

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HARCNEWS

Coming Shortly

May 5 Club Night Radio Travels by David Miller G4JHI

May 26 Club Event DF Hunt

June 2 Club Night European Navigation Satellites
by Wally Blanchard G3JKV

June 16 Social Evening Bax Castle Southwater

May 2005

Sponsored by:

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‘HARC Tours’ trip to France and Belgium.

This was excellent fun and was also highly educational at the same time. A total of five cars started out from the Horsham area around 6:30 am (gasp!) and made contact on 2m with each other.

The first to arrive at Folkestone Channel Tunnel terminal were able to enjoy a cup of coffee before boarding the 8:30 train to Calais. We rendezvoused at a lighthouse about 5 miles from the exit to regroup and were able to drive in convoy the rest of the way.

Once in Belgium we took the N8 direct route to Ieper (Ypres). This road was rather bumpy! An advance party went there earlier and reported that a market was under way in the main square so we parked at a free(!) car park within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Our first visit was to the Menin Gate Memorial. This was covered

in names of many who died nearby.

Second stop was a leisurely lunch at a restaurant in the main square, followed by sight-seeing and some free chocolate tasting for those of us with spare capacity. By coincidence a coach from Horsham was also visiting that lunchtime.

We then drove off to visit the museum and trenches at Hill 62 also known as Sanctuary Wood. The museum was completely full of shells, guns, medals and thousands of bits found on the site. It started to rain slightly which added to the grimness of the trenches.

Around the trenches were many shell holes full of a most disgusting liquid. Those of us with torches were able to explore some concrete lined tunnels that ran from the front trenches to the rear; these tunnels were discovered in the 1980’s.

Outside we saw two radial aircraft engines. The aluminium cylinder heads and pistons had corroded away almost completely leaving the con-rods and little- ends visible covered in white powder. From there we walked up the hill to a Canadian memorial where the German trenches used to be.

We drove next to the Tyne Cot Cemetery which has 12,000 graves and two concrete blockhouses. The graves are extremely well maintained with flowers planted in front of each grave. Many were simply marked an unknown soldier.

From there we made our way back to the beach at Dunkirk via a stop for petrol at 80p/l. Luckily the rain had stopped by this time.

Final stop was at Cite Europe for an evening meal for some and shopping for others. It took a long time to get through passport control, and some of us only just managed to board the train back.

At the other end of the tunnel a car in front of ZBU's refused to start and had to be pushed off the train by a party of volunteers. It was left on the pier with its hazard warning lights on; must have ruined their trip!

Our thanks go to Adrian G4LRP for organising an excellent outing.

Alister, F/G3ZBU/M and ON/
G3ZBU/M.

FoxHunt

The next D/F (fox) hunt will be held in the evening of Thursday 26th May. Fox G3OGP

Map No 187 Dorking Reigate and Crawley

Assembly point Mannings Heath sports ground.

1st transmission @ 19.30 and then every 10 minutes until 21.00.

Club Meeting: Bring/Show/Tell

This was another popular meeting broadly based on a homebrew evening but with an extended range of subjects. Here is a section of some of the items.

We started by seeing John G3WZT's foxhunt receiver, which was made some time ago, and works very nicely. John explained, for the benefit of those foxhunters who managed to get within a couple of miles of the fox's lair, that there are key areas that must be correct before close-in direction finding is possible. Firstly the receiver must be completely screened rf-wise.

John used a die-cast box slightly larger than the handheld and battery pack that fit inside. Small holes are drilled to let the audio be heard, and a toggle switch connects the battery pack to the receiver which is pre-

tuned to 144.725MHz and the squelch is defeated. It is no good connecting the batteries external to the box as the power leads will pick up any strong rf field. Secondly, a well-screened attenuator of 0-120dB at 2m is fitted to the box with short double-screened coax. Finally, double-screened coax connects the attenuator to the aerial.

To find the fox's direction, simply wave the aerial around while listening to the fm quietening effect so that the best signal can be heard with greatest attenuation. The aerial points in the direction of the fox, or a multipath reflection. Move a few feet and try again because at 2m, the wavelength is also 2m(!) and waves can add up as well as cancel.

John said that pin diodes can also be used to make a variable attenuator.

Tony G3NPF showed his attenuator that he bought at the last junk sale, but now neatly mounted in a box. He made the two dials the same diameter (coarse and fine) and hand-calibrated them. The paint cost far more than the attenuator! One attenuator has fixed steps and goes to hundreds of MHz but the variable one goes slightly above 2m before becoming inaccurate.

David G4FQR showed us a digital frequency meter kit. It uses a pic microcontroller and LCD screen. Being intelligent, it can be programmed to add or subtract the intermediate frequency automatically. The instructions were very well written. David powered it from a 12v battery and the LCD backlight was easily visible, but we didn't have a suitable frequency source to test.

Andrew M0GJH brought along a pic-a-tune. These seem to be very popular as it is hard work getting an antenna to work on all hf bands easily. Obviously there are some end-

fed antenna lengths that refuse to tune up but they can easily be trimmed.

Brian G3GDU showed us some of his photographs, most of which were in black and white. One particularly interesting one was of two lead crystal wine glasses lit from the side and a black background. Brian took this as an experiment to see if the silhouette could be made to shine; the key was getting the illumination perfect. Other photos had been exhibited at the camera club.

Handsome David G4JHI gave an audio demonstration of some highlights in his previous part-time career as Horsham Hospital Radio disc jockey in the 1970's. We heard some recorded banter and heard stories about how the request songs were in fact chosen by the DJs rather than the patients. The hospital closed down in 1990.

Bryn G3SWC had a cunning telescopic antenna mast which went from about 1m long to 8m, and is very light so is ideal

for portable operation, and very cheap too. It is ideal as the support for an end-fed antenna when using a pic-a-tune or similar ATU. Unfortunately everyone following his demonstration seemed to trip over it.

Alistair G3ZBU gets rid of telesales phone calls with the aid of his speaking Dalek, which offers advice such as "You will obey!", "Exterminate the Doctor!", and several other phrases. He showed three microcontroller development systems using the Renesas chips which are vaguely 16-bit versions of the 8-bit pic. The latest board is programmed via USB connector (due to

the absence of serial ports nowadays). He also read out an article on television from a set of 1930's encyclopedias. The article talked about Mr J.L.Baird, neon tubes and Nipkow discs. This of course pre-dates EMI, 405 lines and Crossroads!

Finally, Helen M0DEY showed her range of memorabilia from a well-known Irish brewery. We saw socks, Tee-shirt, candles, beer-money box, glasses, hat, stress-reliever, flying toucan fridge magnet, key rings, badge, tin whistle, chocolate, bottle, post card and very probably many other items!

Announcements

Scarborough Special Events Group:

A special one off CW transmission of some Enigma encoded text will be made on Saturday 7th May at 1100UTC and 1300UTC on

either 3515kHz or 7015kHz. A few 5-letter groups will be sent at 15wpm and if an accurate copy of this message is sent to G0000 at sseg.co.uk then a certificate will be awarded.