

CHESTER RADIO SOCIETY

Newsletter. Number 6.. Sept/Oct 83.



Report by G4JMF see inside.....

Editorial.

by G3TZO.

This edition of the Newsletter appears as most of us, fresh from the summer holidays will be looking towards our hobby as a retreat from the winter nights to come, however before we draw a veil over the summer activities we can record that at last the Club rig has been in action, although not without a few problems during the SSB field day. As most of will now know these problems have now been rectified and the rig is available after meetings for members to use.

The first few months of our ownership of a rig have been fraught with mishaps, but we can now look forward to many years useful service. I see from the first few meetings of the new season a lot of new faces appearing, I hope these visits will become more frequent, possibly leading to some new members joining the Society.

It is possible that this issue of the Newsletter will be reaching an even greater number of readers than normal due in part to its publication date coinciding with a reception to mark the Society's Thirty Fifth year of existence, may I extend best wishes to our new readers, anyway enough from me for now!!.....

73's Paul G3TZO.

NEWS REVIEW.

Thirty Five years.

In 1983 the Radio Society celebrates its 35th year as Chester's only representative body for local Amateurs, founded in 1948 to further the interest and aims of local Amateurs and radio hobbyists in and around Chester. In early October there was a reception held at the RUF C to mark this event, during the evening there was a short film and video presentation giving a resume of the Clubs past activities.

The evening was hosted by the Chairman, Mr Alan Warne G4EZO, a number of past members and some guests were invited to attend the event at which wine was served with a cheese buffet, there was a specially decorated cake for the anniversary.

Callsigns.

Congratulations to all members who have received new callsigns in the past few weeks, it is noted that the RALU is now issuing calls prefixed G1 as all G6's have been used up.

Special congratulations to Geoff Morris who has been issued with GW1ATZ, he is of course the son of Howell G3ATZ, these two calls span over 35 years of amateur radio in the Morris family.

Hobbies Exhibition.

On the 1st October, an Amateur Radio demonstration station was operated from the Old Library in Runcorn, using C8GIZ on VHF and G3GIZ on HF, we participated as part of a hobbies exhibition staged by Cheshire CC Libraries and Museums Dept. Quite a lot of interest was shown in the Radio Station.

Our thanks to those few members who helped out:- Howell G3ATZ, Chris G3TPY and daughter Michaela, Dave G4JNF and YL Pat, Dave G6IFA, and Roger and Sue Booth.

Our thanks also to Tony G3SLK for the loan of his trapped vertical aerial.

Jamboree On The Air.

On the weekend of 15/16 October the Society will be assisting Chester Oldfield Scouts with their Jamboree station, the special event call sign GB3COS has been booked for the weekend and the station will hopefully be on air from 0000 hrs Saturday through to 1800 hrs Sunday, there will be refreshments provided for visiting operators together with facilities for overnight stops if required.

Many invited guests including the Duke of Westminster will be inspecting the station at the Scout HQ in Oldfield Drive Vicars Cross. More details from G3TPY. Help of any sort, especially operators, at any time would be appreciated.

September HF SSB Contest.

This year for the first time the SSB Contest was held at the RUF C instead of the usual site at Broxton. The weather was very windy at the start of the contest period giving some concern as to the safety of tents and aeriels, however the group decided to go ahead, and tents and aeriels were duly erected. The tents being directly at the base of the mast.

Once again during the contest the club rig was failed, although on this occasion the fault was due to a slight fault in the governor mechanism fitted to the generator, under which the line voltage was allowed to rise to over 300v, damaging a smoothing cap and the mains transformer.

The faulty rig was removed from the contest site to the QTH of G4EZ0, where at some length repairs were effected, the rig being returned to service some days later, thanks go to those who volunteered their sets for the remaining part of the contest.



Photo:- at the end of the event those remaining were, from 1-r G4MOU, G6IRW, G6IFA, G3EWZ, GW1ATZ, G8AWS, G4EZ0, G8UEK. Photo G8ICT.

On the Saturday evening there was a small barbeque at the contest site, this lasted into the small hours and there was much singing, it seems that a good time was had by all. Due to the faulted rig some operators found that there was quite a lot of spare time, one G8 finding time for a driving lesson around the perimeter of the field and two G6s having an early morning round of golf!!

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME.

October	4th	Committee Meeting.
"	11th	Chairmans Night, all members welcome.
"	18th	Crime Prevention For Radio Hams. Lecture by Chester Police Crime Prevention Officer.
"	25th	NO MEETING.
"	26th	Wednesday, Quiz return visit to wirral club 7:30 - 8:00 at Irby Cricket Club, Prenton.
November	1st	Committee Meeting.
"	8th	HF Aerials, Further thoughts by G3EWZ.
"	15th	QSL Bureau by G3TPI and the JST 100 Rx by Peter G3PYU.
"	22nd	12 GHz Microwave links by G3TZO.
"	29th	Pre Christmas Surplus Sale, clear out the shack to make way for that new rig from Father Christmas!!
December	6th	Committee Meeting.
"	13th	Constructional Contest. Prizes in both classes
"	20th	Christmas Keeting, Sherry and mince pies.
January	3rd	AGM (Unless otherwise instructed).

DAVE OLLERHEAD
G4JMF

As mentioned in earlier Newsletters, several members of the Society recently visited the Islands of Orkney.

Six members were in the group. They were, Howell G3ATZ, Chris G3TPY, Paul G3TZO, Dave GW4FGC, Dave G4JMF and Roger Booth. Two vehicles were used on the trip, a Renault 18TS which was occupied by four people and personal luggage, and a Cavalier Hatchback which was used to transport two people and all the radio gear including the mast and aerials.

At approximately 1000 hours on Friday 2nd September, the journey was commenced, starting off from the QTH of G3ATZ. As the journey was of considerable length (560 miles), it was decided very early on that a night stop would be made at some suitable hostelry en route. This was duly accomplished and a visit was made to the Caledonian Hotel, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland. There remained a distance of only 100 miles to the ferry terminal at Scrabster at which we had to arrive by 11.00 hours.

The evening spent at the Hotel proved to be most enjoyable and entertaining, especially from the hotel management's point of view. After several applications of 'Willabra Wonga' and 'Kanga Brew' the renowned Scottish amber fluid was resorted to. One member, who shall remain nameless, caused widespread consternation and disbelief amongst the locals by consuming vast quantities of a Gin and Green Chartreuse mixture. This made us instantly famous (infamous?) so much so that we were waved off the following morning by the entire hotel staff who pleaded with us to return at the earliest opportunity. Well, that's what it sounded like anyway!

A good night's sleep was enjoyed by all, and apart from that certain member who was presented with a rubber snake on a silver salver for his breakfast (what on earth did he say last night?) the morning was without incident.

After a pleasant drive, the Ferry Terminal was reached at 11.15hrs and we were soon on the boat.

The crossing took two hours and despite a little apprehension from Dave FGC (a sailor he is not) and a slight swell from the North West, no problems were encountered.

We arrived at Stromness on Orkney at 14.00 hours and were met by Fred Pyle GM3HXC and Bob Campbell GM4CMI who took us to the bungalow which we were to occupy for the week.

After unloading the vehicles, the first task was to erect the mast and the two aerials. This was accomplished with some slight difficulty as there was a high wind and horizontal rain. However, despite having to avoid the 'land mines' (cattle were the previous tenants) the Cushcraft A3 3ELE Beam was established at 40ft and the inverted 'V' hoisted under it.

The shack was then assembled in the front vestibule of the bungalow where it fitted very well, the open wire feeder of the LF Aerial being brought in through the letter box.

/cont.

Everything was tuned up for maximum smoke and battle commenced on 20m in the SSB Contest. Various pile-ups were experienced and it was gratifying to note that over 95% of our reports were 5-9+. Then, that night, disaster struck. The rig blew its main AC fuse in mid QSO and lo, there was to be seen a great gnashing of teeth and uttering of expletives and consternation lay upon the gathered throng. "Oh dear", someone said. "The transmitter seems to have stopped working". Indeed it had. After the issue of suitable sedatives, the problem was taken in hand. A task force was sent 20 miles to Kirkwall for spares, no matter that it was midnight. Due to the good services of Bob 6M4CMI, the parts were acquired and the station brought back on line at 01.30 hours. Sighs of relief and scotch all round.



HF Aerial at 40 ft.



FT901+FL21002 set up in vestibule.

The equipment had succumbed to a very common problem in Orkney. The electricity supply system is mostly run in overhead lines and the source impedance of the network is quite high, i.e. a low fault level. This enables any voltage spikes which happen to be present on the system, to be propagated very easily. One such spike had come along and taken out two diodes in the 800V DC PA Supply, thus placing a short circuit across the secondary of the H.V. transformer. It is common practice in Orkney to place a VDR across the AC input to any appliance. This was done and no further problems developed.

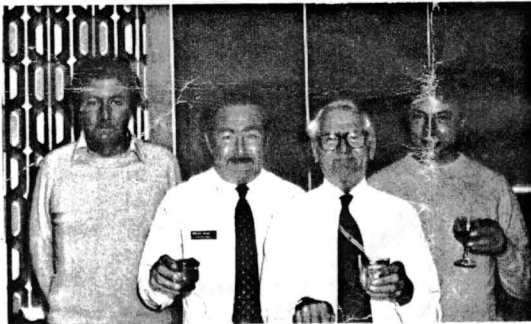
In all, over 325 contacts were made during the holiday, mostly in the evening on 20 and 15 metres by Paul G3TZ0. Many countries were worked including of course YK and ZL with good reports both ways and regular skeds were maintained with ZS and YK. We did listen out for G3GIZ in the contest and we were mortified to hear of the problem with the club rig. Obviously we weren't the only ones with problems.

/cont.

This Newsletter is produced bi monthly by Chester and District Radio Society, the society meets at Chester Rugby Football Club, Mare Lane, Vicars Cross, Chester, each Tuesday except the first of the month, at 8.00pm. All communication via Hon Sec:- c/o 40 Park Drive, Whitby, Ellesmere Port, Sth Wirral.L65 6BA.

On Wednesday we were invited to join a meeting of the local Radio Society. This proved to be a very pleasant experience. The meeting was held at a Kirkwall Hotel and several local amateurs and wives attended, presided over by their Chairman Bill Wright GM3IBU, the Procurator Fiscal. After a very informal meeting at which the local repeater was discussed, we invited all present to come down to our QTH the following night for drinks and hot dogs. Consequently, on Thursday evening we had a most successful gathering at our QTH which, by the way, was right up on the north end of the island, approximately 400 yards from the Atlantic Ocean, 20 miles from Kirkwall and about 15 miles from Stromness. A good time was had by all, despite the attendance of the Procurator Fiscal Hi, the last guest leaving in the early hours. The next day being Friday, everything had to be dismantled and packed away. During this operation, the mast having a mind of its own, decided to dump the beam on the ground amongst a group of 'land mines'. This resulted in more expletives and the bending of the main boom together with some very smelly hands. However, not serious. An observation was made to the effect that HF beams are not designed to be portable. After an excellent meal at a restaurant that night, an early night was had by most of us, ready for an early start to the ferry in the morning.

The southerly crossing proved to be a little rougher than before but no problems were encountered. After an uneventful journey, the Saturday night was spent at the Spean Bridge Hotel near Fort William where more amber fluid was consumed (no Chartreuse, thank God!). There remained the last lap home to Chester, where we arrived tired but unbeaten at 17.00 hours on Sunday.



Everyone enjoyed themselves on the holiday and Chris TPY was most impressed by the island and its people, in fact he is planning a return visit with Ruth, his XYL. Various visits were made to local places of interest where many photographs were taken. One visit in particular was very interesting. On Thursday, some of us took the small ferry to the island of Hoy. The ferry crossing was quite rough, and the car had a good washing down with sea water as the waves broke over the bows of the ship. We drove around for a while and managed to acquire lunch at the Stroma Bank Hotel which appeared to be a slightly converted ex World War II NAAFI building. During the war, Hoy was a very important place as the Fleet Headquarters were situated at Lyness and there still remains the old fuel oil bunkers from which the Home Fleet was refuelled. In fact, we were told that there are thousands of gallons of oil still there, but it cannot be taken from the storage tanks as it has gone solid. After a visit to the Admiral's Headquarters above Lyness, we returned to the ferry just in time, as it happens, because the car behind us could not get on the boat.

In the Shack. N°1. by G3TPY

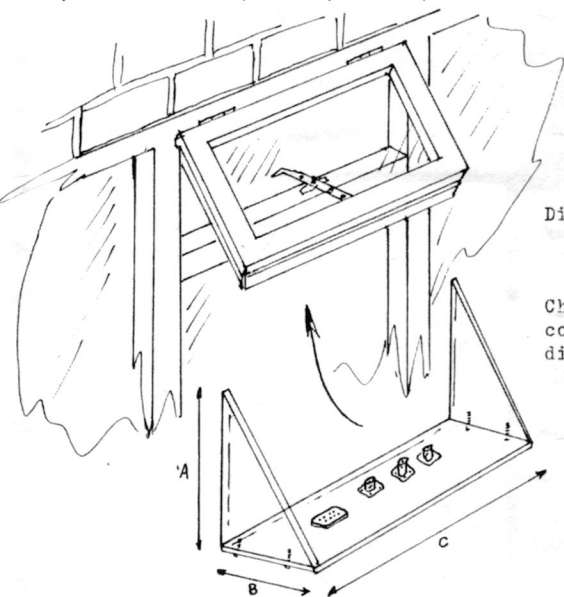
During my travels around the U.K. I have discovered that a lot of landlords do not like their tenants to knock bloody great holes in walls, doors, ceilings, roofs or any other structure that keeps the outside from the inside. (spoil sports).

If your hobby is Amateur Radio and you want to get RF from the back of the Black Box mark 999 series III [improved] promising 1Kw of pure spectrum, how does your feeder get to the great outside fresh air and especially to the end of the very long wire (18 ft long DM and at least 6 inches of the ground)???

It has come to my notice that most small windows that hinge at the top are a standard size. 18 inch long by 11 inch high, but check my ruler may be bent! This being the case I did some kitchen sink building with some 1/4 inch thick perspex if you refer to the drawing then perhaps the following explanation may show that it is possible to make a filler, triangular sides and a flat bottom. In the flat bottom it is possible to fit double male/female connects of the sort that suit your own likes (eg. BNC type C type N or even UHF? pl 259 types) it is also possible to fit AE rotator leads via jones type sockets and plugs. In my own case I have 7 RF leads 1 earth strap 1 rotator ctl and one power (12 volt) lead through. The edges of the fillet can be draught proofed with the self sticking draught excluder sold by DIY stores (Woolies etc), or you can use the putty type of excluder used on TV ae downloads but this is some problem to remove.

In making the two triangular side fillets I found that the extra strength given by putting two pieces of metal up the inside and aralditing them together was worth the trouble (I used two 21/2inch No4 bolts).

The only change that I would make to this outfit now if making one from scratch would be to have a sheet of copper/ali or some such to keep each outer of coax at the same potential so making earthing a lot simpler.



Type of double sided BNC used in the 3TPY prototype.

Dimensions:-

A = 11"

B = 3"

C = 18"

Check the sizes before constructing as some do differ from the standard.

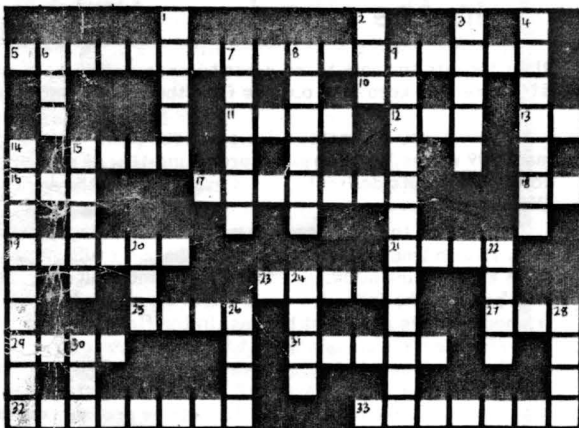
Photo :- Work proceeding during the summer on the HQ station mast at RUF.C. Pictured are from top to bottom :- G3PYU, G4JMF, G8ICT, G3EWZ, G3ATZ,

Photo c/o GW4FGC.



Clues down. CROSSWORD No.3. Dreamed up by Dave G8ZRE.

- 1 + 27 across, No earth you might need this (5,3)
- 2 Horizontal polarization after 00:00, (3)
- 3 See 23 across.
- 4 Asteroids- Flower + pinnacle of rock (7).
- 6 Trouble with neighbours (3)
- 7 November 5th supports (6)
- 8 In the heavens (6)
- 9 Tie yellow nourishment (6,6)
- 14 Is Andre Previn a good one (9)
- 15 Boxer coil, (5).
- 20 Twig too long (3).
- 22 See through, (1,3).
- 24 What 18 will do (4).
- 26 70 cms QTH in YN60C Prison or flowers, (4).
- 28 Radio telephone (4).
- 30 Disaster (3).



Clues across.

- 5 Perm attention rodent at downing street (8,4,5) . 10 A lady dam (2).
- 11 Chocolate town (4). 12 Auntie (3). 13 Turn your radio (2).
- 15 See 18 across. 16 Five towns is on romeo (3). 17 Sticky mess in South America, opposite off (7).
- 18+15 across Midsummer madness (2,4).
- 19 Not via the FBI (6). 21 Solder electromagnetic wave (4). 23+3 down these operators never short of a friend (5,5).
- 25 05:25 Frosty and Parky (4). 27 See 1 down. 29 propaganda from the donkey (4).
- 31 Welshman Ciril Fletcher one way (5). 32 Coal dropper (8).
- 33 Glass rock (7) .

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TR 2400	£175
TR 2200 GX Two at	£85 each.

SMC/TMP Electronics, Unit 27
Pinfold Workshops, Pinfold la.
Buckley. Clywd. (Buckley 549563)

FOR SALE/WANTED.

For sale: ASR33 Teletype with manuals. VDU c/w manual+spares. Phillips CCTV camera. CD110 floppy disk drives. For details contact Tony Cooper G3TKD QTHR.

For sale FT207R 2m handheld c/w mic-spkr, NC1 charger, NiCad, in original packing, £130. D.Hicks G6IFA.

Wanted Pye PF2 (pocketphone 70 series) also PF8-9 . spares, manuals, KiCads W.H.Y?
G8UEK or G8ICT QTHR or call on CR or S11.

Next issue Nov/Dec 1983
73's G8ZRE