

HARCNEWS

Newsletter of

Horsham Amateur Radio Club

Est. 1938



G4HRS

May 2006

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Contents

In this issue

- 3. The editor speaks out
- 4. Lets get constructing!
- 8. The Fox tell the results
- 11. Lost and found!
- 12. The Crowborough story
- 13. Global warmup
- 14. Tune in!
- 14. Diary of events

Notes From The Editor

Welcome to the May edition of HARCnews. Several beady eyed club members spotted the story in last months newsletter about the new type of trains where amateur radio will be able to be operated.



Apparently 40m will also be available and the picture should have included that antenna too (See photo). This was of course our spoof story for April Fools Day!

If you are sending in contributions by email it can be generally assumed that I have received the email unless for some reason it bounces back. This is usually a sign that the email server of my ISP has some technical problem and so far has only occurred once in 5 years.

If you wish to make sure that it has arrived you can ask for a read receipt. For instance in Outlook Express as you create an email go to the 'Tools' menu and tick 'Request Read Receipt' and for other email clients check the documentation in the

help file to find out how to do this.

A warm welcome to David Ansell who has been a keen radio listener for many years and has recently become M3NKC thanks to the efforts of Andrew M0GJH. David is also joining HARC and is already on the air!

A welcome back to the club goes to Graham Matthews G4LLI. Photographs in the newsletters will be printed in colour if at all possible but if not then the online version available on the HARC website is in colour. Finally thank you all for your contributions and if yours is not in print this time don't worry as it may come to a letterbox near you very soon!

David G4JHI

April Meeting Review:

Homebrew,

by Mike Grierson G3TSO

Mike set out to give us a history of his home-brewing with one of his aims being to motivate some of us to have a go – a show of hands part way through revealing that, unsurprisingly, there are not many practitioners these days.

Though many of us could relate to his description of his early days, I doubt there are any who could match his prolific output of projects, a large sample of which he brought along for us to see and admire.

From his start with a crystal set at age 12, through numerous valve sets, there is little recorded. Often projects were dismantled to provide parts for the next one, probably supplemented by stripping junked TV chassis.

Designs for top band AM transmitters were plentiful in the magazines and grist for the 'TSO mill it appeared, though he did warn about published designs not always living up to authors' claims!

In the 1964 to 1967 period Mike moved on to valve-transistor (germanium) hybrids, SSB, and higher power – 60W. Test equipment and ATU's were built and sets especially suitable for portable/camping sorties.

We were very impressed by a kite supported wire antenna 600ft long which with 2 or 3 watts on 80m could compete with the average home station. RAF duties and marriage spelled QRT to homebrew from 1967 to 1972 but it then resumed at a great pace with high power

linear amps and ATU's (a fraction of the cost of commercials), digital test gear, mobile whip antennas, SSB exciters, transverters, etc. Mike took to sometimes adopting circuits from say a Yaesu handbook – more reliable than trusting one perhaps found in Radcom. (I think “know your author” is the message here.)

Mike designed an HF bands 20 watt SSB transceiver comprised of separate modules for the circuit blocks. Each module could be built and tested/tweaked/rebuilt. When they were integrated the set worked first time.

This project was featured in Radcom about 1980 and 200 were built. However things do not work out first time every time and Mike reminded us of the law about Oscillators that don't and amplifiers that do.

A 2-band SSB transceiver produced a “gritty” signal caused by slight r.f. feedback because the p.a. module was too close to the microphone circuit. Another example was a 40MHz parasitic oscillation in his 140W linear

amp – this time caused by having similar style low pass filters at the output of the exciter and the output of the linear. The cure in this case was to insert a resistive pad between the exciter and the input of the linear. (My linear amp is this same design, had the same prob with oscillation, and was cured the same way!)

The RSGB's Ostermeyer Trophy has been awarded twice to Mike and well earned I think we would all feel. He must have had more time to spare than most working people do and towards the end of his talk he let us have a glimpse of his career in aviation.

I thoroughly recommend a visit to his website (g3tso typed into Google gets you there) where you can feast on great aircraft pictures as well as more home-brew.

Mike's closing comment (to the waverers) was: “Don't be put off, even the experts screw up”. The success of his talk could be judged by the lively Q & A session after the coffee break.



160m transmitter



Coil collection



Atu's

Please send contributions for the June edition of HARCNEWS to the editor by 15th May. Items received after the deadline will be held over until a later edition.

All input is subject to suitability and available space.

Any comments, letters or new ideas very welcome especially for the new features of this newsletter.

For items sent by email please send to this address:

harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk

RESULTS FOR HARC FOXHUNT HELD ON MARCH 19th by John G3WZT

The turnout for this event was very good with a total of 7 teams arriving at the Mannings Heath starting point on a cool but glorious sunny Sunday morning.

I had tried to make it obvious that the Fox would not be local, and so it was to be! For those that had difficulty in hearing me from the start point I do apologise but hopefully, the fact that I was on the Chichester map gave a clue to the intended direction of travel. For those teams that were new to 2 metre Foxhunting, I hope you will try again another time. This was a challenging hunt and proved difficult for the most experienced. Take a note of the equipment used by others, it may help.

After my second transmission I did move to a new and more obvious lair that had a much better takeoff to the East, this was located not far from Chilgrove approximately 7 Miles NW of Chichester.

First on the scene was the combo of

	G3OGP and G4LRP in 1hr 35mins
Second	G4EFO and G4KDR in 2hr 03mins
Third	G3SWC and Eva in 2hr 08mins
Fourth	G7EYL and Jan in 2hr 09mins
Fifth	G4TPO in 2hr 15mins

Two teams did not make the finishing post.

Congratulations to the winners Robin and Adrian and my thanks to all those that took part and supported the event. It was good to see some "old faces" taking part. The next one will be a nice easy local evening event (so they say).

Afterwards, a most enjoyable lunch was taken at the Fox and Hounds in Funtington.



The Fox G3WZT



The start at Mannings Heath



The winners G4LRP and G30GP



Second place G4EFO and G4KDR

Amusement slot submitted by Brian Kendal G3GDU

Reward Offered

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hop-along-Capacity.

This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston primary cell where he had been clamped in ions ago awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic.

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HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

" SECRETS OF THE FOREST "

A SOUND ILLUSTRATED TALK ABOUT THE
WW2 SECRET TRANSMITTER.

UNDER ASHDOWN FOREST

BY DAVID ANSELL - M3NKC

AT GUIDE HALL, DENNE ROAD, HORSHAM.

THURS MAY 4TH AT 8.00pm.

ALSO "ASPIDISTRA PHOTOS AND DISPLAY
OF INTERESTING QSL CARDS.



TV Addict

Climate Change Experiment

by David Jones G4FQR

Did you see the BBC programs on climate change recently? Very interesting I thought and the description of the computer modelling especially so.

Despite the enormous supercomputers in use more power is needed and they have come up with a very clever idea that uses the Internet to harness spare capacity in PC's all over the world.

If you have a modern PC you will appreciate that most of the time it is switched on its components are idling and could easily handle more work than you give it. So there is the "Climate Change Experiment".

This country's contribution is managed by the BBC and

Oxford University. If you visit: www.bbc.co.uk/climatechange you will find all about it and can register your PC to participate.

When I registered on 15/03/06 there were already nearly 107 thousand PC's beavering away on a model of global climate. The model takes as its starting time the year 1920 and finishes in 2080.

The time step is 30 mins and on my machine each step only seems to need a second or two to calculate, if the computer is idling. The website says Broadband is needed but I had no problems on Dialup apart from the slow downloads of all the software – a global climate model is big!

www.climateprediction.net

Web Trawl

DX-Tuners is a site that gives you the chance to use a variety of online receivers located around the world. It is possible to tune the airwaves as if you were located somewhere else.

This could be useful for monitoring your own signals or perhaps for listening to someone else in a net of whom you cannot hear! The site also has information including antennas, ham

radio, frequencies and a forum. In order to use the service a registration is required and then you will have access to the guest receivers.

If you require more than the basic offering then it will be necessary to depart with some folding stuff but it is likely to be rewardable. Once logged in you can also connect to other members who are online.

www.dxtuner.com

Radio Diary

May 1st 80m SSB Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

May 4th Club Night: Aspidistra - M3NKC

May 7th Kempton Radio and Electronics Rally

May 10th 80m Data Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

May 11th Committee Meeting - QTH of G3ZBU

May 14th Dunstable Down Boot Fair

May 18th 80m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30

All above times are BST

Club Meetings and socials start at 8pm