# Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

**Airwave 70.450 MHz**

*Volume 6, Issue 1* | **www.wadarc.com** | *Newsletter:-Jan,2006*


## 2006 Committee

Chairman

**Bob G4NCI**
Treasurer

**Tom G4BKF**
Secretary / Publicity

**Steve G7BBF**
Broadband

**Gordon G8MMM**
Publicity / Newsletter

**Neil G4OAR**
**Webmaster**

**Geoff G4WUA**

**Meetings are held at Irby Cricket Club 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 8pm Start.**

**Visitors are always most welcome**

Suggestions for Club talks or your comments on any topic .. to:-

Gordon
**g8mmm@wadarc.com**
or any committee member

### Club Roundup

**It's hard to believe that only a few weeks ago we were having our Christmas Bash and looking forward to Christmas itself and here we are out the other side and making plans for Easter !**

**At our AGM on the 11th of January it was very pleasing to see two new nominations added to those of the existing committee, and as a result of a ballot, we gain Geoff G4WUA at the loss of Phil G6IIM. We thank Phil G6IIM for many years of uninterrupted service to WADARC both at Club meetings and D&W's and I have no doubt his presence will continue at both. We welcome Geoff, who as an active HF man will no doubt bring many new ideas to the table. We also register our thanks to Gerry G8TRY who did not seek re-election this time, but has also been a long standing member, serving all the key officers positions on committee during that time. We have our first committee meeting on the 13th February after which further details of our plans for 2006 will be announced.**

**It is our intention to follow the success of last year and run at least three Special Event Stations during 2006 namely the Lighthouses on the Air (GB4LL) in August, the Hooton Show in September with the Club callsign G4MGR and Jamboree on the Air in October under GB2JAM, but more of that in the next Newsletter.**

### Editor's Headline Notes

**Lots of great nights to look forward to in the next few months as you can see from our Club calendar.**

**Next Wednesday we have the first of this year's auctions where treasured items ( no groans please!) are passed on to other members to enjoy .**

**First Aid for Radio Hams (by Laura M3ELV) is designed to expand knowledge of first aid...just in case!**

**Yet another Brian Austin (G0GFS) talk will be yet another great night as we have seen Brian in action before...don't miss it!**

**The radio pub quiz looks fun...will need volunteers on the night.**

**Sad to see the Oldham Rally cancelled this year. .The good news is that we still have Norbreck.**

### Where have all the ASCOM's gone ?

**On the 16th October 2002 we distributed some 60 ASCOM 4m radio's, acquired from the Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society (RATS for short). Where have they all disappeared to ? There are certainly not 60 people on 4m .. nor 50 or 40 or 30 or 20. The remaining regulars on 4m are Tom G4BKF (who doesn't use an ASCOM), Neil G4OAR, Gordon G8MMM, Vic G4UDR, Bob G4NCI and Alan G3UZU from WARS. What a shame, because it's a great band for mobile and home use, and nothing more enjoyable than a quick QSO when out shopping or taking a short journey to meet friends. We would love to hear some more people calling CQ on 70.450 so come on, let's hear a few more people playing radio with their ASCOMS !**

## W.A.D.A.R.C. Origins Part 1

During a recent re-distribution of clutter at the family home, I had cause to sort out the contents of the "Secretary's Box" which contains old club files, some dating back to the time the club was formed. Amongst the dusty contents I found an old ring binder which proved to be the original club minute book – thought to have been lost many years ago!

The contents are fascinating, but bear in mind these relate to amateur radio on Wirral 28 years ago! For example, the minutes start with a record of the first gathering in the Green Lodge on Thursday 15th December 1977 (8.30pm). There were just 8 present – G3NPJ, G4BKF, G4GGB, G8FJA, G8MGY, G8NMG, G8NNS & G8NPG. These 8, along with others not present on the 15th, had been congregating on 2 metres (A.M.!) for a couple of years and organising informal get-togethers in various pubs around the Wirral, (original D&Ws). The formation of a new radio group on the Wirral had become a more frequent topic of conversation at these gatherings and the 15th December minutes record that those present felt the time was right to formalise these meetings and form a new radio group. They also show that those present suggested that the following "should be incorporated as standard practice in the new group" and I quote:-

a. "Anyone would be welcome at group meetings no matter what kind of Amateur Radio Licence they hold or whether they are short wave listeners".
b. "Emphasis to be made on having one united and friendly group".
c. "More interesting meetings, in particular outside people being asked to give talks or demonstrations, films etc".
d. "Having occasional open meetings, mainly for the benefit of parents of any junior members plus any other interested persons".
e. "To help G8s who were interested in learning the Morse Code for the subsequent GPO test".

It is gratifying that our club still holds the same values today!

The meeting decided to look for a venue to hold an inaugural meeting on 11th January 1978 and, in the mean time, it was agreed that Neville, G8MGY, should be Acting Chairman and Malcolm, G8NMG should be Acting Secretary. It was further agreed that the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays would probably be acceptable to the majority for club meetings as it did not clash with the W.A.R.S who met on the 1st and 3rd.

Finally, it was decided to ask the inaugural meeting in January to consider calling the group "The Mersey Amateur Radio Group".

So what happened next? How did we end up being called W.A.D.A.R.C.? You'll have to wait until the next newsletter!

73 Tom G4BKF

## WADARC Events Calendar

### January 2006

**Jan 18th, D&W - The Anchor, Irby**
**Jan 25th, Second Hand Sale, Auctioneers G4BKF & G8MMM**

### February 2006

**Feb 1st, D&W, The Harp, Neston**
**Feb 8th, Radio Pub Quiz, A few beers and a good laugh**
**Feb 15th, D&W, The Black Horse, Heswall**
**Feb 22nd, First Aid for Radio Hams**

### March 2006

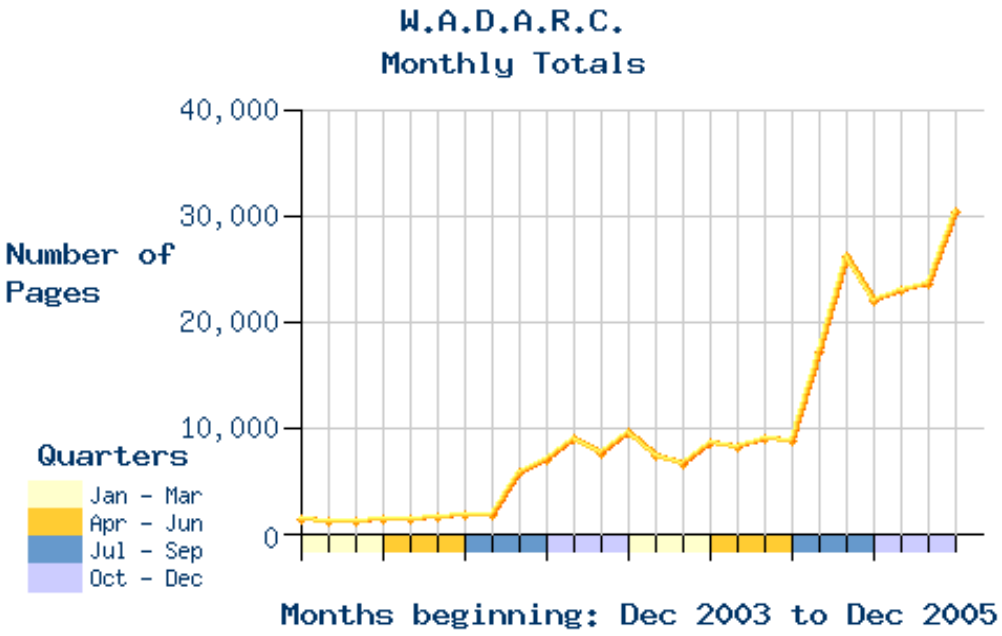
**Mar 1st, D&W, The Hoylake Lights, Hoylake**
**Mar 8th, Miniaturising Antennas, The search for the Limit. Brian Austin, G0GFS**

**Mar 15th, D&W, The Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight**
**Mar 19th, NARSA Rally (See above).**
**Mar 22nd, To Be Arranged.**
**Mar 29th, D&W, The Ring of Bells, West Kirby**

**For further details, please contact any committee Member.**

# WADARC Website Stats – 14th January 2006

www.wadarc.com



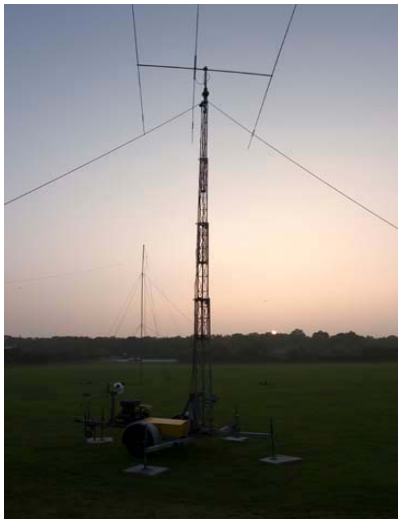

The latest set of stats, which have just been released for our wadarc.com website, show an extremely healthy growth in our monthly totals of "number of pages" being requested. It has now passed the 30,000 mark at an all time high of 30.340. This is clearly shown in the above graph which covers a 2 year time scale. Our major re-build went live on the 16th August 2004 and you can see the impact this has had.

Remember the site has been, and is, under continual improvement as new features and pages are added to reflect the needs of the community. It is very pleasing to see that people are regularly returning as the following Monthly Report shows so clearly. We must have sufficiently interesting information which they quickly find, to attract the users back. Now obviously they don't all live on Wirral, but it would be nice to see these figures translated into some new bodies walking through the door !

Currently, the most popular file download is the Ascom Mk3 Manual followed by people looking at our Activities & Reports pages. This is good, as it show interest in both using a radio and our Club radio activities. We have a strong Club in terms of support at DF Hunts, BBQ's and Special Event Stations reflected by the reports. It's also good to see a pretty general coverage of page selection. The exceptions being "Who to Contact" and "Where to find us" which, for obvious reasons, might only feature in the top 5 if we had crowds of newcomers banging on the door each week !

The next most popular pages are the Technical Articles, where it would be nice to have some more construction items, and the Club Members Page. This pleases me as I wanted the latter to be a bit of a hotch potch of news items which could be changed easily and quickly. I would like people whenever they connect to our site to automatically check our Club Members page for the latest local news items. The Newsletters also feature high on the scale and we are lucky to have found ALL of our original Newsletters since the Club began, which is a nice bit of our history and makes for some nostalgic bedtime reading.

## REAL RADIO 2005!!!



**GB4LL at Leasowe , GB2JAM at the ICC and G4MGR at Hooton Park were three occasions last year where we played REAL RADIO!!.... Let's keep up the good work in 2006...**

## Around the country RALLY INFORMATION 2006

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Jan** | | | |
| **Sun 29th** | **HORNCASTLE** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | **Horncastle Youth Centre.** |
| **Feb** | | | |
| **Sun 5th** | **SOUTH ESSEX** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | **Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex.** |
| **Sun 12th** | **HARWELL** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | **Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot.** |
| **Sun 12th** | **WAKEFIELD** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | **Northern Cross Mobile Rally, Thornes Park Athletics Stadium Wakefield, W Yorkshire.** |
| **Sun 26th** | **SWANSEA** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | **Afan Lido, Aberavon Seafront, Port Talbot** |
| **March** | | | |
| **Sat 11th** | **SOUTH NORMANTON** | **Radio & Computer Rally** | |

*Don't miss the LARGEST single day show in the U.K.*

# NORBRECK

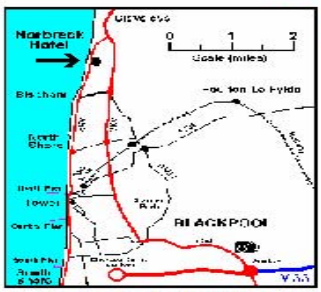
**Radio, Electronics and Computing Exhibition**

by the Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association at the

**NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL EXHIBITION CENTRE**

**QUEENS PROMENADE, NORTH SHORE, BLACKPOOL, FY2 9AA**

**on Sunday, March 19th, 2006 - Doors open at 11 a.m.**




*Why not come to the Norbreck rally in Blackpool! This will be the 44th rally organised by NARSA, an association of over 40 clubs from the North West, and will feature:*

- Over 100 trade stands - rigs, aerials, computers, surplus, components etc.
- Over 30 club stands interspersed with the trade stands
- RSGB stand - several local and national officers usually attend
- Bring and Buy stand – organised and run by the East Cheshire Radio Group
- Construction competition - why not bring something – you could win a prize!
- Accommodation available at the Norbreck Hotel (01253 352341) and lots nearby
- Radio talk in on S22 by the Thornton Cleveleys Club
- Run by Amateurs for Amateurs - friendly atmosphere
- Facilities for the disabled - all the stands are on one floor
- Hot and cold food and drink available in the hotel at reasonable prices
- For the latest information visit http://www.narsa.org.uk

Admission £3.50 (OAP's £2.00, under 14's free) by exhibition plan - Exhibition Manager: Peter Denton, G6CGF, 0151 630 5790