

RADARC Secretaries Report 2001

Another year gone. You may not realise but the first half of this year was a busy time for me. I removed all my aerals and built the walls for a four bedroomed house around my three bedroomed house. I then removed my shack and all our other belongings and moved out to a one bedroomed flat and knocked my old house down. It took six months and a lot of money to rebuild the destruction. My family and I moved out in mid winter and back in again mid summer. I then had five weeks off work to try and turn the shell into a home. The garden still looks like a builders yard but I have a lovely new house sat in the middle and slowly but surely the aerals are going back up. Advice to any one else thinking of doing this 'grand designs' plan, you need more money than you think and nerves of steel.

The year has seen some other 'grand designs', look at D68C, that required planning and money. I came away with two thoughts from that. The first was what a pleasure to see so many pull together and give up so much time and effort for the hobby. Events keep the interest going, if you are in any doubt about that statement just look at the number of contacts they made. The other thought was the vast amount of equipment packed into the shipping container. It whole dxpedition could have all come unstuck if the canoe boats had tipped it into the sea on disembarking. Imagine the amateur radio lose that would have been incurred. It would have been a much shorter and less interesting follow up lecture from Don.

It was a shame the Christen Aid Walk was cancelled this year. Always fun and always a chance to show off to many 'ordinary people' what our club can do. We supply walker 'numbers' back to base as they pass checkpoints. This allows the walkers progress to be monitored and more seriously their safety when they stray from the path. Fortunately the most serious case of permanently lost I have ever dealt with was a young girl losing her necklace. However the necklace was found by following walker and the message was relayed on to the next checkpoint and arrangements were made for its return over a cup of tea at base camp. If the club is invited again in 2002 I think we should all make an effort. The service we provide cannot be replaced by mobile phones because all stations need to communicate as a net. It's a good cause and a good excuse to play radios.

Moving to the new McMicheal site was a success, I know we cannot take full credit for this as we are only one third of the effort. However mention should go to Min who personally found the site and did all the liaison work with the Rugby club. I would say that the Pickets Lock Rally was on a similar scale to the McMicheal this year. I wonder if in 2002 we can tilt the balance our way. When something is successful it breeds success. I personally enjoyed standing at the gate this year, it did not compare to the juggling game of directing the cars through the middle car park of the year before.

The internet is here as part of life. Since moving back into my new home I have linked to the internet. I run a piece of software called MSN Messenger. This tells me which friends are 'on-line' and enables me to converse over a keyboard and screen (like packet), or voice (via a headset), or even video (via a webcam). The first time I used it I had a 45 minute video link with my sister in Chile, we chatted, we exchanged photos of holidays, I got the children into the room to see her and vice versa, they chatted with her and told her about their day. Now it is a regular thing whenever we happen to be on the internet at the same time and in the mood. My sister has no knowledge of radio, just a job, a PC and Webcam. Now if you think that is mind boggling my Dad went out and bought similar products and now he can do the same thing (I think he was inspired when he realised how easy it was and how much money he could save on Mum phoning Chile every week). The cost saving may have backfired on him as Mum practically runs an internet TV station broadcasting recordings of the family dog followed by live footage of the street. It might make my sister feel less home sick but I see shall see them all at Christmas. I personally embrace this technology. Our hobby should embrace this too. I would be happy having a WebCam in the car relaying live pictures of my journey to work, combining with my GPS position. I expect the mobile phone professionals will beat us to this, but we still have a unique attribute between us. We can use bands of the air-waves for our own development and experimentation. Lets hope we and new comers (through the foundation license) fill the bands with exciting stuff to listen, watch and play with too. Everyone should be trying something new and I want to listen to bands filled with signals, not silence.

Chris MICYE (Secretary)

RADARC

Reading and District Amateur Radio Club

Treasurers Report – December 2001

This has been a good year from the money point of view. The membership fee was not increased from last year and we have 35 paid-up members. Of these, 27 paid the full £12 and seven paid reduced fees as retired, long-term unemployed or student members. We have one Life member.

Money has been spent on various minor items. A standard filter kit is available to members (see Vin, G4JTR). The meeting room, insurance and the web pages all cost over £500. We also acquired a very useful user-friendly RF power meter, covering 300mW to 100 Watts, useful to 146MHz (part of the legacy lot and therefore free) and don't forget we have club oscilloscope for loaning out.

The club's income is made up from membership fees at £366, income from the McMichael rally at £450, £144 from the junk sale plus for this year only, a legacy in the form of a garage-full of junk which fetched an amazing £279. Thus we were able to make a donation to the D68C dxpedition which must have been enjoyed by many members as we received the third position for total contacts from a club entry. We were also able to make a donation of £100 to the Thames Valley Repeater Group, whose long and hard struggle to get GB3RD back on the air has at last succeeded.

Hence the main message is that we need McMichael to keep the membership fee at its present level, since the usual junk sale plus fees barely reaches £500.

Nevertheless, I have asked the committee to agree to keeping the fees at the same level for another year.

The current account stands at £1441.93 (Dec 13th) and cash in hand at £54.63. The deposit account stands at £526.13, unchanged from last year (apart from interest).

Balance brought forward from 26 th Nov 2000		£1611.92
comprising		
Cash-in-hand	£62.25	
Lloyds TSB Interest cheque account	£1023.54	
Nationwide Building Society	£526.13	
 Income		£1244.15
 Expenditure		£833.38
 Surplus (deficit)		£410.77
 Balance carried forward at December 13 th 2001		£2022.69
comprising		
Cash-in-hand	£54.63	
Lloyds TSB Interest cheque account	£1541.93	
Nationwide Building Society	£526.13	

Details:

Income

Memberships	£366	
McMichael	£450	
Junk sale	£144.15	
Legacy junk	£279	
Donations	£5	
		£1244.15

Expenditure

AGM drinks	£23.77	
Filter Kit	£71.04	
D68C donation	£100	
Meeting Room	£233.58	
Licences	£37.50	
Web costs	£58.75	
Insurance	£193.02	
Club table	£15.72	
TVRG donation	£100	
		£833.38

R.A.D.A.R.C. Events 2001

READING AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Representing the interests of Amateur Radio in and around Berkshire and the Thames Valley since 1934.

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Club callsigns G3ULT and M0EEE

Meetings in **BOLD** are at the Pavilion, Woodford Park, Woodley, at 2000hrs.

Events in *italics* are provisional only. Further details on the club from the

Secretary, Chris Catt M1CYE ☎ **0118 976 1919**

Email:- mailto:chris_catt@yahoo.com

DATE	MEETING / EVENT / ACTIVITY	DETAILS
Daily Skeds	S13 - 145.325 Mhz. Call in and find out what going on locally. Give a call they may be a member listening.	145.325 Mhz
11 th January 2001	D68C Comros, The planning stage	G3XTT
8 th February 2001	On-Air Night	
8 th March 2001	Junk Sale	
Thursday 12 th April 2001	Bob Smith G3LVW – 2000 Australian Olympics	<i>M1CYE</i>
Thursday 10 th May 2001	Return of G3XTT – D68C and how they did it. This is a must.... The members of the club made 150 contacts to the Dxpedition	G3XTT
Thursday 14 th June 2001	Home Brew Projects Eddie G3VMY gives a talk on techniques of home brewing	G3VMY
Thursday 12 th July 2001	HF Mobile Communications <i>G0CBM – A much wider subject than just amateur HF mobile.</i>	G0CBM
Sunday 15 th July 2001	McMicheal Rally – Sonning Rugby Club Directions and map on http://www.savin.org/madarc/ Details on http://go.to/mcmichaelrally	
Thursday 9 th August	Construction Contest Bring alone those homebrews...	
Thursday 13 th September 2001	RSGB Regional Manager The Role of the regional manager and the RSGB to Amateur Radio.	G0SVN
Thursday 11 th October 2001	Building for Beginners Electronics for starters. An evening of being taught basic electronics (with practical session).	<i>G4IWS</i>
Thursday 8 th November 2001	Foundation License Debate The foundation license, what is it, how will it affect the hobby.	
Thursday 13 th December 2001	AGM	

WWW.RADARC.ORG