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G4HRS

H A R C N E W S



The Journal of Horsham Amateur Radio Club

November 2009

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**Cover photo: Adrian G4LRP opening the club
Junk Sale**

Editorial

Welcome to the penultimate edition of Harcnews. Don't forget that this month John Narborough will be giving another fascinating talk and I am sure you will enjoy it so do come along. Welcome to another new member to Harc, Jeremy Thompson. Since my report last month regarding breakdown of my HF rig, I have had trouble with my main wireless router which was getting rather hot, not connecting to the Internet at times and generally running extremely slow data transfer.

After several telephones calls to the manufactures support line which included updating the firmware they decided it must be faulty and agreed to replace it. I bought it last November and has a two year warranty. Fortunately I have two spare routers so can still access the broadband whilst waiting for the new one to turn up. From last Christmas I have been suffering from increased EMC levels particularly in the LF bands 160 and 80m and to some extent right up to 10m on spot frequencies.

The noise takes the form of a buzzing hash and can be best heard using AM. It appears that there is more than one source which makes life very difficult. Fortunately the main noise hasn't been heard very recently but does come and go and

when it is on almost wipes out much of 1.8MHz and can be heard a mile away at Broadbridge Heath.



(Left)

David G4JHI with his Sony portable radio used for finding (or trying to find!) noise on the HF bands

There is one source that must be some form of light as it only appears at night but can be reduced by the rigs noise blanker. Recently there have been comments in RadComm from another radio amateur who has been suffering something very similar. I have been in touch with Ofcom who escalated it to their field team but I don't have any positive news at this time.

During the weekend of 17/18th October I attended the Scouts JOTA operation at Christ Hospital where GB0HDS was transmitting from. Contacts were had as far away as USA, Canada and Israel amongst many more in the UK, Netherlands and other European countries. Next month there will be an update to the list of members that were sent in October.

David G4JHI

HARC October Meeting:

Junk Sale

This years Autumn Junk Sale started promptly at 8pm with the usual warning from auctioneer Tony G3NPF that no guarantees were given with any items sold but anything known to be dud would be notified. Also there would be the 'bonus' items which may arrive at any time during the proceedings! First up was an RF signal generator made by Heathkit which had a frequency range from 100KHz up to 200MHz. This would have been provided as a kit which one would build and test before putting into normal use.

I seem to remember there would have been an option to buy as a ready built and tested unit from Heathkit but would cost much more. Next up was a crystal controlled 2meter transmitter which had all the main simplex channels but did it have 144.725MHz?! Four very useful toolboxes then

appeared complete with shoulder straps. A laptop looked good on the outside but the motherboard was dead!

Two TV sets with cathode ray tubes of around 12" or 14" screens I think came up but these days they generally end up at the local refuse tip. All my three computer screens at home are 17" CRT and the main TV 26" CRT. The motto here is 'if it ain't broke don't fix it!' A USB scanner from 2000 was sold and although not the latest model probably worked fine. I wonder if it was Windows7 compatible?

A collection of impulse clocks were up for sale but the question was did any of them need a master clock in order to work? Next we had a shredder but it didn't prove too popular which is surprising. Maybe everyone already has one. A collection of aerials were sold off in the form of a 2m/70cm 5/8th wave collinear and log periodic which worked from 4m up to 23cms. Several other rigs came up including a handheld which even had CTCSS provision.

Thanks to auctioneers Tony G3NPF and Robin G3OGP, Ron



(Left)

T o n y
G 3 N P F
and Ron
G 3 P Y C

G3PYC on hand out of items, Steve G4TPO, Paul G4TMC, Alister G3ZBU on the accounts, Ian M0FRH in the kitchen providing refreshments, Adrian G4LRP, Mick G4EFO on the raffle, David's G4JHI and G4FQR on door duty.

CQ Contest by Adrian G4LRP

Just a reminder for your diaries about the Top Band (160m) Club Calls Contest from 8pm -11pm on Saturday 14th November. HARC members have been taking part in this contest for at least the last 10 years, and as such have been very successful in the team section (five highest HARC scoring stations) of the contest with two 3rd, four 2nd and two 1st places, winning the G4IQM Memorial Trophy.

For the last couple of years strong opposition from the Shirehampton ARC has beaten us. Also in the mix are Worthing & DARC and the Hadley Wood Contest Group. Therefore, as in past years, please come on Top Band and put an entry in and let's see if we can get to the top of the leader board again.

You do not have to be a contest expert for this one; just follow the rules set out on the RSGB Contest web site on the following link. www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2009/rclubcalls.shtml

Do not forget to send your entries to Alister G3ZBU who will collate and check them, and then put in the club entry. Whilst on the subject of contests some more reminders for your diaries, don't forget the 80m CW and SSB AFS contests in early January and of course the 80m all mode Club Championships running from January to July.

For more information go to the RSGB HF Contest website at www.rsgbcc.org/hf/index.shtml

I Hope to work you on the air.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of HARC

To be held on 3rd December 2009 at 20.00hrs
at the GUIDE HALL, DENNE ROAD, HORSHAM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2008 AGM.
2. Chairman's report.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Adoption of Accounts.
5. Election of Officers for 2010
 - a) Chairman, b) Secretary, c) Treasurer,
 - d) Newsletter Editor, e) Public Relations Officer.
6. Decide on number of Committee members to be elected.
7. Election of Committee members.

At conclusion of formal business, the Webb Cup will be presented.

This was donated by G3VGI to be presented annually.

An insert containing a form for nomination of Officer's Committee members will be found in next month's newsletter.

Nevada Open Evening

A reminder of the open evening on Wednesday 25 November around 1830 hrs. Anyone wishing to go please contact Adrian G4LRP no later than the next club meeting which is November 5th.

For Sale

2 x Yagi antennas - believed to be 7 element. One is for 2meters and the other 70cms. £15 each.

2 x Collinear antenna - One is for 2meters and the other 70cms. £15 each.

1 x Rotator with about 40 feet of multicore cable connected. This includes the time piece which gives the NSEW bearings. Offers around £280.

Please contact Ernie Edwards 2E0EWE on 01293 783542

Coming Soon

After the AGM next month we will once again hold the very popular Christmas raffle. Have a look and see what you have sitting at home that is no longer required that could be donated and given away in the raffle. You then find some wrapping paper and wrap it up and bring it along to the club on December 3rd.

Copy deadline for December edition 20th November

For items sent by email please send to this address:

harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk

Fox Hunt

The next HARC Sunday morning Fox Hunt will be on Sunday 15th November. The start will be from the green at Mannings Heath.

Maps required will be Landranger 186, 187, 197 and 198 just in case you get lost!

The Fox ala G4LRP will be using the club call G4HRS/P on the Club channel 144.725 fm. The first transmission will be at 10:00 and every 10 minutes after until midday where the fox will disclose his lair and head for the pub.

Nothing sneaky for this one just a nice Sunday morning amble along the country roads!!!

Best of Luck

Adrian G4LRP alias the Fox

Diary

Nov 5th, Club Night: Electrical Oddities - John Narborough

Nov 12th, 80m Club Sprint - SSB 20:00-21:30 SN + Name

Nov 14th, Top Band Club Calls Contest 20:00 - 23:00, 1870 - 1990 KHz SSB - Exchange RS + SN + Club station or Member of club or no club

www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2008/rclubcalls.shtml

Nov 15th, Sunday morning Fox Hunt 10:00

Nov 19th, Social Evening - The Frog and Nightgown - Wimlands

Nov 25th, 80m Club Sprint - CW 20:00-21:30 SN + Name

Dec 3rd, Club Night: AGM

Dec 5th, Christmas Bash

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 8pm