



Mid Sussex Matters

Volume 6 Issue 5 - 2018

Our Newsletter



Inside this issue:

Net Times	2
Charity Barbeque	3
50 Years of Amateur Radio By John Berry, G8BJ	6 9
Last Fox Hunt	10 11
Members Shack Number Five	12 13
Diary Dates Local Adverts	14 15



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E m a i l (c a l l s i g n) @ m s a r s . o r g . u k

(This will only work from a members email address registered with the society)

Mid Sussex ARS Net Times—all times local

Sunday	0800	3.740MHz ⁺ /.QRM
Sunday	1100	145.350MHz
Weekdays	1330	21.330MHz ⁺ /.QRM
Tuesday	2030	3.725MHz ⁺ /.QRM (SCARF)
Wednesday	2000	GB3HY 430.900Mhz 438.500Mhz CTCSS 88.5hz

Listen

Transmit

Any problems for GB3HY go to <http://www.msars.org.uk/repeaters.html#gb3hy>

2018 Charity Barbeque.

Top Picture - Russell G7TMR making sure everybody got a prize!



Middle Picture - Kim G7AIE with Roy, Sue's long standing next door neighbour and Senior Paramedic.

Bottom Picture - Ken G3WYN Our President and his Wife Stella with other guests.



Annual Charity Barbeque.

On Friday 13th July, unlucky for some not us though, we had our annual barbeque held in aid of charity, hosted as usual by Sue G6YPY. The weather behaved itself despite dire warnings of thunderstorms and heavy rain in the area.

This years nominated charity was the Hurst and Hassocks Emergency Area Response Team who provide the Community Responders in the two villages. This is a subject very close to Sue's heart, literally.

Russell G7TMR did his sterling work selling raffle tickets for the 40 odd prizes that were on offer.

Our regular Chef, Kim G7AIE, was on hand to provide his excellent barbeque cooking skills as usual.

Sue and her team of helpers produced the salads and puddings which were equally as good.

There was live music in the shape of a very fine professional fiddle player who under another guise is one of Sue's gardeners, thank you Linda Game.

All in all there were around 37 people at the event including members, club members wives, husbands together with Sue's friends and neighbours. Ken G3WYN and his wife Stella, Jon G0NOK and Sean E19DZ were amongst the guests.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, many thanks to the organisers and helpers. Hope to see some more members there next year.

73

Alan G8YKV



Picture Above - Linda Game having a rest from playing her violin while she is talking to Sue G6YPY

Picture Left - Ladies enjoying the food either cooked by the gents or made by the ladies.



Money raised hopefully will go towards equipment such as a defibrillator pictured here that was demonstrated during the evening.



50 Years of Amateur Radio

(my shacks since I started 50 years ago)

By John Berry, G8JBJ

Here's an image of my bedroom in Campbeltown in Scotland as a thirteen-year old in 1968 with the SWL identity A7186 (under 18s didn't get a BRS number).



The receivers are the Collins TCS-12 and the R1155. The TCS12 was a US war-time or just post-war set, more at home in an American warship's radio room. The R1155 probably saw service in a Lancaster bomber. The PSUs for these were homebrew. I guess I'd call them PSUs – a transformer, bridge rectifier and big capacitor delivering HT and a tap on the transformer delivering valve heater supply. I just had to remember not to switch off the load!

Later I had a Marconi CR100 (see below) and an RCA AR88.

I'd two antennas. The first was a doublet with 130ft either side (big garden) coupled straight in to the receiver. I didn't know much about matching back then. The doublet was an inverted-V with the centre about 30ft on a pole on a lashing kit on the chimney. I put it there. I remember shimmying along the ridge of the roof dragging the bits with me.

The second was a homebrew medium wave DX loop. It was a square assembly made of two broom handles with paddle ends giving a 4ft side carrying about 10 turns of bell wire tuned by a 300pf tuning capacitor. It sat in the middle of my bedroom floor. The whole thing turned on four castors to null out noise and QRM and focus on the DX coming mainly from the USA. That was in the days when UK medium wave stations generally shut down at midnight.

My 'normal' DX was CHNS (Halifax, NS) and CJON (St Johns, NL) and rare stuff was from places like St Louis, MO.



50 Years of Amateur Radio

(my shacks since I started 50 years ago) Continued from previous page.

In the second home shack (and second image, previous page) upon moving to Brighouse in Yorkshire, I had a homebrew 2m FM TX with a QQV0640 valve in the PA giving 40W to a four-element homebrew quad at 20ft. By this time I had passed the RAE and was actively building stuff. Luckily, we lived on a hill looking down the Calder valley and north over Bradford so I got out well to the north and south. The receiver was a homebrew 2m converter I made at the school electronics club under the supervision of Ashley Petts, physics master, famous mountaineer and G3-something. The converter fed the CR100, and used slope-detection - until I learned the difference between AM and FM detectors. Auroral Comms was also all the rage, but only when I graduated to SSB.

There wasn't much of a 2m band plan. The bottom end was for the emergent SSB and the top end was for the equally emergent repeaters. The rest of us called CQ on any random frequency we had a crystal for and announced "tuning high to low for any call".



In the third shack image, in 1973 aged 18, I've gone hippie, sporting a mullet. I'm operating GB3SG, the JOTA station for 3rd Bingley Scouts at the Blackhills Scout camp. I spent about 10 years running JOTA stations. I can't remember the rig here but I'm using it with a Datong speech processor and an KW EZee match. By now, I'd learned something about matching. The antennas were a doublet put in place with bow and arrow and a TA33 on a wooden structure.

From 1973-1977 I was active with Loughborough University ARS under G2PI, and GE2PI in 1977 for the Queen's Silver jubilee.

Around 1975-1976 I was chair of the Marconi Apprentice Association and a member of the MAA ARC. The fun technology of the day was full-raster black and white TV on 70cm with old studio kit like the Mk7 camera. We also ran VHF NFD from a hill near Wrexham.

Since I worked in R&D in radio communications, my interest over the past 35 years in radio communications as a hobby has been a bit dormant, though I sustained an interest in training others.

Then finally, my shack today (fourth image). Minimalist - a simple functional HF rig in the corner with Heil mic and headset.

My antenna is a doublet at 30ft with 70ft either side (smaller garden than in the 60s) with an auto-ATU at the bottom of the twin feeder - now I can't be bothered with matching. An aerial rigger put one end on the chimney and a tree surgeon fixed the other! You won't find me shimmying along ridges now.



The assembly is operational on all bands from top-band to 10 and technically pretty much mirrors the JOTA station image above. I then plug in a laptop for digital modes. I'm not active much, but it all works and gets out adequately (for now)!

Fox Hunt 6th July 2018

Mike G8KMP and myself Tony G3XQM, set up our lair in what was Isaac's Lane in Haywards Heath. It has since been renamed Bolnore Farm Lane and become a cul-de-sac.

As usual the start time (for the Hounds) from Cyprus Road car park was at 7.30pm.

First transmission from the Fox was at 7.30pm. Thereafter each transmission was every 15mins and lasted for a duration of 2 minutes

At 8.30pm the first of the four set of clues were broadcast, and this continued until 9.15pm.

Pictured here, the first Hounds to find us (see next page), Chris and Merv, who now become the foxes for the next hunt. Congratulations to both of them.

Note the attenuator that Merv is holding - a very useful piece of kit.

As you get closer to the Fox the signal from him will generally get stronger, and direction finding might become a problem as his signal will be reflected of buildings and the like. This is where an Attenuator is very useful. A few of the club members have made these in the past. This would make a good club project for the new members.

Then a drink after the hunt in the garden of a very nice local pub, ended a perfect evening.

Below is a picture of all (nearly) of those who took part either Fox or Hound not forgetting our elusive camera man. Tony G3XQM







Members Shack

Number 5

Please send your photos and a quick write up of your own Shack. I am sure everyone finds these great to look at, if not please give me different copy to put in.

Regards your Editor



... Well, my father's actually.

My father was a fairly prolific amateur radio operator in the 80's and 90's (call sign G6LEB then G4TXI), and it's these photographs I have of him and his shack that will always remain on my memory. Sadly he is no longer with us, but his old G6 call sign lives on with me after I passed my RAE to follow on the tradition!

Although I was quite active in the 90's on 2M, family and work commitments meant that there was very little time to spend on the hobby, certainly not at the same level of my father anyway!

Around a year ago I re-kindled my interest in Amateur radio, focussing on the digital side. So although my current shack of three digital/analogue D-Star and DMR handheld radios comes nowhere close, I am still enjoying the ability to contact stations around the world.

Maybe some of you may recognise a few the call signs on from the QSL cards on the wall. In my ignorance, I thought his 'Worked all Gozo islands' certificate on the wall was a joke, but he was immensely proud of it!

Tim G6LEB



Fri 27 Jul	OUT Fox Hunt - number 3
Fri 03 Aug	"On Air Night"
Fri 10 Aug	Nag and Natter Night
Fri 17 Aug	Radio Night and Table Top Sale
Fri 24 Aug	Nag and Natter Night
Fri 31 Aug	OUT Fox Hunt - Last one of the year.
Fri 07 Sep	Prep Evening for Haywards Heath Town Day
Sat 08 Sep	Haywards Heath Town Day
Fri 14 Sep	EGM
Fri 21 Sep	Nag and Natter Night
Fri 28 Sep	Skittles Evening - Royal Oak Barcombe
Fri 05 Oct	Radio Night

Diary Dates
2018
August and
September

Copy

I am hoping to go to print each month. For this I need copy from any one of you however small and it **may or may not be** radio related.

If you have some great old pics that need to be aired I can share them with the rest of the club. Otherwise you can use Snail mail to my address at: 28 Damian Way, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8BJ.

All articles and photographs are the copyright of the authors. Contributions are invited from Society members and should be sent to newsletter@msars.org.uk

Request for copy around 6th—10th.

If I get no copy there will be no MSM, it is as simple as that.

73

Stella, Editor of MSM

Amateur Radio Insurance General Information

South West Broking Ltd Insurance Brokers

South West Broking Ltd is pleased to offer insurance for radio amateurs.

Cover

Insurance is available to individuals, clubs and Raynet Groups

Cover is provided for "All Risks" of loss or damage to your amateur radio equipment including masts, aerials and ancillary equipment by theft, water damage, lightning strike and other accidental damage.

- Cover at your home or club house.
- Anywhere in the United Kingdom.
- Anywhere in the world.

Basis of Claims Settlement

- New for Old

Significant Exceptions and Limitations

- Wear and tear, gradual deterioration, frost, faulty or defective design or materials or workmanship.
- Mechanical or electrical breakdown or derangement.
- Losses from unattended vehicles unless certain conditions are met.
- An excess of £50 applies if you have cover restricted to your premises only but this is increased to £75 if you have selected cover for anywhere in Great Britain or worldwide. In respect of outdoor antennae and masts, you will be responsible for the first £250 each and every loss.

Third Party Personal Liability

Personal Liability providing cover against injury to third parties or damage to their property arising from your negligence is included as standard whilst you are engaged in any amateur radio activities.

For further information, please contact Julian Dent
Telephone: 01454 806503
Email: julian@southwestbroking.co.uk
www.southwestbroking.co.uk



Scan here for more information

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Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society



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