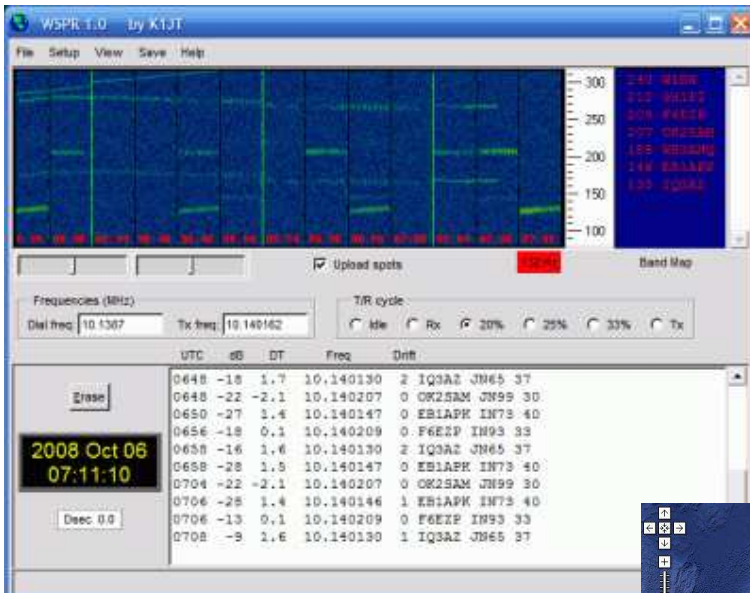
to be sent very slowly). Forward Error Correction (FEC) is used to improve the robustness of the signal, making copy possible when signals are extremely weak. The WSPR software then analyses signals in a 200Hz band which has many of these signals

The on-line WSPR database is what make the utility so powerful. You connect to the internet and a screen will show details of all the logs that have been automatically uploaded from other PC. To up load yours you select Upload spots and with luck you will see your signal appear on the list and the map . The WSPR frequencies are shown below.

This looks like an interesting facility which will show how your signals are being received around the world. The same applies to all other users. Thus you should know whether the propagation will support a QSO to whichever part of the world you are interested in.

I haven't tried it myself but I think I will. <http://www.g4ilo.com/wspr.html> will give you a lot more information.

Chris G0EYO



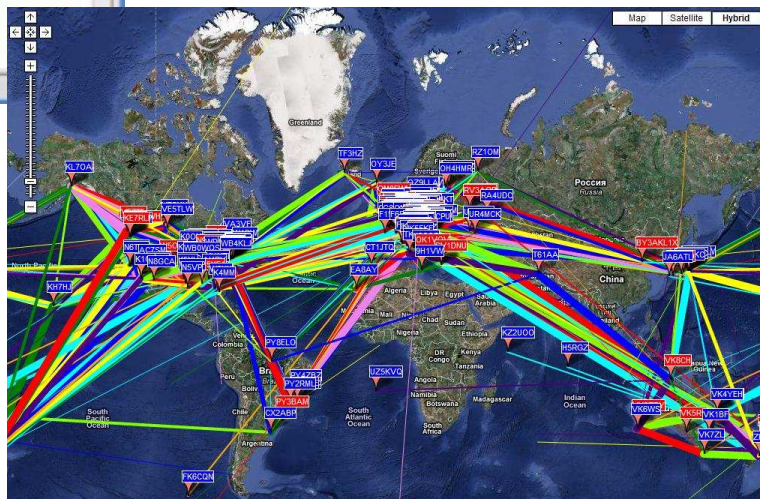
the RSGBtech forum on the same subject. Well what is WSPR, some of you may say, of course some may already know, and no doubt some couldn't give a monkey anyway. For those my advice is to stop reading now and pass on.

WSPR is weak signal software developed by Joe Taylor K1JT who is a Nobel prize winning physicist. Joe is the man who brought us JT6M and JT65 and similar weak signal or transient signal data modes. (no I hadn't heard of them either) and WSPR stands for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting. It can be best described as a method of QRP beaconing with automated reporting via the internet. It enables your radio transceiver to transmit beacon signals, and to receive beacon signals from similarly-equipped stations in the same amateur band. Because participating stations usually upload spots that they receive in real time to a web server, you can find out within seconds of the end of each transmission exactly where and how strongly it was received, and even view the propagation paths on a map. As the system can work with signals that cannot even heard by ear, QRP powers only are needed, down to mW or even µW levels.

The WSPR software is used to create a 6Hz wide FSK signal modulated with data (call-sign, QTH locator and TX Power in dBm) which it sends periodically in just under 60 secs (remember this is a 6Hz bandwidth so data has

fore starting a WSPR session. Standard Signal Link interfaces can be used, but remember WSPR signals are narrow so it is important to set the frequency on your transceiver as accurately as possible, ideally within a few Hz.

Once you have downloaded, installed the software and set the band and dial frequency, you should see a window similar to that shown above in RX mode. You hover over the waterfall and double click on a space where there are no lines showing active stations and this automatically sets the transmitter frequency. You select a T/R cycle percentage – say 20% and then after a few minutes, the transmitter will key on and send a 54 second WSPR message the go back to RX.



Band	Dial freq (MHz)	Txfreq (MHz)
160m	1.836600	1.838000- 1.838200
80m	3.592600	3.594000- 3.594200
60m	5.287200	5.288600- 5.288800
40m	7.038600	7.040000- 7.040200
30m	10.138700	10.140100- 10.140300
20m	14.095600	14.097000- 14.097200
17m	18.104600	18.106000- 18.106200
15m	21.094600	21.096000- 21.096200
12m	24.924600	24.926000- 24.926200
10m	28.124600	28.126000- 28.126200
6m	50.293000	50.294400- 50.294600
2m	144.488500	144.489900- 144.490100

# How I became a Radio Ham -Lee G0MTN

It was fairly inevitable that I would end up being a radio amateur. In my schooldays, my next door neighbour but one was ex-member Adrian G1KEA. When I was very young I would play with a pair of 2 channel CB handhelds with my brother – no doubt causing some amusement to Adrian who was also on CB at the time. A schoolfriend's Dad was Mal G4KPM, so between them I was introduced to HF, and also VHF mobile operating. The third major influence was my secondary school, King Edward's School at Edgbaston, which had an amateur radio club which included a well equipped shack. Friday afternoons at school were devoted to extra-curricular activities, and amateur radio was one of the options available. There were RAE classes, operating sessions, and a variety of other radio related distractions. The club took part in two contests per year, one being the 144 MHz AFS contest in December, and the second being the 144 MHz Trophy Contest in September, where a portable station was set up on the top of Brown Clee Hill in Shropshire.



I took the RAE at the "Sparkhill Centre" when I was 14. I vaguely remember there may have been 15 to 20 people sitting the exam on the same night. I was successful in passing the exam in December, but it took until the following February for the results, and the callsign application to be processed. G7DOQ was issued. With help from Adrian G1KEA, I found a second hand FT290 (which I still own today) and started making contacts with a borrowed HB9CV sat on the windowsill. Later, my Dad manhandled a 2m yagi onto the side of the house, but living in "Valley Road", it was always a struggle.

It would have been then that I made my first trip to the Wythall Rally, looking for power supplies and VHF antennas and the like. On air, using FM, SSB, and repeaters like CF and BM, I would make whatever 2 metre contacts however I could. The radio came on holiday to the Exmouth area, making 100

QSOs in a week, with some DX like GW, GJ, GU and F all reachable, according to my mobile logbook. I started attending the Solihull radio club's monthly meetings. Radio rallies were good social outings, and several trips to Leicester (at the Granby Halls), Elvaston Castle, and Drayton Manor were made.

Many of the contacts were on the "S8 net", famed as much for its dry wit and humour than any technical discussion. Adrian and Bob G0LBQ were regulars, later joined by Simon G4TVR, Steve G8OBV and others. Bob encouraged me to try morse code and get on HF, which I did by listening to the nightly more tuition ran on air by Mick G0FOC from Castle Vale. Bob, Adrian and I took a trip to Mapperley, Nottingham for my morse test. After all of the stress and the hype, it wasn't nearly as bad as expected. G0MTN went on air just under a year after I received my first licence.

At home, lots of saved pocket money and part time jobs enabled me to purchase an FT101ZD, with it's glowing PA valves, and string up a completely non-resonant trap dipole for HF. Looking back through the logs, there was plenty of rag chewing, and also some nice DX worked. In those days contests were just excuses to rack up some QSOs and work some new countries, as I didn't know the rules or how to submit an entry. Meanwhile at school, I became an instructor for the new Novice licence, and we started to investigate a new strange mode called packet radio. I became a regular member at Wythall, thanks to the mix of the club shack, bar, activity programme and a membership with a wide age range. I was also press ganged into service as the 4m CW operator for the club's VHF NFD activities.

University beckoned, where my final choices were between Southampton and York. Southampton won, at least in part because it too had an active radio club. Weekends spent setting up antennas on top of a tall engineering building at about 200 feet AGL were fun. I became interested in TCP/IP packet radio at this time, running a node and BBS system from the club shack.

After University, I became active on the fledgling internet from home, which finally revealed the big world of HF contesting, with rules and results all available on-line. Operating from home, and also from the Wythall club on HF and VHF brought some

good results as my experience grew. When I moved into my own house, a nice garden with scope for antennas was a high priority. Overseas trips to Finland and Africa to contest were great fun, and I started to get more involved with other groups around the UK.

Hopefully my enthusiasm for amateur radio will remain high. I was lucky to be immersed in amateur radio from several sources when I was young. Not many schools have radio clubs, and my University radio club is now only involved with Wi-Fi networking. So the need for local radio clubs, like Wythall, to inspire and educate the next generation has been never greater.

Lee G0MTN



*Left: Lee as his mom sees him; Above ; Lee at the controls on a VHF NFD; Right: Lee working hard.*



Guess what this is—  
Yes it's  
Les  
MOCOK  
famous  
COCK



## Club Diary

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
Tuesday	24th Nov	Video "The Secret Life of the Radio"
Saturday	28th Nov	Advanced Class Maths Revision
Monday	30th Nov	Mock Advanced Exam and Revision
Tuesday	1st Dec	UKAC 2m Contest
Saturday	5th Dec	Advanced Class Maths Revision
Monday	7th Dec	Advanced Exam
Tuesday	8th Dec	Committee Meeting
Friday	11th Dec	XMAS SOCIAL Britannia Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	15th Dec	Homebrew Night
Saturday	19th Dec	Stratford Steam Rally Special Event
Sunday	20th Dec	Stratford Steam Rally Special Event
Tuesday	22nd Dec	Natter Night
Thursday	24th Dec	Xmas Contest Starts 8pm
Sunday	27th Dec	Xmas Fox Hunt 10am Barley Mow Studley
Tuesday	29th Dec	Natter Night
Friday	1st Jan	Xmas Contest Ends 8pm
Tuesday	5th Jan	UKAC 2m contest
Tuesday	12th Jan	Committee Meeting

## Big Club Events

Four big club events for your diary:

Friday December 11th **Club's Xmas Party**  
7.30pm onwards. Usual free for all, quizzes, skittles, raffles, Irish bingo, plenty of prizes (if you bring them), American supper



Saturday/Sunday December 19th/20th **Stratford Steam Rally Special event station**  
**GBOSSS?** At the Stratford upon Avon Armouries. Watch the list for further details  
Sunday 27th December.

**Xmas Fox Hunt**, racing around the countryside looking for the 2m fox. Great fun usually starts at 10am from the Barley Mow, Studley and finishes up somewhere for lunch.



**Club Xmas Contest for the Reg Brown Trophy** starts 8pm 24th Dec and finishes 8pm 1st Jan. Details page 8

## Lord Pettitt's Shooting Trophy 2009—

The club held its Annual Lord Pettitt Shooting Contest in September. Twelve members and their families took part and a nice sunny day meant we all had a good time. The scores were as follows (out of 40 shots)

1.	Mike G4VPD	37 (winner)
2.	Peter M5DUO	36 (second)
3.	Colin M0GJM	35 (third)
4.	Chris G0EYO	34
5.	Robin	33
6.	Martin G8VXX	33
7.	Phil	32
8.	Neil	32
9.	Jonathon	30
10.	David G0ICJ	28
11.	Peter	26
12.	Steve	*

\* I mislaid Steve's score card but I think he had 30+.

Congratulations to Mike for a good score and well done Peter for coming second. We hope to see you all back again next year for the next competition



Right: Mike receiving the trophy off last year's winner, Robin

Above Right: the 2009 shooting party

Above: Robin shooting them out of the skies



# Fancy making an HexBeam?

Tim M0URX and Chris G1VDP, ex WRC club members, are serious DX chasers and HF contesters, and they have recently been talking about their success with an HF antenna called a Broadband HexBeam. The results these guys have got has impressed me and I am giving some thought to making one. I have extracted some information from the HexBeam website with a view to seeing if anyone else wants to have a go at constructing one of these antennas. I reckon it wouldn't cost much more than £100.



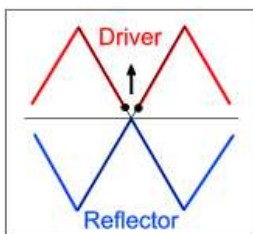
ling, and the final wire dimensions for these bands were a result of "cut and try" on the test bed.(see table below)

The photos show various aspect of the construction, the assembled base plate, the method of attaching wire elements at the fibre glass top pole; the glass fibre fishing rod poles used as spreaders; and the complete assembly.

Details of the Hexbeam can be found on <http://www.karinya.net/g3txq/hexbeam/>



The Broadband HexBeam was designed by Steve Hunt G3TXQ and it comprises a radiator and reflector for each of the amateur bands. The Broadband Hexbeam was a further development from what is now called the Classic Hexbeam. The Classic Hexbeam was an innovative antenna. By bending the Driver and Reflector wires into "M" and "W" shapes, respectively, (see left) it manages to achieve useful beam performance in a turn radius about one half that of a full-size 2-element Yagi.



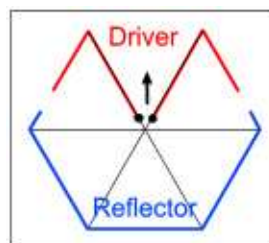
Traditionally it has been constructed of

wire elements strung on fibreglass support spreaders. By "bowing" the spreaders upwards, wires for several bands can be supported at different heights; this allows a multi-band Hexbeam to be constructed without any of the normal compromises such as resonant traps, and it preserves a consistent Driver / Reflector geometry on each band.

A consequence of the Classic Hexbeam's geometry is a relatively narrow performance bandwidth; typically the F/B exceeds 10dB over a band equivalent to only 1.4% of the centre frequency, and the SWR is above 2:1 for a significant proportion of this band. This narrow bandwidth is largely determined by the Q of the Reflector which was measured at about 30 for a 10m element constructed from #16 wire. Compare this with a linear dipole which has a Q of about 10. The designer reasoned that if he could find a way of reducing the Q he should end up with a broader-band antenna.

G3TXQ spent many hours modelling Reflectors and evaluating

ideas on a 10m test bed. He tried using thicker wire of various types, including 2 varieties of coaxial cable and "caged" wires. He also tested alternative Reflector shapes. Of all the ideas evaluated, by far the most



effective and easiest to implement was to change the shape of the Reflector. Even when using relatively thin #16 wire the new shape has a radiation resis-

tance of 44 Ohms and a Q of about 17. It requires an increase in turning radius of about 15%. Modelling a Hexbeam with this geometry produced very encouraging results: F/B > 10dB and SWR < 2:1 across all of the 20m, 17m, 15m and 12m bands, and approximately 1 MHz of 10m. The modelling suggested there was little to be gained by making the same change to the shape of the Driver element; in fact, retaining the classic shape for the Driver delivers a better match to 50 Ohms and avoids a further increase in the turning radius.

Constructing and testing a 10m monoband version of the new antenna confirmed the modelling results, and so a full 5-band test beam was constructed. The 20m, 17m and 15m results were immediately satisfactory, but it took some time to optimise the 12m and 10m performance; the proximity of these bands often causes problematic interactions which are not always predicted by the model-



	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m
Driver (half-length)	218"	169.5"	144.5"	121.7"	106.8"
Reflector (total)	412"	321"	274.4"	232"	204.4"
End spacing	24"	18.5"	16"	13.5"	12"
Vertical spacing from 10m elements	38"	15"	9"	5"	0



# Training Report

We are currently two thirds the way through the Advanced Course with seven students on board preparing to take the exam on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We wish them all the best of luck and look forward to them receiving their new M0 call signs.

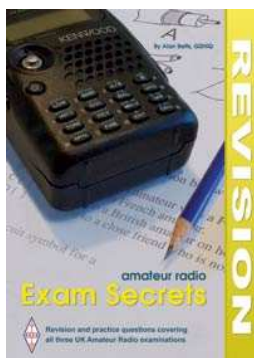
## Intermediate Course Schedule

As promised to those who gained their foundation licence with us earlier this year, we are planning to run a seven week Intermediate Course starting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The course comprises two Saturday mornings for the practical work and Monday evenings for the tutorials. We are expecting to fill all the available spaces for this course and will e-mail those who have previously expressed an interest. The proposed course schedule is shown below. Costs for the course are £50 for club members, £60 for non-club members and £40 if under 18 or on benefits.

## Foundation Courses

We will run Foundation Courses on demand and the first one is likely to be after the Intermediate course at the end of February 2010

## New Exam Book



The club have a few copies of Amateur Radio Exam Secrets by Alan Betts G0HIQ. This book is intended for those who are studying for the UK amateur radio examinations and want more infor-

mation. The book covers all three levels of the amateur radio licence and is a very useful addition to the training manuals and course materials that we already produce as part of our courses. This book normally retails at £12.99 plus P+P to RSGB non-members or £11.04 plus P+P to RSGB members. Wythall Radio club members can purchase a copy whilst we currently have stocks at the great price of £10.00.

Chris G0EYO Training Co-ordinator



## 2010 WRC Rally Date now 21st March

Next year's Wythall Radio Rally will be held on Sunday 21st March at Woodrush Sports Centre, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood from 10am onwards. This is a week later than previous years to avoid clashing with Mother's Day. Please put a note in your diary and be available to help us set up and run the event that weekend. This rally will be something of a milestone for us being the 25th rally the club will have organised. Perhaps we ought to have some kind of celebratory event such as a prize winning raffle or similar. Perhaps we can get the dealers to help us out there. Any suggestions would be gratefully received

Chris G0EYO

WYTHALL RADIO CLUB INTERMEDIATE COURSE 7 WEEKS				V1 29/10/09
	Date	Tutorial session		COURSE 7
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Sat 16th Jan	1 Nature of Amateur Radio 9 Safety 10 Soldering 13 Using a Multimeter	Building a DC Circuit Solder practise Fitting a 13A plug	Component Recognition Fitting PL259 & BNC plugs Videos on Caps and Transformers
<b>Shack</b>	9am-1pm	G0EYO & G4LWF	G0EYO & G4LWF	G0EYO & G4LWF
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Mon 18th Jan	3 Technical Basics Part 1 components	3 Technical Basics Part 2 circuits	
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G3PQP	G3PQP	
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Sat 23rd Jan	Practical Measurements on circuit board Volts & Current	Measurements on circuit board Resistance, Input Power & Ohms Law Measurements on circuit board	Diodes and Transistors Calibrating a VFO
<b>Shack</b>	9am-1pm	G0EYO & G4LWF	G0EYO & G4LWF	G0EYO & G4LWF
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Mon 25th Jan	4 Tx/Rx -1: Transmitters	4 Tx/Rx -2: Receivers	
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G8VXX	G8VXX	
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Mon 1st Feb	7 EMC	2 Licence Conditions	
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G6KMQ	G6KMQ	
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Mon 8th Feb	5 Feeders and Antennas	6 Propagation	
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G0EYO	G0EYO	
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Mon 15th Feb	8 Operating Practises	Mock Exams	Revision Slides
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G6KMQ	G0ICJ	G0EYO
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Tues 16th Feb	Practical demonstration of Data Modes	Project Measurements on the Oscilloscope	
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	M0VRR	G0EYO	
<b>WEEK 7</b>	Mon 22nd Feb	Intermediate Exam DAY		
<b>Shack</b>	8pm-10pm	G4VPD, G0ICJ		

# Report of Club's Annual General Meeting

The club held its Annual General Meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Wythall House and some 21 members attended. The following were elected officers and committee members

## Officers

Chairman: Vaughan M0VRR

Secretary: Chris G0EYO

Treasurer: David G0ICJ

Committee -

Martin G8VXX Rally leader

Chris G6KMQ

Lee G0MTN Contest Liaison

Peter M5DUO Antenna maintenance.

Mike G4VPD

Mel M0MAJ

Martin G7WBX

Colin M0GJM QSL manager

Neil 2E0TUX IT manager

Tom G3PQP Homebrew Leader

As outgoing Chairman, Martin G8VXX used his prerogative to propose that Darren GW7HOC and Carol MW3YKL be made honorary members of the club in view of the regular support of club activities even though they live in Cardiff. This was passed unanimously. We were able to have a video link to Darren at his home from the meeting.

The reports of the year's activities from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were all accepted unanimously and Vaughan M0VRR was elected Chairman for the coming year. The AGM of the contest committee was also

held and the following were re-elected onto the Contest Committee:

Lee G0MTN Chairman

Peter M0COP

David G0ICJ

Vaughan M0VRR

Chris G6KMQ

Mike G4VPD

Vic M0AEJ

Full minutes of the AGM have been circulated to members through the e mail list

Merry Xmas and a Happy  
New Year to all our  
Members and their families

# Contest Group Report

Welcome to the new Wythall Club year, and thank you for voting me in as Contest Group Chairman for another year. Thanks also the Contest Committee – I look forward to seeing plenty of entries on HF and VHF in the coming months. Perhaps we might have a new Chairman in 2010-2011 to come up with some new ideas? Anyway, apologies for missing the AGM. A work trip to Helsinki had been rescheduled, and I ended up in OH2 for a few days. The Nokia building I was working in did have a full size 3 element 40 metre yagi on the roof, a large HF tribander, and a large stack of VHF antennas as part of the OH2V Nokia club station. Typically Finnish! However, I didn't have time to operate.

Since the last newsletter, I went to the RSGB Convention in Bedfordshire, and presented at Contest University. This went very well, with presentations and discussions ranging from novice contesting to the latest in single operator 2 radio techniques.

The autumn is the start of the HF contest season, when most of the popular contests are held. CQ WW RTTY at the end of September netted 1300 QSOs with 100 watts from home. For the CQ WW SSB contest just this last week at the end of October, I visited the M0XXT team in Dorridge where over 4000 QSOs were logged with their Multi-2 station. It was amusing to check my Facebook account just before the contest – many friends had status updates detailing their travels to South America (PJ2T in Curacao), the Azores (CR2X), or Egypt (SU1KM) for the contest. For the CQ WW CW contest at the end of November, I've been invited to the K3LR superstation, to man the 20m station alongside Mark M0DXR. In the SSB contest, the 20m team at K3LR by themselves made 3400 QSOs, with 175 DXCC in all 40 CQ zones. We'll have our work cut out for the CW leg. Of course, any QSOs with club members will be much appreciated. Look out for a writeup in the next newsletter of this trip.

Closer to home, we have the next Wythall Xmas Contest (see later for the rules). If you have any suggestions, for example 'activity

## RSGB VHF Contests:

Date (2009)	Time UTC	Contest Name	Sections	Notes/Special Rules
7-8 Nov.	1400-1400	<a href="#">144MHz CW Marconi</a>	<a href="#">SF</a> <a href="#">Q</a> <a href="#">6S</a> <a href="#">6O</a>	Runs concurrently with all or part of an IARU co-ordinated contest ( <a href="#">S7</a> )
6 Dec.	0900-1700	<a href="#">144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest</a>	<a href="#">Q</a> <a href="#">SF</a>	Affiliated Societies contest ( <a href="#">S3</a> )

Every 1st Tuesday	2000-2230 (Local)	<a href="#">144MHz UK Activity Contest and Club Championship</a>	<a href="#">AO</a> <a href="#">AR</a>	QTH Locators ( <a href="#">M2</a> ), Activity contest ( <a href="#">S8</a> ), Club Championship ( <a href="#">S9</a> )
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## RSGB HF Contests:

Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name	Dates - Mode - Frequency - Exchange
November	2000-2130.	<a href="#">80m Club Sprint</a>	12th – SSB; 25th – CW.
November 14	2000-2300.	<a href="#">Club Calls</a>	1870-1990kHz, RS+Serial+Club Info.
November 21/22	2100-0100.	<a href="#">2nd 1.8Mhz Contest</a>	1810-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.

## Other HF Contests:

November 2009		
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 7 to 1200Z, Nov 8	
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15	
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29	
December 2009		
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 5	
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2359Z, Dec 13	
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26	

evenings' then please let me know. No rule changes proposed this year. A big challenge will be how to get more club members to take part, and afterwards how to get everyone to submit a log.

## Wythall Christmas Contest Rules (Reg Brown G7OJO Trophy)

### 1. Objective:

The objective of the contest is to promote amateur radio activity amongst members of Wythall Radio Club, and to gain some 'on-air' publicity for the club. The contest is open to all members of Wythall Radio Club. It is a social affair — no need to take it too seriously! Most of the activity takes place on 2m FM — usually from a "CQ Wythall Radio Club" call on 144.500 MHz, and most contacts end up on 145.225 MHz. Out of town members may be contacted using Internet linked repeaters. It is asked that repeaters are only used when simplex contacts are not possible. Please try to maintain activity on 145.225 where possible.

### 2. Dates and times:

Starts: 2000Z 24th December 2009  
Ends: 2000Z 1st January 2010

### 3. Bands:

Any amateur band may be used. Cross mode

and cross band contacts are allowed. Packet radio and repeater QSOs are allowed. Echolink QSOs are allowed — the only rule is that a real radio must be used by each party — but they are allowed to both access Internet linked repeaters.

### 4. Exchange:

Signal report + QSO number.

### 5. Scoring / multipliers:

Contact other members of Wythall Radio Club. You can use any mode and any band. You score 1 point per QSO for each club member worked each day. The best 5 daily QSO totals will count for the final score. Each Wythall Club Member worked over the contest counts as a multiplier. The total score for the contest is the total of the best 5 days' QSOs, multiplied by the number of different club

members worked over the whole contest. For example, if Les M0COK works 35 stations in his best 5 days + 10 different club members during the contest, his score is 350. If Vaughan M0VRR claims only 30 stations, but 15 different club members, his score is 450. The multiplier total is the number of different club members worked over the entire contest — not just those worked in the best 5 days.

### 6. Logs

Logs in any format to me, Lee G0MTN, as soon as possible (31 Jan 2010 at latest), if you cannot calculate your score please send me your log and I will score for you.

### 7. Awards

The winner will receive the Reg Brown G7OJO Trophy (retained for one year). The winner, the second and third placed entrant will receive certificates of merit. Special awards e.g. Leading Foundation entrant, leading SWL, may also be awarded. The results will be published in the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter following adjudication. Disputes will be settled by the contest committee, whose decision is final. So there!

Lee, G0MTN



The next issue of the Wythall Radio Club Newsletter will be published at the beginning of January 2010

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