

RADIO *The Journal of the
Reading and District
Amateur Radio Club*



Spring 1998

**Price: £2
Free to RADARC
Members**



Nick, G0LGG – Chairman



Jim, G0LHZ – Secretary



Min, G0JMS – Treasurer



Chris, G0MZN – Publicity



Dave, G0TKV – New
Members



Simon, G6ZTZ – Newsletter

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Editorial

Hello again. Well editing the newsletter seems to be one of those things that keep turning up in my life. I may have tried changing jobs, moving house and getting married - but still I get tracked down to do it!

This year has got off to a very promising start, and when you consider that the Committee is made up with 2 ex-chairmen in addition to Nick we must be in fairly capable hands. If you were in any doubt, the motley crew on the front cover is our 1998 Committee.

I know that I am fairly well known at the Club, but I would guess that not too many people know what I do for a living. I am what is known as a "Field Applications Engineer" for a components distributor in Reading. I spend a lot of my time selling and fixing problems with Hitachi's microprocessors and

microcontrollers. If you like, I'm the one whose supposed to make certain that the poor engineers buy the part they need rather than the sexiest new one the salesman wants to sell them.

Now a thought - do you ever walk around those supermarkets, DIY stores or service stations that have piped music called "Company Name FM"? I may be wrong, but quite a few - if not all - of the ones I have listened to claim to be "broadcasting to the UK in digital stereo", and herein lies a problem. If they are using a digital system, it pretty much always uses Quadrature Phase-Shift Keying, (QPSK for short) modulation - and not Frequency Modulation. So it begs the question: what do the letters FM in their name stand for? If anyone has any ideas, I'd love to share them.

To end, an ever-present plea for articles. The magazine relies on people sending in things to publish, so if you've

got something to tell the Club (and indeed the world because this should end up on our Web site too), just put pen to paper, fingers to keyboard or even Dictaphone, and get the articles to me. In case you're worried, I can read most PC formats, and I can even convert stuff off of a 5¼" disc if it comes to it.

This magazine should have been produced some time ago, but thanks to a combination of Word 97, Windows NT 4 and a Graphics Blaster 3D board it became impossible to work on. I have to thank Min, G0JMS for pointing me at using Microsoft Publisher. Publisher 98 cost me £50, and a few hours later, this is the result! I hope you like it.

That's it, enjoy the rest of the magazine, and get writing those articles!

73, Des G8FIF.

The Chairman's View

I was last a member of the RADARC committee about six years ago. The club had a membership of more than 100 and has since won the HFNFD contest for four years in a row and. Today the membership is less than half that figure with barely 30 attending meetings. Its difficult to gauge the reasons for the decline except that so many new toys are now available to us. Computers, Mobile phones, the internet and, of course, poor band conditions.

I well remember learning Morse over the air on 2M - it was difficult t find a clear channel - all has changed and we are in a New World.

During our first meeting in the New Year, we carried out a survey to give us an idea of interests and some suggestions of where you would like your club to go. It was a most useful exercise

and the results were given at the meeting on Jan 22nd.

My aim and those of all the committee is to make the talks and activities map the clubs interests where ever possible and to have some fun. The meeting agenda is taking shape and thanks to Jim, we have some interesting talks already fixed.

Starting this summer, we will reduce the number of meetings at Woodford Park to 12 per year. This significantly reduces our expenses but does not mean that the number of meetings will necessarily change. We will move all the Planning meetings to an alternative venue where we will not incur any charges. We will also synchronise some of our visits and have summer on air/BBQ evenings. Couple these together and we have a full and comprehensive agenda for 1988.

Publicity is the key to success and every member

can spread the word around, particularly if you enjoy the meetings. Chris, GOMZN, has made some posters that are available for members to place on School and Company notice boards

Lets see if we can get the club back to its former glory

73, Nick GOLGG
(Lets Get Going)

Questions for comment

1] Would you like to activate the club net?

We used to hold a club net on 144325 (S13) on one specific evening per week. It usually started at 19:30 and continued quite late if there were enough people to keep it going. It was a good venue to exchange ideas and views about the clubs activities.

We have started a morning net that starts at 08:00 on S13. Typically some five or six mobile stations log-in during their trip to work. At

least two members of the committee are available at this time and all comments and suggestions about the clubs activities are most welcome.

2] Would you like a club packet station?

As above, it would be good to exchange views and transfer articles for the club magazine.

3] Would you like an "A" ticket?

Are you interested in learning Morse over the air?

4] Would you like to see Committee meeting minutes published on the web or in the newsletter?

Secretary's Scribble

A late happy New Year to all our members!

Unfinished Business

Recently I was able to complete some unfinished business. For various reasons the Novice Shield could not be located last year. We were unable to present it to the winner of the Novice award - Katie Cannon 2E0ACY. Towards the end of the year the shield turned up. I was able to visit Katie and present her with the award.



AFS Contest

Thanks to the members who submitted logs for the AFS contest. We were able to send in entries for both the CW and the SSB sections.

CW Section participants

Tom - G0VQR;
Loz - G0NMN;
Bob - G4ELY and myself.

SSB Section participants

Nick - G0LGG;
Dave - G0TKV;
Tom - G0VQR;
Bob - G4ELY and myself.

Thanks to Keith - G0XTV, who loaned me a linear for the SSB section. Unfortunately I was very short of time to set up for the SSB contest and at the last minute I realised that the 80 metre inverted V dipole antenna I had erected for the CW section of the weekend was not suitable to drive directly from the linear. The SWR of the antenna was perfect for the CW end of 80 metres, but was about 3:1 on the SSB end of the band.

As I did not want to damage the linear and I did not have a high power ATU, I decided to run "barefoot" with just 100 watts. However the contest was a lot of fun

without the linear, but in the SSB contest to well I think a linear is needed.

Quiz against MADARC

On the evening of Thursday 5th March, a team and supporters from RADARC went to the Maidenhead and District Amateur Radio Club (MADARC) clubhouse in Maidenhead to take part in an inter-club quiz. MADARC meet in a Red Cross hall in the centre of Maidenhead. A large picture of Princess Diana dressed in a Red Cross uniform is proudly displayed on one wall of the hall.

The Maidenhead team consisted of;

Neil - G0SVN;
Mark - G0OIW;
Bernard - G3SMW; and
Andy G0UDK.

The Reading team consisted of;

Des - G8FIF;

Paul - G0VKT;
Peter - G0PUB; and
Pete G8FRC

The Reading team had a band of enthusiastic supporters (Ben, Min and myself) and Nick was the assistant question master. Nick had prepared some very interesting jiffy bags in which there were various exotic and ancient components, which the teams had to recognise. Some of the devices shown I had only read about and not actually seen in the "flesh", the Decatron valve for instance.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Reading Team won by a handsome margin of 65 points to 34 points. Thanks to the Maidenhead club for hosting the evening and providing "free of charge" refreshments. I am sure they are looking forward to revenge next time.

Well that's all for now - see you at the next club meeting:

73 de Jim, G0LHZ

49 Year old Virgin

Well not now! After the first 3 months of being the club treasurer I have found what goes on deep in the bowels of the Committee, no sitting around and chatting the night away drinking beer and firing up the rig.

No it has been a total eye opener with the work involved, planning the finances to see what expenses are due in the short term, annual expenditure and expected income.

The main income comes from membership, which has seemed to decline in the past few years putting additional strain on how the club should be run and the most important things kept in

operation. This effect we all see in our daily lives at work and the services, which we all took for granted. The big safe umbrella is getting smaller. Members who support the McMichael Rally giving up time for the Sunday Event (19th July this year) put a large amount in to the coffers. They get free admission for their work, as it is joint event with the other local clubs.

Our largest expenditure is the annual fee for the meeting room, which has increased over the years. Some members may recollect the pub in Emmer Green (that's when I first joined the club, travelling from Stokenchurch) and we moved because of the increasing costs and the new landlord. The blue rooms of the Conservative Club I remember well because they used to turn the TV up loader when every we had a speaker, that made members sit near the front and not be late for the meeting.

The other week a small group of Hams were seen to gather outside a Building Society Office in Caversham. When the third one joined them, it was noticed that the staff showed suspicion when they entered as one carried a large case. A woman assistant nervously asked what our business was as we jostled with the other members of the queue, and she wished she hadn't as all three said were here to change the club paying in book details. Well you should have seen the relief on her face, as Nick was looking down on her from one side and Jim on the other side with Min trying to open the large case. (I think she thought we wanted to increase our savings) well that was part of the things we needed to do just to get signatures changed, which all takes time.

I have enjoyed the first 3 months seeing some past faces return to the meetings and hand over their membership fees and the

comments about the talks we have had so far. So for the future as the song goes "Things can only get better".

Thanks to all members who help to erect, dismantle and pack my projection equipment away each meeting.

Remember a club is not a club without members, bring a guest or a friend.

De Min, G0JMS

List of Paid up members.

G0JMS Min Standen
G0LGG Nick Challacombe
G0LHZ Jim Carter
G0TKV Dave Self
G7UZY Alan Musther
G4ELY Bob Panting
G8FIF Des Howlett
G7FBE Ed Dare
G7GEB Louise Dare
G4JNU Peter Smith
G0MZN Chris Nunn
G0PUB Peter Swynford
G7SJK Tim Masson

G8NXJ Ian Livesey
G0LIE Jack Humphies
G0NMN Loz James
G0VKT Paul Sayer
G3DMQ Dr Alan Curry
G8GZR Bob Langdon
G6LLP Bob Farey
M0BIY Ben Clarkson
G6IJK Ted Clayphon
G0OPB Tony Canning
G3NGX Harry Hogg
G0VQR Tom Cannon
G4CCC Chris Young
G4JTR Vin Robinson
G0XTV Keith Evans
G8FRC Pete Milton
G0RPW Don Wilson
G3XTT Don Field
G7MER Chris Hurst
G1HTD Tony Hornby
G4KWT Denis Pibworth

Recent Club Meetings and Events...

Jan 22nd Meeting - The doublet

Our thanks go to Vin, G4JTR, for a well-prepared talk on the doublet antenna. He managed to handle the

occasional heckle without difficulty.

walk and Quiz.

Vin demonstrated that the doublet is extremely versatile antenna for all amateur bands. He concluded by stating that his ultimate antenna system consisted of just two. It is hoped that Vin's talk will feature as an article for inclusion in a newsletter issue.

Feb 12th Meeting - Fast scan TV

Tony, G1HBD had spent a lot of time and energy bring together a complete FSTV station. Live pictures were transmitted to the TV repeater and several TV

The second half of the meeting was devoted to the results of the first meeting survey. The highest scoring topics for talks



were antennas followed by computers in radio, digital radio, W.W.II history and linears. At the other end of the scale are EME, WAB, Morse class, Beacons and last but not least - Raynet.

stations responded with information and even replayed our signals. Tony also had some tapes that he

had made of various topics including a GB2RS news bulletin. The pictures were excellent and certainly gave the members an idea that TV is fun and does not have to be expensive.

McMichael featured highly in the interest section followed by Special event station and Junk sales, At the end was JOTA, Christian Aid

Feb 26th Meeting - Digital signal processing

Leon, G1HSN, presented an extremely technical subject in an easy and

understandable way. He did cover some of the mathematics and demonstrated the advantages of DSP with some equipment he had with him. A very interesting and worthwhile talk that was appreciated by all.

March 12th Meeting - Antenna tuning

Roland, G3IWW, gave an enlightening talk covering the mathematics of antennas and soon got back to basics. Practical examples were given using graphs that can be used to match well known amateur antennas.

March 26th Meeting - Spring junk sale

As usual for this type of event, there was a large attendance, and large amount of "surplus equipment" available for bargain hunters. The Club made around £60, which all goes to help Club funds.

RADARC Newsletter "RADIO" – The First Issue of 1998

We decided to make this issue of RADARC club newsletter a bumper issue. I hope you like it, your comments are most welcome and could find themselves in the next issue. New members will automatically receive a copy as it will tell them in detail what the club does throughout the year. I cant guarantee that each issue will be the same size but articles and comments from the members will help spread the load and ensure another bumper issue next time.

I hope that the Newsletter will be placed on our web site for everyone to read. We would ask if we should make this available on the web for club members only or open to anyone who visits the site. It is possible for us to e-mail the newsletter to all members where we have their address -

saves lots of time and postage printing hard copies but does mean higher telephone costs for those reading it.

If you have any comments and articles they can be emailed to any member of the committee or sent by packet to GOTKV via GB7DID, on disk or hand written.

de G0LGG. Nick

Letters to the Editor

Plea for codeless licence

Dear Sir,

I'm at a loss to know why it is every time I pick-up another radio magazine, so much is given to the subject of Morse code. So I thought it was time for me to add my thoughts to the list of many others and hopefully add another perspective.

We all came into this hobby of ours, because we had an interest in radio and I'm sure we have taken out the bits that interest us. I certainly have, whether it's Packet, AMTOR, VHF./UHF or FM./SSB, Satellite operating SSTV or TV (the list is endless).

So, please tell me why is it there's all this controversy over and old operating system? If you are going to be selective over one part of the band, then it would have been sensible to have been selective over the rest.

For Example, those who wish to use frequencies above 1GHz should be qualified in the use of microwaves, and be fully aware of the dangers! Also those using Packet and RTTY be able to spell and type to an acceptable speed and so on. So why is there a section of our community determined to stop HF being used for some of the above operations without first passing the code

requirement?

Of course there are some who worked hard to get their Morse just so they could use 'phone on HF and haven't touched a key since, I'm sure we all know someone like that. Is it that if Morse were no longer a requirement there would always be the possibility it would fall into disuse, I don't think so.

There is a very old saying that "one volunteer is worth ten pressed men". So it's fair to say we could end up with a higher standard in Morse than we have today.

As you will soon see by my call sign I'm a 'B' licensee, I can see some of you now shaking your heads saying another 'B' wanting a short cut to be on the HF band, and I can understand why you think like that, for my part nothing could be further from the truth.

My interest in Amateur Radio has and still is Satellite and TV operating. So much

so that it's taken up quite a lot of my time in the last 12 years and I can assure you I have not had any interest in HF except back in 1984 when I was first licensed.

I was flying to the Falklands in my capacity as a crew member with British Airways. We had a crew change which meant we were in Port Stanley for few days. So with this spare time I applied for a reciprocal licence. To my surprise I was issued a full 'A' licence. When I queried this I was told there was no requirement for a Morse test in the Falklands, so the whole amateur spectrum was open to me.

Of course I didn't have an HF rig only a 144MHz hand-held, so I was unable to use my new licence to its full extent. My call is VP8BGU. Every year another colleague and I sent our £10 down to the Post Office in Port Stanley, our renewals duly arrived back approximately two weeks

later.

A cautionary note here don't think you can rush down to the Falklands get a licence and come back and get a reciprocal. The VP call is not recognised in the UK. Even so a precedent has been set. Do we still have the code in the UK?, because "I had to do it, so you have to mentality"? We are just about to enter the next Millennium, so let's sweep away these old ideas. Now would be a good time for change, so our hobby can progress and flourish If we are far sighted enough to let this come about, our hobby can only benefit and become all the richer and wiser for it.

Anthony Hornby
G1HBD/VP8BGU



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McMichael Rally 1998

Greetings fellow hams, my name is Pete Milton G8FRC and I'm the Club's representative on the McMichael Rally Committee. Min Standen G0JMS is Bookings Manager. There is a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and Reps. for MADARC and BBRC. Our task is to make sure the rally comes to fruition and is successful on the day, which I'm sure you all know is Sunday 19th July. Now, while July might seem a long way off, preparations are well in hand and at the last committee meeting the Reps. committed the clubs to supporting the event to the tune of about 60 man-hours per club. I'm sure you don't

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need reminding that this event is a big boost to the clubs financial status and goes a long way to keeping Subs. down! However the committee can't run the event on their own, they need your support, so don't be shy please volunteer, talk to myself or Min. RADARC traditionally look after the main gate and control of traffic.

You may be interested to know that part of the "Rally Task List" is to appoint various Task Leaders, the jobs being shared amongst the clubs. These are as follows:

Bookings Manager:
Table Layout

MADARC:
Car Boot Sale
Car Parking

BBRC:
Door Security
Talk in Station

RADARC:
Main Gate Control

Traffic Control

I have volunteered for the traffic control job, any takers for the main gate control? I'd like to be able to report at the next committee meeting, mid April, that we have our two task leaders.

Recently Min produced a big pile of A5 flyers and Denis (G4KWT) and myself distributed quite a few to people at the VHF/UHF Convention. Most cars ended up with 3 leaflets, one promoting a rally the week after the convention, one for the 5th of July and the McMichael one!

Charges this year have been set as follows: -

Trade tables: £12
Car boot pitches (including driver & passengers):
£10

Entry: Adults £1.50
Under 16 free

Rally club tables: free
Other radio clubs & groups:
£5

Local groups repeater /
packet / nodes: free

73 de G8FRC. E&OE.

9M0C Spratly Islands DXpedition

The following text is an edited version of Don, G3XTT's original (huge) email sent to various Club members before the trip. It has not been corrected for tense in any way and there are no actual expedition results. (You'll have to come to the Club talk for that!)

Des, G8FIF

A multinational group of DXpeditioners, primarily members of the UK's CDXC (Chiltern DX Club), the UK DX Foundation, will operate from Layang Layang Island in the Spratlys in February 1998. The operation will run from 12th to 24th February

1998, allowing two full weekends on the island and is timed to take place soon after the island re-opens to visitors following the typhoon season, in order to maximise the opportunities for good LF propagation. It is also hoped that sunspot numbers will by then have started to increase, and that the expedition will enjoy favourable HF propagation.

The team is expected to include G3NUG G3OZF G3SED G3WGV G3XTT G4JVG G0OPB K5VT V K 2 B E X 9 M 2 O M (G3NOM) and 9M6SU. It is planned to keep four stations on the air round the clock, to maximise band openings. All HF bands will be activated, on SSB, CW and RTTY, and the group will also have equipment for 6 metres. The team will use a wide selection of monoband and multiband antennas including four-square arrays for both 40 and 80 metres. The callsign will be 9M0C.

Layang Layang (also known as Swallow Reef) has been

the location for a number of Spratly expeditions, including 9M0S and 9M0A. The island has been developed by Malaysia as a dive resort, and has permanent accommodation, mains power and an airstrip. The Spratlys currently rank at number 25 world-wide in the latest (Jan/Feb 97) DX Magazine poll, and 12th for East Coast USA. They also rank 18th in the digital "Most Wanted" list (AA5AU). Layang Layang is also in Zone 26, one of the rarest zones on the LF bands, and therefore in great demand. The Spratly Islands count for AS-051 in the RSGB's popular Islands on the Air Programme.

The DXpedition team includes veterans of many DX and contest operations, with wide experience of both the LF and HF bands, and of all modes. It is intended to make significant use of computer and Internet technology to make information available about the expedition and to

expedite QSLing after the event. QSO data will be uploaded to the Internet while the expedition is in progress. A Web page is available at <http://members.aol.com/spratly98> with up-to-the-minute expedition news. Pilot stations in Europe (G3ZAY), the US (N1DG) and Japan (to be announced) will act as an interface to the team, in line with the recent practice of other major expeditions. Phil Whitchurch G3SWH will be QSL manager, and QSLs will be available through the bureau or direct. Phil's address is 21 Dickensons Grove, Congresbury, Bristol, BS19 5HQ, England. Bureau cards will also be answered 100%.

Equipment & Antennas

Yaesu are supplying six transceivers for the use of the DXpedition. There will be four main operating positions, each equipped with an FT-1000MP, and Dunestar filters to limit inter-station interference. Each operating position will also

have a PC for logging purposes, linked by low power UHF link to the main log server. One of the four main operating positions will be equipped with a modified PK-232 terminal unit for RTTY operation, and second PK-232 will be available for back up.

A fifth operating position, equipped with an FT-920, will be used primarily for 6m operation, and will run in beacon mode when there is no band opening.

A second FT-920 will be available as a back-up radio for any of the operating positions.

The antenna system is expected to consist of the following:

- 160m: Battlecreek Special vertical, which will also be a back-up antenna for 80 and 40 metres.
- 80m: 4-square array of Gladiator vertical antennas.

- 40m: 4-square array of Gladiator vertical antennas.
- 20m: Cushcraft 3-element monoband Yagi
- 15/10m: Two Cushcraft A3S multiband Yagis, one with extension for 40m.
- 30m: Phased verticals
- 30/17/12m: Cushcraft A3WS
- 6m: Cushcraft Yagi

A Butternut HF-6V vertical will serve as a general back-up antenna and for monitoring propagation.

Thank you:

We are very grateful to all who have supported us to date. There are a number of non-amateur organisations who have also made significant contributions. These are good people to contact if you are planning a DXpedition.

After a couple of last-minute changes our final team becomes 13, as follows:

Leader Neville G3NUG

Deputy leaders

Don G3OZF

John G3WGV

Others

Ray G3NOM /
9M2OM

Mike G3SED

Don G3XTT

Steve G4JVG

Tony G0OPB

Kazuo JA1RJU

Vince K5VT

John N2QW

Jeff 9H1EL

Donald 9M6SU.

UK have also commissioned us to write the book of the expedition. Guess we're going to be busy for some months yet!

After it's over...

Once we are home again, I will be sending out some further information to those on my mailing list, and we will be writing articles for the major ham radio publications including the Japanese CQ Magazine, the German Funk Amateur and, of course, RSGB's RadCom. We are also scheduled to present at the Visalia Convention, the RSGB Convention in October, and no doubt at many other venues too including, we hope, Dayton. Nevada Publications of the

Do you have 4 metres?

I Never hear anyone on!

There is a net on four every Tuesday night at 9.30 clock time (FM). There are usually at least a couple of stations on from the Caversham area. Net starts off on 70.45 MHz (the calling frequency) and then QSYs to 70.425 MHz. All are welcome to join in and put some life onto a sorely neglected band.

C U on 4!

de G4AWY, Richard

**Internet Morse
code Requirement**
*(And other news from "over
the pond")*

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet, especially after the Communications Decency Act provisions regarding Internet content regulation were stricken as violating the U.S. Constitution, has decided instead to require a Morse code requirement for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service and the general belief that its requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam and other technical requirements, has kept the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal.

Persons wishing to develop a

web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language.

Persons wish to develop web sites that have actual content (as compared to just links to other web sites) must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test. Demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English.

The FCC, which lacks budgetary authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants.

For more information see <http://paradox.com/ham/>

*From ARRL Headquarters,
Newington CT February 12,*

1998

To all radio amateurs

US amateurs soon will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. While an official announcement still may be a few weeks away, it's been learned the US request to participate in the European guest license arrangement has been approved. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Approval of the US request came in late January at a meeting of the CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), in Groningen, The Netherlands. The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) has been instructed to officially notify the FCC of the decision approving US participation.

Last September, the US State Department applied for US participation in the European

Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. Holders of a CEPT license can operate in CEPT-participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

The State Department's action came at the urging of the ARRL that the US take advantage of the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a license that would be recognised by CEPT-participating administrations and would be valid for brief visits.

Also last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US.

Under the soon-to-be-implemented arrangement, a US Technician license would be recognised as a CEPT

Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets would be given a CEPT Class 1 license, with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licensees would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most CEPT countries don't offer a license of this type.

Once the ERO formally advises the FCC of the decision, the FCC must complete the steps to implement the participation before CEPT licensing can become effective.

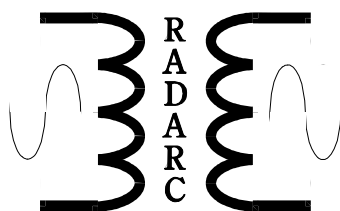
"We've been urging the Commission to do this since 1991," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has given the green light, we hope the FCC will

step on the gas."

DXpedition to Guernsey - GU0LHZ

My ears pricked up when my wife suggested that we went on holiday to Guernsey. Guernsey has a GU call prefix and as such is slightly rare. My thoughts immediately turned to the opportunity of taking the radio with me and operating as GU0LHZ/P.

Fortunately my wife and two children are used to me taking a transceiver on holiday with me. Over the last few years I have worked as F/G0LHZ/P whilst camping in France a number of times and as G0LHZ/P whilst on holiday in Cornwall. Although these



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call signs were fun they were certainly not rare.

I had assumed that we would be taking the car by sea ferry to Guernsey, this offered all sorts of opportunities to take lots of radio gear. My heart sank when a few days later the family had decided that we would fly to Guernsey. They had done some calculations that showed we could fly to Guernsey and rent a car whilst there, for the same price as going by ferry! Also, it was going to be more exciting to fly and we would get there quicker. Faced with such an argument I began to scale down my plans and began to wonder what I could take at all.

After much thought and the weighing of equipment on the scales, I decided that I could just squeeze the Yaesu FP-700 12 volt Power Supply in one of the suitcases along with a few tools. Plus a home made wire dipole for 10 MHz, a home made wire dipole for 7 MHz, some string, a length of

RG58 Co-ax feeder, my paddle key and my trusty catapult. I decided that I would hand carry my FT890AT Transceiver.

We left Reading at about 7.00am to catch a 10.00am Air UK plane from Heathrow to Guernsey. The traffic was light and we got to the airport in good time. We checked in and proceeded to the security check area. My family had predicted that there would be security problems with my hand carried FT890 Transceiver. I was not particularly concerned, as I had often travelled around Europe with computer equipment (as part of my job) and had always managed to clear the equipment through security.

Well, we did have a security problem! My FT890 was put through the X-ray machine and immediately given back to me - no problem. However my daughters' bag contained a personal cassette player - this is something the security people took exception to.

They removed the bag, asked who owned it, took my daughter to one side and asked her to get out the offending object. They subjected the cassette player to a careful inspection and asked my daughter to put a cassette in it and make it play so they could hear it working.

Eventually we cleared security and went to the lounge, it was then that we found out that Guernsey was fog bound and that no flights were leaving or arriving in Guernsey. Well, it was long after midday that we eventually left Heathrow - so much for flying to Guernsey being quicker than going by Sea Ferry!

We had rented a bungalow on the side of a hill just outside the capital of Guernsey - St. Peter Port. The garden of the bungalow was small and offered no handy tall trees for aerial supports. However the owner of the cottage did not object to me rigging up an aerial of

some sort.

After studying the situation carefully, it seemed that the best arrangement would be to string the aerial over the TV mast that was fitted to the chimney in the apex of the roof. The only problem was how to get the aerial there - I was certainly not going to risk climbing on the slate roof as it looked very dodgy.

I turned to my trusty catapult. However I needed a suitable missile to project - the missile had to be something that would not damage the slate roof in the event of a misfire. Eventually I selected one of the small apples that were lying at the base of an apple tree in the garden. I made a hole through the apple and tied some fishing line to the apple.

I took careful aim from the front garden and shot the apple towards the TV aerial. I could not believe my luck - first time the fishing line went over the TV aerial bracket and dropped into the

back garden - perfect. I attached a string to the line and pulled this over, I then attached the 7 Megs dipole and pulled this over, one end of the dipole was made off to the garage gutter, the other to the front hedge.

It was an inverted V Arrangement. I then used my Autek RF1 antenna analyser to trim the aerial so it was resonant in the CW end of 7 Megs -that took about 30 minutes. Well the hard part was over; we had an aerial system.

I set up the radio in the lounge bring the feeder in via a patio door. I did a few test transmissions at 25 watts, the SWR was fine and it did not interfere with the TV in the lounge - everything looked good, however it did not sound good as there was a lot of hash being received on 7 megs.

After some experiments, I found that the hash was being generated by the video recorder and it went away

when the TV aerial lead was disconnected from the video recorder - unfortunately this meant that I could only use the radio when the family were not watching TV. Thus I tended to operate after 21.00 hours, fortunately the family often retired early to read in bed (I wonder whether they were they being kind to me?).

It was great fun operating as GU0LHZ/P. I would call CQ and usually somebody would come back immediately. Often at the end of a QSO several people would call. On several occasions I was called by Americans, I was also called by KP2J in the Virgin Isles and FM5GS in Martinique!

I never had a proper "pile up" except on one Saturday night when, apparently, I was spotted on the DX cluster - I worked John - G3WGV and Tony G0OPB and then all hell broke loose, it was chaos and I could not sort out any particular calls out of the noise. About 15 minutes

went by before order was restored and I eventually worked somebody.

The statistics (All DXpedition reports have to have statistics);

Total No. of active sessions:
13

Total Number of CW QSOs:
120

Total Number of SSB QSOs:
1 (G0LGG)

Total Countries worked 25
RADARC Members worked
2 (G0LGG & G0OPB)

Best DX: KP2J and FM5GS

Prefix	Country	QSOs
9A	Croatia	2
D	Germany	27
EA	Spain	7
EW	Belarus	1
F	France	6
FM5	Martinique	1
G	England	14
GD	Isle of Man	1
GW	Wales	1
GM	Scotland	2
HA	Hungary	3
HB9	Switzerland	3
KP2	Virgin Isles	1
LA	Norway	5

LY	Bulgaria	1
OE	Austria	3
OH	Finland	5
ON	Belgium	1
OK	Czech Republic	2
S5	Slovenia	4
SM	Sweden	1
SP	Poland	5
W	USA	3
YL	Latvia	2
UA	USSR	19

(Apologies if the above does not add up to 120 QSOs!)

Final thoughts

- 1) It was great fun!
- 2) It is amazing what you can work using 25 watts of slowish CW on 7 megs in a sun spot low with an inverted V aerial that was 7 metres high at its highest point and was no more than 1 metre off the roof slates.
- 3) However, I suspect that if my call was only G0LHZ/P rather than GU0LHZ/P, then it would have been a different story.

Jim Carter - G0LHZ

Editor's note.

It struck me as I was reading this that Jim might have had an even bigger pile-up had he used MU0AAA/P - I wonder how many MU calls there are or have been? MOAAA is "available for loan" to club members, so if you're going to somewhere where no M has gone before, why not ask to borrow it? (It's also worth remembering that as a club callsign you have a choice of prefix: M & MX; MM & MS etc.)

Quick quiz – but no prizes – what is the correct call for mobile operation as a club in the Isle of Man?

Club Library

The Club has an extensive library consisting of not just books, but some quite large pieces of equipment too. Club members can borrow any book free of charge, but a refundable deposit will be required for all borrowed equipment.

It may be stating the obvious, but it is impractical to bring everything to every meeting, so if you wish to borrow anything please get in touch with Vin, G4JTR. He can be contacted in any of the following ways:

0118 947 6873 (Home)
0118 953 5310 (Work)
g4j tr@radarc.org
433.500MHz (SU20) eve.

BOOKS:

Antennas

- HF Antennas, RSGB
(missing)
- HF Antenna Collection
(missing)
- Practical Wire Antennas

- (missing)
- Antenna Handbook
- (missing)

Getting Started / Licensed

- Amateur Radio for Beginners, RSGB
- How To Become A Radio Amateur, RA / DTI
- How to Pass the RAE, RSGB
- Revision Questions for the Novice RAE, RSGB
- Instructor's Novice Training Manual, RSGB
- Novice Student's Handbook, GW4HWR
- General Class Licence, ARRL
- Advanced Class Licence, ARRL
- Extra Class Licence, ARRL
- Radio Amateurs Licence Manual, ARRL
- Help for New Hams, W1FB

Listening / SWL

- SWL Handbook
- 1992 Passport to World Radio, IBS

Operating

- Low Profile Amateur Radio
- Low Band DXing, ARRL
- The Complete DXer, W9KNI
- Amateur Radio Awards, G4FAM
- Space Radio Handbook, RSGB
- Amateur Television Handbook, BATC

EMC

- Guide to EMC, RSGB
- TVI Manual (1979), RSGB
- Radio Interference Suppression, Lucas
- Mobile RFI Suppression Manual, Champion

QRP

- QRP Notebook, W1FB
- How to get Started in QRP, G-QRP Club
- QRP Circuit Handbook, G-QRP Club

Datacomms / Software

- Amateur Radio Computing, RSGB
- Packet Radio Primer,

G8UYZ / G8NZU

Technical

- Technical Topics Scrapbook, G3VA
- Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur, ARRL
- Waters and Stanton, 1998 Catalogue & Price List

Historic

- Halcyon Days, VK4SS
- W 6 A M, Amateur Radio's Pioneer
- RF Byrne's Unpublished Masterpieces, G6MEN

ANTENNAS

- 2m Beam
- 70cm Beam x 2
- 70cm matching harness for 2 antennas
- 70cm matching harness for 4 antennas

TEST EQUIPMENT

- MFJ SWR Bridge*
- REVEX SWR and Power Meter 2m & 70cm*
- MFJ Antenna Analyser
- Optoelectronics

Frequency Counter

- AKD EMC Filter Kit*
- Hitachi Dual Beam 40MHz oscilloscope*

MORSE CODE

- Datong Morse Tutor*
- Maplin Morse Oscillator*

TX / RX EQUIPMENT

- Yeasu FT221R 2m Multi-mode transceiver*
- Lowe HF150 HF Receiver*

HARDWARE & CONTEST EQUIPMENT

- Tent*
- 2 x Club banners*
- Petrol Generator*
- Diesel Generator*
- Tables, masts, guys, coax*
- Pie Box of fittings*
- Speech keyer*

* Items marked with a red star are for loan to Club Members after payment of a deposit, which is refundable on return of the item.



Visit to K3LR - Big Gun Contest Station

I am lucky to visit the USA at least one or twice each year, one of the benefits of working for an American company. I usually meet up with Norm, K8NI, and he usually fixes up some visit during the trip. In October this year I visited K3LR with him and had my first look at a real contest station. K3LR, Tim, runs 11 rigs, each with kW+ amplifiers all feeding a massive antenna farm - multiple 200 foot towers. I have been in contact with Tim and hope to have details of his station in the next issue. Meanwhile, the following note appeared on the web:

There is no truth to the rumour that the first words spoken by Dan Duffy, K3LR's two-year old son, were "CQ Canada." But you can be sure he's learned that phrase now.

We still have not figured out what kind of conditions we need to win one of these things, but we plan to keep trying. Here is how we fared this time:

160 meters: In a word, ouch. Heard KC1XX working a layer of EU that we obviously could not touch. Worked a few EU at their sunrise and got SV8 during the last hour of the contest. N3BJ did a superb job.

80 meters: This is a 24/hour band at Tim's. New 3-el M2 yagi did not really get a chance to shine, as conditions were terrible. Except to Ontario, that is. Not too much went wrong with the station, so K3LR had to stick in his chair the

whole contest. ND8L did a great job on days.

40 meters: Cannot think of two people who I'd rather see on this band than K8GL and K8CX. Lots of experience here. No long path in the morning. No EU sunrise opening. Good runs at local sunset, with some nice multipliers calling in. What do you do when you make a sked with one JY and another shows up instead? Worked lots of our Canadian friends during both days, thanks to W8JZ.

20 meters: Continues to be the money band. Very good VK opening at 0500z on the first day. Also had the best rate to JA in years on Saturday night. Northern Europe was noticeably down. On the other, the population of Mediterranean hams seems to be limitless. Signals were down on Sunday, as the MUF moved up. N9RV abused both K3JT and KB3AFT on this band.

15 meters: A roller coaster ride. First night had enhanced propagation to JA, with sporadic openings lasting 15 minutes at a time until 0400z. This kept K3UA from conducting his usual exhaustive research into old QST's. Band opened early the first morning with Africans before sunrise, but EU opening wasn't "full." Plenty of west and south EU with a sprinkling of UA9's, with not much else. JA was a total bust on Saturday night. Things were much better Sunday. N3RA also operated, but impending wedding bells caused intense QRM.

10 meters: Knew things would be better this year when KA3JWJ had 10 Q's in the log before sunrise. Sunday afternoon EU opening was the money maker, but biggest thrill was working VE2QRZ/zone 2 in the middle of the night for a new one.

The real award this year

should go to Tim, K3LR, for getting the station in great shape after much adversity. We will see everyone on CW for another go at it.

For more information try contesting.com

De G0LGG, Nick

The common market does it again!

The European Union commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year

phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, sivil servants will resieve this news with joy. Also, the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik emthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 per sent shorter. In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"s in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go. By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by z" and "w" by v. During

ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou", and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

Your Pet Ham

The pet Ham is one of the most intelligent of pets, often seeming almost human. However, he can also be one of the most difficult to keep. Only a person with a great deal of patience and understanding should attempt to keep a pet Ham. The following is a short guide to some of the most important things that you should know about caring for your pet Ham.

LIVING AREA:

Your pet Ham should have a private area of his own, an entire room, if possible, where he will not be disturbed. He will spend many happy hours alone there, with his collection of treasures (boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, plastic, etc. that he will bring home regularly). He should be encouraged to confine his activities to this nest room, in order to protect the rest of the house from his natural tendencies toward noise, clutter, and making holes in the walls.

EXPENSES:

Raising your pet Ham can turn into an expensive hobby. But, unlike most pets, the pet Ham can be trained to work outside the home for short periods, and thus, bring in enough money to cover all of his expenses.

FEEDING:

The well-behaved pet Ham will be able to eat with the family on occasion. But, he usually feels more comfortable and secure if he can take many of his meals in the privacy of his nest room. It will be your responsibility to see that your pet Ham is kept well supplied with food and drinks during the long periods of time that he will spend alone in the nest room.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Pet Hams can usually be trained to use the family bathroom facilities.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING:

Most pet Hams can be trained to respond to a few simple commands. The easiest for him is SIT and SPEAK. Once your pet Ham has learned these commands, he will sometimes practice them on his own for hours at a time.

HEALTH CARE:

The pet Ham is especially subject to minor irritations of the lower back, and sore throat; from too much sitting and speaking. The special CW breed tends to have a tired wrist rather than sore throat...and RTTY versions may suffer from tired and hurting eyes, depending on his age and monitor. These can be relieved by sufficient rest periods when symptoms flare up.

TRAVELLING:

Your pet Ham will gladly travel with you in the family car, if he is allowed to bring some of the collection from his nest room. His favourite trips will be to places where he can associate with other pet Hams from other families.

BREEDING:

If you plan to breed your pet Ham, you should do so as

early as possible after you get him. As the pet Ham matures, he becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in any activities not connected with his nest room collection!

From the Feb. 1998 issue of "Wavelengths", the monthly newsletter of the Arkansas Radio Emergency Services Amateur Radio Club, Little Rock, Arkansas. - Thanks to Richard G4AWY for this item

Postscript

Well, this is just about the end of the fist issue - congratulations for making it this far. It's taken a lot of effort from all the committee with useful contributions from many members. I hope you liked the content and found it an interesting read. I do hope we can do a similar

bumper issue in the summer. If you come across some items that you think will be of interest please pass details to one of the committee.

We hear a lot of talk in the press about the millennium bug - can anyone tell me whether there will be a February 29th in the year 2000?

Editor's note:

Yes there will be a 29th February (and it'll be a Tuesday). The rule is as follows.

Any year is a leap year if it is divisible by 4;

Unless it is divisible by 100 (i.e. century years) when it is not;

But every fourth century (ones divisible by 400) are leap years

This makes 1992, 1996, 2000 & 2004 leap years, but 1800 & 1900 were not (and 2100 will not be either).

If we're on the subject of the millennium bug, British Standards Institute have said

*that you cannot claim to be
fully Year 2000 compliant
unless you get the leap years
right!*

1998 RADARC Committee:

Chairman:

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Treasurer:

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Newsletter

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Member's Advertisements

FOR SALE

**Kenwood TS 680S
HF + 6m only £550**

Navada wants £650, Martyn
even more – see November
'97 RadCom

**Also, Kenwood AT 250
HF Auto Tuner only £150**

Contact G0LGG – 972 2489
evenings

FOR SALE

**Yaesu FT480R
Mobile 2m multimode
Including workshop
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Contact G0JMS – 972 3504

FOR SALE

**Tandy Scanner
Model PRO 2005**

£100 ono, will Swap

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G6ZTZ – 962 3529

FOR SALE

**Graphics Blaster 3D 4Mb
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Ideal for Windows 95
With original box & software
updates – £50 ono

G8FIF – 921 0399 evenings

Tiny Two and terminal

Low cost packet TNC

G0MZN – 972 7870

SOLD

McMichael '98

15th. Amateur Radio Rally and Carboot Sale

Free Parking

Sunday July 19th

The Haymill Youth & Community Centre
112 Burnham Lane, Slough.

Trade Stands

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Berkshire's Premier Event
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Burham Beeches Radio Club

R.A.D.A.R.C.

M.A.D.A.R.C.

Further Information
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Email : g4xdu@amsat.org

Trade inquiries & Bookings

Min Standen G0JMS

On 0118 9723504

Email : mins@clara.net

DATE	MEETING / EVENT / ACTIVITY	DETAILS
THURSDAY 23 April	9MØC DXpedition - Don G3XTT gives the club a talk on the recent Chiltern DX Club's visit to the Spratly Islands near Malaysia	G3XTT
Monday 11 May	Radio Amateurs Examination The New Single Paper 80 Question RAE	G0LHZ
THURSDAY 14 May	EMC and the Radio Amateur – talk by David Lauder G0SNO. <i>David writes the EMC column in RadCom</i>	G0LHZ
THURSDAY 28 May	Field Day Planning Meeting - planning for HF NFD and VHF NFD, <i>plus free drinks from G0PUB who gets married on Saturday 30th May.</i>	G0LHZ
Weekend 6 June- 7 June	RSGB HF National Field Day - Annual CW Contest. Can RADARC win the QRP shield for a 2nd year?	G0LHZ
THURSDAY 25 June	Talk on Computers in Amateur Radio by Peter Finbow, G0DEH. <i>Peter has written articles for RadCom on this subject</i>	G0LHZ
Weekend 4 July- 5 July	RSGB VHF National Field Day - Annual VHF Field Day Contest - with Newbury And District ARS	G0LHZ
THURSDAY 9 July	Desert Island Radio – The annual on-the-night competition to build something from nothing.	G0LHZ
Sunday 19 July	McMichael Mobile Rally - For further details contact Min G0JMS who is the club treasurer.	G0JMS