

feb is the month...

It's the second month of the year and the constructors contest, I have an item to enter, although not strictly radio it was through the hobby I became involved. I have the digital box sorted out with assistance from the manufactures and the B.B.C. who supplied a card to receive extra free channels. It have been fun playing with the new gadget and will try to receive other satellites through it when I have time in between other jobs.

With the mention of the B.B.C. I found out in the early part of Jan. that an ex radio colleague Ian G8NPA {G4IKP} as just recently become employed as a camera man with the corporation at Pebble Mill. He has been to some of the Stars meetings in the past He dose not bother too much with the hobby now a days.

Since my last report Logitech the manufactures of the joystick have been in contact with me on the phone from thier HQ in Switzerland regarding the problems I have had with the joystick. The other dealings that I have had were with their UK base. I have found their customer service to be first class, nothing seems to be too much trouble, the company which supplies a wide range of products for the computer market, great to deal with.

On Thursday 11th Jan. on route to Hereford I decided to stop at the car park at the rear of the library in Tenbury Wells to take a poster for the Organ Trust as I have been doing for some time. On the return to the car I was just in time to see one of the fir trees on the car park blown down by the wind. I was parked four spaces away, it was fortunate there no cars or any one close at the time, it could have caused a lot of damage, one car was closer than my own two spaces away on the other side. I have sent a report to the Tenbury Journal with photos of the incident, at the time of writing I don't know if it as been printed.

I have been doing some early spring cleaning as the result I have one or two items for sale - Compaq win 3.1 computer, secam / pal decoder, Star dot matrix printer, TV aerials, & other surplus items. I had ideas of upgrading the computer. I was offered complete less monitor keyboard, mouse all I have, I may drop the idea & wait until the rally season starts, Wythall on March 11th being the first one local.

The following week i could have combined two interests in one week end with a visit to the GFS at Blackpool & a visit to the Norbreck Rally a tram ride away, its the same Weekend as the organ concert.

Finally I understood at the AGM of the computer club on 23rd Jan that Malcolm G3KQJ is receiving a course of hospital treatment. I feel certain that all of us at wish him well. It's always difficult at the start of the year planning out talks for the monthly meetings, its the same at the computer club I have already suggest one or two ideas one of which is a talk be one of our members from stars, on either SSTV or the internet of amateur radio without going down a phone line, packet radio, on the same basis one of the computer clubs member could give us a talk i have two in mind one on photography & one on music with computers, so what say ?

73s Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP

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 : Congratulations from all at :
 : Stars to Wayne G7LLT soon :
 : to be M5LLT(?) for passing :
 : (at first attempt) the new :
 : class A/B Morse Test. :
 :

What is digital radio?

Radio has come a very long way since Marconi's revolutionary invention first took to the airwaves . . . AM was pretty good until FM came along to prove how much better everything sounded without all the interference and whistles. And now there's digital radio. Digital is to FM and AM as CD is to vinyl. Crystal clear sound, with no interference, no hiss or fade. Digital radio produces the best quality radio you will hear - anywhere.

Hear the difference

No interference. No hiss or fade. Unlike AM and FM, digital radio signals are much more robust and are unlikely to be distorted by things like weather, electrical noise and reflections from tall buildings, hills and valleys. That's because its unique digital transmission method eliminates anything that is likely to cause distortions. Producing a pure, clear sound all the time.

No need to retune

The station you're listening to is broadcast on exactly the same frequency everywhere. So you don't need to keep re-tuning your station as you move around.

Check text

Pick up the latest travel and weather news. See what's on, what's next and what's new. And broadcasters and businesses will be coming up with all kinds of new ways of using your radio display to keep you up to speed with everything that's going on.

What's on digital radio?

With so many stations to choose from, there's one to suit every mood and lifestyle. All your favourites from commercial radio (including Classic FM of course) and the BBC - plus many new stations both nationally and locally. The Digital One network is already broadcasting 10 national stations. The line-up includes Classic FM, talkSPORT and Virgin Radio (which are also available on AM and/or FM) plus 7 brand new national stations including Planet Rock, Core, Life and Oneworld.

Local digital multiplexes will also be

launched from May 2000, covering major conurbations in the UK. Existing local stations will be broadcasting alongside new and exclusive digital stations in your area.

Listening to digital radio

In the car. A range of in-car DAB digital radio receivers is available.

At home. Look for DAB digital radio tuners which plug into your existing hi-fi system.

On your PC. With a DAB PC card fitted into your PC base unit.

Look for the letters DAB

If you already have a radio that displays the name of the station you're tuned to, you've got RDS (short for radio data service). It uses station names to make FM tuning easier and improves reception by automatically re-tuning itself to the best transmitter. But you can only receive digital radio with a DAB digital radio tuner.

What's around the corner

News, entertainment and information in the palm of your hand. The all-round, all-in-one listening experience - featuring integrated DVD, minidisc and digital radio for the home, with GPS for the car. Digital radio integrated into your PC - even your mobile phone, personal stereo or personal organiser.

Where can you listen to digital radio?

At home. In the car. In all major towns throughout hundreds of miles of motorways and major roads. Digital One is now reaching 76% of the population - that's 46 million people. More transmitters are to be added over the next two years to enable more than 85% of the population to receive digital radio by the end of 2002.

About Digital One

Digital One runs the UK's only national commercial digital radio network under a licence from the Radio Authority. Together with BBC Digital Radio and local commercial broadcasters, Digital One is transforming the world of radio to offer you - the listener - the richest-ever choice of stations, coupled with outstanding sound and reception quality and ultimately, access to an impressive range of text, multimedia and interactive services. For more information on digital radio, visit the website www.ukdigitalradio.com

The truth about radio health

I'm always suspicious of nostalgia, but sometimes nothing else will do. Come with me to the last century and the years between the wars, back to those heady, Bakelite-scented days when the BBC itself first started broadcasting to the nation.

Something evil was in the air. Lambs were stillborn, cows no longer gave milk, and flocks of birds fell down dead from the sky: eye-witnesses reported these and many other evil portents in the letters page of The Times. The reason, these epistolarians said with utter confidence, was the poisonous wireless waves emitted from the machinery of the British Broadcasting Company.

It could be, of course, that all these reports were true and we now live in an age where whole species of radio-sensitive sparrows have died out: it could be that panic was abroad in the face of innovation and invisible magic. I vote for magic. But of course, it couldn't happen now. We're sensible, scientific moonwalkers with microchips on our wrists and reason in our hearts.

Yet tune to the BBC of today, and such fondness evaporates. The very doyen of middle-class sensibilities, You and Yours, transmits a piece about radio and health. Trouble is once more in the air, it seems, and it's to do with the new digital mobile radio system being installed for police, firemen and other noble animals of the state.

"These new masts" says the interviewee "are transmitting at sixteen point seven hertz. That frequency is very close to the ones that cause all sorts of neurological problems, and is the same that the MOD used on their microwave weapons against the Greenham Common women. They got very irritable and

moody."

Did I miss that meeting? What microwave weapons are these? And since when has sixteen point seven hertz been microwave? Microwaves are called microwaves because they have a very small wavelength -- typically less than around 30 cm. A radio wave at 16.7 Hz has a wavelength of around seventeen thousand kilometres. Yet this remarkable pseudoscientist was not only given airtime, he was listened to gravely, questioned lightly and given a great deal of respect. Middle England went away troubled, convinced that the government was intent on radiating them with secret weaponry.

That madcap isn't alone. Newspapers, magazines and broadcasters are falling over themselves to make mobile phone technology the new BSE. Where are the government guidelines? After all, the Scientists messed up there -- so why not here?

The truth is that there are no known health risks from mobile phones. There have been many, many studies, and some of them have shown some biological changes from some sorts of radio emission. None look dangerous in the context of mobile phones or radio masts. There is no sudden unexplained rash of neurological sickness, skin cancers next to the ear, exploding eyeballs, lambs being stillborn or sparrows plummeting to their deaths. There are no government guidelines about how using your phone increases the risk of X, because there is no known X. Furthermore, we have been living in a sea of electromagnetic radiation all our lives, and our parents have been living in the selfsame sea all theirs. The study that our friend quoted on You and Yours also said that effects were noticeable from all frequencies from 10Hz to

“Millennium”

100Hz -- and slap bang in the middle of that is the mains frequency. Our houses throb with the stuff.

And what is risk? We live in a country where you can buy cigarettes over the counter and drink yourself to a coma every night. You can drive a tin box down a motorway at enormous speed, seconds from hundreds of other tin boxes doing the same thing. The only danger you're in from your mobile phone comes from colonic rupture if it rings once too often, too loudly in a place filled with choleric Chelsea fans.

So why on earth are we subject to this pseudoscientific mummery, terrifying the populace and frustrating the companies? Why don't they stand up and tell the truth?

Because they're scared. They think that whatever they say, they'll be ignored or, worse, sued. They know they'll get no backing from the government -- because it too is scared -- and the few independent voices in research are ignored in the noise.

Don't get sucked in. Think for yourself. Read up on the studies. Learn enough to spot that mobile radio masts don't transmit at 16.7Hz. And next time you hear someone spouting rubbish on the wireless, email the show and say so. Heavens, you could even write to the Times.

WANTED
Committee members
for Stars.
Please apply at the
next AGM.
**Have your say in
your society.**

I read with interest the article “Millennium” and tend to subscribe to the view that 2001 is really the Millennium year, If it was 2000 what was there to celebrate? Well I can recall a few amongst those, our success in the Olympics and Cricket. Some notable downbeats were the DOME and the (swinging) bridge at Tate Moderne. The London Eye is now doing well and having “flown” in it I can recommend a visit. There were of course many other features around the UK of short or long term. Personally 2000 has not been one of my better years having had major heart surgery and being registered blind.

However lets take a look at 2001. Nostradamus the 16th century prophesied that the Millennium would bring some earth shattering disasters. Well every day the media particularly TV are forecasting doom and gloom. Being an old cynic I tend to dismiss most of it, so enough of the trivia and lets turn to radio. Here again I admit to an element of cynicism. The advent of Internet, E-mail and mobile phones have had a marked effect on amateur radio. The Morse test had now been altered to accommodate a lower speed in order to attract more candidates - but has it worked? I have a nagging suspicion that the RSGB may be telling us of falling membership. I don't think that Morse is a dominant factor. You may say but to some an enjoyment and good communication in adverse conditions. However I am still an optimist and will look forward to receiving Starlite.

The AGM is not far distant and it may be worthwhile pausing to reflect and to consider even perhaps a change in the Societies title to embrace enthusiasts in other areas of electronics, for starters more publicity?

Maybe this article will inspire a member(s) to write some comment? Anyway it is not very serious stuff. My best wishes to all for 2001 and the best in the field of communication.

Alec G8GF

A very long way!

Last year there were details of several interesting long and medium wave broadcasting developments that were hoping to make radio waves in the year 2000. There is still little positive news to report. The rebirth of the English-language Radio Luxembourg service on 1440kHz, using the 1.2-Megawatt Mar-nach transmitter, appears to have been little more than a pipedream. Certainly, the operating company in Luxembourg, CLT-UFA, have had nothing further to say about the proposal since we last contacted them over a year ago.

No more has been heard of the Netherlands Delta 171 project from the River Schelde estuary coming on long wave, except that the French had objected to the proposal via the ITU, as likely to interfere with their broadcast outlet on 162kHz.

The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company was set up in 1994 in order to create a long wave station on the Isle of Man to broadcast across the British Isles and into Europe. It was proposed that the station would run.

500-kilowatts on 279kHz, using a Crossed Field Antenna system in order to overcome planning objections to a high mast. However, at the planning inquiry held last September planning objections arose and permission has been refused at their first choice of site. It has been revealed that if they have to move their proposed transmission site away from the northern tip of the Isle of Man, a fresh - and possibly long drawn-out - application would have to be made for frequency clearance to the ITU in Geneva.

Perhaps they could all now be wishing that they had merely elected to rent time on the Russian 1.2-Megawatt transmitter in Kaliningrad. The status of UK broadcasters beaming back programmes to the UK is a little

unclear, and London's Sunshine Radio, who tried doing this from the German Jülich [pron: "Yoolish"] transmitter around 5.9MHz, did not manage to keep the new outlet running. However, LBH Radio is still going strong from Kaliningrad on 1386kHz every evening.

This space could of been filled with YOUR article!!!



