



Worksop Amateur Radio Society NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Hello everyone, welcome to the May newsletter. Well, the Club is certainly on the up, reaching dizzy heights in more ways than one—in April we were runners-up in the RSGB Club of the Year 2014 competition, we're steadily climbing up the tables in the 2015 RSGB UKAC VHF contests. and this month a forest of new antennas has appeared above the Club. Read on for details.....

Sue Ferguson (M6XAK)

Committee News

Following Roy Frettsome's resignation as Chairman earlier this year, the Committee has co-opted President Roy Henson M0ROY as Acting Chairman with effect from 21 April 2015 until the Annual General Meeting in October. This is in addition to his role as President.

Over the last couple of months we have been pleased to admit 8 new members to the Club and extend a warm welcome to:

Ady Clark of Lincoln M0XYZ

Richard Hudson of Danesmoor G1ZIG

Lewis Sadler of North Anston SWL

Tony Sneath of Lincoln G8YMW

Lucy Isaac-Sneath of Lincoln M0LUY

Raymond Tattersall of New Ollerton
M0MLJ

John D. Whitworth of Chesterfield
M6JWG

Derek Bailey of Maltby M6AVF

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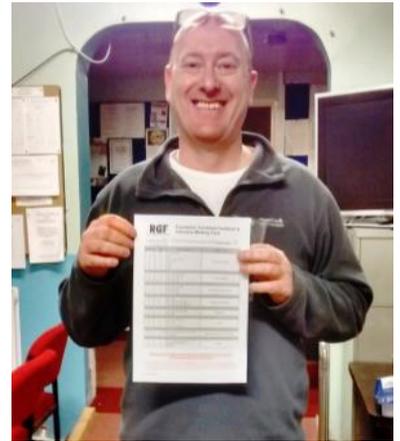
Exam successes

Many congratulations to **Alison Instone** and **John Whitworth** who passed their respective exams on Saturday, 11th April.



Alison passed her Intermediate exam and her new call sign is **2E0HUN**

And John passed the Foundation exam and his call sign is **M6JWG**

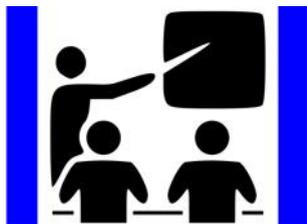


Next examination dates

Full licence: Wednesday, 19th August 2015

Foundation licence: Thursday, 25th June, 6pm

Please note that the Club will be **CLOSED** on this date because we're off to Clumber Park for a bit of /p operating and a BBQ. Hope you can join us! Last year was fun (except when the delta loop fell down!)



Tuition Courses for 2015-16

A reminder that the next tuition courses for all licence grades will begin in the Autumn.

If you know anyone wanting to join the **Foundation** level course beginning in September please get in touch with **Martin Fearn M0ZMF** at the Club.

The next **Intermediate** course will also start in September.. Anyone wanting to join, please give your contact details to **Paul Archer M0PJA** by the beginning of **July**.

The **Advanced** course, for those wishing to study for the Full licence, will begin in October. In preparation for that **Steve Hambleton G0EAK** will run a **Maths Primer** starting in **August**. Names and contact details should be given to Steve and **Denis Soames M0USV**. Prospective students will be asked to do a mock Intermediate exam paper prior to the commencement of the course to help identify any possible weak spots that the tutors can then address.



RSGB Club of the Year 2014

If you follow G3RCW Facebook page you will already know that the Club was Runner-Up in the RSGB Club of the Year 2014 competition (Large Club). Steve G0EAK and Paul M0PJA represented the Club at the RSGB AGM where they received, on your behalf, a framed certificate and a cheque for £250.

The Club had a mention, and a similar photo published in the June copy of Radcom .



The certificate is on display at the Club

RSGB Convention 2015

Booking is now open for the RSGB 2015 Convention which will take place on **9th to 11th October** at Kents Hill Conference Centre, Milton Keynes.

Full details of delegate rates and packages are on the RSGB website now and range from 2 night, 1 night, custom or Day tickets.

A **2-night package** (Fri and Sat) for one person is £259 or £369 for two people (sharing the same room) This includes en-suite accommodation, breakfasts, admission to the event, welcome buffet on Friday evening and Convention dinner on Saturday evening.

A **one night package** (Sat) for one person is £135 or £209 for two people. Lunches on both days are not included but can be bought on the day.



If time or budget don't stretch to a full weekend or you want to arrange your own accommodation then a Day Ticket is available—Saturday £15, Sunday £10 or both days £20.

Perhaps a day trip could be organised through the Club with car-sharing or a minibus? Just a thought....

All prices are subject to an early bird booking discount if booked before 18th August.

As last year, 5 lecture streams are planned over Saturday and Sunday so there should be something of interest to everyone. No details about the talks at the moment but if last year is anything to go by they were of a very high standard. Details will be posted on the RSGB website as they become available.

See <http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/rsgb-convention/>

Antenna update

The A-Team (Martin, Steve H, Jack, Luke, Seth, Ziggy and Fred) were in action again over the weekend of 9th/10th May building and installing a selection of new antennas. Cunning plans came to fruition and everything went smoothly. Well, almost.....there was a slight panic when it was discovered on Saturday that some element clamps were missing.. Superhero Seth, however, saved the day. Huge thanks to him for staying up half the night to babysit his 3D printer in order to deliver the perfect set on Sunday morning.



Here's a selection of photos from the weekend. There are lots more on the *G3RCW- Workshop Amateur Radio Society* Facebook page in the album titled *New Antenna Farm Installation*



The LFA Yagis, for 6m, 4m, 2m, 70cms and 23cms were supplied by Justin at InnovAntennas, cables were supplied by Martin Lynch and the cherry-picker, which made the job so much safer and easier, was hired from Colin Cookson of JD Fabrications Ltd, Retford.



New VHF/UHF antennas all in place. 6m and 70cm on stack to the left and 4m, 2m and 23cm on the other.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in over the weekend—a great team effort. The antennas have already been tested out in various contests with improved results, and it was a nice change for Alison and Sue to be able to work the 23cms contest from the Club instead of /P in the car park!

The newly installed antennas are for everyone's use — not just for contesting, so if you fancy some SSB work on the bands, pop upstairs and have a go. We would like to ask though, if you are not familiar with the radios or are unsure about anything, then DO PLEASE ASK first before using the equipment.

Shack 1—VHF/UHF

Shack 2—CW and HF

Shack 3 (Teaching Room) - HF and Data (UHF/VHF planned)

All shacks have internet access.

Due to Paul (M0PJA) being unwell the planned 70cm antenna construction evening on Thursday May 14th did not go ahead so the evening was spent cleaning up and refurbishing the 6m, 2m and 70cm beams taken down the previous weekend.



The refurbished 6m antenna will be used during the National Field Day event in July and the 2m and 70cm beams will be available for loan to club members to use for portable operation in contests.

Do you fancy a mug with your call sign on?

If so, Paul Faulkner (M0PCF) now has the facilities at his place of work (Simply Portraits) to print on to mugs. Just send your call sign and/or a picture of your choice via email to

simplyportraits@gmail.com marked for the attention of Paul Faulkner.

The cost is £7 per mug which includes a donation to the Club.

(The one opposite wasn't done by Paul—its just to give you an idea)



When did you last re-validate your licence?

Ofcom like you to re-validate your licence at least every five years. In fact, it is part of the terms and conditions of your licence and Ofcom may revoke your licence if you don't. Section 6(3) of the Terms and Conditions refers:

6(3) By no later than five years after the date of issue of this Licence, unless during that five year period the Licensee has given notice to Ofcom of any change to any of the Licensee's details as set out in Section 1 of the Licence in accordance with Clause 6 (2), the Licensee must confirm to Ofcom that the details set out in Section 1 of this Licence remain current and accurate. The Licensee must make a further confirmation to Ofcom once every five years from the later of:

(a) the date on which the Licensee last confirms to Ofcom that the details set out in Section 1 of this Licence remain current and accurate; and

(b) the date on which the Licensee last gives notice to Ofcom of any change to the Licensee's details in accordance with Clause 6(2),

unless during that five year period the Licensee has already given notice to Ofcom of a change to any of the Licensee's details set out in Section 1 in accordance with Clause 6(2), in which case the subsequent five year period will be calculated from the date on which the Licensee gave that notice. Failure to do so may lead to the revocation of this Licence in accordance with Clause 4(5).

<https://services.ofcom.org.uk/terms>

You can re-validate your licence earlier than every five years if you wish. Some people like to do theirs on a memorable date such as their birthday. The Club could help by issuing a reminder to you if we held the appropriate information on our database. Let me know if you would be interested

A further thought about licences.....

If you go out portable, whether contesting or not, it might be useful to carry a copy of your licence with you just in case someone in authority queries what you are up to in that layby or field!

VHF Contesting Update—Steve Hambleton G0EAK

The club continues to progress well in the UKAC VHF/UHF contests as the league table positions shown below demonstrate. We have continued to improve in all bands since the start of the contesting year in January and especially when compared to our 2014 league positions.

How have we achieved this improvement? It is a combination of improved operating techniques, improved logging, as well as a clear strategy to ensure we optimise the use of equipment and availability of operators for the various bands.

The number of members operating both the club station and their own stations either from home or /P has also increased - This year to date a total of 16 members have submitted logs in one or more contests in addition to the club station, with numerous members having operated and/or logged in the club's VHF shack. Thank you to everybody that has helped.

Recent improvements in the club antennas should result in improved scores from the club station – all of the results published to date are for contests which took place before the new antennas were erected.

Other club members also occasionally come on air to “give us a few points” which is much appreciated but if you are doing this please would you consider submitting a log? – no matter if you only work one club member if you submit a log the points increase the club's score and reduce other clubs' scores. If you need help with logging requirements please talk to Steve, G0EAK.

WARS UKAC League Table Positions

Band	2014	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	Total Clubs
2m	17	18	16	16	14	14	99
70cm	15	13	20	14	14	13	65
23cm	20	19	20	10	11		49
6m	13	9	13	8	7		69
4m	13	No Contest	No Contest	7	No Contest	No Contest	41
Overall	17	15	15	15	12	12	108

Notable achievements to date include:

- **Alison Instone** who has at long last got her Intermediate licence (well done Alison) meaning that she can operate in the 23cm contest under her own call without requiring the supervision of a full licence holder. Combined with the new 23cm antenna installed at the club this means that she can operate from the comfort of the shack rather than the car park although now the light nights are here we hope that she will be going portable on a hilltop to achieve a higher score.
- In the 6m low power section **Paul Faulkner, M0PCF**, and **Steve Hambleton, G0EAK**, are currently 3rd and 4th respectively with just 1 point separating them. This is out of a total of 93 stations entering the contest.
- In the 2m low power section Steve Hambleton is currently 1st overall out of 152 stations. He has finished in the top 3 every month and achieved the maximum 1,000 points for first place in the May contest.
- Overall Paul Faulkner is 61st out of 491 stations and Paul has one Tuesday a month (usually 2m contest) when he doesn't participate and he missed the 4m contest at the end of March due to heavy snow.

If anybody would like to find out more about VHF/UHF contesting (it is very different to HF contests) then please contact Steve Hambleton, G0EAK, or drop in to the VHF shack at the club any Tuesday evening.

In addition Steve Hambleton will be giving a talk on VHF contesting for beginners and improvers, including an explanation of how the scoring works, on **Thursday 30th July**. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, as there is now a growing number of members interested in VHF contesting the Club is this year, for the first time to the best of our knowledge, entering the **RSGB VHF National Field Day contest** on **4th & 5th July** – see separate article for more details.

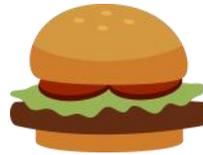
A round up of events since the last newsletter:

We continue to have some interesting talks and activities on Thursday evenings.....

- On **2nd April**, John Rogers MOJAV gave a very interesting talk on **Software Defined Radio** and he has uploaded the slide presentation to the groups Facebook page. (See Files)
- On **9th April**, Steve Hambleton G0EAK showed a video of a presentation given by Jim Bacon G3YLA at the 2014 RSGB Convention. You may remember Jim as a BBC weatherman? Jim is very into **Sporadic E prediction** and has done a lot of research on the subject and often contributes articles to Radcom..
- On **23rd April**, John Rogers was back again with a talk entitled **EMC Explained** which looked into types and causes of interference and what might be done to tackle it. John chairs the RSGB's EMC committee and is a mine of information on the subject. There's a lot of recommended reading on the RSGB website, particularly **EMC leaflet 4: Locating Sources of interference to Amateur Radio Reception** (Advice on how to identify and find sources of RFI in amateur bands)
- On **30th April** we had our first planning meeting for the **National Field Day** weekend in July. For details of the weekend, please see Steve G0EAK's article on page 11. The next planning meeting is on Thursday 2nd

June.

- Thursday **14th May** should have been a **70cms antenna construction** night but as previously stated (page 6) this was cancelled. Good use of the time was made by refurbishing the club antennas that were taken down at the beginning of the month.



Good News! Thanks to Andrea M0LLW, hot food (burgers, chips, pies, baked potatoes etc) is available on Thursdays! The Club will now open at 7pm on a Thursday. However, there will be **no access to upstairs** until after 7.30pm so we don't disturb any teaching that might be taking place.

Out of politeness, on evenings when we have a talk organised, food and drink will be served between 7pm and 8pm, and won't resume until after the speaker has finished. Please respect this. If you can give your food order in advance this would be helpful. We'll try and sort out a system for pre-ordering on Facebook so keep an eye on the FB group page.

Coming up on Thursdays.....

- **4th June:** 2nd planning meeting for National Field Day
- **11th June:** ARDF event around Worksop
- **25th June:** Portable in Clumber Park plus BBQ
- **2nd July:** Equipment prep for NFD weekend
- **9th July:** ARDF meet Shireoaks Marina



RSGB VHF National Field Day

This runs from **3pm (14:00UTC) Saturday 4th July to 3pm (14:00UTC) Sunday 5th July**. We will be operating on 6m, 4m, 2m and 70cm with 3 bands being operated simultaneously for most of the 24 hours.

We have already held one planning meeting and a further planning meeting is being held at the club on Thursday 4th June.

We would like as many members as possible to be involved in this weekend as it should be a great weekend whether you are an operator/logger, antenna erector or just a general helper.

The intention is to give as many members as possible the opportunity to experience long distance contacts on the VHF bands from a high location with good equipment and antennas – an operating and logging rota will be compiled to ensure that all members have the opportunity to participate. If we can put together a great score even better but as this is our first attempt at such a big contest it will be a big learning experience for everybody involved, but most of all we want to have some fun as well because that is

what radio should be about.

We have secured the sole use of a farmer's field close to Grange Moor in West Yorkshire, 750ft ASL with a clear take off in all directions. See picture above. For anybody wanting to check the exact location it is directly opposite the [Kaye Arms](#) on the A642 between Huddersfield and Wakefield

The facilities are very basic for camping with just a water supply at the farm and somewhere to empty chemical toilets. For anybody wanting to camp but without toilet facilities a toilet tent with a chemical toilet will be provided as a shared facility. The cost for camping (tent, caravan or motorhome) is **£8 per night per unit** or for day visitors **£2 per vehicle per day**.

Please note that the field is next to a busy road. Children and dogs/pets are welcome but in the interests of safety must be **closely supervised and under control at all times**. In addition to the road there will be at least 3 antenna masts and generators with trailing cables so a potentially dangerous environment. The site will be under the control of a nominated site safety officer at all times and their decision on any safety issues will be final. Obviously it will be necessary to maintain a quiet environment around

the operating stations.

We now need to know ASAP if you will be attending either as a camper or day visitor and whether your interests are operating, logging, antenna erecting, general helper or any combination thereof.

Please let Steve Hambleton, G0EAK, know via the event notice posted on the club's Facebook group or, if you are not on Facebook, get a message to Steve either direct or via Martin Fearn, M0ZMF.

And finally.....

The Club has a new website **www.g3rcw.org** ! It is work in progress at the moment as we transfer some of the content over from the old website to the new one but do please have a look and let us know what you think.

Thanks to Paul Archer for setting it up. He and Sue Ferguson will be responsible for keeping it up to date—Paul the technical side and Sue the content.

If Members have any suggestions or contributions for the website, please forward to Sue by email—sueferguson89@gmail.com