

That was the month that was

First an apology to **Brian M1BKX** re my remarks in the last issue about comments heard on the StARS net. It was not my intention to offend. As John, Hon Treasurer, remarked at the recent AGM, comments, or complaints about the way the Society and it's committee conduct business should be addressed to the newsletter or the individuals concerned.

The annual dinner at the Hagley Country Club on Thursday 11th. March, was attended by 23 members (including partners) and, after an initial hiccup with the place settings, everyone was happy with the service and the meal. Retiring Hon. President **Bob VPE** instigated the event and then, no doubt exercising his delegating powers, handed over the donkey work to **James HEZ**, hi. I was pleasantly surprised at the cost of the meal, £10 per head. Wonder if the rest of the members knew 'cos I was expecting £15? Very pleasant evening, sure makes a change for me just to turn up in best bib and tucker and enjoy the meal and the company. Thanks Bob and James.

THE AGM on 15th. March was well supported with 24 out of a total 30 members in attendance. The meeting got off to a jolly start with Hon. Pres. leading a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" to **Eric G3IVQ** ...hi. Yours truly got it wrong ... again! And the agenda had to be jiggled to conform to "*THE RULES*". Hon Treas. **John UAE** said that we had spent £100 more than we had received during the year and there was about £26 less in the coffers than at the last AGM. We had received a cheque for over £400 from OSH towards running of OSH RC and refurbishment of shack and aerials. Yet again James and I got it in the neck. This "rag" is still the biggest drain on club funds. So can you please make the effort to pick up your own copy and take a copy for any member you are going to see, it doubles the cost for each one that is posted. Hon Sec. (Yours truly) thanked the officers and members for their support during the

year as did **Hon. Pres. Bob VPE** who then listed the various improvements that had taken place since the Society had moved to Old Swinford. The Society now has a permanent shack with 2 HF, a VHF, and UHF Rig all fully operational. Also with Packet, SSTV and a satellite weather station to come. The shack is now open at least twice a week (during term time) and being well used. The Society now has a good venue and is in a reasonable financial position.

There was the usual kerfuffle when it came to trying to establish a new Officers' post, that of Vice President and, after a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, it was agreed that we could but *THE RULES* will have to be changed and an EGM called. More work for Joe Soap!!! Most pertinent remark I heard was from Richard EWH "I thought rules were made to help the Society, not hinder". Well said. Richard.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE IS:

Hon. President. Eric Hickman G7JWJ
 Hon. Treasurer. John Scott G8UAE
 Hon. Secretary. Gordon Bryant G0TZV
 Editor. James French G7HEZ
 Contest Organiser. Bob Egan G4XOM

& Committee members

Dr. Bob Derricott G4VPE (retiring President)
 Wayne Mocroft G7LLT
 Brian Hinton M1BKX
 Richard Carol M1DBC
 Tony Price M1CZH

The Annual Awards were presented to the following members.

THE SENIOR TROPHY to **Wayne Mocroft G7LLT** for work on new shack.

THE JUNIOR TROPHY to **Richard Carol M1DBC** for work on shack and general all round enthusiasm.

THE G8GF ROSEBOWL to Editor **James French G7HEZ** for continued good work on the newsletter.

THE NATIONAL FIELD DAY TROPHY. **Tony Price M1CZH.** Most enthusiastic operator. (*When Eric JWJ remembers to return it*)
THE BRISTOL TROPHY to **Robert Vickers G3ORI.** Most "ACTIVE" competitor as member of the British ARDF team.

A Certificate will accompany each award and will be given to each of the recipients in due course

Well, that was about it apart from publishing the full minutes, which I haven't finished yet. It sure dragged out a bit (1 hour and 40 minutes).

STARS WEBSITE: - **Wayne LLT** has been busy setting up this site. It contains up to date information and pictures on the Society's activities together with the current issue of Starlite. Well worth a visit on www.star60.swinternet.co.uk. **Tom Edwards**, one of our NRAE students, is setting up a website as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award project. (which will be for G4CVK club)
 Address to follow.

Social **BBQ** and on air portable at **Stuart G7KKC's QTH, Kinver, Monday July 5th.** Eric JWJ will need to know numbers for BBQ, all invited (Including XYL's etc!) plenty of room for aerials and for food!

1999 marks the **30th. year** of the founding of **OSH Radio Club** and the Headmaster has been approached regarding organising a special event station and celebratory dinner. Provisional date for the dinner is **FRIDAY 8TH. OCTOBER.** James is compiling a list of Old Boys who were members of the club. If you know of any and their present location, please let James know, or any one else who has had connections with the club in the past.

SATURDAY 12TH. JUNE IS OSH INDUCTION DAY when pupils due to attend the school next September will be coming along for the morning. Might be a good idea to be QRV for the morning?

SATURDAY 3RD. JULY IS OSH SUMMER FAYRE. Lets hope the weather will be kinder this year. Hope all StARS members will give their full support to these events.

Jim WAO should be well on his way back home by the time you read this. Believe he has spent the last six weeks visiting Family in Australia. Hope the weather was better than in Tenerife. Tell us all about it Jim.

NRAE The course is now nearing completion and we are hoping that all the lads will pass the exam in June. You wouldn't believe the problems I've had trying to get OSH re registered as an Exam centre. Many thanks to Bob VPE, Eric JWJ. Bob XOM and James HEZ for their efforts over the past 8 months.

That's all folks Gordon G0TZV

FOR SALE Collectors items.

REGENTONE radiogram, full size wooden cabinet circa 1940s, Worked when last tried.

78 RPM RECORD DECK. Wooden case.

Origin unknown.

STELLAPHONE reel to reel tape recorder and **GRUNDIG TK14** reel to reel tape recorder both valve jobs 5 inch reels.

PAM record player. BSR deck.

All need TLC and condition poor but restorable.

£10 collector takes the lot.

G4EEM Bob.

Tel 01384 486540

SSTV Club Project

Amateur SSTV these days is far from the image (no pun intended) conjured up in our minds of the old black and white fuzzy pictures, which had to be viewed on long persistence CRT tubes. These were invariably old ones salvaged from radar units with orange or green screens. Then came the Robot system which was a vast improvement but still very slow and poor quality.

Why not send and receive very high quality colour pictures with only the use of a simple circuit and all the equipment you already have in the shack. I do not lay any claim to the design. The circuit is taken from the information provided by the writer of the program G.Szabados-Hann DL 4 SAW.

The program runs on MS-DOS PCs with at least 640 KB memory. It needs an 1MB VGA graphics adapter supporting the 640x480 VESA-mode, 15, 16 or 24 bits per pixel (VESA modes 272, 273 or 274).

It is suggested using at least a 386DX processor machine with VLB-VGA board. Colour resolution is, depending on the VESA-mode, 32K, 64K or 16M colours per pixel. The best available resolution will be selected automatically. I am running mine on a 300Mhz Pentium II under Windows 95 so it will work on most machines.

Good quality pictures can be received on several HF bands and also on 2M (144.5 sstv calling freq) You can store the pictures on your hard disk, clean them up with various photo-handling packages re-send your favourites the list is endless.

Bottom line "Club Construction Project 99"
We can build the interface to achieve all this you can make it as complex or as simple as you desire. Leave it dangling on its wires from the back of the pc (tut tut !) or put it in that nice case you picked up from the last Rally (you know the one, *looks good, might come in handy one day, I had to buy it, it was only a couple of quid luv!*) fit a few switches, led, sockets, transfer's "et voila" nice piece of kit to grace the shack which is functional as well.
We have all the facilities to build on a Monday night now so lets DO IT! If enough people are in-

terested we might be able to get some discount on the components by bulk purchasing through the club, so let me or any committee member know if you are interested. The software comes free to anyone wants it from me on 1.44 floppy, it is shareware so "try it before you buy it" I have enhanced the circuit shown in the software for clarity.

So I will look forward to sending you some pictures of my holidays or my new puppy on 2 metres soon.

73 Wayne G7LLT
wayne@stars60.swinternet.co.uk

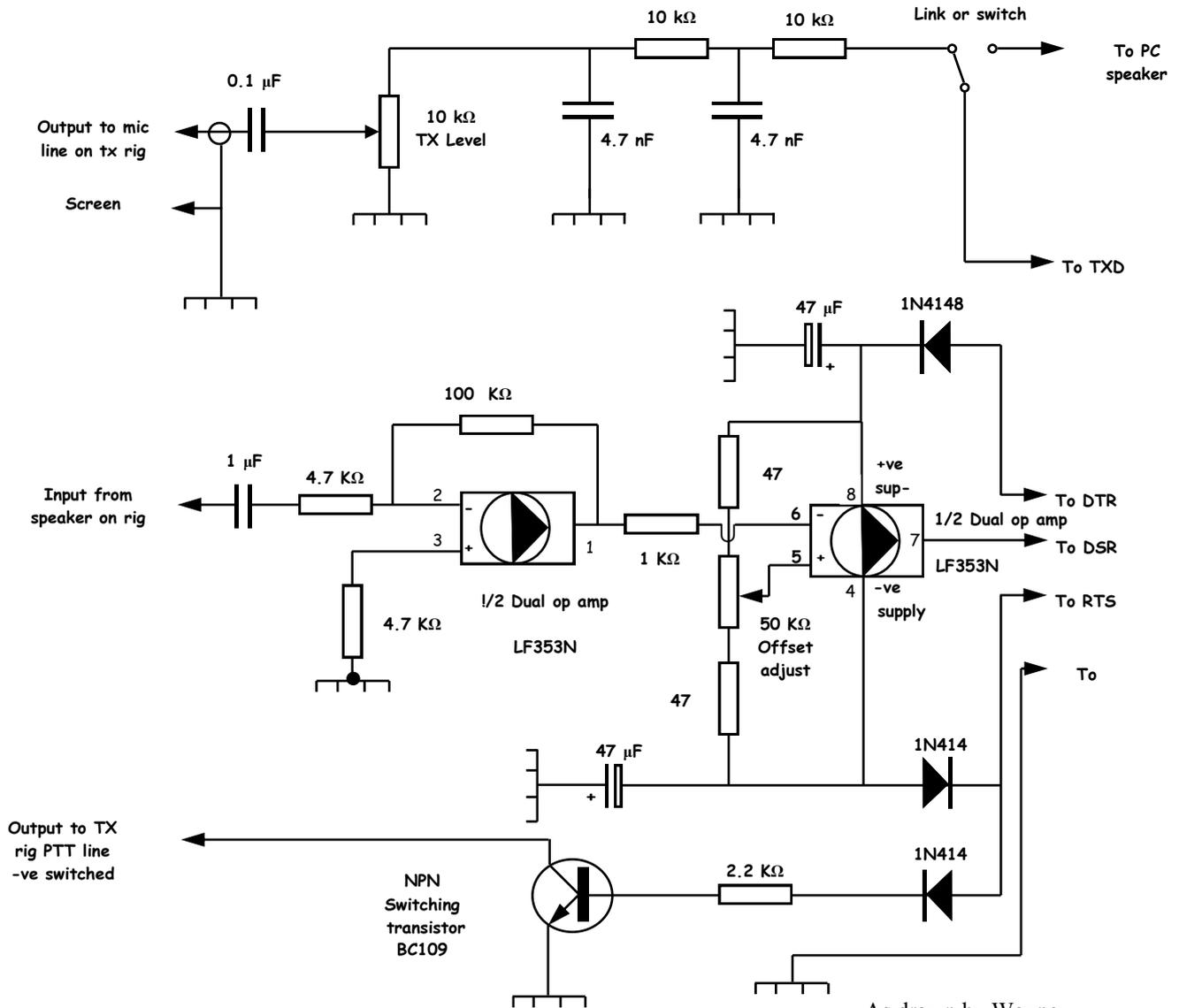
ARCHIVES: - TONY M1CZH

has volunteered to take on the mammoth task of bringing the archives up to date.

Eric JWJ (Hon. Pres.) has provided a suitable large leather bound book for the purpose.

If you have any Photos, or documentation about the Society, please pass it on to TONY.

SSTV Circuit



30th Anniversary Dinner for G4CVK

to be held during
October 1999

All members of StARS, & anyone involved with Old Swinford Club past or present invited to attend.

Further details to follow

StARS Meetings

The Shack is open every **Monday** (except Bank Holidays) from around 7:15pm. ~ 10pm (approx)

The shack is also open every **Wednesday** during school term time from 7:15pm ~ 9pm.

StARLITE APRIL 99 ROVING REPORTER

I could have featured the start of this report as a stop press item in the March Starlite, but decided to save it for April. Anyway I attended the Thinking Day on the Air held at Old Swinford and had a most enjoyable day. It was good to get back to Amateur Radio as I seem to be spending a lot of time thinking about pipe organs recently! I enjoyed the many contacts that I made on 2m FM and also had a listen around on 20 meters. I look forward to the next event (JOTA) and hopefully this can become a regular event in the StARS calendar.

I had a phone call from James regarding the Annual Dinner. Glenys and myself now take the weekly trip to Hereford on Thursday so it would have been a long day if we had attended. In the event Glenys was ill so we would not of been able to make it anyway.

These days I seem to spend less and less time with Amateur Radio, although I still have my weekly sked with Len G4HCZ on Fridays. I did however get the opportunity to take out the handheld when myself and two friends took a trip to Woodhall Spa, Liconshire to visit a privately owned Compton Organ housed in a cinema. Cinema is another interest of mine, especially the projectors. I was also especially interested in the lift used for the organ. The cinema first started showing films in 1922. I may be asking our old friend Frank G0RXO about ideas for lifts for my organ project! On route there was not much activity on the 2m band. Then on route back we called in to see another organ at Ashbourne nr Derby, I managed to get into the Derby repeater but with only the rubber duck I could not keep the repeater open, if only I had a mag mount! A long but enjoyable day was had by all.

Well, its been 12 months now since I was made redundant, how time passes, you may of seen one of my articles in the Black Country Bugle, it was published on the 4th March. Finally may I welcome in the new committee and president and give them my full support.

Also its the Drayton Manor rally on 9th May, also the Vintage communications at the NEC on the same day.

All the best Malcolm, G8BOP

Private Packet

Packet on 10 metres.

The idea of DX packet on the HF bands must be a bit of a hit and miss situation due to the QRM and QSB, added to this the fact that on the crowded HF bands the baud rate is limited to 300 and the mode is sideband. In contrast, the 10 metre band is very often quiet and it is wide enough to allow the use of FM AFSK at 1200 baud. I decided to design and construct a QRP FM transceiver for this band to see if the system was practical. The system was designed for local working between a few interested parties. Although there is a Packet segment at 29.2 to 29.3Mhz I have never heard any activity. I wonder if the concept of using 1200 baud Packet on FM in the UK has even been considered on 10 metres (see footnote). Obtaining equipment is the next problem. Conversion kits for CB rigs to 29Mhz can be obtained from Spectrum Communications. The advantage of these rigs is their 10 KHz spacing, however, it seems that the conversion kits place their output just above the Packet sector at 29.31 to 29.7Mhz (40 channels in 10Khz steps). The next best idea was to design such a rig. I quickly found out that there was a new chip from Motorola, the MC 13135 which is a fully integrated double conversion superhet receiver for narrow band FM. A circuit was patched up and it worked perfectly, much superior to the MC3361 found in most 2 metre transceivers. A power amplifier was designed using cheap switching mosfets type IRF510 driven by a 2N3053. It was capable of about 7 watts from a 12 volt sealed lead acid battery with about 100mv of drive. The drive at this time was just a

signal generator so the next step was to generate the TX frequency by mixing the local oscillator with a crystal oscillator running at the first I.F. of 10.7Mhz. This method ensures that TX and RX remain on the same frequency even if the local oscillator crystal is changed. I used a standard Baycom type of TNC and used the TX tones to frequency modulate the mixer at about 3Khz deviation. Using off-the-shelf crystals for the first and second local oscillators, the rig appeared to work ok using a scanner as the test FM receiver. Another rig was built and installed at a friends

QTH. After a few teething problems it appeared to work very well. I hope this work will encourage the use of this band for local Packet nets (and DX when available) and those of you with one of the latest HF rigs with the FM mode built in will find it very easy to set up.

Bob G4EEM

Picture Page

back due to popular demand!

The Presidents Annual Dinner
March 1999
Hagley Country Club



Wayne, James, John and Gordon in the shack having just got SSTV running for the first time.

Eric G7JWJ and Bob G4VPE, incoming and outgoing presidents



These pictures and more can be found on the all new StARS internet site at

www.stars60.swinternet.co.uk