



THE WAG

News letter of the West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society

Volume 1 Issue 3 November 2005

This weekend

The CQWW DX ssb contest will soon be upon us and as usual the club will be active in the event. This is a full 48 hour event starting at 0000 UTC, October 29 through 2359 UTC, October 30. This is one of the biggest contest of the year and it will be a busy weekend of frantic activity from all over the world. There are many expeditions put on just for this contest, for latest expedition information try this link.

www.ng3k.com/Misc/cqs2005.html

There has been a big push over recent weeks to get the new shack ready for use why not make the effort to come along for a few hours during the weekend and dip your feet into the world of contesting you will have lots of support from those who are more experienced at contesting so try it. We have been getting good results recently due to the efforts of a few so hopefully with a few more operators/helpers we can make it to number 1 in Scotland Please try and come along.

Watch the screen

On Saturday 22nd October myself John GM0WRR and Jurij MM0DFV went to the W.OS.A.R.S shack to set up the station for the C.I.S Contest

The equipment used was the Kenwood TS940 with the FV master interface for RTTY, the X7 Beam would be used for 20Mtrs and the Delta loop for 40.

Later we were joined by Ernie GM0EZP and Davie MM0GDL who would operate in the days event along with Jurij and myself .

Commonwealth of Independent states (CIS) DX Contest is only 12 hours modes CW, SSB, RTTY, on two bands 20 & 40, the contest is by the Scottish Russian Amateur Radio Society S.R.A.R.S and has been very popular contest, as could be heard on the bands on the contest day.

The computer was used for the rx/tx of the RTTY via Mixw software and the new flat screen monitor worked well for the 12 hours of use.

After Jurij done his teacher to us all about the various buttons to press. ie F1 = CQ F2= Answer F3 bye and so on and not forgetting to WATCH the Screen !!! so as not to miss any QSO's. Soon we were transmitting the RTTY , CQ CIS Test GM4AGG GM4AGG Test.

The totals after the 12 hours as follows and power levels (approx 60watts on 40M/B)..approx 100Watts on 20M/B)

We worked all Continents + 24 DXCC countries on 40 M/B plus 33 countries on 20 M/B and the total QSO's were 242 all made using RTTY.

Some good QSO's were made from **YV,YB, CN, 7X, FR,DU, W, UN, UA0** and also around Europe,

See pictures on page 5

John GM0WRR

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VOICE OVER THE INTERNET USED IN DISASTER RELIEF

Radio amateurs used echo link to full advantage in Pakistan earthquake disaster. Full story on page 3



Correction

In last months issue we had an article on, the Story of Amateur Radio. It was pointed out by a long standing club member that there was a vital piece of information missing. We were correct in stating that the event was opened by the Lord Provost, but we forgot to mention that it was opened by the Lord Provost having a QSO with Tom Hughes GM3EDZ. My apologies to Tom and thanks to the member who pointed out the error.

Ernie Lindsay



NEW AWARD LAUNCHED

THE JULES VERNE AWARD

With this being the 100th anniversary of popular French author and founding father of science fiction Jules Verne, Dominique Maillard, **F6HIA**, has launched the Jules Verne Award.

The prize is available to all radio amateurs who make contact or hear within an 80-day period with the ten countries crossed by the characters Phileas Fogg and Passepartout in Verne's legendary novel "Around the World in Eighty Days".

To qualify, valid contacts must be made on any mode or band with hams in England, France, Italy, Egypt, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan, and the USA.

Send your application for the award and a certified list of contacts to Dominique Maillard, 1726 Chemin du Plan, 30650, Rochefort du Gard, France

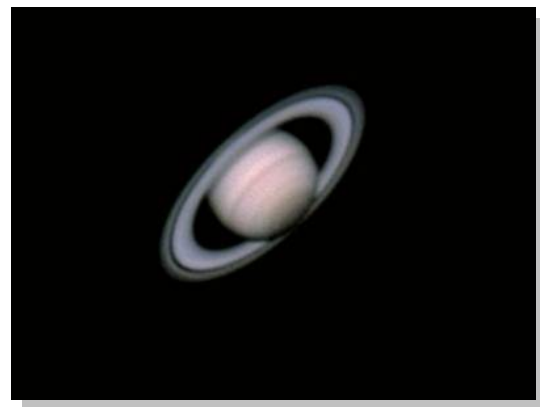
PLUG N PLAY RADIO TELESCOPE

The British Astronomical Association's radio astronomy group is working on an interesting project to develop a 'plug and play' radio telescope system. One that can be connected to any modern PC.

The system will have a modular design to allow new functionality to be added when it is developed. Modules will initially be available for solar observations at 2.8GHz and for those Sudden Ionosphere Disturbances at VLF. Other modules being planned include a software-controlled scanning receiver, a pair of 151 MHz and 38 MHz receivers and Interferometry unit..

The group says that beginners as well as experts will be able to use the system to easily set up their own radio observatory. They also want to hear from anyone interested in developing further modules.

Ham radio experimenters are invited to take part. For more information about this innovative project, visit www.britastro.org on the World-Wide-Web.



*Picture of Saturn taken from Glasgow
January 2005*



Echo Link used in disaster relief

Some Amateur Radio emergency and health-and-welfare communication has been reported in the aftermath of a severe and deadly [earthquake](#) that struck the Kashmir region of Pakistan. Parts of India and Afghanistan also were affected. Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, says he has been in contact with Bharati Prasad, VU2RBI, who informed him that there is no Indian Amateur Radio operation involved in the earthquake response, due to security concerns.

"There has been some ham disaster communication from Pakistan, which has borne the major brunt of the

quake," Majumdar said. Hams from Turkey reportedly are in Pakistan to assist in relief operations. VU2RBI reported Pakistani hams have been relaying some earthquake-related traffic, but no Amateur Radio stations have been established in the hardest-hit areas, some of which are in very remote areas with difficult access. "Some earthquake traffic has been monitored on 7.100 MHz," Majumdar reports, adding that AP2NK and AP2MIZ are involved in the operations. A Pakistan



disaster relief net reportedly has been meeting daily at 1130 UTC on 14.290 MHz. The net control is AP2MIZ, and a clear frequency has been requested. Steve Richards, G4HPE, reports a "tenuous" communication route has been established into the earthquake zone, using *EchoLink* to Delhi, then HF to near Pakistan, followed by HF relay links to Turkish and Pakistani relief workers with ham stations. Richards has offered to pass along any health-and-welfare inquiries and will process any responses. The International Committee of the Red Cross has established a link for locating missing persons.



Where there are Radio Hams there will be a way to get communication set up in an emergency situation great to see the work around that they managed to set up. Well done to all involved in this valuable life saving operation.



Full Circle

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About eight years ago, at a meeting of the West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society, Alasdair Fraser, GM3AXX, asked the club members if anyone could offer a home to a Marconi CR100 communications receiver of WWII vintage. Having a soft spot for the "boat anchor" type of radio set and noticing a generally silent response to Alasdair's question, I volunteered to take the CR100. By the way, the CR100 weighs in at 82 lbs, and, at that time, I already had an RCA AR88, which provided a similar risk of hernia.

There was a significant incentive in that the gentleman, a short wave listener, was offering this piece of history, not for cash, but on condition that it went "to a good home". Having owned two in the past, and having had to sell them when impecunious, I thought that a CR100 might be useful to have, in case I ever took a notion for the new Low Frequency band, which the set covers. Alasdair gave me the phone number, and the necessary arrangements were made without delay. The following weekend, W.O.S.A.R.S. club member Pat Bracken, 2M1CKE offered to take me the return trip to Stewarton, Ayrshire, in return for a contribution to the cost of petrol.

A combination of fine weather and quiet roads provided the ideal conditions for an uneventful but relaxed trip in Pat's ageing Citroen Dyane. When we reached the address in Stewarton, we were invited upstairs to view the Marconi CR100 receiver. Although the set wasn't switched on, I placed my trust in the assurance that it was working. I looked at the front of the set and noticed something familiar - a magic eye tuning indicator in place of where the radar interference suppressor socket would normally reside.

I had a quick look round towards the back of the set, and immediately recognised a modification made to isolate the exposed mains connection. As originally supplied, the CR100 was provided with a plug, which could be wired to run the set from AC mains, or an external DC supply. In the absence of this female plug, a previous owner had soldered the earth, neutral and live directly to the pins coming out of the back of the set - not exactly a good health and safety practice! The modification was a plastic 35mm film container cut to fit over the exposed terminals, and held in place with a strip of metal screwed to the cable clip. The handbook was available, and a name was written on the front, a name I vaguely recognised (not my name, I hasten to add!)

It soon dawned on me that this was the original CR100 I had bought in 1991, from a dealer in the Virginian Antique and Craft Market. This emporium has ceased to exist, due to serious structural damage. (Nothing to do with the weight of the CR100) A year later I sold it to a Glasgow radio amateur, whose name and callsign I've long forgotten. The Stewarton gentleman, who was parting with the set, told me that he got it from his brother in Lanarkshire, who happened to be a photographer, and this would explain the modification to the mains connector. I knew otherwise - it was too much of a Heath-Robinson style of modification to be that of anyone else but mine!

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Marconi CR100 receiver in GM0KTO's shack



Inside the CR100



With assistance from Pat, the CR100 was carried down two flights of stairs, to Pat's car. Less than an hour later, it was back at my address in Dennistoun. Some time was spent investigating certain things which had changed, since first I struggled up to the top floor with it, all those years ago. The CR100 was plugged in to the mains. A random length of wire was hooked up as an aerial, and a speaker connected. The set was switched on, the dial light lit up, and a few moments later, a familiar and most reassuring white noise emanated from the loud speaker. This hiss was fortuitous. A broadcast station was tuned in. Ah! The receiver was working! The mode selector was set to CW. I soon discovered that the BFO was working, because I could resolve not only CW, but also single sideband. A couple of strong signals on 40metres helped in this instance.

Further investigations revealed some minor discrepancies. The headphone sockets (two in parallel) on the front did not function, due to some strange modification. Eventually, I managed to trace the original wiring, replaced that which was missing, and restored it so that headphones would work properly, automatically muting the speaker when plugged into either of the 1/4 inch jack sockets. Some attention was needed to get the magic eye to function. The set is not perfect. Some re-alignment is required, in order to get the amateur bands to appear at the correct segments on the dial. There was also a noticeable mains hum, which was reduced somewhat by replacement of the reservoir and smoothing capacitors. Apart from minor short-comings, the receiver has an air of character about it. It was given pride of place in my shack, and there it still resides in all its glory.

Perhaps, at long last, the old Marconi CR100 has found its permanent home. I'd like to think so. Apart from its sentimental value, if you think I'm going to carry it back down three flights of stairs, you've got another thing coming!

(The above article originally appeared in FM News, the newsletter of the Central Scotland FM Group.)

www.csfm.co.uk)

John Powers

Contest Capers

A few pictures from the CIS contest weekend





Two fish swim into a concrete wall.
One turns to the other and says, "dam"

A jump-lead walks into a bar.
The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

A sandwich walks into a bar.
The barman says, "Sorry we don't serve food in here."

A man walks into a bar with a slab of tarmac under his arm
and
says: "A beer please, and one for the road."

Tom Hughes

What's On in November

Every Friday :- Club Night.

Dates for your diary

December 2 :- Construction competition

December 9 :- Christmas Party