



Radio Society of Great Britain



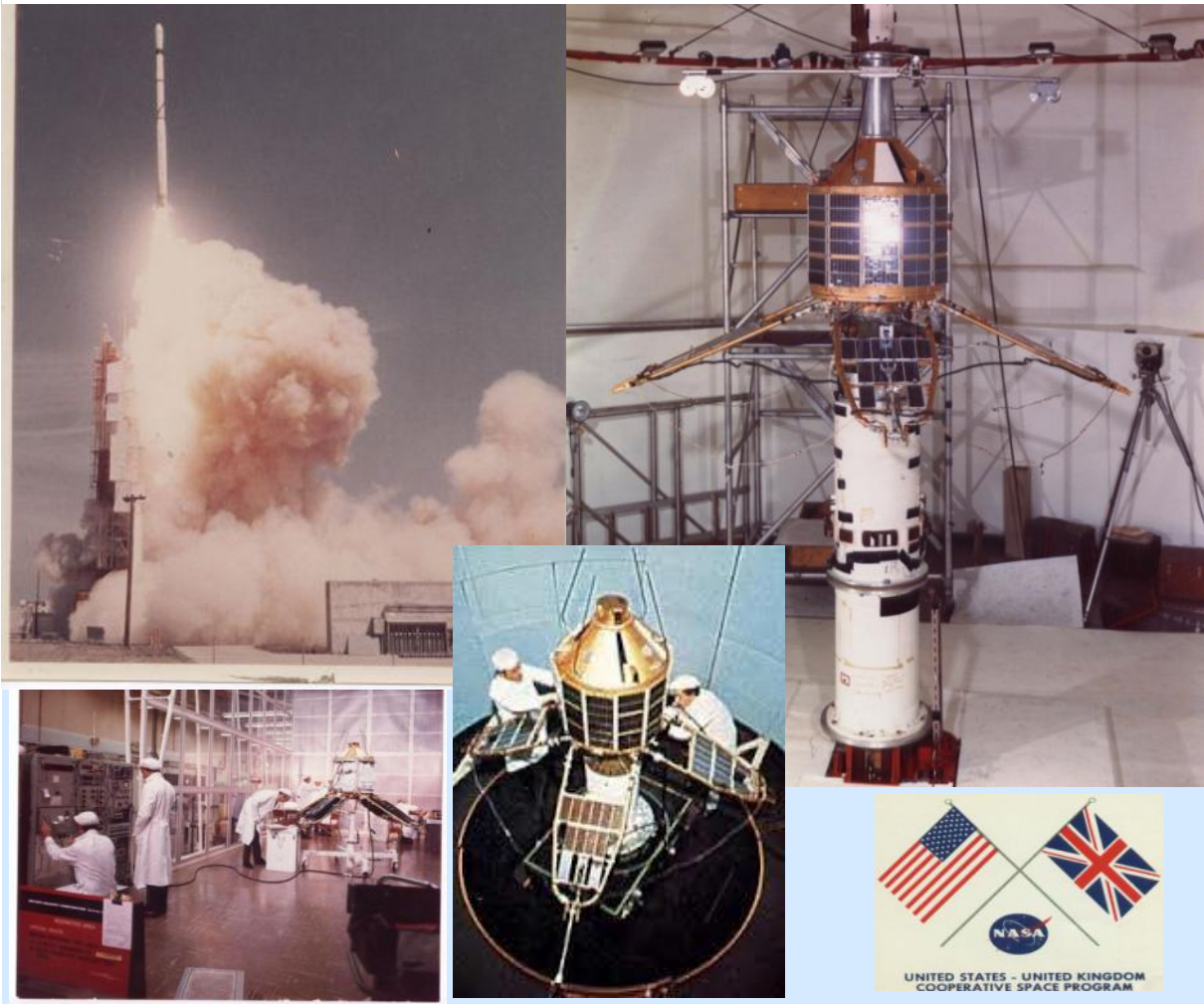
City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

At the Bristol Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, Redland Green, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HF

Nov 25th 1930hrs Peter Cornall

“Spacecraft Engineering in the late 1960s”

Peter was project manager on the UK 4 satellite operation, when the “Space Race” was in its heyday and the Space Shuttle was still in the imagination of the designers.



Peter, who will be giving the talk this month, sent me a history of himself which I found very interesting; I hope you will too.

I was almost 10 years of age when war broke out and during the next few years I witnessed the aerial dogfights over Bristol, survived under the kitchen table during the Blitz on Bath, saw a lone Heinkel 111 K flying so low I could see the forward gunner/bomb aimer in the face and had my old school bombed since it must have looked like a hospital or major administration centre from the air.



In 1943 at the age of 13, I was packed off to Crewkerne Grammar school which happens to be 9 miles from Lyme Regis. The school had the remains of a Hawker Hart behind the gym, the 75 Squadron ATC (which had a Bristol Jupiter and a Gipsy Major in the workshops) and a part finished glider (I do not know the design).

The school was set up high above the town which shortly became the Headquarters of an American division. On the day of 'Operation Overlord' (6th June 1944) the town became empty and the whole school and staff sat at breakfast watching hundreds of Dakota aircraft towing Horsa gliders with a few heavier aircraft towing the larger Hamilton gliders on their way to the Normandy beaches. They weren't very high and each aircraft was clearly painted with the black and white bands around their fuselages.

It was therefore no surprise to my parents that I came bewitched with aircraft and, after taking my 'School Certificates' exams I joined the Bristol Aeroplane Company in October 1946 as an Apprentice. Passing through the various departments, (Training school, Machine shop, Fitting shop, Assembly Etc.) I finally emerged as the first apprentice draughtsman to join the 'Holy of Holies' 1220 Department – now known as GW - under the guidance of David Farrar. After a further couple of years, at the age of 23years, I went to the College of Aeronautics at Cranfield to study Aircraft Design, returning to the Stress Office in GW after graduation.

By 1968, I had progressed through Deputy Chief Stressman, Chief Stressman, Chief Structural Engineer etc. and was responsible for both the Bristol and Stevenage facilities with a team of 120.

Thus, here I found myself – a dyed in the wool aircraft structural engineer being given the job of looking after a team conversant with terms such as Orbital dynamics, Electro-magnetic interference, solar power generation and a whole lot of language that I did not pretend to understand.

This all took place at a time when the Space Race was in its heyday. The Americans were going to the Moon in their great Saturn V rockets and the Shuttle did not exist other than in the imagination of the planners.

To help to appreciate the story, in 1968 we were still using old money, the M4 did not exist, we were still using slide rules and colour television did not commonly exist until just before launch in 1971.

Many thanks for that Peter.

While on the subject of Space:

The 1st edition of the FUNCUBE satellite handbook has been released

Details here:

<http://amsat-uk.org/2013/11/07/1st-edition-of-funcube-handbook-now-available/>

A link sent to me by Steve Hartley G0FUW

It refers to a news item shot by the BBC for the local news - and for once doesn't "send us up" as complete anoraks too much! Also it's from Steve's home town !

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24917880>

Steve is also looking for more students : Are there any 2E0s out there looking for an advanced course? Or anyone for a Foundation or Intermediate course ? This would be a "real" course NOT Distance Learning. He currently has 18 intermediate and 40 remote students heading for the December exams and are now enrolling for the January to July Advanced Distance Learning exams !

If you know anyone that may be interested in a "real local classroom course" contact Steve. G0FUW@tiscali.co.uk

No VHF TX on your VHF/UHF radio ?

Diagnose and Repair a Yaesu FT-7800 Radio

November 11, 2013 by [Todd Harrison](#)

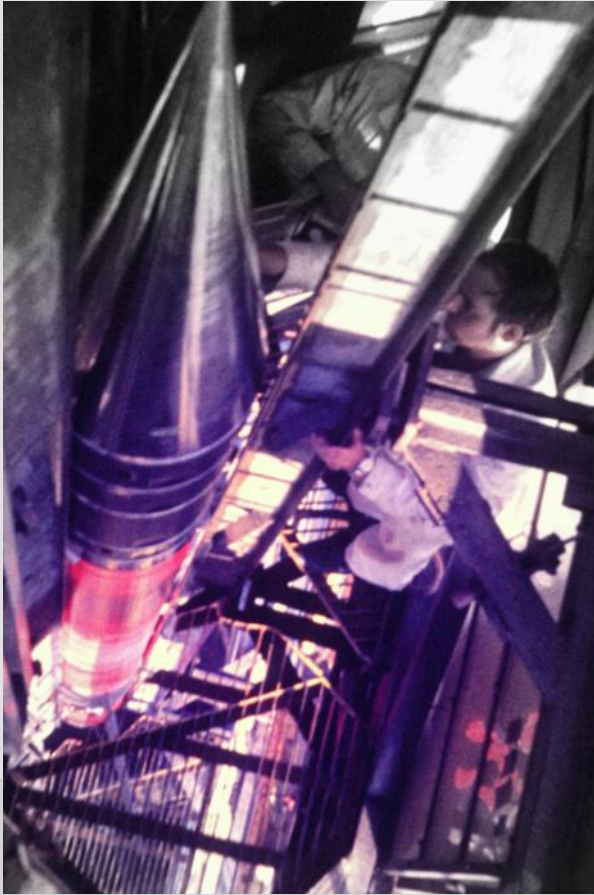
A very good instructional video, clearly shot, with a logical approach to fault finding with surface mount components - well worth the slightly long running time of 30mins or so to watch.

<http://hackaday.com/2013/11/11/diagnose-and-repair-a-yaesu-ft-7800-ham-radio/>

Thanks to M0GDU for the link



Caption Competition (As we have been talking rockets !)



Can you think of a suitable amusing caption for this picture?

It may take a little careful studying to work out what - and who - it is!

The “winner” gets a free raffle ticket at the next meeting.

Last month's (lower picture) captions included :

What a way to spend the day, just hanging around ! *Mike SWL*

A group member celebrates with a friend after his wife eventually agrees to his 'Eiffel Tower' aerial mast. ... *Peter Heaven*

“Oh dear it seems to be bending ...hold on, it's only a 700ft drop ! *Will 2E1GFC*

“ Oh look - I can see the next door neighbour top-less sunbathing!” *Dave G4NKT*

This month's winner however:

RSGB staff celebrate the paying off of the former General Manager's debt. *Steve White G3ZVW*

Thanks Steve !

Send me your captions and pictures !

robin@g3tkf.co.uk



Coming soon to the Bristol Group

December 30th : Happy Christmas - No meeting : On Air 28Mhz

January 27th : Annual General Meeting

February 24th : Ian Greenshields G4FSU - 5Mhz

At the local clubs :

Full details and more on the websites below

Bath and District ARC <http://badarc.webs.com/>

Chepstow and District ARC <http://www.gw4lwz.org.uk/>

Chippenham & DARC <http://www.g3vre.org.uk/archive.asp>

MidSARC www.midsarc.org.uk/

North Bristol ARC <http://www.nbarc.org.uk/>

Shirehampton <http://www.shirehampton-arc.org.uk>

South Bristol ARC <http://www.sbarc.co.uk/calendar/>

Thornbury and South Gloucs ARC <http://www.tsgarc.ham-radio-op.net>

Trowbridge and District ARC <http://www.radioclubs.net/trowbridgedarc/events.php>

If you want to buy or sell something, let me know !

I need articles for “How I started in radio” - even if nobody else does, **I** will find it interesting!

[Robin G3TKF](#)

RSGB Bristol Group Sec.

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<http://www.g6yb.org>