***Club Call*** **G4HRS**

**Est. 1938**

# HARCNEWS




## The Journal of

## Horsham Amateur Radio Club

## *April 2023*

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***Cover photo: Entrance for Hamzilla***


Published by Horsham Amateur Radio Club
HARCNEWS is produced at home by G4JHI

# Editorial



By the time that you read this the group booking will have officially closed for the tour of the lightship MV Ross Revenge home of Radio Caroline North. Following the announcement bookings arrived fairly rapidly before tailing off then it sold out! However, anyone who isn't able to go this time round can book for an alternative date via the Radio Caroline website; follow the link to Boat Trips:

https://www.radiocaroline.co.uk

On Sunday 12th March I visited Hamzilla 2023 at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford, Kent. Without any stops the journey time from Horsham is about 75 minutes and the motorways were fairly quiet in the morning as expected. I did have trouble finding the venue even with a Satnav and must have gone round the local circuit at least twice! Upon arrival there was plenty of car parking and I was directed to the overflow section.

In the room where the event was taking place one is given an arm band after the payment so you can go in and out of the show as you wish. Hamzilla is a radio fair run by Dover Amateur Radio Club and in the room on either side were stalls of traders, individuals and radio clubs including ICOM. One of the ICOM representatives gave me or perhaps I should say tried to give me details on the unusual contraption which appeared to be a range of microwave antenna modules which also included a security type camera.

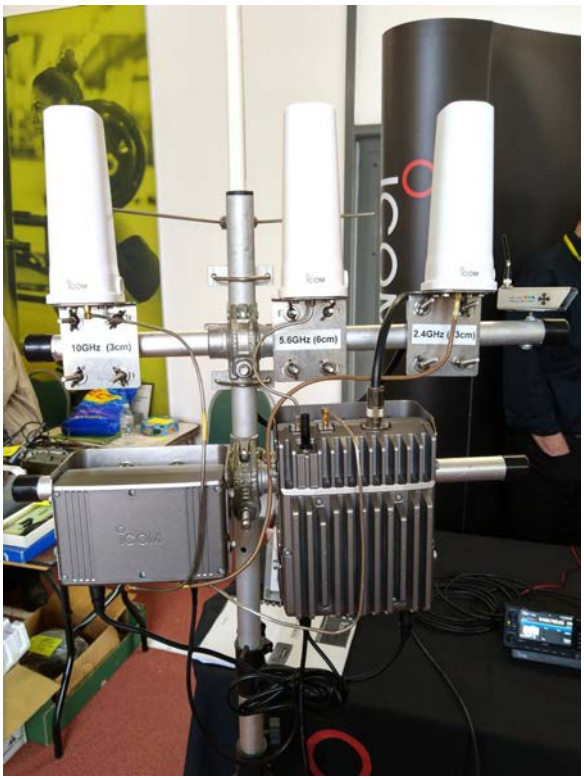
To be perfectly honest they admitted that they didn't really know much about it as they had only had it a few days but it will set you back some serious cash! As I walked around the stalls I found a variety of vintage radio gear and plenty of bits and pieces and antennas. At 12.15pm I sat in the lecture theatre for a presentation entitled "Aerial Ideas" by Ian Keyser G3ROO which was quite interesting.

I did meet several familiar faces from the Sussex area and one trader from the West Country whom who I first met back in 2003 at the Gothenburg Radio Rally in Sweden still trading today! I gather that they are already planning for Hamzilla 2024 potentially at the same venue. I have to say that the sausage roll that I had for lunch was one of the best I've ever had!

***David G4JHI***




*Illuminated callsigns from M0HOW*




*The ICOM mystery setup*



*One of the traders offerings*

**Copy deadline for emailed items for May edition 20th April - For hand written items the deadline is 12th April.**

For items sent by email please send to this address:

newsletter<at>g4jhi.co.uk

# March Meeting

## Junk Sale

This Junk Sale the first of 2023 featured an interesting selection of items. First up was a loop antenna which was quite popular attracting several bids. Then came a mini TV, Konica camera along with other cameras. There was a selection of PCB's and obscure parts, component bags and a Philips voice recorder. Then arrived a Panasonic VCR which today is becoming a rarity and certainly worth hanging onto if you still have some tapes sitting in a box somewhere.

Unusually there was many portable DAB radios up for auction. It was believed that none of them supported DAB+ of which is becoming the norm today for many broadcasters. Other items of interest was a GDO, ATU, Sony speaker and a selection of rigs which included a 2m Alinco, FT-470 2m/70cm, IC-730 80-10m and an FT-230 which was working but needs a new backlight.

Thanks goes to Robin G3OGP with assistance from Adrian G4LRP auctioneers, David G4JHI on door duty, Richard 2E0XRT with Junior op Joshua handing items out, Mick G4EFO catering and on finance, Steve G4TPO, Paul G4TMC and Alister G3ZBU.




***Adrian G4LRP auctioneering a set of speakers***

# Removing the PTT timeout feature from the Key KM3000 FM transceiver

The KM3000's PTT timeout feature can sometimes be annoying, particularly for anyone that likes to enjoy a more relaxed QSO. The feature uses a 14-stage binary ripple counter which starts its count whenever the PTT line is operated. Fortunately, the feature can be easily removed with a few tools and a little patience. Here's how it's done:

## Step 1

Disconnect power, antenna and microphone then remove the bottom cover of the transceiver to reveal the logic board (two retaining screws).

## Step 2

Detach the two screws that retain the front panel and then move the panel forwards to release the interconnecting wiring (see Figure 1).

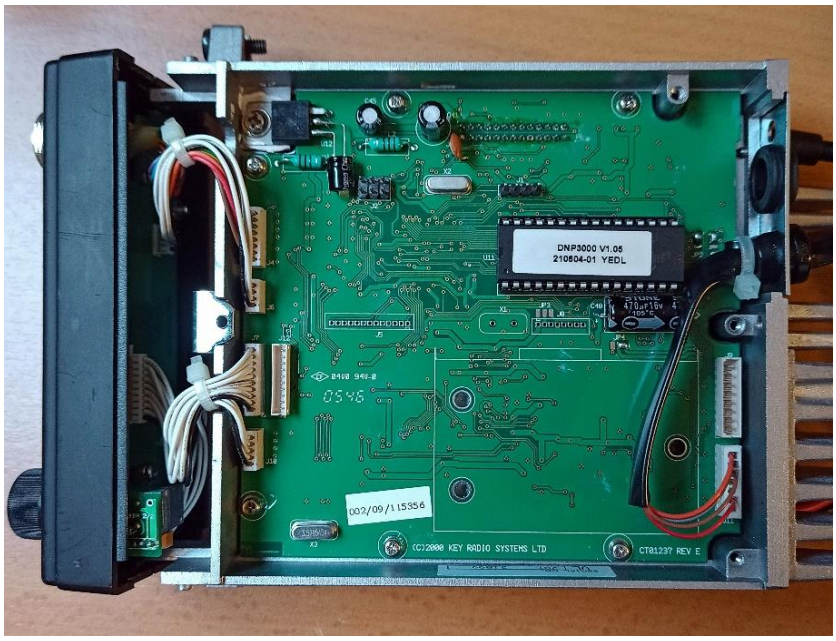



*Figure 1 The logic board with front panel released*

## Step 3

Remove the six mounting screws from the logic board as well as the larger screw from the heatsink. Carefully prize the logic board upwards and away, releasing it from the connector that mates it with the upper board containing the RF circuitry.

## Step 4

Carefully invert the logic board to expose the extensive circuitry on the rear of the board. You may need to release some of the interconnecting cables to be able to do this (see Figure 2).

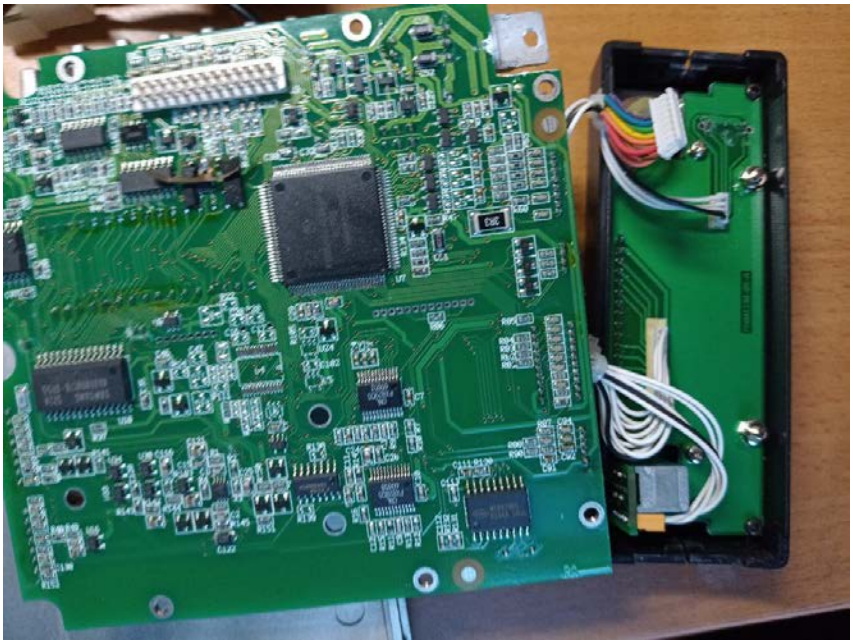


*Figure 2 Inverting the logic board*

## Step 5

Locate U15 and U18 (both are located close to the connector that joins the two main boards). The modifications require one track break and one link to be made (as shown in Figure 4). The track break is between pin-3 of U18 and pin-2 of U15. The link is between pin-1 and pin-2 of U15. For reference, the original circuit of the ripple countdown PTT time is shown below in Figure 3.

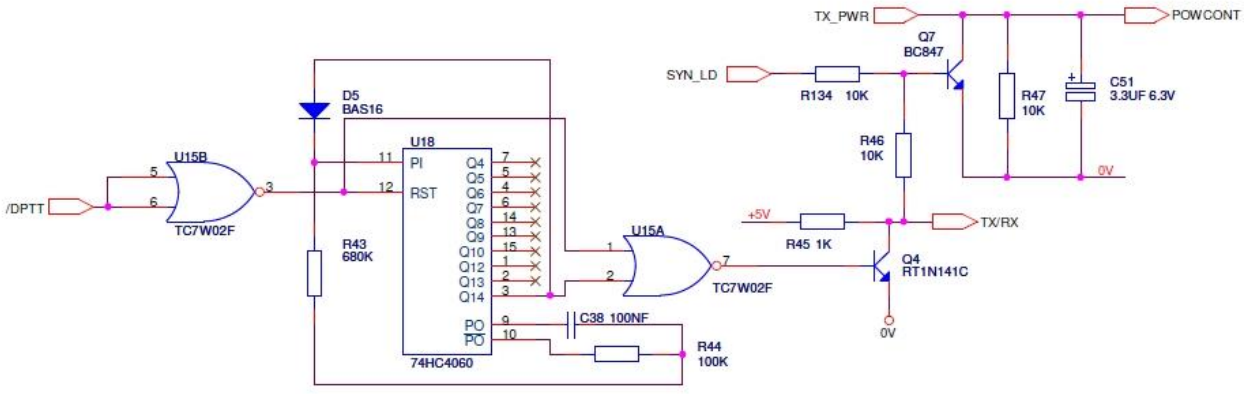



*Figure 3 Ripple countdown PTT timer (before modification)*

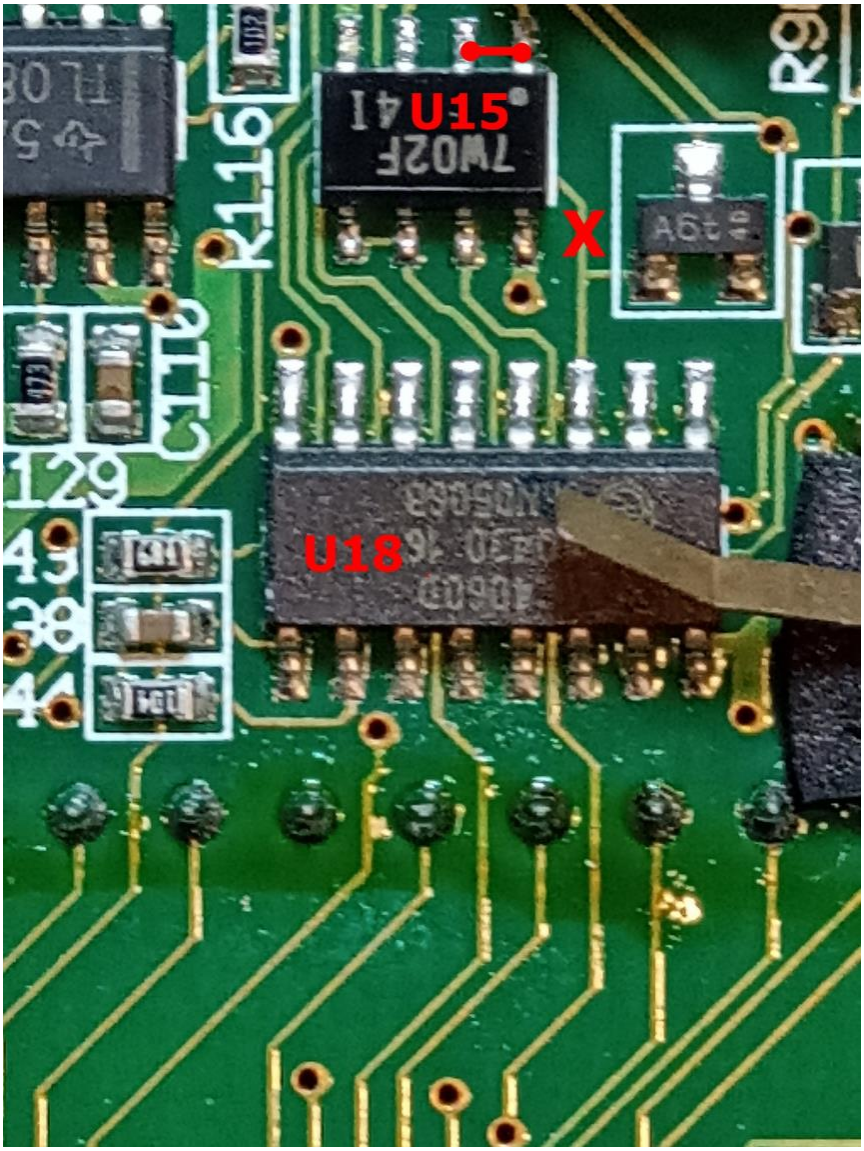



*Figure 4 Modifications required to disable the PTT timer (X = track break)*

The track can be easily broken using a scalpel (make sure you break it exactly as shown in Figure 4). The link can be easily made using a small blob of solder. A good desk lamp and a magnifying glass could be useful here!

**Step 6**

Carefully re-assemble the radio in the reverse order. It is important to check that the internal screening is reinstated and that the front panel connectors have been correctly reinserted.

**Step 7**

Reconnect the microphone, antenna and power cable and test the radio into a dummy load. You should now find that it operates without the timeout feature!

***Mike***
***G8CKT/F8VON***

NB: Be aware that continuous operation for lengthy periods may cause the RF power stages to run at high temperatures. It is therefore advisable to make periodic checks of the rear heatsink to ensure that any temperature rise is kept to a reasonable level.

# Contesting



## Wear A Hat Contest 2023

A brand-new challenge has been created for UK radio amateurs. The 'Wear A Hat Contest' takes place on the first Saturday in April from 09:00 – 11:59 BST on 80m and 40m. One can operate on any frequency or mode allowed on the bands concerned but should avoid any frequencies reserved for specific activities e.g. DX etc.

To qualify for a contact one must wear a hat of their choice and give a report exchange as follows:

RS(T) <Type of hat> - as an example you might give a report such as 59 Panama or 57 Cap and so on. Contacts are valid only with UK stations and everyone taking part must log entries in UK clock time as stated above.

It was decided that for this year the contest would be just for fun and if activity proves successful this contest could become a regular event. If so, a group known as 'The AR Hats' could be set up who would collate the reports from next year's contest and set up an awards scheme.

*Hat clipart from https://publicdomainvectors.org*

# TV Addict

by David G4JHI



**Revival**

Challenge Anneka first hit our TV screens in September 1989 on BBC1. The format of the series involved Anneka Rice being given a task to accomplish within a certain period of time, usually two or three days. She was supposed to have no knowledge of what the task of each particular episode would be before it began, and would have to organise its accomplishment by persuading companies and people to contribute their time and resources for free.

The task would usually be in aid of a charitable cause, for example building a play area for children within the local community, or something similar. In total there were 70 episodes including 5 specials and in 2006 moved to ITV but was short lived. In 2023 the series has been brought back and this time to Channel 5. The first episode of the brand new series was screened on Saturday 18th March and featured a dog rescue project in Kent. Perhaps Anneka would like to setup some sort of amateur radio build challenge / marathon? Your Editor could write in! Watch this space!




***Anneka Rice collecting a selection of electrical goods***

*References above from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_Anneka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_Anneka)*

# Diary

Apr 1st, Wear A Hat Contest  09:00 - 11:59
3.5MHz / 7MHz

Apr 3rd, 80m CW Club Championship  20:00 - 21:30

Apr 4th, 144MHz FMAC  19:00 - 19:55
144MHz UKAC  20:00 - 22:30

Apr 6th, Club Night: Planes Falling Out of the Sky, 5G Problem - Mike Tooley G8CKT

Apr 11th, 432MHz FMAC  19:00 - 19:55
432MHz UKAC  20:00 - 22:30

Apr 13th, Committee Meeting - QTH of G8CKT

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

Apr 20th, Social Evening: The Selsey Arms - Coolham
https://www.horshampub.co.uk/selsey-arms.php

Apr 27th, 80m Data Club Championship  20:00 - 21:30

For details on the above contests use this link and follow to the appropriate section
https://rsgb.org/main/radio-sport/what-is-radio-sport

All above times are BST

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 20:00