

WATERSIDE SHORTWAVE CLUB NEWSLETTER. No 2 JULY 1980

We start this newsletter with a few news items from the last two months. Firstly we welcome a new member Ricky French of 75, Heather Rd, Fawley, and Eric Davage who has rejoined.

The club now has its own call sign - G4JYN. lets hope that it becomes a well known call in the years to come.

There seems to be some confusion as to the dates of the club meetings. The monthly meeting at the Community Centre is always on the fourth Tuesday of the month, then two Tuesday's later we have an informal gathering at the Flying Boat in Calshot. It has been suggested that the question of buying drinks at the Flying Boat can prove rather expensive if we start to buy rounds. Can we make it a club rule that each individual just gets his own drinks, I think that should make things easier for everyone. And do not forget the club net held on every other Tuesday evening at 7:30 on 2m.

More dates for your diary are July 28th until August 2nd - that's the Community Centre open week. We will have a display and station with a Special Event call sign of GB2BCC which should attract the DX. More information will be given at the next meeting.

The rally scene has been in full swing. Many members have been seen carrying off their bargains from Longleat, HMS Mercury and Alexander Palace (lets hope the recent fire does not prove to be too disastrous for this famous landmark). It was suggested that the club could hold a competition for the best ATU aquired from these rallies, but the editor regrets that the prize has already been won.

The clubs junk sale proved a great success, even if the title 'junk' did not really do justice to many items offered for sale. The treasurer thanks all members who helped swell the club funds by £13.95

HF BAND REPORT. By Colin Smith G3GHY

The exceptional conditions of April reported in the last note have gradually tailed off as Summer has progressed. In my experience 20m has not produced much long skip and 10m continues to disappoint. Australasia was heard and worked regularly in May, but not, I believe, in June.

We all tend to have favourite bands and my own at the moment is 15m. The logs of other members, especially for 80m and 40m, would help broaden the picture somewhat.

Having condemned 10m, A7XE, a rare one in Qatar, was worked on one of my few morning forays on this band. This station was on 15m most evenings in May but was too occupied with American pile ups for me to get a look in. At different times I've heard requests to QSL via DL2MY and DF3GI so the station has more than one operator.

Among the DX heard od worked on 15m were; TI2LA, 4KIA (Antartica, QSL via UQ20C), G4CKF/5N8, VU2BK, OD5LX (QSL SMØGMG), ZD8TC, A4XVK (G4BVH), 9U5D (ON5TO), 8J3ITU, HZ1AB, XE2OL, HSLABD, J28CB, ZF2BN, HM1KR, AH6P and VS5RP. Others, too local to be called DX but none the less rare were; SVOAA/9, EA9GT, FØFKI/FC, DF4RD/HBO, K5KG/OHØ and ZA1AA (Albania).

There seem to be quite a lot of Asiatic Russian stations to be heard these days. The mainly Muslim areas of Kazach and Soviet Central Asia with UD6, UL7, UJ8, UH8, UI8 and UM8 prefixes represent reasonable DX. My last batch of QSLs from the bureau contained a listener's card from Samarkand for a top band CW contact.....you never know who is listening.

UAØ and UKØ are all in Eastern Siberia and the Far East. One interesting rubber stamp DX contact recently was with UKØZAB in the peninsula of Kamchatka, 20 degrees farther east than Japan.

The digit and first suffix letter of all Soviet calls slots them neatly into one of 183 'Oblasts' or districts. The Central Radio Club, Box 88 Moscow gives awards for confirmed contacts (or listeners reports) with 100 different Oblasts.

I have just received a nice glossy QSL from HSLABD in Thailand who only works contests. Another card, for my first India confirmation was solicited by self addressed envelope and 2 IRCs. It was VU2BK in Poona. 'Kab' (or General R Z Kabraji as it transpires) is often at the CW end of 15m at around 22.30 GMT, which is about 04.00 local time, so he doesn't sleep very much. His QSL card bears this quote;

'I live in a very small house, but my windows
look out on a very large world'
Confucius 550 -478 BC

How true. 73s G3GHY

THE OTHER MEMBER'S STATION

Last time we took a look at Roy German, and while I would never presume to describe him as an Old Timer, he certainly has many year's experience in Amateur Radio. So this time we are going to meet one of our 'younger' members: Clive Saunders - G8TLE

Clive's interest in 'things electrical' started when he was a young lad in his native village in North Devon. He had a part time job with the local TV repair man, where he was the chief breaker and stripper of old TVs. He was most fortunate when a licensed amateur moved into the village and took him under his wing. A borrowed HRO Rx introduced him to HF bands, and later a Creed teleprinter and a home brew terminal unit helped him explore the RTTY signals.

He passed the RAE in May 1979 and started on 2m with an IC211E. His home QTH provided an excellent VHF site and he was very active on SSB. He has fond memories of the lift in November when he worked many European countries. Later that year, he was active on 70cms with a TS770 multimode rig, and was soon attracted to the satellites. His first Oscar QSO was with our Roy G3OTZ (I believe he is still waiting for the QSL!); but he has since worked a little farther into New York and Canada.

On the home construction front he is becoming quite expert on modifying commercial gear for 70cms, and has recently joined the plumbing brigade with a very nice pair of 10 GHz transceivers.

His current interest is with the plans for the 70cms repeater - he is secretary of the working group, and is busy designing the logic switching circuitry. He has been studying the Morse Code for some time, and may even have his G4 ticket by the time you read this, and be on the air with his FT107M.

Outside the world of radio, Clive lists his hobbies as just the normal bachelor pursuits, and for relaxation he plays badminton.

THE FORMATION OF THE WATERSIDE UHF REPEATER GROUP

The idea of a UHF repeater to serve the Waterside area started as a joke after the first Waterside Shortwave Club meeting back in 1979. The idea was dismissed - how could such a small community of amateurs and short wave listeners hope to gain permission for such a venture in such a sparsely populated area on the edge of the New Forest.

No more was said, or indeed, thought about the project until I travelled to Birmingham for a three week course. I expected to have plenty of 2 Metre QSOs due to the population density of the area. However, I averaged about one per week. A lot of activity was taking place on 70cms due to the fact that there were three UHF repeaters around the area - something which surprised me.

Back home GB3PH, the Portsdown Hill 70 cms reteater, had been off the air for some time. The location was being changed to a new site at the east end of Portsdown Hill. The feeling was that the service area of this repeater at this new site would not include the Waterside area except around Calshot and Fawley. With these points in mind, plus the fact that Clive, G8TLE, had been experimenting with 70cms, the idea of a local UHF repeater was rekindled.

Service areas of existing and planned repeaters, possible repeater sites, approximate coverage area, equipment availability and cost were all taken into consideration, as were the guidelines laid down by the RSGB as to UHF repeater coverage squares.

With proposals in the pipeline for repeaters at Wimbourne, Salisbury and I.O.W. we were still in some doubt as to the number of repeaters permissible in such a small area. The chairman of the Repeater Working Group was telephoned and we were assured that UHF repeaters were intended for communal use and that we should submit a repeater proposal form to the RSGB.

During the next two months impromptu meetings were held between myself, Clive G8TLE, John G8UAY and Arthur G8PGF in an attempt to fill out the proposal form.

A temporary mast, loaned by Chris G8WBB, was erected in the evening of Sunday 25th May at the rear of Lyndhurst Printing, Hardley Ind. Est. During that evening and the following two days mobile tests were carried out and the results were most promising.

By including Colin G3GHV and Vic G8TGA into the group we eventually completed the proposal form and posted it to the RSGB.

At the moment we are not sure when the repeater will be licenced. Initially we were told 18 months, however the letter from the RSGB confirmed our proposal and suggested only 6 months.

The Waterside UHF Repeater Group was formed at a meeting in the Flying Boat on 29th May 1980. A committee was formed thus; Chairman Mike G4HXT, Secretary Clive G8TLE, Treasurer Vic G8TGA, Members John G8UAY and Chris G8WBB. A constitution has been written and affiliation to the RSGB and insurance are in hand.

The repeater will be sited on a 150 foot mast at Lyndhurst Printing, on the new Hardley Industrial Estate. The receiver antenna is a 6db colinear, the transmit a unity gain dipole. The transmitter, receiver and logic will be sited in a room on the side of the printing works. The Tx will be based on a Pye T461 and the Rx on a Pye R460. Logic will be a hybrid of several designs and will be mainly TTL and will function as follows; A 1750 Hz tone, or a whistle, will be initially required to access the repeater. After this, carrier access is all that is required. Timeout will be built into the logic, but will not be used unless deemed necessary by the engineering team. The callsign will be GB3NF (New Forest) and this will be sent every three minutes in CW at 12 wpm at high deviation

If the repeater is not in use and in low deviation if it is. When the input signal has cleared down, the repeater will send a 'K'. If no signal is detected on the input after 5 seconds the repeater will close down. The repeater channel has yet to be decided. Battery back up, in the event of mains failure, is envisaged.

The repeater should give good usable coverage using low power equipment around the Hythe, Blackfield and immediate New Forest area.

Subscriptions to the Waterside UHF Repeater group are £1.50 per year, reduced for students. Although the cost of this repeater is low by normal standards we still require funds. The receive antenna has been purchased and we are in the process of buying the transmit antenna, so at the moment the group is in the red.

Plans are afoot to produce a club project consisting of a 70cms convertor or monitor receiver so that those who wish can monitor the repeater.

My thanks to all who have contributed so far, and we can look forward to many more members and to our own local repeater.

Mike Lord G4HXT

A VISIT TO CALSHOT COASTGUARD TOWER.

At 9am on Sunday morning 25th May, in response to an invitation from one of our club members, SWL Phil Bridges, who is an auxiliary Coastguard, John G3JAX, Ken G8UWA, and SWL's John Gay and Eric Davage presented themselves at the base of the Calshot tower.

A call to the officer on duty by way of the intercom, and we were requested to enter and ascend. This entailed climbing a series of yellow painted staggered ladders, which were almost perpendicular and totalled 80 odd steps, and this had the septuagenarians in the party, if not the others, puffing a bit upon arrival in the control room.

In the room, with its commanding view of the Solent, we found in charge a solitary officer seated on a never still swivel chair, busy listening to and responding to an array of chattering radios and juggling with various mikes and telephones, writing up his logs and at the same time keeping a watchful eye on the Solent and the antics of what seemed a myriad of floating craft of all shapes and sizes - from oil tankers to canoes.

"I can see accidents before they happen" he elicited, and went on to say that a helicopter could be scrambled in 2½ minutes. This could be done only at the Coastguard's request, and when airborne there was direct radio communication between them and the chopper which then would receive directions.

There were two radios permanently on the emergency frequencies of 2182MHz and 156.8MHz. "What happens if a radio fails?" we asked with our amateur enthusiasm. "Don't mention it" came the reply. "It means phone calls all over the South and forms in quadruplicate that end up in London before anything is done."

The officer was not permitted to tamper with the radio gear. In fact he said that he was not allowed to change a light bulb. We presumed that he was able to sharpen his pencil without involving too many forms.

After looking at the various charts and official publications, and being handed some informative literature, we left the control room most impressed with the Coastguard Service and not a little disappointed that during our stay no helicopter had been scrambled and no lifeboat launched!

Coming back to earth from the tower top was even more hazardous than the ascent, since it involved climbing down backwards. A nice shiny pole, fire station fashion, would have made it less exhausting. A lift had been considered too expensive when it was built.

Despite all the wonders of the modern age to be found in the control room, the only means of conveying foods to the top is by a primitive rope, pulley and basket.

It was an interesting visit that gave us an insight into the work of HM Coastguard Service, something which other club members might find worth negotiating those ladders for, given the invitation.

JOHN GAY.

SWL BAND REPORT.

SWL John Gay reports sending QSL cards to the stations listed below, which have recently been received on his Minimitter 44/II using a long wire antenna (132 ft) and an ATU. All on SSB on various dates.

28 Mhz							
GMT	CALL	NAME	QTH	GMT	CALL	NAME	QTH
2159	ZP5CPE	Gil	Asunion	1941	LU7OAD	Roland	Salta
0730	UA9AKL	Ivan	Magnitogorsk	2044	PY7DOM	Paul	Sao Paulo
2230	PY1JY	Doc	Rio De Janerio	1412	EA4TK	Vincente	Alicante
1450	ZE6JL	Tom	Gwelo	1450	ZE6JC	Jerry	Gwelo
							NB. Gwelo is in Zimbabwe.
21 Mhz							
1500	W6SWE	Bob	San Fernando	2215	4X4BR	Eli	Haifa
1552	5NØATW	Tony	Lagos	2229	CP1FF	Mario	Lapaz
1933	PY7COR	Rob	Caruaru	2127	5B4DM	Paul	Larnica
2245	VE3BBD	Harry	Toronto	0647	CT2QN	Luiz	Ponta Delgada
2205	LU3KA	Victor	Tucunan	2245	VK5NEW	Eddy	Adelaide
2235	JTØYFU	Olleg	Ulan Bator	1953	JAØBFZ	Hiro	Nagana
1610	ZS6SX	Dave	Johannesburg	1738	HH2W	Herby	Haiti
0725	VK2EQ	Jack	Sydney	2230	JE1YRM	Roy	Tokyo
14 Mhz							
0640	VE3KCE	Geoff	Aurora	2000	RV3CE	Nick	Moscow
2210	PZ1AN	Eddy	Paramaibo	2135	5B4HF	John	Nicosia
0719	6W8GT	a YL	Senegal	1840	VU2NP	Doc	Bombay
0652	W6ZAF	Bob	Paradise				

Also heard on 1-7-80 at 1500 hrs; the club station VO1CA Op. Nate of Shoal Harbour announced an award for worked all Canadian regions to commemorate 113th anniversary of the foundation of the Dominion.

And so to the last article of this newsletter, the article that many had hoped would be the highlight, but is in fact the saddest; and thats the Satellite News. Oscar 9 was due to go into geo-stationary orbit and provide world wide communication on VHF completely independant of the band conditions. But alas that satellite now lies at the bottom of the ocean after the failure of the Ariane launch rocket. Let us hope that AMSAT recovers from the blow, and that Oscar 10 proves to be even better.

The editors thanks go to all contributors, next newsletter in September so can we have all articles for publication by mid August please (remember all articles are considered and all bound to be published).

Best 73's fer the Summer es TTFN

Graham Walmsley (Ed. in chief
and speller extraordinaire)