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G4HRS

# H A R C N E W S



**The Journal of**

**Horsham Amateur Radio Club**

July 2008

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Members on the air (attached separately)

**Cover photo: Fox Hunt winners**

# Editorial

Enclosed with this month's magazine is the latest membership list. Should you find anything that needs attention in it please do let me know. A reminder that the 80m Club Championship contests end soon if you wish to have a go. Once again Bryn has provided the latest results.

Volunteers are being sought for the SSB Field Day over the weekend of 5 -7th September. Rota preparation has already started and if you would like to volunteer to set up/take down/operate/log then please let Adrian or any committee member know.

David G4JHI

## Broadcaster Listener

Those who remember the offshore radio stations in the 1960's may like to check out Red Sands Radio. This is one of those RSL (Restrictive Service License) transmissions. This gives the facility to broadcast for up to 28 days a year. The Redsand Fort in the Thames Estuary, which is located 8 miles from the Whitstable coastline is where the home for the period is.

This year they are apparently using an antenna with a 'capacity hat' to improve the signal. The frequency will be 1278 KHz on the Medium Wave and power 1watt. Last year reception was widely reported and it has reached Horsham but reception will most likely be best using a direction aerial such as a loop or ferrite rod. The programming type will be music based and will run from 4th to 13th July.

It is believed that former Radio 1 DJ's David Hamilton and Mike Read will be in the line up. At the same time there will be a special event amateur radio station. GB0RSR will be activated by Icom UK. They will use HF in the evening and VHF/UHF in the day.

[www.redsandonline.co.uk](http://www.redsandonline.co.uk)

# June Meeting Review:

## The History of Mr Polley, G3PYC

### Part 2 - Voyage

You may remember that last time we left Ron watching the V2's descending over London. On receipt of the Kings shilling (PO), he was conscripted into the army. Then Japan surrendered. Six weeks were then spent training at the Royal West Kent barracks learning how to march, dig trenches, shoot with a rifle and Bren gun and throw a hand grenade and earnt an extra penny!

On one occasion he threw a hand grenade after taking out the pin but fortunately it did not go off! You only have 4 seconds! Finally Ron was tested for intelligence and practical ability which resulted in being sent for Royal Engineer training at Malvern, Worcestershire, (Blackmoor) for 13 weeks. Here was taught how to set up a barbed wire defence, build a road for heavy vehicles with culverts.

How to lay Bitumastic surfacing and lay an a/c runway using metal track and how to prepare 1000 gallons of drinking water from rivers and ponds. Afterwards Ron drank it! The proper use of ropes and anchorages was also learned along with the building of Bailey and pontoon bridges. How to connect them was deal with, it was not done properly, and it was found that the river flows fast near the A10104 and there were floods at Upton on Severn.

How to use various explosives and lay a minefield took

place and Ron got the nick name of 'clever clogs'. Given the job to set a booby trap, the officer i/c was caught with his best uniform on. He was furious. The last day at Malvern we had a 7 mile cross country race at which Ron came home first.

The waiting Para's enlistment officer offered a position with them. Day of the first parachute drop from a tower Ron was removed from Aldershot and sent to Chatham (air force) for special training. This took 6 weeks and after passing the final exam was promoted and offered a posting. There was a map with pins in it where people were wanted and Ron offered to go to Daru in New Guinea.

Special jabs had to be had for this and he was out cold for 36 hours! His mother asked where he was yesterday! Prior to posting was sent to Chester which should have been Manchester and arrived in deep snow at General Sir Brian Horrocks office and spent the night there. Never actually went to Manchester as went direct to an ATS barracks in Warrington instead.

On embarkation leave went to Barton Stacey transit camp whilst waiting for all to amalgamate then the overnight train to Liverpool from Andover. From there boarded the 32000 Ton liner 'The George', this ship had actually sunk a few times and been repaired! The voyage went passed Cherbourg then along to Gibraltar. When passing through the Suez Canal a sand storm took place and the sand had to be cleared from ship.

This was much narrower than it is today and had 20 foot banks. In Aden which is like a mountain with a peak standing out there was no fresh water available so had to shower in salt water. One thing that you got used to. On arrival in Singapore was informed that Australia had taken over the New Guinea station. After leaving Singapore went by the Nee Soon transit camp.

There the Japanese helped to move things including a

Snake. Each morning those who swam got up at 6am to do that. Then boarded the MV Dilwara heading for Hong Kong. Because of the hot weather clothes were washed every day. Along the way a typhoon struck and they battled down the hatches, some lifeboats smashed and clothes lost which is not surprising with 80 foot waves!

Whilst in a clam spot the submarine Aurora pulled up and took in 6 very ill crew. When finally arrived in Hong Kong had a grand welcome with a marching band. Travelled from there to Kowloon, Shamshuipo, which is an ex Japanese POW camp. Half of Hong Kong did not have electricity and whilst Ron was on duty as guard commander he let the HK Electric Company have some switch gear which was signed for.

However following this a Court Marshal took place for being guilty of giving away WD property. Ron was then reduced to the ranks, and then reinstated. Unfortunately the ship HMAS Sydney to Sydney was missed. Ron was due for leave and spent it with the navy on HMS Sussex on exercise in the South China Sea.

There he assisted the radar engineer. Ron then caught Typhoid and was ordered off ship in Singapore and sent to Nee Soon. After a week was ordered back to ship on MV Lancashire and sailed home. Oct 1948 arrived in the Crayford home to a new born brother. The house was almost empty as the family were going to Australia!

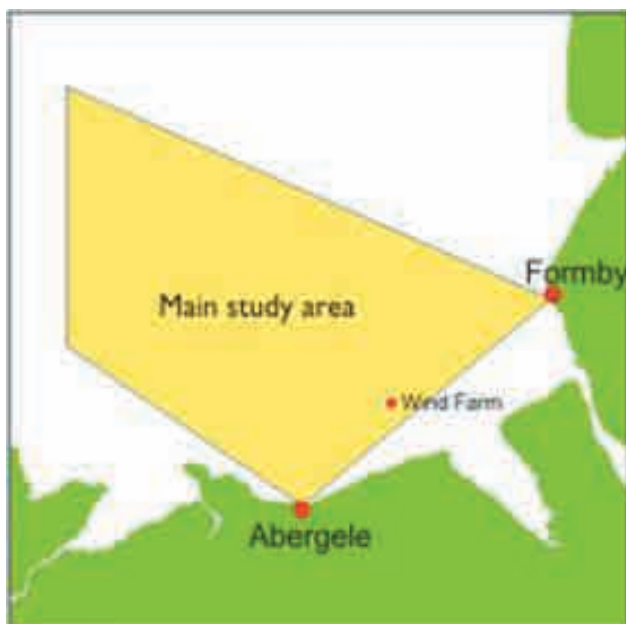
Having arrived back from a war torn area Ron was not a nice person to be with, so after 6 weeks moved into a Young Mans Hostel in Wandsworth at 30/- a week, all found. Having access to surplus radio shops, but with very little space, Ron built a 3 valve receiver.

Then bought a cycle and cycled to work and during the summer Saturdays cycled to the south coast and back. After then Ron was demobbed back in Aldershot.

# Mystery Photo pt III

## HF Radar

Yes, that's what the mystery vertical antennas we showed you in the last two issues of HARC News are part of. In fact it is a wave monitoring radar system covering Liverpool Bay, established by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL).



About the POL HF radar system. The POL HF Radar System uses the WERA radar system, and consists of two radar sources pointing out over the Irish Sea, measuring currents and waves over an area of up to 1600 km<sup>2</sup>.

The two sites are based at Llandulas, North Wales pointing northwards, and Formby, Merseyside pointing roughly west-south-west. Formby operates on about 12.4 MHz and Llandulas on 13.4 MHz. They measure the sea surface every 20 minutes by sending out pulses over the sea surface and measuring the response signal.

Combining information from the two sites gives enough information to calculate the current and wave parameters. At each site, there are four transmit antennae set out in a square, and 16 receive antennae arranged in a straight line parallel to the shoreline, and the two sets of antennae are usually spaced about .5 km apart.

To find out more about the individual sites, click on to the Llandulas and Formby radar sites. Data is sent to POL every hour, and forms the basis of the information on these web pages. The WERA hardware and measuring software is supplied by Helzel Messtechnik, the grid conversion and transfer software by Neptune Radar Ltd, and the inversion software to produce waves by Seaview Sensing Ltd.

Land based radar is very useful for measuring the sea surface, as it covers a large area and negates the need for expensive ship time. This WERA system is the only one of its type in the UK, although they are used in other locations around the world.

You can find the full story at: <http://cobs.pol.ac.uk/cobs/radar/>  
G4FQR

Copy deadline for August edition 19th July

For items sent by email please send to this address:

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

# HARC Foxhunt aka Direction- Finding Competition 29th May 2008 Results

The first transmission was supposed to be at 7.30pm but my hand-held rig was not radiating! Fortunately G4EFO contacted the fox and reported that 5 teams were ready and waiting, so the fox used a back-up handheld and transmitted at 7:34pm. The envelopes did not arrive in time as M3GCR was not recognised by the last team to leave!

The fox was not alone for very long. People at the fox's location wondered what the aerial was for, so a few explanations were due. I said that the range was 5 miles and start location for the Horsham drinking team was at Mannings Heath. They replied 'oh that must be the Dun Horse'.

They thought this was a most interesting hobby and how long had it happen. I said that this sort of thing occurred during WW2 but when the fox was discovered, he was normally shot! They said that a snail race was being held that night and did not really wish for 80 people to descend upon them.

The G4TPO team arrived at 7:54pm. Very good indeed! Especially considering that his equipment had one or two or three problems initially. Second arrival was G3WZT at 8:05pm closely followed by G3OGP at 8:06pm. After a small clue about Friday Street, G4EFO/G7EYL arrived at 8:25pm.

The Mid-Sussex team abandoned their efforts at 8:40 and returned to base. The fox was hidden at the Royal Oak pub, near Rusper. This pub used to be a run-down K&B pub that apparently sold about one barrel a week, and was taken over very successfully; it recently won Sussex CAMRA pub of the year two weeks ago. The Fox thought it well worth visiting!

G3ZBU

# TV Addict

## The Loveparade Party

### by G4JHI

Ref: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love\\_Parade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Parade)

In 1989 before the Berlin Wall was demolished started one of the biggest festivals in Germany originated by the fresh Berlin Underground under the initiative of Matthias Roeingh aka "Dr. Motte". It was held as a political demonstration for peace and international understanding through music.

Many people from Germany, Poland, and other countries travelled to Berlin to take part in the Parade and over a million have attended most years. Until 1996 the parade was held on the famous Berlin "Kurfürstendamm".

By then not only the Kurfürstendamm was overcrowded but the streets and even railway tracks near by, so the parade moved to the "Straße des 17. Juni" which is near the Tiergarten Park in the center of Berlin by the Brandenburg Gate and provided plenty of space. The center of the parade is the Siegessäule in the middle of the park, and the golden angel atop the column has become a symbol of the parade.

Entry to the parade is free for everyone. By German law the state has to pay for security during political demonstrations as well as cleaning up the streets after the demonstration. In case of a commercial event however, the organizer has to pay for all this. For a large event like the Love Parade the costs are quite high: an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 Euro.

The music played at the events is predominantly electronic dance music. Anyone who wants to experience Love Parade should be aware of the fact that it is louder and more



(Left)

Berlin 2001

crowded than most concerts. With its water-cooled sound systems on every truck, the parade produces an extremely loud sound floor.

The parade basically lives through those trucks. It costs a lot of money to equip a truck. They are usually open on top and feature dancers. Their box-systems are mounted on the side or the rear. Here are two tactics to choose from: Follow a truck that features a style that you like, or have them all pass you so you can see and hear more.

Love Parade is a place where some exhibit and enjoy other people's exhibitionist tendencies. Some attendees enjoy carrying around toys such as pacifiers or facing masks. Often the crowd is imaginative in terms of clothing (or lack thereof) and appearance.

The finale of the demonstration is by the so-called "Abschlusskundgebung" which are half-hour sets of the world's leading top DJs such as Paul Van Dyk, Westbam and Chris Liebing. During this time all trucks (usually about 40) are connected to each other and set out inline to the statue of victory where the Turntables are.

This is one of the few chances a DJ can ever have to play for a crowd of about one million people. Since last year the event is no longer held in Berlin but instead travels to different places and last year 1.2 million fans descended on Essen.

This year Dortmund is the home on 19th July and will be broadcast by German TV channel RTL2 in the afternoon and highlights on Viva both stations available via satellite on Astra1. Also the whole event like last year will be streamed live via the Internet.

[www.loveparade.de](http://www.loveparade.de)

(click on the UK flag)

# Diary

Jul 3rd, Club Night: Update on Aerials Old and New - Prof. Mike Underhill G3LHZ

Jul 7th, 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30  
RST + SN

Jul 13th, McMichael Rally & Boot Sale - Reading Rugby Football Club (Still near the Herb farm!) 09:30

Jul 16th, 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30  
RS + SN

Jul 17th, Social Evening - The Bat and Ball - Newpound

Jul 24th, 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30  
RST + SN

Jul 31st, Thursday evening Fox Hunt - TBA

Aug 7th, Club Night: Bring Show Tell

Aug 14th, Committee Meeting - QTH of G7EYL

All above times are BST

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm