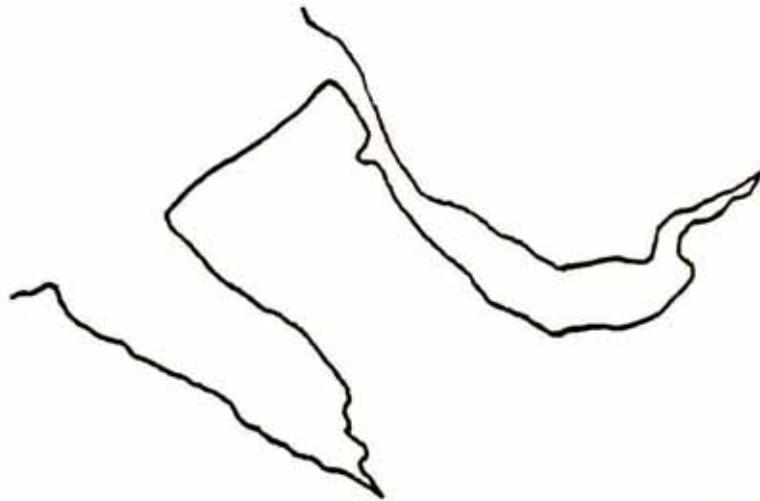


SUMMER 1991



**THE APERIODIC MAGAZINE OF THE
WIRRAL & DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

G4MGR - G0MGR - G8WDC

Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

PROGRAMME UPDATE

August

- 7th 70cms DF Hunt and then QSY to D&W
- 14th Ron and Andy's trip to Germany (or possibly not!)
- 21st D&W Hotel Victoria, Lower Heswall
- 28th Night on the Air with GX4MGR

September

- 1st DF Hunt for the Sunday Shield
- 4th D&W 12th Man, Greasby
- 11th Surplus Equipment Sale
- 18th D&W The Lighthouse, Wallasey
- 25th Antennas for Amateurs (Part II) by Ron G3HFA

October

- 2nd D&W The Ridger, Newton
- 9th HF Spectrum and its Inhabitants by Gordon Adams G3LEQ
- 16th D&W The Railway, Meols (While you're there why not give a call in for the 70cms cumulatives)
- 23rd Digital Synthesis and Techniques by Andy G7HUD
- 30th D&W Greave Dunning, Greasby

November

- 6th D&W Glegg Arms, Gayton
- 13th Social, Presentation and Construction Contest Evening
- 20th D&W The Magazine, Wallasey
- 27th Packet Radio by Dave G4PGO

December

- 4th D&W Brown Cow, Bebington
- 11th Chairman's Night, The Chairman Bows Out
- 18th Christmas Special. A social evening
- 25th No Meeting (What are you - a masochist?)

January 1992

- 1st No Meeting (Again)
- 8th AGM. Time to throw out the dead wood
- 15th D&W Anchor, Irby
- 22nd Surplus Equipment Sale

February 1992

- 5th D&W Ring o' Bells, West Kirby

Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

The Committee 1991

Chairman	Paul Robinson	G0JZP	051-648 5892
Secretary	Vic Allen	G4UDR	051-648 3859
Treasurer	Gerry Scott	G8TRY	051-630 1393
N.A.R.S.A. Rep.	Peter Morton	G0LHT	051-677 7376
Publicity Manager	Andy Sinclair	G7HUD	051-677 4448
Contest Manager	Phil Langford	G0JSB	051-677 1947
Fund Raising	Roy Fardoe	G1NXB	051-638 8733
Ordinary Member	Ron Cairns	G3HFA	051-625 7124
Ordinary Member	Chris Brown	G0DVV	051-648 3241

Club Meetings

Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesday in each month, at Irby Cricket Club, Mill Hill Road, Irby. The clubhouse of Irby Cricket Club is located just off the main road between Irby and Greasby, about half way along on the easterly side of the road.

Please park on the top car park, and walk down, thus leaving the very limited space near to the clubhouse available for the bar staff, unloading, guest speakers, and for the disabled.

DO NOT PARK ON THE DRIVE - IRBY C.C. REQUEST

The club has two net frequencies :- 145.325 & 433.800 Mhz
Please use these as often as you can - Remember - USE or LOSE

AIRWAVE 325

AIRWAVE 325 is the periodic magazine for the club. We also produce a regular Newsletter, UPDATE 325 to keep members informed with the club programme. If you have a packet terminal available then this is the best way to access the very latest information, this can be done in the following manner :- Connect to WIRRAL then type C 4 GB7OAR-9

Articles for inclusion in any of our publications, Adverts etc are always most welcome. This magazine has been produced on behalf of the club by :-

Phil Langford, Paul Robinson and Gerry Scott.

Printed by Frank Robinson.

Many thanks to all the contributors.

THE WIRRAL & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Club was formed over twelve years ago with certain aspirations and standards on which it was to be based, to ensure that the maximum amount of variety and enjoyment was available to its members. We are pleased to say that those ideals are still maintained today.

Initially, club meetings were held in West Kirby Concourse on regular 2nd. & 4th. Wednesday basis to avoid any conflict of dates with other clubs in the area. Subsequently, informal meetings were held at local 'hosteleries' on 1st. & 3rd. Wednesdays, and these became known as 'Drinking and Waffling' evenings, or 'D&Ws' for short.

Now, while the Concourse provided a adequate place for regular meetings, it could not, however, provide Club-house atmosphere that was really wanted. In 1982 the Club moved its headquarters to Irby Cricket Club, where we still meet today. The move provided us with a clubhouse; larger, easier and safer car parking, a more central location, open space to erect antennas when needed etc., etc.. In all, a far better location that we could call home. This also allowed us to expand our range of activities and add extra facilities on other nights.

In addition to the regular meetings and D&Ws, we provide external activities. These can have a serious side, but are often usually for fun. These activities include Radio Contests, Direction Finding, Visits, Treasure Hunts and a host of others as well.

Our comprehensive range of activities have the following pattern:- In each month, 1st. & 3rd. Wednesday - informal (D&W) at a pub (app 9pm on); 2nd. & 4th. Wednesday, 8 for 8.10 pm. - regular meeting at the club. On any 5th. Wednesday, it could be a D&W or a special meeting or visit.

Each Thursday, from about 8.45 pm., Morse Classes are held at the club.

For further information, please contact any of the Committee Members listed on the first page of this magazine.

Downloaded from GB7OAR

using the Command D GB7-INFO\DXCLUST

*** THE DX PACKET CLUSTER SYSTEM *** The basis of the system is a 2m packet network with a host node that runs the Cluster software, surrounded by end users who feed the host with DX information. The host will require a TNC, a radio, a PC with a hard disk and will have to be switched on 24 hours a day. All the end users require is a TNC, a terminal and a radio. A dumb terminal is sufficient. The end users simply connect to the host and remain connected, waiting for announcements to be sent to them. Each time someone puts out any info, his computer will beep, and a message will appear on the screen - e.g. ZA1AA 14195 listening up 200 to 230 (Time) (Callsign of station who made the announcement) The end user can interrogate the host to obtain reports on previous announcements. The database can be interrogated in many ways:

SH/DX will display the last 5 DX reports received

SH/DX/10 15 will show the last 10 15 meter reports

SH/DX/10 20 XF4 will show the last 10 reports of 20m activity by XF4 SH/H (prefix) calculates the beam heading to that country

SH/M (prefix) shows MUF and LUF to that country

SH/SUN (prefix) shows sunrise and sunset times for that country

SH/W will show the last five WWV solar reports

TALK (call) (message) sends a short message to another user

SE/H lets other users know you are at your rig

SE/NO lets other users know you are away from your rig ANNOUNCE (message) makes a general announcement to all

DX (freq) (call) (message) enters a DX alert into the system

SE/CON lets you see the calls of all those currently connected

BYE exits the system

The main advantage of the system over the voice alerting method is that you do not have to be present when an announcement is made. You can come back to your shack and call up what has been put out. Also you can find out a lot about the DX operator by calling up all reports on his activity. For example, a list of all reports on, say ZS8MI, would show that he favours a particular frequency to operate on and a particular time (14.050 CW on Friday afternoons) Also, you don't have to keep one ear on the 2m rig whilst trying to extract a crucial report from a DX station you are working on HF at that particular time !! All you hear is an alerting bleep from the

computer, followed by the message appearing on the screen.

Other useful facilities for DXers which can be provided via the cluster are:

QSL Manager Database

USA and Foreign Callbook

DX Calendar

It is proposed to establish a DX Cluster serving Yorkshire and the North of England here at my QTH at Bramham (IO93hv) between Leeds and York. Negotiations with the RSGB Packet Working Group and YAXPAK are in progress to establish the most viable system, bearing in mind how busy the network is already. The basic proposal (which may be subject to some change) is to use an IBM PC/XT clone with a 40 Mbyte hard drive and a DRSI dual port VHF TNC. User access will be on 70 MHz (or possibly 144 MHz) and node linking to the other two UK DX Clusters on 432 MHz. Users will be able to access on 432 MHz as well.

Please contact me here at GB7CYM if you require more detailed information about the DX Packet Cluster. Further news in due course.

DX PacketCluster News:

The GB7YDX DX PacketCluster in Wetherby, W. Yorks is now supported by the BRAM:G3VMW Multiport BPQ Node at the same location. The BRAM node is arranged as follows:

Port 1 - 70.325 MHz (temporarily on 70.4875 MHz)

Port 2 - 144.675 MHz

Port 3 - 432.675 MHz

Port 4 - 23cms Trunk Route to the LEEDS:G3WNR node

Currently, GB7YDX and BRAM are running on a Beta Test Version 4.0 of the G8BPQ node software which has been specially developed by John Wiseman to support the Pavillion Software (AK1A) PacketCluster package. There should be several benefits to users:

1) The alias DXCLUS:GB7YDX should now appear in Node Tables, allowing Level 4 connects direct to the PacketCluster.

2) Traffic to GB7YDX from the 144.675 MHz XGN22:G4XGN-2 node at Queensbury is now routed via dedicated trunk links to the 23cm port of the BRAM:G3VMW node and then to GB7YDX. Hopefully, this will reduce the clutter on 144.675 MHz caused by PacketCluster users. The 144.675 MHz port on BRAM:G3VMW still allows for direct connection to GB7YDX by local users (or via KA-Nodes).

3) The node is available for "live packet" QSOs if required, however, PLEASE do not access the BBS Network from 144.675 MHz.

A joint YAXPAK/NWPUG, 70.325 MHz node - DELPH4:G3KLL-4 has been commissioned at the QTH of G3KLL, near Saddleworth on the Pennines, primarily for

PacketCluster access and "live packet". Unfortunately, the direct path, DELPH4 <=> GB7YDX is not particularly good ! If there is anyone in Yorkshire who is prepared to establish a 70.325 MHz node which can "see" DELPH4 and GB7YDX, I would be delighted to hear from them. I would also be prepared to donate a suitably crystallised 4m Pye Westminster for the node, if anyone is interested ! Additional 70.325 MHz nodes are planned for North, South and West Yorkshire in the very near future. Hopefully, there will then be a direct 4m link to DELPH4. This should give good access to GB7YDX from Cheshire, Lancashire and Shropshire and reduce the loading on XGN22 even further.

YAXPAK are doing much more to develop the Packet Network in Yorkshire. Watch this space for a major announcement soon !

Please support NWPUG your local Packet Group

To join contact Neil G4OAR or Steve G7BBF.

Scout Radio Weekend

Recently the County Scout Radio Team put on an "Introduction To Technology" for Scouts in Crosby. Peter GOLHT had his Packet system set up, Vic G4UDR was operating an HF Special Event Station, whilst George G1TXG and Eileen G1TXF manned (or laded) the Scout PMR stand. There was also bases on computers, morse, VHF radio, simple construction and SWL, all of which were provided by Liverpool Amateurs.

Our contribution was to talk to the boys about radio's themselves, how to work them and, how to work on a net, as most of the Scout activities do. I doubt that if that bit took 10 minutes and, there was no lack of interest. Each boy was then given a radio and we went outside for a "HIKE".

The field was slightly larger than the Cricket Club car park and , there was a "checkpoint" in each corner. The boys had to report to control at each of the checkpoints, although try as we would, they could not get the hang of making a contact before delivering their message.

I was very surprised how much the boys enjoyed the exercise and they were quite disappointed when their stint ended.

Why am I telling you all this ? Simply that there was an interest in operating radios which does not usually manifest itself at Jamboree on Air and this leads on to the question of how we, as a club, can build on this interest and gain recruits to Amateur Radio.

Eileen G1TXF.

CQ - "G" or What do I do with this ?

At 1647 hrs on Wed 14th February 1990 I was idly tuning around the C.W. end of 21mhz when, on 21.045, I heard YU7ADY calling 'C.Q. - G' in C.W.

Assuming this was someone pot hunting for a new WAB square or such like and, there being very little else on the band, I answered him. We exchanged 599 reports both ways, and he said his name was Lacy and he lived in Ada, Yugoslavia.

Things then changed a little as he said he had a QTC for me. From my marine days I knew what a QTC was and waited curiously. He then stated that he was in need of "Medicoment" for a sick child and could I help. He went on to explain that he needed Sabril tablets at 0.5 strength. He also gave me his name, address and telephone number. This took some time as it was all in morse, his English was very limited and my Serbo-Croat was non-existent. I arranged a sked with him for later that day, in the hope that I would have some news for him.

It speaks volumes for the way we are today that the first thing that I did after he had signed, was to wonder if I had been kidded and that it was all a hoax. After weighing up the signal strength and comparing it with other Europeans on the band and taking a few other factors into account I decided to treat it as genuine. The big question now was, what to do next ? If it were a ship or aircraft in distress I would call out either the Police, Fire or Ambulance services, but a medical drug problem ?????

I first rang my G.P. He was out, but his receptionist suggested trying the hospital. I rang Arrowe Park and they could only suggest trying the Red Cross. I couldn't get hold of the local Red Cross people. In desperation the local Raynet organiser was tried, he was out at work. The next move was the one I should have tried in the first place... the Police.

I rang Wallasey H.Q., they re-directed me to the Liverpool H.Q. and they in turn put me onto Special Branch... who I might add excelled themselves. Within a couple of hours they had contacted the Pharmaceutical Society, searched their computer records and identified the required drug. Sabril is a new and recently developed drug which is very expensive, it is an anti-convulsant used in the treatment of such things as Epilepsy. Furthermore they ascertained that it was not for use in isolation, only with other named drugs. They also needed further information on the patient...age...gender...history...etc.

The branch then contacted the Yugoslav Embassy in London to see if they could take any action. Later that same day a Detective arrived at my station in case I could contact Lacy again but, unfortunately, the band was out by 1900 and the sked was not kept. Undaunted, the Branch then undertook to contact the International Red Cross to try and arrange something with them.

There was nothing more that we could do that night, so the Branch Officer said he would get things moving the following day, and that I would try and re-establish

contact with Lacy the next day.

The following day, I tried on several occasions, but Lacy did not appear on the original frequency, and so the effort was abortive. I called the Special Branch, they had in the mean time contacted the Red Cross. They had, unfortunately, not been able to help. It seems that they have many requests for rare drugs from Eastern Block countries and, although they require the police to authenticate any such requests they could only suggest that Lacy contact his local Red Cross, who may be able to help.

I have sent a QSL card to Lacy in Yugoslavia with a request for any results to be passed back. We can now only wait and see.

In summarising, I can only suggest that, should you find yourself in a similar position, that you advise the caller to contact his or her own local Red Cross. Nothing can be done from this end, without that procedure being adopted.

Lets hope the child is alright.

Vernon G3LCI.

THE PLAN

In the beginning was the Plan and then came the Assumptions and the Assumptions were without form and the plan was completely without substance, and darkness was on the face of the workers.

And they spoke unto their group heads saying:

“The plan is a crock of sh** and it stinks.”

And the group heads went unto their section heads and said:

“It is a pail of dung and none may abide the odour thereof.”

And the section heads went unto their managers and said unto them:

“It is a container of excrement and it is very strong, such that none here may abide by it.”

And the managers went unto their director and said unto him:

“It is a vessel of fertilizer and none may abide its strength.”

And the director went unto the executive director and said:

“It contains that which aid plant growth and is very powerful.”

And the executive director went unto the vice president and said:

“It promotes growth and is very powerful.”

And the vice president went unto the president and said unto him:

“This powerful new plan will actively promote the growth and efficiency of the department and this area in particular.”

And the president looked upon the plan and saw that it was good and the plan became policy.

DF HUNTS

GENERAL RULES

1. Unless notified in advance, the starting point for the entrants will be the lay-by on the A540 Chester to West Kirby trunk road. This is on the West Kirby side of Heswall and close to the speed-limit signs on the north-west outskirts of the town. The NGR is SJ 260 831.
2. A team may consist of up to four persons in one vehicle. To qualify for any award, or for points towards any award, at least one member of the team must be a current paid-up member of the Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club.
3. The starting time will be as published, and will normally be 8pm for the evening events or 2.45pm for Sunday events. The frequency will normally be 145.325 Mhz. for VHF contests.
4. The team will elect a leader whose callsign will be used by that team during the event. This callsign must be recorded with the hunt organiser and be supplemented with the names of the other team members. This must take place prior to the start. Late entries cannot be accepted after the fox has made his initial call.
5. The 'fox' or hidden station will make an initial call to the hunt organiser at the start time and of about two minutes duration. The fox will then go to ground until called for a transmission by one of the teams. If the request is heard, the fox should reply with a transmission of approximately ten to thirty seconds duration.
6. Teams must not move away from the starting point until the fox has at least started his initial transmission.
7. The fox may vary power or polarisation, but not location, as he or she so wishes during a reply.
8. You may make as many calls to the fox as you like during the event. They will be logged and may be used in determining positions for prizes.
9. The location of the lair will be somewhere on the Wirral Peninsular. In an effort to conserve time, daylight and fuel, a maximum area of operation may be specified in which the fox will be located, according to circumstances.

Bounded by the River Mersey, River Dee and Liverpool Bay, the southernmost point of the search area may be :-

- 9.1 20Km radius of Upton Cross (Stanlow Point to Queensferry) or,
- 9.2 15Km radius of Upton Cross (Burton Point to Vauxhalls) or,
- 9.3 The Merseyside County / Wirral Borough to Cheshire boundary or
- 9.4 The limit of OS Map sheet 108 (Liverpool) 1:50,000 series.

10. The fox will not be on private land and you must not trespass onto private land to find him, including taking bearings or short-cuts. This includes farmers fields etc. where no public footpath exists.
11. The fox should be within approximately 25 metres of any public road or track that can be accessed by a car or light van.
12. The Road Traffic acts must be complied with.
13. On finding the fox, you must leave the lair quickly. The fox may give you a location to go to to obtain refreshment with the others.
14. During the event, teams must only communicate with the fox, except in an emergency.
15. The duration will normally be two hours.
16. Normally, only passive antennas are allowed in the event. Should several teams request it, a separate section may be run for active DF systems.
17. The winning team for any event will have one of its members physically contact the fox before any other, and then only after the rules and spirit of the competition have been observed.

For evening events, a prize in the form of an engraved trophy will be presented at prizegiving later in the year. Maximum tenure for this will be 12 months.

For the Sunday series, points are awarded according to finishing place. Out of a maximum of five results, the best three are added together to find the winner. Therefore, not all the events need be entered. The winner and his or her team will be presented with a trophy as above.

The holder(s) of any trophy is expected to take care of it, including keeping it clean and polished, and must expect a request for its return prior to the next prizegiving, to allow for engraving.

18. The winner, or one of the winning team, will be expected to play the role of the fox in the next appropriate event, unless some other mutual arrangement is made. i.e. The Eileen Medley Cup winner becomes the fox for the 'Revenge' DF hunt.

PLEASE take sufficient provisions for the event, including fuel and suitable clothing, as well as refreshments and equipment.

Good Hunting.

Treasure Hunt Report

Never again

When I was approached by Gerry G8TRY to put together a treasure hunt for the Club, I little realised just how traumatic it was going to turn out.

I had to look back through the previous two treasure hunts that I have done for the Club, to ensure that I would not include routes that had been used before. Then sort out the old clues from treasure hunts that I have put together for my Scout Group and one for the climbing club (which was a long time ago). These papers take up two files in the loft and wading through them took some time.

Although the routes that I have chosen in the past had proved to be a little varied and with one exception (a trip to Liverpool) on the whole entirely within the Wirral part of Merseyside. I felt that a trip around the more select areas of the Wirral would be an eye opener.....

So, armed with a Pad, Pen, Wife, Mother, Dog, Flask of coffee and the promise that I would buy Lunch for all, we set out from home to the start point at Irby Cricket Club. Which way to go? If in doubt head for home, so off we set, following the route that we take when we go home from the Club. Clues came thick and fast, too many, but that is what the run is all about. Collecte too much material and then whittle out the less relevant bits leaving, hopefully, a good run.

When we reached the bottom of our road. The ladies decided that a break was required and a cup of tea to help with the ordeal. Another half hour of what we had already done and then off again. It was then 12.45 and I could see that the prospects of getting a pint were rapidly disappearing so, carry on regardless. At 14.00 we stopped at the Harvest Mouse for a break and an argument as to how much longer this whole &% '&% % \$ #' effort was going to take. Needless to say the last clues took no time at all and were well spaced out.

The fact that I wanted all the clues to rhyme added to the fun, so the family retreated into the cocoon of Mothers flat. More tea, then I had to go work NIGHTS again,

Having put all the bits and pieces together I had them photocopied at work only to find that I had neglected to spell check the file on the computer, hence the spilling mistakes.

The great day arrived and I had arranged with my relief at work that he would arrive earlier than normal, so that I could get to the club by 19.00. This was to ensure all competitors could get back to the club before dark. He did not arrive at work until 18.25. A traffic jam at Queens ferry he said. Very likely I must say I replied. Pat drove up part of the route, only to find that Brimstage Road was blocked after a petrol tanker had overturned. Another snag, hey ho

We arrived at the club bang on 19.00 but ahead of anybody else (just). The altered

route and the reverse altered route were worked out and apologies to the reverse route competitors for the wrong instructions on two parts of the route.

The winners by one point only were Pauline and Paul Robinson to much jeering and shouts of fix fix, from one of the runners up (who will remain nameless). I hope that all who took part enjoyed it and if I get to do another one (oh horror what have I said) that we can have a better turn out but an equally enjoyable evening.

73 ERIC G6HWD

JUST ARRIVING - - - THE NOVICE LICENCE.

Yes its arriving, from the Summer those new callsigns that start with a 2 will be appearing on the bands. If you listen in the right places. Before that can happen courses have to take place and exams have to be taken. Just as a reminder candidates have to take a course run by a RSGB approved instructor and then take a City & Guilds Exam. The first exam will be on 3rd June and then at 3 monthly intervals.

You will all have seen the adverts and requests for volunteer instructors; well as a result of this there are three instructors in Cheshire (I am one and the RSGB believes Wirral is in Cheshire). There are a further 4 or 5 in and around Liverpool.

The rules of the scheme require that each instructor only has a maximum of 4 candidates on a course. The bands are not going to be flooded with '2' callsigns for a while. I am hoping to run a course before the June exam and to that end I am trying to find out the degree of interest. The books say the course should take about 30 hours. I anticipate that potential clients will be at the younger end of the age scale although there are no limits at either end.

With this in mind I anticipate that the 30 hours will be covered in 4 or 5 (still undecided which yet) full days, Saturdays and/or Sundays. This should avoid those problems of Homework/Bedtime of an evening course. The RSGB have produced an advertising video telling us all about it and hopefully we will be seeing it at the Club in the not to distant future. Well that's the state of affairs so far. Any questions please ask.

PETER GOLHT (Novice Instructor No. 221/1)

Licence fees - USA

For the 1992 Fiscal year, the FCC is seeking \$65m in 'User Fees', which includes \$2.91m from hams.

Their intention is that new applications or renewals would be billed for the full licence term ie. 10 years for hams, and at \$3 per year, this would amount to \$30.

The ARRL think that non-commercial users ie. hams, should not be asked to pay - as some services are received as tax-payers - but also because they do a lot of the FCC's work as volunteers and do not receive special services (such as specific call-signs) for which individuals would be willing to pay.

At least the ARRL have an ally in the House of Representatives. A Bill was introduced in January, urging the support of the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act 1991", by US House Representative Jim Cooper, a member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance. He pointed out that when the House passed an earlier Bill, in 1988, that it included a provision which strongly encourages and supports the amateur radio service and its emergency communication efforts.

It further required that government agencies should take into account the valuable contributions made by amateur radio operators when considering actions affecting the amateur radio service.

But Cooper pointed out that, despite the 1988 bill, "threats continue to surface that would reduce the amount of spectrum available for amateur radio operators to carry out their operations. This Bill is simple and direct," Cooper says. "It would ensure that ham operators can continue to use all of the spectrum they now use." Cooper "intends to ensure that the replacement Bands [for bands lost] would be equal in both size and characteristics."

"I hope that none of my colleagues overlook," Cooper says, "the fact that amateur radio is non-commercial in nature - which means they are sometimes an easy target for federal bureaucrats who are pressured to provide spectrum for a new service."

"The Amateur Radio Service is strictly non business, which leads me to believe," Cooper told the House, "That a statutory safeguard is needed to guarantee its survival."

Cooper concluded his floor statement to the House by saying "I want to thank The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), which represents amateurs, for their valuable help in developing this bill".

Could it happen here?

GS

ICL seasons R&D with salt

ICL is sending its northern engineers down a salt mine in an attempt to increase the efficiency of its research and development operations.

The Japanese-owned company is renting parts of a salt mine in Cheshire, within commuting distance of ICL's traditional mainframe development site at West Gorton, Manchester.

Engineers from the company's 6000 strong product operations department are being sent down the mine in a bid to meet strict product testing regulations shortly to be introduced in the UK.

New EC regulations stipulate much tougher conditions for establishing 'open fields' in which emissions coming from outside the equipment being tested are minimised.

The mine, which is still operational, was chosen because it is almost entirely free from electromagnetic and radio interference.

The underground operation is being run by ICL's corporate systems division, the mainframe arm of its computer products department. Engineers in the mine will work on the early stages of hardware development across the company's entire product range.

Sources close to the mine say ICL intends to recoup some of the cost of the project by renting out the facility to engineers from other hardware developers.

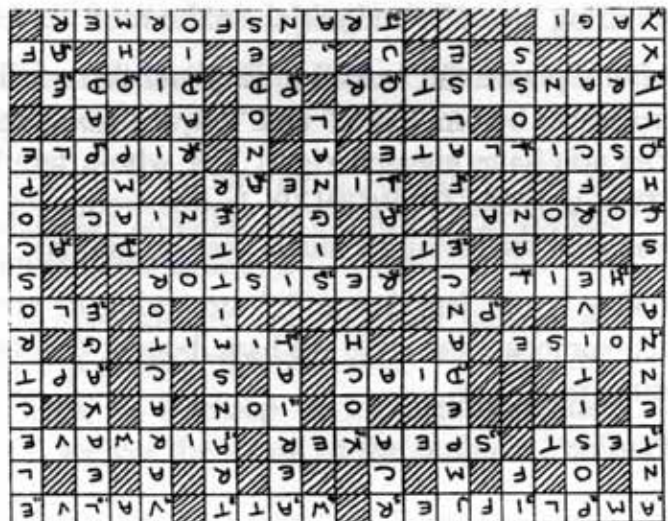
From 'Computing' June 1991.

Comment: It looks like somebody is doing something towards meeting new EMC regulations, even if it does seem a little late. I don't know how you read the article, but could these hardware engineers need all the help they can get to meet the new regulations, by eliminating the ambient RF in order to pass. Or could they be generating lots of the stuff to see when their kit fails?

GS.

Crossword Answers

Don't peek until you've attempted the crossword on the back page



From our Foreign Correspondent

"I've applied for a reciprocal licence so I can use the radio in France, Pauline"

"Yes dear," I thought not realising what that meant. My anti radio feeling continued to grow on the Thursday evening before the day of departure when Paul arrived home carrying a long brown cardboard box saying "Chris has lent it to me." It was a portable mast.

Friday morning arrived and it was piddling down. Just before going to work Paul said all the stuff on the floor was to go into the back of the car and all on the sideboard inside the car. I took the dog to the dog minder shed a few tears, Laura to mum in laws, breathed a sigh of relief and returned home to start packing the car.

Into the front room I go to see what was to be packed and there it was! Coils of cable, bits of wire, car batteries, battery chargers. I thought, "Oh my goodness! Where is it all going to go?" Other odds and ends included all the usual car tools plus the trolley jack. (Yes, trolley jack!) Oh yes the suit cases and bedding had to be packed as well. How many weeks were we going for? Four, six, eight? No only two!

We only had one hiccup during the journey down to Folkestone. Paul didn't replace the oil filler cap after filling up with oil. Those of you with cars will know what a mess **that** leaves under the bonnet. Luckily we had some rags with us and so Paul stuffed one in the oil filler hole. We made it to the south of France like that.

We took three days to reach the gite at La Redorte in the Languedoc region of France. Paul and I didn't want to rush the journey, we like to take our time and enjoy the countryside treating the journey to our destination as part of our holiday. We finally arrived and called at the address given to us to enable us to collect the key to the gite.

The first thing out of the car was. Yes you've guessed it, **THE AERIAL!** Paul was threading it through the ivy on the terrace when the patron called to invite us to his home for an aperitif. The poor man nearly had a fit when he saw this rather tall pole sticking out of his ivy!

The following day while we were enjoying our aperitif with the patron and his wife we were introduced to their son who turned out to be a CB fanatic. After duly admiring his radio and aerial on the roof we returned home to the gite.

After a phone call to Phil in England there followed a succession of "I must go for the croissants before 10am." and "Oh my goodness. Is that the time? It's nearly 7-30pm." Yes you have guessed right! The whole family had breakfast and dinner listening to "This is F/G0JZP, F/G0JZP. Is this frequency in use please?" My in-laws thought he was mad for taking so much gear on holiday.

Today is our last day and I am trying to arrange the car to find yet more space to accommodate the wine we have bought during our stay here. No doubt we will do the same next year.

Pauline

Hams turn case of RFI into Positive Publicity

Two amateurs have turned a potential public relations problem into a success story by offering to assist in a case of interference to an infant Apnea monitor. This subject was first reported in 'The ARRL Letter' on May 18th, 1990, following the release of a Food and Drug Administration warning concerning the monitors. The Apnea monitors, the 'Letter' reported, were subject to various kinds of electrical interference from sources ranging from radio transmitters to air conditioning compressors.

The parents of a nine-week old baby made an appeal in their local newspaper to stop radio interference "such as ham radio or citizens band radio" causing false triggering of their sons Apnea monitor. Appeals to the manufacturer had failed, and their son was on his fifth monitor, from two different companies.

According to their local paper "a ham radio operator nearby has been very cooperative, and even offered to to discontinue using the radio until the boy no longer needs the monitor."

Another local paper picked-up the story, and reported that the parents had contacted the FCC and obtained a list of hams nearby, and told them that there wasn't much more that they could do. The paper also reported that a nearby ham had been contacted, but his transmission times did not correlate with the monitor reacting.

At this point, two amateurs, Tim Duffey K3LR and Scott Jones WB3KKX offered to help. They are both RF engineers with a cellular radio company, and offered to act as interested third parties. They learned that the manufacturer of the latest monitors in use had installed ferrite beads on the units leads, after shielding them. This move coincided with the publication of the newspaper articles. Duffey said "It is difficult to determine exactly what led to a decrease in the false alarms, but they did decrease." They also noted that a light dimmer had been recently installed in the baby's room, a few weeks before the false alarms began and speculated that it also could be to blame for some of the interference to the monitor.

Duffey and Smith got additional input from another of their firms' engineers. He had been experiencing similar problems with a device he was developing.

"Doug DeMaw W1FB and ARRL publications came to the rescue." Duffey said. "Everett drew heavily on them in de-bugging his prototype."

As a result of all this, the parents have contacted the Food and Drug Agency to ask for its help in seeing that all infant Apnea monitors are shielded in the future (at present the monitors are not type-approved by any Government agency).

As for the hams' role, "We saw the newspaper stories and felt we should act immediately to put radio amateurs in a positive position," Duffey said. "The parents now look at Amateur Radio in a different light, as a group of technically trained people who are willing to help, even when (we) are not the cause of the problem."

THE ANT QUIZ

The answers to the following cryptic clues all have nine letters and the last three letters are ANT. Hence the name of the quiz

Example French Puff Pastry.....C R O I S S A N T

- (1) Crawling toady..... _____ a n t
- (2) Look, at the stars..... _____ a n t
- (3) Help at the baths _____ a n t
- (4) An Ancient Disbeliever..... _____ a n t
- (5) Alsations about to attack you _____ a n t
- (6) Ask to be a Nun _____ a n t
- (7) Oil or Beer perhaps?..... _____ a n t
- (8) Bread breaker..... _____ a n t
- (9) A Grease of spot _____ a n t
- (10) Not Benign _____ a n t
- (11) Agent Orange..... _____ a n t
- (12) Reach for the sky _____ a n t
- (13) Sharp Tongued..... _____ a n t
- (14) Fighter..... _____ a n t
- (15) Not a native..... _____ a n t
- (16) More than bright _____ a n t
- (17) Total of two vectors..... _____ a n t
- (18) Twisted satanists..... _____ a n t
- (19) Raven of the sea..... _____ a n t
- (20) Endless Instances resolved..... _____ a n t
- (21) No smell now _____ a n t

- (22) Grass a n t
- (23) Job hopeful a n t
- (24) Protect the worker a n t
- (25) That first cupp'a a n t
- (26) Great effect to tramp in a n t
- (27) Hopeful father a n t
- (28) Finished with a n t
- (29) Eglantine turned awkwardly a n t
- (30) The sinner of Luke 15 a n t
- (31) A court challenger a n t
- (32) Peripatetic a n t
- (33) Travel aimlessly a n t
- (34) A hero none the less a n t
- (35) Son or daughter a n t
- (36) Complaint it ain't a n t
- (37) Unjust anger a n t
- (38) Accidents around a drier a n t
- (39) A scold turned tram agent a n t
- (40) Chemical brake a n t

PLEASE NOTE :-

Only the First Answer given will be accepted.

Judges Decision is Final.

A Small Prize will be awarded to the Winner.

All Entries (via a committee member please) addressed to :-

Eric Gethin G6HWD before 1/10/91

INFORMATION AND KIT REQUIREMENTS FOR WRENS DRAFTED TO SEA

The following items and information has been listed by M.O.D. (RN) (Sexual Discriminations Dept.) as standard requirements for all wrens drafted to sea-going duties on HM ships for Far East, Falkland Isles and away from base deployments.

Section A.

Minimum baggage for joining :-

- 3x kit bags (large) for civvy clothing.
- 4x cases (large) for civvy clothing.
- 2x cases for essential underwear.
- 1x carrier bag, (Tesco or Sainsbury) for naval kit.
- 1x handbag (limited to 200 Kg)

Section B.

Joining Routine :-

- Call out the duty watch to stow all the baggage.
- Wardroom brief about life at sea, followed by a "Welcome to the Cruise" talk. (Sticky buns and tea will be served).
- A conducted brief tour around the ship in order to establish the sharp end from the blunt end.
- P/officer sick bay.

Issue of :-

- 400 sea sickness pills.
- 600 white mice.
- 1000 Valium tablets.
- Chastity Belt and combination lock.
- 1x list of known medical problems.
- 1x double mattress.
- 1x King size duvet and cover.
- 2x Silent Night pillows.
- 40x bars of Lux toilet soap.
- 1x Sheepskin Lakeland Rug.
- 1x Pair of Tiger feet slippers.
- 1x Hair care set. (Rollers and Curling Tongs).

Also available, a list of Naval wives addresses, so you can write to them and tell what their husbands are up-to.

Section C.

Work Routine.

Wrens will not be required to carry out duties which involve any heavy lifting, watch keeping, polishing, cleaning or anything else which will either break any finger nails or coincide with Coronation Street, Neighbours etc. Also a satellite TV. system has been installed for comfort.

Useful Hints and Tips etc.

Equipment whilst at sea.

40 sets of bras, knickers, sussies (various colours).

Leave at least one set in the male bathrooms at least once a week.

Three sets of high security locks for cabin doors after more than seven days at sea.

Handbag information:-

It must be carried at all times and contain the following :-

1x can of hair spray (Firm Hold, due to sea breezes).

1x personal shriek alarm.

1x Immediate release from service form MOD (RN) 325/91 amended.

1x list of wardroom stand easy times.

1x list of ships company men who have had vasectomies.

1x map showing position of the 22 extra powder rooms installed on last re-fit.

The above list has been compiled by the Admiralty as a guide to the future in Britains Modern Navy.

Rally Calendar 1991

Aug 18th	Red Rose Rally, West Manchester RC. Bolton Sports Centre.
Sep 1st	Preston ARS. University of Lancaster
Sep 1st	Telford Radio Rally. Telford Exhibition Centre
Sep 15th	BARTG Rally, Sandown Park Surrey
Sep 28th/29th	RSGB HF Convention, Penguin Hotel Daventry
Sep 29th	North Wakefield RC Rally, Outwood near Wakefield
Oct 25th/26th	Leicester ARS SHow, Granby Hall Leicester
Nov 2nd/3rd	North Wales Rally, Aberconwy Centre Llandudno

Looking Ahead to 1992

March 14th VHF Convention, Sandown Park Surrey

Please check dates before the event, as the source of information quite often gets it wrong !!!

CLUB MEMBERS

Club members have expressed an interest in the general area in which their fellow members live. Whilst wishing to retain our members rights to privacy we feel following list will satisfy all.

G0DVV	Chris	Heswall	G4YJV	Charlie	Irby
G0IVL	Rick	Birkenhead	G6HWD	Eric	Bebington
G0JZP	Paul	Pensby	G6KBQ	Peter	Greasby
G0LPU	Tony	Greasby	G6KBR	Maggie	Greasby
G0MQR	Ian	Heswall	G6NZZ	Eddie	Moreton
G1BVN	Ian	Heswall	G6PLY	Peter	Upton
G1DBC	John	Wallasey	G6PZW	Paul	Pensby
G1PMJ	Dave	Wallasey	G6XHF	Simon	Oxton
G1OKY	John	Brombrough	G6XHG	Eddie	Pensby
G1NXB	Roy	Wallasey	G7BBF	Steve	Moreton
G1TXF	Eileen	Greasby	G7EZG	Heather	Great Sutton
G1TXG	George	Greasby	G7FVR	Cliff	Parkgate
G1UHO	Harry	West Kirby	G7HJV	Chris	Wallasey
G1UJU	Brian	Irby	G7HUD	Andy	Upton
G1WAS	Paul	Tranmere	G8MMM	Gordon	Neston
G1XAH	Stan	Upton	G8NDD	Richard	West Kirby
G1XYP	Alan	Moreton	G8TRY	Gerry	Wallasey
G1ZEQ	Dave	West Kirby	G8UIY	Gerry	Moreton
G2AMV	Basil	Heswall	G8UUC	George	Wallasey
G3HFA	Ron	Newton	G8UZZ	John	Meols
G3RLA	Colin	Heswall			
G3WIO	Eileen	Heswall	XYL'S		
G4DBG	Frank	Great Sutton	Elaine (G8TRY)		Wallasey
G4GKG	Howard	Thurstaston	Pauline (G0JZP)		Pensby
G4PGO	Dave	Wallasey			
G4UDR	Vic	Irby			

VHF CONTEST CALENDAR 1991

AUG

25th 432 Fixed

SEP

7/8th 144 Trophy
22nd 50Mhz CW
29th 70Mhz Trophy

OCT

5/6th 432/24Ghz & SWL
8th 1296/2320 CUML 1
16th 432 CUML 1
20th 70mhz CW
24th 1296/2320 CUML 2
27th 1296 Fixed 2

NOV

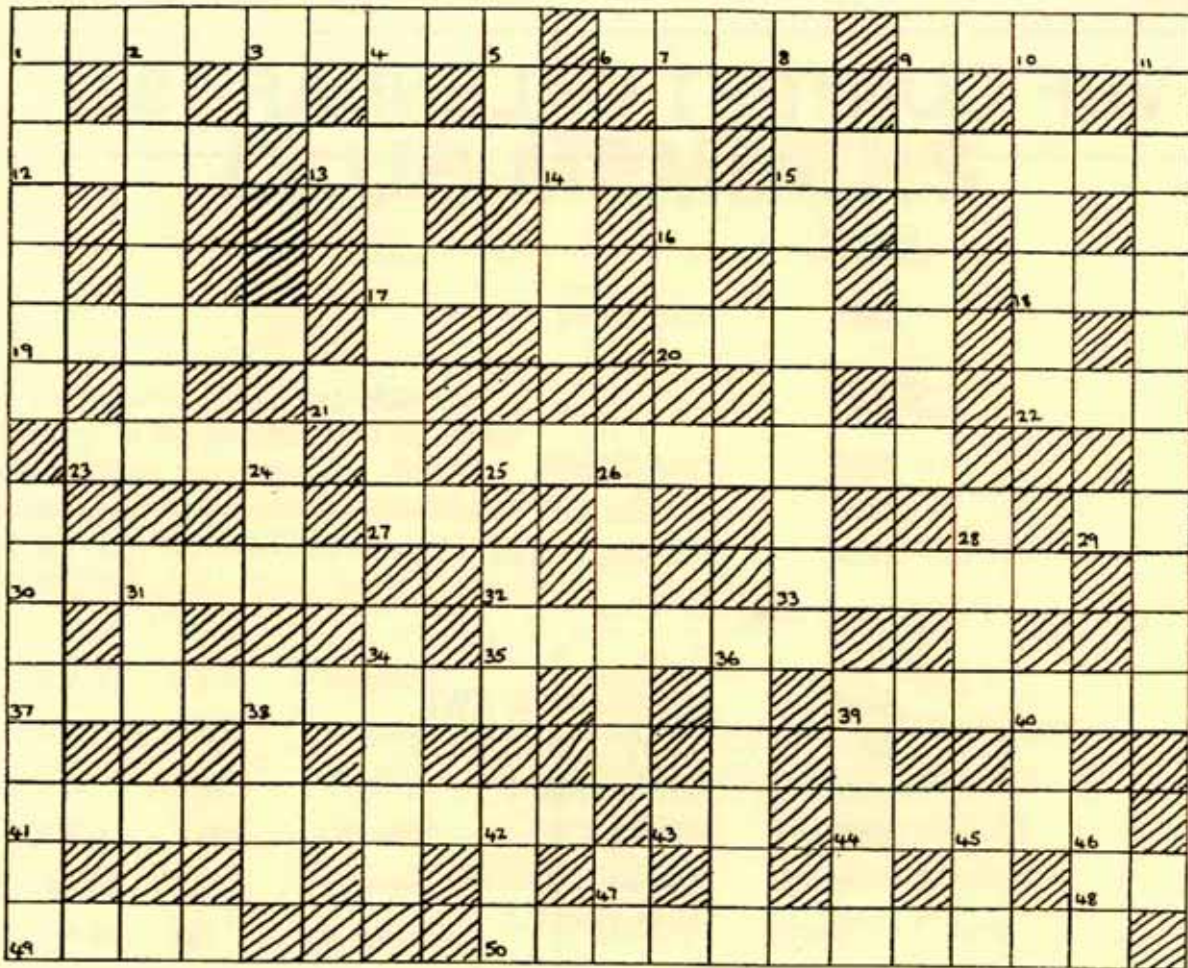
1st 432 CUML 2
3rd 144 CW
9th 1296/2320 CUML 3
17th 432 CUML 3
25th 1296/2320 CUML 4

DEC

1st 144 Fixed/AFS
3rd 432 CUML 4
10th 1296/2320 CUML 5
18th 432 CUML 5

Christmas Contest

28-31st Dec. 144/432



ACROSS

- 1) Not an attenuator!
- 6) Unit of power.
- 9) Lasts longer than a transistor in an amp.
- 12) You ____ a component to see if it is OK.
- 13) Final component of your receiver.
- 15) You are looking at it.
- 16) Charged atom.
- 17) Type of 44 Across found in light dimmers.
- 18) This is suitable.
- 19) This less this figures in your pre-amp the better.
- 20) Reach the end of a pot's travel.
- 21) A junction.
- 22) Pop group who illuminated the world.
- 23) ____ Tube (early form of Klystron).
- 25) It impedes current flow.
- 27) He made the longest phone call.
- 29) Domestic current.
- 30) You don't want to see it around your H.T.
- 33) First large scale Pennsylvanian computer.
- 35) What your 1 Across should be for S.S.B.
- 37) Crystals should do this.
- 39) D.C. supplies should have little or none.
- 41) Semiconductor device eg. OC71.
- 43) Initially voltage inequality.
- 44) Lets current flow one way only.
- 48) Speech for example.
- 49) Mr Uda's mate.
- 50) Will work up or down.

DOWN

- 1) Gets your radio signal into the ether.
- 2) Not negative.
- 3) Middle frequency of your superhet.
- 4) This unit is usually represented by Z.
- 5) Famous American wireless manufacturer.
- 7) Like 1 Down.
- 8) A receivers mate.
- 9) This could triple your frequency.
- 10) A good capacitor has very little.
- 11) Used gold leaf to detect charge.
- 14) Type of resistance in phototubes and photocells.
- 24) Used to link computers together.
- 26) We all listen for one on the wavebands.
- 28) Not dry but not wet.
- 31) Blocks radio energy from D.C.
- 32) It's what D & Ws are all about.
- 34) Not true.
- 36) Many anti-cathodes.
- 38) It would be nice if your coax had none.
- 39) The main subject of our hobby.
- 40) Singularly found on P.C.Bs.
- 42) Not in.
- 45) Measurement of resistance.
- 46) Hams use one to listen to SSB.

GOOD LUCKG0DVV

Answer printed inside the mag somewhere.