



THE WAG

News letter of the West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society

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Fame

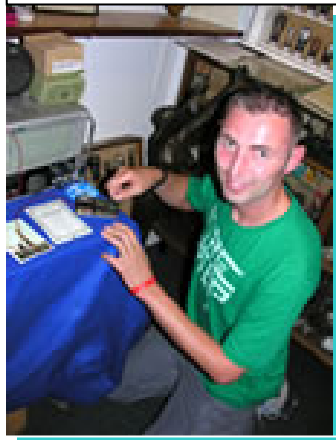
TV star visits RSGB HQ

Big Brother contestant and RSGB member Eugene Sully, G0VIO, visited the Radio Society of Great Britain's headquarters in Potters Bar on 15 September. He was taken on a tour of headquarters, interviewed for an upcoming article in *RadCom* and introduced to the RSGB's staff.

Eugene is mad about amateur radio. A member of the [Crawley Amateur Radio Club](#), he was often to be heard extolling the virtues of amateur radio while on Big Brother. He was also spotted a number of times on the show wearing an RSGB T-shirt.

His amateur radio expertise amateur radio training - was able to reel off his CW message with ease. He later helped the came in useful in one of the Big Brother challenges. The housemates were set the task of communicating a message in Morse code. Eugene – having mastered Morse during his other housemates learn Morse.

Although Eugene lost out in the final of Big Brother to 70s dancer Anthony, he did not leave the show empty handed, having been offered the chance to take £50,000 or have the winners' prize fund doubled. Sensibly, he decided to take the money.



Eugene Sully G0VIO

Shack News

A considerable amount of work has been put into the renovation of the shack and its equipment. At the start of the year we obtained the new shack building itself and set about the construction of the desk and the installation of the electrics. That completed the radio equipment was transferred over at the start of July. Recently there has been a few problems with some of the equipment, the rig had a intermittent fault, the rotator would not rotate the 15Mtr element of the X9 beam required maintenance and the Amplifier (on loan from Allan GM4TOQ) developed a fault plus a list of 1001 other little jobs including tower maintenance, needed doing.

A small but very able team have been working many hours over the last few weekends getting the ever growing list of jobs sorted out. Everything has been repaired or had the required work done to it now, and the shack is in better shape. A big than you to all those who took part in the renovations and repairs, because of their efforts it is a better place to operate from and should be used at every opportunity.

The news on the amplifier is that it requires a new transformer; we are awaiting a price for a replacement part.

Because of the increase in the use of digital modes and the installation of the interface and control cables at the shack it was felt that the next purchase for the shack would be a new 17" monitor to replace the very old 14" which is on its last legs. This has been agreed by the committee and will be purchased soon.

We were there.... but in case you couldn't be? ...

The 3rd WoSARS Summer BBQ had been set for August 6 and once again the weather was as it should be. Various numbers had been flitting to and fro by email so on the Saturday morning Ernie GM0EZP dug out his abacus, checked the tealeaves and came up with a different number which turned out to be the right one for catering. A thorough search in the finest vendors (pure coincidence these turned out to be Aldi and Asda, both just up the road) gave the intrepid cook all that was needed except....

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The Story Of Amateur radio

Told at Glasgow Exhibition

Glasgow's first Amateur radio Exhibition styled as "the story of amateur radio" was opened by the lord provost Sir victor Warren, in the Engineering centre, Glasgow, on October 29th 1951. The exhibition was organised by local amateurs to stimulate activity in the district and to give the public practical information on what is for them a little known hobby. In a series of twenty-one stands, each of the main aspects of the hobby was explained and illustrated, the visitor being taken on a conducted tour through amateur radio.

How the story was told.

The story began with a typical amateur station in which the various items of equipment were labelled and described. The actual station used belonged to the late "bill" Gentleman, GM6UK, who had taken an active part in the early preparation for the show. A further group of stands dealt with the Morse Code the Q codes, QSL cards etc, all of which were explained in detail, many examples being given.

Some sixty pieces of amateur constructed gear ranging from absorption wave meters to television receivers were on view, each representative of a type of instrument or method of construction. The aerial farm featured a selection of popular types of aerial with brief descriptions. A working model of a rotary beam driven by selsyn motors attracted many junior ops.

Special Display.

Mr Leslie Fraser GM3GNX demonstrated how a blind amateur constructs and operates his station. This stand aroused great interest, and was given much publicity in the local press.

VHF, equipment on show included examples of modern design by GM6WL and GM3BDA. A historical section exhibited valves dating from 1914, receivers from 1920 vintage and some of Baird's early television equipment.

On the RSGB stand, details were given of the important part played by the Society in Amateur Radio affairs, and of the activities of local groups. The Society's technical publications were displayed and were available for sale. National Field Day was described, with the Falkirk station – winner of this year's event on view. In a separate room, films were shown of Glasgow's 1951 NFD, a London region's NFD and a D/F Contest.

The centre of the hall was devoted to a demonstration of chassis construction and the assembly and testing of transmitters, amplifiers, and receiver alignment.

Highlight of the show was a complete operational amateur radio station installed in a separate room. Two rigs were available, loaned by GM3PB and GM3AXX. The accommodation here was never sufficient to deal with the crowds.

Accent on action.

Throughout the show

w, particular stress was laid on the working models, including Morse keys to pound with and inkers to show the results; wire and tape recorders on which one could record and hear one's voice; a gramophone recording of nineteen different types of interference; a television set showing the types of interference to which it can fall foul, and methods of curing the trouble.

Among the visitors was a busload of thirty amateurs from Edinburgh, who were given a warm welcome by the Glasgow Group. The Exhibition was open for a week, and received wide publicity. The descriptive talk on the BBC home service by GM3DNQ is acknowledged as the finest boost our hobby has yet received in Scotland.

By GM4JO.

This was extracted from the RSGB bulletin December 1951

Thanks must be given to Tommy Hughes for lending his precious archive of this event.



Where in the world are all the Hams?

Following an article in eHam.net which raised questions about the worldwide distributions of hams and engendered speculation about the possible reasons for differences in Ham populations across countries, Bob Olsen, KK7WN attempted to shed light on these issues.

He collected some demographic data from various sources including the United Nations, the IARU, and various other professional research organizations. He was able to find relatively complete and comparable information for 36 countries in North America, South America, Europe, Oceania and Asia. Although these countries make up a small portion of all countries, they do contain the “lion’s share” of the world’s Hams.

He focused on Hams as a percentage of a country’s population since it is obvious that more populous countries would be expected to have a larger absolute number of Hams. The average (median) has about one Ham for every 1300 residents. Examples of countries near this average include Sweden, Austria, Australia and the Netherlands.

The high-end “outliers” include Japan (1 per 99) and South Korea (1 per 333). Low-end “outliers” include Russia (1 per 33,000) and China (1 per 17,000, including Taiwan). Averages for countries by region are: North America (1 per 546), South America (1 per 2,800), Oceania (1 per 926), Scandinavia (1 per 819), Northern Europe (1 per 1,500), and Southern Europe (1 per 2,100).

Ham percentages appear to be most influenced by a culture’s attitude toward “personal electronic gadgetry”. For example, holding all else constant, countries that have the greatest relative number of personal PCs and the greatest relative Internet use have the largest number of Hams per inhabitant. Ham percentages also appear to be strongly influenced by language. In particular, country Ham percentages are higher where a significant proportion of a country’s population speaks a language that is widespread worldwide. Again this influence is most noticeable in North America, Oceania and Scandinavia (where English is for many the academically required second language).

The very poor penetration of Ham radio in France (1 per 3,200) appears to be a function of a lesser acceptance of electronic gadgetry as well as generally acknowledged lesser use of languages other than French.

Gross per capita income does not influence Ham penetration unless it is very low or accompanied by a strong general interest in electronic gadgetry. In fact, where gadgetry interest is low, higher incomes are associated with reduced relative interest in Ham radio.

Ham radio penetration is slightly greater where the population density is less. There is no evidence that this effect is related to the difficulty of antenna placement. It appears to be more related to an overall felt need to “stay connected”.

Source: Radio Bulgaria



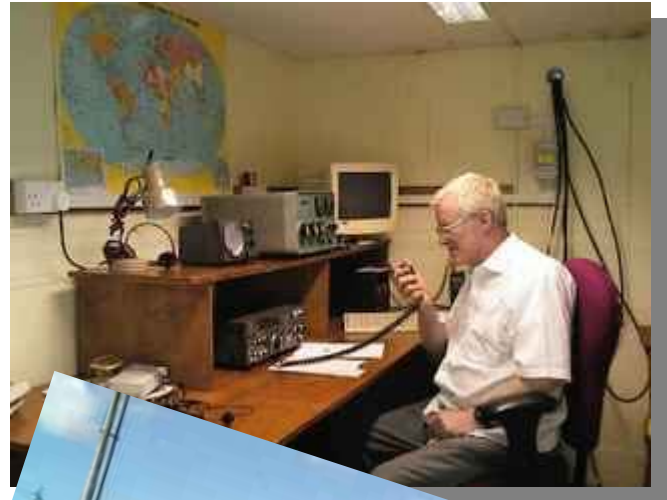
We were there....

all the bits and pieces you daren't forget if you want success so with help from Alex GM7OAW with XYL Gillian windbreaks, burners, fuel, gazebo, cooking irons &c. were all assembled and everything ferried up to the newly-mown field where by kind invitation of Alan GM4TOQ and XYL Jacqueline we were all to be made very welcome.

Of course this has for something like ten years been home to the Club shack which has taken on special life generally since Jurij took on the work of Shack Manager and even more particularly since he got the Club the chance of a second container which now graces Alan's estate. There was a steady trickle of absentees from the main body visiting it and operating the equipment while admiring the work of the handful of Club Members who have been fitting it out for use as the new Club Shack.

Meanwhile outside the food and drink steadily disappeared, good chat and good cheer flowed freely as visitors, children, dogs and amateurs (young and almost young) counted their blessings, looked back on previously successful events and forward to many more we hope.

Anon.



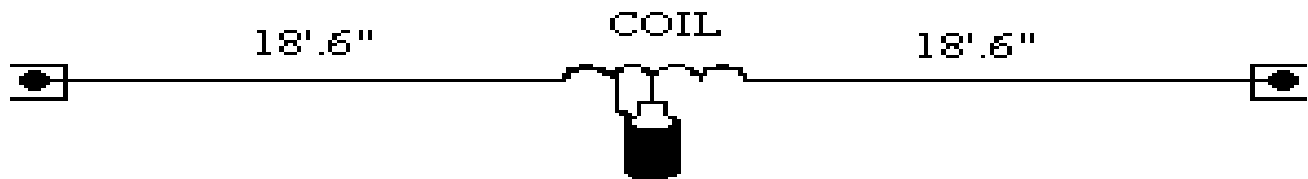
Thanks to John GM0KTO for the pictures featured here



The Shorty for Forty

City dwellers and other flat dwellers know the practical difficulties they encounter when they try to put up an antenna for 40 meters. Finding space enough to accommodate 67 feet of wire is a real problem for them and most of them have to be satisfied by the inverted V. Whatever the book say, in practice the inverted V does not come up to the standard of a dipole antenna.

The Shorty Forty Antenna can be put up in the space required for a 20 meter dipole. It is a compact 40 meter dipole for limited space application by Jack Sobel W5VM. It is a center loaded antenna with a loading coil at the center. The two arms are 18 feet 6 inches long connected to the two ends of an inductor at the middle. The inductor consists of 30 turns of 12 SWG enamelled copper wire wound on 2.5 inch diameter PVC tube 5 inches long. There is six turns per inch so 30 turns will require 5 inches long. The shield of 50 ohms coaxial cable is connected to the center of the coil. The center conductor is connected to 2 or 3 turns away from the center, to a point which gives the lowest SWR. Compare this to a 67 feet dipole the saving in space is substantial.



Top Ten Antenna Tips

1. Any antenna is better than no antenna.
 2. Higher antennas generally out perform lower antennas.
 3. Most people will be happier with a low dipole than with a vertical. Verticals require a bit more attention to work effectively and beginners can become frustrated in dealing with ground issues.
 4. It pretty much doesn't matter what kind of copper wire you use in an antenna. Thick or thin, insulated or bare, stranded or solid, they will all perform fairly well.
 5. Whatever antenna you chose, if it is fed with coaxial cable you should use a choke balun. This will prevent the feedline from becoming part of the antenna which can cause all sorts of problems.
 6. Outdoor antennas perform better than indoor ones. If all you can erect is an indoor antenna, fine, but try to see if there is a way to get up an antenna outside. A thin wire supported an inch or more away from the building will be much better than one inside.
 7. Don't scrimp on feedline. Good, low-loss feedline does not cost much more than the antenna it is feeding
 8. Most single band antennas can be made into multiband antennas by feeding them with a balanced feeder like ladder line and using a tuner
 9. If you have antenna restrictions consider a temporary antenna.
 10. Homemade antennas are better than commercial ones. Ask who has built one about the price!
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Is this true?

A ham operator is operating Field Day alone at a deserted beach In Argyll. He is taking a little break from the action, walking around on the beach and notices an antique brass bottle mostly buried in the sand. He digs it out and discovers it's a genie bottle! He manages to get it open and a genie appears. "Thank you for freeing me, O Master!" said the grateful genie. "I will grant you any one wish you want." The ham thinks about it and says, "OK, I got it. I live right now in a restrictive neighbourhood. I would like to have a 100 foot tower with all sorts of antennas, despite the residents association and the local planning department." The genie looks worried. "O Master! That's a big order. The power of OFCOM and the Planning Departments is most powerful! In fact, they are more powerful than even I, O Master! I would beg you to please choose something else for your wish." The ham says, "OK, let's do this." He goes over to his ham station and pulls out his log books. "See this entry? This is a contact I once made with **GM4AGG**. I would sure like to get their QSL card after all this time." The genie looks at the logbook. Then he says,

"Now regarding that 100 foot antenna tower, do you want it galvanized or stainless steel?"

GLESKA NED VASECTOMY

After having their 11th child (Pocahontas Brittany Larson O'Neill), a Glesga couple decided that was enough because they could not afford a larger bed.

So the husband went to his doc and told him that he and his missus didn't want to have any more children (Am no wantin ony mair weans).

The doctor told him that there was a procedure called a vasectomy that could fix the problem but that it was expensive. "A less costly alternative," said the doctor, "is to go home, get a Firework banger available from most east end corner shops all year round, light it, put it in a beer can, then hold the can up to your ear and count to 10."

The Glesga Ned in the Charlie Nicholas parlance said to the doctor, "I may not be the smartest tool in the shed, but I canny see how putting a firework in a beer can next to my ear is going to help me."

"Trust me," said the doctor.

So the Ned went home, lit a banger and put it in a beer can. He held the can up to his ear and began to count: "1" "2" "3" "4" "5"
At which point he paused,

.....placed the beer can between his legs and resumed counting on his other hand.

This procedure is available on the NHS by the way and works in Govan, Barrachnie, Garthamlock, Clydebank, Parkhead, Caldercruix, Shettleston, Carmyle and Barlanark.

Sent in By Tom GM3EDZ

What's On in October?

Every Friday nightclub night.

30th September & 1st October Leicester Amateur Radio Show.

8th +9th WAB HF phone contest See www31.websamba.com/WAB_Web_Site/Contest%20Rules.asp

15th:- Jaycee Open Day @ Glenrothes shop 01592 756962

23rd:- Galashields & DARS, Annual Open Day and Rally, The Volunteer Hall, St Johns St, Galashields. 10:45 am

29th-30th CQ WW DX SSB Contest