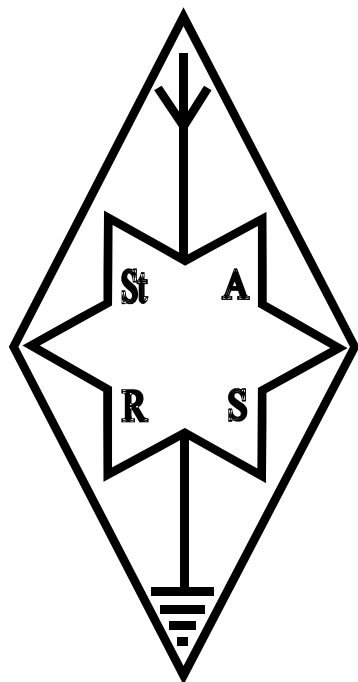


STARLITE

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

ISSUE
07/2013



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Monday 7th October @ 7pm. 75th Anniversary meal for StARS.

It will be held in the private room of the Dilshad (Indian) at the traffic lights at Old Swinford.

There will be an option of traditional Indian cuisine and also English food.

The likely cost will be approx £12.50 per head. You are welcome to bring your own alcohol.

We shall be able to have the room for the entire evening so we will not be rushed and there will be time for some speeches etc.

Partners are invited plus ex members and friends of the club from over the years - dress to be smart casual.

Can you please let me know if you wish to attend and pencil this historical date in your dairy / organiser / phone / pda / tablet / slate etc

any questions then please let me know

If you have any suggested invitees then please let either myself or John Scott have the details



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MEETINGS

Visitors always welcome
The Society holds its full meetings on the
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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CLUB NEWS

On 24th June the annual club barbecue was held at the Sheepwalks at Enville. This year the GB3KD Kidderminster Repeater Group were invited to join us. Several members of Stars are also members of the repeater group. The evening went very well and James French (G7EDZ) kept us all well supplied with burgers, sausages, bread rolls and soft drinks. Thanks to Wayne for his photographs of the event. This year the weather was kind to us and we were treated to a warm evening. Aerials were set up and some HF and VHF contacts were made. Ex-Presidents John and Eileen Tracy joined us. Stuart McKinnion brought along one of his ex-military transceivers and also made contacts on HF.



No vegetarians were harmed during the making of these photographs.

Continued on next page

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LATE NEWS



We are please to announce that Ken Davies gained his Foundation Licence with us after a brief period of practical training. Ken undertook all the study under his own efforts and showed an early aptitude and interest in morse code during the course.

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HAM RADIO WITH THE SCOUTS AT BLACKWELL

Author - Andy M6APJ

Saturday 22nd of June 2013.

As my wife had already organized an activity weekend for the Beaver and Cub Scouts at Blackwell Court, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, we thought it a great idea to go portable again and to demonstrate ham radio as a hobby to anyone interested.

I took my Yaesu 450AT, my homemade drive on mast support, 10m of RG58 coax, a 6ft pole, a Snowdonia Radio Company X80 vertical antenna, a 9:1 balun again by Snowdonia Radio Company and a length of kevlar military covered wire. The 9:1 balun and military wire was to give us another option to the vertical antenna, even though they offer similar results.



It was raining when I got there, so I was reluctant to set anything up. I popped and saw the wife and took her some supplies and borrowed two benches from the camp. I drove onto the mast support and assembled the X80 with a screwdriver (for the jubilee clips) and a 10mm spanner for the antenna U bolts. I was on the air in less than five minutes. HF conditions have been poor recently, so I did not have much hope of contacting anyone even in Europe! Anyway I worked a French portable station on 20m straight away, with him 5/5 and me 5/7 followed in quick succession by Bulgaria 5/8. Adrian M3HBA arrived and once the rain had stopped, we set up outside the car on the folding

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benches. I logged while Adrian operated the radio. We then worked two Italian stations, both giving us 5/9 signal reports. We then realized there was a Spanish contest on and so they were all giving us 5/9 from then on! I suggested we try another band, to see what conditions were like. For some unknown reason we could not tune 40m and 10m. There were stations on 40m, but the SWR was high without the ATU tuning. So I gave it some thought and decided we could attach the military wire to the top of the X80 and to a nearby tree. This is because the X80 is really a 9:1 balun at the bottom of a GAP 5/8 wave antenna, thus acting as a long wire, but vertically. As we had no throwing line and no extra jubilee clip, I attached the military wire one segment down from the top of the antenna. Then I took the antenna to the tree and used the X80 to drape the military wire as high over a branch as possible.

Then Adrian held the wire as I walked back to the car and mast support with the X80. We then secured the end of the wire to a suitable branch, such that it was high enough not to be a hazard to passers by. The ATU then tuned to 40m but still not 10m. Anyway Adrian then had a long QSO with MM0UDI, Robbie from just outside Aberdeen. We were barely readable to start with, but conditions did pick up during the QSO. We switched back to 20m and worked Spain, Russia, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania all 5/9's and wanting our log numbers for their contesting logs. Some cubs and beavers came over and I gave a quick run down of what we were doing and the equipment. At that Adrian went to 40m and contacted G100 RSGB, transmitting from Bedford Radio Club. Adrian explained where we were and we had scouts with us. Alan the operator asked if he wanted to put a few scouts on air for a chat. Adrian pointed out that regrettably as an M3 he wasn't allowed to let anyone use the radio apart from himself. Alan said that he understood the situation. The Beavers and Cubs with us were a little disappointed that they didn't have the opportunity to have a chat on air.

It began to rain again and so the Scouts went back to camp and we had a look around Blackwell Court and its facilities. They have an indoor climbing wall, similar to the outside one at Oldswinford Hospital School. We were able to watch through the open door, and saw around twelve youngsters getting tuition from two instructors. Blackwell has a zip wire a good 100 yards long, but not high. They have an outdoor heated swimming pool, which I hear was great while you were in but the wind got to you as soon as you climbed out of the pool. The life guard on pool duty had a PMR type radio to keep in contact with other instructors, etc. while on site. I asked what type it was and she showed me it was a Motorola 6000 handheld radio. Unsure of the frequency they used, but looked a nice piece of equipment. Blackwell do lots more activities and their website link is here:

<http://www.blackwelladventure.co.uk/>

I believe Blackwell is funded by the scouts, but I understand that any social group can book the facilities.

We popped over to camp and got a cup of coffee and Adrian got a lunch of Sloppy Joes and nachos. As I was eating out at Chequers, Stourbridge later I said thanks, but declined their offer. I did try a mouthful, as I had supplied the recipe for Sloppy Joes. Excellent and Simon Dawes had used an alternative recipe with garlic and mushrooms.

After our refreshments, we went back on the air once more, with Adrian logging this time and me operating. We worked lots of stations including, Spain, Croatia, Sweden, San Marino and Denmark. Adrian finished the day with another station in Spain and two Russian stations. Our best DX was RA3GLQ at approximately 1,729 miles.



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MAILINATOR

Introduction

I have briefly wandered off the topic of radio this month. Most Stars Club members are personal computer users and users of email. Email is a blessing in most respects, but it comes with a less welcome side in the form of unwanted email, otherwise known as SPAM. A typical scenario of the way that the spam finds its way to your email inbox is by the following route. You have recently purchased an item, but sadly the instruction manual did not accompany your newly acquired item of equipment. You search the Internet and find the missing manual. To be able to acquire a copy of this manual you have to join the group that hosts the web site and here's where the problem comes – you are asked for your email address. If it is a well behaved internet site you will be able to “unsubscribe” and if you are unlucky here is where the spam problem often starts.

Enter Mailinator

One solution to the above problem is to use Mailinator. If one is asked to supply an email address you can simply make one up. So for instance if I supply rapunzel@mailinator.com as my email address, Mailinator will dynamically create an email inbox. There is no need to register the email address in advance. The emails sent to rapunzel@mailinator.com will be retained for no more than a day and often less depending on email volumes to the mailinator site. There are however restrictions and design limitations.

What is it like to use?

You may not send any emails from Mailinator, only receive them. So if Dr. Bahutu from Nigeria emails asking for help transferring some funds, you will not be able to get back to him via your Mailinator email account. You can check your email periodically to see what has been sent, but bear in mind the limited time the emails will be retained. By logging on to www.mailinator.com you can enter 'rapunzel' to check your mail. It is possible that someone else has chosen 'rapunzel' as their inbox name, so Mailinator should not be used for anything you don't wish others to see. You can avoid the previous problem by using an alias. So if I choose an obscure name for my mailbox such as adfgx4900paqt5621@mailinator.com, I can then log on to Mailinator and specify adfgx4900paqt5621 as my email address. Mailinator then supplies me with an alias, which in this case is M8R-lyt8751. If I supply M8R-lyt8751@mailinator.com as my email address the Mailinator site will not allow anyone to inquire on the contents of my email inbox, unless they know the original mailbox name. Note all alias mailbox names start with M8R-. Mailinator claim that you can't get viruses from looking at the mails in Mailinator as all attachments are discarded and one can only see the text of the message.

It is interesting to log in to Mailinator and look at the email sent to any random inbox, to see what scams are doing the rounds. I found an email from the International Monetary Fund telling me my \$950,000 debit card is awaiting collection after I have supplied a few details.

Summary

Mailinator won't solve all your spam problems and it's not unique. It is a handy option should the need arise. It's not necessarily secure, but it doesn't claim to be, and it's free to use try it out.

As usual all mistakes are mine - Adrian Bryan (G0NLA)



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ROVING REPORTER

Starlite 2013 June

I do feel that I have too many interests. And what with my XYL's health problems, I am bound to forget something –like the committee meeting on the 3rd June. One of the items to have been discussed was the 75th anniversary dinner, which I subsequently found out will be held at Dilshad Indian restaurant at Old Swinford Cross on Monday 7th Oct 2013. The cost will be £12.50 - bring your own alcoholic drinks. The room will be at our disposal for the evening, partners and xyls are included. I thought at one stage I would have been able to attend the BBQ at the Sheepwalks on Monday 17 June but Glenys was unwell during the afternoon and I decided to keep her company and she slept on until the early evening, by which time it was too late to set out.

As I have mentioned in a previous report she is due to go into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 26 June for an operation on the 27th when she returns home for some time afterwards; all my other interests will have to be taken second place.

Now a trip down memory lane as far as STARS is concerned. I was looking through some of my STARS Newsletters and I came across two from 1983 that were of interest. *See end of Roving Reporter*. Over the 75 years of STARS, the meetings have been held at many venues. I recall the very first meeting that I attended was in the Science Laboratory, at Stourbridge King Edward Grammar school. Meetings were later held at The Brotherhood Hall in Scotts Road where there was hardly any space. Another venue was later found at Foley College near OHS and Longlands School. I forget the order of the year of the move from one venue to another without looking through back copies of newsletters. I intend to go into the archives as soon as I can get them on to disc but time is at a premium with all my other interests that also produce archive material. In the two newsletters from February 1983 meetings were held in The Old Swinford Public House, but a dividing wall separating the snug from the rest of the pub was going to be demolished. It was an unsuitable venue, so another was found and the March AGM was held in The Garibaldi in Cross Street, but meetings in public houses were never a success so another venue was found in the late 1980s at The Robin Woods Community Centre, Scotts Road. Several meetings were held at the Robin Woods centre, which, incidentally had history going back 160 years, when it was an old school complete with school house. I liked the venue that much, that in December 1991 I held the first meeting of the Stourbridge Branch of The George Formby Society until the Centre closed in 2005 and moved to The Summer House, The Portway Kingswinford. STARS had moved to OHS long before the Robin Woods Centre closed.

There are several interesting items in the two newsletters which I will feature in my next reports including the latest on The Organ Concerts at The Buttermarket Shrewsbury and Dudley Hippodrome. I have included a list of committee members from 1982/8.

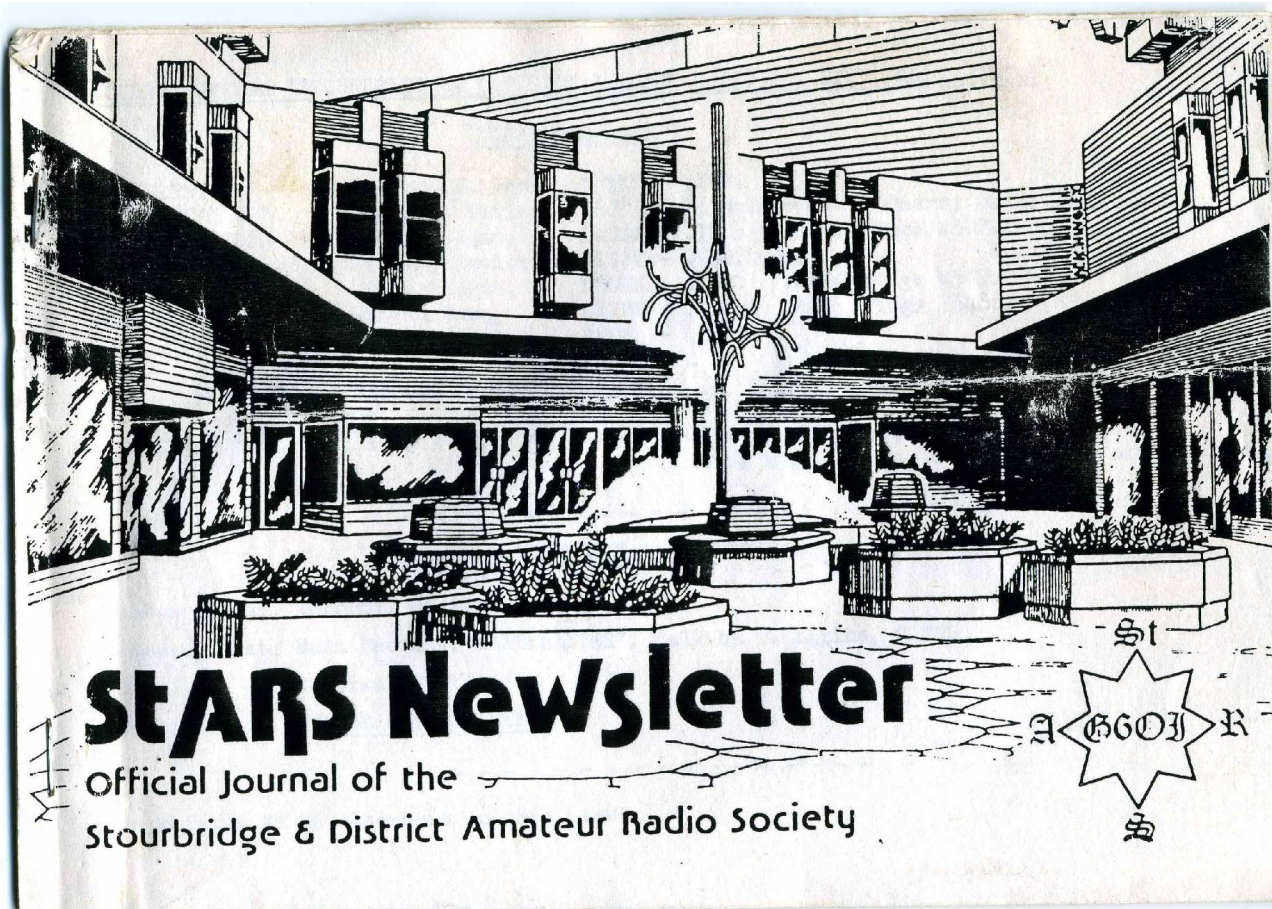
I have been invited to open a Wetherspoons Pub on 9th July. It is the former Avion Cinema Aldridge which was opened by George Formby on 26th September 1938. It is something else to add to my to-do list. Due to Glenys' health problems I was not at the 1940s event on The Severn Valley Railway this year but the Stourbridge GFS Branch were well represented I made certain of that.

Best 73s Malcolm

G8BOP. Your roving reporter.



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JOURNAL OF THE "STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY" G6OI G6SRS

COMMITTEE 1982/3

PRESIDENT	Andrew Jellyman, G8MKK - QTHR.
HON. SECRETARY	Malcolm Davies, G8JTL - 25 Walker Ave., Quarry Bank. Lye 4019.
HON. TREASURER	Dennis Egan, G6DII - QTHR. Stourbridge 4507.
ORDINARY MEMBERS	Robert Taylor, G4DST - QTHR.
	Robert Egan, G6DIH - QTHR. Stourbridge 4507.
JUNIOR MEMBER	David Owen, G8XRW - QTHR. Stourbridge 75481.
PAST PRESIDENT	Laurie Cutler, G4DPQ - QTHR.
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	Robert Taylor, G4DST.
JOURNAL EDITOR	Tony Dewsbury, G4CLX - QTHR or at Dewsbury Electronics, Lower High Street, Stourbridge. Tel: 390063.

MEETINGS

- February 7th: Informal Meeting
- February 21st: Main Meeting. "SATELLITES". Talk by T.Higgins, G4NWQ.
- March 7th: Informal Meeting.
- March 21st: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

See note on VENUE elsewhere in this issue.



RSGB Affiliated Society - The views expressed in STARLITE may not be those of the committee - Stourbridge and District I
Amateur Radio Society

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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	
	MALCOLM	G8BOP	
	KELVIN	M6KTR	
	ANDREW	M6APJ	
	ADRIAN Simms	M3HBA	
	ADRIAN Bryan	G0NLA	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

July	Mon 1st	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 8th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 15th	Dave G8EPR - Talk about PYE equipment.
	Mon 22nd	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 29th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
August	Mon 5th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 12th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 19th	No talks for August
	Mon 26th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
September	Mon 2nd	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	7/8th	SSB Field Day (this is not the NFD!!!)
	Mon 9th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 16th	John Bills G3KZG Stars Involvement in NFD - Up to Winning
	Mon 23rd	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 30th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
October	Mon 7th	75 th Club Anniversary Events
	Mon 14th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	19/20th	Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
	Mon 21st	To be Arranged
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter

