

WATERSSIDE SHORTWAVE CLUB NEWSLETTER. No 6 MARCH 1981

Welcome to newsletter number 6, which must mean that we have come to the end of the club's year. April's meeting on the 28th will be the Annual General Meeting and if you have any topics that you would like to be raised please contact the chairperson (!) as soon as possible.

One point worth bearing in mind is that an important part of the AGM is the election of the committee for the forthcoming year. The committee is the driving force behind any club, and it makes all the difference between a strong, healthy club and a 'not-so-good' club. As with all things one volunteer is worth ten pressed men, so can I suggest that we all give some thought during the next month to see if we would like to volunteer. Obviously the jobs involve giving up some of your time, but it really isn't that much, and the work can be very interesting and rewarding.

The committee will be unable to plan next year's activities unless it knows the views of the members, so let's get your views aired at the AGM. Over the last 2 years we have covered a very wide range of subjects at our meetings, would you like more of the same, or less? in more detail or less? more formal meetings or less? more frequent meetings, more talks or demonstrations, or practical sessions, contests or competitions, visits to rallies, shows or even the local brewery ????? No committee has ever had too many ideas to work with, so let's hear yours at the AGM.

HF BAND REPORT. Colin Smith - G3GHY

As I write, the Commonwealth DX contest has just finished - CW on 10 to 80 metres. Once more, quite an opportunity to work rare DX in what's left of our far flung Empire without the usual Continental clutter. I didn't have much luck on 10 and 15 metres due to some temporary (I hope) antenna problems, but on 20m, among the more mundane VE3's etc, I did manage G5AAP, VP2MIX, VP2VJ, G3KTR/5N9, 9J2KO, VK4XA and VK7BC. I heard, but did not work, H44DX (Solomon Is.) and ZK1BC (Cook Is) - rare ones indeed. G4BDQ was heard taking part on 10m - Peter is not a member of our club, but is a regular attender on our Sunday morning net (which is a SSB net on 3.775Mhz at 0900, for those who have not yet joined us). He was heard working a ZL with his meagre 6 watts, which should boost his ego somewhat.

Fred, G4CTW, still picks off some very nice DX, despite the daunting limitations of an aerial in the shack and a high local noise level. VK's and ZL's appear not too infrequently in his log, and two nice ones recently were 8P6JQ and 7X2KLJ both on SSB on 15m. Careful listening in the early mornings before the rest of Europe is awake seems to be his secret.

Iris and Lloyd Colvin of Yasme Dxpeditons have once more been activating prefixes in the Caribbean area, to the delectation of DX chasers World wide. Ofcourse, in that mad clutter of Islands more prefixes per sea mile can be activated than anywhere else in the World. Recently they have been in French administered Islands of the Leeward and Windward groups. I had QSO's with Lloyd when FMØFOL and FGØFOL/FS for two new countries.

Awards are still an interest to me. I would send off for the CWDXCC but unusually the 100 cards have to be sent for (very careful) scrutiny to ARRL Headquarters in New York, enclosing return postage. True, rather expensive (have you heard Fred's view on postal charges?) but I am more bothered that the cards may get lost, and there are cards there that I require towards other awards. BCRTA is one of them, issued by the RSGB for confirmed contacts with 50 Commonwealth call areas. I am still about 3 short. Another good one is the CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones. Of the 50 zones I am still short of zone 27 - a large and empty chunk of the Pacific. Peter, G4BDQ, worked a DU (Phillipines) onSSB recently so perhaps I should spend more time at that end of the bands.

Just remembered I worked my first Mongolian station JTLKAA a couple of weeks back. My direct QSL is even now winging its way toward Ulan Bator (I hope). Should anyone require a DX address I have the current world call book.

73's G3GHY

DAMMAN BLAST!

After the excitement of apparently hearing King Hussein, JY1, at 1914 gmt on 16:12:80 and eagerly awaiting a gold embellished QSL card, now comes the crunch.....

I have received a note from JY1's QSL manager, Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP, R.D.2 Box 5a, York Haven, PA. 17370 informing me that it was not the King operating at that time, but some other person pirating his call sign on both SSB and CW.

John Gay

OTHER MEMBER'S STATION

This month we meet John Lunn - G4JAX

John is a native of the Island and became a SWL with crystal sets in his school days. He occasionally chanced upon a local amateur Top Band net, but for many years he preferred searching the broadcast bands for DX, and has a fine collection of broadcast QSLs. Over the years his interest developed towards the amateur bands, and in 1975 after studying at the Southampton club, he passed the RAE and became G8KSR. He went on the air with a Storno base station, but preferred the DX qualities offered at the SSB portion of the 2m band, and so acquired an FT221R all mode rig and fed it with a beam on top of a 30 ft mast.

In 1979 after some excellent tuition from Bob Donald, a retired Merchant Navy operator, in Hythe, he passed the Morse test and became G4JAX. Armed with an FT7B and an all band trapped dipole he set off to explore the HF bands. He uses both phone and CW on mainly 10m and 15m where he finds the few watts from his rig seem to go that bit farther. For Top Band he has Fred's Codar AT5, and at the other end of the spectrum a standard 7800 is used for 70cms.

For the future, John has an interest in slow scan TV, which should make an interesting contrast to his 'day job' servicing their high speed name-sakes. Finally I can hardly close without commenting upon his new purpose designed shack; a very comfortable retreat for these cold evenings, and well worth a visit.

Well, that's the end of this year's Newsletters. I hope that you have found it useful and possibly even entertaining. The editors thanks go to all who have submitted material.

Finally, the answer to the quiz is, of course, '42'. The prize is this mask, which you can make up into a complete micro-processor controlled station, or by reversing the pin connections between 42 & 79 it functions as quite a useful microwave antenna:-

IC Shadow Mask. Mod GW/1-

