



Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club



Airwave 70.450 MHz

Volume 6, Issue 2

www.wadarc.com

Newsletter: Spring 2006

2006 Committee

Gordon G8MMM
Chairman

Bob G4NCI
Treasurer

Tom G4BKF
Secretary / Publicity

Steve G7BBF
Broadband

Peter G8WQQ
Publicity

Neil G4OAR
Webmaster

Geoff G4WUA

Meetings are held
at Irby Cricket
Club

2nd & 4th

Wednesdays 8pm
Start.

Visitors are
always most
welcome

Suggestions for

Club talks or
your comments
on any topic ..

to:-

Gordon

g8mmm@wadarc.com

or any

committee

member

Club Roundup

Can't believe it is almost the end of March which means that we are already one quarter of the way into 2006!. As usual the Club has featured some great events starting off with the surplus kit sale (25th Jan) followed by Tom G4BKF who ran a "radio -pub style" quiz which caught many of us out!. It's amazing just how much we forget (or didn't know in the first place).

Feb 22nd was the occasion for an excellent talk by Laura (M3ELV) on the subject of "First Aid for Radio Hams".. I was particularly keen to have this subject presented at the Club as you never really know when you may be called upon to help a fellow human being , who for whatever reason is in medical difficulties. We are planning a return visit as it was impossible to cover the topic in the time available.

Unfortunately Brian Austin was not able to present his talk on "miniaturising radio antennas" so instead we ran a "pitch & bitch" night, the idea being to get feedback from the members and get some new ideas which are always welcome. We have a least three visits now identified as a result of the night so it was very worthwhile .Finally a big thanks to all who supported the NARSA event at Black-pool. Thanks also to Chris G0PKE for organising it for us.

Forthcoming Programme Notes

Lots of great nights to look forward to in the next few months as you can see from our Club calendar.

I am sure we are all looking forward to Peter's (G3PYU) talk on "More Radio Workshop Techniques". I was totally amazed at the last talk by the sheer power of the Makita power drill that he demonstrated to us.

Our first visit of the year will take place on the 20th of April and is to the Queensway Tunnel where we will be given privileged access to the "comms" area. As is usual with our visits a nearby D&W venue follows this excellent visit being prepared by Phil G6IIM.

On the 26th April as a "gamekeeper turned poacher", Gordon (ex BT) will be showing how to get free phone calls on broadband. How times have changed! since he lost those free phone calls!

New kid on the block

Not an advert but a recommendation to give this new magazine a try. It is a combination of the old Short Wave Magazine, later called SWM and Radio Active. The magazine specialises in the world of radio in general, including PMR 446, data modes, software and scanner enthusiasts. There are also constructional articles but no "transmitting" construction as that is handled by their sister magazine- Practical Wireless.

Hopefully findable monthly on the news stands it retails at £3.25. A recommended read!



Top Technical Tip

This article is reproduced from the Club website as it is felt important enough to justify it's own space and wider circulation!

Archival quality gold CDs and DVDs to the rescue

Many consumers and businesses will lose valuable data because of the mistaken impression that conventional silver CDs are more or less permanent storage devices.

While typical discs may achieve a several year life span (and storing the discs in cool/dark/dry places will extend their lifetimes), genuine archival discs are definitely needed.

One attractive solution to the "data rot problem" is Kodak's new "Preservation CD-R" and "Preservation DVD (-R)" discs.

According to the marketing agent for these products, the new discs and CDs use a 100% 24K gold reflective layer and special substrate formulations to yield expected data lifetimes of up to 300 years for the CDs, and 80-100 years for the DVDs.

See the following URL's for specific info on the new Kodak products:

http://www.earthsignals.com/add_CGC/Gold_10_PMA_06.doc

<http://www.itl.nist.gov/div895/gipwg/StabilityStudy.pdf>

FAQ's from Kodak

<http://www.kodak.com/global/en/service/faqs/faq1630.shtml>

Source: CGC Communicator

Events of Special Note

April 30th (Sun)

N. Wales DF Challenge (g4bkf@wadarc.com)

Aug 19th/20th (Sat/Sun)

GB4LL Lighthouses on the Air (g4wua@wadarc.com)

For latest info always check the Club website!!!

WADARC Events Calendar

April 2006

Apr 5th, D&W-Fox & Hounds, Barnston
Apr 12th, **More Radio Workshop Techniques**
Peter, G3PYU
Apr 19th D&W at the Pilot Boat, Egremont
Apr 26th, **Use your phone on Broadband**
Gordon G8MMM

May 2006

May 3rd, D&W-The Green Lodge, Hoylake
May 10th, **Homebrew Antennas, Geoff G4WUA**
May 17th, D&W-The Wheatsheaf, Raby
May 24th, **Practice DF**
May 31st D&W-Saughall Massie Hotel

June 2006

Jun 7th, D&W-The Chimneys at Hooton
Jun 14th, **Bring & Tell**
Jun 21st, D&W Totty Night at :-
The Shrewsbury Arms, Oxton
Jun 28th, **Eileen Medley 2M DF Hunt**

July 2006

July 5th, D&W Devon Doorway
July 12th, **BBQ at the Clubhouse**
July 19th Fox & Hounds
July 26th, **G8PMF Revenge DF.**

Aug 2006 Summer Break

August 2nd,9th,16th,23rd,30th are Wed D&Ws
Venue will be announced on the website, each
decided the week before by attendees.

**For further details, please contact any committee
member**

What WADARC Is doing to promote Ham radio!

At the "Pitch and Bitch" night on the 8th March I spoke briefly to club members about what we were doing to promote WADARC throughout the Wirral and the wider world and bring new members into the fold.

In January I agreed to take responsibility for looking at ways to promote the club and consequently increasing the membership of WADARC. The first thing I did was to approach Bromborough Library and asked them to put an A4 leaflet on the notice board advertising the club and also the Foundation Course as the entry level into Amateur Radio. During our discussion the Library staff agreed to take twenty four leaflets and distribute them via internal mail to all Libraries throughout Wirral, the leaflet should now be in all Libraries so please check your local Library and let me know if it is not on the notice board and I will ensure that they get another one. As well as promoting the hobby I was aware that it would be of great value if, as a Club, we had a way of helping interested people gain their licence. Fortunately Jim Banks M0BAS, a member of WADARC, is a registered RSGB Tutor who is based on the Wirral. Jim does an excellent job by taking students for the Foundation Course and has a superb workshop and training facilities in Wallasey

We quickly had responses to our advert and with Jim's help we now have four people interested in taking the Course. Jim has two people starting a Foundation Course on Monday 3rd April, the course usually consisting of four three hour sessions on Monday Wednesday on the first week and Monday and Wednesday on the second week. They will then take the exam and Jim will mark it on the spot and inform them whether they had passed or not. With Jim they almost all pass first time.

Jim is doing a tremendous job and it goes without saying that without his help we would not be able to move the club forward. Neil and myself got our heads together and we have now got further information on the website. Click on "licences and exams" on the main menu for information on all exams required for the hobby. The promotional poster as seen in local libraries is shown below..

Peter g8wqq@wadarc.com

Quiz for a Chairman's pint!

1. 26 L in the A
2. 7 W of the W
3. 52 C in a P (excluding Js)
4. 240 O P in a P
5. 32 D F at which W F
6. 18 H on a GC
7. 7 S on a F P P
8. 3 B M (S H T R)
9. 8 P in a G
10. 24 H in a D
11. 3 W on a T
12. 8 T on an O
13. 29 D in a F in a L Y
14. 64 S on a C B
15. 12 S on the Z
16. 9 P in the S S
17. 57 H V
18. 11 P in a FT
19. 13 in a B
20. 1760 Y in a M

first correct answer received by 26th April
qualifies for this once-only star prize



Are You Interested In Amateur Radio?

If so, why not contact:
Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

We will explain the entry level Foundation Course that you can take to become a Radio Amateur, or for further information log on to our club website at: www.wadarc.com and click onto the link: **Licences & Exams**.

The club was formed over 28 years ago in December 1977 to provide a meeting place for those interested in the worldwide hobby of Amateur Radio and Short Wave listening and to provide the maximum amount of enjoyment along the way.

The Club aims to provide a variety of talks each year to cover our members varied interest in Amateur Radio.

In addition to our regular meetings we are also involved in Direction Finding Evenings, Visits, Treasure Hunts, arranging Special Event Stations and on occasions Contests.

Our HQ is located centrally at:
Irby Cricket Club
Mill Hill Road
Irby
Wirral
CH61 4XQ

This is an excellent location with spacious parking.
We meet at 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.
As a visitor you will be most welcome at any of our Club meetings.

For any further information contact:

Peter g8wqq@wadarc.com
Mobile: 07952 867705

Random Radio Notes...interesting bits from the web, magazines etc..

[The 4M Sporadic E Season is almost upon us](#)

As you will have seen on the Club website, there have recently been a number of new additions to the list of countries given allocations on 4m.

Hungary and Luxembourg have just come on board with Monaco another recent addition. Greece is also expected in the very near future.

It's worth reading again the article by Denis G3UVR in the "Technical Articles" section of our website "[Understanding 4M sporadic activity](#)" as the season is almost upon us.

It's an interesting band and opens up at the most unexpected times and in many cases you can even work the DX while mobile.

[Ofcom unveils reforms to amateur radio in the UK](#)

Ofcom have announced that amateur radio licences are to be issued for life. However licensees will have to confirm their licence details every five years. There will be an on-line service for issuing electronic licences and a paper-based system will remain available subject to an administrative charge.

[Amateur Radio singled out for "what went right with the Katrina response"](#)

As the title says the ham radio fraternity were mentioned in the official review of the US Government's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The report recognised the work of amateur radio operators who worked tirelessly to assist emergency services.

[H.M C& E more strict on VAT imposition](#)

Apparently the C&E guys are intending to levy VAT on all goods valued at more than £18 bought from non-UK based Internet retailers.

LOCAL RALLY INFORMATION 2006

May

1st	Mid-Cheshire ARS	The Civic Hall, Winsford		9.45/10.00am	01606 77787
7th	Vintage Comms Fair	Warks Exhibition Centre	Nr Leamington Spa	9.00/10.00am	
7th	Midland ARS	Blossomfield Rd	Solihull	10.00am	0121 422 9787
21st	Hack Green	French Lane, Nantwich		10.00 am	01270 623353

June

4th	Red Rose QRP	Formby Hall, Atherton	Manchester	11.00am	01942 870634
11th	Elvaston	Elvaston Castle	Derbyshire		01332 559965

Only local (100m radius approx) rallies shown. All info is taken from Web sites and is for alerting purposes only. Always check for current info before travelling.