

HARCNEWS



The Journal of



Horsham Amateur Radio Club

Est. 1938



G4HRS

December 2007

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Notes From The Editor

The end of another year is approaching and I trust that it has been good for you perhaps with new ventures like I have experienced from changing my line of work. At the next club meeting which is the AGM there will be not only the chance to air your views and decide on the committee for 2008 but also present the Webb Cup to a member of the club who has done something outstanding this year.

In case you cannot remember who won it last year I have included a reminder! With this month's Harcnews you will find a committee nomination form. I would like to say a big thank you to all contributors during the year and Katinka (my mother) who proof reads this magazine.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the December club meeting and Christmas Dinner.

David G4JHI

Please send contributions for the January edition of HARCNEWS to the editor by 15th December. 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



(Above) The Editor holding the Webb Cup presented annually

November Meeting Review: Tesla

by John Narborough

(Below) Nikola Tesla



Once again we were treated to another of John Narborough's (Amberley Chalk Pits Museum Electricity Hall curator) excellent lectures. This, the sixth year that John has visited us, was about the eccentric genius of Nikola Tesla the Croatian/Serbian inventor electrical experimenter.

Nikola Tesla was born a subject of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1856 in Similjan a town in the mountainous area of the Balkan Peninsula known as Lika. His father

Milutin, and his mother Djuka, were both Serbian by origin.

John went through Tesla's early life in Europe and his many business ventures that failed. His final venture in Paris that failed, lead him through his many and various acquaintances to the USA in the early 1900's to work for Edison in the field of DC electrical supply. Tesla had plans for an AAC distribution system, but Edison regarded Tesla's ideas as fanciful and remained committed to DC with all of the incumbent problems of distribution i.e. voltage drop due to cable resistance etc.

Undeterred with this Tesla forged on with his 'invention' of AC distribution and finally left the employ of Edison to develop his AC system with Westinghouse. The eventual outcome was for Tesla with the aid of Westinghouse to

build the Niagara power station using water turbines with water from the falls that produced high voltage AC.

The high voltage AC was able to be delivered over long distance cables (50km or so long by the standards of the day) with the use of step up and step down transformers to the local supply network. This then was the first complete AC generating, long distance distribution and local supply system in the world that was officially open on November 16, 1896. This first system was the basis for AC distribution in the world today.

But after this initial success Westinghouse started to have financial difficulties and Tesla agreed with Westinghouse to cease patent/licence payments to him for his AC system, to save the company. Although this generous act by Tesla



(Left) The generating hall of the Niagara power station

saved Westinghouse, it put Tesla into financial difficulties yet again. Tesla's life seemed to lurch from success to financial ruin on a regular basis; one could speculate that he was either too trusting or being from Eastern Europe had a different business acumen from those around him.

In the later years Tesla 'invented' many ideas of transmitting electrical power from point to point using high frequency AC (low frequency RF) and managed to get many learned people and institutions to support his ideas but none of them came to anything. Funding would be withdrawn and Tesla would search for more ideas and funding. In 1934 it is alleged

that the US military were interested in his invention of an Electrical Death Ray, but alas for Tesla this did not happen.

Tesla lived out the last years of his life as a recluse in a room of the Hotel New Yorker in New York feeding pigeons on the hotel balcony. With failing health he spurned all human company and died alone in 1943. Mysteriously all of his papers were removed or disappeared from his room after his death possibly by the FBI agents.

Today the life of Tesla is celebrated in a museum dedicated to the man in his native town Similjan in Croatia. Tesla was a man whose genius bordered on madness or was it madness bordering on genius throughout his life. For further information try the following web site packed with further reading.

www.pbs.org/tesla/ or just type Nikola Tesla into Google!

Adrian G4LRP

Broadcast Listener - Radio St Helena

Double Anniversary year broadcast

Once again listen to broadcast radio via amateur radio equipment! RSH will be transmitting on 11092.5 KHz in USB with 1000 Watts and using a 3-element monoband directional antenna on Saturday 15th December. QSL via post!

www.sthelenase/radioproject

Time	Target Area	Time	Target Area
1730	New Zealand	2245	North America West
1815	India	2330	South America North
1900	Japan	0015	South America Central/ South (ends 0100)
2015	Europe		
2145	North America East		

Broadcasts end at start time of next one
Times in UTC

HARC Chairman's Report 2007

As another year draws to a close it is time to write the usual 'Chairman's Report'. Well where does one start. This year saw a wide selection of topics covered at club nights, ranging from 'The Future of Electronics' (G3LHZ). Tracking Radio Sondes (G3JKV), The Mechanics of Orbits (G3PYC), Nikola Tesla (John Narborough), BHI Audio processing (Dave Somerville), Radio and Telecommunications (G3PVH) and Peter Island DX (G3SWC) plus the usual Junk Sales, a Quiz and Bring Show and Tell.

As you can see a wide range of topics, not necessarily associated with radio. That I feel makes 'our' club what it is, different to others, the fact that many other subjects are welcomed and that we enjoy our non club night social meetings (normally involving the lifting of several pints). So many thanks to all that supported our meetings over the past year, from those that gave talks, NPF's auctioneering at the famed HARC Junk Sales and a special thanks to the ladies who provide refreshments at the Junk Sales.

Contesting this year took the form of the usual 80 AFS CW and SSB contests in January. HARC being placed 20th out of 86 for CW and 8th out 102 for SSB. In the 80m Club Championship, HARC only managed 13th place overall out of 66 clubs over a period of six months. Last years Club Calls contest saw HARC reaching 2nd place, behind the mob from Hadleywood.

This years September SSB Field Day was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of support, I hope that this is just a temporary blip and that HARC can get an entry in for next year. In fact we were a bit down in the 80m Club Champs this year with some familiar call signs missing (mine among them). Lets see if we can all improve next year, the 80m CC is not just for the die-hard contesters, anyone can join in if only for a short while. The more contacts made over the six month series really does add up and does make a difference.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET 31/10/07

INCOME

BANK INT.	5.63
SUBS	600.00
REFRESH	78.60
JUNK/DONA	543.70
ADVERT	40.00
P/L SOFA	0.00

	1267.93
	=====

ASSETS:

EQUIPMENT COST	2947.30
DEP'N TO DATE	2863.94

	83.36
BUILD SOC A/C	1074.80
GIROBANK	1340.21
PETTY CASH	98.75

	2597.12
	=====

EXPENDITURE

DONATION	-12.00
G4HRS	0.00
NEWSLETTER	-233.20
SPEAKERS	-15.00
RSGB	-44.00
EQUIP REP	0.00
INSURANCE	-73.50
HALL RENT	-360.00
RAFFLE	-52.00
PETROL	0.00
SUNDRIES	-13.59

	-803.29
	=====
BALANCE OF	464.64
INC.OVER EXP.	=====

LIABILITIES

2006 CLOSING BALANCE	2215.84
EXCESS INC/EXP	464.64
DEP'N CHARGE	-83.36

	2597.12
	=====

Other events this year included some 2m Fox Hunts that were great fun, perhaps they could be enjoyed further by 'shooting' the fiendish foxes at the end! (Ha ha). A day trip to Sluis on the Dutch coast was also enjoyed this year. Some members and families also joined me and my family on a trip to Brünnen in Germany for a few days in late October.

Although the weather on the one day (we all went down to Eifel Mountains) was a bit damp; at least we confused the locals with all of the backchat on 2m when mobile. I hope those that who came along enjoyed their trip to DL. Also this year like the past four years, a growing contingent of HARC members returned to the Ham Radio show in Friedrichshafen southern Germany.

If you like rallies for bits and pieces (some of us like it for the steam trains too!) I can thoroughly recommend a trip to Friedrichshafen. Looking forward to next year I hope that HARC can continue to build on its past successes and encourage all to enjoy the hobby of Amateur Radio. Hopefully 2008 should see HARC providing you with a club to be proud of, by providing you with meetings, events, contests that all can take part in, if not all of the time, some of the time.

I must remind you that it is "your club" and that the committee and officers are put there by 'your vote', we try to please, but at times, as the old saying goes "you can't please all of the people all of the time". If you want to change things, come along to the AGM and get involved. If you want more info in the newsletter, tell us what you want or better still provide some articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

Finally in closing I would like to thank all of the committee and members who have helped HARC throughout the year by getting involved and organising club activities.

I would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous 2008.

73's de G4LRP

Harc Oktoberfest 2007

HARC's foreign trip was over 4 nights rather than the usual one-day trip. We went over to France on the Dover-Calais SeaFrance 12:15 ferry, along with many rugby fans who were on their way to Paris. Our four cars drove in convoy towards our final destination, which was Brüggén in Viersen. During the journey we kept in constant touch on 2m with callsigns G3OGP/M, G3ZBU/M, G4LRP/M and M0GJH/M, prefixed by F, ON, PA, and finally DL.

G4LRP took the lead and all the rest had to do was play follow my leader; we did not have to worry about navigation and could concentrate on driving on the other side of the road. We arrived at about 6pm local time. Brüggén, even though it seemed to be a small town, had a mainly pedestrianised



(Above) Hotel in Brüggén, from the left:- Dory, Robin G3OGP, Pat, Andrew M0GJH, Janet, Gerald M3CGR and Fiona M3EUR

area in the centre.

All the car parks are free! That night the restaurant was crowded, (which is a good sign!) and it was a while before we could sit down to eat and drink. The meals were quite substantial and very good. We were given small glasses of some kind of schnapps as a 'digestiv', which was enjoyable, free of charge, which was a bonus! All the meals were of excellent quality and quantity. Our hotel specialised in Balkan cuisine and steaks.

The fillet steak I had was easily one of the best I have ever tasted. The first day we went to see some mediaeval walled towns in the wine-growing region. Unfortunately it rained that afternoon. The vineyards were growing up some very steep slopes and different varieties all grew next to each other in small plots, so there were far more colours showing than one would have expected.

We saw the largest steerable radio telescope in the world nearby. It actually moved while we stood there in the drizzle. The next two days we did our own excursions, and being used to the driving by now, were able to make use of the Autobahns. The Autobahns were excellent fun and one could put one's toe down from time to time and enjoy the driving.

When I filled up with petrol back home, I was astonished with the results of calculating the car's mpg: instead of the usual 36 or 37mpg in the UK, it went up to 40mpg outbound and 39mpg back. Düsseldorf and Köln (Cologne) are within easy reach. In Düsseldorf we went to the top of the television tower before walking along the busy Rhine. Then into the town finally walking back towards the car via the main shopping street (Königsallee).

The last day was spent in Köln, starting with a climb up one of the two bell towers. We did not get to the very top, in fact chickening out half way up the ladder at the top. The weather was superb for these two city trips and visibility was excellent.

(Below) 15km west of Antwerp, Robin G3OGP, Dory, Pat, Janet, Andrew M0GJH, Christine, Katie, Joe and Adrian G4LRP



We drank a test-tube of Kölsch to restore ourselves. Kölsch is the local beer, and is served in 200ml glasses.

In fact the hostelry we went to, 'Fruh am Dom', had a 1000-year brewing tradition. Finally we zoomed back to Brüggeren and filled the car up with cheap alcoholic beverages at a supermarket. Some of the wine was only 1.99 Euros per bottle! On Wednesday, the weather changed to 100% cloud for the trip back. Just before we left the hotel, the proprietor gave us a bottle of Balkan wine, which was a lovely gesture.

The hotel rooms were very reasonably priced at €30 single room, €40 double room / single occupancy and €50 double room per night, plus free breakfast. There is plenty more to see and it would be well worth another visit. We thoroughly enjoyed the 4 days and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman for organizing the trip.

G3ZBU

Radio Diary

Dec 1st, Martin Lynch Open Day 0800 - 1600 Includes Hog Roast and free drinks (Note the early start!)

Dec 6th, Club Night: Annual General Meeting
Includes Christams raffle - please bring items gift wrapped as before and remember what they are. Upon arrival hand to Marilyn

Dec 8th, Christmas Dinner - Dog & Duck, Dorking Road, Kingsfold 1930 for 2000

Dec 13th, Commitee Meeting - QTH of G3ZBU

Dec 15th, Radio St. Helena Double Anniversary year broadcast

Dec 22nd, Waters & Stanton Christmas Cracker Deals 0900 - 1730

Dec 25th, BADNET Christmas Day Net 3.722 MHz 10:00

Jan 3rd 2008, Club Night: Mystery slide show

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm