

HARCNEWS

The Journal of

Horsham Amateur Radio Club

Est. 1938



G4HRS

April 2007

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Notes From The Editor

With the better weather we have been experiencing you may have had the chance to do some antenna maintenance. Myself I had this planned but at the time of writing the weather has turned for the worst and I have missed the opportunity for a while! In this month's issue is an invitation to join the tour to the Aspidistra site. However due to the limited numbers that can be accommodated it is possible that an alternative visit may be arranged in the autumn or next year.

I would like to thank all the contributors this month but anyone who would like to send in an article and if possible a photograph or two as well is most welcome. Did you know that HARCNEWS is also available by email, which is in colour and if you would like to change to the electronic version then please send an email to that effect to: harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk

I will wish you all a Happy Easter

David G4JHI

Aspidistra Visit – Saturday May 12th 2007

A visit to the former Crowborough transmitter site is planned for the above date at 1000 hours BST. Sussex Police who own the site are limiting numbers to 12 persons. If more than 12 apply names will be drawn out of a hat and full details of location sent to you.

To apply complete the form enclosed with Harcnews. Travel will be by car to the site and club members may like to arrange car sharing. In the event of any queries David can be contacted on:

Tel 01403 240017 or mobile 07768118450

March Meeting Review:

Junk Sale

(Right)
Time to check
out the items
before the
sale starts



The Junk Sale was well attended as usual but this one had a good balance of items and there were several sellers as well as items donated to the club. A working Dect phone with built in answerphone was put up for auction that took not only a pre made rechargeable battery but also AAA cells. There are those who still don't know what one of these is.

It is simply a cordless phone for use in the home but is digital and a lot clearer than the analogue type which are being phased out and cannot be easily intercepted over the airwaves! A very large osilloscope originating from the auctioneer had been modified from a US type mains plug to a Bulgin UK type went to a good home. A quad amplifier not seen these days went for an amazing £45 and a collection of egg insulators always very useful kept the buyers happy for a while.

Other items of interest were a 2m linear 3w in 10 out, SMC UHF transceiver, multi connector



(Above)
Tony G3NPF and Ron G3PYC auctioneering an HB9CV
(Below)
Robin G3OGP holding a vertical antenna



adaptor kit, 2m collinear and slim jim, Alinco 70cm rig, auto ATU, variac, collection of VHF verticals, HF whip and several CB rigs! Apart from the usual bonus boxes and bits and pieces there were some unusual items in the form of a motorbike intercom, 1066B signal generator and a dog guard!

Thanks go to auctioneers Tony G3NPF and Robin G3OGP, Ron G3PYC and Ian M0FRH for handing out sold items to buyers. For the catering Anne M1AIM, Marilyn G7EYL and Janet along with the raffle. We must not forget Paul G4TMC, Steve G4TPO and Alister G3ZBU for manning the buyers and selling accounts and David G4FQR for door duties. The treasurer, reports the following made from the sale:

Junk = £70, Food = £15, Raffle = £21



(Above)
Raffle winner Bryn G3SWC
-Hi Ron!!-



(Above)

Anne M1AIM, Marilryn G7EYL, Janet
catering organisers

G4JHI

Shortest Life Time Licence ever?

Don Preston G6XDH, a well known Crawley amateur and musician died on Monday 26th February 2007. Don was a keen jazz musician and had several LP's released. The Don Preston Trio played regularly and often backed such well know celebs as Des O'Connor, Bruce Forsyth, Bob Monkhouse and Roy Castle to name but a few.

Don will be remembered for his love of music radio and whiskey. I looked after Dons amateur radio affairs during his later years and his licence was always registered with me, at least I knew it was always paid!! The irony of it all was Dons lifetime licence was issued on Monday 26th February, the day Don died. He would have appreciated the macabre humour!

Mike Senior G4EFO

Broadcast Listener

Spotlight on a Frequency

1386 KHz

by David Ansell M3NKC

It is often interesting to look at one particular frequency and see what can be heard. This frequency 1386 KHz is in the medium wave broadcast band. It used to be dominated by the high power Voice of Russia transmitter at Kaliningrad but this has now closed. During daylight hours you probably will not hear anything. In the evenings now you will hear China Radio International from Sitkunai in Lithuania with 500 KW of power. English is heard at 2100 BST.

On Saturdays only at 2200 BST you will hear KBC Radio also from the same transmitter. KBC is a former Dutch pirate now legally using the Sitkunai site. I have a nice QSL card from KBC Radio. After this closes at 2300 BST things turn very interesting using my Wellbrook Loop antenna I often hear continuous pop music with an occasional ID as Carillon Radio.

This is a Restricted Service Licence (RSL) station. Carillon Radio is the hospital radio station for Loughborough Hospital in Leicestershire and transmits to the hospital patients with an output power of 1 watt. These RSL's are a real challenge to the DX-er. Another RSL on 1386 is Anker Radio Nuneaton Hospital. Carillon Radio verifies reception reports, as the station engineer is a licensed amateur.

Also on 1386 KHz some evenings you may hear a strange language. This is Radio Ruale from Labe in Guinea in West Africa.

This is a 50 KW transmitter and broadcasts in the Fulah, Maninke and Soussou languages. The signal can be good on my loop when it is audible. The address is BP 391, Conakry, Guinea. Also on 1386 is Kenya Broadcasting Corporation English service which signs on at 0300 BST. But I am always horizontally polarized at that time.

Good listening to 1386!

Special callsign suffix

A member of the Horsham community who has recently passed the Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced radio amateur's exams has been given an opportunity to operate the special suffix 'APRF1' this month. The operator who is known as a 'lady dressed in black' can be seen most days enjoying the fresh air around the Hill's Farm Road area when she goes for a stroll. Often she ventures to the Sussex coast and onto the beach along with her mum and dad.

Her pastimes include playing ball with her brother, watching Animal Planet and swimming. She is not particular fussy when it comes to food and will eat almost anything although her favourite is pilchards. The 'lady dressed in black' also has an interest in morse code and hopes to learn that soon. The special suffix will be applicable for all contacts from 0000 until 1200 BST on April 1st so look out for the special call BE\LLA/APRF1 on the HF and VHF bands.

Around 0900 she is expected to operate portable and mobile for an hour whilst she takes a stroll in Southwater Country Park. A photo of the 'lady dressed in black' appears on the next page.

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(Above)
'The lady dressed in black' BE\LLA
always ready to QSO

Please send contributions for the May edition of HARCNEWS to the editor by 16th April. Items received after the deadline will be held over until a later edition.

All input is subject to suitability and available space.

For items sent by email please send to this address:

harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk

Fox Hunt Results - Sunday 25th February

Start :- 10:00 at Robin, G3OGP's QTH, The Haven
Finish :- Car Park, Reigate Hill (17.4 miles as the crow flies)

1st :- Adrian, G4LRP & Eddie at 11:08
2nd :- Mike, G4EFO at 11:47
3rd :- Bryn & Eva at 12:02

Retired :- Robin, G3OGP; John, G3WZT, Janet & Marilyn, G7EYL.

The fox proved elusive for those who got into the hills too early with signals at Dorking reportedly coming from the Holmbury direction. Adrian, who seems to be making a habit of winning my competitions, appears to have got a good initial bearing (040 T), and kept well south of the Downs until Reigate when my mention of a cup of coffee confirmed the location. How was I to know that he had been in the very same car park the previous week.

Lunch at the Black Horse, Reigate (2 miles to the West on the A25) was well attended and served a very passable roast at £9.95.

The next Fox Hunt is scheduled for July 12th.

Andrew, M0GJH

Total Lunar Eclipse

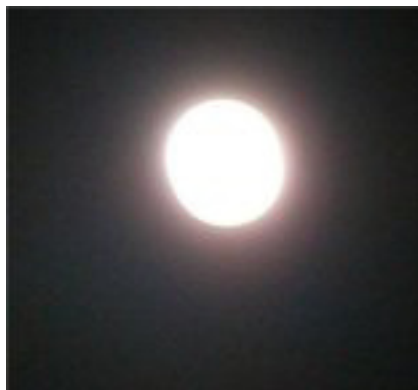
A lunar eclipse took place on the evening of the 3rd March and this phenomenon occurs whenever the Moon passes through some portion of the Earth's shadow. This can occur only when the Sun, Earth and Moon are aligned exactly, or very closely so, with the Earth in the middle. Hence, the Moon is always full during a lunar eclipse. I got my digital camera and went outside to have a look once the event had started and although there is some light pollution in my area it was fairly easy to see away from the streetlights.

I took some photographs but found that when totality had arrived my camera although good in low light was actually useless! The Moon by this time was a very reddy colour! I went indoors and set up my laptop computer in a bedroom at the back of the house and connected the webcam and was able to see the Moon quite well.

The only problem of course is that the size of the Moon image is very small! The best way to resolve this is to magnify the image by modifying the webcam. A project for next time! There will be another lunar eclipse 28 August 2007. Now enjoy the photos!



(Above) Moon at 2058 UTC



(Top) Moon at
2058 UTC

(Middle) Moon at 2220 UTC

(Left) Moon webcam image
at
2345 UTC G4JHI

Membership List 2007

Many HARC members will have a copy of last years list of members with details of callsign, address and telephone number. In the near future an updated list for this year will be distributed. If any member has any amendment from last year or doesn't wish for specific details to appear in print then now is the time to get in contact with either the Newsletter Editor or Treasurer. Email addresses are not included and the list is only distributed to members of HARC.

Radio Diary

Apr 2nd, 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Apr 5th, Club Night: Digital Noise Reduction Systems - Graham Somerville - (BHI)

Apr 11th, 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

Apr 12th, Committee Meeting - QTH of G3ZBU

Apr 15th, West London Radio & Electronics Rally - Kempton Park

Apr 19th, 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

All above times are BST

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm