

Club Calendar

Meetings:

Every Wednesday: 8pm

Every Sunday: 11am -1pm

More formal events are on the last Wednesday of the month, 7-30pm for 8pm.

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

Dates:

August 27th 2014 (Wed)

TBA – Check Blog

Sept 21st 2014 (Sun)

Microwave Round Table

Sept 24th 2014 (Wed)

CARC Foxhunt

October 4th (Sat)

Club Dinner – The Crown Pub, Turners Hill

Also of Interest:

Crystal Palace REC

All Saints Parish Church, Beulah Hill, London, SE19 3LG. 8pm

5th Sept: Transformers & Switchgear.

3rd Oct: Railway Signalling

Sept 14th 2014 (Sun)

West Kent Radio & Electronics Fair, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School, St. John's Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9XB. 1000 – 1600hrs

Sept 26th/27th (Fri/Sat)

RSGB National Hamfest, Newark Showground, Winthorpe, NG24 2NY

Please check the CARC blog for any changes to the program:

www.carconline.blogspot.co.uk

or contact Brian, 2E0MZB:
briangstrada@gmail.com

News Bulletin items contact
G4PEO: john@g4peo.net

Associated Repeaters:

GB3MH: 145.625Mhz / 88.5 **GB7MH:** 439.6375Mhz D-Star

GB3WS: 145.750Mhz / 88.5 **GB3NX:** 430.8500Mhz / 88.5 (Input 438.4500Mhz)

CARC News

Welcome to the **August 2014** edition of the News Bulletin.

Yet another 'busy' edition, with news from **Malcolm G3NZP** of more exam successes, plus another article courtesy of **Peter G4FYY**, which also recently appeared in the G-QRP publication, SPRAT, so we now have a famous author in our midst!

Commencing with the next (October) issue, a new addition to the News Bulletin will be a 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' section (space permitting). If you would like to partake of this 'service to members', then please drop me an email (see side bar on left), or let me have written details when at the club. Usual disclaimers apply; all entries at the discretion of the editor and all transactions at sellers and buyers risk.

GB3MH has been experiencing a few hiccups of late. Reduced transmit coverage/erp was found to have been due to a cavity being 'knocked' off tune, most likely by builders and an errant ladder, meaning that less than 1 watt was actually reaching the aerial. TX output power was initially increased to compensate until the cavity issue was discovered. None of the other cavities were affected. This was then followed by a wiring issue affecting the CTCSS function. However, all being well, and by the time you read this, **Malcolm, G3NZP**, and **Richard, G4ANN** will have the repeater fully functioning again.

Going slightly further afield, neighbouring 70cm repeater **GB3GF**, Guildford (RB12), is now fully operation again following a temporary antenna relocation caused by building work and subsequent reduced coverage.

Calendar Items

As always, a reminder, if you have any suggestions for future meetings, **Brian, 2E0MZB** will be pleased to hear from you.

August 27th Meeting

Not yet finalised, so please check the blog, or with **Brian 2E0MZB** for any updates.

Microwave Round Table - Sunday September 21st

Details of the Microwave Round Table meeting, to be held at the CARC hut, 1000 – 1630hrs, can be found here:

<http://www.microwavers.org/cra-prog.htm>

There are normally five meetings held throughout the year at various venues around the country, with this meeting being one of the more informal ones. If you would like to attend, or find out more, please contact **Derek, G3GRO**.

Club Dignitaries (Committee Members & Others)

President: Derek Atter (G3GRO)

Hon Treasurer: Howard Palmer (G4PFW)

Hon Secretary: Phil Moore (2E0TZZ)

Programme Secretary: Brian Gutteridge (2E0MZB)

Committee Member: Alex Sheppard (M1YAP)

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

Chairman: Keith Evans (G3VKW)

Vice Chairman: John Longhurst (G3VLH)

Training Secretary: Malcolm Harman (G3NZP)

QSL Manager/News Editor: John Pitty (G4PEO)

Committee Member: Richard Hadfield (G4ANN)

Calendar cont:

Fox Hunt – Wednesday September 24th.

Details for this event are still being finalised, please keep an eye on the blog for updates.

Club Dinner – Saturday October 4th, The Crown, Turners Hill, East Street, RH10 4PT.

The club dinner recently held on the 28th June was very successful, so it was decided to arrange another one! The format/cost is likely to be the same as before, and also a reminder that the pub has a large car park at the rear. If interested, please add your name the list on the notice board, or speak to **Phil, M0TZZ** for further information.

Previous Meetings & Events

The Role of Wireless Amateurs in WW1, by Dr Elizabeth Bruton and Radios & EMC at the London 2012 Olympics, John Pink, G8MM. Were both excellent and very interesting talks, and thanks to both for undertaking the journey to Crawley.

Some interesting facts emerged from John Pink's presentation where he explained that Ofcom not only drafted in engineers from other countries PTT's, but also 'called up' retired Ofcom engineers to deal with potential EMC issues.

It was interesting to note they had to deal with upwards of 10,000 PMR446 radios. A dedicated team was on hand to ensure those radios brought into the country by visiting teams were correctly enabled on the designated frequencies/channel spacing etc. However, dealing with more varieties of PMR446 type radios than that of a well known food manufacturer meant that some flavours were more exotic than others, to the extent that despite the best efforts of Ofcom, some radios just could not be reprogrammed correctly. In this instance the radios were 'red flagged' and the users dispatched to the local Maplins in order to purchase suitable compliant replacements...!

VHF NFD 2014 – Initial Report from Alex M1YAP

CARC joined RATS again in 2014 to take part in the VHF national field day contest operating from the Swingate site just outside Dover, with 12 people from CARC going along to take part. The weather started off sunny on Friday afternoon allowing most of the aerials to be put up in good conditions. However, heavy rain Friday night then set the tone for the rest of the weekend with a few dry spells intermixed by heavy down pours.

Changes this year included new aerial systems for 2m and 6m and the return of operating a 4m station.

15:00 local Saturday saw the start of the contest with all stations up and running on time, this success continued throughout the contest with no major equipment failures taking a station off air.

Unfortunately poor conditions meant that the bands were mainly flat limiting the exotic dx but there were still lots of stations to be worked on the continent.

The scores are as follows with current claimed score position in brackets, please note that some of the big stations routinely do not claim their scores so positions may change:

6m 38000 (Third); 4m 17,400 (Fifth); 2m 182,400 (Second); 70cm 30,500 (Third); 23cm 17,700 (First)

In summary a fun, if not slightly soggy, weekend was had by all resulting in a very reasonable entry, considering the conditions. Improvements are already being looked at for next year!



*The Site at Swingate
Photo G3YSX*



International Museums Weekends - GBOAIR held over two weekends in June was very successful with a total of 972 QSO's & 56 countries worked on 40m, 15m and 10m utilising two stations and 100w. We had a lot of interest with stations queuing up to work **GBOAIR** and direct QSL requests were dropping through the letterbox two days after the event finished. Additionally, the **GBOAIR QRZ.COM** web page at time of writing has received almost 2,800 hits. The only problem experienced was a failure of one of the logging laptops, (white screen of death), on the second Saturday, but the HDD was subsequently removed and the log recovered. Thanks go to Gatwick Aviation Museum for their very friendly and helpful co-operation in allowing us to set up the station, and also to those CARC members that loaned equipment, helped set up/break down and also operate the two stations. Thank you also to **Phil, M0TZZ** for loan of the gazebo and the design/print of the new CARC sign!



HF Stn: G3VKW, M0TZZ. 40m Stn: M0HQM & 2E0MZB. Photo G4PEO

It will go on - won't it! M0TZZ, G0KAD, G3VJM, M0HQM & G3VKW. Photo G4PEO



40M Station: M0WID & M6CAO. Photo G4PEO

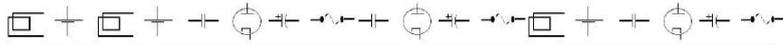


General view of GBOAIR. Photo 2E0MZB



HF Station: M0HQM & G0KCH. Photo G4PEO

Another view of the shack. Photo G4PEO



International Museums Weekend 2014

14th-15th & 21st-22nd June



The Museums Award

This is to Certify That

Crawley ARC

Took Part in the above event from

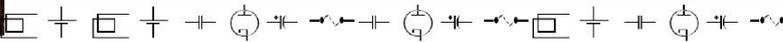
Gatwick Aviation Museum

Registered Museum No **5298**



Award # **63**

Award Manager *Hans-Jürgen Schneider*



Certificate awarded to CARC for participation in International Museums Weekend. Spot the minor 'mistake'

GBOAIR QSL Card
(Design G4PEO / Printing 2E0TZZ/M0TZZ)

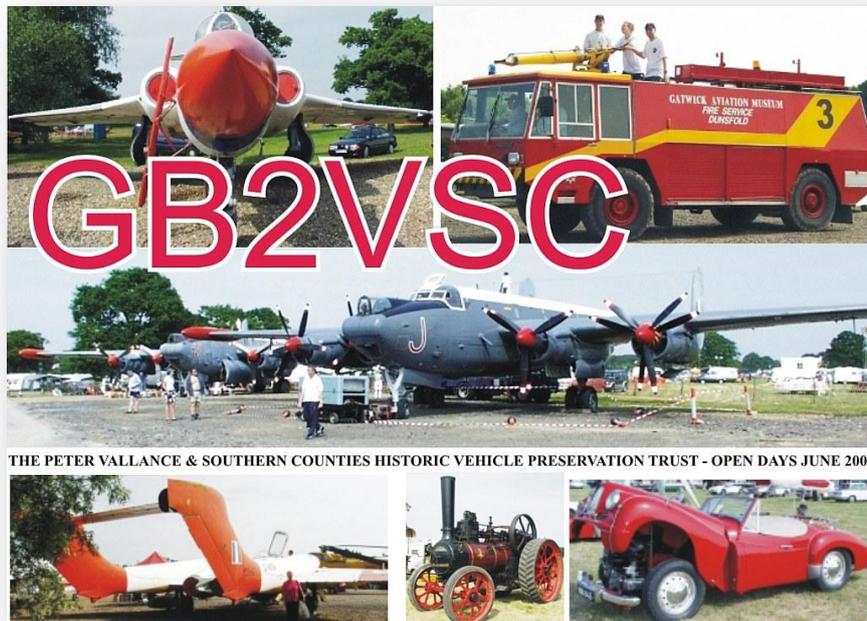


13 years prior to **GB0AIR** being operational from Gatwick Aviation Museum, another special event station, **GB2VSC** was also active from the same location.

Adrian, G3VJM, kindly forwarded a selection of photos taken at the Peter Vallance & Southern Counties Historic Vehicle Preservation Trust open days, held during June 2001.

In association with the open days a special event station was in operation, **GB2VSC**, the QSL card for which is shown below.

Whilst some of the aircraft are still (fortunately) there and being well looked after, unfortunately the collection is rather diminished from its earlier 'glory' days shown below.



Club News

VHF Antenna (2m Beam) Project

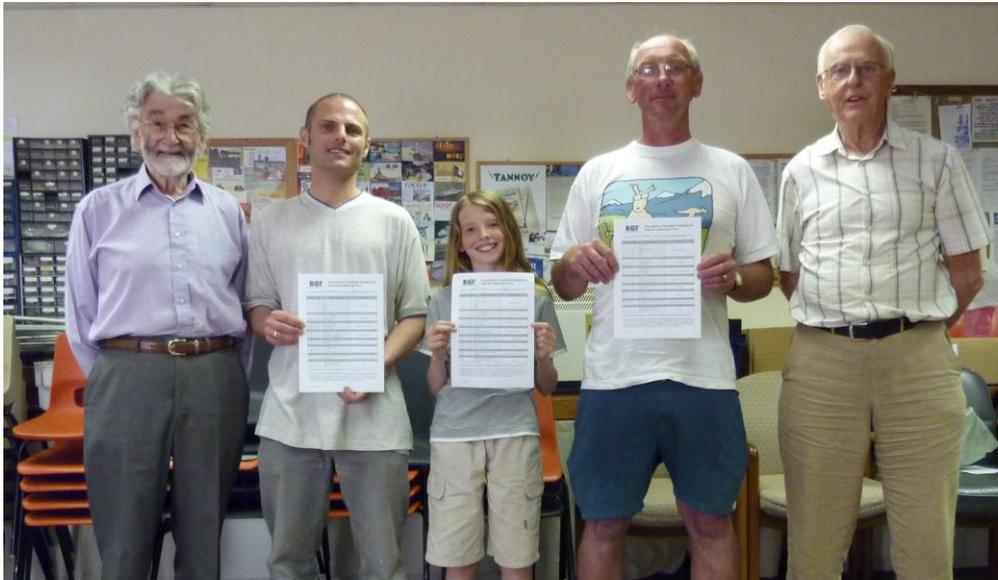
Mike, GOKAD, is proposing to shortly hold a buildathon for those signed up to the club 2m beam project. This will likely take place on a Saturday morning at the club. Please see/contact Mike for more info and proposed date(s). Following a successful conclusion to the building activities it may be possible to arrange a club 2m net. (See **Keith G3VKW** for more details).

Exam Successes

From Start to Finish by **Malcolm Harman, G3NZP** Lead Instructor.

Richard, Ian and son Daniel had visited the club on quite a few occasions before I caught up with them to discuss their training needs. All three were interested in radio and wished to obtain a Foundation licence sooner rather than later. In spite of it being the sailing season I decided to break my own rules and June 12th was set for the examination and a course arranged over a couple of previous Sunday afternoons. Training included all the required practical assessments, and thanks to **Phil MOTZZ** for speaking to the candidates on HF &VHF, so boosting their operating confidence

After marking their papers it gave **Dick MORXZ** and I great pleasure to indicate that they had all achieved exam success and this was duly confirmed by the RSGB a few days later. The result was all the more remarkable since Daniel is only 12 years old. All have become CARC members.



Richard Edmonds M6EQQ, Daniel Clements M6LPS, Ian Clements M6INC (and two of the usual suspects)

Meanwhile two of our number were busy studying with the Bath Based Advanced Distance Learning Course, which ran from January to June and finished to coincide with the examination set by the RSGB for 1st July. Both were anxious to pass and so to ease any last minute doubts we ran a couple of evening Q&A sessions entirely based on their main areas of concern. It was all worthwhile and both Robert Givens and Phil Moore now have a Full Licence. It was a lot of work for all five students and they are to be congratulated. Furthermore these most recent successes have topped the seventy mark for passes achieved since 2009 with the present training team.



Phil Moore MOTZZ and Bob Givens MOHQM

Member News

From **Bob, M0HQM:**

A reminder that the Clansman 4m net is still active on Thursdays from 1900 – 2000hrs (local), using 70.400Mhz for the calling frequency. Bob is experiencing local QRM on the normal calling frequency of 70.450Mhz, hence the alternative QRG.

If any member would like to join in it is completely free – you don't need a Clansman!

Additional 4m info from **G4PEO** - Ex PMR low band radios (modified for 4m) are readily available on Ebay and reasonably priced. There are also new, dedicated amateur 4m mobile transceivers (66-88Mhz) that have become recently available (Anytone), again on Ebay.

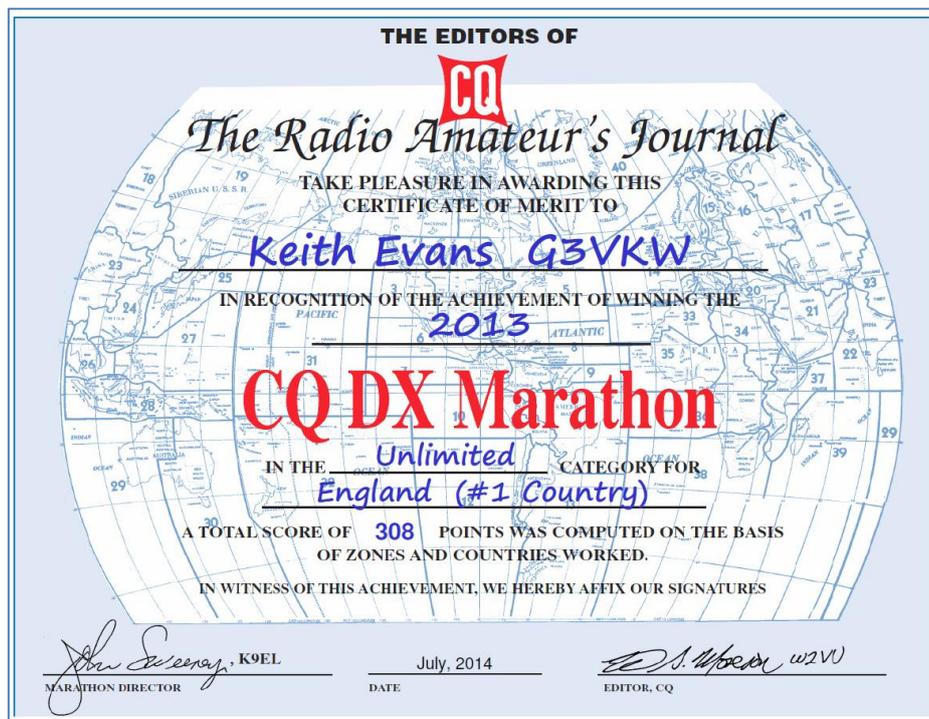
A very useful and interesting source of information re 4m – 'The Four Metres Web Site', can be found here: <http://www.70mhz.org/>

Congratulations to **Keith G3VKW:**

Who is now the proud recipient of another certificate to hang on the wall in the form of top scoring station (England) for the 2013 CQ Magazine - CQ DX Marathon.

The aim of the DX Marathon is to run for a full year commencing January 1st, and is designed to give the DXer an extra incentive to get on the air every day, and work as many countries and CQ Zones as they can in each calendar year, regardless of the band or mode.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.dxmarathon.com/>



Through a Double Glazed Window

Peter Head G4FYY (g4radioham@gmail.com)

If you don't fancy drilling holes in walls or window frames to get your antenna feeder indoors, then here is a simple solution.

1. Shut the window onto a length of bare solid wire to make a template, (fig.1).



fig. 1



fig.2

2. Cut a strip of aluminium approximately 35mm wide, bend it in a vice to match the shape of the wire and fit BNC connectors at each end. A ribbon cable comprising 4 wires is then taped to the bracket to form an approximation to a microstrip line. Connect the wires in parallel and to each connector, (fig. 2). The characteristic impedance should be close to 50 Ohms but you can easily check this by terminating one end of the bracket with a 50 Ohm load and connecting the other end via a length of 50 Ohm coax to an antenna analyser (or low power TX and VSWR meter). I started with a ribbon comprising 8 wires and peeled off one wire at a time to obtain a VSWR of 1:1 at 30MHz. As shown, the bracket gives a flat VSWR of 1.1:1 to beyond 70MHz and could probably be tweaked for use at 2m.

Figures 3 and 4 show the bracket installed in a double glazed window.



fig. 3 (inside)



fig.4 (outside)

Please note that this bracket has not been tested at, nor is intended for use at QRO power levels. But if your windows are all the same as mine are, this simple bracket will allow /P QRP operation from any room in the house - hi!

