

The two months holiday season since the last newsletter seem to have flown by. The Community Centre has been closed, so we have had no Club meeting, but there have been several other 'get - togethers'.

The afternoon of the 27th July saw our HF picnic in the New Forest. It was well attended, and I think that we all had a good time and were glad that the weather decided to be kind to us. We had the necessary permission to erect an aerial at Yew Tree Heath which proved to be a very good site. The inverted V trap dipole feeding an FT7 gave excellent results, and as always it was good fun to tell the Americans that we were just running 10 watts to a bit of wire when they had just told us that they had a 2Kw to a beam. We were surprised to be called by a G5DLU. He had a very strong American Accent and an equally strong signal. It turned out that Al was living in Dibden Purlieu, and we hope to welcome him to our club whilst he is staying in this country.

The following week saw the Community Centre exhibition week. I hope I am not too biased when I say that I think that our stand was one of the best. We were on the air each evening with our special event call, and although conditions were in the Summer doldrums we had some 200 contacts.

I guess that the final news item would be the contest results in September's Rad Comm. Did you all see that your illustrious editor was placed 20th in the recent 7Mhz phone contest? 20th out of all those thousands licensed amateurs can't be bad eh!

The Satellite Scene. (With thanks to AMSAT UK Oscar News)

By Roy German

The AMSAT Phase 3 satellite has not been the only disaster in space recently. Just four days after the late lamented launch of the Araine rocket the weather satellite NOAA-B was launched. It was destined for an 800 Km circular polar orbit. The first stage malfunctioned, losing thrust, but this was corrected by a longer burn from the two sustainer engines. However the onboard computer did not believe that the error had been overcome so it detached the satellite. Alas still subjected to the thrust from behind, the satellite remained firmly in place until the end of the sustainer burn when it should have sprung free and go into orbit. But, of course, it was already free so there was no spring-off, and it remained perched on top of the rocket. When the apogee rocket subsequently fired, NOAA-B took off and found itself in a beautiful polar elliptical orbit, perigee 250 Km and apogee 15,000 Km - which would have done rather nicely for Phase 3 thank you. Maybe Oscar 10 should try to get a lift on the next NOAA launch. By-the-by, can you imagine what a weather picture taken from 15,000 Km would look like?

COMSATS.

One aspect of the space scene that is not generally appreciated is that our immediate universe is being rapidly filled with hardware for the direct transmission of television signals. The COMSAT bands are; C Band 4 to 6 GHz, KU Band 11 to 14 GHz, and KA Band 20 to 30 GHz. Already the equatorial sector covering the USA is full in the C Band, and it seems that the KU Band will be full by 1988. The USSR has announced a worldwide net of 10 Stations 3.8 GHz direct TV 6 channel Secam satellites. to be up by 1983. Already the Stationer 4 is up, covering a large part of the Northern hemisphere, and Stationer 8 is due to extend the range even further West. As GM4IHJ has commented, the USSR seems to be determined to

fill the satellite TV air waves with visual versions of those highly entertaining programmes from Radio Moscow...They seem to assume that we will all have Secam sets, with the Russian sound offsets, and that we will all be up and awake during their broadcasting schedule of 0800 to 2200 Moscow time. All these satellites could, of course, result in an equally complicated jamming network.

In the USA itself, stations like WOR-TV are already coast-to-coast via an RCA satellite, as are WGN Chicago, WTBS Atlanta and KTVU San Francisco. Here in Europe, a space TV version of Radio Luxembourg is on the cards.

The September edition of Wireless World carries an interesting article relating to the subject.

Frequencies to Watch

Rad Comm have recently reminded us of Oscar 7 & 8, but others of interest include the weather satellites Tiros N on 137.62 and 137.77 MHz, and NOAA-6 on 137.5 and 137.77. Ideally you would have picture receiving facilities, but there is always something to listen to, and their orbits are similar to Oscar 8.

In the 'Mind Your Heads' dept (or what goes up must come down) - ARIEL 5, the UK satellite re-entered in March after 5½ years service. AYANE 2, a Japanese satellite just disappeared after its apogee kick motor was fired, and the Einstein X-ray telescope is expected to re-enter in about 8 months time, and this is a very large piece of equipment.

Tailpiece. A group of French Radio Amateurs are starting a project to be known as 'Ariane-Radio Amateur Satellite pour L'enseignement de L'espace', or in short, Project Arsene.... this seems to be rather open to misinterpretation.

THE OTHER MEMBER'S STATION

So far in this series we have met a G3 and a G8 so the next obvious choice was an SWL. So we meet -
John Gay BRS38743.

John's interest in radio falls very neatly into two three year periods namely the last three years and 1923/5. As a school boy in the 20s, John was able to supplement his pocket money by making crystal sets in cigar boxes for his father to sell for 5/- (that's 25p for our younger readers). He soon progressed to bright emitter valve receivers, even though this meant a 3 mile cycle ride to the nearest garage to get his batteries re-charged. His wireless activities ended when he left school to start work in the motor trade, in which he has spent a large part of his working life.

One of his life long interests has been with aviation, and it was because of his interest in the airbands that three years ago a relative gave him an Eddystone 870 receiver. This proved to be a reasonable receiver for general SW listening but it was not until he chanced upon the local Top Band AM net that the SWL bug really began to bite. He had known of amateurs since the old days, but had assumed that they were long since extinct. A meeting with our Colin and Fred at a Jamboree of the Air proved otherwise and resulted in the purchase of an Eddystone 840 Rx. This was a much improved receiver with wide band spread and the all important bfo that revealed the secrets of all those ssb stations that were just so much gobbledygook on the AM only 870. Since then he has never looked back, and the recent addition to his station of a more sensitive Minimitter amateur bands only Rx and a 150ft aerial have given him many happy hours listening.

His 'shack' is in the corner of his living room, so that you may guess that he has the all important sympathetic wife who shares his interest in the airwaves. He has a most impressive collection of logbooks where he records all stations heard, and is a keen collector of QSL cards and finds that most stations respond well, if not a little slowly at times. It

would be difficult to say just why the SWL bug has bitten him so hard, but one possible explanation may lie in a large atlas sitting by his Rx. He explains that it lay unused for many years but that over the last three years has become just a little dog eared and definitely well used as he marks out stations in countries that I am sure only radio enthusiasts know exist.

For the future John would like to take the RAE and Morse test and I am sure that he will find all the help and encouragement that he needs from the members of our club.

On a personal note, John has always been a keen sportsman, and still regularly plays tennis and badminton (if he was at school in the twenties I'll leave you to work out some interesting arithmetic ..Ed). Also over the years he has built up a fascinating collection of local news items, especially those relating to the Beaulieu aerodrome - why not ask him about the day when he saw twenty planes crash, I think you'll find it quite interesting.

WANTED.

John Shaw, BR543106, is looking for an inexpensive amateur bands receiver. Give him a call on Lyndhurst 2980 if you have anything to offer.

RAE TUITION.

The committee are considering offering RAE tuition for club members. The form of the tuition would depend on the numbers interested, but could range from a complete course, to brush-ups on specific subjects. Please contact the committee if you are interested.

LIBRARY.

Cy Babbs has parts 1 & 2 of the Admiralty Handbook that he is willing to lend to any club member. Give him a call to arrange the loan.

CLUB PROJECT.

What Club Project you may ask? Well the dark Winter nights are almost upon us, so its time to give this often repeated subject some detailed thought. The obvious choice would be a 70cms receiver/converter/transceiver for 'our' repeater - I believe that the plans for the repeater are progressing very well, and it could be licensed within the next 3 months. Other subjects could include direction finding gear for all the DF hunts we could have in the Forest next year, or we could all club together and build one big item between us, such as slow scan TV, E-M-E experiments, or weather picture receiving gear etc. The sky is literally the limit, so let's hear your suggestions and we can try to get something off the ground.

FINALE. Finally we have the usual plea for articles for the next Newsletter: the dateline being mid November. How about some technical articles on circuits you have built up? Not necessarily on big items, but the small circuits published in Technical Topics and the like. I'm sure we would all be interested of your experiences. Don't worry about the presentation or other minor details, the editor is quite happy to sort it out, and add all the necessary typing mistakes to keep it in line with the rest of the newsletter.

Also Christmas is only 64 working days away, so the committee will soon need to organise something for our Christmas party - lets have your suggestions as soon as possible.

Best 73's Graham Walmsley Editor