

CARC

CRAWLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWS BULLETIN APRIL/MAY 2018

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IN THIS ISSUE:
CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER
ME AND MY SHACK
EXCEPTIONAL EMERGENCY
HELP



Note from the (new) Editor

Hi all, welcome to the new look edition of the CARC News Bulletin. After long and meritorious service, John G4PEO has handed over the reins to me and I hope to serve you at least as well as he did!

I've kicked off what I hope will be a regular feature – Me and My Shack (yes I know it should be My Shack and I more correctly but it just doesn't sound right!) but of course that relies on you people to supply me with your articles. It doesn't have to be as long as mine but pictures will help!

Don't forget to order your must-have Swar-Grees as featured on page 14 of the April RadCom, supplies are limited!

The cover picture was taken at the Gatwick Aviation Museum during Museums on the Air 2014 and features the intrepid Richard G3ZIY asking for "no publicity". It would be nice to support this event again this year, please speak to Keith, Howard or myself if interested.



Pre beard

Chairman's Chatter



Me and My Shack – Phil M0TZZ



My first foray into radio was when I brought home a valve Ecko radio from a jumble sale in about 1966. I connected the house plumbing to the aerial socket (didn't tell the parents) and could hear many and various stations (as well as the World Cup). We didn't have central heating so the water tank in the loft was probably doing the work. This wouldn't work nowadays with the necessity to earth house plumbing!

Fast forward to around 1977, I was a staff member of 14F Northolt Squadron Air Training Corps and we had an amateur, Roger Abel G4FKX who looked after our radio shack, consisting of an 1154/1155, a Racal RA17 and a Creed teleprinter. I used to enjoy seeing what RTTY we could eavesdrop on. The antenna was an inverted V with the apex at around 65 feet on a floodlight tower. Also around that time we were re-purposing ex taxi radios to use on the VHF frequencies we had allocated, one not far from 4m and another not far above 2m. I had a PYE Reporter in my car (which was a bit modern) and we had several PYE Cambridges, Westminsters, Vanguards and Pocketfones. We had whips with groundplanes on the tower for VHF and could work considerably further than most other Squadron's due to their height.

Roger left on moving away so I recruited another amateur, Mike Hawkins G8WOY who was also the repeater keeper for GB3WL (who I kept in touch with, but sadly became SK last year after a short illness). I bought a scanner and listened to the local repeaters and my appetite being whetted enrolled on a RAE course at Southall Technical College. After a few weeks of listening to the mayhem on 2m (especially GB3SL which was closed down for that very reason) and realising I'd need to learn morse to use HF I gave it up, and although I'd listen on the scanner and also a borrowed AR88 I had at home I decided I'd never be able to learn morse. Anyway I learnt a fair bit about VHF antennas, VSWR, crystals (all of the VHF kit was crystal controlled), alignment and so on at this time.

Fast forward again to 2013 I stumbled across the Ofcom website which told me that for two years I could have got a licence with no need for morse. Within three weeks I had got the Foundation Now book, contacted Malcolm and took the exam, getting one question wrong because I didn't read it properly and became M6TZZ with a whole 10 watts at my disposal. Naturally I joined the Club!

In 2014 I took the Intermediate and passed (2E0TZZ and 50 watts), and in 2015 I did the Bath Based Distance Learning course and passed the advanced (M0TZZ and 400 watts). At some point during this, someone talked me into becoming the Club Secretary and here I still am, as you lot keep voting me back in at the AGM's 😊.

Enough about me, what about the shack? I have a brick built outhouse in the garden which many years ago was half loo and half coal cellar. It is now half shack and half "bar"... I put electricity in, some heating and sealed up all of the draughty gaps. A lick of paint and I was in business.

It's very small but suits my purpose and is out of the way of the Station Manager (Lorna). It also means that I shouldn't accumulate loads of kit but I still do. Before even passing my Foundation, I bought a 2/70 handie and put that in the car (to listen only of course), and a Kenwood TS440SAT from Brian 2E0MZB, again for listening until the licence. That was a great rig to learn with, I added a kit to give it RS232 and then could connect it to my PC and discover data modes such as BPSK and RTTY. On 29th March 2013 (ink not dry on the licence) I had my first QSO with Richard G4ANN and Peter G4FYY on GB3MH. I had almost arrived! A couple of days later after rigging an antenna for HF my first HF (SSB) contact was Lawrence GJ3RAX in Jersey. I've had trouble working Jersey ever since!



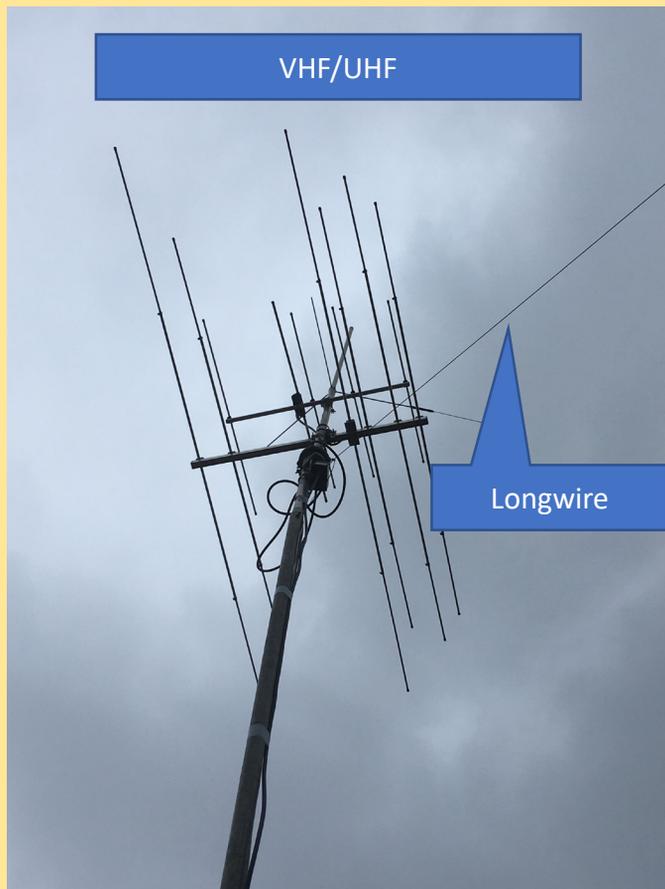
Since then various rigs and antennas have come and gone but what I have now is an Elecraft K3 (fully loaded with extras) for HF/6m, an Icom 7100 for 4m/2m/70cm (which I used as the main HF rig before the K3 came along) an Expert 1K-FA linear amp, various handies and a Yaesu FT7800 in the car. Antennas wise I have a Hustler 6-BTV which is a trapped vertical working on 80/40/30/20/15 and 10, and also a longwire (65ft) which I mainly use for the WARC bands not covered by the 6-BTV and 60m. I also have a 20 foot scaffold pole which has a 4/6m 3 element yagi, a 2m 3 element yagi (both on a rotator) and a 2m/70cms colinear. I would love to put up a SteppIR but I know the neighbours (and the wife) would not like me if I did, and I would rapidly be speaking to someone from the Council... My whole setup is heavily computerised, using mainly Ham Radio Deluxe but also quite a bit of other software depending on the task at hand (WSJT-X and JTAlert to name a couple).

I like to work DX and love crossing countries off the list, either all time new ones, new ones on a particular band, or new ones for this year. I have a lot of data QSO's, particularly FT8 at present which gives the opportunity to work DX even during sunspot minima as we are now. My log shows that on 13th May 2013 (still an M6) I worked Australia PSK 31 with 10 watts... How things have changed now. I've worked Oz several times since, but in January this year it took almost the legal limit (400w) to cover the same distance on FT8. At the time of writing I'd worked 175 entities out of the 340 odd in the world so over half way, and have had 3,300 QSO's. I don't think that's bad for 5 years on air 😊

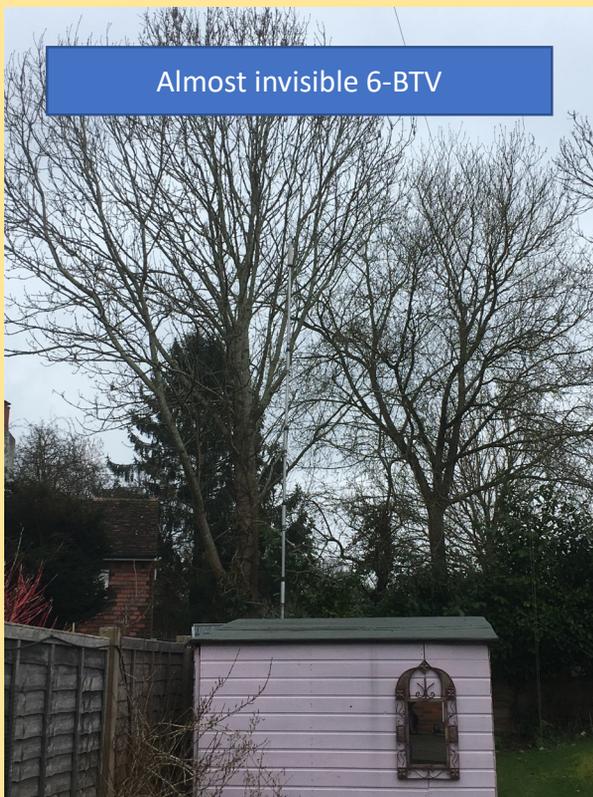
A couple of years ago with G7FEK



VHF/UHF



Almost invisible 6-BTV



Exceptional international help in an emergency

Originally in German and Google translated so apologies to the German nation on Google's behalf...

The local association Erding in the German Amateur Radio Club makes again talk about: The fact that radio amateurs worldwide connections can connect with other radio operators, is no secret. This hobby is practiced by hundreds of thousands around the world. Even members of the Erdinger Club keep themselves abroad and keep contact with their homeland. But now and again, the interesting hobby becomes an emergency.

So happened last Friday, when Lothar Fröhlich / DK8LRF and HK3JCL, also a member of the Erdinger radio operators, in Colombia just talked to friends in New York and Germany on shortwave and suddenly a cry for help was heard. At first, Cheerful thought that someone wanted to have fun and disturb the round, but quickly he grasped that it was a cry for help from a radio station known to him in Dingden on the Dutch border. What happened?



The radio operator, confined to a wheelchair for 49 years after a serious bathing accident, was alone at home and had fallen down and was unable to move. Since he is often talking to Fröhlich at the same time on a certain frequency, he had set this fortunately and also pressed the "VOX" button, so that the radio automatically goes on air when someone speaks. This was to his benefit, because he called for help with all his strength and was, as he later announced, about 5 m away from the microphone.

Fröhlich immediately called on the frequency for German radio operators who should notify the rescue or the police. A Hamburg radio operator heard the announcement and immediately notified the police. At the same time, Fröhlich called for help from Colombia via his echolinking station in Isen. A radio operator from Eichstätt took up the call and for safety's sake also notified the local police. This returned by return mail and confirmed that help was already on the road and remarked that such a thing had never happened to them before, that a call for help from Germany would be taken by a radio operator in Colombia and then land the emergency call to the police in Germany.

The victim was helped quickly. He immediately thanked the helpers by radio. that a call for help from Germany would be taken by a radio operator in Colombia and then land the emergency call to the police in Germany. The victim was helped quickly. He immediately thanked the helpers by radio. that a call for help from Germany would be taken by a radio operator in Colombia and then land the emergency call to the police in Germany. The victim was helped quickly. He immediately thanked the helpers by radio.

For Sale or Wanted

- Yaesu SP2000 speaker – fully working and average to good cosmetically - £55 Phil M0TZZ
phil.m0tzz@gmail.com



Interesting Reads or Watches

What went wrong with Maplins (article)

<https://www.retailgazette.co.uk/blog/2018/03/mapl-in-what-went-wrong/>

The ICOM 7610 In Depth(video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW-I-5Hlro&feature=youtu.be>

TX Factor (video series)

<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/>

This week's GB2RS news on the web (audio)

<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/podcasts.html>

Propagation and Solar Data (website)

<http://www.hamqsl.com/solar.html>

National Grid Dashboard – see how the country's energy is being created and used in real time

<http://www.gridwatch.templar.co.uk/>

CW shoes? (BBC News Item)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/technology-43205947/morse-code-shoes-send-toe-tapping-texts-at-mwc-2018>

Info Page

Local Repeaters

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

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

Committee Members:

Keith Evans G3VKW - Chairman

John Pitty G4PEO – Vice Chairman, QSL Manager

Phil Moore M0TZZ - Hon. Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Exam Secretary

Howard Palmer G4PFW – Hon. Treasurer

John Longhurst G3VLH - Programme Secretary

Richard Hadfield G4ANN

Alex Sheppard M1YAP

Lead Training Instructor – Vacancy

Forthcoming Events:

Apr	Wed 25 th	Police Communications by Steve Shorey G3ZPS
May	Wed 23 rd	QE2 Communications by Duncan Brooker
Jun	Wed 27 th	TBA
Jul	Wed 25 th	TBA
Aug		Summer Break (no event)
Sep	Sun 9 th	Microwave Round Table
Nov	TBC	CARC/HARC Challenge
Dec	Fri 7 th	Annual Fish and Chip Dinner