

G3WSC

G6RC

GX3WSC

CARC News Bulletin

August - Sept 2016

Crawley Amateur Radio Club

Editor: John G4PEO

Other Clubs & Events

Horsham ARC (HARC)

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

4th Aug: Radios Used by Amateurs through the Years, Keith G3VKW

1st Sept: TBA - See Website

Crystal Palace REC

<http://www.g3oou.co.uk/cprec.html>

5th August: Summer Social

2nd Sept: Geographical Mapping & Eutectic Points

Sutton & Cheam

<http://scrs.org.uk>

18th August: Kite & Balloon Supported Antennas, G4ROJ

15th Sept: AROS - Amateur Radio Observation Service, Vince G0ROC, Deputy AROS Co-ordinator

Mid Sussex ARC

www.msars.org.uk

5th Aug: Noise Cancelling, Graham Sommerville, bhi

30th Sept: Indian Hospital & the Chatri During the 1st World War, Amanda Jane

CATS (Coulson)

www.catsradio.org

8th Aug: Annual BBQ - G4RWW

12th Sept: One Man & His Guide Dog - Paul Harmen

Dorking & District Radio Club

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

23rd Aug: Social Evening

27th Sept: TBA - See Web Site

Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest

Merely, Dorset, BH21 3DA

14th August. www.frars.org.uk

National Hamfest - Newark

30th Sept - 1st October

www.nationalhamfest.org.uk

Updates to the CARC programme:

www.carconline.blogspot.co.uk

or contact John , G3VLH:

john.longhurst@hfcom.net

News Bulletin items contact G4PEO:

john@g4peo.net

CARC DATES

August (Wednesday)

Summer break - No formal talk - club open as normal

September 18th (Sunday)

Microwave Round Table

September 28th (Wednesday)

Do you know how your antenna really works?

Walter Blanchard G3JKV

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.

For further information about CARC, please Contact the Hon Secretary:

Phil, M0TZZ, secretary@carc.org.uk



Welcome to the August / September 2016 edition of the News Bulletin.

It has been announced by the RSGB, (29th July), that the new, (replacement), Ofcom licensing portal is now available: <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/online-licensing-service>

New and existing customers of the previous licensing system should follow the instructions for registering on the new system *carefully* and consult the online help and support for further information. The RSGB guidance and FAQ web pages will be updated to match the new system in due course. Currently, *it is thought* you no longer have to validate your licence with the new system, and that just by logging into the new portal is sufficient - but best to check as more details become available.

Some local repeater news from **G4EFO** - due to changes requested by Network Rail, **GB3WS** (2m) and **GB3NX** (70cm) now have less coverage as the height of the antennas has had to be reduced to 35ft from 70ft.

70cm repeater **GB3HO** (Horsham) is operational again from a new location just south of Horsham, (Itchingfield) - details in local repeater info below.

An unusual S/W broadcast to look out for? For the week 30th July - Aug 7th, pirate radio, courtesy of well known pirate DJ's from the 60's, is taking to the waves in Harwich Quay as **Radio Mi Amigo** from the light vessel LV18. Transmissions will be on-line, plus 106.8MHz, and at selective times, unusually also on **6070KHz**, (authorised by Ofcom).

Info and S/W broadcast timings: <http://lv18.org/mi-amigo.htm>

Local Repeaters

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

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

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

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

Past President: Derek Atter (G3GRO)

Hon Treasurer: Howard Palmer (G4PFW)

Hon Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)

Programme Secretary: John Longhurst (G3VLH)

Training Lead Instructor: Malcolm Harman (G3NZP)

Committee Member: Richard Hadfield (G4ANN)

Chairman: Keith Evans (G3VKW)

Vice Chairman: John Pitty (G4PEO)

Exam Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)

QSL Manager/News Editor: John Pitty (G4PEO)

Committee Member: Alex Sheppard (M1YAP)

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

Calendar Items - August & September

As usual, during the summer holiday period, there will be no formal meeting in August, but of course the club will be open as normal, Wednesday evenings and Sundays.

We resume in September with the Microwave Round Table.

Microwave Round Table - Sunday September 18th

On September 18th, we welcome back the Microwave Round Table, organised by Chris Whitmarsh, **G0FDZ**, who as usual will have a full day of interesting events planned, commencing at 10-00am. As always, this is a very popular and successful event, with attendees travelling from all over the UK.

The provisional, still to be finalised batting order is shown below. In addition there will also be sales of components and various microwave related equipment.

To learn more about the UK Microwave Group, including their newsletter Scatterpoint, not to mention their very reasonable membership fee of £6, go to: <http://www.microwavers.org/>

For more up to date information on this particular meeting, plus information on the Round Tables in general, select the 'Events' link from the home page shown above.

- 10:00 Venue opens
- 12:00 UKuG Project contest round judging commences
- 13:00 Lunch (rolls, sandwiches, tea/coffee available)
- 14:00 Opening address and the results of the Project contest heat
- 14:15 Talk-1 - tbc
- 15:00 Talk-2 - tbc
- 15:45 Break (tea & coffee available)
- 16:00 Talk-3 - tbc
- 16:30 End of meeting

Do you know how your antenna really works? - Walther Blanchard, G3JKV, Wednesday September 28th.

A welcome return to Walter who will discuss some of the fundamentals of radio propagation; in particular, why does a wire carrying an alternating current produce a field which is detectable thousands of miles away.

Previous Meetings & Events

Sussex Electronics & Radio Fair (SERF), Eastbourne.

G3VKW, M0TZZ, G4PFW and **G4PEO** manned the CARC stand at the SERF event, where we were selling various 'bits and pieces' to raise money for the club. Most of the 'big ticket' sales actually took place prior to the event opening via other traders, but we still maintained a reasonably steady stream of sales throughout the morning period, which then fell away towards lunchtime.

Next year, the event is undergoing a small name change, to be known as the **Southern Electronics & Radio Fair**, and also slimming down to a 1½ day event, with camping, caravanning and social events/refreshments available from Friday afternoon.

There will also be a date change to Saturday 6th May, in order to avoid half term.

<http://serf.org.uk/>



Photos G4PEO

Previous Meetings & Events - cont

Off Air Frequency Standards - Bob Burns, G300U

Bob gave us a very interesting and excellent talk on frequency standards, detailing the evolution and use of the methods employed through the years, and how the levels of accuracy have improved as a result.

Examples given by Bob commenced with the humble wavemeter and xtal oscillator/xtal calibrator with progression via the ovened xtal oscillator, off air WWV, VLF, R4/198KHz and GPS, plus rubidium and caesium standards, with rubidium being used as the reference for R4/198KHz. Bob also brought along some of his very nice home-brew equipment shown below right, built in the Heath style. Certainly a very interesting evening and many thanks to Bob for taking the time to visit CARC.

Photos G4PEO



Hamvention Special - Stewart Bryant, G3YSX

Many thanks to Stewart for taking us on a very interesting photographic tour of his recent visits to Dayton, (new venue planned for 2017), and Friedrichshafen, and, as a bonus, the tour was preceded by a brief visit to the London Science Museum, and in particular the revamped amateur radio section; well worth a visit according to Stewart.

Apart from the rather interesting antenna options that were available in Dayton's outdoor flea market, the number/diversity of boat anchors available for sale, that could only be dreamt of in the UK, had a number of us salivating somewhat, whilst in Friedrichshafen, Stewart came across a group who specialise in sending telex over the internet via the old telex machines... Very diverse!

<http://www.i-telex.net/>

Photo G3YSX



Newbury Radio Rally

The threatened rain just about held off, and it wasn't too crowded, which would have made for a pleasant visit. However, although not directly the fault of the organisers, the experience was somewhat tarnished by the state of the show-grounds mens facilities, with blocked toilets and no soap in the dispensers, not a very good advert for a major rally at a major show-ground... Next year, Dunstable will again be firmly on the rally agenda with it's excellent facilities; catering and WC's, not to mention plenty of bargains, but the jury is still out regarding Newbury...



General view of the rally.

*The adjacent 'plot',
preparing for an
agricultural auction.*



Club News

HARC - CARC Challenge, November: Yes, it's still summer, but this annual, lighthearted technical challenge, (Horsham vs Crawley clubs), which is great fun, will be upon us before we know it, so **Keith, G3VKW**, is requesting ideas for this years event to be hosted by CARC. If you have any (fiendish/unusual/interesting) suggestions, please contact Keith ASAP.

QRP-Labs: More developments from **Hans, GOUPL**, that could be of interest to members who have built the club project/QRP-Labs Ultimate 2 or 3 WSPR Tx. His latest kit takes the form of a 50-ohm 20W dummy load, (\$8.50 - <http://qrp-labs.com/dummy>), which also includes a simple diode-capacitor peak voltage detector with which a DVM can be used to give a rough estimate of power.

In a further piece of news, the grapevine suggests that the QRP-Labs receiver kit, (to complement the U2/U3 Tx's), is currently being manufactured, whilst a 5w HF PA kit prototype PCB is ready for testing, so hopefully no excuse for members not to have something to build during the winter months!



A request: from **Peter G4FYY** on behalf of **Ted, G4TTY**, in respect of a possible 80m RX designed by **Derek, G3GRO**, as a companion to a club QRP 80m TX project that Derek did design, and was built by Ted some time ago. Current opinion and recollections are that the RX design never made it off the drawing board, but, if some of the longer serving members do have recollections of an 80m RX designed by Derek, then Peter will be pleased to hear from you: g4radioham@gmail.com

Training Update - Malcolm G3NZZ, Lead Instructor

I'm pleased to report that five Foundation students successfully completed their practical assessments on the 25th June.

Then on 16th July, **Neil Turner (M6BIK)**, **Andrew Potter (M6BRG)**, **Tom Perry** and **Peter Schoenmaker** each passed their examination, with all four candidates achieving exceptionally high marks.

Unfortunately, due to a new Ofcom licensing portal undergoing development, not all call signs have been obtained yet.

The fifth member of the class namely Ewan Potter was unable to attend, so he will now sit the paper on 21st August, and let's wish him every success.

My thanks to **Dick Lupton (M0RXZ)** and **Keith Evans (G3VKW)** for helping out.



Chairmans Report - Keith, G3VKW

Hi All,

There is a great deal of equipment to be sold from the shack of Derek G3GRO, so watch out for information regarding this. Hopefully once we have it all catalogued we will be accepting bids from club members.

VHF National Field Day, the VHF contest team did a brilliant Job of coming 2nd place overall, and winning the 70cm band title, which, due to the accident the rental van was involved in resulting in a lot of damaged equipment, is a really good effort. This is a joint effort between CARC, and the Reigate Club. If you are interested in VHF contesting, see Mike, G0KAD, Rob, M0ZAF, or Alex, M1YAP as they are always after operators for the events they do periodically through the year.

We have had 4 more successful passes for foundation licences, and we wait to welcome some new call-signs at Hut 18. Sadly the Ofcom website has been down, (*now back up, see page 1 - Ed*), slowing up licence applications. If you see faces at the club you do not recognise, please say hello, and make them feel welcome.

I have had some roofing work done on my house which due to scaffolding has allowed me to put an antenna back on the chimney after many years, and now QRV on VHF / UHF, so Rob, I may have a QSO with you at last Hi Hi... We do have a similar Create VHF/ UHF log periodic for sale; if you are interested contact me or John G4PEO.

We have 2 towers to remove shortly from silent keys QTH's, so we will be looking for young fit people to give us a hand. If you can help, please see either Mike G0KAD or me. The process has been slowed up due to the accident the club 60ft mobile tower was involved in on the way to VHF NFD.

While I was playing with my new antenna on 6mtrs, I ran into Stewart G3YSX doing an entry for the RSGB Activity night. These are fun little events that only last 1 ½ hours, It is a shame more club members do not turn on their rigs and join in, I made a paltry 16 QSO's and worked into France, and Wales. These activity nights take place on different VHF / UHF Bands.
(*Ed - Link to contest calendar: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/readcal.pl>*)

That's all for now,
73 Keith, G3VKW, Chairman.



From the G3VJM vintage CARC photo archives, titled 'radio evening', date unknown (currently).