



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

Jan 2020

Mid Sussex Matters



Radio Shack of overseas club member Steve GJ6WRI See page 6



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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



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

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From the President's Corner

In The Beginning:

Early History of the Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society Formed in 1966.

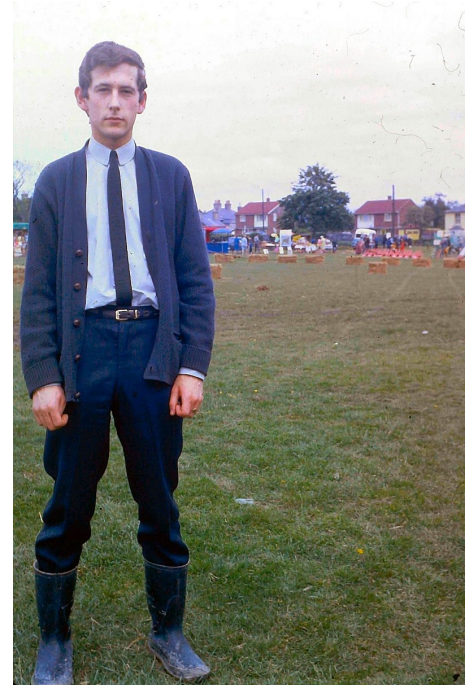
It all began when Eric Letts G3RXJ, Darrel Emmerson G3SYS and Brian Epps G3SHQ, all members of the Crawley Amateur Radio Society, felt that it was too far to travel on winter nights, and that the possibility of a local Club was worth exploring.

Darrell and Brian were youngsters, both still studying, but full of enthusiasm.

Between them they searched the Call Book for call signs in the Burgess Hill, Hassocks, and Haywards Heath areas, and came up with quite a surprising number, including Griff Rockwood G3JGR, and Arthur Campbell G3PEQ.

Eric Letts G3RXJ undertook to write to all those people to ascertain interest, and was amazed at the response.

On the 15th June 1966, 18 people met at Arthur Campbell's home in Hassocks for the Inaugural meeting.



G3WPO Creator of the 'Woppo Box' in next months newsletter.

Results of Inaugural Meeting 15/6/66

Meetings: To be fortnightly, 1st & 3rd Weds each month. To start straight away, without any breaks. First two - 6th & 20th of July at the home of G3PEQ.

Newsletters: Discussed-agreed not necessary yet to start - when need arises. Any odd absent members to be kept in touch by the Sec.

Title: In abeyance for consideration later. Possibly: Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Club (Society) or: Southdown Amateur Radio Club or Society.

Programme: Not too keen on formal lectures, but one meeting per month devoted to this, with the other strictly informal.

The feeling at present is that we use our own resources & entertain ourselves.

Morse Classes: To be included in the Informal's at least preferable in both meetings, with weekly instruction by individuals & recorders. This to be arranged.

Formation of club: Decision unanimous to form one.

Offices: Chairman M. Brown G3BZO

Secretary. E Letts G3RXJ

Treasurer P. Tory

Committee A. Campbell G3PEQ

B. Walker

D. Dawson G3AJE

Bennett G3VAB

Agreed 7 Committee, 5 to be a quorum

Subscriptions £1 annual suggested.

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In The Beginning

Continued from page 2

It was a unanimous decision to form a club, and they settled for the name of:

“Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society”.

A committee was formed consisting of Chairman - Maurice Brown G3BZO, Secretary Eric Letts G3RXJ & Treasurer - P Tory, together with 4 committee members.

Most of the Crawley members agreed to still retain their membership of that club, as the “Mid-Sussex Amateur Society” was not a splinter group, but a group with the same aims as Crawley.

The first meetings were held at the homes of members, then held in Lindfield Primary School.

Some of the other members then were, Ken Belcher G3RLM, Mike Sutcliff G3VAK, Steve Newbold (Later G3VKN), Tony Bailey (Later G3WPO), Ken Gibson (Later G3WYN), Gil Everest (Later G3XUP).

“With the young enthusiasts and mature experts, it made a well balanced organization”.

The net frequency that we adopted was 70.6 to 70.65 Mc/s (now MHz).

This was used to keep members informed about meetings etc.

Our first “Sale of Surplus Equipment” (Junk Sale as its normally known) was in November. This was a good source of components, as wartime surplus equipment was stripped down for various components.

In December the first ever “Mid Sussex Matters” newsletter was published.

The stencils were ‘cut’ on a typewriter by Ken Gibson’s long suffering secretary in London.

They were brought back, and run off the hand turned Gestetner duplicator kept in Eric Letts garage.

This covered everything and everybody in purple fluid.

No wonder we were given it as a gift!

By the end of this year the club became very well established.

Extract taken from MSM 40th Anniversary Special Edition by Mike G8KMP





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From The Chair January 2020

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members and readers, all the best for 2020. May it bring health and happiness, and of course better band conditions.

The last meeting of 2019 was our annual Christmas Quiz. Sue G6YPY was once again our quiz master.

A good turn out meant the evening was full of fun, and as usual was very much enjoyed by the members, helped by the mince pies and wine. Thank you Sue.

We already have a few meetings planned, however we need your support to suggest some ideas for the year ahead.

For those of you that like to keep your diary up to date, we have heard that the date for the Burgess Hill Fun Day is Sunday 14th June, other dates to be confirmed as soon as we know them.

Perhaps it might be a bit early to remind you that the Annual General Meeting is coming up in March.

So now is the time to consider if you could make a difference and stand for election. We need to have a strong and dedicated team at the helm, could this be you?

That's it for now until the next issue.

Before I sign, thank you Stella for being the best tea person so far in 2020.

Regards
Russell M. Nelson G7TMR
Hon Chairman
MSARS



Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

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ANALYSIS OF THE HF NETS IN 2019.

As in previous years I present my analysis of the Club's HF nets for the past year for your consideration.

THE SUNDAY MORNING 80m NET (from 8am clocktime on 3740+/-)

12 Club members took part the same number as last year including Phil G4UDU from a variety of places using a variety of antennas.

33 non members called in some more than once slightly down in numbers on last year but welcome nevertheless.

Bob, N4XAT heard us several times via the SM2BYC SDR site (which meant he was listening at about 3am his time on Sunday mornings!)

There were a total of 45 participants just 3 down on last year, but I wonder where the rest of MSARS members are, surely not all of them are still in bed or out at boot sales every Sunday?

Meantime Sean and I continue our chats having mounted up another 43 in 2019 bringing our total since 5.1.1977 to 1891.

THE WEEKDAY 15/20M NET at 1330 clocktime on 14.330 MONDAY-Friday.

After persisting with the lunchtime net on 15m for a few more months in 2019 poor band conditions, lack of propagation and because several of the Burgess Hill members couldn't even hear each other, prompted me to move the net on the 13th April to 14.330 on 20m to help the situation.

By simply adding 23 feet 8 inches of wire to my 15m Delta Loop I made it a 20m loop (which can also be matched on all bands between 7 and 28 Mhz.) 7 bands no traps and a very cheap efficient low angle radiator to boot!

Despite the poor conditions this simple modification improved my situation and that of the MSARS members some of whom have improved their own antennas.

Bob, N4XAT having moved inland to an area which forbids antennas of any kind, could only listen to us, until he installed an MFJ Loop about 36 inch in diameter and about 8 foot above the ground.

His first qso with us using this was on 30.10.19 but conditions have to be just right to establish a 2 way contact, and this is usually by using CW, so I believe that only George G4PTJ and I have managed this so far.

Bob has been very kind and sends a daily sitrep to those he hears on 20m every day (via the SM2BYC SDR or direct via his small loop) and this is much appreciated by all of us.

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE HF NETS IN 2019 continued from page five

A total of 9 Club members participated in the 15/20m net during the year (2 down on last year?) and a further 29 stations called in making a total number of participants 38, 17 more overall than last year.

Bob, VE3UUH made it once on 13 August and David WB1EAD from Maine has found us on 20m after working us on 15m last year.

As many of you already know, family commitments make it impossible for me to run the lunchtime net originally started by HO Townsend WA5MLT and I in Sept. 1979, so future analysis of my occasional forays onto the lunchtime net would be pointless, and this will be my last annual analysis.

Remember though that failure to pay your MSARS membership dues will move you over from the “members” to the “others” side of such analysis and that would be a pity!

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73, It's been great fun all these years and I hope that some of you enjoyed my ramblings. Ken G3WYN



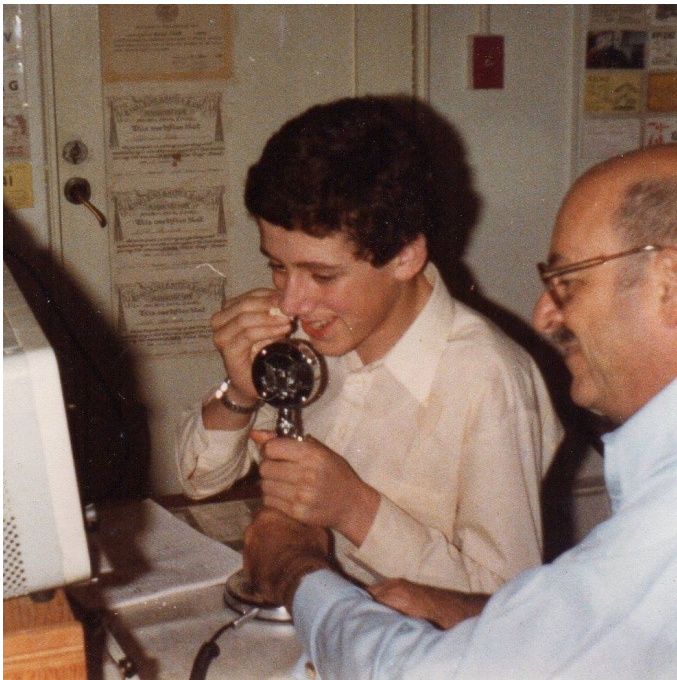
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How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Steve GJ6WRI

I became interested in amateur radio in the mid 70's when I went to Panama with my parents for a wedding. One of the guests there was a retired surgeon from the American Army, and we were invited to his house for drinks after the wedding.

The gentleman was Col. Alvin Sholk, M.D., U.S. Army Retired, and used the call signs KC2FM, HP1XKZ and KZ5AS. He was very proud of his radio station, and told me how he and another ham, had saved the life of a diver who had the bends.



A Young Steve with Col. Alvin Sholk, M.D.

Alvin's medical knowledge assisted the maritime station manage the patient, while the necessary support was arranged, and I believe that was in the form of a coastguard helicopter.

I was able to use the station under his direct supervision, and I had my first ever QSO! It was with a UK station not too far away from Littlehampton, which is where my Mother was brought up. So that made the contact even more special.

This really sparked my interest in the hobby.

As CB picked up in popularity in the UK, I started to use an AM 40 channel rig we had purchased on a previous state-site trip.

I started experimenting with aerials, and clearly remember the rollocking I got from my parents when my 3 element 11meter beam came crashing through our greenhouse!

In hindsight, I should have secured it properly, but at the time I was just eager to get back to listening to the DX that this new aerial would surely deliver.

It did no such thing! It was in 1981 when CB became legal, and I was studying electrical and electronic engineering at college.

I did the night class for the City and Guilds as it was then, for the RAE, and that must have been 1982, and I took the exam in May 1983.

At that time I was just interested in learning things and doing things, and getting qualifications, and I had my pass slip from the RAE but didn't do anything with it.

Sometime months later, I paid a visit to Le Hocq Tower where the radio club was located in those days, down on the south east coast of Jersey.



I went in and introduced myself. An old timer called Bert Chaser GJ2LU, asked me "was I keen in radio?" I said yes, I've done the exam, but I haven't got my callsign yet.

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How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Steve GJ6WRI Part 2

He Told everybody in there at the top of his voice
“This chap has done the RAE but hasn’t got a
callsign yet!”

They gave me the enthusiasm to get my call, and
start the hobby proper. Limited to a class B
Licence, my activity was mostly on 2m & 70cm,
and included Fast Scan Amateur TV on 70cm.



The BBC B Computers were popular at the time,
and I’d heard about some Packet Radio Software.

The propagation cycle was very favourable at the
time for VHF and UHF, and I had regularly spoken
with a gentleman called Major, G1DII whose QTH
was Beer in Devon (line of site from Jersey)

He was also a BBC B user, and he “played” a
Packet Radio software over 2 metres to me.
I recorded it, loaded it into the BBC B, and hey
presto, my first introduction to digital modes.

Amateur Radio is a hobby I have left, and have
come back to, on several occasions.

I started getting a bit more interested again
when 6m became more readily available to



everyone. I was living in St Helier at the time on
the water front.

I had an FT726 which had the full complement of
modules inside. I didn’t have external aerials as it
was an Historical Merchants House that I was
renting.

I did however have an ironing board with a 2m
5/8 antenna, mag mounted on it, and I was soon
chatting around Europe, and as far north as Swe-
den, and I thought this is really quite amazing.

So, I got some of the radios out again. I had an
FT102, FT757 Yaesu and a few other radios that
had just been gathering dust in the cupboard,
because class B amateurs weren’t entitled to HF
at the time.

Then I moved up to St Peters next to where the
home QTH is now, which is a lot higher up, about
97m above sea level.

The land to the north of us does increase 100 –
150ft but it’s very gradual. Jersey slopes from
north to south, south being the lowest, as op-
posed to Guernsey which goes the opposite way.

Part 3 of Steve’s article will appear in the
February edition of the Newsletter.



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Spotlight on Reg Moores

Continued from Dec issue

Reg Moores G3GZT

Talks given at MSARS

24 November 1988 Communicating with the atom with demonstration.

16 March 1989 Electrifying Holiday on ice.

22 March 1990 Ice-cycles.

7 May 1992 Musical Instrument Digital Interface.

2 September 1994 BBC Computers.

28 November 2003 Holiday on Ice.

Reg was a member of MSARS for many years, and gave us lectures on several occasions.

Thanks go to Mike G8KMP - MSARS - Society Archivist.



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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