

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# *HARCNEWS*

## *Coming Shortly*

Apr 7th Club Evening Bring, Show and Tell

Apr 14th Social Evening The Victory at Staplefield

Apr 23rd Club Event Trip to France

## *April 2005*

*Sponsored by:*

**nevada<sup>®</sup>**

# March Surplus Equipment Sale

There was less for sale this time but there were still plenty of interesting bargains to be made. Some 15 inch colour monitors were unsold at the end, but that was about all. Now that flat LCD screens are the in-thing to have, or very large crts, the 15 inch size is only really useful as a spare, or to build a flight simulator with a fancy multi-screen video card.

The raffle had plenty of useful prizes and raffle tickets sold well. In fact, the profit from the raffle and food sales exceeded the profit from sale of junk!

One of the highlights of the evening was a large quantity of brand new UHF connectors. These were the modern types that do not need vast quantities of solder, but the coax is screwed in. Expect more of these next time!

Someone had used a Marconi signal generator case for a project so the complete innards were up for grabs. The valves, turret tuner

and dial mechanism (run by a piece of Meccano chain!) could have been reconstructed, but the auctioneer took a shine on the mechanics.

An Eddystone VHF receiver with synthesiser locking was sold for under a thousandth of its cost price. Not many were made judging by its serial number. The purchaser also bought some items for sale that I can only refer to as, ahem, '10 metre' equipment. This breaker now has two 100W burners, oops, linear amplifiers, so we should hear a 200W signal on 10m soon! The amplifiers have a switch to select either SSB or AM/FM, which is odd as normally amplifiers have a bias switch to select SSB/AM in linear mode or select FM in a more efficient class 'C' mode. It seems the 100W amplifiers simply change from long to short tx/rx switching time constant, so are always running

in linear mode.

The hon sec bought two video cameras. One has an EVF (Electronic View Finder) not working, plus maybe other faults. The EVF contains a small monochrome CRT which gets its 750V EHT from a small line output transformer. It appears that one or the other part has failed and the video camera repair shop next to the Programmer's Arms in Sunbury were asking ridiculous sums of money. The LOPT is a small silver box about half by quarter by quarter inches with a white EHT lead poking out.

The second camera has a 'heads need cleaning' sort of fault, and the EVF has a bit of a frame hold problem. Unfortunately there is no frame hold adjustment; it relies on a fairly accurate RC time constant. Even more unfortunate is the LOPT is SLIGHTLY different to the first camera's, and won't fit!

A web search on video camera faults reveals the term 'recapping', and you may not have heard this before unless you buy the copies of 'Television'

that we see each junk sale.

It means replacing ALL the surface mount electrolytics because after a while they leak acid which fouls up the pcb underneath!

It would be fun to get one running, as all the paraphernalia of extra lenses, batteries, chargers, tapes and remote controls came too.

I also bought a laptop power supply as it gives 18V or so which is ideal for my home-made Tait PIC programmer. I also have been given the dead laptop it belonged to. The backlight does not work. A small pcb mounted with tape near the hinge normally generates 300-750V but doesn't.

The little surface mount chips are very hard to put a scope probe on, so it is not easy to see what has failed. It would be very useful to get going because it has a serial and a parallel port, which you don't get any more, and which I use very often. Many thanks to our auctioneers and caterers, who did a splendid job.

# ***FOXHUNT RESULTS.***

## ***20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2005.***

Turnout for this HARC Fox-hunt was very good despite the absence of a few regular participants. A total of 7 teams arrived at the Wisborough Green start-point and it was good to see a few new and

younger faces having a go for the first time.

The Fox (G3WZT) was located at Oakreeds Wood, 1.5 WNW of Fernhurst.  
NGR SU 876 292.

### **RESULTS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Robin, G3OGP.	54 Minutes.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bryn G3SWC & Ava.	1Hr 17 Minutes.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adrian G4LRP	1Hr 59 Minutes.

The following teams did not find the Fox.

- Ian M3FRZ.
- Andrew M0GJH and Janet.
- Liam M0EPX and Helen M3FSA
- M0DEY and Chris.

All contestants were within half a mile or less of the hidden station and it goes to show the importance of being able to DF close in to the Fox. It is relatively straightforward to DF when you are several miles away and all the wanted signal is coming down the antenna coax feeder to the

receiver. Close in is a different story, and direct pickup on the receiver makes the directional antenna quite useless.

Try considering the following points:-

For close in work you must

have a good, screened attenuator.

2.If you use a handheld, that also needs to be in a screened enclosure of some sort. A large “die-cast box” is ideal.

3.Ideally, power for the handheld in the box should be self-contained. i.e. no power leads coming out of the box to act as an antenna. Simply fit an on/off switch onto the box, not forgetting a few small holes to let the audio out!

4.If possible use double-screened coaxial cable for the antenna feed onto the box.

5.Forget S Meters, they are useless for this purpose. Use the quieting effect of your FM receiver by turning down the attenuator and listening for the smoothest noise. Remember, minimum noise = the direction of travel.

If you follow these simple rules you should be able to fully attenuate the signal from the hidden station, even when you are within 50 meters or less. That is the final test of your set-up. If you can, then your ability to DF close in will

down to DF skills and not to driving around all the lanes nearby looking for the fox by “eyeball” methods.

Should you need any help, feel free to ask me. [g3wzt@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:g3wzt@dsl.pipex.com)

Afterwards we all retired to the Red Lion at Fernhurst. A very nice old pub which turned out to be a total disaster as every table was reserved for pre-booked Sunday lunch. For this reason we did a rapid QSY to the Hollist Arms at Lodsworth. This turned out to be an excellent choice and everyone enjoyed a full Sunday lunch. Excellent food and company in a highly recommended establishment.

Unfortunately, the photograph shown does not include all those that took part in the fox-hunt. The younger hunters had disappeared when this was taken and so it shows only the “mature” participants.

Thank you all for taking part and better luck next time around.

John G3WZT and Vixen XYL Janet.



## An Amateur Radio “ Darwin Award ”

First of all let me explain what a Darwin Award is The Darwin Awards honour those who improve our gene pool... by trying removing themselves from it. Of necessity, this honour is sometimes bestowed posthumously.

### Accident Report

A Radio Amateur has an accident while erecting some antennas, so he filled out an insurance claim. The insurance company contacted him and asked for more information. This was his response:

“I am writing in response to your request for additional

information, regarding section 3 of the accident reporting form. I put ‘poor planning’ as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded

and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using the pulley attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel.

Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.” “You will note in section 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of

my pain. At approximately the same time however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel.” “Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in section 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up.

This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope...”

Well it had to happen in the states.. You can find more Darwin Awards at [www.darwinawards.com](http://www.darwinawards.com) and wonder why the human race has lasted so long..

# *Harc News*

Our first Intermediate Licence course has just finished. All 9 candidates passed, so congratulations to them all. The Lead Instructor G3ZBU would like to take this opportunity to thank his assistants for doing a great job: G4LRP, G4FQR, M0DEY and M0GJH, and adjudicators G7EYL, G3OGP and G4TMC.

The candidates were M3RRH, M3HMW, M3CDK, M3FRZ, M3RLP, M3ICN, M3GQB, M3EWE and Joe Brock.

With their shiny new 2E0 callsigns and 50 Watt power limit the candidates should be able to help HARC maintain or even improve on our current 4th ranking in this year's RSGB 80m Club Championship Contest.

In fact this contest is proving so popular that social event

clashes have been resolved. Please therefore note the social is now Thursday 14th April. Contest dates: 4th April: CW Contest 20:00 to 21:30 UTC= 9pm to 10:30pm as the clocks change!  
13th April: SSB Contest  
21st April: Data Contest.

Our next meeting is a Bring/Show/Tell session, so please bring along anything that may be of interest to the members.

The SSB Field Day results have been published and the HARC restricted entry is in 12th position. A comment made by the adjudicators remarks on how many new operators have been active. An excellent result for the HARC Juniors!

# *The HARC*

## *day trip to Belgium*

This will take place on Saturday April 23rd. So far we have 4 cars going (G4LRP, G3ZBU, G7DFV, M0GJH) we have 3 seats spare (if more people want to go another car will have to be arranged). We are due to leave the Horsham area at 6:15 am for a Euro tunnel service at 8:28am, getting us in the Calais area for about 10 am CET.

From Calais we will then drive into Belgium and onto our first destination Ieper (formerly know as Ypres) for a relaxing café lunch in the old town square. After lunch we will visit the Menin Gate and then drive to the Hill 62 (Sanctuary Wood) Museum some 4-5km away from the town to view some preserved WWI British and German trenches.

Later on in the afternoon, on our extended route back to

Calais we will visit Tyne Cot British Military Cemetery & Memorial (the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in Europe, the resting place of nearly 12,000 Commonwealth soldiers) near Passchendaele.

Finally, if time permits we will visit the beaches at Dunkirk, the scene of the last days of the rescue of the BEF (British Expeditionary Forces) in 1940.

On the way back to the Tunnel at Calais there will be time for a quick meal and (for ZBU) time to stock up on the beer from City Europe before boarding the train back to England...

So if you want to tag along and discover some history contact me G4LRP and I'll try and sort out a seat for you...

# ***FOR SALE***

## YAESU FT-847

The complete “shack in a box”. This transceiver covers all bands from 1.8MHz through to 70 centimetres and is the only rig to include the 4 Metre band (70MHz). 100 watts output 160M to 6M. 50 Watts on 2M and 70cms. 10W on 4M. Receive coverage is 100kHz-37MHz. 108-174MHz and 420-512MHz. This has also been mine from new and comes complete with the original packing. **£750.00.**

**Please contact John, G3WZT if you are interested.**  
**Tel 01403 864222 or Email me at [g3wzt@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:g3wzt@dsl.pipex.com)**



## ICOM IC756PRO

In my opinion, this is one of the best HF to 50MHz transceivers available today. It has been mine from new. The only reason for selling is that I am upgrading to a new MK3 version. No filters required, all are digitally selectable from the front panel. 100 Watts output on bands through to 50MHz. Internal auto ATU. Original packing. **A bargain at £995.00.**

