

CARC DATES

December 4th (Friday)
CARC Fish & Chip Supper
(M0TZZ)

December 16th (Wednesday)
Resolving antenna gain issues
(Mike Underhill, G3LHZ)

January 27th (Wednesday)
CARC AGM (All)

CARC meetings are held in our club room 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



Also of Interest/Other Clubs

Horsham ARC (HARC)
<http://www.harc.org.uk>
3rd December: AGM

Crystal Palace REC
www.g3oou.co.uk
4th Dec: Equipment on Air &
Trifle.
8th Jan: Electronic Components
5th Feb: AGM / Construction
Contest

Sutton & Cheam
<http://scrs.org.uk>
10th Dec: Xmas Junk Sale
21st Jan: RSGB President visit

Mid Sussex ARC
www.msars.org.uk
4th Dec: Radio Night
11th Dec: Xmas Dinner, Pycombe
18th Dec: Xmas Quiz

CATS (Coulson)
www.catsradio.org
14th Dec: AGM
11th Jan: New Year Dinner

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

As seems to be the case of late, there is not a lot to report on the club front again. The good news though, is that HF conditions, although rather up and down somewhat, have generally changed for the better, relatively speaking. Compared for instance to the 80's and 90's, current conditions are extremely dire!

All is not lost however. If you are active on HF and struggling, (or given up even), to work DX, not only due to poor band conditions, but also restrained by what seems to be the increasingly appalling operating habits of some so called amateur radio enthusiasts, then perhaps it's time to investigate the data modes, JT65/JT9, PSK, WSPR to name but a few, and of course even CW...

Whenever the bands seem bereft of any activity, a quick tune down to the data modes allocations for instance usually guarantees to find some activity, even though the band appears to be dead. Even better, during poor conditions, decent long distant QSO's can still be achieved via JT65/JT9 using low power (25w), or WSPR using even lower power, with wire antennas, something that can only be dreamt of if using SSB for instance.

Data modes may not be everyone's cup of tea, but when the frustration sets in, it's always worth exploring new opportunities and modes. After all, you have gone to a lot of trouble to obtain your licence and set up a station, so why not give it a go. Don't forget the club station is available also. For further information, software, user guides etc; a good start is Joe Taylor's K1JT, web site : <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

Also, some links to see how well you are getting out/who is copying your data transmission: VK3AMA's excellent site: <http://hamsports.net/> and not forgetting <https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

This all ties in nicely with an email you will have recently received from the Hon Secretary, **Phil, M0TZZ**, outlining a **WSPR club contest** for February 2016, devised by Hon Chairman **Keith, G3VKW**. As a reminder, the email is repeated on page 4, together with some additional information from **Mike, GOKAD**, that you will find interesting...

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

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) **GB7ID:** 430.9750MHZ (DMR)

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 Longhurst (G3VLH)
Exam Secretary: Phil Moore (M0TZZ)
QSL Manager/News Editor: John Pitty (G4PEO)
Committee Member: Alex Sheppard (M1YAP)
Shack Managers: Mike Davies (GOKAD), Rob Barter (M0ZAF)

Calendar Items- December & January

Club Fish & Chip Supper (AKA Xmas Social) – Friday Evening, December 4th, CARC Hut.

This year again expertly organised by Jane and Lorna, XYL's of **Keith G3VKW** and **Phil, M0TZZ**. It is now fully booked, and justifiably so, as always a very popular event in the CARC calendar.

Resolving Antenna Gain Issues – Mike Underhill G3LHZ, Wednesday December 16th.

Don't miss what promises to be an extremely interesting talk by Mike on antenna gain, and the practical aspects of measuring the gain of your latest creation.

AGM – Wednesday January 27th 2016, CARC Hut.

Don't forget to make a note in your diaries for this important event. It's your chance to elect and also provide feedback to the committee. You will also be able to hear the results of the club survey, (mentioned in Keith's column), that will shortly be winging it's way to your inbox.

Previous Meetings & Events

HARC – CARC Challenge.

This year the event was hosted by Horsham on Guy Fawkes night... There was a good turnout from both clubs, enabling two teams of four people each per club. It was HARC's turn to devise the challenge, and this year it was to identify what component was secreted in each of 28 plastic boxes, all of which were fitted with terminals to facilitate measurement and identification using only a DVM. Finally there were four questions based on adding together the specific values of some of the components, assuming each team had measured their value accurately, and, what use a particular component in a particular box would be used for, assuming it had been guessed correctly in the first place! All very fiendish and entertaining. It was a close fought contest, but in the end HARC were declared the victors. Our thanks to HARC for hosting a very enjoyable evening, and also to CARC members **G3VKW, G3YSX, G4ANN, G3ZIY, G3VJM, G4PEO, M1YAP** and **M6NXZ**.



HARC – CARC Challenge (G4PEO)



CATS Bazaar (G4PEO)

C.A.T.S. Bazaar (Coulson)

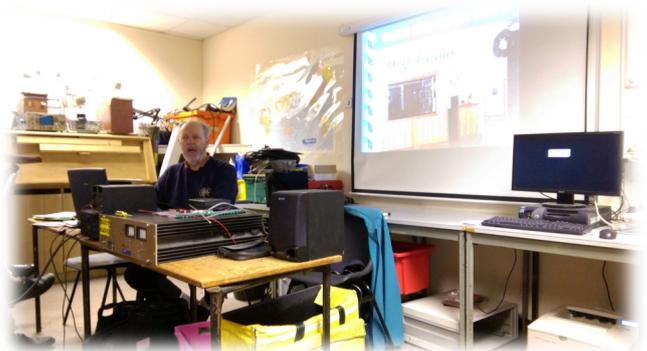
Due to redevelopment of the old site, we found ourselves in a new hall this year. The CARC table, manned by **G3VKW, G4PFW & G4PEO**, did extremely well, and was probably our best year so far, although we still came away with a surprising number of quality unsold items. As last year, attendance was very good for the first few hours, and then slowly tailed off, but overall it was well worth the effort of attending.

SUSY Radio – 103.4MHz & on-line, John, G8MNY (Chief Engineer)

A good turnout for an extremely interesting talk, where John gave us a potted history of the station and also detailed the multiple engineering challenges, (and costs), associated with a small community radio station, allowed to operate via a Restricted Service Licence, transmitting from Reigate Hill.

The antenna for instance, (30ft high/25w ERP on a cattery roof), had to be designed by John to have minimal radiation to the north in order to avoid interference, plus a maximum of 10w ERP skywards. One unexpected challenge encountered was when the TX went off the air due to the plug literally being pulled to allow a hair drier to be plugged in to dry off a wet cat...

Our thanks to John for a very informative talk.



*G8MNY
(Photo G4PEO)*

Chairmans Report – Keith, G3VKW

Hello All,

Have you sent your letters to Santa Claus for that new rig yet? Well you should, it is nearly Christmas.

The good thing to note is that the HF Band conditions have greatly improved compared to the awful ones over the summer. It was amazing how quick they did change, almost as if someone had thrown a switch.

The Club VHF'ers have been out again, this time they concentrated on the 70cms band, and did very well.

Sadly I have to say that the club organised "Talks" on weds evenings, have shown an embarrassingly low turnout of club members to the visiting speakers. So low that we on your committee are going to ask you the members if you wish them to continue, and if you wish them to continue, what have we organisers being doing wrong to warrant such a low turnout, sometimes only about 4 -6 members. Having said the above, the Nov talk on SUSY Radio, was very well attended. So is the problem the topics of the talks that we provide?

Hopefully by the time you read this the new club website should be imminent. I know I have promised this previously, but the club member doing the work, has been very busy setting up his own company, so you can understand why there has been a delay.

Do not forget to put the Clubs Annual General Meeting into you diaries for Jan 27th 2016, and if any of you think you could provide a service to the club as a committee member, please put yourself forward for "Committee".

There is good news! This financial year we should hopefully at least break even, however I will not have the final figures until just before the AGM.

The Club had a Table at the C.A.T.S. Bazaar, at its new venue. We did very well to sell quite a lot of the equipment, which has remained unsold from silent keys.

The amazing thing is there are quite a few VHF transceivers that remain unsold, at "give away" prices, if you do not have one in the shack, then enquire with the Committee to acquire one.

I have viewed **Stewarts, G3YSX**, new SteppIr beam, and tower, and although the wingspan (element length) is the same as the clubs 3 element, the very short boom of Stewarts 2 element makes the antenna much less obtrusive. So if you want an HF beam at your QTH, give Stewart's arrangement some thought.

As more than 28 members have built the Hans Summer / Peter Head WSPR project I thought it might be a good idea to put them to use, and have a Club Competition. I am working on the rules, and it will be fair (hopefully) to those disadvantaged by poor antenna's I will send out the rules shortly. The competition will run for the month of February 2016. So plenty of time to finish off building, or acquiring one, and putting up a simple antenna.

I spent a few hours on Sat / Sun 28/29th of Nov which was the CQ Magazines World Wide DX contest, using around 150 watts, using search and pounce, a contestants term for roaming the band and working new Countries and Zones. I managed 38 on Sat on 15 / 10m, and 12 on Sunday on 10m, i.e. ½ way to a DXCC all in about 3 hours of operating. The best DX worked was FO5RH, in French Polynesia, who was calling CQ on 10m with very few "Takers"

Phil MOTZZ will be sending out to you all, a survey. Please take time to read it, and also respond to it, your Committee then can then steer the Clubs agenda to what you the members want.

So from me and XYL Jane,

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous 2016.

73 Keith

