

STARLITE

The Newsletter for Members and Friends of

G6OI
1938

Stourbridge and District Amateur Radio Society

G6SRS
1938

incorporating

Old Swinford Hospital School Radio Club

G4CVK

1969

ISSUE 4 2007/8



Hi-LITES for the COMING WEEKS

JULY	Mon 9th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 16th	ARDF covering 80M and 2M by Robert G3ORI and friends. This will be followed by a mini-DF hunt around the school grounds to provide a practical demonstration of the practices and principles DON'T MISS THIS ONE
	Mon 23rd	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 30th	Sheep Walks Barbecue On-Air (note - 7:30) (weather permitting)
August	Mon 6th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 13th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available

Produced by G8JTL



RSGB Affiliated Society

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the views expressed in STARLITE may not be that of the committee - @Stourbridge and District Amateur Radio Society

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Visitors always welcome



The Society holds its full meetings on the

1st and 3rd Monday's of each Month at

Old Swinford Hospital School

Heath Lane

Stourbridge

(8.00pm – 10.00pm)

Additionally the shack is open during the same times on the intermediate Monday's

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*All correspondence/enquiries should be addressed to the
Hon. Secretary:*

*John Clarke M1EJG
(01562) 700513*

honsec@g6oi.org.uk

STARS Web Site

WAP enabled ??

*STARS
C/O The Mill House
21 Mill Lane
Blakedown
Kidderminster
DY10 3ND*

www.g6oi.org.uk

www.g6oi.org.uk/wap/index.wml

EDITORIAL

Hi,

That's All ..Best 73s Malcolm G8JTL

OUR ROVING REPORTER

B

Well That's All For Now Best 73s Your Roving Reporter -Malcolm Palmer G8BOP



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“THE FORGOTTEN WIRELESS PIONEERS”.

Author and Copyright Holder - David H. Barlow

HENRY JOSEPH ROUND



Continued from Issue-3

On his return in 1908 he demonstrated to Marconi an arc radio telephone set he had developed while in the States. He transmitted speech over a distance of 50 miles (80km), the quality of the reception was not good and improvements did not occur until 1913 with the development of the triode valve. Indeed Round played a significant role in the development of the triode as one of his patents was for a method of indirectly heating the cathode this led to triodes being used more extensively. In 1911 he developed a crystal detector that enabled sharper tuning of receivers.

H.J.Round is described as a “bluff, sturdy, forthright extrovert, fond of the company of his fellows, provided they were not fools”. He was a man of logical deductive reasoning and liked to have a ‘Dr. Watson’ or so around to act as foils or build up solutions to problems. He had a great capacity for examining a problem from every angle and turning it inside out, if need be, to find a solution. If asked to give an explanation on how the problem was solved he would do it in such a way that the recipient would wonder why he had not thought of the answer himself.

His problem solving ability was demonstrated when a contract signed by the Marconi Company in 1909 to build two Poldhu type stations 500 miles apart in the upper reaches of the Amazon failed to meet its terms. The contract required over 5000 words a day. Communications were vital to the success of a railway line being built from Brazil to Bolivia. The two stations were built with great difficulty at both Manaus and Port Vellio. Dragging 100hp. steam engines through dense jungle did not make the job easy. The stations were completed but the jungle terrain and atmospheric conditions limited operation to one hour per day in the early morning and even then with a great deal of static.

The contract, which required continuous working, was important to the Marconi Company as other



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contracts depended on its satisfactory completion. Round was sent out to Brazil in 1912 with a free hand to sort out the problem. On arrival he looked at the situation and immediately he recalled experiments carried out by C.S. Franklin two years earlier on board the "Princesa Mafalda" which showed that signals achieved greater distances at night. Round adjusted the aerial couplings and the stations were then operational during the hours of darkness. Despite this immediate improvement Round was not satisfied as the terms of the contract were still not being met.

The two stations were working at a wavelength of 2000m. and Round ascertained that this was too short for daylight working: in order to rectify this he decided to lengthen it to 4000m. The circuits were changed but on the application of power the capacitors started to break down. He reduced the power from 50kW to 5kW and the system worked but still not to his satisfaction.

He redesigned the power supplies to cure the brush discharge and breakdown problem and redesigned the capacitors putting them in metal casings. Thirty natives were employed and the units were stripped down and cleaned with boiling oil. After a month's hard work he fired up the reconditioned units at 50kW, the system was then operating properly and well, using 2000m. by day and 4000m. by night.

This is believed to be the first occasion on which deliberate use was made of different wavelengths by day and by night. As a result of the successful improvements and redesign of the capacitor the changes were made to all existing stations and incorporated in future Marconi designs.

to be continued

SOCIETY LIFE

Monday July 9: 7 Members.

Work continued on the shack refurbishment with the cables fed around the shack from patch panel to rig positions. The final patch lead was cut, terminated and also put into position. Also during this evening it was discovered that the HF beam rotator appears to be stuck/not responding to the control box – so yet another job to be scheduled

Monday July 16:

Monday July 23: 10 Members ,1 Apology and 1 Visitor

Most of the evening was a general natter plus checking on what was available for the forthcoming Carnival station.

Monday July 30: 8 Members and 1 Visitor

Tonight turned out to be busy, first with the sorting out of the equipment used for the carnival and returning it to the correct 'hole' in the store and shack.

Then the work began – continuing with the shack refurbishment – work commenced on making up the required lengths of feeder ready for running around the shack. This was taken as an opportunity to demonstrate the termination of 'N' Type and PL259 Plugs onto the RG213 Co-ax. Once one of each connector had been demonstrated then it was over to Geoff and Mark to prove they had been listening. Both successfully terminated an 'N' plug onto the cable.



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YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. President	MALCOLM	G8JTL	(01384) 894019
Vice President	NICK	G6DQN	
Hon. Secretary	JOHN	M1EJG	(01562) 700513
Hon. Treasurer	JOHN	G8UAE	
Committee Members	ERIC	G7JWJ	Co-Opted
	RICHARD	M1DBC	
	MALCOLM	G8BOP	
	IAN	M3XRL	

CALENDAR of EVENTS

It should be noted that the Shack will be open every Monday evening unless shown otherwise in the Calendar

May	Mon 7th	MAY BANK HOLIDAY
	Mon 14th	On Air Night - Airing the club calls Hf + 2M
	Mon 21st	The Adventures of a Foundation Candidate
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
June	Mon 4th	On Air Night - Airing the club calls Hf + 2M
	Mon 11th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 18th	General Meeting - Club Events
	Mon 25th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
July	Mon 2nd	On Air Night - Airing the club calls Hf + 2M
	Mon 9th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 16th	ARDF covering 80M and 2M by Robert G3ORI and friends.
	Mon 23rd	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 30th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
August	Mon 6th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 13th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 20th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 27th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
September	Sat 1/sun 2	SSB FIELD DAY
	Mon 3rd	On Air Night - Airing the club calls Hf + 2M
	Mon 10th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 17th	Slow Scan Operation by Wayne M5LLT
	Mon 24th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 1st	On Air Night - Airing the club calls Hf + 2M
	Mon 8th	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available
	Mon 15th	Main Meeting - TBA
	Mon 22st	Open Shack Night - Tea/Coffee always available

