

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HARCNEWS

Coming Shortly

May 1st Club Evening Dayton + Repeater Update
by Mike Senior G4EFO

Jun 5th Club Evening Home Brew

Jun 12th Social Evening Bax Castle Southwater

May 2003

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The Intermediate Course

Information has finally arrived at prof. ZBU's ivory towers. Unfortunately this course is to be run much more on the lines of City and Guilds rather than the informal Foundation system. Therefore private houses are out; instead there will be an inspection of the exam and assessment premises, Not only does the lead instructor (me) have to be certified, or rather registered, but also the exam invigilator (G4LRP).

However if I read the rules carefully, it appears that a private house could be used for tuition with a Scout hut for example registered for assessments and exams.

There seem to be 10 practical assessments to complete.

1. Measure resistors
2. Solder
3. Wire a simple circuit
4. Measure voltages and currents
5. Test a diode

6. Test a transistor as a switch
7. Fit a PL259, BNC or N-type connector to coax cable
8. Fit a 13A mains plug to mains cable
9. Build a kit
10. Calibrate a vfo

Section 9 is open to include anything amateur radio related. As can be seen, this is very similar to the work Novices enjoyed.

The written exam consists of 45 questions to be answered in 1.25 hours. As known so far, the pass mark will be in the range 60-75%. Only one exam per month will be held; this will be the last Monday of each month (with a few excetions).

There are to be changes to the Foundation exam, with an additional 5 questions and inclusion of the phonetic alphabet. Both courses will be voluntary, but practical and written assessments will of course not!

THE LOST RIFLE

by David Jones

G4FQR

For the second year of my National Service in REME I was lucky enough to be posted to Malaya where the British and Malayan armies were in the last stages of The Emergency i.e. the campaign to rid the country of communist terrorists. After a few months in a Field Workshop in Taiping (Perak).

I joined a Light Aid Detachment at Gajah Puteh (means White Elephant!), north east of Sungei Patani (Kedah). This was great, just half a dozen or so Craftsmen Vehicle Mechanics in the charge of a REME Staff Sergeant (no officer and no bull).

We happy little bunch were attached to a Squadron of Gurka Engineers who were creating a road through the jungle covered

mountains on the Malaya-Thailand border. (The strategic thinking was that a road would improve access to the border for the infantry so they could intercept the bandits who found refuge in Thailand when under pressure.)

The Gurkha sappers were using all the methods known to road and railway builders to destroy virgin jungle (rain forest in today's language) and make a road that would be pretty useless for much of the year i.e. the rainy season.

Our job was to support this effort by keeping their machines and vehicles running to the extent possible with our limited resources. Their key machine was the caterpillar tracked bulldozer

which could push over small and medium trees and clear undergrowth. Big trees had their roots dynamited before they were pushed over.

We did not have a “Swampy” to contend with of course but since it was a ‘Black’ area everyone went about armed with loaded rifles, a fact that one day led to The Lost Rifle incident .

A road under construction stretches several miles with different tasks being tackled by a variety of machines in different places. At the front there might be a single bulldozer with its operator, all alone in his own chaotic world.

At the end of the working day a truck would pass up and down the road picking up men to bring them back to camp but on the day in question one man refused to be picked up because he had lost his rifle. Searching for his rifle went on around his work place until darkness fell and was then abandoned for the night. Back

at camp uproar ensued in the Gurkhas’ section.

Talk was of a Court Marshal because losing a weapon and ammunition was a very grave matter. Even losing or discarding spent cartridge cases was punishable because of their value to the enemy who it was said desperately needed them for reloading.

Next morning a party searched again until the rifle was found buried in the soil. It seemed it must have fallen unnoticed from the bulldozer while working and been pressed under the surface by the tracks.

It was horribly bent and would probably have been of no use if it had been found by the other side though the ammunition would have been. I can’t recall what happened to the unlucky or careless sapper but being the Gurkha’s it would have been severe.

David G4FQR.

March Junk Sale

Again a very successful junk sale, with plenty of items sold at rock-bottom prices. We even had a valve broadcast receiver!

Of special interest were the HP 1000A printers. Quite a few of these brand new printers have been sold in recent junk sales. It was pointed out to me that the Hewlett-Packard laser jet printers suffer from a paper feed problem.

However all is not lost because one can get a modification tool **FREE OF CHARGE**, but this

offer runs out very soon.

We ordered one over the Internet after a search of HP's website under Support, and it arrived two weeks later. The cardboard tool inserts a small double-sided sticky insert at the bottom of the paper feed hopper. Please note that two tools are on offer, so order the correct one for your model. Our paper feed problems were completely fixed, as before it would try to load all your paper at once, instead of one sheet at a time!

Announcements

Ardingly Vintage Vehicle Show, July 12th/13th as SCARF will have the GB4FUN vehicle there.

I have a copper loop about 6 or so feet diameter and a vacuum variable capacitor. Offers to ZBU QTHR.

Horsham were yet again victorious at the Crawley Club Pub quiz night! The team was G4LRP, G4FQR, G3ZBU and M3GCR.

They beat three other teams and won a case of lager.

SSB Field day Results

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