



March 2017

RADIO SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN
CITY of BRISTOL GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Monthly meetings at the BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, BS34 7RF

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 27 MARCH 7.30pm

“TALKING WIRES TO THE SKY”
Paul Heiney M0HWV



This month we are pleased to welcome a really well known speaker. Paul Heiney will be remembered by many as one of the reporters on the BBC Television programme “That’s Life” and worked with Esther Rantzen. He has recently become a Radio Amateur and summarises his

presentation as follows; *“Why it took Paul Heiney - writer, broadcaster, and now ocean sailor - 50 years from first picking up a soldering iron, to sit down and finally take his amateur radio exams. What took him so long? And why do the words “talking wires to the sky” still send a tingle down his spine?”* I think this is going to be a unique approach to amateur radio and hope that you will mark the date in your diary.



YURI GAGARIN & THE CHIEF DESIGNER

Terry Ransome



31 members and guests gathered last month to hear an interesting talk from Terry Ransome about the Russian space programme “Yuri Gagarin & the Chief Designer”. Whilst most people would have heard something about Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the earth, Sergei Korolev is much less well known. During his life, the Soviet state considered him so vital to their space programme that he was known

anonymously as the Chief Designer. He was lucky to have survived, because before the war, he was interned by Stalin in the Gulags, accused of sabotage. However, his skills as a rocket engineer were so valuable that he was transferred to a special prison where he was able to continue working on rockets.

After the end of the second world war, he was rehabilitated and despatched to Germany to gather as much as he could of the German rocket programme. His main task was to create an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) to deliver the Russian atomic weapons. This was the R7. However, it was not a good ICBM because it was liquid fuelled, taking three hours to be fuelled and then needing to be fired quickly or emptied. However, it made an excellent launch vehicle for satellites and has formed the backbone of the Russian space programme since. Updated variants are still in use today and 1869 have been launched to date.

Yuri Gagarin was born in 1934 to a farming family. He trained as a foundryman and then went to technical school to complete his education. He was destined to be a factory manager, but learnt to fly with the communist youth organisation and decided on a military career in the air force. He was selected to train as one of the first batch of Cosmonauts and eventually chosen to fly in the Vostok spacecraft and become the first man to orbit the earth.

This made him a Soviet hero and a worldwide celebrity, who toured the world after his successful flight. He wasn't allowed to fly in space again, but sadly lost his life in 1968 when the MiG15 he was flying crashed.

Korolev also died prematurely in 1966, aged 59, after a routine operation went wrong. The Russian space programme, with Korolev in charge, led the world and achieved many firsts ahead of the Americans. However, it lost direction and drive with Korolev gone and the Americans won the ultimate prize; first man on the moon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

Our Membership Secretary Ron G4GTD wishes to remind members that your subscriptions are now due. He will be pleased to relieve you of £10 for a very good cause at the next meeting!

Coming soon ...

March 17

The next edition of the "TX Factor" amateur radio Youtube programme is out. This was partly filmed in Bristol – you will recognise people!

April 24

The Weston Clevedon & Portishead Light Railway by Paul Gregory.

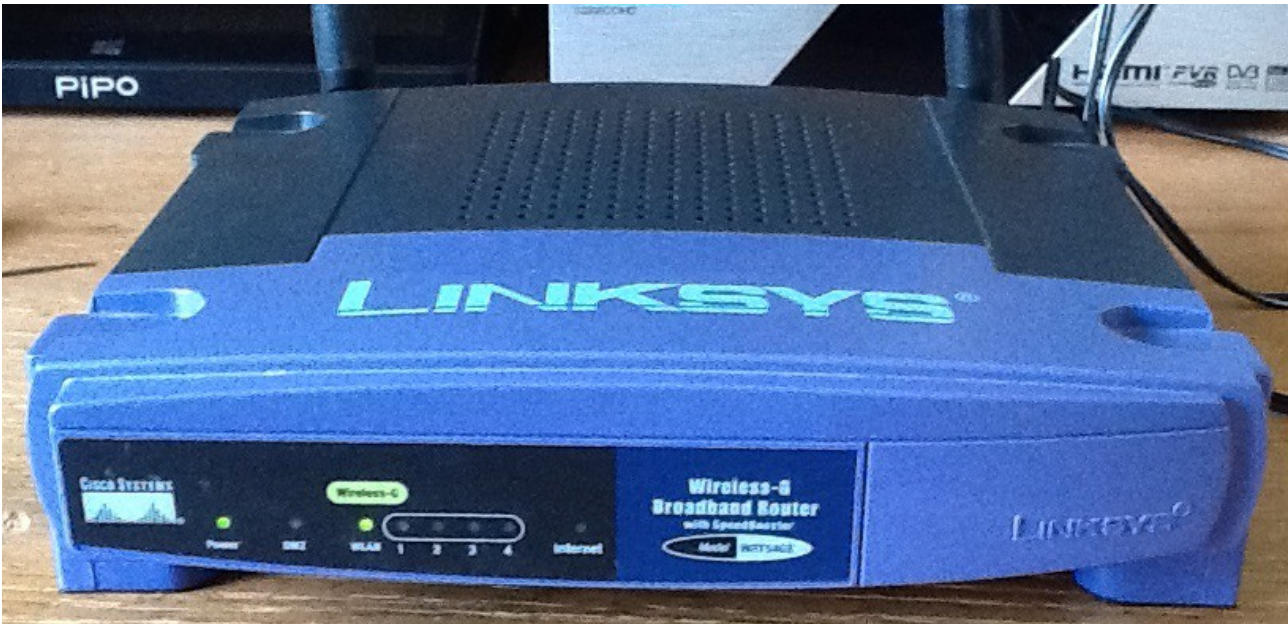
May 22

Practical Radio Astronomy for Amateurs by Paul Hyde G4CSD.

June 26

HF Propagation by Professor Cathryn Mitchell.

BROADBAND HAMNET



Do you have an old broadband router like the one above? If so, it is probably at the back of the cupboard, replaced by something newer and faster. But don't throw that old Linksys WRT54 series router out because there is an exciting way that it can be re-purposed for amateur radio use. Several years ago, radio amateurs in America realised that these routers can have their firmware replaced with a new version that sets them up on Broadband Hamnet. You probably know that there is an overlap between the wifi channels and the 13cm amateur radio band. Wifi channel 1 is 2412MHz and in the amateur band, and hence we can use this frequency with higher power and high gain aerials which are not allowed to unlicensed wifi users.

Broadband Hamnet sets each router up as mesh node. It listens for other nodes and automatically connects to them. This automatically creates an independent amateur radio data network – the more nodes that come on air, the greater the number of paths between any two nodes. We can use this network for exchanging files, streaming video and audio, connecting repeaters or streaming remote SDR's. So called "tunnels" enable networks that are out of radio range to communicate with each other over the internet, anywhere in the world.

Several of us in Bristol are becoming interested in this mode and hoping to start a mesh in Bristol. The more people that activate a node, the more feasible it becomes. I am hoping to arrange a talk on the subject later in the year, but in the mean time you can read more about it, which routers can be converted and how to do it at <http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/> . Don't worry if you've thrown yours away, because they are widely available on Ebay for £20-25, but do check the web site carefully before you buy, because not all variants are suitable for conversion.

AROUND THE LOCAL CLUBS

Bath & DARC <http://badarc.webs.com>

Chepstow & DARC www.gw4lwz.co.uk

Chippenham & DARC www.g3vre.org.uk

Mid-Somerset ARC www.midsarc.org.uk

North Bristol ARC <http://nbarc.weebly.com>

Shirehampton ARC www.shirehampton-arc.org.uk

South Bristol ARC www.sbarc.co.uk

Thornbury & South Glos.ARC www.tsgarc.uk

Trowbridge & DARC www.radioclubs.net/trowbridgedarc

Weston-super-Mare RS

<https://sites.google.com/site/westonradiosociety>

If your club has a major event or talk by a “star” speaker, send details to the secretary – g8vpg@aol.com – and I will be pleased to include it here. Also, please send reports & photographs of your recent activities and any news.

RALLIES & EVENTS

A selection of radio rallies & events within reasonable travelling distance of Bristol.

19 March	Wythall Radio Club Rally South Birmingham
26 March	Callington Radio Rally
23 April	Yeovil QRP Convention Sherborne
23 April	Wildhern Radio & Computer Boot Sale Andover
30 April	West London Radio & Electronics Show Kempton Park Racecourse
Monday 1 May	Dartmoor Radio Rally Tavistock
18 June	Newbury Radio Rally
25 June	West of England Radio Rally Frome
30 July	Chippenham & DARC Rally Kington Langley
13 August	Flight Refuelling ARC Rally Wimborne
18-20 August	Bristol Model Engineering Exhibition Thornbury Leisure Centre
20 August	Rugby ATS Rally Princethorpe
2-3 September	Telford Hamfest & QRP Convention
10 September	Blackwood ARC Rally Newport
10 September	Wildhern Radio & Computer Boot Sale Andover
17 September	Weston-super-Mare RS Radio & Electronics Rally Worle
29-30 September	National Hamfest Newark
13-16 October	RSGB Convention Milton Keynes
15 October	Holsworthy ARC Rally
5 November	West London Radio & Electronics Show Kempton Park Racecourse

That's it for another month! As always, I would welcome your comments, contributions and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you on 27th March. We have some really interesting talks lined up, so please do make an effort to come along and support the speakers.

73 Shaun G8VPG, Honorary Secretary, g8vpg@aol.com, tel. 01225 873098.