Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Mid Sussex Matters

Trip to the Medway with John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR and Peter G4AKG

In this issue

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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KEN'S PLACE HOLDER

Reserved for our President G3WYN

Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society
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From The Chair May 2020

Once again, I hope all our members and their families are keeping safe in these trying times, which have changed our lives these past weeks, and maybe for some times yet.

We can keep in touch with each other via the nets, which are attracting more participants than we have seen for a long time, which is great.

Some of you are trying Zoom as a means of keeping in touch, even being joined by Bob N4XAT which is great to know, welcome Bob.

As you are aware there are some problems with the email system we use. I am assured that a great deal of work is taking place to rectify these gremlins so be patience.

On the subject of our system, are all members sure we have your correct email address?

Any members that are not receiving any messages via the:

'members@msars.org.uk',

need to contact Mike G8KMP, to check the address he has on file of you. He can then rectify his records as required.

Hopefully you have all been busy sorting out your surplus equipment for our sale, which we will arrange as soon as we are allowed back to our normal meeting place.

As soon as we are told we can return to Cyprus Hall, we will sort out the programme for the year ahead. Which reminds me, some of you have more time to do your construction projects, ready for the Construction Contest.

All for now, so continue to stay safe and keep well.

Russell Nelson G7TMR
Hon Chairman
MSARS

Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society
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How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Phil M5BTB

This is a meandering, indeed tortuous tale, as to how I became a Radio Amateur.

Ever since an early age I was interested in how things worked, even if it meant destroying them in the process.

I was assigned to a secondary modern school that had good aspirations, but I was confronted with a range of reduced academic subjects (eg no chemistry) and the inability to study certain subject combinations (history or geography, but not both).

Through the subject of 'science' I was introduced to chemical elements that went bang when placed in water, leading me to acquire with my minimal pocket money a chemistry set.

I soon found that the only way to make my own bang would be to combine flowers of sulphur (used in gardening), charcoal (made at home) and potassium nitrate (used for curing rabbit skins).

Equal quantities were ground together in front of a living room coal fire, fortunately to no ill effect. Upon intended combustion there was a raucous fizz, but my rocket powered boat remained stationary.

I was on friendly terms with the village chemist, but on him realising my ultimate intentions, I was chastised via my mother. No more chemistry. The potential urban terrorist had met his day.

A school friend introduced me to a 'crystal set' that his father had constructed for him. There were few components;

I remember tuning was via a large coil and could receive radio signals without expensive batteries.

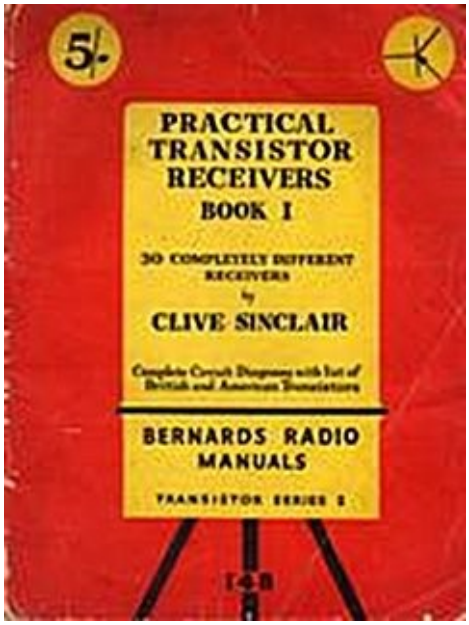
All very strange to a broke 13-year-old, nevertheless, this could be my new hobby.

I bought a Medium Wave capacitor tuned crystal kit which was assembled, with difficulty, using a gas hob heated soldering iron.

I found it worked best with a long antenna, leading me to climb local trees to put up copper wire extracted from TV Helmholtz coils, good fun.

The next kit was for a multivibrator assembled on a terminal block connector, I was amazed how it worked with an earphone!

I have to acknowledge the influence of Clive Sinclair who wrote Practical Transistor Receivers, Book 1 which kept me busy for a long time drawing me further into electronics.



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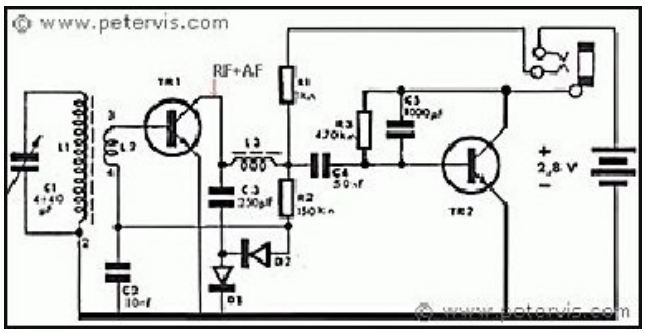
How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Phil M5BTB Cont..



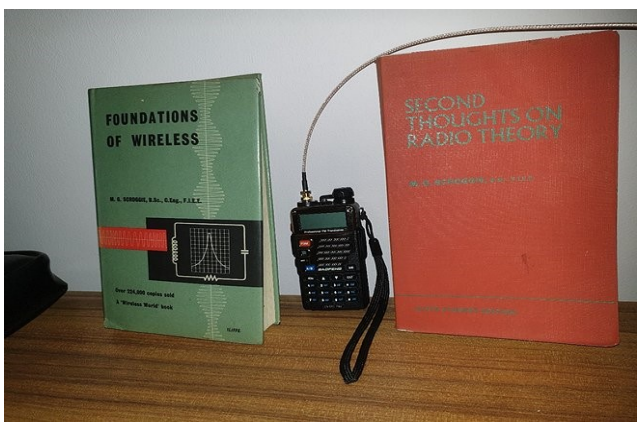
Sinclair Micromatic Pocket Radio

I 'read' Radio Constructor, Practical Wireless and Practical Electronics, all of which had different types of hobbyist construction kits which tempted me to build a real radio. I constructed a tuned radio frequency receiver called a Melody Maker.

The function of this TRF tuner was not particularly good, and as I began to know about oscillators and intermediate frequencies, pressed ahead with a re-design using RF coils from a technical neighbour and the classic OC44/45 germanium transistor combination.

The results were not very good. I later made a switched frequency oscillator unit and asked a friend to see if she could pick-up my Medium Waveband signal 2 miles away, another failure.

My Two Favourite RF Books by M G Scroggie



I next evolved my abilities to Wireless World (never fully understanding it) and discovered M G Scroggie. His Foundations of Wireless and Second Thoughts on Radio Theory were an inspiration, which drew me to take up electronics as a profession.

From Wireless World I constructed the Linsley-Hood class AB amplifier (lasted 20 years), the Nelson-Jones FM tuner (never set up correctly) and a stereo FM demodulator (too many heterodyne whistles from out of band signals).

Further official education did not go far into Radio Frequency applications, but elaborated a lot on transmission lines. I then continued with electro-magnetic compatibility as a research subject.

Seeking to work in professional electronics, I avoided RF as I felt that mixing a hobby with professional work could be unhealthy, but I still read the hobbyist magazines.

But, my first proper job involved testing office equipment for potential electromagnetic compatibility problems. Work and pleasure should not be mixed. By luck I was a development engineer on an MRI project that involved pulsed RF amplifiers.

These were required to transmit at the proton resonance frequency. I checked the pulse width, shape and RF matching parameters.

I had the opportunity to work on a very highly paid, contract in Brussels which forced me to purchase a communications receiver by Yaesu (FRG-4800) from which I received local radio amateurs and Air-band based on the Zaventum Airport frequencies.

The wire antenna was thrown over the apartment roof, and not very pretty sight. I decided to get truly involved in Amateur Radio when leaving Brussels in 1996, and as a work colleague friend (G0USU) became a radio amateur, jealousy was now switched on!

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How I Became interested in Amateur Radio by Phil M5BTB
Concluding part:

I joined the Harlow and District Amateur Radio Society (G6UT), and with practical tuition from Its members, I attained the City&Guilds Radio Amateur Examination Certificate.

Subsequently I passed a Morse examination for 5wpm, hence M5BTB. I expanded my interest in Amateur Radio by becoming the HADARS Lead Instructor for the new Novice licence as well as treasurer, and then continued instructing for MSARS.

In moving to Burgess Hill, I was involved in the RN Type 45 destroyer RF communications systems which put my disparate RF experiences in good order.

And life continues……..

Letter to the Editor

Hello OM,

How are you enjoying isolation?

I thought this may make a bit of light reading in the newsletter…..

I worked an EI on 60m this evening, and as you do, I had a look at his Biography on QRZ.com.

It said that he was a retired electrical tech, with a wife and two children. Nothing untoward there I thought…..

He went on to say he had been electrocuted at work twice, and hit by lightning three times!!!!

Once at work, and twice in the shack!!!.

So, I got to thinking, he either had the kids early in his relationship, or perhaps during retirement, having had a little recharge….if you follow me…..!!!

Strangely no reports of any RF burns in his BIO!

73, pip-pip

Steve GJ6WRI

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The simplest HF multi-band Antenna ever?

By John Berry, GM8JBJ

One reason for buying our new house in Scotland was that there is space for antennas. The site is 100 metres by 40 metres, so every ham's dream!

But although there are some big trees to the east, the site runs north-south demanding support structures, if I am to use wires to achieve an east-west doublet. And those support structures will have to be over 20 metres tall, to avoid burning the clouds on 80m and 40m.

I'd had some success in Sussex with a 10 metre fishing pole (procured ten years ago when a club member bought a job lot) with associated radials, and was keen to investigate this option, perhaps increasing the height. And so, the plan was hatched.

The soil here comprises alluvial deposit dumped down the valley, presumably in the Ice Age. Attempting to sink any post will fail. And digging any sizeable hole for a mast post is damned hard work.

As a result, I elected not to attach the pole to the ground, but to just sit it in a fixed cup to stop the bottom wandering. The pole is therefore guyed.

The height is a balance between performance and visual impact, and I went in the end for 12 metres with two sets of guys.

Radials make this antenna, and the more the better. The ARRL antennas book has it that for optimum performance, the radial length should be at least 0.2 of a wavelength on the lowest band of operation. For 80, that's 16 metres.

The site I selected for the antenna was 10 metres by 10 metres, and I put out 50 radials, each as long as I could make them. You'll see they are only about 6 metres in the direction of the camera – I ran out of the stainless-steel wire bought for the job. I ordered 250 metres, and needed more like 300 metres.

Note that the Earth rods are out. I will have to rely on the capacitive coupling of the radials. In any case, I don't want a 'terre' connection compromising the PME mains earthing system.

The physical arrangement is as you see it: a Spiderbeam 12HD fiberglass pole and radials.

Continued overleaf

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The simplest HF multi-band Antenna ever Cont:

By John Berry, GM8JBJ

The radials are covered partly by anti-weed membrane and bark chippings, and ready to be covered over with top soil in raised beds to be seeded with wild flowers.

Now, the pole is a quarter wavelength (and hence about 50Ohms feed impedance) on about 50 metres. The impedances on bands from 80 to 10 vary widely so a tuner is essential. A shack tuner is out, so that means an auto-tuner at the foot of the pole to match the antenna to 50 Ohms.

Auto-tuners sense the VSWR at the operating frequency at the feedpoint, and an on-board computer switches in various combinations of inductors and capacitors to achieve match. 50Ohm RG213 feeder then runs to the shack at the rear of the garage about 20 metres to the right in the pictures.

I bought a couple of SGC tuners a few years back, so one got pressed into action. The picture shows the arrangement. The silver wires are the radials and radial connection to the tuner ground terminal. The green wire is the antenna wire running up the pole.

The tuner has quite a wide matching range. With such tuners (as indeed with big high-Q shack tuners), there is always a range of impedances where the resulting VSWR is too high.

If any band won't tune using the auto-tuner, it's a case of increasing or reducing the length of wire running up the pole a bit to bring all bands in.

Luckily 12 metres is a good compromise height and all frequencies in all bands gave a VSWR of 2:1 or better and most gave 1.5:1.

The light grey waterproof connection box at the bottom collects the ends of the 50 radials. The box housing the tuner is a B&Q outdoor equipment box. The plastic connector for 12V d.c. and the SO239 for RG213 can be seen awaiting cables to the shack.

So, does it perform?

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The simplest HF multi-band Antenna ever Cont:

By John Berry, GM8JBJ

There are two performance measures – match and radiation. The match is near-perfect. And on the MSARS 80 metre net, I'm in the mix, getting and giving 5/9 and 5/9+10dB reports over the 550km path to Sussex & the 350km path to Dunshaughlin.

So, yes, it works, at least on 80m! And while most folk are burning the clouds and getting high launch angles with low horizontal antennas, I'm sending most of my 100Watts up at around 20-30 degrees to the horizon. It's ideal for long paths.

And the cost?

About £200 for the pole, wire, guys, boxes and bits from Nevada. And £250 for the auto-tuner. The auto-tuner is powered from the 12V rig supply.

There are one or two improvements I'll contemplate.

First, the engineer in me says a choke should be used between tuner and feeder, just to isolate the antenna system from the feeder system. That'll either be a ferrite device or multiple turns of RG58 round a drain pipe.

Second, all tuners give a small transmission loss. Big high-Q shack tuners have a relatively low loss of maybe 1-2dB. The auto-tuner uses relatively low Q components and hence the loss will be slightly higher at maybe 3dB. It would be nice to find a low -loss auto tuner someday – and perhaps one to handle more power.

Overall, I'd say that this antenna was a hit. It works on all HF bands and it's simple to build.

Peter G4AKG and friends on a Jolly.

Heading down the Thames towards the barrier at Woolwich on a 3 week trip to the Medway with John G8MNY and Bryan G0SYR.

Same trip to the Medway with john G8MNY & Brian G0SYR CIRCA 1990S Going under Tower Bridge loaded with lots of radio gear, Food and 70 gallons of Petrol. A 3 week trip with Marvellous weather.

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Ted Honeywood by
Peter G4AKG

A Smoker, a cup of tea and Churchhills N0 1

Ted Honeywood was an apprentice electrician during the war years, wiring up industrial switch gear for a company. He was then called up for military service, where he was trained as a radar technician.

He was shipped out to the far east to India, where he maintained radar and De Havilland Mosquitos.

Later, Ted got me an altimeter from a De Havilland Mosquito. Whenever one crash landed, they used to put it to one side & strip all the useful bits out of it.

After demob, Ted went back to electrical switch gear, & then later in the 50's Ted opened an electrical retail shop in Purely, with a friend of his Mr. Ball.

The shop was called Ball and Honeywood, and they had that for many years. Then they started selling washing machines and TV's. Ted had also trained as a TV engineer. In the days of valves, TV's weren't wonderfully reliable, and they were kept busy repairing them.

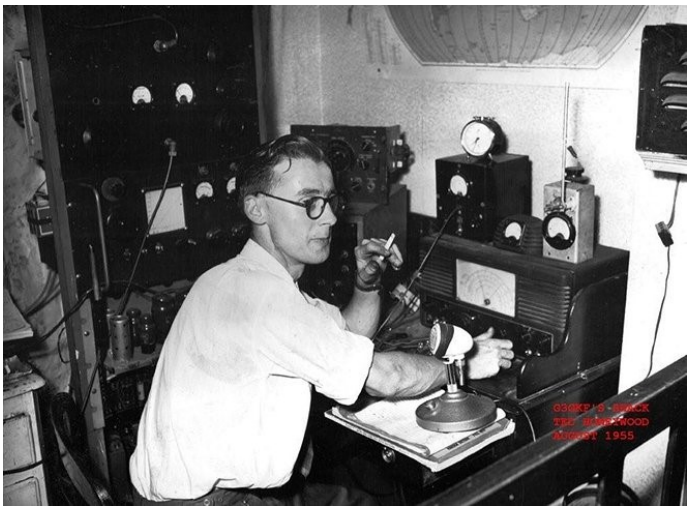
Back in the early 70's, I remember giving Ted a hand with a huge old TV he had repaired. We put it in the back of his van, and returned it to a lady whose husband had been a radio Ham. He had passed on, and that's where I acquired my HRO.

So, we took the TV into the house, and set it up, and she was very pleased. All the radio bits were laid out on the floor. So, I bought the HRO and all the bits for a fiver. I've had it ever since, and it still goes quite well.

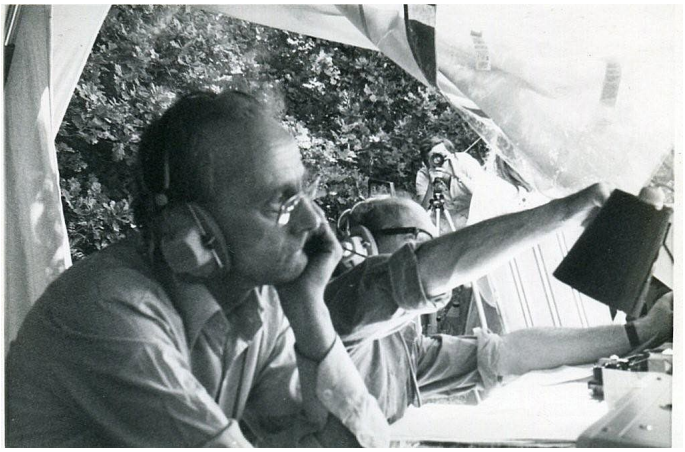
Ted later ended up working for a language lab for a company called Tamburg. He worked for them until he was made redundant. Ted was out of work from then on in. He just couldn't get work at all.

The Language Lab market had more or less died.

Ted became a full-time radio enthusiast. He passed on in 2001. He hadn't seen a doctor since his demob.



Ted Honeywood at home in his Shack.



Field Day Circa 1980's Kenley Common. Foreground Ted G3GKF; Second Op Mike G3TWJ; Filming Paul G4APL .

NFD 1958 Purley & Coulsdon 'B' Station

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Past times of the Society by
Mike G8KMP

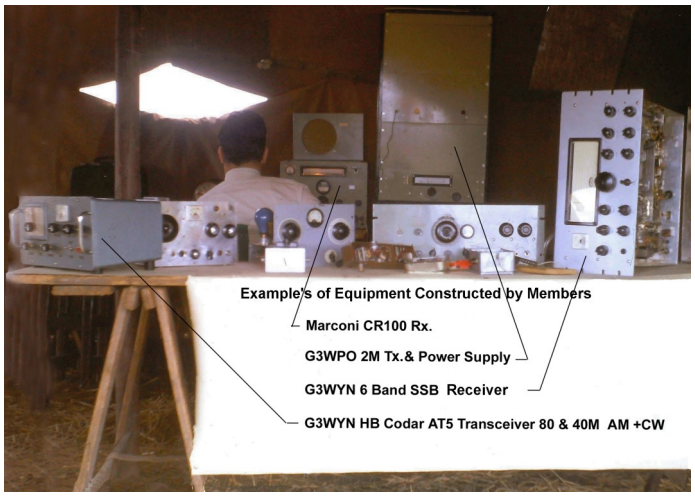
Our President Ken Gibson G3WYN, recently acquired some photos from a past member of our society, and I have looked up details as 'Historian of the society', to find more information.

Back in 1966 at the inaugural meeting of the club, a young man joined our society, and took over the Hon Treasurer's job on the Committee.

His name was Phillip Tory, and a few months later acquired the callsign G3VMQ

In July 1967 he helped out at one of our local events, held at the Fairfield Recreation Ground, and took the following two photos of the tent and aerial mast, and the equipment inside.

Philip Tory



On contacting Ken G3WYN our President, I gathered some more information about the equipment inside the tent and who built it.

Ken had built a 6 Band home Brew Receiver, which took two years to design and build, and incorporated all discrete components, since IC's and Fet's hadn't been invented in those days.

It included the new 'Balanced Mixer' developed to cope with SSB signal detection, and painted in the then popular blue crackle paint, which seemed to be called for if you wanted to win the construction contest at the time. It also included a lot of surplus knobs, we had boxes of then!

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Past Times of the Society
By Mike G8KMP Cont.

Ken also built the Codar AT5 Transceiver, which was a copy of the commercial version, which at the time sold for £15, and was out of his reach. So he made a home brew version with (more blue crackle paint).

Codar AT5 Transceiver

The first contact he had was with Eric Letts G3RXJ who lived across the road from him in Meadow Lane, Burgess Hill!

Then he went on to work Arthur Campbell G3PEQ in Hassocks, and other club members.

Tony Bailey G3WPO had built a two metre transmitter displayed at the back of the tent, which was the mainstay of our 2M contesting for years later once we got the huge thing up to our Keymer site on top of the downs.

Putting the transmitter on top of the bulky power supply was not recommended since the heat from the power supply made the Transmitter drift alarmingly!

And here's Phillip Tory Today

Continued from previous page:
Philip now lives in Cirencester, and is no longer active, but is still interested in MSARS's activities, and keeps in touch via e-mails and the Newsletter.

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How to protect equipment against Static Electricity (E.S.D.) by Alex M0TOT

Introduction

Some time ago, I fitted a CW/SSB Filter Module, from Richard Newstead G3CWI, SOTABEAM, in my Yaesu FT-817 radio. There was an opportunity to pay the work to be done by another company.

I was in two-minds whether to go for this option, but the cost of having it installed this way was the same price as the cost of the unit itself. Therefore, I decided to do the work myself, although I was a little hesitant in doing so, not having done this type of installation before.

Having installed the module and made the necessary changes to the radio's software, I found that the radio only worked on receive. This fault required the radio to be sent to Yaesu U.K. in Winchester for repair.

It was fixed quickly, but the repair was not particularly cheap. The radio was returned with one of its fuses - the size of a 'grain of rice'. The fault probably caused by static electricity.

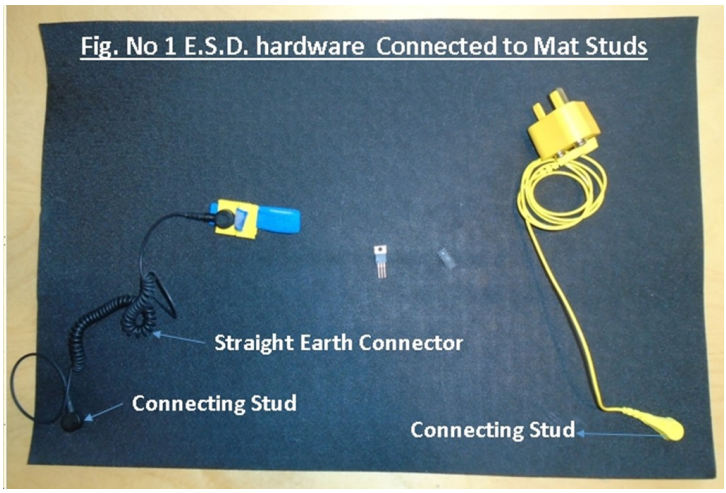

Fig. No 1 E.S.D. hardware Connected to Mat Studs

A Solution

This hazard prompted me to look into equipment failure caused by this type of inadvertent behaviour. The end-result was that I invested in some E.S.D. hardware, as shown in Fig. No 1 and 2. I also found out that some FET transistors are more susceptible than others are to static–discharge.

In addition, when working on the inside of a radio, I now attempt to have my hands, the radio and the hardware all at the same potential. If possible, the soldering iron tip should be grounded through the mains plug.

Fig. No 2 E.S.D. Hardware and Mat

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Remote Radio Operation
By Phil G4UDU

The idea behind this presentation was to give information about running a remote-controlled radio station with special emphasis towards “Flex Radio" systems products.

Remote operation of a Radio transceiver has been available for many years, and going back to the days of the Icom 706 and the Kenwood 480, both of which had a removable head unit, it was technically possible to operate the separation aspect via a linking box at either end.

This system did work, but there were often many issues with latency, due to the fact the links were far from optimised. In fact many of the link units evolved from nothing more than a remote door phone audio interface.

We moved on, and then in the last six years we have had radios with a USB interface, which made it possible to operate with a computer server in the shack. And then connect via another computer at the remote end. This was OK - but you need to leave the server running to get a connection - plus the inevitable “doing an update” message and everything grinds to a halt!

Now going to the radio, I have a Flex 6600. Basically Flex Radio tore up the rulebook, as they were making a new software defined radio, that was heavily dependent on a computer. Why not build in a server system, so that it can be accessed from different locations. So we have now moved onto everything in one box. Easily accessible from a remote location, plus all the advantages of the latest state of the art SDR.

Flex 6600 SDR Radio

Add to this a remote switch unit, which is a Wi-Fi connected device, that has an “app" to allow you to switch relays on and off. Now we have control of the power supply and antenna switching.

This type of system I believe, is the future for radio clubs that have a shack, that basically is only used for a maximum of two hours a week. In other words very poor return on the investment of radio equipment.

MSARS would benefit from a discussion evening, where we could talk over how this could benefit the membership, with respect to those outside of our area, who cannot get access to our local nets.

Plus the advantages it could give to a SWL waiting to take a radio license, together with training, and also if we do an outside event, not having to set up a full antenna system, but using the one on the radio in Cyprus Hall.

Plenty of items for discussion, 45 minutes of talking condensed into a few lines - I will take questions, I am sure there are many - please ask.

Talk given by Phil G4UDU - March 2020.

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Introduction to Zoom
By Berni M0XYF

Hi folks.

For those who've been asking, here's an introduction to Zoom, the video conferencing facility being used by several MSARS members at the moment. Please forgive me if you find it too basic, but the main point of this write-up is to have as many club members au fait with using it as possible, so that we can continue to 'meet up' in the absence of physical meetings at Cyprus Hall.

That wasn't the original reason I started experimenting with it. I was messing about to see if I could stream the audio from Phil Godbold's Friday night talk on SDR from Jack and Jill windmills, to those who were unable to hear it directly from his location or via a repeater. The implementation was rushed and a bit clunky, but it sort of worked and it got me thinking of how we could do more with Zoom.

Some of you may have been using it for keeping in touch with friends and family for some time. If not Zoom, then perhaps something similar. Many more of us have taken to using it since we've been unable to meet our friends and loved one's face to face.

I personally have never been a great fan of video conferencing, as I have concerns over privacy, but in these post Covid-19 times, I've seen how it does actually help people stay connected in a way that just chatting on the phone, and in our case over the radio doesn't.

I'm acutely aware that such an extended lockdown and distancing period is likely to have very real consequences for our collective social and mental well-being, so I really would recommend giving it a try if you haven't already. What do you have to lose?

If like me, you don't want to use video (or perhaps you don't have a device with a video camera built-in) you can still join in and see the faces of those who ARE sharing video – which is most people.

As background, the choice of software was relatively easy. The criteria was that it had to work reliably, be easy to install and use, be accessible to as many people as possible and it had to be free. In other words, as few barriers to using it as possible.

Zoom fitted the bill, so I chose to use that. Simple. I'll resist switching to anything else unless it no longer ticks those criteria boxes, so you won't have to learn multiple platforms.

Zoom is a small piece of software, what is commonly referred to these days as an 'app'. It brings together two-way audio communication and two way video streaming – so you can see the person you're talking to, and they can see you.

It has some other powerful functionality too. The headline is the ability to have significantly more than two people involved at one time. You get to see everybody in a virtual 'room' on your screen.

It works a bit like a radio net so you ideally need a chairperson to keep the interactions organised and inclusive. It also has other useful options like the ability to record and store a digital copy of a meeting to play back later (I've experimented with this, but not explored how we can best use it yet).

And the ability to type short chat messages to other attendees whilst a meeting is in progress. This is particularly useful, as you get to comment on what's going on, ask questions etc. without disrupting the main audio/video conversation.

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Introduction to Zoom
By Berni M0XYF Cont...

There are loads of settings to play with, technical options and complexities, but don't let them distract you or dissuade you to start with.

You don't need to fiddle with any of them to get going, and indeed I would strongly advise that you don't mess around with them, until you are up and running and successfully connected to your friends. That's the time to see what everything does.

You can use many different gadgets to get started with Zoom. My advice though, is not to expect old hardware to work. You can use a smart phone (either Android or iPhone) a tablet (again either Android or iPad) a desktop PC or laptop running either Windows 7, 8 or 10, or one of the more popular Linux distros like Ubuntu or indeed a MacBook.

Older desktops and laptops may well work if your OS and other software is all up to date, but don't expect an ancient phone or tablet to work. You can even use a regular telephone to join a Zoom meeting with audio. Zoom will not run on your toaster or your iPhone 1.

Installation is easy. So easy, I'm not really going to cover it in detail here. If you have an Android or iOS device, just go to your app store, search for Zoom and install it. Similarly, with most PC or Mac devices, go to your app store and get it, or visit the Zoom website - https://zoom.us/

Otherwise, (or if you have problems doing the above) assuming your device is compatible, just click on the meeting link I send out via email, and let the magic happen. Depending on your device, a small application will either download or automatically install. All you have to do is answer 'Yes' to any requests for authorisation, access to your camera and microphone, cookies or whatnot.

Just let everything default. The link I'll send is just an internet address or URL. If the link you receive isn't 'clickable', just copy and paste it into your browser (Internet Explorer, Edge, Firefox, Chrome, whatever) and hit enter. On a Windows machine, the app may download as an .exe file into your 'Downloads' folder. On a Mac it'll be a .pkg file. You'll likely need to double-click this file to perform the installation if that's the case.

If you do have a compatibility problem (i.e. the installer TELLS you that something is incompatible – I've seen this on Android 4.xx devices including older Chromebooks and tablets) then you may have an option to run Zoom directly in your browser. Click the browser option you'll be presented with. Again, you have nothing to lose. It may be able to install a browser plugin that will get you working.

If you've got to this point and still had no luck, your next port of call is probably to try a different device. Note, that even if you do get it installed, on some gadgets Zoom either won't correctly identify your camera or microphone, or the video component will crash the app. This isn't common though, so don't let it put you off trying. Nine times out of ten it just works, but you know what technology is like...

Let's assume you have the thing installed. All you need to join any of the Zoom meetings we'll be having is the numeric MEETING ID. This is already configured in any link I send out, but if you get in a pickle, just use the 'Join Meeting' button in Zoom, type in the MEETING ID as specified in the invite, hit enter and wait for everything to connect.

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Introduction to Zoom
By Berni M0XYF Cont...

Please add your name and callsign if prompted so that everyone else knows who you are. On some devices, it will just pick up your user name from your profile, but you can change this later in the settings.

If all else fails, or you're just stubbornly old-school, you can just call in from a regular telephone - either mobile or landline. Just call: 0330 088 5830 or 0203 481 5237 and enter the MEETING ID when prompted via the phone's keypad.

I have no idea what the call rates are like. If you're so hard-core that you still have a rotary-dial telephone, then I'm sorry. I tried. There is no hope for you and Zoom.

I'm not going to say too much more about Zoom itself at this point. I may do a more in-depth write up in the future, but I do have a couple of important points to make.

Zoom will automatically switch the audio channel between participants to whoever is speaking at the time. If you're joining a live re-cast of a radio net that I'm hosting, the main audio channel will always be the one from my radio (my Zoom ID contains my radio callsign – M0XYF).

It will be one-way (listen only) and should be of reasonable quality. As a default, please turn off your Zoom microphone. Otherwise, when you speak or there is some background noise at your QTH, you'll wipe out the audio feed for everyone, or at least cause a horrible echo.

If you're invited to speak by the Zoom chairperson, turn on your mic, have a waffle, and turn it off again afterwards. You'll soon get the hang of it. It's just like using your radio PTT key in that respect.

Lastly, whilst I've volunteered to facilitate these Zoom meetings, they do more often than not run in parallel with the GB3HY 70cms repeater net on a Wednesday or Friday night as described above.

The chair of the radio net should therefore retain overall control of the proceedings. Please respect that, even if you are chairing the Zoom subnet. As the host of the Zoom meeting (host, not chairperson…) I simply provide the technical glue that joins everyone else together.

I do the invites and I'm responsible if it all goes pear-shaped. I'll do my best, but I'm not perfect. As host, I do have the power to turn off individuals' mics and change the meeting settings etc. This is simply to facilitate everyone else having a fun evening.

Nobody should be at all intimidated about getting involved. You absolutely cannot do any damage or disrupt anyone else's enjoyment by accident. If you can join a meeting, you can experience what it's all about. It often takes people a couple of tries to iron out minor glitches, but everyone seems to get there fairly quickly. If you make a hash of it, I'll act as your safety net, no problem.

If for some reason I'm not around, anyone else who knows a bit about Zoom can step in to host it.
I'm currently sending invites via the unreliable MSARS mailing list manager. If you don't receive mail from there, please send me your email address and I'll add you to my own distribution list for now. Sorting that out might well be my next challenge.

I'm also thinking about creating some kind of online resource to share these and other links so that everyone can receive club communications, and not just the lucky few.

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Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society
NEWSLETTER
May 2020

Introduction to Zoom
By Berni M0XYF Concluding part.

So now you're a Zoom Master, why not try one of the other events I've arranged for MSARS members?

Denby Dale ARS are organising some impressive industry-leading speakers to present on various topics to their members, and all MSARS members are invited to join.

They have presentations once a week on a Wednesday evening at 7:30pm starting on 22nd April. I'll send out regular reminders and info on these events. Please give them a go and support both the speakers and the DDARS Zoom organiser Nick Bradley G4IWO.

73's

Berni M0XYF.

Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Home of the Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society

All contributions of copy for the newsletter please send to:

Copy into your email account:

tonyfinch@talktalk.net

(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