

G3WSC
G6RC
GX3WSC

CARC News Bulletin

Crawley Amateur Radio Club

April - May 2017
Editor: John G4PEO
qslmanager@carc.org.uk
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Other Clubs

Horsham ARC (HARC)

www.harc.org.uk

6th Apr: The Magnetron - From Radar to the Kitchen. Mike Underhill G3LHZ

4th May: Life & Amateur Radio in France, Mike G8CKT/F8VON

Crystal Palace REC

www.g300u.co.uk/cprec

7th Apr: Club Project - Freq Counter Design, Alan G8NKM

5th May: One Path Through Product Design, Bob G300U

Sutton & Cheam

<http://scrs.org.uk>

20th Apr: Home Construction & Finishing, Bob G300U

18th May: AGM/Construction Contest

Mid Sussex ARC

www.msars.org.uk

7th Apr: Surplus Equipment Sale

21st Apr: WSPR Operation G4UDU

5th May: Guide Dogs for the Blind

CATS (Coulston)

www.catsradio.org

11th Apr: The WDARS Field Week, John G8MNY

9th May: Construction Evening

Dorking & District Radio Club

<http://www.ddrs.org.uk/>

25th Apr: Constructing a 40m loop antenna, Colin, M0GXV

23rd May: Digital Modes Demo.

Bromley & District ARS

www.bdars.org

18th Apr: Frequency Counter Construction, 2E0EUI

May 16th: Fix-it Evening, G8MNY

Other Meetings/Events

30th Apr: Kempton Park Rally

Kempton Park Racecourse, TW16 5AQ. <http://radiofairs.co.uk/>

6th May: SERF, Eastbourne Rally
EVENT CANCELLED

See web site: <http://serf.org.uk/>

CARC DATES

April 26th (Wednesday)

3D Printing for Amateur Radio, Stewart, G3YSX

May 24th (Wednesday)

VHF Propagation, Mike, G0KAD

June 28th (Wednesday)

Nick, G3RWF, RSGB President



CARC meetings are held in our clubroom at Tilgate Park, Crawley, West Sussex.

Every Wednesday: 8pm

Every Sunday: 11am - 1pm

Formal events are normally held on the last Wednesday of the month, 7-30pm for 8pm.

Updates to the CARC Programme:

<http://carc.org.uk/events>

or contact **Richard, G3ZIY:**

Richardg3ziy@gmail.com

For further information about CARC, please

Contact the Hon Secretary, **Phil, M0TZZ:**

secretary@carc.org.uk



Welcome to the April/ May 2017 edition of the News Bulletin.

Unfortunately not too much to report this time round, but, as spring is upon us and the weather is improving, jobs that couldn't be carried out over the winter months can now be undertaken. One job that needs the attention of CARC members is that of repair and maintenance of the CARC tower and antennas. To discover what needs to be done, turn to page 3 for details of Mike, G0KAD's, cunning plan and timeline. Also, it is a good idea to keep an eye on the CARC web pages and also the club notice board for any changes to the schedule.

Regular checks of the CARC web site are also advisable to see if there are any changes/additions to the programme Richard, G3ZIY has lined up for us over the coming months.

And now for something slightly different in the guise of the BBC R4 program Wireless Nights, hosted by Jarvis Cocker. Series 5/27th March explored SWLing, CW, moonbounce, numbers stations, grey line propagation, Somali pirates and more. Have a listen to this excellent program via the BBC iPlayer: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08k1y9j>

Local Repeaters

GB3MH: 145.625/88.5(FM) **GB7MH:** 439.6375(D-Star/DMR)

GB7EG: 439.7625(DMR) **GB3WS:** 145.750/88.5(FM) **GB3NX:** 430.850/88.5 (438.450)(FM)

GB3NS: 439.675/82.5(FM) **GB7NS:** 439.1625(DMR) **GB7ID:** 430.975 (438.575)(FM/Fusion)

GB3HO: 430.8875/88.5 (438.4875)(FM) **GB3HY:** 430.900/88.5 (438.500)(FM)

Local DX Cluster

GB7DXS : Telnet 81.149.0.149 Port 7300

Chairman: Keith Evans (G3VKW)
Vice Chairman: John Pitty (G4PEO)
Training Lead Instructor: Malcolm Harman (G3NZP)
QSL Manager/News Editor: John Pitty (G4PEO)
Committee Member: John Longhurst (G3VLH)
Shack Manager: Mike Davies (G0KAD)

Hon Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)
Hon Treasurer: Howard Palmer (G4PFW)
Exam Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)
Committee Member: Richard Hadfield (G4ANN)
Committee Member: Alex Sheppard (M1YAP)
Programme: Richard Drinkwater (G3ZIY)

Calendar Items - April & May 2017

3D Printing For Amateur Radio - Stewart, G3YSX. Wednesday 26th April.

An introduction to 3D printing - taking you through the learning curve that Adrian, G3VJM and Stewart, G3YSX have been through this past year.

Once you have adapted to the techniques of 3d printing, you wonder how you made anything without it.

VHF/UHF Propagation - Mike, G0KAD. Wednesday 22nd May.

What's unique about the world of 50MHz and up? Make sure you don't miss Mikes talk to learn more about this fascinating subject.

Advance Notice - Wednesday June 28th

Nick, G3RWF, RSGB President, will be visiting CARC.

Previous Meetings & Events

The Icom IC-7300 - Alex, M1YAP & Mike, G0KAD February 22nd.

This very interesting presentation on the technical and operational aspects of the Icom IC-7300 by **Mike, G0KAD**, and **Alex, M1YAP** was, as to be expected, very well attended, as of course this keenly priced SDR offering from Icom is quite a radical departure from the standard offerings of the 'big three', so has created quite a stir.

Mike ran through the principles of SDR and how it compares to 'standard', (up to now), transceiver design, and then detailed the specific architecture employed by Icom in this instance.

Alex then described the ergonomics, interfacing and actual operation of the 7300. Comparison with the recently announced successor to the Icom IC-7600, the IC-7610 (SDR) was inevitable, with the 7300 being seen as a very keenly priced entry level radio that should help ease people into SDR without too much trauma compared to PC driven SDR's. A release date of early July (2017) has just been announced for the 7610, with an expected



Alex, M1YAP & Mike, G0KAD



Alex, M1YAP demonstrating the IC-7300

price tag of £3,599... Thanks to Mike and Alex for a very interesting and informative talk.

As a footnote to the IC-7300 talk, the latest episode (15) of TX Factor has just been released, which in part, features Bob McCreddie, G0FGX, giving an overview of the Icom RS-BA1 remote control software for the IC-7300.
<http://www.txfactor.co.uk>

Photos G4PEO

Club News

CARC Web Site <http://carc.org.uk/>

Just a reminder about the revised CARC web presence, introduced in December last year, courtesy of **Dominic, G6NQO**. As it is still quite shiny and new, the web site is subject to some minor tweaking and refinement. Recently there have been some subtle colour changes, plus the addition of a search facility.

On the site you will find the latest news and CARC blog; the events program (and updates); archives from the previous site and also a for sale/wanted section, plus of course details about CARC and where to find us.

If you have any suggestions re content, please contact **Keith G3VKW**.



CARC Yahoo Group

In a similar vein, a reminder about the CARC Yahoo Group, especially for newer members who may not be aware of its presence. This is a closed group for CARC members only, and although most information for members is disseminated via the Bulletin, plus the members email facility, (Member Mojo), and also the CARC blog, it can be useful at times for discussions, although it hasn't been used much lately apart from the WSPR contest daily reports which are posted there.

Perhaps we should discontinue using Yahoo Groups due to lack of activity? What do you think?

In the meantime, if you are not a member of the Yahoo Group and would like to apply, send me, G4PEO, an email - [john\(at\)g4peo \(dot\)net](mailto:john(at)g4peo(dot)net) and I will send you an invite to respond to.

CARC Tower & Antennas - Mike GOKAD

The CARC tower and antennas are in need of some TLC. We are very lucky to have a couple of other Versatowers mounted on trailers. One of these is a 60ft heavy duty version which given that we have quite a few antennas on our tower and that it is un-guyed would be best installed at the hut.

To that end we have agreed to swap our fixed tower with the heavy duty Versatower over the period of a couple of weeks. I've created three events in the club calendar but want to make sure that everyone possible is aware of the plans and of course to tout for volunteers to help with the work.

The first day will be on Saturday 8th April when we will luff the current tower and strip the antennas for servicing. All of them need some work.

The second day will involve swapping the current fixed tower for trailer tower and base. This will happen on Thursday 13 April, just before the Easter weekend. We need to do this on a weekday as the trailer tower is stored in a builders yard which is not open on a Saturday.

The third and final day will involve assembling the heavy duty tower and rigging the winches. This will happen on the morning of Sunday 23 April during the club meeting.

A draft action plan is available on the notice board next to the tea bar in the hut.

Please do your best to help especially on Thursday 13th when we will need several members to lift the tower sections about. These are quite manageable if there are enough people to share the load.

Frequency Counter Project - Alan, M/VK5ZFJ

There will be a delay on commencement of kit construction as CPREC have run out of printed circuit boards. More boards are expected in May so hopefully we will be able to start around the end of the month.



Club News - cont:

It's Training Time - Malcolm Harman (G3NZP) CARC Lead Instructor.

In the February News Bulletin I mentioned the idea of repeating last year's series of Sunday afternoon "drop in" sessions for those already in possession of a Foundation licence and who may wish to up-grade to Intermediate. I'm pleased to say that the response has been very positive with a number of enquiries and now six students committed to attending.

The first session is scheduled for Sunday 9th April and will continue on a weekly basis until everyone has completed their Practical Assessments. Although the tutorial work is expected to be largely through self-study, should students require addition coaching it can be arranged. An examination date will only be decided once all the candidates feel comfortable about sitting the paper.

This flexible approach has worked well in the past and hopefully it will again, and with everybody's help I expect all participants to be successful, as I'm sure they will. Then I reach my training objective, a passes century! Fingers crossed.....

Chairmans Report - Keith G3VKW

Hi All,

The Club seems to be attracting more new members now we have the new website up and running, sadly we have lost one member who is moving down to Cornwall, now doubt for less a hustle and bustle lifestyle. BCNU Stewart.

Some of you who may not have seen the new Club Novice transceiver, updated from the TS430, thanks to Brian 2E0MZB for the loan, to the much newer Icom 718 which is owned by the club. I hope soon to be making a better shack area to operate from, for both this and the 2m tcvr, also with an improved antenna. I am hoping members will use this facility a lot more than at present.

The Club March WSPR contest will be over by the time you read this. 15 club members were active this year, which is down on last year sadly.

Conditions on the HF bands have been pretty poor at times over the last 3 months or so as we move towards the Solar Minimum but from time to time there have been surprise openings with noticeable selective paths. On Weds March 15th having repaired my quad, I worked 1st call, using 100 watts, a KL7 in Alaska.

We need manpower for tower removal and replacement, so if you are able to help, please contact Mike GOKAD, this is scheduled quite soon, there is a Time Scale map on the wall left of the tea bar to show when you would be needed.

The Clubs Contest team will be taking part in the RSGB UHF contest in May together with the Reigate Club. The team always welcome helpers, if interested contact Mike GOKAD for info. This Contest Team is in the top 5, so they really are competitive and get good results.

The committee are still trying to find a suitable venue for a Club Dinner, we were considering the Hawth restaurant but we discounted it on cost. If anyone knows of a suitable venue in or close to Crawley, that can handle 20 people plus or minus for a reasonable sum, could you let the committee know.

Alan, M/VK5ZFJ (Australian Call) apologises for the delay in the clubs Frequency Counter project, but the main PCB is being re designed to make it smaller. Keep an eye on the clubs website for any updates.

The club used to have a panel of experts who would answer questions from the audience about all things Amateur Radio. We have not done this for some years , and I was wondering if it is something the members might like re starting? if so please let me know.

Also a while ago, I did suggest having, Morse Code (CW) brush up sessions in the Club, but I only had one person show interest, if there is more interest now please let me know, and I will set something up.

That's all for now,

73 Keith G3VKW.

Veron Rally at Rosmalen, Netherlands - Richard, G4ANN

On Thursday March 9th, myself, Richard G4ANN, and Richard G3ZIY in my car and four Horsham members in G4EFO's car, Mick G4EFO, Chris G4CCC, Robin G3OGP and Dom M0GUZ set out for the Veron Rally.

We caught the overnight ferry from Harwich to the Hook of Holland; a very good crossing as the sea was like a mill pond and the cabins were very comfortable.

The following morning Friday we made tracks for the Dutch Military Museum at Soesterberg via McDonald's for breakfast, much cheaper than the ferry. We had time to 'kill' and there we met up with two more from the Horsham Club, Adrian G4LRP and Paul G4TMC.

From there it was off to the very nice hotel via a fleeting visit to my sister.

The next morning we headed to the rally which was only a short drive from the hotel.

The rally is located in a large hall, with all the stands in one single location. The space also has an elevated section, with a number of traders selling from the balcony.

The rally and flea market is mostly populated with previously owned equipment and parts, with a wide selection of new and second hand components.



Here is a view inside the hall. The rally was very well attended with hundreds of amateurs from the Netherlands and beyond.



This caught my eye (left), nothing to do with amateur radio, and the still photo doesn't do it justice with all its flashing LED's.

From there we drove to the hotel at Bergen op Zoom, and spent a very pleasant evening there.

Then the following morning it was a leisurely drive to Dunkirk to catch the ferry to Dover.

The weather was kind to us and made the trip much more pleasant.

All the arrangements, hotels etc. were selected by Mick G4EFO so thanks to him.