



Radio Society of Great Britain



City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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

March 31st 1930hrs Prof Cathryn Mitchell BSc PhD

“Solar Weather and its effects on modern life”

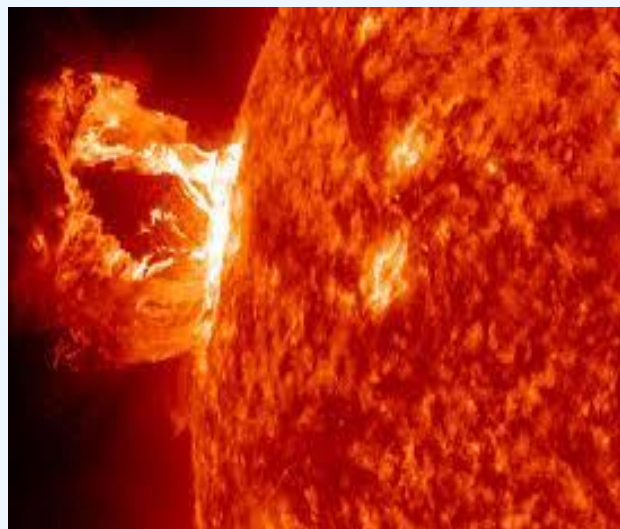
Cathryn will describe our modern understanding of space weather events including the many effects on GPS. The importance of space weather on different systems, including HF, is also reviewed. Examples are drawn from a trip to Antarctica and from observations taken in the European Arctic.



Prof Cathryn Mitchell at South Pole Station in January 2010



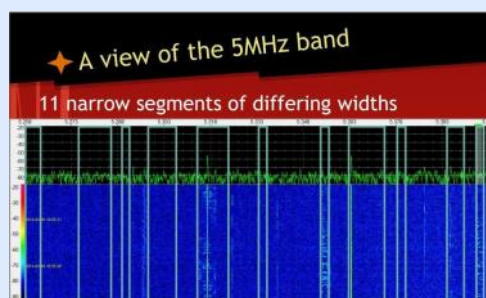
GPS receiver on the South Pole



The start of some space weather !

Footnote from the Chairman.

Last month's guest speaker Ian G4FSU was so enthusiastic about the 5Mhz allotment, that I was determined to rush home and apply for my NOV immediately, and according to Ian it was just a few clicks on the OFCOM website.



I reached home sometime after 10pm and turned on the PC, then I realised that it had been a couple of years since I had logged on to renew my licence and that I had no clue as to what my user id could be!

Time to delve into my RSGB file; no luck there either, best make a cup of tea and try somewhere else. Eventually it was located in my old company "development diary" about an hour later.

Logging in was no problem at all; now all I had to do was find the 5Mhz NOV page.

I went from pillar to post, being diverted all over the OFCOM website until I thought I had it cracked - it's about 12:30pm by now!

Then I got the magic message "This part of the website is currently down for maintenance."

The internet, website and PCs in general came in for a bit of abuse, and a vow to try again later; of course other things have gotten in the way and I still have not obtained my NOV. Still, I heard Roy on the other evening, nice fist as they say so will ask him for some advice at the next RSGB Bristol Group meeting.



73 John Thomas G4DVV RSGB Bristol Group Hon .Chair.

John has since discovered you can more easily do it here !

<http://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/online-nov-application/5mhz-nov/>

[Vote for Steve Hartley G0FUW](#)



Steve is standing for election to the RSGB Board of Directors

Your committee thinks he will make a very appropriate candidate!

Click on the title to take you to the Electoral Reform Services Ltd site to cast your vote to elect Steve Hartley G0FUW to the board

DO IT NOW - All votes in by April 10th

More information here

Rsgb.org/main/blog/news

Phil Whitchurch G3SWH Cont'd from last month

In late 1990, Barry, G3LZK received an invitation to visit Nazim, UI8AA in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and invited me to join him. So it was that my first DX-pedition was as UI8A/G3SWH in May 1991. In March 1993, I joined the Bristol Contest Group's inaugural DX-pedition to Alderney as GU6YB/P. Their primary objective was to enter the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest and I planned to operate CW on the WARC bands, single handedly making about 1,300 QSOs whilst the large team made about 2,500 QSOs in the contest. I also handled all the QSLs for that operation and obtained a DXCC certificate for them.



Jan and I had been taking holidays with the children on the Greek island of Mykonos (IOTA EU-067) for several years and in May 1995 I took my FT-101ZD with me for the first time and operated as SV8/G3SWH, repeating the experience each year until June 2000.

In 1994, I was approached by Neville, G3NUG as to whether I would be prepared to act as QSL manager for the activity as L4D from Blanca Island (IOTA SA-065) on 20th and 21st November 1993. The original operators of this activity had failed to send out QSLs but the IOTA Committee had obtained a copy of the original log and paid for the QSL cards to be printed. I agreed, of course.

This was followed in 1997 by an approach from John, G3WGV as to whether I would be prepared to act as QSL manager for the Five Star DX Association's operations as 9M0C from Pulau Layang Layang (IOTA AS-051) in the Spratly Islands. Again, I readily agreed.

My own DX-peditions were beginning to mount up too: Chausey Islands (IOTA EU-039) as F/G3SWH in March 1996; Les Minquiers (IOTA EU-099) with Jim, G3RTE as GJ3SWH/P in July 1996; Les Iles Glenans IOTA EU-094) as F/G3SWH/P with Jim, G3RTE in June 1997; Ile de Sein (IOTA EU-068) again as F/G3SWH/P and with Jim in March 1998; Lamu Island, Kenya (AF-040) as 5Z4LI in February 1999 and Wasini Island, Kenya (AF-067) as 5Z4WI in 2000 to name but a few.

My "holiday style" operations with Jan were also starting to mount up: BY1QH/G3SWH from Beijing in December 1996; 5H1/G3SWH from Zanzibar (IOTA AF-032) and 5H3/G3SWH from mainland Tanzania in September 1997; FR/G3SWH from Reunion Island (IOTA AF-016) in November 1998 and 9M6PWT from Sabah, Borneo (IOTA OC-088) in November 1999 to name a few more.

My reputation as a QSL manager was obviously becoming well known as I started to receive requests from other UK and foreign amateurs to handle their DX-pedition cards, including another FSDXA operation from the Comoros Islands (AF-007) as D68C in 2001, 8Q7ZZ in 2002 and XU7ACT in 2003. I now manage cards for well over 100 different callsigns.

In 2007, I created a web site at www.g3swh.org.uk to make simpler the process of searching DX-pedition logs and requesting QSL cards, one of the objectives being to reduce the burden on the overloaded and creaking QSL bureau system.

In both 2004, 2005 and 2008 I was honoured to be nominated as one of the world's Top 5 QSL Managers by the users of the GOLIST QSL Manager List. I was also voted "The Best QSL Manager of 2006" by the RX3RC DX QSL-Service.

My home station is fairly modest. I don't have room for a beam and a tower so use a set of inverted vee fan dipoles for 80 to 10 metres and a sort of inverted L for 160 metres. My main transceiver is a Kenwood TS-570D and I have recently bought an Elecraft KPA500 amplifier to replace an aging Ameritron AL-80B. I also have an Elecraft K2 that I use for DX-peditioning. I mainly chase DXCC and have 334 active entities plus 7 deleted entities confirmed, all on CW, so am on the bottom rungs of the Honour Roll. I also chase IOTA and have a score of 730, again all on CW.

I have been fortunate to be able to make at least one DX-pedition per year for the last 20 years or so. At least 13 have been in the company of Jim, G3RTE, the most recent of which was to the Solomon Islands as H44KW (IOTA OC-047) in February 2013. We are now both retired and finding the cost as well as the physical effort of transporting ourselves and our radio equipment around the world to be more and more exhausting. We are also running out of sufficiently "rare" but accessible and safe places to activate. .



Taking delivery of the 9M0C cards

My DXFC (DXCC entities visited) score stands at 101 DXCC entities visited and 30 entities activated

Thanks Phil - another "How I started" next month - Please send me YOUR history !

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 :

The Italian authorities finally capture Nino the scourge of 14.195Mhz *G4FKA*

Who made that comment about the monkey wrench!? *SWL Mike*

“Hey ! Leica the dog didn’t come back - will I ?” *J.Sutherland*

This month’s winner however

Don’t worry, if I don’t pass this interview I’ve got another lined up for a job advertising tea bags. *G3ZVW*

Thanks Steve — good luck in the draw!





South Gloucestershire
Amateur Radio
Rally



South Gloucestershire Rally Cancelled

This from their website:

Regrettably the decision has been taken to cancel the 6th South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Rally due to be held on 13th April, due to an unfortunate clash of rally dates resulting in insufficient table bookings to offer a worthwhile rally, combined with potential bad weather causing site problems. A decision will be taken in due course on whether to hold a rally in 2015. Support given by traders and the public to the South Gloucestershire Rally over the years is greatly appreciated by the Rally organizers.

Have you done it yet !??

[Vote for Steve Hartley G0FUW](#)

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<http://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/gb2rs/headlines/2014/03/12/agm-voting/>

Your committee thinks he will make a very appropriate candidate!

Click on the title to take you to the Electoral Reform Services site and cast your vote

You need your RSGB membership number and the first 4 characters of your callsign

DO IT NOW - All votes have to be in by April 10th



Coming soon to the Bristol Group

April 28th : Video night “ Radar during the Battle of Britain” and Bring and Buy Sale

May 26th : Prof Chris Budd G4NBN The History and Modern Practice of Code Breaking

June 30th: “ The early Christmas Party” Venue tbc

July 28th : “Potted talks” 3 short talks by members

August 25th : No idea - suggestions please?

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.

01225 420442

<http://www.g6yb.org>

P.S. Vote for Steve G0FUW !