

G3WSC
G6RC
GX3WSC

CARC News Bulletin

April 2015

Crawley Amateur Radio Club

Editor: John G4PEO

Meetings:

Every Wednesday: 8pm

Every Sunday: 11am -1pm

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

Please note: some formal events will also be held on a Sunday. Members / non-members welcome.

CARC Dates:

April 22nd (Wednesday)

Used Equipment Sale 1800hrs

May 27th (Wednesday)

21MHz 4 Square Antenna

G3NPC

June 24th (Wednesday)

Arduino Introduction M0WID

Also of Interest/Other Clubs:

Crystal Palace REC

www.g3oou.co.uk

10th April: Lifeboats. Alan Ashley

1st May: Electronic Components

Surrey Radio Contact Club

<http://g3src.org.uk>

13th April: AGM

Sutton & Cheam & District

<http://scrs.org.uk>

16th April: Test Equipment

21st May: AGM

Dorking Radio Club

www.ddrs.org.uk

28th April: TBC

CATS (Coulsdon)

www.catsradio.org

13th April: RSGB Antenna Presentation TBC

West London Radio & Electronics Fair (Kempton Rally)

www.radiofairs.co.uk

19th April: 10:00am

Updates to the CARC program check:
www.carconline.blogspot.co.uk

or contact John G3VLH:

john.longhurst@hfcom.net

News Bulletin items contact G4PEO:

john@jg4peo.net

Associated Local Repeaters

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

GB3WS: 145.750MHz / 88.5 **GB3NX:** 430.850MHz / 88.5 (Input 438.450MHz)

GB3NS: 439.675MHz / 82.5 **GB7NS:** 439.1625MHz (DMR)

Welcome to the **April 2015** edition of the News Bulletin.

Keith G3VKW has put together a short article for this edition which describes a free, very comprehensive web based tool called ClubLog written by **Michael, G7VJR**. Basically it is a very useful addition to the amateurs armoury for producing DXCC league tables, expedition tools, log search services and most-wanted lists for ham radio, and is employed by amateurs worldwide.

Please check out Keith's article and then have a look at ClubLog for yourself. A number of CARC members are already making full use of it's facilities..!

Don't forget to keep an eye on the CARC blog for the latest info and any changes to the meeting schedule. You might also notice that the blog has had a makeover, courtesy of **Mike, G0KAD**, and, as Keith hints in his Chairman's column, there are moves afoot to totally revamp the CARC web pages.

Unfortunately this year we won't be able to put on a Museums station (**GB0AIR**) in June as we did last year at the Gatwick Aviation Museum. All the old sheds/huts etc; have been knocked down and due to be replaced by modern buildings by the end of May. The project though is about a month behind schedule due to ongoing issues with Mole Valley District Council. This is very unfortunate as the museum was very happy for us to attend again, although this year we had planned just to do the first weekend of the two.

Following my request for further information appertaining to the history of the club, **Adrian, G3VJM** has kindly scanned and forwarded a selection of photographs showing club activities from earlier years, which will be featured in this, (see page 7), and subsequent editions of the News Bulletin as space permits. Do you have any (printable!) stories to tell relating to these photos?

Finally, **Alex, M1YAP** has put together an article describing the successful CARC/RATS participation in the March 2m/70cm contest at Swingate near Dover.

If you feel suitably inspired and would like to participate, as they do need more operators etc; then please see **Alex**, or **Mike, G0KAD**.

Club Dignitaries (Committee Members & Others)

President: Derek Atter (G3GRO)

Hon Treasurer: Howard Palmer (G4PFW)

Hon Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)

Programme Secretary: John Longhurst (G3VLH)

Committee Member: Alex Sheppard (M1YAP)

Shack Managers: Mike Davies (G0KAD), Rob Barter (M0ZAF)

Chairman: Keith Evans (G3VKW)

Vice Chairman: John Longhurst (G3VLH)

Exam Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)

QSL Manager/News Editor: John Pitty (G4PEO)

Training Lead Instructor: Malcolm Harman (G3NZP)

Committee Member: Richard Hadfield (G4ANN)

Calendar Items

Surplus Equipment Sale Wednesday 22nd April, 1800hrs.

Club Secretary **Phil, G0TZZ** would like to remind you of the date and time for our yearly *pre-loved* equipment sale.

Phil is hoping to produce a catalogue 'of sorts' prior to the event, so asks that those who are intending to take equipment along for sale to let him have details and optionally photos **as soon as possible**. If you wish to include a reserve figure, it is very important you let him have that as well of course.

As a reminder, Phil's email is: secretary@carc.org.uk

21Mhz Four Square Antenna—Garth Swanson G3NPC, Wednesday 27th May.

The official title for this talk by **G3NPC** is: *"The realization of a 21MHz 4-square beam - about its practicalities, design, how I made one and how it worked."*

Garth is a retired EE professor and has had a number of antenna articles published in Radcom, QST and QEX, so this will be a very interesting talk. If attending, please ensure you are seated by 8pm.

Previous Meetings & Events

DC to Light - 25th February & 25th March

The February and March talks were of the same subject, 'DC to Light', by **Chris, G4ZCS**. The subject matter though was split into two, with an overall descriptive outline of the frequency spectrum and its workings being tackled first, and then followed up in the March meeting by a more technical overview.

Many thanks to Chris for two very informative and interesting talks!

Photo G4PEO



Chairman's Report

Hello All,

I cannot believe it is already April, Where has the first quarter of the year gone.

We have 2 new members Mike Stringfellow, and Andy Barnes, I would like to welcome to the club, If you see them around please go and chat to them and make them feel welcome.

We have as you know some changes at Committee, With Brian 2E0ZMB standing down, John G3VLH has added Brian's Club entertainment mantle to his Vice Chairman's duties.

Chairmans Report Cont:

To relieve the pressure on Malcolm G3NZP. Phil M0TZZ has taken on the additional role of Exam Secretary, leaving Malcolm to concentrate on lead instructor.

The Clubs VHF Contest team did the RSGB 2m 70cm 24 hour contest from the Field Day site in East Kent, in early March, and did well on the 70cm band, but I understand, they took a bit of a bashing on 2mtrs. However, I am sure this will give them time to rectify the strategy for VHF Field day in July.

A reminder, if anyone would like to operate, help in logging, erecting the station, or just make tea for the guys on these contest weekends, Contact **Mike G0KAD**, or **Alexander M1YAP**. It is good fun, and the Contest team are always on the lookout for operators. Don't be shy!! They won't bite your head off.

We were hoping on doing the Museums on the Air event again this year, But a long delay with some building permissions at the site, may mean we have to cancel sadly. If you wish to get involved, please contact **John G4PEO** just in case the situation changes.

We are also contemplating, Mills on the Air, But we haven't found a suitable site (Mill) yet. So this may not happen either sadly.

I have recently purchased a small temperature adjustable and temperature controlled soldering iron from **Adrian G3VJM**. He and **Peter G4FYY** have done a super job of designing and building these, and if you wish to build anything using SMD component's these are a MUST. They are limited so if you want one, do not wait!! Or they will all be gone.

The Club shack is back in use, If you would like to use it, and do not feel confident, Have a word with **Rob M0ZAF** or **Mike G0KAD**, it is very easy once you get shown, even I found I could use it.

The Clubs LF antennas are still out of use, we need to find a tree climbing ace. If any members know of a friendly tree surgeon, who will do a reduced rate for a club, can you contact one of the Committee please.

More Good news however, is that at last we are making progress on a new club website. One of our members is currently working on producing a much more modern site with a lot more facilities. It maybe even online now.... If not will very soon be.

73 Keith G3VKW

Member News

Rob G4ALH, (CARC member, IoW), forwarded this photo to **Keith G3VKW**, which he had come across, showing well known amateur, **Tom Christian, VR6TC**, (SK), on Pitcairn Island, taken in 2003 by Jan Gillespie.



Club News

Contesting

On the 11th January 2015, **CARC** entered a two man team, **G3VKW, G3YSX** in the **AFS Contest - CW**. Out of 76 clubs that entered, **CARC** came a credible 52nd with just 2 operators, whereas all the leading stations were able to field 4 operators.

AFS Contest CW 2015

Club Scores										
Pos	Club	Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	Total
52	Crawley ARC	G3YSX	1090	G3VKW	920					2,010

Keith, G3VKW, Phil, M0TZZ, Richard G3Ziy, Howard G4PFW operating as **G6RC/club stn**, and **Stewart G3YSX**, represented **CARC** in the recent, (17th January 2015), **HF Affiliated Societies (AFS)** team contest. Apart from the club station **G6RC (G4PFW)**, all club operators took part from the comfort of their own homes, between 1400-1800hrs, 80m and 40m SSB. The results: **CARC 'A' (G3VKW, M0TZZ, G3Ziy, G6RC)**, came **37th**, and lone-some **CARC 'B' (G3YSX)**, **84th**. In all 91 clubs entered and there were 244 individual callsigns taking part.

AFS Contest PHONE 2015

Club Scores										
Pos	Club	Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	Total
37	Crawley ARC 'A'	G3VKW	973	M0TZZ	462	G3Ziy	168	G6RC	168	1,771
84	Crawley ARC 'B'	G3YSX	129							129

The **80m CC (Club Championships)** are well and truly underway again. They are held every month, February to July, during the evening, (2000-2130hrs), with separate nights for CW, SSB and DATA.

Individual scores in each event count towards the clubs overall score. Last year we did well in this contest, and as it doesn't take up much valuable time **please** consider taking part this year. See **Phil, M0TZZ** for further information and 'encouragement' ! Don't forget it is not always practical for members partaking in the event to operate in each 'session,' so we need more operators to join in and also help keep the numbers up when others are not available. Please consider entering!

As a reminder, the rules can be found here: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml>

80m CC 2015

General Club Scores								
Click on date links for detailed results and UBNs								
Pos	Club	02/02/15	11/02/15	19/02/15	02/03/15	11/03/15	19/03/15	Total
		SSB	DATA	CW	DATA	CW	SSB	
17	Crawley ARC	531	0	442	210	0	1,097	2,280

80m CC 2015

Club Scores Crawley ARC								
Click on date links for detailed results and UBNs								
Pos	Call	02/02/15	11/02/15	19/02/15	02/03/15	11/03/15	19/03/15	Total
		SSB	DATA	CW	DATA	CW	SSB	
Pos by Month		17	17	19	17	20	17	
1	G3YSX	226		262	210		250	948
2	G3VKW			180			380	560
3	G4PEO	240					315	555
4	G3GRO						130	130
5	M0TZZ	65					22	87

Club News cont.

March 2015 2m, 70cm contest - Alex M1YAP

On the 7th and 8th March members of CARC and RATS joined forces for the March VHF/UHF contest, operating from the Swingate site near Dover under the callsign G3M.

Weather conditions were very favourable for the time of year a generally light, all be it cold, wind and no rain made for a pleasant weekend. Keeping it simple, and weather reliable, each station was operated from a van making a nice change from the tents of other contests.



Team in front of the 100ft tower (left to right): Peter G0VVE, Alwin G8DOH, Mike G0KAD, Alex M1YAP, Andy G7FWE, Stewart G3YSX.

144 MHz

The 2m station had the possibility to switch between two separate aerial systems 2x15 ele and 4x7 ele. Conditions were only slightly better than flat over the weekend with improvement on Sunday morning and some openings into Spain.

Results were 376 contacts totalling 133,151 points at an average of 354 km/QSO, the best DX was 1139km into Spain. The claimed scores currently put 2m in second place.



2m Station taken looking towards the west, 4x7 on the left and 2x15 on the tower.

432MHz

70cm offered a simpler station with a single stack of 4x28 ele beams on the 100ft tower, in line with previous outings and VHF NFD, which proved to me most effective. Band conditions were generally flat with some lift into Germany and Denmark.

Results were 211 contacts totalling 76,790 points at an average of 364 km/QSO the best DX was OZ9GE at 899km. Looking at the claimed scores G3M is leading the 70cm open section by a healthy margin.



2m Station taken looking towards the east, 4x28 ele on the tower with the van at the base.

Conclusion

This was a good first contest for the year. 2m performance was down, particularly with the 2x17 ele and discussions have already started on how we can improve upon these results moving towards VHF NFD.

70cm proved to work exceptionally well but as always there can be improvements! Another useful feature was the messenger based inter-station communication which allowed for the passing of contacts between bands and keeping the night operators awake.

In closing these contests are a lot of fun and give the opportunity to operate an exceptional contest class station. However, they require a significant effort during the contests outings; CARC/RATS are looking to take part in more VHF/UHF contests during the year and are always looking for help for both operating and/or put up and tear down. There is no obligation to come for the whole contest so if you are interested please speak to myself, **Alex M1YAP**, or **Mike GOKAD**.

Hi all, I thought I would bring to your attention a very useful site on the Internet called “ Club Log.”

This is a free service run by Mike G7VJR, but donations to offset running costs are of course appreciated. What you do is to upload your own logs to the site on a regular basis, so they need to be on a Computer Logging program. There are plenty of these, and many are free.

Once your logs are uploaded, you can then extract lots of data, i.e. how many QSO's you have made, and the breakdown of Phone, CW or Data, for the year, or previous years. QSL's sent or received, and also how many other members have got QSLs back from the particular DX station.

Many DX stations are using what is called OQRS, or On Line QSL Service, so you can check their logs and send a PayPal sum for a QSL card, Which takes the choir out of Qsl'ing.

There is also a list of DX'peditions, that upload their logs onto Club Log, so you can check easily with their logs to confirm if you have worked them.

The League tables are very informative, and there is an annual one, which tends to spur you on. We as a club have our own one, presently with about 10 members which is great fun. You have to Register before you upload your first log which is easy.

www.Clublog.org

All is explained, So if you are interested, Go and check it out.

If you want further info, Just ask Phil M0TZZ, John G4PEO, Mike G0KAD, or myself

73 Keith G3VKW

CARC Historical Photos - Supplied by Adrian G3VJM



Tower Preparations

