

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
11/2014



Table of Contents

EDITORIAL.....	3
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	3
WINDOWS 10 BETA TECHNICAL PREVIEW.....	4
A HEADPHONE/SPEAKER SPLITTER BY BOB EGAN G4XOM.....	8
JOTA WEEKEND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OZ.....	10
ADVERTISEMENT.....	11
YOUR COMMITTEE.....	12
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	12

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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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EDITORIAL

It is difficult to come up with articles which may interest Starlite members each month and I take the liberty of falling back on my other interest which is computers. Bob Egan (G4XOM) has pulled me back on the straight and narrow however by supplying a construction project in this month's magazine. It is not too late to build the project and submit it in time for the constructor's competition.

Producing diagrams for articles has been a constant problem in the past. I try and draw diagrams with the Draw component of Open Office, which is ok for simpler tasks. I did buy a 2D Computer Aided Design (CAD) package that was reduced in PC World and although this could probably have produced this month's circuit diagram it was very difficult to use and complex enough to forget if only used occasionally. The circuit diagram in Bob's article is a first attempt with my new drawing package and seemed easy enough to use without too much recourse to the instructions.

Another tribulation I had in producing this month's Starlite was being affected by 'Safe Finder' Malware. This hijacks one's browser and is a general pest. Fortunately I was able to get rid of it by installing and running Malware Bytes. Attempts to remove the software via Control Panel → Programs and Features → Remove offending programs was of no use. The source of my problem was downloading an infected .exe file.

Talk on Military Radios by Stuart McKinnon

This month's speaker was Stuart McKinnon. Stuart is well known to many club members and he brought along an interesting selection of some of his military radios. Stuart has been chairman of VMARS (Vintage and Military Radio Society) and is currently Public Relations Officer for VMARS.

By way of an introduction Stuart gave us a brief outline of how he joined the Grenadier Guards and later became a radio officer. During his time in the Grenadier Guards, Stuart spent time in Belize, Hong Kong, Germany, Cyprus, and Canada. Stuart has operated a large number of similar radios to those that were on display during the evening. Most of the transceivers were in their backpacks and included aerials, spares, ground spikes, dipole centres and more which added to the weight to the backpack as we were to find out at the end of the evening.

Of equal interest to me was the WW2 B2 spy radio set which was used by the SOE and OSS (British Special Operations Executive, the OSS was the forerunner of the CIA) when they were parachuted into occupied Europe. The transceiver is contained in a brown 'leather' suitcase and was surprisingly heavy. Prior to Stuart's talk John Scott the club treasurer used the Racal TRA 931XH frequency hopping radio (aka Syncal 30) to make contact with a candidate who is preparing for the Foundation Course for experience of making a contact on HF. Also on display was a similar transceiver to that used on the Bravo Two Zero mission in Iraq.

At the end of the evening we all thanked Stuart for his excellent and interesting talk and insight into his hobby. Before we left we were asked if we could help take the transceivers out to a waiting car. It was then when we found out how heavy the radio backpacks really were. The walk back to the car was on a flat and tarmac surface: carrying a transceiver\backpack for a day over an uneven or hilly route must have been very physically demanding. Similarly the B2 radio was also heavy and it must have been difficult not attracting unwanted attention in occupied territory.

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In the interest of keeping Starlite to a reasonable size, I have included a sample of photograph. Full photographs can be downloaded during November from

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/Peter_and%203_Larkspur.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/Club_Room_1.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/John_Using_The%20Syncal_30.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/B2_Side_View.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/B2_Front_View.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/Larkspur_A13.JPG

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62257099/Larkspur_A16.JPG



Adrian (G0NLA) Starlite Editor

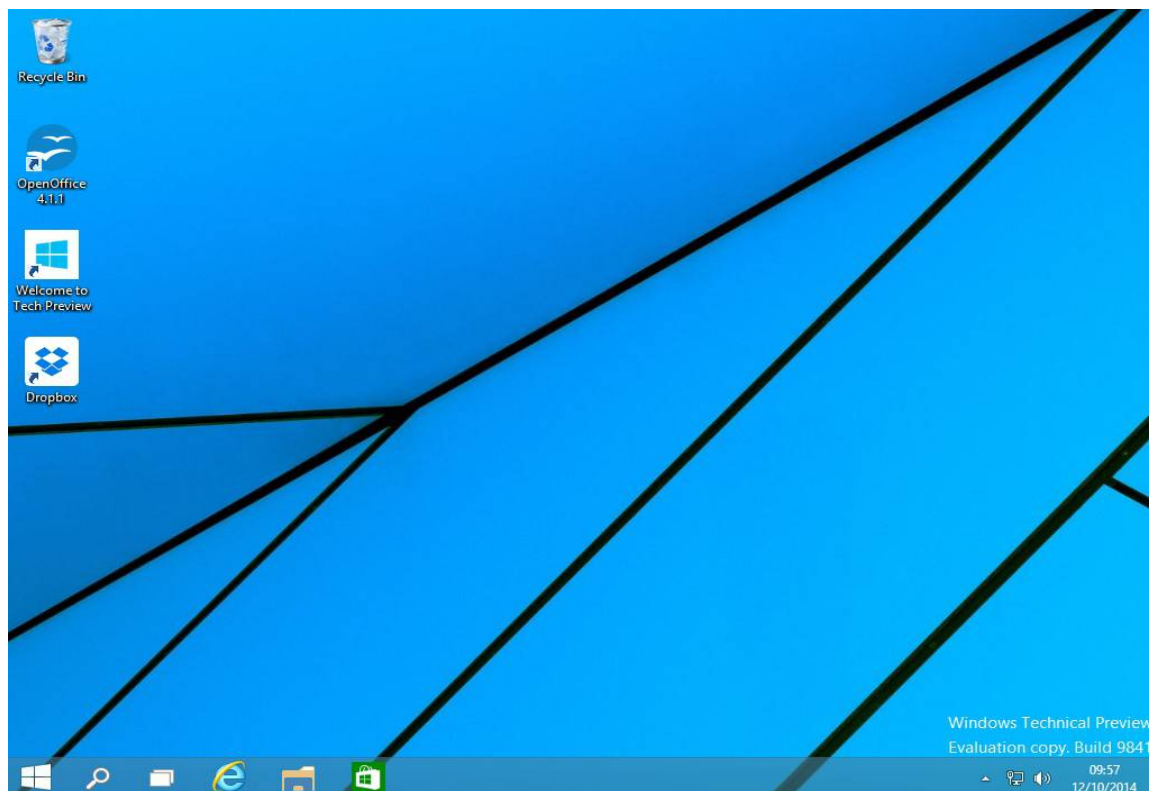
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December also sees our annual Christmas gathering. Tradition dictates we go to the carvery - which suits the majority of members, If anyone else has any other suggestions then please let me know.

Thanks James G7HEZ

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WINDOWS 10 BETA TECHNICAL PREVIEW



Background

Windows 10 build 9841 was first available for general download at the beginning of October 2014. What Happened to Windows 9? I don't know and if one Googles the question, there seems to be conflicting explanations and opinions. I realise that conclusions usually come at the end of an article, but by and large I was impressed with my first viewing of Windows 10. It is nice to be able to start using a computer without hitting an apparent brick wall and having to dive into the documentation and for me Windows 10 beta achieves this. Of course there are new features in the software but I did not get the impression that familiar tasks had been hidden away in some obscure part of the GUI which seems to be a common complaint with some new releases of operating systems and software.

Introduction

It is something of an understatement to say that Windows 8 and Windows 8.1 have not been well received by the Windows user community. I was interested to hear of Windows 10 this week and wondered what it is like. I was further interested to hear that it is available as a beta release. With beta software there is no guarantee that the beta release of the software will be like the eventual official release. Beta software is for developers, trainers and the curious to get an idea what the new release will look like. If the beta software is unreliable then you must accept the limitation.

If you manage to download and install a beta version of Windows 10 in this case and it proves to be satisfactory, do not assume that you have managed to acquire a durable advanced copy of the software at no cost. With previous versions of Windows beta software I have used, the performance of the software degrades over time and the software runs more and more slowly until one day it

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becomes unusable. This initial document was created using Apache Open Office installed on Windows 10.

What this article is about

The article is to give you an idea of what to expect setting up your own beta copy of Windows 10. If you want a review of the new features of Windows 10 then I suggest you search the Internet using your favourite browser or look on YouTube. If you are not confident installing your own operating system then do not treat this article as a 'HowTo Guide'.

Hardware Used

I have a computer that was used for Windows/XP and was given to me. It is a fairly basic Pentium 4 PC with a clock speed of 3MHz with 1.5Gb of memory and a network card, video etc. built into the motherboard. It has a DVD and it has the maximum possible memory installed and can be upgraded no further. The Pentium 4 was first available late 2002, so the PC I used was around 10 years old.

Windows 10 Installation - Steps Involved

Download the ISO image
Create a Windows 10 Bootable Installation DVD
Boot and run the installation DVD

Download the ISO image

Locate <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/preview-iso> with your browser and scroll down to Download Links. I clicked on - English (United Kingdom) 32-bit (x86) which is 2.94GB in size. My download speed with Virgin Media is around 30 Mb per second before 16:00 and I found something else to do whilst the download was taking place. You may also like to scroll to the top of the page to look at the System Requirements on the Download Windows Technical Preview Page. For me the download took 15 mins.

Create a Windows 10 Bootable Installation CD

Having downloaded my ISO image file I inserted a blank DVD into my DVD writer, double clicked on the ISO image file and this created (on Windows 7) a bootable Windows 10 beta installation DVD. For me the finished DVD was created in 10 mins.

Boot and Run the Installation DVD

To boot the ISO DVD installation you may need to alter your BIOS boot screen to change the boot order.

DISCLAIMER You are about to trash your hard disk. If you have any reservations or misgivings stop now!!!

Boot from your DVD

(I will include times in the text below to indicate elapsed time into the installation)

The first selection you will need to make is the Language and Keyboard Language you will be

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using: which I chose to be English United Kingdom.

Next I got the message Setup Starting (5 Mins)

For the type of install I chose (rather stupidly) Upgrade (Note the options were Upgrade and Custom Install). As I was previously running the no longer supported by Microsoft Windows/XP in retrospect it is unsurprising the Upgrade did not work. I rebooted and chose a more realistic Custom Installation. This consisted of the following steps :-

- Copying Windows Files
- Getting files Ready for Installation
- Installing Features (15 Mins)
- Installing Updates
- Getting Finished
 - Getting Devices Ready
 - Getting Ready
- Reboot (22 Mins)
- I used Express Settings
- I Chose not to Setup a Windows Insider Program Account
- I did however create a local user account
- Installing your apps (27 Mins)
- Got Home screen – Wow! (30 Mins)

For the most part all you need to do is sit and watch the installation, with the occasional intervention.

First Impressions

My Windows 10 installation took about one hour in total and was trouble free. By and large it runs OK, but can be a bit clunky. This is acceptable and to be expected given the poor specification of my Windows 10 PC. I installed Apache Open Office and Dropbox to my newly created Windows 10 PC. I then wrote the article you are now reading and used Dropbox to share this document with my iPad, Mac and Windows 7 PC. From my viewpoint I found Windows 10 easy to use. I have only used Windows 8.1 for about 10 minutes so I can not compare the two operating systems. If this is what Windows 10 is like, it gets a thumbs-up from me. Note that I was not using a touch screen so you need to check what experience is for this feature. As I had not signed up the Microsoft Windows Insider Program this did limit me somewhat and I was unable to install apps, such as Solitaire and found that the Calendar App would not work

Notes

Boot up time to splash screen takes a mere 20 seconds on my low specification pc and it takes around 4 seconds to log-in. The upgrade to Windows 10 Option may well have worked if I had been running a supported operating system such as Vista or Windows 7, 8 or 8.1. Windows 10 preview software can also be downloaded with Simplified Chinese support. The official version of Windows 10 should be available during the second or third quarter of 2015.

I have read opinion since, that the eventual release of Windows 10 could be available to home users free of charge and for commercial users Windows 10 will be chargeable. I am not in a position to confirm or deny this assertion. Windows 7 is no longer available for purchase from Microsoft as of late October 2014. Is it so improbable that Windows 10 will be free? One does not pay for the

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Android operating software for one's mobile phone or IOS software for the iPhone. Apple supplies (OS X) operating system upgrades for its own range of PCs free of charge. The operating system software for tablet computers can not be purchased separately. Conversely the cost of developing a release of Windows must be astronomical and somehow the cost has to be recovered. Perhaps getting Windows to a point where its is accepted and introducing incremental changes could be a future direction.

As usual any mistakes in the article are all mine.

Adrian Bryan (G0NLA) Starlite Editor

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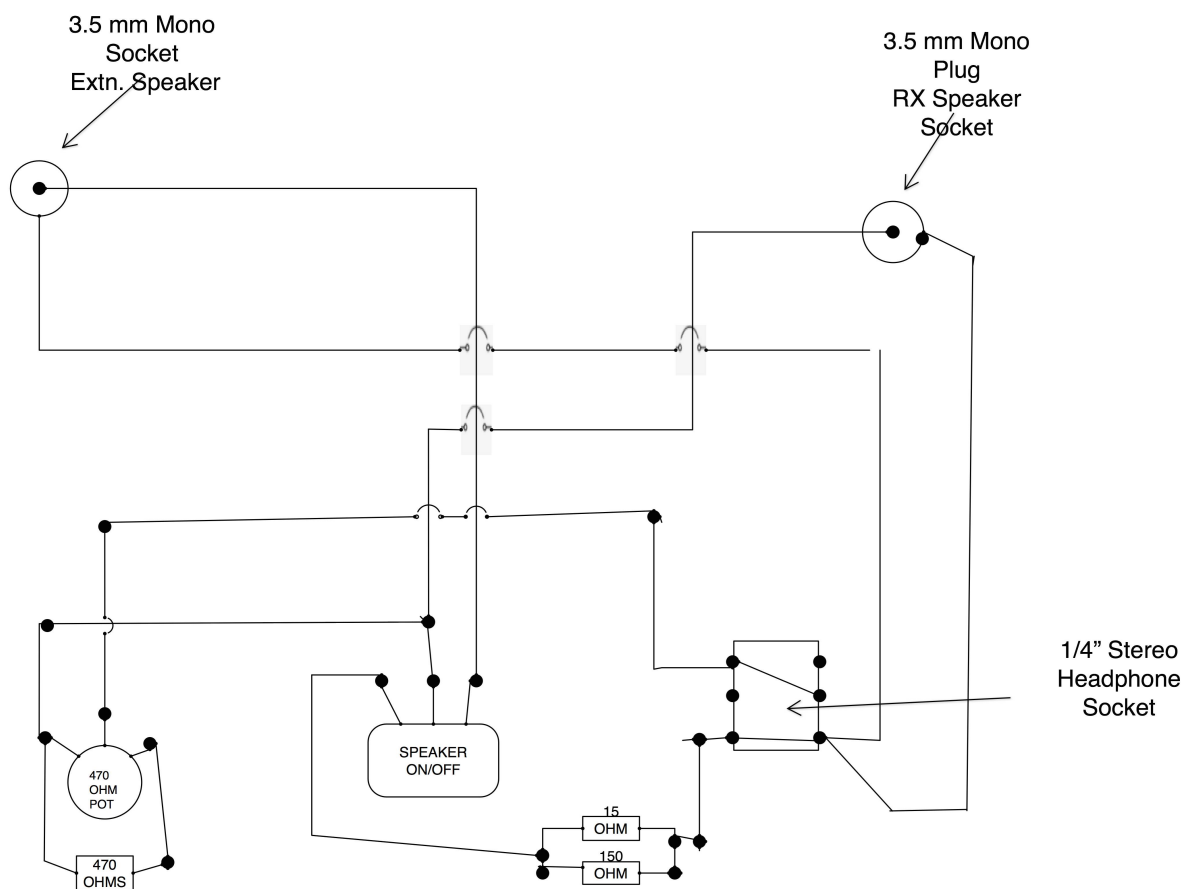
A HEADPHONE/SPEAKER SPLITTER BY BOB EGAN G4XOM

Back in the 1980s & 1990s, StARS was very active with Special Event Stations, Club activity, JOTA, Contests, etc. During these events, the operator would have some trouble hearing stations contacted, due to weak signals, band noise, QRM/QRN and room noise, so something had to be done, hence this unit came to life. It's not an original design and can be made from "junk box" components. You will see that the circuit and construction is very simple. Drill the holes in the box, mount the sockets, switch and pot, then simply solder the resistors and cable in situ. The switch is merely to turn the speaker on or off, leaving the headphones on.

Parts list:

1 x 3.5mm mono socket	1 x 3.5mm mono plug
1 x 0.25" stereo socket	1 x on/off switch
1 x 470 ohm potentiometer	1 x 470 ohm resistor 10%
1 x 15 ohm resistor 5%	1 x 150 ohm resistor 5%
Cable to suit	1 x 3"x2.5"x1.5" plastic box

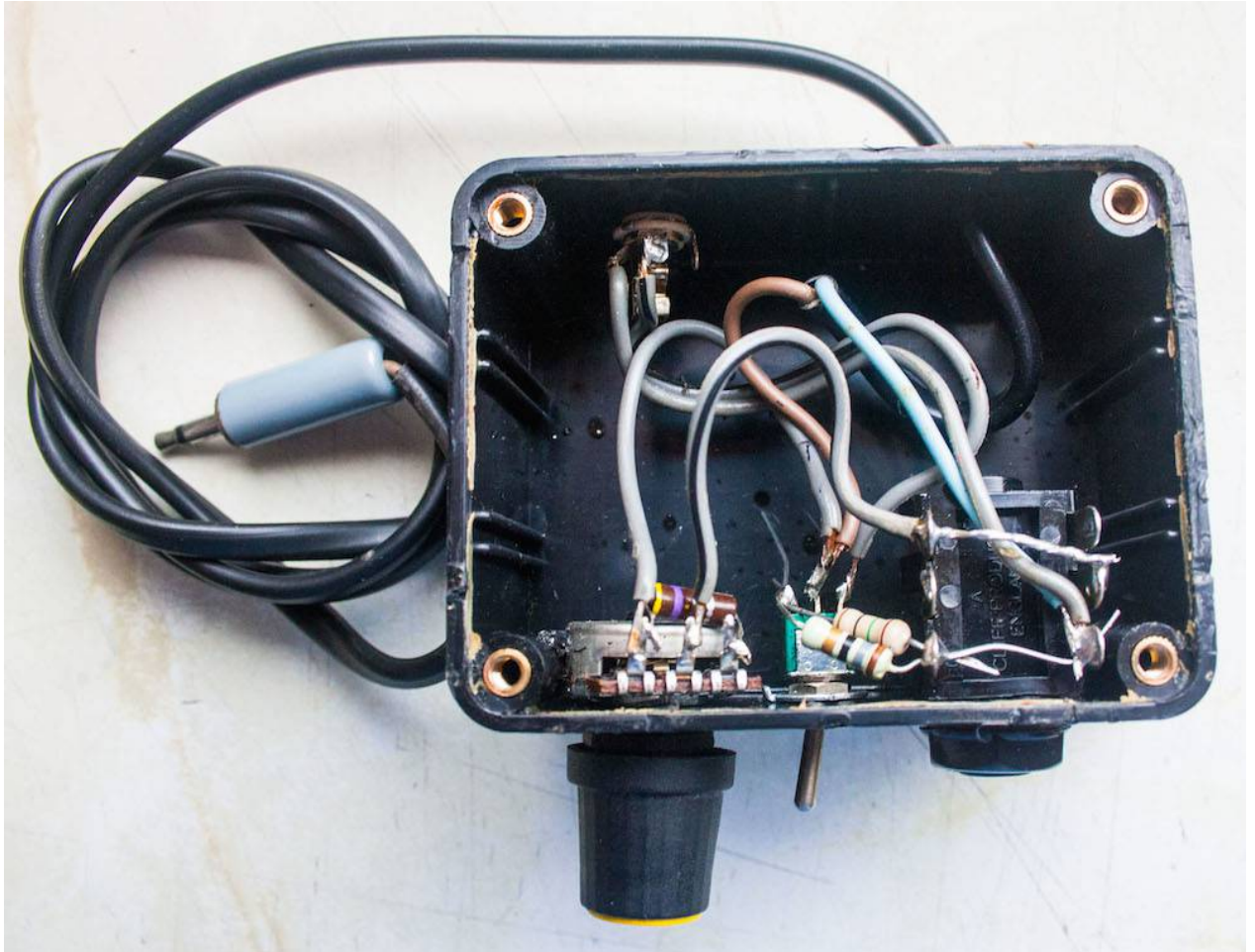
Circuit Diagram



See next page for built circuit

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Detailed View of Headphone/Speaker Splitter



Bob Egan G4XOM

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JOTA WEEKEND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OZ

Thanks to Jim (G4WAO) for photographs from his colleagues in Australia for the pictures below of the Manly-Warringah Radio Society 2014 JOTA event.



Illustration 2: ok...ok, the next person who says "but I can do that on Skype" Can climb the mast and realign the Yagi



Illustration 1: Yes, I'd like to order enough pizza for 232 people please



Illustration 3: Who'd have thought that I would be in the remake of the movie Battle of Iwo Jima



Illustration 4: Which button launches Facebook?

Apologies if speech bubbles are difficult to read.

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ADVERTISEMENT

For Sale Vero VR-2200 - £80.00

VR-2200 2m FM Transceiver 60 Watts immaculate condition boxed fully programmable

The model is the same model as the Wacom WM-9000 or TYT TH-9000

TX - 144 - 146 mhz	RX - 138 - 174 mhz
10/25/60 w output (Lo/Mid/Hi)	200 Memory Channels
50 Groups CTCSS	1024 Groups DCS
Compandor	DTMF-ANI Function
Programmable	Scan facility

Complete with Programming lead (not normally supplied with radio)
complete all leads screws brackets etc.

(contact via my email peter@spareroomstudio.co.uk)



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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)	G8BOP	
	ADRIAN	G0NLA	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November	Mon 3rd	Foundation Course Exam
	Mon 10th	Committee Meeting
	Mon 17th	Surplus Sale
	Mon 24th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
December	Mon 1st	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 8th	Christmas Gathering
	Mon 15th	Open Shack Night - Or on air natter
	Mon 22nd	No Meeting - Bank Holiday
January	Mon 19th	Main Meeting TBC
February	Mon 16th	Constructors Competition and Quiz
March	Mon 16th	2015 AGM
April 2015	Mon 20th	Vintage Radios (Phil G4SPZ)