

READING & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

Greetings from me Pete, G8FRC, RADARC Newsletter editor. I wasn't 100% sure how I should produce this one. However I don't profess to be able to produce pretty web site type pages, so this attempt is fairly basic, but importantly it contains information. One of the problems these days is that news becomes old very quickly. On top of that it's also very easy to tell everybody about something very quickly just by using e-mail. Interestingly enough there are very few members who are not on e-mail, so when something new comes on the scene it's a lot easier to let you guys know asap. Min, G0MJS does a very good job in doing just that. So what should we do for the future? Obviously I need news, or perhaps history, anyway I need more input. What is attached is an accumulation over the last 3 months, and many thanks to all those that have contributed, over to them!
Enjoy.

SCRATCHED CD REPAIR TIP

Ever scratched a CD so it has become unreadable?

I do it all the time.

Scratches can be removed and the CD made readable again using Blue Brasso.

Just rub Brasso onto the CD until the scratch is gone.

Clean off the mess until the CD shines again.

Put the CD in the CD drive and hey presto.

I have a high success rate.

Chris M1CYE

2005 RSGB CONTESTS

Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name.	Dates - Mode - Frequency - Exchange
January	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	3rd – CW; 12th – SSB; 20th – Data.
Jan 09	1400-1800	Affiliated Societies Team Contest	3510-3590kHz, RST+Serial
Jan 15	1400-1800	Affiliated Societies Team Contest	3600-3750kHz, RS+Serial.
February	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	7th – SSB; 16th – Data; 24th - CW.
Feb 12/13	2100-0100	1st 1.8Mhz Contest	1820-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.
March	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	7th – Data; 16th – CW; 24th - SSB.
Mar 12/13	1000-1000	Commonwealth Contest	3.5-28MHz, RST+Serial.
April	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	4th – CW; 13th – SSB; 21st - Data.
Apr 3	0700-0900	RoPoCo 1	3520-3570kHz, RST+Postcode Recieved.
May	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	2nd – SSB; 11th – Data; 19th – CW.
June	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	6th – Data; 15th – CW; 23rd – SSB.
June 4/5	1500-1500	National Field Day	1.8-28MHz, RST+Serial.
July	2000-2130	80m Club Championships	4th – CW; 13th – SSB; 21st - Data.
July 17	0900-1600	Low Power Field Day	3510-3580, 7000-7040kHz, RST+Serial+Power
July 30/31	1200-1200	IOTA Contest	3.5-28MHz, RS(T)+Serial+Reference.
August 7	0700-0900	RoPoCo 2	3520-3570kHz, RST+Postcode Received.
September 3/4	1300-1300	SSB Field Day	3.5-28MHz, RS+serial.
October 2	0700-1900	21/28Mhz Contest (SSB)	21150-21350, 28400-29000kHz, RS+Serial+District.
October 16	0700-1900	21/28 Mhz Contest (CW)	21000-21150; 28000-28100kHz, RST+Serial+District.
November 12	2000-2300	Club Calls	1870-1990kHz, RS+Serial+Club Info.
November 19/2	2100-0100	2nd 1.8Mhz Contest	1820-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.

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HFNF and 2004 Contests

This year's field day started so well. The weather was good and with a great turn out from the membership, who helped with the setting up of the tent, mast, antenna and generator, this made the station operators workload so much lighter than in previous years.

This year we took part once again in the QRP section. This allowed us to run 2 QRP stations for a maximum of 12 hours for each call. We used the Reading Club calls G3ULT/P and M0EEE/P.

I started the contest this year on 10m using G3ULT/P hoping that there would be some sporadic E about. We were not disappointed with some good openings to G portable stations all over the UK for about 2 hours. This band is very important, as it is one of the bands for double points.

I left for home after 10m closed to have some tea and try to get some sleep as I was going to be on the night shift, leaving Jim G0LHZ, Ed G3VMY and Ed Junior M3GVZ operating M0EEE/P

When I arrived back at about midnight Ed Junior had decided to stay on site for the night and had crashed out in the station tent and Jim was ready to retire to his tent. We changed stations to G3ULT/P and turned the rig to 160 meters, the other band where you get double points. Then my worst nightmare happened.

The computer turned itself off as did the rig and the lights. It had to be the generator. Jim came out of his tent to see what the problem was.

We checked the fuel filters and everything obvious with no luck. Jim suggested that we go to paper logging and use the FT817. I had taken this along as a back up but I knew if we did this we would be not stand much chance at all in the contest. I had the club's spare generator in my shed at home, so with Jim's help we went off to collect it. Thankfully Ed was there to look after the station.

Getting the generator was the easy part, getting the leaded petrol at 01.15 in the early hours of the morning was not so easy as we had to drive to Maidenhead before we found a garage that sold this.

Once we got back to the site we were soon up and running again. We went back to 160 meters, found a free frequency and started calling CQ. We had lost quite a lot of points because of our late start but we still managed to contact 70 stations.

78 contacts were made on 80 meters. This is another good band for short skip to G portable stations.

126 QSO'S were made on 40 meters. This is a very good band as it is open most of the 24 hours to the UK and Europe.

On 20 meters we made 31 QSO'S, 15 meters 12 QSO'S, and 10 meters 22 QSO'S.

The higher frequency bands are never as good as the lower bands as the signals tend to skip over the top of the UK portable stations.

G3ULT/P was placed 3rd and were band winners on 10 and 40 meters.

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M0EEE/P was placed 9th

QRP SECTION Field Day 2004

QSO'S 160 80 40 20 15 10

points

1***	G4OBK/P	GM DX Group (England)	435	796	258	427	327	74	44	1926
2**	G4BRA/P	Bracknell ARC	352	776	416	227	71	6	92	1588
3***	G3ULT/P	Reading & DARC A	339	552	292	429	89	33	168	1563
4	G3SAD/P	Stevenage & DARS	315	732	365	214	134	18	60	1523
5	G3PJT/P	G3PJT	317	452	130	399	224	36	124	1365
6*	M0ARC/I	East Yorkshire CG	290	404	196	336	236	84	12	1268
7	G0SOA/P	Stratford upon Avon & DRS	305	240	336	321	211	37	4	1149
8	G3JRM/P	Lowestoft District & Pye ARC	194	-	66	220	225	81	104	696
9	M0EEE/P	Reading & DARC B	140	-	88	214	172	3	12	489
10	G6NRC/P	Norfolk ARC B	121	-	72	311	36	-	-	419
11	M0RHI/P	Finningley CG	108	-	144	136	101	-	-	381
12	G3HKO/P	G3HKO	87	128	76	126	38	8	-	376

The club also took part in the AFS CW and SSB Contest.

We were placed 36th out of 76 Clubs in the CW leg. G0LHZ, M5ALG, M0DHO.

We were placed 34th out of 86 Clubs in the SSB leg. G4ELY, G0VQR.

Another contest in which I like to give Vin G4JTR some support in is the Club Calls Contest on 160 Meters in November. Vin usually uses the Club call MX0EEE for this event.

Finally thank you to all the operators who took part in the Club Championships.

We were placed 15th out of 62 clubs. G0LHZ, M0DHO, G3XTT, M5ALG, M5ACR, M1VHF G3VMY and Clive M3EGN/2E0CGL who is now awaiting his new class A M0 call.

Lets see if this year we can improve on last years Contest positions.

Give Contesting a try you might find you actually like it. It is great fun and you can also pick up some good DX at the same time.

Meet you in a Contest soon.

73 Tom G0VQR.

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Chairman's Piece after 3 month's in the Post.

Last October/November I somehow got involved in the Foundation Training Course which was being organised by Stuart, M1XTN, Harry, G3NGX and Simon, G6ZTZ and other helpers. I enjoyed the experience enormously and the enthusiasm of all the students reminded me of my own similar enthusiasm when I joined the Club in November 1969. The hard work and spirit of the organisers and the success of the Foundation Course demonstrated to me what a very good Club RADARC is. Believe me when I say I've seen the Club grow and shrink widely over the years with oscillations (if you will excuse the pun) of enthusiasm and lassitude. It has never however descended into a shambles nor has it been rife with dissent and animosity. There has always been a core of dedicated and enthusiastic Radio Amateurs who have held it together.

In March last year I negotiated semi-retirement and a 2 day/week contract. This finishes shortly and I will have even more spare time. Spare time!! You have to be joking. How mis-guided could I have been. Even going to work 2 days a week cuts into all the things I seem to be doing. Anyway, one of these activities is being Chairman of the Club. The experience of helping with the course motivated me to indicate that I would like to serve on the committee again. (I had been Publicity Officer for 4 years when John Linford, G3WGV and Chris Nunn M0MZN were Chairmen in the early 1990's. Many years previously I stood in as a temporary Chairman when the Club went through a low) I have to say that the first 3 months of being in post has been busier than I thought it would be but immensely enjoyable. Two meeting and a Committee meeting uses up 3 Thursday evenings each month during the Winter. The fact that these are held in pleasant Bars has something to do with it I'm sure. Who ever decided that the Committee meetings should be held in the Reading Rugby Club Bar should be congratulated! (It was Min, Ed)

My first duty was to represent the Club at the Funeral of Bill Wright, G8KJ who joined the Club in 1937 and was one of only 2 pre-war members still alive. Thanks to Nick, G0LGG who also attended. Later I was asked to help clear Bill's shack and what a history was buried there. For example, the Club now has his log books from March 1937 to late 1947 (less the war years, obviously) In these are contacts with many early Club members and there were many QSL cards for most of these contacts, which I have retained as part of the Club's history. There were also many hundreds of cards for pre and early post war contacts with many stations world wide including British Amateurs in the Armed Services stationed abroad. Many rare callsigns were there. A parcel of 8 kilos of cards was sent to a well know collector in Leeds and he donated £20 to the Club. The junk sale (my voice is still recovering) was used to sell most of Bill's old gear and the rest, mostly valves, will be sold at the McMichael Rally.

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I have recently also cleared the shack of late Dr Tony Jackson, G3CDE, near Guildford and Club members have benefited from being able to have first choice of this equipment. Thanks to Don G3XTT for agreeing to look at the HF Antenna and rotator, and to James G8XML for testing the rather nice Heathkit Linear. A revised list of this equipment is on the RADARC Web site.

The Club is very fortunate in being given the entire Shack of a local amateur and previous Club member, Vernon Carswell, G0FNU, who has given up the hobby for health reasons. This fine equipment has been tested at my shack and a list has been e-mailed widely and is on the Club Web site. Thanks to Peter Smith, G4JNU, and his daughter Wendy who facilitated this generous offer.

Club meetings have been interesting and well attended thanks to Chris Catt's hard work in organising the events and we've also had an EGM so it's all been a bit hectic. The tea and bickies which Tom organises has been most welcome. So my first three months has been quite busy and there appears to be more of the same coming along. A second Foundation Course, the 3 Towers Hike, Visit To Martin Lynch & sons, McMichael Rally etc.

I guess nothing has changed my opinion of the Club and I hope we continue to be as active as we are. What is particularly good is the range of interests which individual members have and the way these are enthusiastically followed without making the Club biased in any particular direction, ie it is well balanced. We need, however to guard against complacency. If you are unhappy with anything about the Club or what we do or would like to suggest a new activity, then the Committee want to hear from.

Thanks for reading this

Vin, G4JTR
Chairman
27/3/2005

How did you start in Amateur Radio?

Robin Caine G4IWS

Until I was about 16 I was completely mad about aeroplanes. I had three box files of photos and specs, and had already started a library (I still have 'Aircraft of the Fighting Powers Vol III and the related 'Aircraft of the 1914-18 War', probably worth a fortune on ebay) when a friend who had become interested gave me a valve. I rapidly acquired a single earpiece and built a one valver, with a home-made tuning capacitor, which never worked, but the spark had caught and no set-back could stop me (not even the successive failures due to the fact that I had burned out the earpiece with the HT battery early on!).

Things improved with a large box of goodies from an electrician uncle, and then I was given a lifeboat transmitter and receiver by a man from Falmouth docks. Both had vibrator-type power supplies fed from an unusual battery called a 'self-priming cell'. Each cell consisted of a plastic case with two sealed compartments. The top one was full of acid, and the bottom one had the plates, already dry-charged. A plunger, strapped to the side of the cell was plunged through the top seal and so down to the middle one, allowing the acid to run down on to the plates. These were already twenty years old but worked perfectly

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for years, the only problem being that there was no provision for sediment to settle in the bottom, so that they silted up and shorted the plates eventually.

Now we did not have electricity. The rural development scheme did not reach the outskirts of Falmouth until Easter 1960. Dad bought the house with the promise that electricity was available on demand – what he hadn't realised was that it would cost almost three months wages – so no power from 1950 till I left home in 1959! The value of these cells was immeasurable to a budding amateur, even though I had to put them in the wheelbarrow and take them to the nearest farm to be charged!

The transmitter was wondrous. Two 807s in parallel were driven by a triode oscillator on 500kHz. To make the battery last as long as possible in the lifeboat, the oscillator 'squegged', ie it ran for less than a millisecond and then shut itself down, recovered and repeated the process. This gave the drive 100% AM at a few hundred Hertz, and left the 807s undriven and therefore not conducting for about 75% of the time. The output to a kite aerial was via a coil about 10 inches by 6 inches, incorporating a variometer.

However, it was the power supply that I needed. Six cells gave 12 Volts to a vibrator unit in the primary of a 700-0-700 Volt transformer. The output was rectified by a second set of contacts in the vibrator unit which swapped the secondary terminals to the smoothing circuit in synchronism with the primary switching circuit. 700 Volts! Absolutely great for the oscilloscope I (eventually) built, but more to the point, if you ran the vibrator at 6 Volts, you got twice the battery life and a much more useful 300 Volts or so for the typical valve circuit. (battery valves often ran from 90 Volts and less, but they were not nearly so good as the power-hungry mains-type valves). Armed with the 1948 edition of the ARRL handbook I built a medium wave transmitter that got across the garden and a 70 centimetre oscillator which carried music faithfully across the study (!). More to the point were the various receivers which hauled in many short-wave broadcasters, but not many amateurs. A 'super-regen' did get BBC1 from the rather distant North Hessory Tor mast, but not the VHF contact I longed for. I built a perfectly good Yagi for 70 cms, put it up, fed it from 30 yards of terrible TV coax, pointed it towards England and wondered why I never heard anyone. I guess the books led me to believe the whole world was chatting away on every possible band – hardly true even now.

A-levels and a degree course kept my brain overloaded for several years, and mention of amateur radio often brought scorn which really put me off. Also, living in bedsits is not encouraging (I had a 2-metre dipole on the wardrobe, kidding landladies that it was for band 2, and they knew I worked for the BBC so that was alright!) and it wasn't till I met amateurs at BBC Research dept. that interest revived. Tony, G3MED, then an early proponent of SSB on 2 metres got me to build a 2-metre converter to go with my one indulgence – a CR100 communications receiver for £15 – about £300 now - and I went to Ewell college to take the RAE in February 1965 (no course needed and Tony and another chap brought me up to speed on the syllabus).

At last as G8AUG I was ready to go but only 70cms was available to G8s at first. Then, when we got 2 metres I built the Radio Communication handbook 2-metre AM Tx and my first all-my-own-work contact was G3COJ a colleague and well-known VHFer, followed by G8NLF. G3LBA, who gave us the talk on the European Space Agency, was also an early contact and mentor.

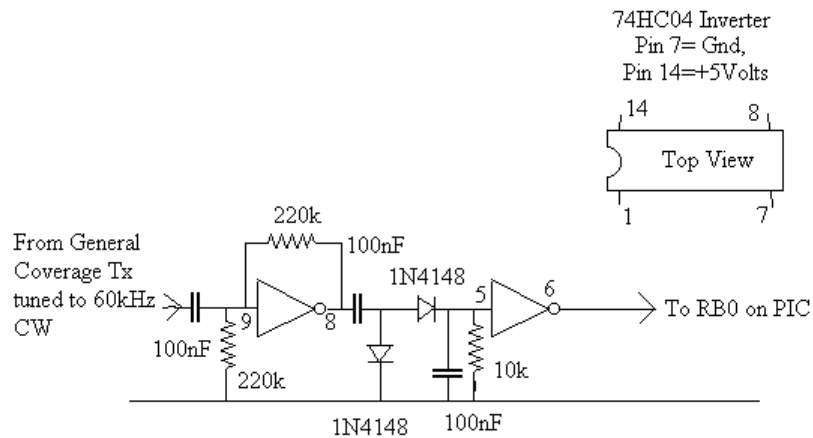
Jobs, houses and other matters kept me from intensive operation for years, but I was a member and chairman of the Chesham and district ARS, and passed the Morse test in 1979. I also joined the EMC committee of the RSGB as representative of the RSGB at an IERE EMC working group. The rest, I guess, you know...

Robin G4IWS

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Circuits for Rugby 60kHz reception G4IWS

- 1) Simple interface for PIC board using a general coverage receiver tuned to 60kHz CW. The 220k resistor to ground is used to shut off the inverter during carrier-off periods, thus preventing noise from causing spurious outputs. The audio from the headphone output is squared by the first inverter, rectified and voltage doubled by the diodes and smoothed by the 10k/100nF time constant. The second inverter restore logic levels for the PIC.



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Driving the message home – a salutary tale about checking for updates, Des G8FIF

This has nothing to do with Amateur Radio *per se*, except that a licensed Amateur is writing it, but it's worth sharing a recent experience with you so that, hopefully, no-one else will get caught out in the same way. Those of you who understand PCs well, see if you can guess what the problem was before you get to the bottom!

A few weeks ago, I decided to upgrade my PC. I'd been struggling along with a cheap motherboard (£50 + delivery) ever since about November 2002 when my old one had given up the ghost. It was a fantastic dual CPU machine – the GTi version - with lots of memory and disc space which suddenly went “crack” and refused to respond to treatment. I felt I deserved something better at long last.

In my new PC, the storage element is a pair of hard drives with a RAID 0 configuration. For anyone who isn't familiar with this, RAID (Redundant Array of Inexpensive / Independent Discs) is a way to boost speed and / or reliability. RAID 0 just improves speed by alternating accesses so half your data is on one drive, half on the other, making it nearly twice as quick as a single disc.

Everything was going well, but because I had a total capacity of greater than 120Gb, I thought I'd better format the drives using a Windows XP install disc. Until recently, there was a limit on the size of IDE disc that the install programs could recognise, so I decided to be clever and fool Windows – start the process with XP, reboot and continue with Windows 2000. I'd done it before, so couldn't see why it wouldn't work again.

...and work it did. I got the OS on, installed the service packs (I lost count of the number of times I had to reboot) and started reloading all my old files off the old PC. The latter part took about **16** hours and once it was all finished I turned the machines off.

As I did so, the speakers made a strange noise. The only way I can describe it is like you'd imagine a small rodent under a garden roller – a strangled squeak. Pausing to think for a few seconds, I turned the new PC back on. During the boot I briefly noticed the message “missing boot.ini, booting from C:\WINNT\”. It went through the start up screens (you know the ones with the crawling worms on the bottom) and was just about to get to the desktop when the screen turned blue with a message about a missing or unlocatable hive. The air turned blue at the same time. The hive is a pretty critical part of the OS so if it was missing, this was a disaster. I tried again, same result. The next day, I tried to repair the installation by using the install CD to no avail, so was resigned to a complete replay of the day's activities.

Thinking for a while, I thought that the problem might be something to do with my strange formatting ritual, using XP & 2000 CDs. I then realised that the RAID controller appears as a SCSI disc to Windows, so there shouldn't be any problem with using the 2000 CD from the start – and I was right. It saved me a good chunk of time not having to swap CDs and start again.

Rebooting about every 2 minutes (!), I gradually reloaded everything back on the machine over the next day. It was beautiful and it was going like a dream, so that evening I powered down ready to go to bed. The squashed rodent noise happened again and I panicked. Next morning, the PC refused to boot telling me that something else critical was missing (I think it said “I bet you thought you had an operating system and data on these discs didn't you?”)

More blue language and the thought of returning the equipment came to mind, but I wasn't going to be defeated that easily by a stupid bit of electronics.

After a lot of searching on Google using my work PC, I finally found some updated drivers for the RAID board. These worked in about the same way as previously, but didn't seem to make the OS self-destruct randomly. I also found a lot of information about the very problem I was seeing. Moral: **always** check to see if there are updates before committing yourself.

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So what was the problem? First, the squashed rodent: this seems to be due to the class D amplifiers in the PC that wind down, so it actually wasn't significant. It was a red herring that alerted me to a more serious thing.

The data loss is rather more interesting and enough to make you paranoid. Everyone probably knows that Windows (in common with other operating systems like Linux) works by holding data in RAM. Hard discs are big, slow, cheap and don't need power to remember their data; RAM is smaller, fast, more expensive but volatile – turn the volts off and it forgets everything. So, to save on having to fetch data from disc all the time (which is slow), you hold it in RAM. Reading the discs is no problem – you've got 2 copies. When you write, it does the same but you've only got one copy for a while – the one in RAM. This is why you shouldn't just pull the plug out of a modern computer: some data might still be in RAM and not have been written to disc yet.

When you shut down Windows, it flushes all the unwritten data out to the discs. It then asks the drivers if they've done that and when they all say "yes", it turns off the power: so far, so good. In my PC, the drivers were correct by saying that they'd given the data to the disc drives. Unfortunately, the discs themselves had 8Mb of RAM each and that data was held there waiting for the disc platters to come round so that they could store the data away. The last thing that Windows writes to disc is usually the registry (you know, that really important thing you shouldn't fiddle with?) so up to 16Mb of my most critical data was being held in the hard drives' RAM just as Windows turned the power off.

The new drivers (I am taking on trust), make sure that the drives have done their job of writing the data on the disc surface before telling Windows that everything's OK to shut down and power off. It makes you worry just that little bit as to whether all drivers do the same, doesn't it?

73, Des G8FIF

The Resistor Colour Code – A Refresher (an article written in penance for getting it wrong...)

There are times when you really should be concentrating on the job in hand. None more so than when you stand in front of a group of people joking about people who don't do things the way you do.

The Club meeting on Maundy Thursday was a good example. I had prepared kits of parts for members who had bought PIC boards and a discussion about the resistor values ensued. Several said they always used a multimeter to find the value, I berated them saying they should know the resistor colour code (sufferers from colour-blindness obviously excepted). A couple of days later, an email and telephone call told me that perhaps I should have either looked more carefully or used a multimeter myself!

I'll start with a list of colours and numbers:

0	Black
1	Brown
2	Red
3	Orange
4	Yellow
5	Green
6	Blue
7	Violet
8	Grey
9	White

(There are a few others, I'll get to those in a minute)

When I were a lad, things were simple. You had a 3 band resistor code followed by a band to mark the tolerance. This band was gold for 5%, silver for 10% or not there at all for 20%.

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The other thing that made things easy was the fact that you couldn't get every single value. They fell into what is known as the E12 or E24 series (E12 follows):

10	12	15	18
22	27	33	39
47	56	68	82

Why these values? Take into account the tolerances: $10 + 10\% = 11$; $12 - 10\% = 10.8$ so a resistor which is actually 11k could be marked as $10k\Omega$ or $12k\Omega (\pm 10\%)$ without any worry about trades descriptions problems. The E24 series covers a 5% tolerance in the same way.

As a result of this series, you'd only have to remember 12 different colour codes:

Black – Brown 10

Black – Red 12

...

Red – Red 22

...

Yellow – Violet 47

...and so on, I'll let you work out the others.

I haven't explained what the third band is for. In "proper" terms it is the exponent or 10 raised to that power. In practical terms (and my electronics teachers would kill me for saying this) it's the number of zeros that follow the initial numbers.

Examples:

Red – Red – Brown – Gold 2-2-One zero (220Ω) $\pm 5\%$

Red – Red – Red – Gold 2-2-Two zeros ($2k2\Omega$) $\pm 5\%$

Red – Red – Orange – Gold 2-2-Three zeros ($22k\Omega$) $\pm 5\%$

(you get the idea)

The one to be careful of is 10 (Brown – Black) because it gets an extra zero you might not have been expecting:

Brown – Black – Red 1-0-Two zeros ($1k\Omega$) $\pm 20\%$

Brown – Black – Orange 1-0-Three zeros ($10k\Omega$) $\pm 20\%$

It gets more difficult these days because the standard resistors are more accurately produced now. As a result, the tolerances are better: $\pm 1\%$ or 2% is the norm now. Guess what colours they use for them? Brown and Red respectively. On top of that, they have moved to a four-band + tolerance system so it's not quite so easy as before. The first three bands are numbers, the fourth is the exponent (number of zeros) and the fifth the tolerance.

Resistors from above in the new system:

Red – Red – Black – Black – Brown 2-2-0-Zero zeros (220Ω) $\pm 1\%$

Red – Red – Black – Brown – Brown 2-2-0-One zero ($2k2\Omega$) $\pm 1\%$

Red – Red – Black – Red – Brown 2-2-0-Two zeros ($22k\Omega$) $\pm 1\%$

Brown – Black – Black – Brown – Red 1-0-0-One zero ($1k\Omega$) $\pm 2\%$

Brown – Black – Black – Red – Red 1-0-0-Two zeros ($10k\Omega$) $\pm 2\%$

The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice the immediate problem. Let's say you were building something and drop two resistors on the floor. One is $220\Omega \pm 1\%$ and the other $10k\Omega \pm 2\%$, both marked with the new system. OK, I admit it, you'll probably have to use a multimeter now, but you might be lucky in that the tolerance band is usually slightly separated from the rest of the code and would be obvious if you held the two side-by-side.

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So what did I get wrong with the PIC kits? I have just 12 boxes of resistors with the E12 sequence written on the front. So, 1k Ω , 10k Ω , 100k Ω and 1M Ω all share a box, as do 220 Ω , 2k2 Ω and 220k Ω . My design called for 390 Ω : Orange – White – **Brown**.

In the half-light of my office (and because of advancing years...) I actually picked out Orange – White – Black - Gold. You should all be able to tell me what that actually was now!

May I be forgiven? Well what do the membership think? Ed.

73, Des G8FIF.

SNIPPETS

MEETINGS FOR THE REST OF 2005

12th May	BBC Monitoring Caversham	Al Bolton G4VSQ
9th Jun	Tesla Talk	James Hopper (+Chris)
19th Jun	Newbury Boot Sale	As you wish!
14th Jul	ATV and Digital ATV (with possible demo)	Noel Matthews, G8GTZ
17th Jul	McMichael Rally	Help required, Denis G4KWT
11th Aug	Natter Night	All
8th Sep	Magnetic Fields and their effects (part2-with demo)	Eamus Ivan G3KLT
22nd Sep	Thames Valley Air Ambulance	TVAA staff
13th Oct	Decommissioning of Dounreay	Colin Bayliss G3WKZ
27th Oct	Construction Contest (new scoring system)	All
10th Nov	JUNK SALE	All
24th Nov	More than a mobile handset	Paul Moore G0OJA
8th Dec	AGM	All

Do you know of anybody who would be prepared to give a talk to the club, if so contact Chris M1CYE, club Secretary, we have to fill up 2006! It's never too early. Ed. Chris is on 0118 976 1919.

RADARC Equipment Inventory January 2005

1. FT221R 2M multimode Transceiver (with G0LHZ)
2. Lowe HF225 Communications Rx
3. Lowe HF 150 Communications Rx (currently faulty, with G4IWS)
4. Optoelectonics Handi Frequencysniffer/counter 2300MHz
5. MFJ-209 Antenna SWR analyser 1.8-170 MHz
6. Datong Morse Tutor (with M1CYE)
7. RSGB Filter Kit
8. Maplin Morse code oscillator
9. M2 Enterprises 4 way 432MHz antenna splitter, N types
10. ditto 2 way 432 MHz ditto
11. Hitachi Dual beam 40 MHz Scope. (with G4KWT)
12. KW 1200 HF Linear Amp. (with G8XML)
13. One or two Generators? Serviced by G0JTN.

The Club also owns a large pneumatic pump up tower and a substantial trailer. Also an HF 3 Band, 3 el beam, all these kept with Jim, G0LHZ.

Items not assigned to a callsign are with G4JTR.
Items 1 to 12 are available for loan, contact G4JTR for details.

Vin, G4JTR

READING & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

GB3HV ATV REPEATER

By the time you read this GB3HV the Home Counties ATV club repeater at High Wycombe should be streaming video via the internet. www.gb3hv.com is the clubs web page. Streaming is switched on on club nights, Wednesday evening, most weeks, so you might see me! Talk back is on 144.750.

73 Pete G8FRC

FOUNDATION LICENSE COURSE

Harry G3NGX tells me he is proposing to run another course probably commencing in September depending on demand. So if you know any body who is interested give Harry a call, 01491 872919.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!