



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Mid Sussex Matters



Photo taken in 1979 in HO Townsend's house in Norman Oklahoma

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Meetings are held on Friday evenings starting 7.45pm at the rear of
Cyprus Hall, Millfield Suite, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill,

West Sussex

Visitors are always Welcome



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From the President's Corner

The Sunday morning net on 80m, has been running now since 5th Jan 1977, when it was set up as a way for Sean EI7CV and I to chat together.

Gradually, other members of MSARS joined us, and it now serves not only its original purpose, but also to keep members of MSARS and friends in touch.

Last Sunday's net was particularly good since it was the 1900th time that Sean and I have linked up, and we were joined by not only the usual crowd, but by Phil G4UDU.

Phil was aboard a cruise ship off the coast of Norway, linked via some sort of magic to his transceiver at his home, and out from there onto the airways.

Phil promised to explain all this to us, in his talk at the end of the month.

We were also joined once again by Alain F4GHB from his home in Burgundy in central France, with 59+20 reports both ways.

So you can see what you are missing, in not being part of this each Sunday morning.

An analysis of Sean and my contacts since 1977, reveals that 2244 weeks have elapsed since then, and we have made 1900 contacts.

That's a hit rate of 84.7% meaning we have only missed 8 contacts each year since then, and allowing for our both working abroad for some of the time, including holidays and sickness, it does show our dedication.

My thanks again to my very good friend Sean, for all the effort he has put in to make this possible. We are both getting on a bit now, but intend to try to reach the 2000th contact as soon as we can!

Why not come and join us?

73, Ken G3WYN.



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From The Chair April 2020

I hope all our members and their families are keeping clear from the pandemic. This is the talking point on most of the news on radio, television & newspapers at this worrying time.

However, it appears the amateur bands are busy, even if conditions are still not very good.

As you are all aware, we have had to cancel our meetings due to the above worrying conditions. This has meant we have had to postpone the Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be later on, when once again we can return to normal.

The following events have been cancelled:

Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
(leaves you more time to sort out your shack)

Mills on the Air GBOJAJ

Burgess Hill Fun Day

VHF NFD Contest

Construction Contest

Foxhunt.

And we may have to cancel even more.

One way to find the latest news is by checking the website or even joining in the nets:

80mts on Sundays @ 08:00

2mts on Sundays @ 11:00

70cms HY repeater Wednesdays @ 20:00

70cms HY repeater on Fridays @ 20:00

These will also enable you to talk to other members, and keep up with their news.

I would like to thank all of you, for the messages of support for Val, after her operation. She also sends her thanks.

Finally to you all, stay safe and also sane.

Regards
Russell Nelson G7TMR
Hon Chairman
MSARS



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HO Townsend and Friends



Hi Ken

Thought you might get a kick out of this OLD picture from your visit to Oklahoma in about 1979-80. I am seated right behind you. Hope you are doing well.

73, Wade Anderson K5TN

This came into my email box quite unexpectedly yesterday. It was taken in HO Townsend's house in Norman Oklahoma during one of my many visits, and I haven't seen or heard from the sender Wade K5TN since then!

Back row shows Wade Anderson K5TN, Jack Bickham WB5TZZ and Gilly Wood W5NUT of Caribbean DX fame.

Front row shows a youthful G3WYN and a still slim HO Townsend WA5MLT.

Wade and Gilly are still with us, Jack and HO are now both SK. Ken G3WYN.



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Death from the Skies

Are we about to be snuffed by a large space rock?

If you've been fretting about climate change, nuclear proliferation, the coronavirus, or dispiriting teenage acne, here's something else to give your worry beads a workout.

A British tabloid – the *Daily Express* – announced this week that an asteroid about 3 miles in size will “close-in on Earth” at the end of April. And that was just the start of the news. What followed was truly ominous: namely, this object could end human civilization if it hits!

That sounds like a bad day. After all, we all remember the asteroid that wasted the dinosaurs, and two-thirds of every other earthly species, about 66 million years ago.

Of course, that asteroid was larger. But even if this rock doesn't quite measure up to the Cretaceous-Tertiary's legendary lizard killer, it would surely obliterate millions – either via the direct impact and blockage of the Sun by dust, or by causing the mother of all tsunamis if it landed in the ocean.

The asteroid's moniker is '1998 OR2', which as its name indicates was found 22 years ago at the Haleakala Observatory in Hawaii as part of NASA's Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking program.

Clearly, its appearance in our skies this month is no sneak attack. Rather, '1998 OR2' has been around the solar system block many times. Its orbit is well determined.



So that conditional phrase at the end of the *Daily Express*' headline is key: “if it hits.” And the experts are confident it's not going to hit. In fact, it doesn't even make it into NASA's list of potential future impactors – those objects it thinks are possibly dangerous.

1998 OR2's closest approach will be on April 29 2020, when it will slide by Earth at a minimum distance of 3.9 million miles. That's like a car crossing your path about a mile in front of you. Not terribly worrisome.

And I can't help noticing that there's a much bigger rock – one weighing in at 80 billion billion tons – that will be getting 16 times closer than 1998 OR2 this month. It's called the moon!

OK, so news flash:

Maybe you shouldn't believe everything you read.

**By Seth Shostak, Senior Astronomer,
Seti Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence).**



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Get rid of those Coronas blues with these light hearted Guidelines.

Amateur Radio operators are requested to adapt to the Coronavirus mitigation guidelines as they apply to amateur radio operating.

All ham radio operators are encouraged to stay at least 6 feet from the microphone in order to maintain proper separation from others.

The distance may be reduced if a mask is put on the microphone.

CW operators should wear appropriate gloves when handling keys.

There should be no more than 10 stations on the same frequency at the same time.

Disinfect your knobs, switches, etc before operating ... especially touch screens and PTT.

Shoe covers should be worn when using foot switches. Use of hands-free VOX is strongly encouraged, although from 6 feet away, it will be necessary to shout.

Disinfect all antenna cables coming into the station.

Only mobile stations and walkie-talkie contacts are permitted, where sit-down service has been banned.

The 6 ft microphone separation guideline is suspended for these types of operation, but a mask on the microphone is strongly recommended.

Mobile operators are encouraged to remain in their vehicles except to get necessities.

Outdoor antenna work is allowed as long as there is social distancing among all who are present.

Hoarding of batteries, spare tubes, etc. is discouraged and is unfair to others. We are in this together.

New equipment and parts ordered online for front porch delivery.

Do not test (tune) your equipment unnecessarily. Testing should be reserved for those who actually need it.

Your understanding and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Should anyone desire to distribute this or publish same, give credit {blame} to those of us that created and contributed: Wayne - W4TZB, Bob - K4TAX, Ben - K4QF, and others.

73

Bob, K4TAX

Big thank you to Chris G4ZCS



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Ted Honeywood



Ted Honeywood G3GKF in his shack Circa 1955.

By Peter G4AKG

I can remember the rack gear from later years, after the equipment had been converted into an SSB linear. It had a pair of 807 valves driven by a single 807. The rack was all open at the back!

In 1955 this would have been AM or CW. The receiver is an Eddystone 640, and is still in working order. It's receiving tender loving care at Bryan's G0SYR QTH.

Ted was one of the early users of SSB using a homebrew phasing rig. Sadly, the rig is no longer in existence.

Full story in the May edition of the Newsletter.



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Alan and Stella's Electric Car

We were thinking it was about time, that I changed my car, as it was getting a bit long in the tooth.

As we had the Solar Panels installed, we thought that it would be a good offset, for charging an electric car.

So we decided that we would have a look at what was available in the electric car market. Soon we whittled the choice down to the Nissan Leaf, or the Renault Zoe.

We test drove both vehicles, and decided that the Zoe would suit us best. It had several advantages.

The cabin interior was lighter, and you could fast charge it every time if necessary.



The Leaf was very dark, and you could only fast charge it once a day.

Now to get the best deal. I went onto the Internet, and found a good deal via a vehicle management company in Kidderminster.

The vehicle was to be supplied by Renault Solihull.

August 7th 2019, Stella and I travelled up to Solihull, to pick it up in our old Roomster.

It could have been a bit nerve wracking, bringing a new electric car back 180 miles, when it's range was 187 miles on a full charge.

However, with a recharge at one of the services on the M40 over lunch, use of ECO mode, and help from the car park, (sorry M25), we managed to arrive home around 5pm, with 50 miles left 'in the tank'.

Part of the deal in purchasing the Renault, was the provision of a 7Kw (32A) home charger. With a bit of preparation from myself, running a SWA 6mm cable out to the garage, allowed this work to be completed several days prior to collection.

On arrival back home the car had its first home charge. So what's it like living with an electric car?



At the time of writing we have covered around 2300 miles, done a couple of 100 mile plus round trips and quite a lot of local running about.

During the summer the range is 187 miles and as I write this the winter range has dropped to around 150 miles, not as bad as quoted at 124 miles, maybe because I keep the car in a garage.

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Alan and Stella's Electric Car

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So what's it like living with an electric car?



Most of the time I run it in ECO mode, this limits top speed to 60mph, and dulls the acceleration down to normal car levels.

It reduces the effectiveness of the Air Conditioning, but does enable the battery to last longer.

Switch to Normal mode, and the acceleration turns the car into a pocket rocket, up to its quoted maximum speed of 84 mph.

Not in the league of Teslas, but quite quick enough.

The down side of course, is it uses the battery at a quicker rate.

I have changed my driving style a bit, in that I am looking further ahead, and taking my foot off the accelerator, in anticipation of traffic lights changing etc.

Because while on the move, if you are coasting, there is a certain amount of power returned to the battery.

A case in point is the journey back from Solihull. When on the M25 at rush hour, it is very stop start, and we managed to recover some 25 miles in range just by regeneration in coasting

The car is also very quite to drive, no drone of an engine.

As a final point the Internet Broker I got the Zoe through, has the new version with larger battery and greater range, 239 miles, at discounts of between £5,500 and £6,500.

If anybody wants more information or a demonstration please contact me.

Alan G8YKV



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Bong for Brexit

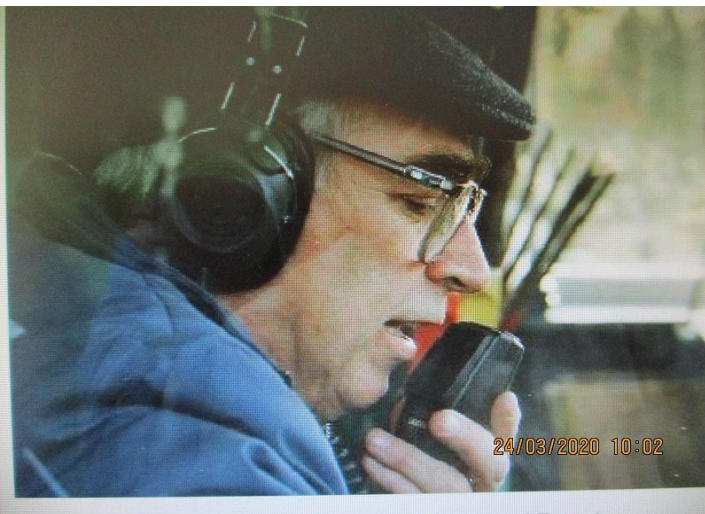
This photo is of Terry GOSWS who as president of the Mablethorpe and District British Legion ran a 'Bong for Brexit' dance and social last Friday night.

Terry spends all his time working for those in need, and has done so for years.

I don't know why he hasn't been given an Honour for all he puts in, but there you are.

Mind you, I know he doesn't go around with those braces on every day!

Ken



Terry GOSWS working from the signal box at Isfield

On the 28th January 1995 we operated with the Special Event Callsign GB2TLL 'The Lavender Line'.

Our radio station was installed in the signal box at Isfield, with the aerial mast strapped to the Signal support.





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The May Issue of Mid Sussex Matters includes:

A presentation given by Phil G4UDU on Remote Controlled Radio Station with special emphasis towards “Flex Radio system products”

If you have been to one of Phil’s (G4UDU) talks, you would be aware that they are very popular, and easily fill our meeting room on a Friday evening.

With the coronavirus epidemic, it was felt that members would probably prefer to remain at home, as opposed to sitting next to each other at the club.

Phil hatched a plan to operate from the Jack and Jill Windmills car park. He would broadcast his talk from there.

Both 2m and 70cms HY were used.

As Phil says: It’s a different way to do it—but today calls for some lateral thinking.

Phil goes on: I can give the talk and take questions. From that location everyone should hear me, and I will be able to respond to a handheld from many miles away.

As Phil summed up: We are radio amateurs—lets use our radios to work around the problem.

Full story from Phil in the May edition of Mid Sussex Matters



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Home of the Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

All contributions of copy for the newsletter please send to:

[Tony Finch](#)

(Tel: 01444 254511)

Details of club events etc go to:-

[MSARS Web Site](#)

General enquires about The Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society Tel Sue 01273 845103