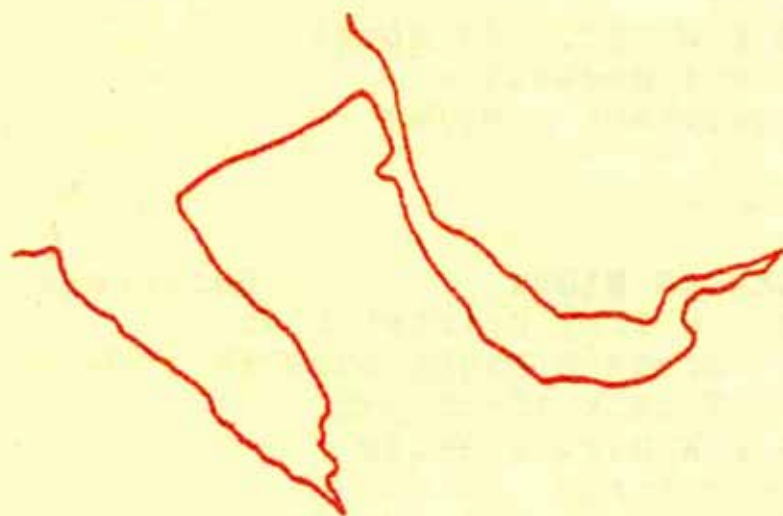


AIRWAVE

» 325 «



AUTUMN 1987

WIRRAL AND DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

G4MGR --- G8WDC

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd D & W Seacombe Ferry Hotel
Seacombe
- 5th/6th 144MHz.Trophy Contest
- 9th Surplus Equipment Sale
- 13th Telford Rallye
- 16th D & W The Ridger Newton
- 20th 70MHz.Trophy Contest
- 23rd Home Construction Contest
- 30th Social and Presentation Evening

OCTOBER

- 7th D & W Twenty Row Inn Wallasey
- 14th Quiz
- 21st D & W Victoria Hotel
Lower Heswall
- 28th Equipment Display

NOVEMBER

- 4th **LADIES NIGHT** Hairdressing
- 4th D & W Irby Cricket Club
- 11th Chairman's Night Does he know what
will talk about yet
- 18th D & W Ring'O'Bells
West Kirby
- 25th Tourism on Merseyside

DECEMBER

- 3rd D & W Primrose Liscard
- 9th TBA
- 16th D & W Wheatsheaf Ness
- 23rd No Meeting
- 30th Drink at home

JANUARY 1988

- 6th D & W Railway Inn Meols
- 13th Annual General Meeting
- 20th Pensby Hotel Pensby
- 26th Surplus Equipment Sale

WIRRAL AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

COMMITTEE 1987

CHAIRMAN	PETER MORTON	G6CGJ	051-677 7376
SECRETARY	GERRY SCOTT	G8TRY	051-630 1393
TREASURER	PAULINE ROBINSON		051-648 5892
N.A.R.S.A REP.	PAUL ROBINSON	G6JZP	051-648 5892
PUBLICITY MANAGER	HARRY COURT	GLUHO	
CONTEST MANAGER	PHIL LANGFORD	G6SNO	051-677 1947
VISITS	CHRIS BROWN	G0DVV	051-648 3241

CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, at Irby Cricket Club, Mill Hill Road, Irby. Please park on the top car park and walk down, leaving the very limited space by the Clubhouse available for bar-staff, guest speakers, and not forgetting the disabled.

DO NOT PARK ON THE DRIVE - - - - - CRICKET CLUB REQUEST
An ambulance will not fit past - they found out the hard way.

CLUB NET FREQUENCY IS 145.325Mhz. (S13).

The net frequency on S13 was decided upon in 1980, as being otherwise completely dead in the area. Since then interest in amateur radio has mushroomed but there are still club members to be found on S13 so don't forget it completely.

AIRWAVE 325.

Airwave 325 is the periodic newsletter of this Club, and is published as often as events and articles dictate. Articles for inclusion and members ads. etc. are always welcome.

Produced on behalf of the Club by:-
The Secretary, Gerry Scott, G8TRY,
16, Penkett Road,
Wallasey,
Merseyside.
L45 7QF.

FROM THE SECRETARY

So, its time for another 'Airwave' --- how time flies!

I know that it is quite some time since the last edition, but I trust that the club has kept you well informed of events and happenings via the use of 'Update' during that time. I must thank Peter, our Chairman, for producing it, almost single handed - but his word-processing and printing capabilities are far better than mine. Judging by the last one, it would seem that we are using the same callendar and dictionary as everyone else no

If you have not been getting your copies at the same time as everybody else, then there are a few possibilities as follows -

- 1) You may be a new member who is not yet included on the mailing list.
- 2) You may have moved and not told the secretary.
- 3) You may have moved but the mailing list has not yet been changed.
- 4) You have not paid your subs.
- 5) You have paid your subs so late in the year that you were taken off the mailing list after a final reminder, but are not back on yet.
- 6) The Post Office has lost it.
- 7) Our system has got it screwed-up somewhere.
- 8) Theres some excuse that I have not yet thought of.

Anyway, you've got one in your hands now, so enjoy it.

As usual, I would like to thank our contributors and those who have helped in producing this issue. I must say that I am pleased with the response for articles during the past few months. If we had had such a response earlier in the year, then you could have had another edition back in March. Even then we had the problem of volotile dates for confirming speakers, a situation that has persisted through the first half of the year, which then gives us the problem of being unable to put our callendar into the national magazines and still be sure of keeping to schedule.

Question - should we keep the 325 suffix in the title? I'm sure that I don't need to expand as to why. Replies on the club net frequency, please.

Does this seem like its been a good year at the club, for you ?
I think that its been quite a good year, no major problems, good committee members, good talks, morse classes, visits etc. Membership is on the increase, and the number of those not renewing their subs this year was very small, and attendances at the club meetings are increasing. I hope that we can maintain this progress. With your help, we can make next year even better, if only for one very good reason -

IT WILL BE TEN YEARS SINCE OUR INAUGRAL MEETING.

Yes, nearly ten years on. Obvously we will be 'doing' something for it, and any suggestions would be welcome. Before then, I would like to produce some sort of history about the club, perhaps incorporated with a members handbook, to be published in time for then. I would welcome articles, comments or recollections that would make it quite interesting and comprehensive, from anybody associated with the clubs history.

Anyway, enjoy the mag. If theres someting not in it this time, then maybe next time if only.. (ps. We have left a few mistakes !)

73 & 88 for now,

Gerry Scott, G8TRY.

MEMBERS MISCELLANAY PAGE

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW CALLSIGNS TO--

Howard Jones	GIWZ	is now	GOGQW
Tom Wardle	GIWAW		GOGMZ
Gerry Dove	GIWVX		GOIAY
Alan Griffiths	swl		GIWYP
Andrew Griffiths	swl		GIWEN

CHANGED QTH -

Howard Jones GOGQW moved from Upton to Liverpool.
Andrew Patterson has moved to Heswall from Pensby.
Clive Redfern G4CZR now lives and works in Maarssen, Nederland.

Please welcome the following NEW MEMBERS to the club this year --

Eileen Daly	GIWTF	Greasby
George Daly	GIWVG	Greasby
Andrew Griffiths	GIWEN	Moreton
Alan Griffiths	GIWYP	Moreton
Ray Edwards	GIWVG	Leasowe
Bill Hough	swl	Ness
John Washington	GW4VUH	Holywell
Carol Hughes	GW4PUH	Holywell
Brian Pugh	G3SMU	Bolton
Peter Brindley	GOHEV	Caldy
Dave Christian		West Kirby

According to our records, a total of 196 amateurs have joined our club since it first started. Not all of them have stayed with us, but we still have a core of the original members and many others who have been with us for a long time. Overall, the net membership is still growing.

Why not bring a friend along to the club ? We could possibly end-up with another amateur on the band, given time. Becoming a club member is quicker and one of the first steps in the hobby. Your friend might even be your spouse!

The information on this page is as correct as we know it, at the end of August. Please inform the Secretary of any changes of address or call sign ASAP.

Thanks. G3TRY

D.F. HUNTS -- 'Summer' Series

Results and comments

The D.F. Hunts have been well attended again this year, by both the newer and older members of the club, so giving the impression of increasing in popularity once more. Perhaps this is partly due to some of the problems of the past being sorted out. True spirit reigns over crafty dodges.

For example, note the absence of frogmen as foxes this year. Also, those who like to look for the third harmonic have been disappointed, as there seems to have been a QSO taking place on that frequency on 70cm every time that we have a 'fox hunt'. Perhaps it's due to the good weather that we have had for the events, each being a welcome break from the rain.

OK, so it's good fun to go hunting, but it's also good fun to be the 'Fox' If you fancy a go, please let us know....

Practice DF Hunt.

Fox - John G3UZZ and Richard G8NDD.

Location - On the banks of the River Fender, where it passes beneath the M53 Motorway, at the bridge section of the Upton Spur road.

Power varied between $\frac{1}{2}$ watt and 10 watts into a $\frac{3}{8}$ mag. mount, mounted on the guard rail of the bridge. Many teams drove past it while in full view. Despite the obscure location, it was accessible from about five different directions -- nearly all of them required a trek along a muddy river-bank. The QSY was at the Railway Hotel, Meols.
Winning team; Phil, Vic & Pete.

Eileen Medley DF Hunt

Fox - Howard G0GQW

Location - The Wirral Way, at Gayton, hidden in bushes alongside the bridleway bounded by the golf course and the former railway bridge in Well Lane.

Most teams found the general area quite quickly, down to the last few hundred yards or so. Once on top of the lair, a number of possible hiding places needed to be investigated. The access to the lair was surrounded by a number of very prickly bushes. Afterwards, at the QSY - the Saughall Massie Hotel - the usual discussion was punctuated by team members comparing their scratches and removing imbedded thorns

Winning team; Phil, Vic, Pete & Jan. G6SNO G4UDR G6CGJ

Revenge DF Hunt

Fox - Vic G4UDR

Location - The score box at Irby Cricket Club.

The 'fox' did say, at the beginning, that he was not on public land but there was no problem for access - a topic of much discussion later. However it was a pleasant evening for a drive or walk in the countryside around the club, most teams having surveyed the quarry at least once. Most of this was caused by the fox putting out some rather devious signals (TX on 2x HB9CV's in opposite directions) from a location that some considered to be out-of-bounds.
Winning team;

Watch out for details of a Sunday DF hunt using two foxes.

CONTEST MANAGERS REPORT

As a Club we still continue to do very well indeed in VHF Contests, with certificates for first and second places arriving regularly on my doorstep. This is all due to the superb effort generated by a few members who spend a great deal of time and effort in preparation and participation of the events.

We still are looking for more help on the various contests throughout the year especially the larger events such as VHF Field Day every July. If you can help in any way please contact me.

VHF NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1987

I would like to say a very great thanks to everybody who helped out in any way on NFD this year. Amongst them were quite a few for whom it was a first experience at contesting. A special thanks must also go to our ladies who did a splendid job of looking after us all with food and tea etc.

At the time of writing it would appear that my optimism of winning the restricted section of NFD was premature. We had made a great improvement over last year's results but it looks as though other groups had similar good fortune. Never mind there is always next year.

RECENT RESULTS

CONTEST	YEAR	POSITION	No of ENTRANTS
70 Mhz FIXED	86	7th	20
70 Mhz CW	86	1st	13
1296 Mhz CUMULATIVES	86	1st	16
432 Mhz CUMULATIVES	86	2nd	40
144 Mhz CW	87	1st	40
70 Mhz CUMULATIVES	87	4th	28
432 Mhz CW	87	1st	9

73's PHIL G6SN0

2 METRE FOX HUNT RULES

There has over the last few months some discussion over these rules, I have therefore rewritten these rules and I would suggest that these should be a definitive set for use on all D.F. Contests.

WIRRAL AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FOX HUNT CONTEST RULES

For use on frequencies on 144 MHz. and higher.

1. The start will be from the lay-by on the A540 West Kirby to Chester Trunk Road at Grid Reference SJ 260831. The lay-by is about 200 yards North West of the 30 M.P.H. sign on the West Kirby side of Heswall.
2. A team may consist of up to four people in one vehicle. To qualify for any award at least one member of the team must be a current member of the Wirral and District Amateur Radio Club.
3. The start time will normally be 8 P.M. (or 2.30. P.M. for an afternoon Hunt)
4. The team will elect a leader whose callsign must be recorded with the Hunt Organiser and only this call sign will be used when requesting transmissions from the fox. The hunt organiser will not accept entries after the fox has started his first transmission.
5. The Fox will make first call of up to 2 minutes duration at the start time and will then remain silent until a transmission is requested from one of the hunters; this transmission will last 10 to 30 secs.
6. The fox may vary power or polarization at will but will not vary position or frequency.
7. Hunters may make as many calls to the fox as required. The number of calls to the fox may be used to determine the result in the event of a tie.
8. The fox will be on land to which the public have free access and will be within 50 metres of a public right of way.
9. Traffic regulations INCLUDING SPEED LIMITS will be observed at all times.
10. Hunters will not leave the start until the fox has started his initial call.
11. On finding the fox hunters must leave his lair as quickly as possible. The fox may give you instructions for a meeting place for 'Post Mortems'.
12. The duration of the hunt will depend on the severity of the lair but should not exceed two hours.
13. Teams may not communicate with other teams.
14. Only passive antennas may be used.
15. Unless otherwise specified, the frequency for 2M contests will be 145.325 MHz. (S13).
16. Any variations from the above will be notified before the start of the event.
17. The area of the hunt shall be the whole of the Wirral Penninsular bounded by the Welsh Boundary up the Dee Estuary to its junction with the A550, along the A550 to its junction with the A5032, then along the A5032 to Ellesmere Port.

GERMANY CALLING

We both agreed, a motoring holiday in Germany. I'd sent off for my reciprocal license and had decided that if I took my ICOM 251E with an HB9CV for SSB and the 2 and 10 metre mobile sets I should manage quite well. Of course, it meant that we would be restricted to one small suitcase each.

For some reason Audrey didn't see it that way. Her ideas went more on the lines of taking clothes to deal with every vagrancy of the weather from heatwaves through monsoons to blizzards. I'm sure all married amateurs have had to face up to this problem at some time or other and have stood firmly by their principles just as I did. Oh well perhaps 2 metre FM would be fun.

On the way to the boat we were told that West Germany had just introduced the CEPT license and you did not need a reciprocal any more. You might have known they would wait until after I had paid my 15 marks for the licence before doing that.

Some 18 hours later we landed at Hamburg and off we set to drive the 160 miles to Blomberg our first destination. If you have never driven on the Autobahn it needs a little explaining. If you are only doing 70 - 75 mph stay in the slow lane. At 80 - 90 make sure that the road is clear behind you for a long way before pulling out and be prepared to shift. At 100+ watch your rear view mirror for the fast drivers. Just to make it interesting, in that part of Germany at least, the exit roads from the Autobahn are quite often cobbled, I'm told its good for the liver.

Under these circumstances I decided not to stop to put the antenna up.

Blomberg is a small town some 16 miles south west of Hameln. We were staying in the castle and using it as a base to tour. Its a beautiful area, rolling countryside, mediaeval towns and buildings, nice empty roads and very frustrating to the amateur.

I'd tried the local repeaters, S20 and got nothing back. What made it worse I had even heard two Germans talking about me. Obviously I was doing something wrong.

Eventually I got my first contact with a special event station operating at a school about 60 miles away. This caused great excitement on both sides. It didnt help to be told that they had an interested audience at their end. Once I got into the QSO and with the others that followed on I found out what I was doing wrong.

The Germans tend to be much more formal than us and if you are looking for a contact you must call CQ. Our way of "Listening on MP" will leave you just doing that.

After the initial contact I didn't do to badly. Their repeaters seem to cover a bigger area than ours, the local one, Kassel, was some 80 miles away and S9+.

The second half of our holiday we were staying at a small town called Lutjenborg on the Baltic. The first evening, we went out for a drink. Coming out of the pub I switched the set on more in hope than anything else.

SP1CGT boomed in loud and clear. It was a quick three point turn and a race up the hill to find somewhere to park. I worked Poland, East Germany, West Germany and Denmark from the edge of that cornfield. The next night LA8PH from Oslo. Every night after dinner it was up to that layby for an hour or so. Admittedly we did get some funny looks from passers by. Audrey knitting, me talking to myself, and the car parked on the edge of a cornfield. They probably thought we were waiting until it got dark.

The only strange thing about playing radio from that area was depending upon exactly where you stopped the car you could find yourself either on a East German, West German or Danish repeater and if it was a Danish one you had to call in English, they probably couldn't understand my German.

For anyone else thinking of trying Germany for a holiday and wanting to mix radio and wives can I suggest the following as good ideas to keep her happy. Take her shopping, especially to the dress shops. No I'm not a renegade, when she sees the price of clothes in Germany she's not going to buy anything (if she does that's ALL YOUR holiday money gone) but you can look and feel virtuous.

An excellent German afternoon custom is the Konditori. This is cafe cum cake shop with the most wonderful gooey cakes. You go in to the shop and choose which cake or cakes you would like, mit sahn, if she likes cream and go into the cafe to order your tea or coffee and have your cake served at your table. This is guaranteed to please her and it might be a good time to casually mention that FT767 or some other goody you hanker after.

If she wants an English cup of tea order her Schwartz tea (Black tea), it will get served with milk and sugar. Germans, if they drink tea, tend to drink scented tea e.g., Earl Grey, quite often with lemon but it just doesn't taste like ours.

It helps if you can speak a few words of German, I got by with a very limited vocabulary and I expect atrocious grammar. Lots of words are similar and with some good guessing its surprising how much you can understand. They certainly seemed to like you trying to speak in their language although most of them have some English. My last contact had lasted some 15 minutes before I started losing the thread. When I tried to say I had only got about 70% he switched into excellent English. He did say I had a very good accent for an Englishman - was that a compliment?

For what its worth here's my instant phoenetic guide to Radio German. Anyone who has studied German dont injure yourself laughing.

Tsee Coo, Tsee Coo Here is Delta Lima Strick Golf
etc Strick Mo-beel (or Port-arrbel)

Mine nahm-en is(My name is ... if you are sober enough to remember it)

Ish can sprecken kliner doytch (I can speak a little German - probably about 5 words)

Sprecken lam sang bitter (Please speak slowly not I'll have a pint)

Al is klar (All is clear - I understand everything you said - Optimist)

Ish vishtain I understand Ish vishtain nix I dont understand - not get your hand off my drawers.

Zwy beer bitter 2 beers please or Iner beer und Iner flash der limonade bitter (this keeps the wife sober). This is, without doubt, one of the most useful phrase in German.

Dry beer bitter, feer beer bitter, fumf beer bitter are also very useful phrases, especially if there are 3, 4 or 5 of you, or you are particularly thirsty. Please note that Sex beer bitter is only 6 beers please and not some depraved drinking orgy.

We had a marvellous holiday and managed to mix radio into our holiday very successfully but I still dont know why Audrey sent me on to the Rieperbaum, in Hamburg, to find her something to eat.

Rennie Parr
ex DL/G0CDI

GB0LBL
SPECIAL EVENT STATION



During the week-end 18th/19th April 1987 the special event station GB0LBL was on the airwaves to reserve the callsign for the centenary of the Company for which I work, namely Lever Brothers Ltd.

The station opened on Saturday with brisk traffic on 2 Meters and contacts in the USA and Norway followed by contacts in Italy, Romania and Yugoslavia on the H.F. station

Sunday saw ten Amateurs crowding into my loft and a great depletion of my homebrew wine (it was OK too G6CGJ). Contacts to Israel, Switzerland, Holland, Poland, and the German Democratic Republic. A total of 150 stations and 12 countries were contacted. QSL cards have been sent to all stations worked.

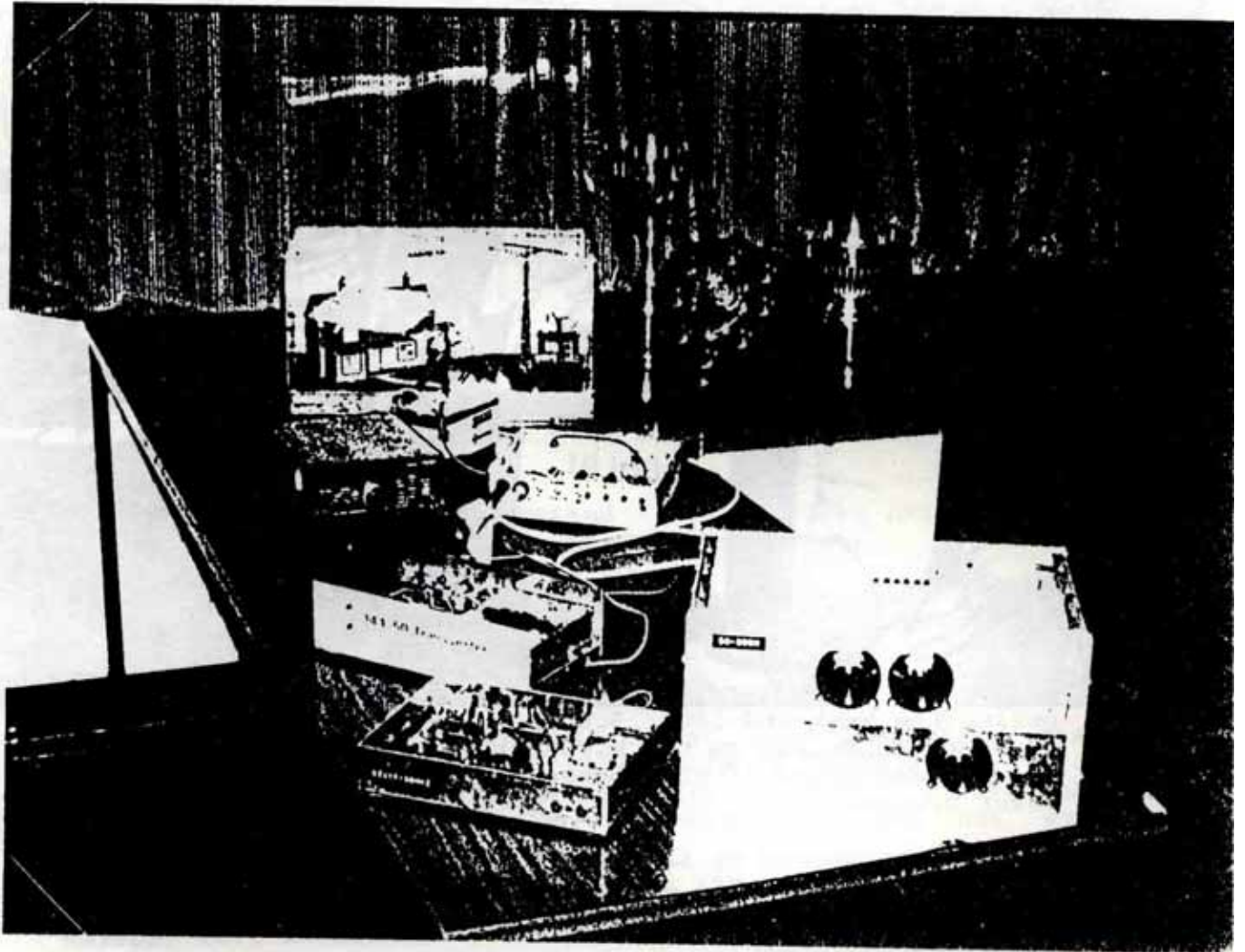
In the photograph are from left to right:-

Chris G0DVV Holder of the callsign.
Eddie G6XHG
Eric G6HWD
Paul G1WOY
Mr. Peter Patrick Head of Lever Bros.
Reprographics Dept.

My thanks to all who came and saw the station and those people we contacted on the air. The Centenary Station will be run during the weekend 18/19/20 March 1988 and anybody who would like to work on the centenary station or who can lend equipment to run the station please contact Eric Gethin G6HWD.

73's & 88's ERIC G6HWD.

LAST YEAR'S ENTRIES FOR THE HOME
CONSTRUCTION CONTEST



This year's Home Construction Contest will soon be with us. Have you got your entry ready yet.

Remember a big entry means a good competition so don't be shy; get the soldering iron out.

RAYNET STAND AT FIRE AND RESCUE EXHIBITION
IN WEST KIRBY



Wirral Raynet meets on the first Thursday
each month at the Y.M.C.A. Whetstone Lane,
Birkenhead at 7.30.p.m.

Net Night

8.00. pm. on the remaining Thursdays on S8
145.200 Mhz.

RADIO IN SCOUTING

A few extracts of general interest from the scout radio Newsletter.

A frequency in the 6M. band has been proposed for Scouting activity which is 50.150 Mhz. in the SSB section so for interlectual conversation particularly DX try that one. The frequency was suggested by our American cousins as a starting point for DX.



AX2SWJ

The 16th World Scout Jamboree will be held in Australia for the first time later this year, at Cataract Park which is about 70km south west of Sydney. About 15000 Scouts from at least 80 countries will be in camp between the 30th December 1987 and 10th January 1988. Radio Scouting is a popular activity "Down Under" (See SRN July 86) and amateur radio will be playing it's part. AX2SWJ will operating from the camp on the following frequencies:

PA2CJS/A Scout-In, Gilwell, Ommen, Netherlands, 25th - 27th Sept 1987. This is the 7th National Dutch Scout leaders meeting, held every two years for the exchange of new ideas, techniques and general socialising! The station will be on the air on Saturday 26th 0900 - 1500 GMT. Info: Hans Sliker PA2CJS, Committee Radioscouting Netherlands, PO Box 210, 3830 AE Leusden.

3.590 Mhz
7.090 Mhz
14.190 Mhz
21.190 Mhz
28.390 Mhz all +/- QRM

Going Dutch

Over in the Netherlands the equivalent of a GB callsign for Jota is /J. This is actually a special licence with its own conditions, not just a suffix tacked on for the occasion like /M or /P. All groups wishing to participate in the weekend have to submit an application to the Radioscouting Netherlands committee at least 6 weeks beforehand. These are checked and sent off in one parcel to the Dutch PTT who then issue the 200+ /J licences. As with our GB licence the main concession is the third-party contact facility, allowing Scouts to speak under the supervision of an operator. However, some modes haven't been permitted - RTTY, SSTV and ATV. The good news is that this has just been amended, and this year for the first time Dutch Jota stations will be allowed to use RTTY. So, swing the beam eastwards and start typing!

Note that these differ from the normal World Scout frequencies. There's also a regular Australian Scout Net on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in each month controlled by VK4SAA or VK4BNL as follows:

2330 - 0100 GMT 7.090 Mhz
2330 - 0030 GMT 21.190 Mhz
0031 - 0245 GMT 14.190 Mhz





GUIDES THINKING DAY, which takes place on the nearest Sunday to 22nd February each year is to commemorate the birth of Olave Lady Baden-Powell, wife of Lord Baden-Powell founder of the Scout Movement, and World Chief Guide, and to think about peace and service.

As a result of these aims the natural extension of this using modern technology was Thinking Day on the Air, an event similar to the Scout Jamboree of the Air in October, to bring a more practical outlook to the international dimension of Guiding. This year there were at least 42 special event stations in this country one of which was run locally as you can see from the cutting.

It appears that the Canadians are very active in the development of this event and a couple of years ago managed to arrange a special prefix of "CG" for their stations.

Some frequencies have been proposed for the centres of activities for this event and they are:-

14.133 Mhz.
7.150 Mhz.
3.775 Mhz.

A report on last year's event is being prepared by Guide Headquarters in London which we are hoping to see very soon; so if you want to know more please ask.

WIRRAL Guides and Scouts became radio hams for the day when they contacted their colleagues from all over the world via a special short wave radio link set up in Wirral Scout Headquarters, Royden Park, Frankby.

The link was set up to celebrate Thinking Day and those who queued to use the popular service managed to contact many countries, including USA, Hungary, Italy and Australia, as well as all parts of the United Kingdom.

● Johanna Parkinson, aged 15, of the 1st Frankby Rangers is shown how to use the link by Vic Allen, adventure Scout leader with West Wirral Scouts.

MEMBERS PROFILE

THIS IS IT WITH GREATFULL THANKS, TO PAUL FOR PUTTING HIS HEAD ON THE 'BLOCK' FIRST.

PAUL G4ENK

It all started in 1971 when I was 14 years old. I was looking through the the Mail Order catalogues to see what Mum could buy me for Christmas and I found the pages advertising the fancy radios with all the SW/LW/MW/FM and Aircraft bands. At Christmas I was playing with just a small multibander with the aircraft bands.

I soon located the frequencies for aircraft and taxis, and also other stations with "mobile" after their calls, so I began to concentrate on these signals. As we were then living in a maisonette 45 feet above ground level I could pick up quite a few of these stations and I began to experiment tying pieces of wire to the telescopic aerial and dangling it out of the bedroom window. At this stage I began to keep a listening log and have many entries particularly from GW8EQH and G8FPH as these were very active at the time.

My Grandfather gave me an old copy of Whitacker's Almanac, from which I found the address for the RSGB, and I letter to them was acknowledged with the February 1972 Radcom. Upon joining I became A8113, a listening station. Future radcoms revealed mounds of information on Amateur Radio and the address of my local Club; The Liverpool and District Amateur Radio club. Soon I was joining in their meeting with members I had already heard; G3WCS, G3WOH, G8CFM and G3XSN amongst others.

I bought my first serious rig at this time, a Heathkit RA1 receiver bought from G3VIN for £20 covering ham bands only, 160M - 10m.

In 1973 I was sharing a bedroom with my two brothers, but a pair of headphones soon solved that problem!! However, I was experimenting a lot with wire aerials; I had them taped to the wall, round the window, out of the window and wrapped round the legs of my bed. Ten Metres was my favorite band, and I soon learnt a lot about propagation, keeping a diary of what I heard.

This year 1973 was the year I left School to start at Riversdale College on the 3 year Marine Radio and Radar Course, to become a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy I only got accepted on the course because I was keen on Radio, for I only had a few CSE'S.

College homework took up a lot of my spare time, but I still managed to listen regularly and go to Club meetings. My morse was getting quite good through daily morse lessons and eventually I knew enough through College studies to pass the RAE in December 1974 (It was a written paper then).

In March of 1975 I passed the Morse Test, I remember being very nervous even though I could do 16 Words per Minute! Due to College Studies it wasn't until October that I got my licence. My first rig was a Codar AT5 loaned from G3XSN, using a Heathkit SW717 for receive, and the aerial was a load of wire (you guessed it) wrapped round the bed legs again. The AT5 was 160M/80M. AM/CW only, so obviously I used CW to practice my morse for College. With that set up I could get into Europe without any problems. I was also using the College Station G3VXY; I liked to operate on 2M with their FDK Multi 2000 with the 5 element beam.

Things moved on and by 1976 I had 2M at home with a Liner 2. My first real home construction job was a Power Supply (with a digital clock) for this rig. The aerial was a pair of crossed dipoles alias an old TV aerial suspended above the water tank in the communal attic space above the flats, about 55feet above ground level. I often used to call "CQ CQ beaming omni-directional" until some kind soul corrected me!!

Even though the Liner2 was SSB only it didn't take me long to modify it for CW by holding the PTT and keying the test tone.

We moved to a new house a quarter of a mile away and I moved to an ICOM IC202. I left college in the summer and went to work for PRS in Dale Street in Liverpool as the shipping recession would not let me make use of my new qualifications, but by the end of the year I had landed a job with Marconi Marine and off I went to sea.

By 1977 Paul G8NOM and Richard G8NDD had passed the RAE but they had gone to 2M FM. so this resulted in a trip to Matlock to part exchange the IC202 for a Trio TR2200GX and a Jaybeam C5 Colinear on the garage roof.

Activity dropped off a little in 1978 as I was abroad for eight months of the year but I still had time to join BARTG, G-QRP Club, NW Repeater Group and AMSAT-UK.

My work in 1979 took me on trips to Japan where I found the Ham Radio Shop in Kobe. This shop was four stories high with a whole floor for Ham Radio, the rest being HI-FI, TV, etc. I decided to treat myself to a brand new rig, a Trio TSL20V and a HF5 5 band vertical. Even though it was qrp (10Watts) I could still work the DX, mainly on CW though.

A whole new era of operation opened up in 1978 when I passed my driving test and the Triumph Stag was converted into a mobile shack: it had four aerials (broadcast, 10M. 1/4 Wavelength, 2m. 7/8 Wavelength, and 70cm. 2 X 5/8 Wavelength. Inside the car an Adonis Goose-neck mike for hands-free driving, an Adonis Mike Switch with that famous K-tone chirp at the end of my overs, the whole being controlled by a toggle switch on the gear-stick.

In 1981 my shack at home was still the corner of the bedroom, with a large oak desk holding a load of shelving; I obviously needed more space and eventually I was allowed to use the cloakroom. It was only 5ft. X 5ft., but tall enough for me to get some 6ft. high dexion metal shelving on top of the desk. It also had a channel above the boiler into the attic, ideal for feeding the coax out of sight. My two younger brothers were both starting out on AM CB, so this enabled me to lock my shack whilst I was at sea to stop them using my aerials and PSU's.

I was still travelling the World in 1982 and buying some neat little rigs: a Mizuho MX10Z 10m. CW/SSB. 300mW O/P and VXO 50khz., also a Mizuho 15M CW QRP TX for six quid!!

I went /MM (Maritime Mobile) a few times using the ship's gear - 1.5kW.of CW on 80Meters whilst in the South China Sea giving me contacts with Europe, but I found with that power I could hardly hear a lot of stations who could obviously hear me 599.

My search for the latest equipment went on and in 1983 I reckon I was one of the first to own a Yaesu FT 290, but mine was bought in Japan with case spare aerial, and NICADs for £150, but it had no repeater shift (The Japanese did not have repeaters then). This rig developed with a Microwave Modules 100Watt Amplifier and a Hokushin Colinear aerial.

Friday 13th January 1984 produced a gale which blew down my 2M. colinear, which I never got round to replacing. With doing radio professionally I just didn't feel like ham radio when I got home.

In the Autumn of that year I left the sea and joined Plesseys, shift working on System X telephone equipment.

Over the next couple of years interest in ham radio became negligable and I bought a house on the Wirral. Eventually I sold all my gear so I had nothing but some log books and QSL cards to show for 15 years of ham radio.

Earlier this year I saw Packet Radio and it was this that renewed my interest in ham radio; I renewed my RSGB membership and bought a Trio TR2300 for mainly packet use. I built a TNC (but it didn't work!) and I am now on the lookout for a decent HF rig. Some new QSL cards are being printed and I'll try to attend the local radio rallies, and the Club meeting as well.

I would like to try some serious 10M. operation including FM and FM packet. I have a small converted CB rig but will have to get some aerials up next for HF, 6M and 2M.

See you further down the log,

73's from Paul G4ENK.

What The Salesman Really Means

In this age of technology the terminology used by some professional sales personnel needs translation into real English. Below are some commonly used expressions with translations.

It uses the latest technology.

It is so new we don't know how it works.

This product is entirely soft.

Therefore it will be slow and the software will cost extra.

This is the new model released this month.

And we need someone to test it.

This product uses custom chip hardware to reduce cost and improve reliability.

Spare parts will be very hard to obtain.

Any small change that you want can be incorporated at no extra cost.

The product is not actually finished yet.

We can make that modification for a small charge.

We know that the product does not work as it should but the development is over budget.

We should be able to deliver at the beginning of next month.

The product might be available at the end of next month.

All the development is done in the UK.

That is why it will be late.

The product is developed in the East.

Don't bother to read the manual

We have used a new type of design in the power unit.

The old power supply used to blow up.

We have made a small modification to the power supply.

The new power supply might still blow up.

If you have any problems just give me a call.

And I will transfer you to technical support.

If you sign today I can give you a discount.

The list price is a rip off.

Don't buy the XYZ the paint is still wet.

It is more up to date than our product.

I don't like to knock the competition but

Their product is better than ours.

They only offer a 3 month warranty.

You will need 12 months with ours.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RULES OF IRBY CRICKET CLUB

5. CONDUCT

(a). Any member who wilfully or by gross negligence damages any property of the Club shall be liable to make good such damage at his /her own expence. The question of the damage being or not being accidental shall be decide by the Management Committee from such advice as they may be able to obtain.

(b). A member may be expelled by resolution of not less than two-thirds of members present at a Special General Meeting duly convened to consider the conduct of such members. No person whose membership has been so terminated shall be introduced by any other member as a visitor to any part of the Club premises.

6. CLUB PREMISES AND BAR

(a). Any voting member, or lady member, may introduce a guest to the Club premises. Such guest must sign his/her name in a book kept for this purpose and no guest may be introduced to the premises more than six times in any one year.

(b). Member or visiting teams and their guests and bona fida members of visiting clubs may purchase intoxicating liquor for consumption on the Club premises on the day or days on which the visiting team plays on the ground.

(c). No person under 18 years of age shall be permitted to purchase or consume intoxicating liquor on the Club premises.

(d). Hour of Opening and Closing the Club Premises.

Subject to right of the Management Committee to open and close the Club Premises at it's discretion the Club shall be open as follows:-

Weekdays 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Sundays

Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Good Friday

Notice of the hours during which the Club premises will be open will be posted in the Clubroom.

(e). Hour of Opening and Closing the Bar.

Subject to right of the Bar Committee to open and close the Bar at it's discretion within the permitted hours the Bar shall be open as follows:-

Weekdays 11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

4.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Sundays

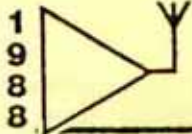
12.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Christmas Day 7.00 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Good Friday

The Bar Committeee may on special occasions arrange for the supply of intoxicating liquor at other times subject to legal requitremnts

Notice of the hours during which the Bar will be open will be posted in the Clubroom.



Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association

BELLE VUE/ NORBRECK RADIO RALLY

**NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL EXHIBITION CENTRE
QUEENS PROMENADE, NORTH SHORE, BLACKPOOL**
(Formerly held at Belle Vue, Manchester)

Sunday, January 31st, 1988 at 11 a.m.

**THE NORTH'S LARGEST SHOW FOR ALL
ENTHUSIASTS OF AMATEUR RADIO,
ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTING ETC.**

*LARGE TRADERS WILL BE EXHIBITING
AND MANY LESSER KNOWN SPECIALISTS*

*COMPETITIONS FOR N.A.R.S.A. ASSOCIATED CLUB STANDS, YOUR
HOME CONSTRUCTED ITEMS AND AN INTER-CLUB QUIZ*

BRING AND BUY STALL

R.S.G.B. MORSE TESTS

AMPLE FREE CAR PARKING AVAILABLE

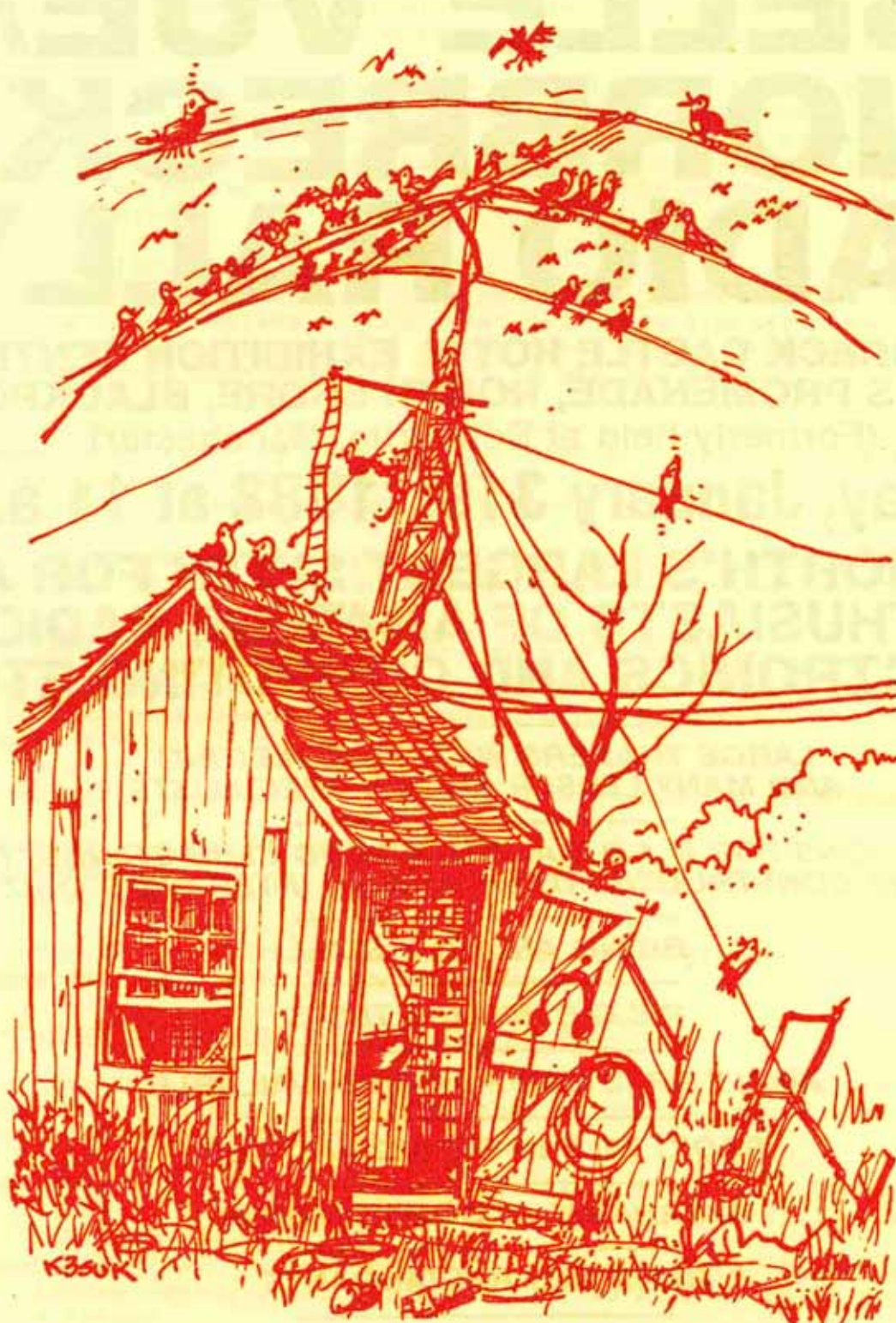
RADIO TALK-IN ON S22 AND SU8

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

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