



Radio Society of Great Britain

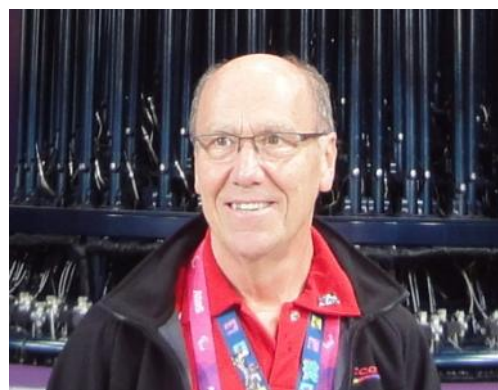


## City of Bristol RSGB Group - G6YB

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



London 2012 –Tech Ops Centre



Chris G3VEH

**Monday May 27th 1930hrs Chris Morcom G3VEH**

**“The role of Ofcom during the London 2012 Olympics”**

**Chris was part of the team to sort out the huge mass of spectrum users during what must have been one of biggest and most complex events ever staged in the UK !**



## “How I started in radio”

Harold W4ZCB

*Just for a change we hear from “across the pond”*

*Harold has been on the newsletter distribution list for a few years - A long time RSGB member, born in Chicago and now living in North Carolina.*



As a pre-teen (and poor as a church mouse during our previous depression), I would visit my aunt and uncle in the summer, likely due to the fact that they were farmers and had food to eat. They owned an old Philco radio that had shortwave bands and I was intrigued with the phone amateurs on the 80 and 20 meter bands. Often, I could hear both sides of the conversation; later, I found out that they were on different frequencies, being crystal controlled back then! My - how times have changed!

In high school, I made my own crystal set. WWII had started by then, and I would listen to the ground to air communications between ships in Lake Michigan and pilots taking off and landing on them. Great DX, perhaps 10 miles away.

In 1943, I had graduated from high school and joined the US Army Air Corps. I went through training to be a pilot, until they counted the airplanes and pilots and decided they had enough of each and turned me into a B-29 gunner! The war was over whilst still in training and I "retired" in November 1945. I went home and found my high school sweetheart, married her, went back to school to finish my education and started the Johnson family. Still married, and to the same girl. What a sweetheart to have put up with me all these years.

After the war I went back in the US Air Force in 1949; this time I became a pilot, just in time to go to Korea for a year. I had to learn Morse during training and if you achieved 13 wpm, you had a free hour and didn't have to attend class. That overcame my obstacle to amateur radio, and I took the exams in 1950 and became W9PJO. Our rules at that time were that you had to hold a "class B" ticket for a year before you could take the "class A" exams. That year I spent in Korea and Japan and managed to obtain my first foreign call, JA7HJ. Had a little ham shack built. The shack materials, including the tower cost me 3 bottles of Scotch for the army quartermaster, As I recall, I paid the Japanese builder \$15 or so for the complete enchillada. To rotate the Yagi, you climbed inside the tower, lifted the wooden boom, rotated it and set it back on the uprights.



In the ensuing years, I was always on and in the air; I operated from many exotic (and several not so) locations with many different call signs - G5AHB when 5s were reserved for foreign nationals. I usually spent the winters in Alaska and the summers in the Canal zone,

anything to stay miserable! I went to Lebanon in 1958, Vietnam in 1968 and by 1969 decided that I should start doing something else before my luck ran out.

Returning home to wife and by that time two children, I took the class A exams and became W4ZCB. I started a small company manufacturing electronic test equipment for public utilities, spent the next 20 years doing that (and enjoying a much more stable life with family and radio). Managed to work all the countries (entities these days) there are, win a few contests from a contest station I built and operated for 10 years. (80, 40 and 20 in the front room, 15 in one bedroom and since 160 and 10 were seldom open at the same time, they shared the other bedroom. To change bands, you just changed chairs. Five big towers and Yagis, a VERY high maintenance hobby in the lightning prone state of Florida. (Let's not mention hurricanes!)

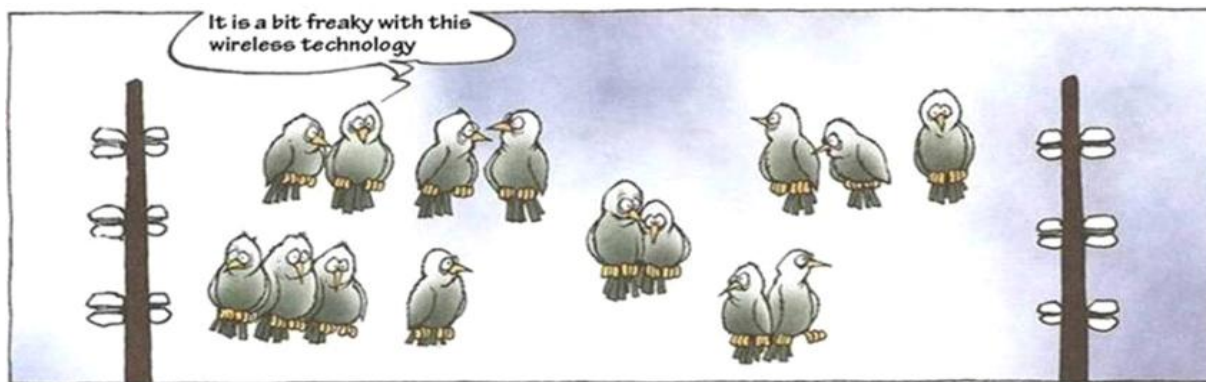
I retired again to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina in 1986. A much more modest station these days, but active on all the HF bands. I really enjoy building home-brew radios and maintaining daily schedules with friends worldwide. I can be found daily on 21.203 with G3XJP and often joined by other builders of the magnificent PicaStar transceiver designed by him. Sixty three years a ham, still enjoying it. It's guided my careers and interests.



What a wonderful hobby!

*Thanks, Harold; I'm sure we all agree with your sentiments - and thanks for such an interesting history.*

*Can we have some more "How I started" from this side of the pond ?*





## 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 :

My “home brew” set up doesn’t look anything like this. I wonder what the wine tasted like ?  
*Ron G4GTD*

The 478Khz ATU was taking shape - slowly *Mike SWL*

Back in the Dr Who studio an actor practices his voice-overs while the unhoused Daleks are on charge *Chris G3MGS*

Kevin liked to be in control of his roof-mounted solar panels *Peter Heaven*

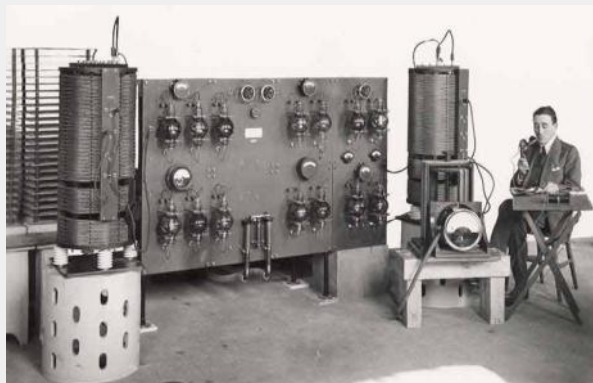
Yes sir I've got 14 in stock and can offer same day delivery by rocket if ordered before 8am.  
*G4FKA*

This month’s winner however :

“Vic’s 14-flask distillery was cumbersome, but even so it produced the best grog in town”

*V73/AF6SU/G3ZVW*

*Thanks Steve - hope you are back from your holidays now !*



Send me your captions ! [robin@g3tkf.co.uk](mailto:robin@g3tkf.co.uk)

**Have you applied for an NOV for the NEW bands?**

**472 – 479Khz and 5Mhz**

**Apply on line here**

<http://www.rsgb.org/operating/novapp/nov-472-479-khz.php>

### **UKQRM**

Well worth a look. A “Public-Facing Website”. Useful for when the neighbours come knocking on the door unable to hear Band II radio or even DAB - we DO seem to get blamed for most “interference” these days!

<http://www.ukqrm.org.uk/>

### **At the local clubs**

Do try to get along to a meeting

**Chepstow: June 4th Alternative Energy Anthony of SARA**

**North Bristol: June 14th APRS Tony G4CJZ**

**South Bristol : June 6th VHF NFD demonstration M3TWJ/M0RCE**

**Shirehampton: Every Friday night**

Full details and more on the websites below

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

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

**MidSARC** [www.midsarc.org.uk/](http://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.ts Garc.ham-radio-op.net>

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

 **Rally Newsletter**

## The Newbury Radio Rally

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Newbury Showground, next to Junction 13 of M4, Berkshire  
Open to visitors at 9am and traders at 8am  
PARKING FREE

Admission: Visitors £2 per person, traders plots £10 each (size 5m x 5m)  
Catering and disabled facilities available.  
Talk-in on 522, 145.550MHz

Following the success of last year we will again have a  
**DISPLAY AREA**  
with live demonstrations of amateur radio, along with a  
wide variety of club stands and interest groups.

**PLUS**  
**Free Prize Draw**  
For everyone (visitors and sellers) attending the  
2013 Newbury Radio Rally



### Amateur Radio in the Country 2013





**July 21st 2013** A slightly wider range of interests this year - not just QRP related! Home construction, historical matters, new device and projects etc all in a country setting! Do encourage your local Club to bring along a display of what you like doing! Plenty of space available and others will be interested for sure!

The **Construction Challenge** is to build a keyed side-tone oscillator that does not thump and which can be keyed by either a normal contact, or by RF from the transmitter. It is to be judged by Graham Firth G3MFJ from the GQRP Club. Fresh air, food from the farm and cider/beer from the next door farm!

An interesting Constructor challenge there - Any takers !?

## WESTRALLY 30th JUNE 2013



<b>Welcome!</b>	<b>Welcome to Westrally</b>	<b>More info:</b>
<b>FAQ</b>	The Rally is organised on a voluntary basis by the Severnside Television Group, an RSGB affiliated Repeater Group based in Bristol and founded in 1986. It runs the TV Repeaters G83ZZ & GB3XG.	The Rally is held at the 'Cheese & Grain', Bridge Street, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1BE.
<b>Photo gallery</b>	www.stvg.co.uk	Frome is a picturesque old town, with interesting shops & pubs nearby.
<b>Literature</b>	All proceeds from the Rally go to fund the Group's activities and grants are made to other local Clubs that help us.	You can find out more using the following links:-
<b>Previous Traders</b>	The Group Chairperson is Mrs. Viv Green G1IXE. Many Longleat visitors will remember Viv as the 'voice of Longleat' and the friendly face behind the enquiries counter.	Links: - Frome Town - Venue
<b>Booking Forms</b>	The Rally Manager is Shaun O'Sullivan G8VPG, a Radio Amateur for over 30 years with considerable experience of organising events of this type.	- Map 1 - Map 2
<b>Latest news:</b>		
<b>January 2013:</b> Trader booking forms available on line.		
You can find us on face book	<b>For further information please contact:-</b>	
	The Rally Manager Shaun O'Sullivan G8VPG 15, Witney Close, Saltford Bristol BS31 3DX. Telephone 01225 873 098 Email : rallymanager@westrally.org.uk	

### More details here

**Newbury Radio Rally : 16th June** <http://www.nadars.org.uk/rally.asp>

**West Radio Rally : 30th June** <http://www.westrally.org.uk/>

Usual venue in Frome - contact [Shaun G8VPG](#) for more details

**Radio in the Country : 15th July** <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~walfor/>

Further details can be had from [Tim Walford G3PCJ](#).

## **IMPORTANT CHANGE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT**

You can now pay your RSGB Bristol group £10.00 membership online.

**BUT** do remember to include details of Callsign and name.

Our account No.02520489 Sort Code 30-94-80 Lloyds Bank plc

Alternatively bring cash or a cheque along to a meeting and see Ron G4GTD

I'm short of caption competition photographs !

Does anyone have some amusing pictures they can send to me !?

Any "For Sales" or "Wanted"

Thanks

### **Coming soon to the Bristol Group :**

June 24th "Christmas" Party ! The Swan –Tockington

July 29th "Potted" talks including "The World-global village 2013" G3SJI

Aug 26th RSGB training update from the RSGB T&E Chair G0FUW

Sept 30th H44KW - Phil Whitchurch G3SWH

Thanks to those who have sent me short histories of "**How I started in radio**" ... please send me a few words of how YOU started in the hobby, and attach a few pictures if possible.

73

[Robin G3TKF](#)

**RSGB Bristol Group Sec.**

**01225 420442**