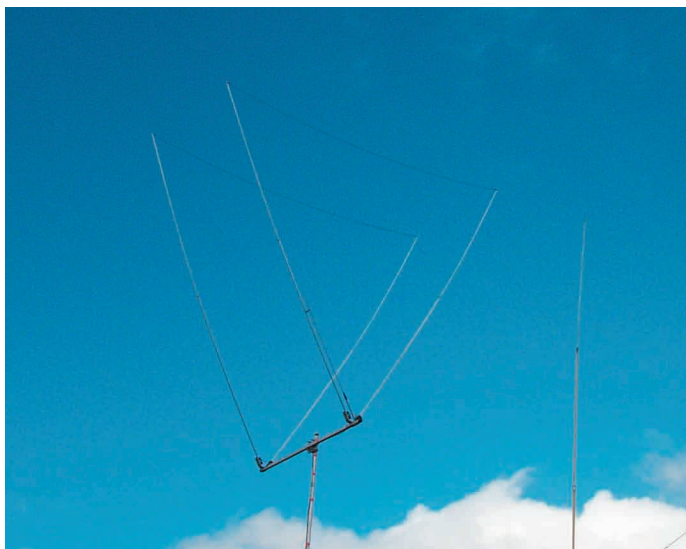


Est. 1938



G4HRS

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**The Journal of  
Horsham Amateur Radio Club**

March 2011

Sponsored by:



# Contents

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Sport radio

**Cover photo: Vortex Antenna Systems 'Whirlwind Series' Lightweight 10m 2 Element Delta Loop**

# Editorial

I was asked how my main PC was since I reported problems. After the last reload of Windows XP which I had on test for a while it appeared to be ok but then it locked up again! Anyway I recently checked the Event Viewer which showed up some clues as before it showed nothing at the time of the hangs.

This is a very useful tool on a computer which you may not know about. The best way to find it is to right click on '(My) Computer' and select 'Manage' which will take you to 'Computer Management' and there it is. In 'System' is where you will find most of the useful information and if there has been a problem it should show up. You can then try to find a solution.

Since I have installed a couple of packages to do with .Net Framework everything has been ok so far. But we will have to wait and see to be sure. I have had several emails and had conversations with club members regarding the closure of the BBC World Service on medium wave 648KHz from Orfordness due this 27th March.

According to the BBC the number of listeners on this platform has declined and with cutbacks can no longer justify this transmission. This is not surprising as today we have much better clarity on other platforms and listeners are more used to listening on FM or online for example.

In fact I don't think I have listened on a regular basis to medium wave since BBC Radio 1 left several years ago apart from Radio Netherlands which broadcast their evening programmes for a while on the old Radio Luxembourg frequency 1440KHz.

Those that will be affected the most will be in a car that doesn't have a DAB set and anyone wishing to listen on the

continent whilst driving. My new shack has started to show definite signs of progress as I write this and it is looking likely that emissions of the RF type will emerge during this month.

Although we have recently sent out this year's diary it appears that many don't realise that the very latest updated edition is available on the HARC web site. Our web master Alan keeps this up to date as from time to time there will be some changes which will be reflected there.

David G4JHI

## HARC February Meeting:

### The History of Mr Polley Pt 5

This instalment of Ron's account of his engineering life, picked up where he left off last time, on the ICI site on Teesside where Olefines VI, a huge project to expand olefines production, was being constructed. We heard about more instances where Ron, by sticking to the 'Walk the Line' principle of going out into the field to see the as built / as exists situation rather than relying on the design drawings, averted possible catastrophe.

Mind you, by being at the wrong place at the right time Ron seemed to collect more than his fair share of near miss or direct hit nasty incidents including being showered with hydrochloric acid when an acid tanker's connection hose burst. Then there was the day when Ron and a young engineer were 22ft up a 200ft flarestack when the flare ignited.

The pair had to jump to ground and survived to tell the tale thanks to Ron's calling into play parachutists' landing technique learned during National Service! It was a lucky coincidence that the ignition happened when they were only 22ft up, the young engineer had intended to visit the top of the stack! Ron made the connection between these events and ICI conferring on him the rank of Site Safety Officer.

This meant easier access widely over the 7 mile long project site, and even beyond... On another project, at Modderfontein (South Africa), W-D had built a prill tower that would not work properly. With his freedom to roam privilege, Ron the Safety smuggled a W-D Modderfontein project engineer into an ICI site where there was a similar prill tower they inspected to look for helpful clues.

Spherical tanks are used to store liquefied gases under pressure and Ron told of one such, 248ft diameter, 8ft clearance from bottom to ground. Ron walked 50ft down from the centre of the top – “Ron had no fear of heights” was heard from the audience.

After ICI and OleVI, W-D needed to prepare for the CAD revolution that had arrived with the winning of a huge contract to build the THORP nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield, Cumbria. Ron was included in the 30 chosen for training in this tough new discipline.

At the end of the training Ron labelled his notes “Idiots’ Guide to CAD” to the approval of the trainers. Then followed 18 months at Grimethorpe Colliery on the NCB’s Fluidised Bed Combustion pilot/demonstration plant. Since crushed coal is flammable they had to transport it suspended in nitrogen; another snag was ordinary pipe bends eroding rapidly.

A clever solution was found. Instead of using a bend, use a cross with the coal entering the west branch and exiting through the north or south branch. The east branch and either south or north are blanked off and become plugged with coal. Very little metal is exposed to erosion.

Ron was posted to BNFL’s office at Risley for the THORP contract for 15-18 months. In December ’81 he was put on standby to go to Penza, 350 miles south of Moscow but in fact he was sent to Belo Horizonte, Brazil where W-D had built the coke-ovens on a steel plant. This mission was cut short when Ron caught hepatitis (C) from milk adulterated with tap water.

Ron was repatriated to the Isolation Ward in Crawley Hospital. He survived that, so perhaps there's more history to come?

G4FQR

(Additional notes below G3PYC)

Back at the office with a little over 2 years to retirement, an American company in Portsmouth advertised for a chemical plant designer with CAD experience. It was a short term contract for 2 or 3 years which suited me. They did a 45 hour week starting at 8am with an hours break for lunch and paid you by the hour.

I started work with them before my main job was ready. They were short staffed on a corrosive chemical plant so I was given a complete unit to design. As a prelude to this I was given some drawings to look over and check for faults whilst a computer was being readied for me.

On one of the drawings I discovered a component was being used incorrectly and could endanger the plant. I was called into the chief engineer's office to explain. Another man was called in and the document he brought in showed me to be correct. The man turned out to be the boss of the section I would be working for on the chemical plant.

The chemical plant consisted of 6 almost identical units. A skeletal unit layout had been done by the boss, the chief designer. Each unit had differing pipe sizes and the unit allocated to me had the largest diameter pipes. The chief's deputy had to deal with me as the chief would not have anything to do with me.

It soon became evident that I could not accommodate the larger pipes to the suggested design. I requested an audience to discuss this but was told that he was too busy to see me. The deputy just shrugged his shoulders. I redesigned my unit to fit.

The other 5 units were finished about 2 weeks ahead of

me. The client with his chief engineer arrived to inspect the 5 finished designs. I had almost completed mine so the client asked to look at my unit. The chief designer on seeing my design, for the first time, exclaimed that's not my design and asking why.

The client's team gave my design a thorough going over and just before knocking off time announced that the other 5 should be copies of my design. The chief engineer asked me to his office and told me to collect all my belongings before going home and report to another office in the morning to do the job that I had been interviewed for and my hourly rate would raise from £21 to £23, just over £1000 per week.

The job was for a new Petro Chemical plant in Kuwait. I was given the design of the Olefine Offplots, similar to the ICI plant that I had supervised the construction of. All went well until Kuwait was invaded by Iraq. I was given 1 hours notice to quit and for the first time in my life was unemployed and with my age, unemployable.

I was unable to pay off the mortgage on the detached house that I was living in, so I sold it, and was able to buy outright the semidetached house that I now live in and have a little cash left over. I have had a very varied and interesting working life. I took on jobs that at first I was a total novice at, but I was able to convince my employers that I was capable.

In a lot of jobs I ran foul of the management and I think one manager summed it up very well with 'Mr Polley does not take kindly to fools especially management ones'.

## Forthcoming Attraction Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

Fri April 29th

Surplus Equipment Sale



## New UK Antenna Manufacturer and Parts Supplier Launches

We're very proud to announce that as of 12/12/2010 **VORTEX ANTENNA SYSTEMS** will be retailing following an initial extended period of R&D.

Vortex is owned and run by IOTA enthusiast Steve Lawman (G0UIH/VK2IAY/3D2FI) and is ably assisted by his XYL 'Gail' from an office and workshop near to Peterborough.

In the past the UK has had a limited choice for the radio community when it comes to home-grown HF antenna products (particularly beams etc), so Steve has spent a period sourcing and researching premium quality aluminium and hardware to compliment the new VORTEX product line up.

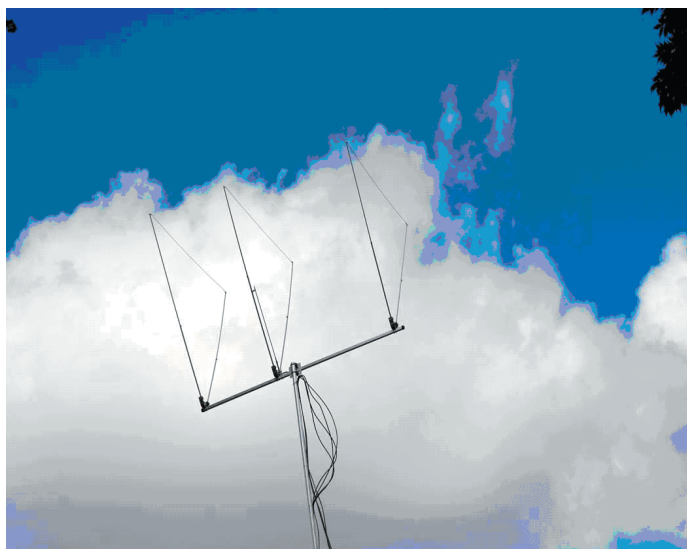
Initially the line-up will include the '**Tornado**' range of HF Yagis and the '**Whirlwind**' range of HF Delta Loops with mono and multi-band variants. The mainstay is a heavy duty range, but certain products are also available as a lightweight alternative. A section on 6 and 4m antennas is also included. The product list will expand into 2011 to include Linear Loaded Designs and vertical antennas.

The portfolio also includes a variety of 'VORTEX' hardware and accessories which is aimed directly at the home constructor enabling them to purchase genuine VORTEX components and associated high end parts for their own antenna projects.

Commenting on the launch, Steve said that “During the last 18 months I’ve been sourcing materials and liaising with a variety of high-end UK manufacturers. We have some good aluminium off the shelf stock available in the UK but the constructor is let down by the lack of suitable wall thicknesses.

Finding premium grade aluminium together with the correct ‘Wall Thicknesses’ that allows secure element telescoping was of paramount importance. Our bespoke stock of UK manufactured metric 6082-T6 and AA6082-T6 aluminium element tubes gives us 5 different tube diameters (soon to be 6), and a strength which exceeds that of the high end US 6061-T6 ‘Aircraft Quality’ aluminium, but still retains excellent corrosion resistance.

The element clamps are sourced from the Oil, Gas and Hydraulics industry and the element to boom clamps, Stainless Steel U-Bolts and Saddles are all our own designs. We also use stainless steel fittings throughout. VORTEX now gives the UK radio enthusiast access to premium quality antennas and parts on their own doorstep without having to go out of the country”.



(Left)  
Vortex  
Antenna  
Systems  
6m Wide-  
Spaced 3  
Element  
‘Whirlwind’  
Delta Loop  
at GOUH  
during  
evaluation

VORTEX hope to be attending some of the UK Rally dates throughout 2011 and to hopefully include some international events into 2012.

Vortex are primarily an on-line only retailer. All antennas and accessories can be ordered directly online at [www.vortexantennas.co.uk](http://www.vortexantennas.co.uk) Alternatively, Steve can be contacted at the workshop on 07943 871 893, by email to [enquiries@vortexantennas.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vortexantennas.co.uk)

All Press and Media Enquiries to  
Steve Lawman G0UIH  
VORTEX ANTENNA SYSTEMS LTD,  
44 Barnwell, Peterborough, PE8 5PS  
Tele: 07943 871 893 [steve@vortexantennas.co.uk](mailto:steve@vortexantennas.co.uk)

## TDOTA 2011 (G4JHI)

GB0HDG was once again activated from the Scout hut at Christ Hospital for the Guides Thinking Day on the Air. Operators David G4JHI, Emma 2E1IGA and Pete G4LKW were in fine tune during the event. One station was in operation using a Kenwood TS-840S, KW1000 linear feeding into a 40/80m trap dipole and mini beam for 20/15/10m.

Conditions weren't the best but a total of 112 contacts were made over the weekend from the UK and Europe. Some DX from Canada and the USA was heard but not particularly strong signals. Many visitors including Guides, Brownies, Rainbows along with a few parents and Leaders were in attendance. Saturday afternoon was extremely busy.

To get the Communicator badge they have to perform various tasks including sending a greetings message over the airwaves. There was a quiz, slow scan TV, maps with pins put in showing the contact locations. 40m was the best place to be with pile up's at the end of the day. Probably the strongest signal came from G4AQG at Sussex University.

# HARC weekend away 23rd – 25th September

## 2011 Provisional info

### by G3SWC

The club decided that we should take a “social” trip to north Devon this year and had decided on 24th & 25th Sept. However, considering the amount of travel involved (about 4.5 hours each way), the excursion has now been extended by a day enabling outward travel on Friday 23rd.

We will be looking to stay in one of the cliff hotels overlooking the sea. The exact hotel will be chosen after the numbers of those interested are known and after I do a quick recce.

The provisional program is as below –

Friday 23rd	Saturday 24th	Sunday 25th
0700 depart Horsham, arrive approx. 1200 (allows for break en route)	Visit to RHS Rosemoor Gardens (3).	Visit Lynton & Barnstable Railway - (Gala weekend). (6)
Lunch at the seafront in Lynmouth	Lunch at Rosemoor	Lunch bentu TBD
Visit the Lynton & Lynmouth Victorian water powered cliffe railway. (1)	Visit Arlington Court National carriage Museum (4)	Travel back to Horsham arriving approx. 1700-1800
Time permitting - visit NT “Watersmeet” (2) for a possible cream tea?	Dinne at venue TBD - possibility “The Hunter’s Inn” (5)	
Dinner at the hotel		

The weather will be a deciding factor regarding some of these visits, I therefore have the following as a contingency, or you may prefer these to the program above. You will be free to do as you wish!

Dunster Castle (7), Dartington Crystal (8),

or if the WX is fine, a walk through "The Valley of The Rocks" but be aware that the annual "Doone Run" (9) will be taking place on Sunday 25th.

Would those that are interested in coming along please let me know by email by 20th March. (btintonATbevrynn.eu). I know this is early but if we are to make a block booking in one hotel then the earlier we can do this the better! For your guidance, hotel prices will be in the region of £55-75 ppn excluding dinner. I will be looking for a deposit once hotel availability is known. Prices for the planned visits may be found using the web links below.

I can hear you ask "What's this got to do with amateur radio? Well, the answer is - absolutely nothing! However, HARC is also a social club and I am sure we will have a fantastic social week end even without radio, except that is, for the 2m mobile chatter whilst travelling!

Web links as referenced above –

- (1) [www.cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk/](http://www.cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk/)
- (2) [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-watersmeet](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-watersmeet)
- (3) [www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor)
- (4) [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-arlingtoncourt](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-arlingtoncourt)
- (5) [www.thehuntersinn.net/](http://www.thehuntersinn.net/)
- (6) [www.lynton-rail.co.uk/](http://www.lynton-rail.co.uk/)
- (7) [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-dunstercastle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-dunstercastle)
- (8) [www.dartington.co.uk/](http://www.dartington.co.uk/)
- (9) [www.thedenes.com/DooneRun.htm](http://www.thedenes.com/DooneRun.htm)

X-X-X

## HARC SPRING JUNK SALE

When: Thursday 3rd March 2010

Time: 20:00

QTH: Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham

Viewing: 19:30

Items sold in the order of which they arrive except club junk which will take priority and sold first

Please take any items that you bring along not sold home

### HARC Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for 2011 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.

Copy deadline for April edition 20th March

For items sent by email please send to this address:

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

# Diary

Mar 3rd, Club Night: Club Night: Junk Sale

Mar 7th, 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Mar 16th, 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Mar 17th, Social Evening - The Plough - Rusper

Mar 24th, 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Apr 4th, Club Night: 80m CW Club Championship

Apr 7th, Club Night: Minimum Antenna Height

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm

Club Champs 2011 - Horsham Club Scores

PARTICIPANTS	JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			TOTAL POINTS	%	MODE TOTALS		
	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW	SSB	Data	CW			SSB	DATA	CW
G3LET Pete																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G3NPF Tony	780	485		423																		1688	10.4	1203	485	0
G3OGP Robin	203	703	655	650																		2211	13.6	853	703	655
G3PYC Ron				99																		99	0.6	99	0	0
G3SWC Bryn	1000	958	810	600																		3368	20.7	1600	958	810
G3VQO Les																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G3WZT John																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G3ZBU Alister	682	899	477	550																		2608	16.0	1232	899	477
G4EFO Mick																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G4LRP Adrian		566		550																		1116	6.9	550	566	0
G4TMC Paul																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G4TPO Steve	0	530		450																		980	6.0	450	530	0
G7DFV Gavin																						0	0.0	0	0	0
G8CKT Mike	406	670	191	450																		1717	10.5	856	670	191
G8HQJ Barry	485	551	108	296																		1440	8.8	781	551	108
M0FRH Ian																						0	0.0	0	0	0
M0GJH Andrew	580		346																			926	5.7	580	0	346
2E0BTO Alan	129																					129	0.8	129	0	0
2E0DDW Dominic																						0	0.0	0	0	0
Mode totals	4265	5362	2587	4068	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16282		8333	5362	2587
Month totals to date			12214			4068			0			0			0			0			0			51%	33%	16%
Contest dates/times	12th	20th	3rd	7th	16th	24th	24th	7th	16th	13th	21st	4th	2nd	11th	19th	23rd	6th	15th	13th	21st	4th	Start times are all 2000 clock time, ending 2130 local				

HARC overall position after above results announced **6/71 4/75 7/53 3/78** **HARC POSITION UP 4 positions since start**

All entries to be uploaded with the Contest Robot at:- [www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl](http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl) Latest robot entries may be viewed at:- [www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfposted.pl](http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfposted.pl)  
 Contest results may be viewed at:- [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/results/2011/80mcc2011.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/results/2011/80mcc2011.shtml) Contest rules may be viewed at:- [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/r80mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/r80mcc.shtml)

FROM 7TH POSITION WE HAVE MANAGED TO RISE TO 3RD POSITION, THIS DESPITE CONDITIONS BEING ABSOLUTELY APPAULING DUE TO VERY LONG SKIP. THIS HAS RESULTED IN HARC STATIONS MAINLY WORKING EACH OTHER AS NOT MUCH ELSE COULD BE HEARD! DESPITE THIS THE TEAM ENDED UP WITH A GOOD POINTS ALLOCATION. SOME OF THE "SOAPBOX" COMMENTS JUST ABOUT SUM UP THE CONDITIONS -

*No problem finding a "clear spot". No point in trying to "search and pounce" as there was nothing to pounce on!! (NPF). It is confirmed I am officially invisible.... (NON HARC) Diabolical (OGP)*

WE ARE STILL VERY WEAK ON CW, SO PLEASE, ALL YOU CW TYPES HELP KEEP HARC HIGH ON THE TABLE AND GAIN US A FEW MORE POINTS!

WE ALSO NEED MORE PARTICIPATION ON DATA MODES - IT'S EASY - JUST A FEW MOUSE CLICKS AND THE JOB IS DONE!

THE TOP TWELVE CLUBS - out of approx 78 participating (data courtesy of RSGB website)					
Pos	Club Name	Total	CW	SSB	DATA
1	Bristol CG	31153	7771	16191	7191
2	Newbury & DARS	19404	5270	7997	6137
3	<b>Horsham ARC</b>	<b>16282</b>	<b>2587</b>	<b>8333</b>	<b>5362</b>
4	Norfolk ARC	15490	2906	8379	4205
5	De Montfort Uni	15353	2523	6748	6082
6	Three As CG	13003	5064	6090	1849
7	Grimby ARS	11252	3262	4416	3574
8	Brimham CG	10867	3839	5712	1316
9	Tall Trees CG	8214	1913	3893	2408
10	Travelling Wave CG	8003	2170	2984	2849
11	Torbay ARS	7175	2171	3451	1553
12	RAF Waddington	6194	1777	2560	1857