

STARLITE

G6OI
1938

The Award Winning Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Stourbridge and District
Amateur Radio Society
incorporating
Old Swinford Hospital School Radio Club

G6SRS
1938

G4CVK
1969

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MEETINGS

Visitors always welcome
The Society holds its full meetings on the



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1st and 3rd Monday 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 Mondays

**Telephone Enquiries to :-
Hon Secretary
John Clarke M1EJG
(01562) 700513**

**Or by e-mail to :-
honsec@g6oi.org.uk**

**All correspondence/enquiries should be
addressed to the Hon. Secretary :-
STARS
c/o The Mill House
21 Mill Lane
Blakedown
Kidderminster
DY10 3ND**

**STARS Web Site URL :-
www.g6oi.org.uk**



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The foundation exam was run again at the start of January, this time with 2 entries, Stuart and Josh, Boys from the School. Stuart passed and Josh failed by just one mark! We hope that Josh will try again. 2015 has seen 4 new potential members visit club nights already. New membership is new life, ideas, contributors to the ongoing future of the society. Please make every effort to chat and make them feel welcome. I hope that those who braved the cold for Mondays main meeting enjoyed the two vintage Hancock episodes we watched?

February sees the annual constructors competition. Time to start building. Entries do not have to be amateur radio related. Prize is half price membership for next year (subject to 3 entries) John Scott is also compiling a Quiz, again prize for this is half price membership. Subject to winning both you could qualify for 100% FREE membership!

Also some people may already have seen this:-

Many UK Amateurs complaining and worried today when they received letters suggesting that OFCOM intended to change their Licence prefix to include the letter 'E' (GE, ME etc). This was indeed an error and here is the response from the RSGB;

"Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware, Ofcom are required to give all licensed radio amateurs notice that they intend to vary licences in line with their decisions following last year's consultation. That process has now begun and letters are being sent out.

It has been brought to our attention that some amateurs have received a letter suggesting that their call-sign now includes the RSL "E". Ofcom have confirmed that this is an error and not a change in policy. I am advised that Ofcom intend to publish an explanation on their website (which we will replicate on ours) but, until that appears, I would be grateful if you could reassure any enquirers accordingly.

Many thanks

Graham Coomber, G0NBI

General Manager

Radio Society of Great Britain "



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New Feature:-

Round Membership Robin Questions:-

- 1 When and how did you first gain an interest in Amateur Radio
- 2 What was taking your course and exam like
- 3 What has been your most interesting work job
- 4 Most memorable radio contact
- 5 Most frustrating electronic piece of equipment that you have ever owned or had to operate
- 6 What other hobbies are you / have you been involved with
- 7 What has been your most memorable car you have owned /own
- 8 What event / activity / talk from your membership of Stars is most memorable
- 9 Which member of Stars (past or present) has been most influential in your amateur radio life
- 10 What has been your most useful tool / piece of test equipment you own.

I nominate Adrian to answer the above questions.

Nominee to answer question.

Nominee can then delete one question and replace with a question of their choice

Nominee to then nominate next person and pass on.....

James G7HEZ

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A FISHING POLE AERIAL FOR HF

I have recently come back to amateur radio after a break of over 10 years.

It's not easy to put up a permanent HF antenna at my QTH and I wanted the flexibility to try a few ideas before committing to a permanent installation.

My goal was to create an antenna that could be put up and taken down in around 5 minutes.

After a little research I chose the G-Whip Widebander (www.gwhip.co.uk); basically a well-made 9:1 un-un which is supplied with a 20m length of Racal mil-spec Kevlar coated wire.

For the vertical section of the antenna I found a 10m fibre-glass fishing pole on offer at a local tackle shop.

To support the fishing pole I fitted a 450mm 50x50mm 'Metpost' fence post base so that just 10 mm protrudes from the soil at ground level.

A short 1m length of fence post serves as a support for the antenna; this simply drops into the base.

I fitted three stainless steel Terry clips of a suitable size to retain the fishing pole and for a little extra security I added some thick rubber bands to the ends of the Terry clips to pull them together.



The G-Whip un-un is fitted with an eye so I added a suitable hook to the wooden pole so I could hang the un-un to keep it off the ground.

Next to the base I have driven a 1m earth rod into the ground.

I have run half a dozen radials of various lengths under the lawn and connected these to the earth rod.

The earth rod connects to one side of the un-un using a short car battery earthing strap. To make installation easier I have also changed some of the nuts supplied with the un-un and earth rod for chunkier wing nuts.



The other side of the un-un is 11m of wire gently wrapped around the 10m fishing pole. I found a useful tip on an Australian web site which suggested the end of the wire at the top of the whip could be clipped into a Rawl plug and wrapped with insulating tape. This simply pops onto the top of the whip and fits snugly.

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I used a small off-cut from the wooden pole to create a 'stopper' that prevents soil and water getting into the base when it's not in use.

The wooden pole and 'stopper' have now been coated with 'Fencelife' to give a little more weather protection.

I make no claims that this antenna is unique, I have simply adapted ideas from others and turned them in to a solution that works for me. It's quick and easy to install and works well on all bands from 40m to 10m, it loads on 80m but isn't very efficient. Overall cost was around £80.

I plan to experiment with centre loading coils for 80m and 160m over the next few months.

Martin, G4VZO



(Note from Editor. The first photograph in this article is taken from the www.gwhip.co.uk - no copyright infringement is intended.)

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QUIZ TIME

Brush up your skills

Question 1

You have just wound a coil for a simple receiver and think you have wound too many turns. What effect would this have on your receiver?

- (a) The current drain would be too high
- (b) The current drain would be too low
- (c) The radio tunes to a higher frequency than you expected
- (d) The radio tunes to a lower frequency than you expected

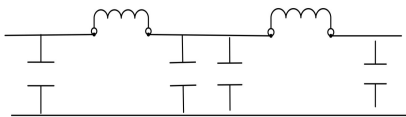
Question 2

Which of the following components can be reversed without causing problems?

- (a) Diode (b) Transistor (c) Electrolytic capacitor (d) Ceramic capacitor

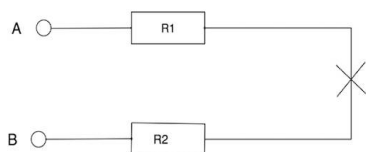
Question 3

What type of filter is shown below?



- (a) high-pass filter
- (b) low-pass filter
- (c) band-pass filter
- (d) band-stop filter

Question 4



In the above circuit where would you measure current flow?

- (a) across AB
- (b) across R1
- (c) across R2
- (d) by cutting at X and inserting an ammeter

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Question 5



NPN
Transistor



Op.
Amp



Diac



LED



PNP
Transistor



Triode
Valve



Chasis
connection

Rearrange the labels to match the above circuit diagram symbols.

Question 6

A car light bulb takes 6 Amps when operated from a 12 Volt battery. What is the resistance of the bulb?

- (a) 12 Ohms (b) 4 Ohms (c) 6 Ohms (d) 2 Ohms

Question 7

Why are repeaters located on high buildings or hills?

- (a) To keep them clear of interference
(b) To give improved range
(c) No particular reason
(d) The ground rent is often cheaper

Question 8

What is the Q-Code for please wait?

- (a) QTH
(b) QRX
(c) QRL
(d) QRW

Question 9

On a four band transistor where the fourth band indicates tolerance, what does the third band indicate?

- (a) Temperature coefficient
(b) The multiplier value
(c) It is unused and often black
(d) The least significant digit of the resistor's value

No prizes for the winner



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ADVERTISEMENT

The following advertisement is on behalf of John Palfrey

Dear Hon Sec,
My name is John, ex-G4XEN and currently EA7IT.

I have just moved into the Amblecote area and I am looking to sell a rig I bought only last year. It is an FT-817ND and if any club members are interested, I am looking for offers in the region of £295.

I bought the rig when I was considering doing Summits on the Air in Spain, but never actually used it.

As you can see from the photos, it is in pristine condition.

I also have a Yaesu G400 antenna rotator available for which I would accept a reasonable offer. (Includes many metres of 6 core cable) Controller, rotator, top and bottom brackets.

For any further information please email me (john@palfrey.org.uk) or call 0795 29 26 477

I hope to meet people at one of the club nights when we get settled in here. We only arrived this month!

I have not done any serious amateur operation for some years, as the Internet seemed to take over. Previously I have been a CW / SSB operator specialising in meteor scatter on 2 metres.

Yours sincerely
John Palfrey



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YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. President	JAMES	G7HEZ	
Vice President	NICK	G6DQN	
Hon. Secretary	JOHN	M1EJG	(01562) 700513
Hon. Treasurer	JOHN	G8UAE	
Committee Members	MARK	G7EDZ	
	KEITH	M0HPY	
	SEAN	M3XMJ	
	PETER	M6ZXH	
	MALCOLM(Co-opted)	G8B0P	
	ADRIAN	G0NLA	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

[illegible]