

Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

Airwave 70.450 MHz

www.merseyworld.com/wadarc/

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Committee

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Bob G4NCI
Treasurer
Gerry G8TRY
Secretary
Tom G4BKF
Publicity
Phil G6IIM
Packet Publicity
Phil G0JSB
Chris G0PKE

Meetings
are held at
Irby Cricket
Club
Non-
members
are always
most wel-
come to visit
US.

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Explosion of 4m Activity

The last few weeks have seen what can only be described as an explosion of activity on 70.450, the 4m calling frequency.

Currently around 12 stations are now active on the band with almost a new callsigns coming on every week. Colin G3RLA is proving the coverage 4m has to offer with a very respectable signal into downtown Prenton and was quickly followed by Phil G0JSB and Gerry G8TRY in Wallasey. Brian G0VAX is also operational and regular calls can be heard from Bill G3OTW, from Ivy Farm. This last week Alan G3NPJ has joined the local net. There are one or two further afield now also starting to call CQ so we may soon have to consider the prospects of moving off the calling frequency!

We know of at least another two radio's which have been modded and are currently being tuned up., and with the Rally season just starting how long will it be before we hear stations mobile ?

Neil [✉g4oar@qsl.net](mailto:g4oar@qsl.net)

Club Evenings

have started off the New Year with some excellent talks. On 28th February Phil G0JSB took us through some of the first steps of building a Website using standard software rather than some of the custom web-build software which is around. An excellent evening and we hope Phil will continue this in the Winter/Spring with Part 2.

Using the "Bring & Tell" theme March 14th brought some interesting items along. Peter G3PYU brought along a 2m mobile radio from the early '80's which was huge by today's handy's, Phil G6IIM showed us the latest credit card CD's and Neil G4OAR brought along the latest state of the art 13cms ATV tx/rx boards which coupled with the price tags make them remarkable value. We hope to arrange a talk and demo of ATV after the summer break. Final talk that evening was a demonstration by Phil G0JSB of BT's fibre optic welder for joining fibres either in an exchange or out in the field. Most impressive and unusual, captivating the audience almost to closing time !
Come along and enjoy.

Coming Soon to Irby Cricket Club

The 9th May is to be an opportunity for all the new 4m ops to bring their radio down to the club to test for power, sprogs and deviation. For this one meeting only we will start at 20.30pm

The lighter evenings signal the coming DF Season with the Practice 2m DF on the 23rd May followed by the Eileen Medley on the 13th June and the Revenge on the 25th July. On the 11th July we will be having our annual BBQ at the Cricket Club providing shelter and bar facilities, and music so please make sure you don't miss it. The 27th June will be the Treasure Hunt. Other diary dates are Drayton Manor Rally on the 20th May and the excellent Elvaston Castle Rally on the 10th June.
PTO for Calendar

Interesting Url ?

Wirral Planning Applications by PostCode
<http://irdss.wirral.gov.uk/WirralSpatial1.htm>

Transmitter Gallery
<http://www.mb21.co.uk/>

Send me some more to
Neil [✉g4oar@qsl.net](mailto:g4oar@qsl.net)

Tech.Tip *"Don't forget to check Regulator Decoupling"*

On two separate occasions over the last year, equipment was not performing quite correctly, both faults were later identified as regulator decoupling being open circuit on 7805, 7808 and 7012 type devices.

Firstly a Kenwood TS430 HF rig which was working perfectly except an unstable carrier swished about the receiver in the low megahertz range (like 3-5 megs). After much thought about what could be wrong the fault was traced to an open circuit one microfarad decoupling cap on the output of a 7808.. changing this cleared all the instability carriers.

Last week I had need to introduce a video distribution amplifier to provide several feeds from one video source. The unit I used was ex equipment and previously untested by me. I was pleased that it did what I needed to do but there was slight patterning on the picture when viewed after the DA I tried several things like multiple earth loops but could not remove the slight interference to the picture. The DA had previously been in use at the BT Switching Centre in Manch-

ester so I guessed it was capable of perfect pictures. I first tested the rail voltages for +/- 5v from 7805 and 7905 regulators which checked out ok. I then tried adding more smoothing to the main unreg rails but no improvement. I then noticed 10 microfarad caps on each reg output. I connected another cap at the output of each negative regulator and completely cleared the fault. Double checking with a scope, although the rail was a perfect -5v it had a huge self oscillation modulated on the rail. Replacing the decoupling cap it was then completely smooth.

Don't forget these caps are often very close to regulators that get hot over time and will go oc causing strange effects. Always try a scope first on supply rails to check for self oscillation
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N.Wales DF Hunt

Sadly this popular event has had to be cancelled for a second time. Last year, was due to the fuel shortage. This April was due to the foot and mouth restrictions.

DF Hunting is very popular with many operators on the Wirral so be assured just as soon as North Wales is given the all clear we will slot the event back into our calendar.

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CONTEST NEWS

With the current Foot & Mouth problems it's worth checking the web for updates

details for VHF at:-
www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/

NOTE - Sat28/Sun29 July IOTA 2001 - Mark your diary

CONTACT If you have any suggestions for club talks OR comments please contact:-

Neil G4OAR, Chairman

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Gerry G8TRY, Secretary

☎ 0151 630 1393

Wirral & District ARC - Calendar 2001

May

- 02 D&W - The Chimneys, Hooton
- 09 Bring & Test your 4m rig for (Power/Sprogs/Deviation)
- 16 D&W - The Egremont Ferry, Wallasey
- 20 Drayton Manor Radio & Computer Rally
- 23 Practice 2m DF Hunt
- 30 D&W - The Black Horse, Lower Heswall

June

- 06 D&W - The Harp, Lower Neston
- 10 Elvaston Castle Radio Rally
- 13 Eileen Medley 2m DF Hunt
- 20 D&W - The Fox & Hounds, Barnston
- 27 Treasure Hunt starting at the Club House

July

- 04 D&W - "Totty Night" at the Shrewsbury Arms Oxton
- 11 Annual Club BBQ at the Cricket Club, Irby
- 18 D&W - The Railway, Meols
- 25 The Revenge 2m DF Hunt

We have a summer break during August, however, there will be a D&W every Wednesday. Check GB7OAR or ring Neil, G4OAR on 608 1377 for details - Visitors welcome at Club Nights or D&W's

The "B&Q" 4m Dipole

Being of a simple nature, when I acquired a rig to join the phenomenal upsurge in activity by club members and others on the 4m FM channel, I looked for a simple solution to the antenna requirement. The result was a half wave dipole which anyone can build without the need for a ruler or swr meter !

The centre piece was bought for £3.50 from Sandpiper at the Llandudno Rally (they do supply them by mail order as well) Not so easy was finding a local source of ½" aluminium tube to make the elements until, during a trip to B&Q, I noticed "raw" aluminium tube of 12mm diameter for sale in 1metre lengths. I bought two and fitted them to the centre piece, fed it with some UR67 and lo and behold, an antenna which reflected less than 3% on 70.450MHz without any element trimming.

As for getting it up on the chimney, well that's another story.

For more details
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Wirral Textile Motifs Ltd for Club badged Polo shirts, Sweat-shirts or Fleeces etc. all at excellent Prices.