



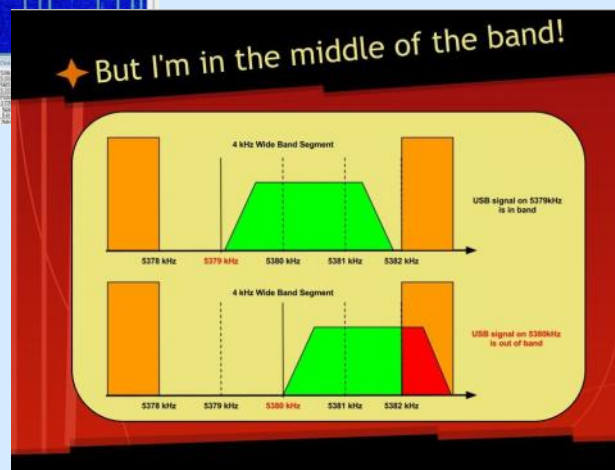
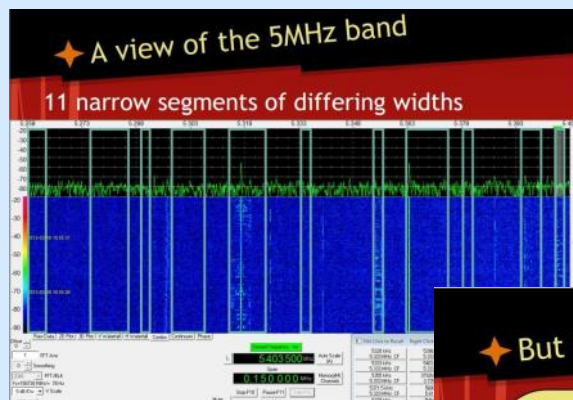
Radio Society of Great Britain



City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

February 24th 1930hrs Ian Greenshields "5 Mhz"



Ian is the IARU technical consultant and also the RSGB HF manager. We now have access to around 70Khz of the band at 5Mhz. Ian will explain propagation on the band and highlight some of the unusual features, such as being able to communicate with military cadet stations. There is no IARU band plan and communicating with other countries can be fraught with traps of being outside our allocation.

A passing of the chain of office !



After 4 years in the position of Chairman - Dave Bailey G4NKT passed the duty over to John Thomas G4DVV at the AGM in January.

John has been attending the meetings for many years and is active at the Shirehampton radio club as an instructor every Friday night. He studied at Ashley Down Tech college where he was persuaded by the instructor to get his amateur ticket as an aside to getting his maritime licence. He continued with 5 years at sea as an RO, then joined the CEGB as a radio systems engineer. Then 30 years at Rolls Royce in Filton still in electronics. He first went to the rather formal RSGB group at the University in the Queens Building.

We wish him well in his duties !

Membership of the RSGB Bristol Group is now due

It was agreed at the 2014 AGM to keep the membership fee at the amazingly low figure of **£10 per annum**.

You can pay online : our account number (Lloyds) **02520489** Sort Code **30 -94 -80**

Please make sure you include your name or callsign as a reference!

Or the old fashioned method of sending a cheque made out to the Bristol RSGB Group to Ron Ford 2, Jersey Ave, St.Annes, Bristol BS4 4RA

Phil Whitchurch G3SWH reveals **How it all started!**

It must have been in the late 1950s and I was in my early teens when an uncle gave me a record player deck. No amplifier or loudspeaker, just a deck and a lot of encouragement as to how to put together a simple low-fi system. There were some guys at school who were interested in radio and electronics and I got drawn into the radio club run by the physics master. He had an old American ex-military BC-348 receiver that he allowed us to use in the lunch hours to listen to a couple of the locals, John, G3LYW and Bernard, G3NXU, who chatted to each other most days from their cars on 160 metres AM. A few of these guys went on to get amateur licences themselves: John, G3RPH; Derek G3RAU and Russ G3SQD, but only G3SQD and G3RAU are listed on QRZ.com these days.



It was Russ who got me interested in Morse. He was known as “Tappy” at school because he would send Morse with a pencil on his desktop at any opportunity. He was also very active on the bands as a pirate and was prosecuted by the GPO for his illegal activities. Although he held an Amateur Radio Certificate, he was refused a licence for a whole year as part of his punishment.

Before long I managed to get hold of a much modified British ex-military R1155 receiver and put up a long wire antenna at home. This was in the early days of amateur SSB and signals could be resolved with the BFO with some difficulty, in addition to listening to stations on AM. I became a very keen SWL and developed a friendship with G3LYW, who encouraged me to consider becoming a merchant navy radio operator as a career. So it was that in the September of 1963, I started a two year course of study for my First Class PMG Certificate of Competency in Radiotelegraphy and Board of Trade (BOT) Radar Maintenance Certificate at Bristol Technical College. The following December, I took and passed the Radio Amateur’s Exam (RAE) and in the January my father allowed me to drive the family car to Burnham on Sea for the Morse test. G3SWH was issued on 14th February 1964 and my first QSO was with G3LYW/M on 160 metres CW on 16th February using a crystal controlled transmitter and a Canadian ex-military 52 set receiver.

My activities were mostly confined to 160m CW whilst I was still at college, apart from actively participating in National Field Day (NFD) in June, where as part of G3TAD - The Bristol Amateur Radio Club - I operated for many years with amongst others, these two locals (TKF/OLB) !



When I passed out of college in 1965, I was offered a job with the P&O shipping line that, unusually for that period, employed their own Radio Officers rather than hired one employed by the Marconi International Marine Communication Company (MIMCCo).

In October '65, I joined the "dock staff" of the *ss Arcadia*, a 30,000 ton gin palace whilst she underwent a short dry-docking at Tilbury between voyages to Australia. I was then invited to join the *ss Himalaya* (GBDK), another 28,000 ton gin palace, (*bit of a theme here !*) as her Fourth Radio Officer and my career at sea was launched, lasting almost four very enjoyable years.

In those days, it was quite common for amateur stations to operate from US navy ships and whilst it was theoretically possible to operate from on board a British merchant ship, obtaining a licence was fraught with difficulties.

Amongst the requirements was the need to obtain permissions from the Master, the owners and the company operating the radio installation, as well as having an inspection by a GPO engineer of the crystal controlled transmitter that had to be installed somewhere else than in the Radio Office. I managed to clear all these obstacles and was able to operate as G3SWH/MM between August 1968 and January 1969 from the *ss Ottawa* (GNDU). I used a Heathkit SB-101 and a trap vertical antenna mounted on the monkey island above the bridge, some 70 feet above sea level making several hundred contacts on both SSB and CW including what is claimed to be the first QSO between amateur stations on British merchant ships with G3RSP/MM in January 1969.



My career at sea was relatively short lived because on one of my first leaves I met Jan, my XYL of almost 43 years. We did have the option of her sailing with me after we'd married, but it didn't work out for a number of reasons and I came ashore in early 1969 to take up a job in the local electronics industry. Amateur radio took something of a back seat in our lives as we bought a house and started a family. In 1973, I even sold the SB-101 to pay for a visit to some friends in Jamaica.

However, in 1982, I was offered some part-time lecturing work at the local technical college and the extra money was used to buy a Yaesu FT-101ZD and another trap vertical. This was when I was severely bitten by the DX bug, being actively encouraged by a couple of other local CW enthusiasts, Rick, G3YEC and Barry, G3LZK. Initially, I operated on both SSB and CW and even had a passing acquaintance with RTTY, but CW quickly became my primary interest once again and I have not operated on any other mode since 1995. I rejoined FOC in 1987.

Dxpeditons and QSLsTo be continued next month

Caption Competition

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



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

Last month’s (lower picture) captions included :

“And if you plug this in here you can DQRM the whole band at once” *Geoff G4FKA*

“Oh no Heinrich ... it’s another 80m Contest!” *Mike SWL*

“Let’s play Battleships shall we? ” *J.Sutherland*

This month’s winner however

“Gott in Himmel – it’s zee Archers
again!”

Will 2E0GFC



Send me your captions and pictures ! robin@g3tkf.co.uk

Coming soon to the Bristol Group

March : Prof. Cathryn Michell “Solar flares and their effect on GPS systems”

April : Video Night and Junk Sale

May: Prof . Chris Budd - History and practice of modern code breaking and error correcting

May: Visit to Clifton Rocks Railway

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>