

# STARLITE

The Newsletter for Members and Friends of

**G6OI**  
1938

**Stourbridge and District  
Amateur Radio Society**  
Incorporating  
**Old Swinford Hospital Radio Club**  
**G4CVK**  
1969

**G6SRS**  
1938



**JUN 2003**

## Diary Dates

	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Talk by Roy Clarke of RSGB
	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
JULY	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Social night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available

*Produced by G8JTL*



# STARLITE

## Editorial

Not much to say this month except to extend a warm welcome from the committee on behalf of Stars to Bill G3HMD who attended the Meeting on Monday 9th after an extended absence due to illness. It was good to see Bill returning to the society and looking so well.

73's Malcolm G8JTL

## Our Own Roving Reporter

I started to write this report on the same night as the May meeting, because I found it so interesting, about Eddystone Radio, which brought back many memories for Me. my first commercial short wave amateur radio receiver in the early 1950s was a Eddystone 740 which I purchased from Chas Young's [G2AK] shop in Dale End Birmingham and having no transport of My own in those days, because I was only 16yrs of age, I had to use public transport. The 137 Midland Red bus to Gornal Wood. I had not got the cash to pay for the external Speaker and S meter so I had to return the following Sat to collect and pay for them, I still have the receipt.

Later on in the 1950s I purchased another Eddystone receiver and a Eddystone 2m converter and I used both of them along with 8 over 8 slot beam on 2m while the 740 was used for the LF bands of 2m. Charlie Young's shop moved from Dale End when changes were made in Birmingham and they were in the top end of Corporation St and no visit was complete to Birmingham unless I called in at the shop likewise by other amateurs it became a meeting venue, the shop is still there Sony have it now, its opposite the law courts. I often wonder if I will have that same interest will ever return like it was then?

Staying with the 1950s that was not the first talk about Eddystone. Some of the older members of STARS may recall a talk by Jerry Walker of Eddystone and that was at the Brotherhood Hall Scotts Rd were STARS held the monthly meetings in that period. Jerry had a colleague with Him on that night, Ken Basterfield who, when I got into conversation with I found out, He used to visit the company that I worked for [Contactor Switchgear Ltd]. He worked for Holden and Hunt Welding Machines Halesowen and they purchased our Bar and Shaft contactors. Before I leave Contactor where I had 35 yrs full time employment until closure in 1986. I was amazed 3 weeks ago when I typed in Contactor Switchgear on MSN search engine and it came up on the web the complete history, nearly as I had wrote about it in Ned Williams book the Black Country at Work book one. Returning to Charlie Young again like Myself He was a Theater and Electronic Organ enthusiast, and likewise the Organist at The Buttermarket on Sun 15th June Chris Powell from Leicester is a very keen SWL.

That's all for now due to space next month a report on Elvaston [with photos as well] and Who? One meets at the Trade Exhibitions and other news in general, and I am pleased to say that Glenys is getting much better following a virus infection that lasted for over three weeks, it was a very worrying time.

*Well that's all for now Best 73s Your Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP*



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## Our Man Down Under

Good morning Malcolm

and from a very wet, but at least it's stopped raining

Sydney, g'day to all the readers.

Well, the NZ trip is over, but it is truly a beautiful country. In the 3+ weeks we were there we only had a couple of days rain and taking into account that it is as green as England and the autumn temperatures much the same we did very well for sunshine.

On May 9th, all six of us flew from Sydney to Auckland, about a 2hr flight, and stayed in a town centre apartment for a couple of nights to get to get the feel of the place. We picked up the first of our campervans on the 11th. This was an automatic Mercedes sprinter with a much modified body, I have to confess to wondering whether I would be able to manage this enormous thing but my fears were groundless, it was so easy to drive, and the 6 speed box made hills seem like little slopes.

Our first journey took us North of Auckland to the Bay of Islands and also Waitangi, the place where the agreement between the Maori people and the British Governor was signed and of course is well documented in all sorts of Maori buildings, meeting houses, canoe sheds, tourist shops? Etc etc but all very interesting.

May 14th saw us in Rotorua South of Auckland and the home of the hot springs, Geysers and bubbling, steaming mud pools. There is an amazing amount of this geothermal activity on North Island so of course lots of photos on my new digital camera! The campsite where we stayed had its own thermal bathing pool, almost too hot to get in, but on a cool autumn night it was lovely.

From here we went on to Napier, a town that was almost completely destroyed in an earthquake in 1931 with considerable loss of life. By 1933, it was rebuilt in the art-deco style and has been very much preserved in that way, much to the joy of the tourism industry. Unfortunately this was one of the wet days so a trip round the local aquarium was quickly organised to keep the kids happy.

The 17th saw us in Hamilton arriving in the evening. As it was Good Friday the next day, NOTHING!!!! was open, it was a bit like England 30yrs ago we did however manage a trip on the paddle steamer down the local river and a walk in the park.

From here we returned the merc. to Auckland, and spent the night in the same hotel/apartment and even got to the cinema. Saturday we spent at the Easter show. Easter Sunday was a trip to the airport, the family flew home, and Barbara and I embarked on the second leg of our adventure by flying to Christchurch on South Island.

We spent two nights in an hotel and then picked up a smaller camper which was to be our home for the 12 days, It was very peaceful to say the least, not quite as luxurious as the merc, but, as diesel in NZ is about 60 cents per litre, and there were 2.8 dollars to the pound, it was very cheap to motor around.

Akaroa was our first stop, centuries ago, it was a volcano but now a truly lovely harbour and lake in what would have been a huge crater. On the 23rd, we drove north to a small town called Kaikoura, which was a whaling village in the bad old days but now very much into conservation and it is possible to see the whales migrating south, the main reason for our visit.

We had a trip booked and on what we thought was a beautiful morning, turned up to find it had been cancelled due to heavy rain at sea and about a 4-metre swell running. It was



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of course disappointing but we stayed over and tried the next day, which was Anzac Day and a holiday. The boat trip was still uncertain so we went to plan 2, a flight in an 8 seater plane to try and spot one from the air. It was with some delight we saw a sperm whale below us and I managed to get one picture before it dived, never to be seen again by us. The pilot gave us a scenic flight over the area as a small compensation, which made the whole trip incredible.

We continued our trip driving across the island via the Lewis Pass to Greymouth on the west coast, it took us about 5 hours and was a bit tiring so we decided to stay here for the night. I must say that all the sites we have stayed on so far have been very good and are really geared for the travelling tourist.

The 26th of April, the days slipping by, we left for the main part of the west coast, Glacier country. The village of Franz Josef is built around the glacier of the same name and on the afternoon we embarked on a 3.5hour guided walk up the glacier... this really tested the knee and all the other parts too believe me however, we made it!!!!!! although we were both knackered (no other word really fits the bill). Queenstown was next after a good nights rest, feeling a bit creaky but ok, we arrived in the late afternoon, a long drive but magical scenery the whole way south. on our arrival we booked a trip up to Milford Sound, it would save us about a 400 Km drive and the coach was only a small one, 12 passengers leaving at 0645 on the 28th. This turned out to be an excellent decision and we even had a BBQ lunch on the way there. We arrived there at about 12.45 just in time for the boat trip down the sound. It seems they should be called fiords, having been formed by glaciers many thousands of years ago, however, whatever the name it was truly spectacular. we sailed for about 45mins down to the open sea, between huge mountains rising sheer from the water for up to 2000m and apparently almost as far down below the water. We thought the waterfalls were incredible but the captain apologised for the lack of water because it had not been raining for a couple of weeks. It seems that the average rainfall in this area is a staggering "9 metres pa". Not many people live here either.

29th April took us off again this time across to Dunedin arriving there in the evening. Wednesday saw us in the town and looking at the Railway Station, a truly magnificent building saved from the bulldozers by the skin of its teeth apparently. We took a trip on the Taieri Gorge Railway which operates from there and was really spectacular, travelling over wrought iron viaducts and stone bridges along a line built by hand on the sides of the gorge...it was a long way down too.

All too soon we were off again north heading back to Christchurch via Oamaru and Timaru, stopping to see the rare yellow-eyed penguin en route. We got back to drop off the camper on the Saturday and spent that night in a town centre hotel again before heading to the airport for the flight home on Sunday.

A truly wonderful holiday and loads!!!!!! of photos to remind us

Next trip planned.... 1st June to Port Douglas and the Great Barrier Reef.... we just can't leave it out this time.

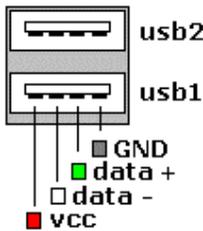
See you all soon

73 de Jim G4WAO/VK2IVJ



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## The techi bit

<u>Universal Serial Bus (USB)</u>	
<b>USB Features</b>	True Plug & Play
	Hot swappable devices
	Ease of use
	Low cost
	Theoretical limit of 127 physical devices
<b>Bandwidth</b>	Full speed: 12 Mbps. (Shielded cable)
	Low speed: 1.5 Mbps. (Non-Shielded)
<b>USB Device Power Requirements</b>	
<b>Bus-Powered Hub</b>	100 mA (max) at power up & 500 mA normal operation.
<b>Self-powered Hub</b>	100 mA (max). Be able to supply 500 mA to each port.
<b>Low power bus-powered function</b>	100 mA (max)
<b>Self-powered function</b>	100 mA (max)
<b>Suspended device</b>	Max 0.5 mA
<b><u>Operational Voltages</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voltage supplied by a host or powered hub must be in the range of 4.75V - 5.25V.</li> <li>• Max. voltage drop for bus-powered hub is 0.35V from its host or hub to the downstream port(s)</li> <li>• All USB devices must be able to send data at 4.4V, but only low power functions need to be working at this voltage.</li> <li>• Operational voltage for functions is 4.75V.</li> </ul>	
<b>USB Socket A Pinout</b>	
	

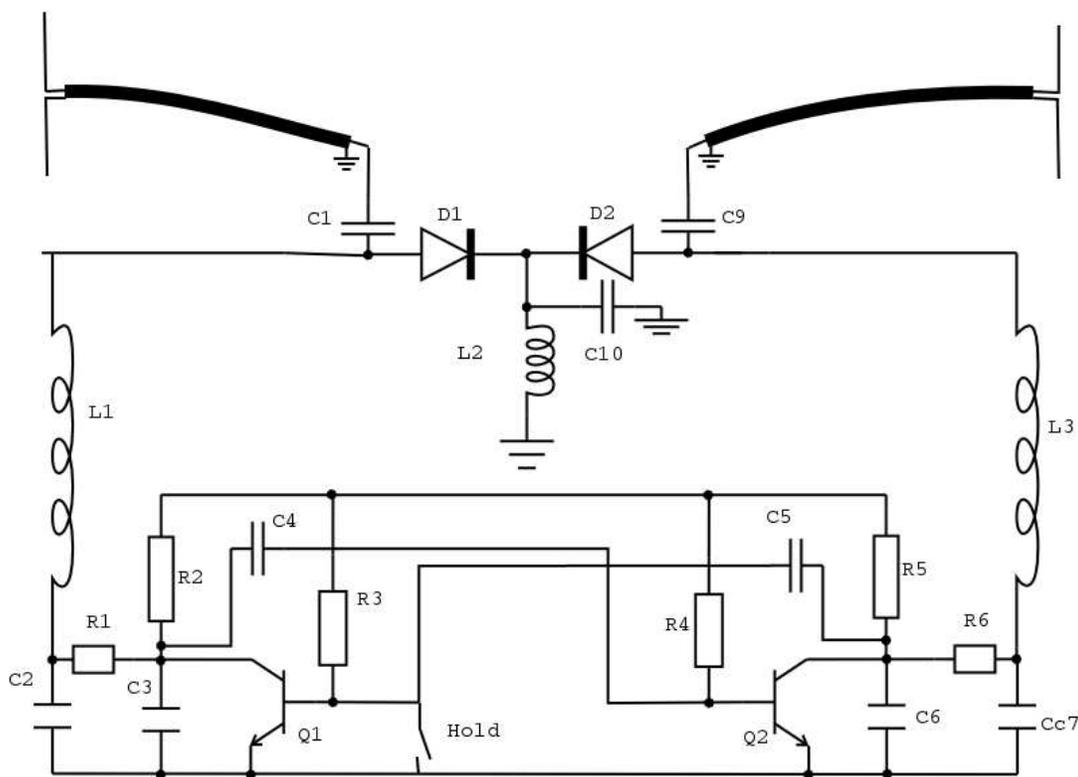
## Phasing Aerial DF System

Many years ago there was a Club project to build a 2m Df Aerial. The circuit chosen was for a Phasing DF System following a talk by G8FTU. In the light of the resurrection of a DF contest by RSGB I thought it pertinent to resurrect the details. It has taken me months to find it.. But I did so here goes

The unit consists of 2 x Half Wave centre-fed dipoles mounted on a non-conducting boom Approx ½ Wavelength long. The dipoles are fed with EQUAL lengths of IDENTICAL coax as the circuit reproduced below. The transceiver is fed from **point A**



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Parts List			
R1, R6	10K	C1, C2, C7, C9, C10	.01
R2, R5	1K2	C3, C6	470pF plate ceramic
R3, R4	10K	C4, C5	0.47
R4	15K	C8	47Uf 16v Tant
R5	1K2		.047
Q1, Q2	BC548	D1, D2	IN914 <u>MATCHED</u>
L1, L2, L3	RF choke approx 5UH (5/6 Turns)		

To use the phasing aerial, turn until a definite null (minimum audio whistle) is apparent. The station is then at right angles to the boom. Holding the aerial above the head with the elements vertical, walk towards the station being sought. Any increase in audio whistle indicates movement from the required direction. Adjust your path accordingly.

White noise, audio (even of High Dev) and tones on the transmission DO NOT affect the operation. Neither does V.F.O swing at the transmitter

The Hold Switch can be used to stop the multivibrator and allow LOW POWER transmissions to be made through one dipole



# STARLITE

## Technology – Another Viewpoint - part 1



### NEXT STARLITE ISSUE DUE

**July 11th – submissions by July 9th please.**

YOUR newsletter wants YOU

(Or more to the Point your INPUT)

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**DY5 2LY**

### Your Committee

<b>Hon President</b>	Wayne	G7LLT	
<b>Vice President</b>	Tony	M1CZH	
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	John	G8UAE	
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	John	M1EJG	
<b>Committee</b>	Malcolm	G8JTL	(Newsletter Editor)
	Bob	G4VPE	
	Richard	M1DBC	
	Nick	G6DAN	
	Eric	G7JWJ	
	Alan	G6UYJ	
	William Jones		School Representative



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<p>All correspondence/enquiries should be Addressed to the Hon. Secretary: <b>John Clarke M1EJG</b> (01562) 700513</p> <p><a href="mailto:honsec@g6oi.org.uk">honsec@g6oi.org.uk</a></p>	<p>The Mill House 21 Mill Lane Blakedown Kidderminster Worcestershire DY10 3ND</p>
Stars WebPages	<a href="http://www.g6oi.org.uk">www.g6oi.org.uk</a>
WAP enabled?? - Try	<a href="http://www.g6oi.org.uk/wap/index.wml">www.g6oi.org.uk/wap/index.wml</a>

## MEETINGS

The club holds its full meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each Month at: -

**Old Swinford Hospital School, Heath Lane, Stourbridge.  
(8.00pm – 10.00pm)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Monday is usually an informal Social evening with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday having prearranged talk or other event.

### CALENDAR

MARCH	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 8pm Prompt</b>
	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
APRIL	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	Stourbridge Boat Club talk.
MAY	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	C.Pettit of Eddystone
	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
JUNE	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Talk by Roy Clarke of RSGB
	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
JULY	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
AUGUST	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
SEPTEMBER	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	Informal Social night –Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Open Shack night – Tea/Coffee available

