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G4HRS

# H A R C N E W S



## The Journal of Horsham Amateur Radio Club

January 2012

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**Cover photo: Andrew, Janet, Mick and Janet at The Crown Inn during the HARC Xmas Bash**

## Editorial

A warm welcome to 2012 and I hope that you have all enjoyed the holiday season. We have two new members Sean Prior who holds the callsign M6SKP and Mark Phillips. On that note I would like to remind all readers that membership renewal is now due if you haven't done so already and details appear elsewhere in this issue. I would like to thank all those who have submitted articles recently.

Be assured that they will appear in the magazine in due course but do keep them coming in for the 'stockpile'. At the time I write this I am preparing not only for the normal Christmas but for a friend 'Dorte' from Denmark to come and stay and visit her 'English family'. Also I have upgraded my main computer (the one I am using now) by changing the motherboard, CPU and Ram. It certainly flies now and still uses Windows XP.

You might wonder why I haven't put Windows 7 on it but that is because of a hardware issue. I have an old but good Pci sound card which I want to continue using. It is connected to a break-out box which has various inputs/outputs and does what I want it to do - so if it ain't broke don't fix it. No, really, there isn't a Windows 7 driver for it due to its age and the Vista one might work and if I get the chance to test it I will.

**Happy New Year - David G4JHI**

Copy deadline for February edition 20th January

For items sent by email please send to this address:

[harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk](mailto:harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk)

# HARC December Meeting:

## AGM

The meeting started after the usual announcements and apologies for absence were given followed by the minutes of the 2010 AGM and acceptance given. The Chairman's and Treasurer's reports were given and accepted along with the accounts. For the 2012 officers they were elected as before. The numbers of committee members were increased by 1 to a total of 4. Ian M0FRH had decided to stand down.

However Mike G8CKT and Jeremy M0GUI were elected onto the committee. Alan 2E0BTO would continue to be the club web master but as an ex officio member. Thanks were then given by the Chairman to David G4JHI for the efforts with the newsletter and Bryn G3SWC for organising the Club Championships. Also to Bryn G3SWC, Mick G4EFO and Mike G8CKT for the excellent outings.

Thanks were given to Katinka Miller (G4JHI's Mum) for proof reading HARCNEWS. Under the Chairman's prerogative Adrian G4LRP awarded the Webb Cup to David G4JHI Newsletter Editor. A mention was then given that we won the HARC/CARC Challenge and the cup was on display at the meeting.

Mick G4EFO then gave a short presentation on a proposed club trip to Harz in Germany with a suggested date of May 2nd -7th 2012. The final part of the evening was the Christmas raffle. This is where presents are brought along gift wrapped and randomly chosen by each winner. Prizes included a Charlie Chaplin DVD and book, Terrys All Gold chocolates, 2 project boxes, Christmas crackers and Italian wine.

## G3NPF Web Site Change of host

URL is now [www.g3npf.co.uk](http://www.g3npf.co.uk)



# HARC/CARC Challenge

## By John G3VLH

This year's HARC/CARC Challenge, held on 30th November and hosted by the Crawley Club, got back, as Adrian G4LRP said, to basics. Of the Horsham team Alister G3ZBU was the tech support who made the idea come to life and supplied the kits, and David G4FQR was the HARC constructor, ably assisted by Paul G4TMC. Robin G3OGP was the CW op. The Crawley Club fielded Derek G3GRO, Stewart G3YSX, Richard G4ANN and Biton Walstra (2E0WAO).

The two judges were Adrian G4LRP from HARC, and John G3VLH from CARC. Set by Horsham this year the task was for each team to build a single valve transmitter, a simple receiver, fabricate a Morse key from a broken CD (don't ask!), connect a short wire antenna and send half a page of Morse. All required components, including four 1.5V pen cells and two 9.0 volt PP3 batteries, plus the circuit diagram, were supplied in bags by Horsham.



Both receiver and transmitter would be built on small screw type tag strips so no soldering was required. The winning team would complete the building process and send the prepared CW with the fewest errors. Alister would act as guide/consultant for both teams. Adrian suggested that the transmitter would take 10 minutes, the receiver ten minutes and the CW transmission another ten minutes. Thirty minutes total?



Ho, Hum! The transmitter, a single valve crystal oscillator resonant on 80m used a cathode-keyed 6BA6 and comprised about a dozen components. An audio oscillator using a 555 timer chip on a piece of pre-assembled Vero board supplied the modulation. The receiver was a simple crystal set, the output of which was connected to the input of a small active Sony speaker.



Each component was screw-connected to the tagstrip using a screwdriver, the only tool required for the building process. As Adrian whispered to me half way through the construction phase, there was an element of the tortoise and the hare in the way each team approached their tasks. As the pen cell batteries had limited capacity but had to power the valve filaments, if you spent a lot of time fault finding with the power connected you could literally run out of steam before completing the CW transmission.

Whereas, if you were slower but more methodical with the construction process, you could have power in hand to complete the transmission. First to complete their construction was the Horsham team, then Robin G3OGP sent the half page of code which was received by Alister, and took around 15 minutes. Crawley was struggling by this time, but after some dogged fault-finding detective work they also had their system up and running.



Time for some CW from the home team! Derek G3GRO had been elected as CW op and Ted and Dick both did the receiving bit. The fact that HARC had by this time finished their transmitting session in fact worked out well as there was no QRM. Again the CW transmit session took about fifteen minutes – and then it was time for the judges to come forward and have their say.

The prepared CW was from about half a page of plain language text divided up into 5-letter groups. And this was the deciding factor. The Horsham text checked out by Adrian had been very accurately sent and copied. However, when John checked the Crawley club effort two vital lines were missing from the text.

So the Horsham Club regained the Interclub Cup, which was presented by CARC Chairman Stewart to HARC Chairman Adrian. It had been a truly well thought out project and provided an entertaining evening for all present, whether actively taking part or watching from the sidelines.

Congratulations and well done, Horsham. See you next year!

## Web Trawl submitted by David G4FQR

Quartz Resonator

[www.ecliptek.com/tech/Vig-tutorial\\_8.5.1.2\\_files/slide0289.htm](http://www.ecliptek.com/tech/Vig-tutorial_8.5.1.2_files/slide0289.htm)

## Curry Night

Another curry night is on offer where you can once again enjoy the delights at the Haldi restaurant.

Date: Thursday January 26th

Time: 8pm Contact Adrian G4LRP by 20th January

### **HARC Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are now due for 2012 club membership.

Please forward £15 to the Treasurer which can be paid by cash or a cheque payable to H.A.R.C. Alternatively payment direct to Paul Barnett, 8 Parsonage Road, Horsham, RH12 4AR.

# HARC FOXHUNT RESULTS

## SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2011

Another excellent turnout with a total of 11 teams competing in this most prestigious event. If another opportunity comes my way, never again will I exclaim "this is going to be an easy one". Despite my best efforts not to hide and position myself in an OS marked car park close to the road, it proved very difficult to find.

The main reason being that I rather miss-calculated the amount of radio shadow to the North of my location and many contestants complained of very poor or no signal areas close to the North side of the South Downs. Sorry if it proved rather frustrating but it was not done with any malicious intent!

The Fox (G3WZT) was located approximately 1.5 miles SE of the Devils Dyke.

### RESULTS

1st	Adrian G4LRP		37 Minutes
2nd	Paul G4TMC	1Hr	07 Minutes
3rd	Andrew G0GJH & Janet	1Hr	24 Minutes
4th	Steve G4TPO	1Hr	33 Minutes
5th	Alister G3ZBU	1Hr	49 Minutes
6th	Robin G3OGP	1Hr	56 Minutes

The non finishers in this event confirm the difficulty of the task that was set.

They were: M0BUX (Mid Sussex), M0GUZ, Jan, G8CKT/G6CKT, G4EFO.

Congratulations to Adrian G4LRP for winning in double quick time, proving that instinct over science does also work well!

Afterwards most contestants retired to the Royal Oak in

Poynings for Sunday lunch and refreshments.

Congratulations to all finishers and a big thank you to everyone that turned out for the event. I hope you enjoyed the morning despite the difficulty, and that this has not deterred you too much from participating again.

Adrian; the next one will be easy won't it?

John G3WZT

## HARC Xmas Bash 2011

An excellent time was had at The Crown Inn at Dial Post for the 2011 club Christmas Dinner. Our table was near the entrance and by the windows. As previous times and as the evening goes on it can get quite hot in the venues and this one was no exception so the windows were opened for a while. Now enjoy the photos.



Paul, John, Robin and Pat



**Janet, Bryn, Eva,  
Adrian and Christine**



**David, Mike and  
Yvonne**



**Mike, Yvonne, Alister,  
Paul and John**

## 2012 RSGB Club Championship, AFS, RoPoCo, & Low Power contests

Further to my note in last month's HARC News regarding contest dates, the RSGB have since made changes to the CC & AFS dates. Notably there will now not be any of the Club Championship contests held in January. A positive move in my opinion with CC now starting in February. The revised dates are shown below with changes in **RED**.

Additionally for the CC there will be two entry categories, one for contest groups and/or clubs that have members scattered over the country and one for clubs with members operating within 35km of their normal club meeting place. Hopefully this will be an overall gain for HARC and will make participation even more worthwhile for HARC members.

The rules for Club Championship may be found here  
[www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml)

The rules for AFS may be found here  
[www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rafs.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rafs.shtml)

### 80m Club Championship dates for 2012

Mode	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
CW	<b>cancelled</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Data	<b>cancelled</b>	15 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
SSB	<b>cancelled</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>

2000-2130 local time

### 80m AFS dates for 2012

Mode	January
CW	<b>8th</b>
SSB	<b>14th</b>

1400-1800 local time

HARC needs your support especially for AFS & CC as 2011 had not seen the usual number of operators, so please have a go and help maintain the profile of HARC. Will I see you there?

Although not club contests, another couple of contests I participated in from home during 2011 were the **RoPoCo** and **Low Power** contests.

**RoPoCo** stands for **rotating post code**, where you send your post code to your first contact and he sends his to you. On your next contact you send the post code you have just received and so on. Some post codes get unbelievable mutilated but that is part of the fun!

RoPoCo dates for 2012

Mode	80m
SSB	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2000- 2130
CW	5 <sup>th</sup> August 0800- 0930

Times are local time

The rules may be found here

[www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rropoco.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rropoco.shtml)

**The Low Power** CW contest takes place on the 22nd July 1000-1700 (local time) and covers various entry levels based on the power you are running. 80m & 40m bands are both used for this contest.

The rules may be found here

[www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rqrp.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rqrp.shtml)

Have fun!

**Bryn - G3SWC**

# Diary

Jan 5th, Club Night: Bring Show Tell

Jan 8th, 80m CW AFS 14:00 - 18:00

Jan 12th, Social Evening - The Sussex Oak - Warnham

Jan 14th, 80m SSB AFS 14:00 - 18:00

Jan 26th, Social Evening - Curry Night - Haldi - Southwater

Feb 2nd, Club Night: Vector Network Analysis using the miniVNA pro

Feb 6th, SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 20:00