

# over the summer

It seems such a long time since the last main meeting of STARS and I have been busy since the meeting, what with the COMPUTER trying to get a top of the range joystick loaded at the time of writing I have not had any success so I have spent 16 hrs on the project ANY IDEAS WILL BE WELCOME? Anyhow here is the REPORT.

I trust YOU have all had a good summer break and no doubt looking forward to the AUTUMN / WINTER programme. since my last report I have partaken along with some of the other members at one of the events Old Swinford open day at the school early in July during which time I had the opportunity, to have a chat to NICK OWEN of the BBC MIDLANDS TODAY NEWS TEAM, WHO'S SON IS A STUDENT AT OSH.

That weekend I was out and about, on the Sunday. GLENYS & MYSELF were at BRIDGNORTH RAIL STATION for the SEVERN VALLEY WARTIME weekend. one of the reasons being to meet for the first time a fellow GEORGE FORMBY SOC. MEMBER who had been taking part in the weekend event, it was though him that I was invited to be part of the entertainment for DUDLEY MUSEUM 1940 EXTRAVAGANZA I also was asked to sing one or two numbers at BRIDGNORTH I just happened to have my uke in the car (GLENYS DIDNT KNOW I HAD WITH ME) I also met several people there that I had not seen for some time, either old work & SCHOOL COLLEAGES or past STARS member & president & LECTURER at Old Swinford BRIAN KENNEDY G3ZUL & HIS xyl so it was some weekend. I believe that BRIAN was one of the founder members of the Old Swinford STATION which on the OPEN DAY was visited by NICK OWEN. On the MONDAY night again with STARS I found myself at a site where I hadn't been for 30yrs the SHEEPWALKS KINVER for a / portable evening. I had two contacts on 2m I must visit the site again. The following weekend I was

in conversation with DEREK PEARSONS MOTHER IN LAW who lives on our estate and SHE informed me that DEREK & HIS XYL & FAMILY now live on GURNSEY they moved there last September. DEREK G3ZOM being a past member & also on the committee of STARS in 1974, (I DRAFT OUT THE REPORTS USUALLY WHEN I AM TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT LIKE ON THIS OCCASION GLENYS & MYSELF ARE ON THE TRAIN GOING TO WORCESTER FOR THE DAY FROM STOURBRIDGE JUNCTION) It was a shock when I read in the Express & Star Fri 14th JULY that BILL RAYBOULD G4DFE had become a silent key on Sun 8th July. It was ironic GLENYS & MYSELF were with BILL & HIS XYL BERYL who is also licenced, on the Sat prior to his sudden death on the following day, WE HAD DECIDED TO visit him while we were in the area making our first visit to the cinema in TENBURY WELLS, where BILL & HIS XYL moved to 8 to 9 years ago, from GORNAL. He was 69 and had heart problems going back over 30yrs resulting in a heart by pass 6 years ago, BILL lived for AMATEUR RADIO and could be heard on the air every day of the week on most bands included regular scheds on 2m each night. In 1988 both he & BERYL did a 6 week tour of AUSTRALIA in a mobile home visiting AMATEURS that he had been in contact with. During that tour STAN G8SR JOHN G4CVU & BILL G3CAQ kept in contact with him each week day morning, both HE AND BERYL visited AUSTRALIA again & CANADA after his heart by pass. His funeral was on WED. 19th July at GORNAL CREM. He is sadly missed by all who knew him not only in this country but abroad. 73s BILL.

SUNDAY 30th July was a great day although I thought it was going to be wet for the RSGB RALLY at HATFIELD HOUSE which LEN & MYSELF along with our XYLS attended for the second time. It was better than last years

even to the toilet facilities which were fit for a king, even with background music, again I was meeting people some even from this area which I never realised had the same interests as myself, GRAHAM G8GYI from KIDDERMINSTER & RICHARD NEWTON & HIS XYL who were staying in their caravan a few miles away, and GRAHAM G1JPS who lives in LONDON, I didn't buy too much, one or two computer parts, it was a good day out and may be our last with our xyls for this year. We have no plans to go to the TELFORD RALLY cost wise its becoming to much we may be going to CASTLE DONNINGTON (LEICESTER RALLY) at the end of AUGUST on BANK HOLIDAY SUN. & MON GLENYS & MYSELF will be on the SHROPSHIRE THEATRE ORGAN TRUSTS stall at the SHROPSHIRE STEAM RALLY at ONSLOW PARK nr SHREWSBURY , I will feature a report on that in the next edition of STARLITE

73s ROVING REPORTER  
MALCOLM G8BOP

### Novice Course

Member of StARS will be running their second Novice Course starting **Wednesday September 13th, 7:30 pm** at Old Swinford Hospital.

The course will run during school term time to the Novice RAE exam to be taken in May/June 2001.

The course consists of a small amount of class room based learning, some real on the air experience and particle construction as well.

**All welcome to attend.**

Any StARS member who would live to assist in any aspect of the Novice course is more than welcome to attend and help.

- Plumber: We repair what your husband fixed!
- On the trucks of a local plumbing company in Pennyslvania: Don't sleep with a drip call a plumber!
- At a tyre shop in Milwaukee: Invite us to your next blowout!
- At a laundry shop: How about we refund your money, send you a new one at no charge, close the store and have the manager shot. Would that be satisfactory?
- At a towing company: We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows!
- Sign at a psychic's hotline: Don't call us, we'll call you!
- Billboard on the side of the road: Keep your eyes on the road and stop reading these signs!
- Door of a plastic surgeons office: Hello, can we pick your nose?
- On a Electricians truck: Let us remove your shorts!
- On a Taxidermist's window: We really know our stuff!
- On a maternity room door: push, push, push!
- In a non smoking area: If we see smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action!
- On a fence: Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive!
- On a butchers window: Let me meat your needs!
- On a desk in reception: We shoot every third salesman, and the second one just left!
- At a car dealership: The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment!
- Outside a Hotel: We need inn-experienced people!
- On the door of a computer store: Out for a quick byte!
- In a restaurant window: Don't stand there and be hungry, come on in and get fed up!
- Inside a Bowling Alley: Please be quiet we need to hear a pin drop!
- In a Counsellor's office: Growing hold in mandatory, growing wise is optional!

# PSK 31

I enjoyed the PSK31 demo put on by Wayne, LLT, assisted by Gordon, TZV on 19 June put on at short notice. Many thanks to all those who helped in the setting up of the necessary equipment, which made the evening very successful.

I recall that there had been a magazine article on this subject within the last 12 months, which I have now found and the following notes may be useful to anyone who wishes to try this mode out.

The article was in the August 1999 issue of Radio Today and was written by Chris Lorek, G4HCL. PSK31 has now been around for about 4 years and was "invented" by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, being based on an idea by SP9VRC.

As mentioned, PSK is "Phase Shift Keying", which has been in use for many years, the 31 is from the rate of change of the binary "1"s and "0"s of the signal, 31 baud (actually its 31.25), and gives a very narrow bandwidth of 62.5Hz. The article quotes Lower Sideband, but I am told either will work. Like Morse, PSK31 uses variable length coding (varicode for short) which gives a speed of about 50 word per min.

Frequencies for PSK31 activity have concentrated on the lower edge of the IARU RTTY bandplan, moving up as activity increases and it is now usually centred 150kHz higher as follow:

1838.150kHz  
3580.150kHz  
7035.150kHz  
10140.150kHz  
14070.150kHz  
18100.150kHz  
21080.150kHz  
24920.150kHz  
28120.150kHz \*\*

(\*\* this may be a printing error as the bandplan shows 28050kHz as the lower edge)

If you have Internet access, then [www.psk31.com](http://www.psk31.com) is a good starting point with lots of links for software.

Richard G0EWH

**There is a two page article with photographs about the closure of Portishead Radio in the September 2000 edition of RADIO ACTIVE.**

**This lively radio magazine is available from any reasonably sized W.H.Smith or large magazine display. Usually with Radcom, Radio Today and Practical Wireless.**

**David Barlow G3PLE**

## ***For Sale***

**Icom U16, 16 channel handheld transceiver, 12.5kHz, 70cms, 0.5W/3W (5W on 13.2V), CTCSS encode/decode, easy to reprogram from keypad. Limited quantity, includes charger, spare battery while stocks last.**

**Proceeds to StARS - £15.**

**Please contact Richard, G0EWH, 01384 396800.**

# A Likely Story

# Foxhunting

Gxxxx's XYL appeared at the doorway of the shack carrying a tray of food which she placed on the desk where Gxxxx was intently glued to his computer screen. "Never Mind about DOT.COM whoever she is, listen to me for a change. You seem to be on another planet and you haven't joined the family downstairs for weeks. Look at this room it's a tip and your radio gear is covered in dust. I'd call it a cobweb site".

"Very comical" grunted Gxxxx

The XYL continued "What has happened to you and your radio? You haven't been on the air of ages. You don't go to the club meetings, join the Sunday natter net or go on those outings to the Dog Walks. Your licence renewal expires tomorrow so you had better see to that if you want to continue as a ham. For me enough is enough and the tray I have brought in is the "last supper." I am taking the car to stay with my sister for a few days. You will have to take the dog for his walks; be careful he may treat you as a strange and go for you, also feed the budgie. If you can't feed yourself you will have to use microwave readyies or Hanglo's take away. When I come back I hope to see this place cleared up and your return – even part time – to your former social life OK! I nearly forgot, I've bought a mobile "phone"

The XYL left the shack and Gxxxx returned to his computer to look for counselling information about the Internet Virus Syndrome

Alec G8GF

It's not very flattering, but since most people have difficulty comprehending what I get up to when I go abroad for my "foxhunting" sessions, you might try looking at:-

[www.ardf.net](http://www.ardf.net)

(It's in German, but if you click the Union Jack you get an English version), then click progressively on:

Aktuell

Nordic ARDF Champs

2m (ie click on the 2m zone of the map displayed here)

dsc\_0018

There is more of me elsewhere on this site if you click around!

KRs de Robert  
G3ORI



# Virus on your mobile phone?

There's no question of whether a mobile phone virus will appear - the question is when

For any hacker intending to write the first mobile phone virus, there are many obstacles to overcome. The modern GSM cell-phone is a smart terminal on a complicated network with lots of security features, but at heart it is a computer that can download and run software -- get viral code in there, and you've cracked it.

The key to GSM viruses is the SMS or Short Message Service. This is the mechanism most users know as text messaging -- a way of passing notes of up to 160 bytes or so to be displayed on a friend's phone -- but is also used by network operators to send applications, security updates and other information to the SIM or Subscriber Identity Module. The SIM holds the phone's number and ancillary information, but it also contains a processor and memory. A standard, called the SIM Toolkit, defines how applications can be written for transferral to the phone and such applications have full access to dialling functions and phone book entries: all you need to write a self-replicating virus.

However, it's not just a matter of writing a virus to the toolkit specifications and sending it to a random phone via SMS. There are various layers of security to prevent this -- your phone will only be able to generate ordinary text SMSs, the network will be set up not to forward other kinds originating from phones, and there are encryption, digital signature and other checks built into the GSM standard that defines how a phone should verify and react to an SMS that comes bearing application data. If all this works perfectly, it will be practically impossible to create and distribute a mobile phone virus.

*reprint as the whole story did not appear!*

But the real world is rarely perfect. Many of the security and protection mechanisms depend on the inviolability of the SIM card, and SIM cards can and have been tampered with. The network is also accessible via Internet to SMS gateways: although these are ostensibly set up with the same limitations as phone-originated SMS messages, they are a point of vulnerability. It's not known how secure these systems actually are: although the design as specified in the GSM system specifications looks safe, implementation errors aren't unknown. There is no current approval process for phone security, unlike the various classifications available for servers and other computing devices.

This situation will get worse. As phones get more intelligent and programmable, the potential to write viruses that bypass the SIM security altogether becomes greater. Imagine a phone that happens to run a full-featured Exchange client with scripting facility: that would be just as vulnerable to the Love Bug as were PCs. Phones are acquiring Java, EPOC, Linux and other very flexible and capable operating systems, and complex applications that run alongside. Without any official security testing to ensure the quality of phone software design and implementation, there's no question of whether a mobile phone virus will appear. The question is when.

## WANTED

Oscilloscope, 5 - 10 MHz.  
Bob G4EEM (01384) 637632

