

Est. 1938



G4HRS

H A R C N E W S



**The Journal of
Horsham Amateur Radio Club
November 2016**

Sponsored by:



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Cover picture: Relaxing in the Wyndham Garden Berlin Mitte Hotel bar

Editorial

Are you currently validated as far as your amateur licence is concerned? The Ofcom licensing portal has been revamped and unless you have logged into the new system one needs to re-register into the new portal. If you log in with the same email address as before you should see your license information details. Myself I had trouble and wasn't sure what email address I last used. I did in fact try registering two email addresses to no avail.



After unsuccessful attempts I phoned Ofcom and they sorted it out. I found that the email address they had on the system was well out of date. Originally one used a username which wasn't the email address to log in. The requirement for amateur radio operators is to validate the license every 5 years. Apparently now every time a log in occurs this re-validates the licence! However in reality one would most likely only log in to re-validate or check information held.

<http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/online-licensing-service/>

David G4JHI

Addendum

Page 14 Harcnews October 2016 article 'Update on Orford ness', article credited to 'British dx club'.

**Copy deadline for emailed items for December edition
20th November - For written items the deadline is 17th
November.**

For items sent by email please send to this address:

harc.news@g4jhi.co.uk

October Meeting

Junk Sale



G8CKT auctioning an HB9CV antenna

As the doors opened the junk duly arrived with plenty of items donated to the club as per usual. Attendance was average along with previous auctions of recent times. The rules were read out; bids in multiples of 10p and there was no guarantee given on any items and anything electrical please take usual precautions! First up we had a Racal professional balun and according to research should work on the HF amateur bands. Trap dipoles for 12/17/30 metres and 20/15/10 metres were then on offer and ideal for a smaller garden.

There were bags of IEC connectors yes lots of them. What do buyers do with them all?! A kite antenna was up for auction and it is believed that this is the first time we've seen one of these and was very popular on the bidding front followed swiftly by a 2 metre ZL special antenna. Other items of interest were tobacco tins, Farnell power supply 50 volts @ 500 mA, 50 ohm low pass filter, boxes of components and a whole load of mini ATX computer motherboards. These latter items were extremely popular amongst the buyers.

The two star buys of the night were an RSGB 2016 callbook including the DVD sold for £1.00 and an HP laserjet printer and original cartridge (never opened) sold for £2.50. The editor bought the latter item just for the cartridge since they are on sale in the shops for a whopping £60.00! Thanks go to David on the door, Richard hander outer, Mike and Robin auctioneers, Steve, Paul and Adrian on finance and last but not least Mick on catering. The brockwurst and bratwurst were very popular and delicious!



G4TPO, G4TMC, G4LRP on finance

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of HARC

To be held on 1st December 2016 at 20.00hrs
at the GUIDE HALL, DENNE ROAD, HORSHAM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2015 AGM.
2. To adopt the following changes to the HARC constitution.
 - Section 4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS. (Election of officers)
Item 4f. Remove reference to PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER and replace with WEB MASTER.
 - Section 6. COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Item 6g. The Committee shall meet a minimum of FOUR times a year at approximately quarterly intervals.
 - Section 8. RECORDS
Item 8a. Records shall be kept of the names and addresses of all members. Electronic records are to be kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. (Under the "not-for-profit" exemption that is intended to be used by small clubs and other voluntary organisations).
3. Chairman's report.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Adoption of Accounts.
6. Election of Officers for 2017
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Newsletter Editor
 - e. Web Master
7. Decide on number of Committee members to be elected.
8. Election of Committee members.

At conclusion of formal business, the Webb Cup will be presented. This was donated by G3VGI to be presented annually to a club member deemed to have contributed the most to the hobby over the preceding year.

An insert containing a form for nomination of Officer's Committee members and Webb Cup will be found with next month's newsletter.

Calling all Fox Hunters

HARC Fox Hunt Sunday 20th November

Change of Date

After careful consideration, and to avoid potential clashes with Remembrance Sunday (Sunday November 13th) and the Kempton Park Rally (Sunday 6th November), your Committee has decided to change the date of our Autumn Sunday Morning Fox Hunt to Sunday 20th November. Mike, G8CKT, will be acting as Fox.

Start point

The start point will be at Broadbridge Heath on the green adjacent to the common, NGR TQ 149 317. The green is a large grassy area on the road north towards Warnham from Broadbridge Heath.

Start time

The start time will be 10:00 local with transmissions every 10 minutes lasting for a period of two minutes. The very last transmission will be at mid-day.

Envelopes

Just in case you need it, a sealed envelope will be provided at the start point with full details of Freddy's Lair, his mobile number, and directions to the watering hole.

Freddy's channel and the maps you will need

Transmissions will be on the Horsham "club channel" 144.725 MHz FM. The three maps you will need are Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 Landranger series: 186 (Aldershot and Guildford), 187 (Dorking, Reigate and Crawley), and 197 (Chichester and the South Downs).

Not taken part before?

Regular participants will already know that our HARC Fox Hunts are not only easy but also great fun. We don't take them too seriously and they provide a great opportunity to get together for a chat, drink and even lunch afterwards. All you need is a set of wheels (essential), a 2m handy-talkie with a signal strength indicator, and a directional antenna such as an HB9CV, ZL-special, or a small Yagi (a three or four element beam works very well). You also need a couple of maps (see the earlier list) and a compass. If you want to take part but don't know what to do, there will be plenty of us to literally point you in the right direction!

Likely to be feeling hungry?

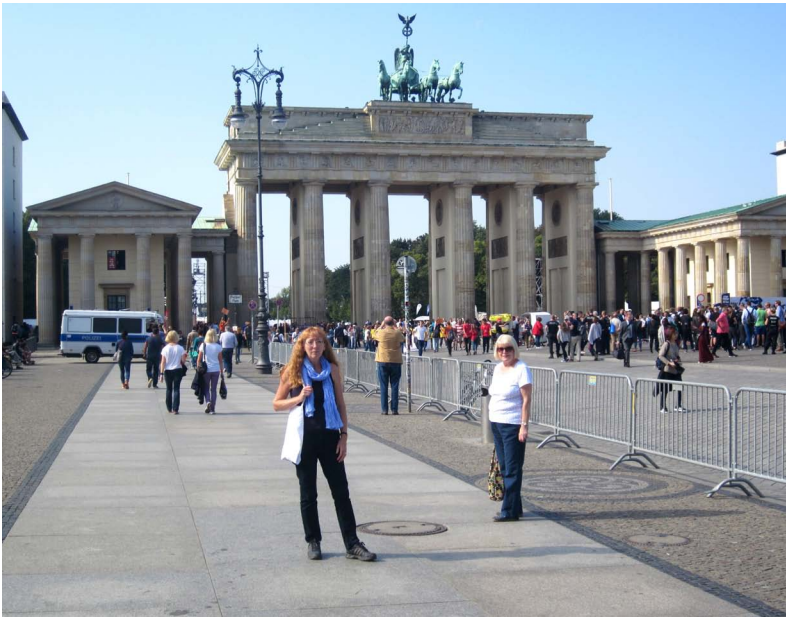
I will try to reserve tables for anyone requiring lunch after the Fox Hunt but please let me have numbers and names by Friday 11th November at the latest and I will make the reservation for you. You can contact me by e-mail to [miketooley<at>aol.com](mailto:miketooley@aol.com) or by 'phone on 01403 783127.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at my lair

Freddy (alias Mike, G8CKT)

HARC's Berlin Visit 22nd - 27th October 2016

by Alister Watt G3ZBU and David Miller G4JHI



Dorrie and Trish at Brandenburg Tor



Soldiers at Checkpoint Charlie

On Thursday six out of seven of the party travelled to Berlin Schoenefeld Airport from Gatwick Airport staying at the Albergo Hotel for the night. The group consisted of Alister G3ZBU and Dorrie, Robin G3OGP and Pat, Richard G4ANN and Trish. Robin and Pat actually took an early morning flight giving an extra full day and was able to fit in an extra museum.

The remainder of the group arrived on an evening flight. The following day the Wyndham Garden Berlin Mitte Hotel was the final hotel stop which would be the base for the weekend. As the day progressed time was spent getting organised with Berlin Welcome cards then wandering around the Brandenburg Gate and the avenue Unter den Linden, Checkpoint Charlie etc.



Sara's Restaurant



Berlin Sculpture

There is a communications museum near Checkpoint Charlie. In fact there are quite a few in that area, plus at the checkpoint itself, two actors dressed up as US soldiers who will let you have your photo taken with them, obviously for a fee. Then we all met up at the hotel bar for a swift half (half a litre) before dinner along with David G4JHI who had arrived by train from Poland but that's another story! We headed off just round the corner to Sara's Restaurant where the menu offered a selection that included Italian fare and also burgers.

The second day's tour started with a visit to the Musical Instrument Museum near Potsdammer Platz. There we were treated to a demonstration of their Mighty Wurlitzer organ. The organist told us that, in the days of silent movies, the organ could replace a whole orchestra. He played some examples of music and also special effects that would have been heard in the cinema. The music ranged from Oliver and Hardy to Harry Potter.



The organist entertains



A penny for your thoughts

There is a tiny piece of Berlin Wall outside Potsdammer Platz station entrance. But it is only a 6-inch thick concrete pillar. We had coffees, beers and cakes at the Sony Centre and then off to Charlottenburg Palace. This huge palace was renovated fairly recently, as only two rooms survived the last war. All very impressive.



Courtyard at Charlottenburg Palace



Spacious room at Charlottenburg Palace

Getting around Berlin is relatively straight forward and there is the S and U Bahn, Tram and bus. David got separated during the palace tour due to being a bit in front of the others and managed to see parts of the garden area that the other members couldn't reach (sounds familiar!) and found his way back to the hotel with a quick stop at the Zoological Gardens where a large print map was purchased. Dinner that evening was spent at Café Lichtburg where delicious steaks could be had.

Not only was HARC visiting Berlin this weekend but about a million others because it was the BMW Berlin Marathon weekend. On Sunday we visited the Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin, partly because they had an open day at their transport site a mile or so down the railway line. We took a two coach train pulled by a small diesel locomotive, but it was a bit like the Clapham Junction to Waterloo 8am service; there was not much room as it was so full of passengers. This journey took us on a bridge overlooking the marathon route, so we saw some of the action for about 2 seconds.

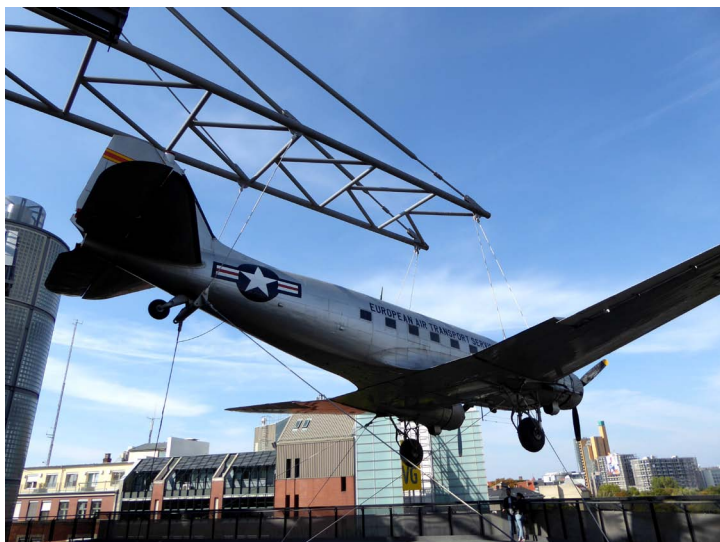


Vintage carriage



Robin and Pat on a less crowded return leg

The shed housed buses, cars and some railway carriages and engines. We went on an old double-decker bus, but it had very little headroom and the aisle didn't go through the middle of the seating area but to one side, so it was difficult to get in and out for both reasons. Outside the museum, there is a brewery, two windmills (we went in one) and marshalling yards with two turntables. On top of the museum is a DC-47.



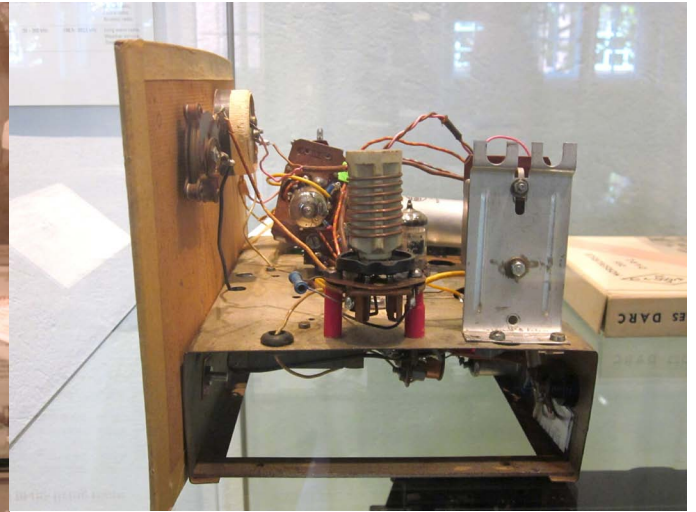
DC-47 aeroplane



One of two windmills

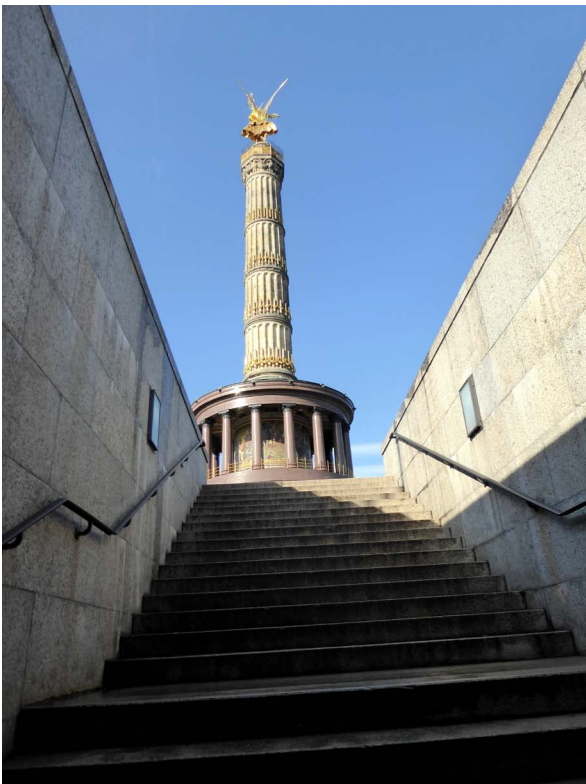


"Germany calling"



DARC project

This aircraft was used as part of the Berlin Air Bridge during 1948/1949 when the Soviets cut off access to West Berlin, so all supplies had to be delivered by air. The radio/TV section had plenty of interesting exhibits such as a radio made by an East German with hardboard front panel. A real junk-box special. The evening was spent once again at Sara's Restaurant with different items taken from the menu.



Underpass to Siegessäule



Traffic from Victory column 1st stage

On Monday David was up early and left whilst the other members of the group were still having breakfast to visit Siegessäule which in English is The Victory Column. This is 8.3 metres high and there are 285 steps to the top of which he did make before heading off to meet the others not far away for the tour of the Bundestag. We had pre-booked a 90 minute tour, in English. This was excellent and well worth doing. The guide, Laura, told us all sorts of interesting facts, but the best was that their politicians were fined if they didn't turn up without a jolly good excuse!

We saw graffiti left by Russian soldiers which has been preserved. At the end of the tour we were taken up to the roof and we then walked up the dome to the top. The weather was superb for all the days we were in Berlin, so we had some excellent views from the top.



Conference area in Bundestag



Bundestag Dome



The badges we were given to wear whilst touring the Bundestag!

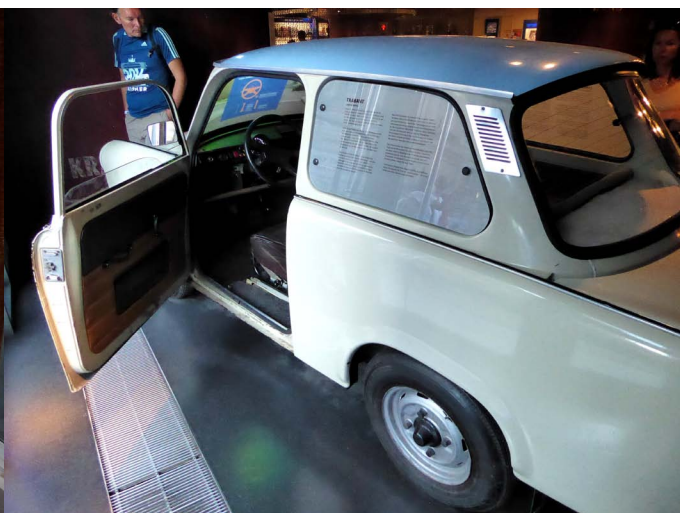


Lunch by the river

After lunch at the ARD bar, die Eins, some of us went to the DDR museum, which showed life in East Germany, and others went to the chocolate museum, but that's because the Concert Hall tour was not available.



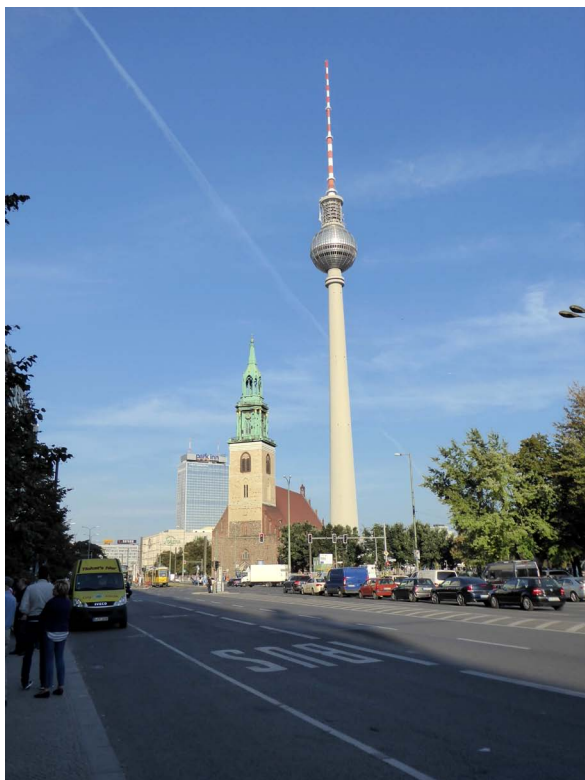
Typical dining room in DDR



The 'Travance' in DDR Museum

That evening we went for dinner at Café Litchburg again. It has to be said that we did do rather well in both restaurants with the after dinner shots! You just have to ask!

Tuesday morning, the last day David had an even earlier breakfast and said cheerio to all and headed off to Berlin Tegel Airport to take the noon BA flight to London City Airport.



TV Tower at Alexanderplatz



Control tower

This was in order to get home at a reasonable time in order to prepare for returning to work the next day. That worked like clockwork until arriving at London Bridge Station and found that all the trains to either Horsham or Brighton were cancelled due to the ongoing industrial action! In the end a slow Caterham train was taken to East Croydon with another change made at Three Bridges.

The remaining member's final excursion was an enjoyable boat tour along the Spree for an hour. The only problem we had was the boat trip's commentary was only in German! But the wx was perfect. Davi wasn't so worried about missing the boat trip as he had been on one in Berlin two years ago which had English and German commentary!

There was a half-hour delay getting our train to the airport. The S-bahn station's information display screen was not much help as it kept changing its tiny mind about where the next train was going, when it would arrive, due to the excuse: 'a Police incident the train service .zzt suspended is'. I tried to investigate the cause but failed.

However Alister found out that it is a criminal offence to travel without a ticket and also the twitter page has an English translation of the U-bahn names, but it is only valid on 1st April. We managed to get to Berlin Schoenefeld Airport with enough time to spend sitting outside in the glorious sunshine at a Bavarian Pub and have a couple of halves, although we could have gone for one litre jugs. The Gatwick to Berlin route is served by EasyJet and Norwegian Airlines.

Warsaw Visit 19th - 23rd October 2016

by David Miller G4JHI

Once I had decided to join the excursion to Berlin I thought it would be good to visit another city beforehand and here is the result. Monday 19th September I went on my way travelling by train and underground to Heathrow Airport. The baggage drop and security was fairly busy and took around 45 minutes to complete. Upon arrival in Poland on my BA flight to Warsaw once through the customs area I headed outside the terminal to find a local bus to get me to my accommodation the MDM Hotel in the city centre.

Getting a ticket proved difficult and the only machine I could find was playing up but I did manage to get it to work in the end after speaking with a Polish chap who spoke perfect English. The first night I decided to have dinner in the hotel and chose the Wiener Schnitzel. The next morning I joined a tour bus which took us round all the interesting sites of the city including Lazienki Park and the tour guide gave a good history lesson!



Sundial in Lazienki Park

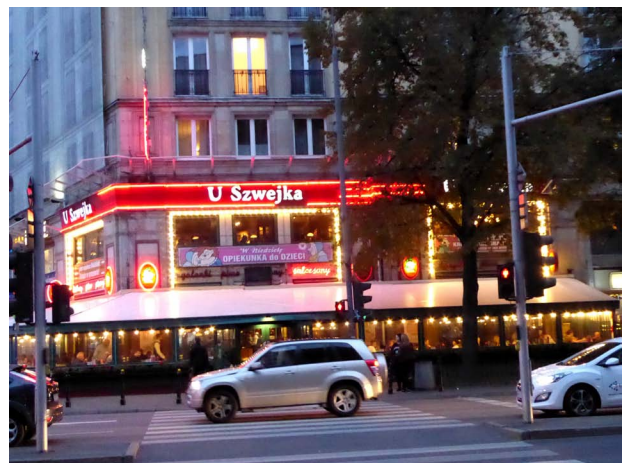


Tour guide giving history on Marszałek Józef Piłsudski

It was noted that virtually every embassy was pointed out! The tour ended near the old town and we were given the choice of saying goodbye or getting transport back to our respective hotels. I selected the former along with most other visitors to do some exploring. After some lunch I sat through an organ recital in St. John's Cathedral (not like me at all but there you go!). I then sat and drank English tea and noticed Police escorting an official looking black car.



Restaurant specialising in Polish dishes



U Szwejka steak house

It was possible that it was a politician and although I did see him it was not known who he actually was. Then I took a slow walk back to the hotel taking many photos along the way. That evening I had a great steak in the restaurant U Szwejka next door. I tried to order some bread whilst waiting for the main course but did have a bit of a language problem but another waitress was able to help. I downloaded a translator app the next day onto my smartphone and found out that the Polish word is 'chleb'.

The following day I took the train to Łódź (136 Km round trip - cost 52 PLN about £11.00, a bargain!) to take a look around. Michael Portillo did the same on one of his rail journeys. Note that this city is pronounced Wutc and is nicknamed "the Manchester of Poland".



Warsaw to Łódź train



The Priest Mill

There are plenty of sights to see in this city including The Priest Mill, Piotrkowska Street (longest promenade in Poland) and viewing area on top of an office block. From the latter one can see directly down to a new main railway station currently being built and due to open before the end of this year. To get around the city one can either walk, use the bus or tram.

Towards the end of the day I did find a good café in Park Źródlika where one could sit and drink the obligatory English tea once again. Due to an oversight upon arriving late at the Łódź Kaliska railway station to return back to base I missed the last train back just after 20:00 hours! After a few minutes I came across a couple of young ladies who spoke English and they tried very hard to see if there was another way for me to take but it became clear that I was stuck for the night apart from using a taxi.



Stranded for 8 hours!

I decided that the best option since the station is open all night was to wait for the 04:38 commuter service so I did although I wouldn't particularly recommend it! A bit of sleep and occasional fresh air was had during the night and I arrived back at the hotel in Warsaw at 07:00 hours and asked reception to advise the cleaners not to disturb me! By noon I was up and ready to go out the door and find some lunch in Cafeé Nero (Polish spelling) next door.

A 20 minute walk then took me in true traditional HARC style to Stacja Muzeum which is full of trains! There was plenty to see in the way of model trains inside. Because it wasn't the weekend I had the whole museum almost to myself. However on the platform outside where the real full size and working engines were was a model shoot going on which was quite interesting!

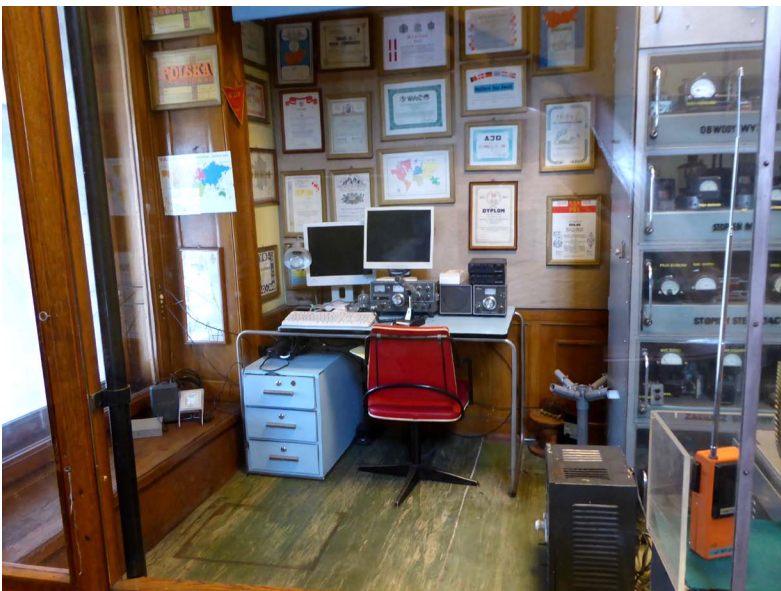


Small gauge models



Full size loco

The final part of the day was spent at Muzeum nauki i Techniki where one can find lots of very interesting vintage items ranging from cars, motorcycles, space, photography, telephones, washing machines to broadcast and amateur radio to mention but a few.



Amateur radio station with TS520S



Vintage telephone

To finish off my stay in this big vibrant city I had dinner in U Szwejka once again. I found that although English was spoken in Poland it wasn't as widespread as expected and it is suggested if visiting this country take a phrase book. Next morning I checked out of the hotel and walked to the station to catch the 09:57 hours Intercity to Berlin arriving at 15:43 hours 1st class (59.00 Euros about £53.00).



Now where do I stand for 1st class? Hmm.....!



Broadcast Listener

Monthly Roundup

by David Ansell 2E0NKC

All times BST

Short-wave

Talks between the Indian government and All India Radio have resulted in the continuation of Short-wave broadcasts. Listen at 17:45 and 20:45 on 9645 kHz in AM mode and 7550 kHz in DRM mode. Argentina's external service was re-launched on October 5th as RAE Argentina Al Mundo (RAE Argentina to the World). Heard at 20:00 on 15345 kHz with Id's in various languages including English. Radio WRMI Okechobee Florida appears to have survived Hurricane 'Matthew'.

Transmission on 15770 kHz continued through the storm. Voice of Mongolia heard in English at 20:30 via relay in Germany on 3985 kHz. An intruder in the exclusive 40 metre amateur band is Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in local language at 18:45 on 7175 kHz. No doubt "Intruder Watch" are aware! Transmissions are I am glad to say irregular. Radio WMLK, Bethel, Penn, U.S.A. went QRT some years ago when their transmitter blew up! They are back on 9725 kHz closing at 21:00.

WMLK is the station of a religious group called the "Assemblies of Yahweh". Programmes consist of sermons by Elder Jacob o` Meyer often with low audio. World Harvest Radio, Cypress Creek, South Carolina has QSY-ed from 15530 kHz to 11750 kHz at 20:00 Sundays only.



*World Harvest Radio
QSL card*

It also survived Hurricane "Matthew". China Tibet Broadcasting Service is a domestic service and has an English programme. "Holy Tibet" on 6130 kHz at 16:00 with good signal. Programme ends with weather report for Tibet.



China Tibet
Broadcasting
Service
QSL card

www.en.tibetradio.cn

mail: holytibet@tibetradi

Address: Lhasa city Beijing middle road No.41 Ti
Postal code: 85000 Tel: +86 0891 6831723

Medium-wave

The medium-wave DX season is well under way. A tentative logging of Radio Payem Tehran in Farsi on 1188 kHz at 20:30 but it faded out. Radio seagull is a Dutch legal station of the motor vessel Jenny Baynton moored in Harligen Harbour. It has English from 17:00 on 1602 kHz with 1 Kw. Heard here with heavy QRM as there are some low power Spanish and UK stations on this frequency. All India Radio Rajkot heard in Urdu at 19:15 to close at 19:30 on 1071 kHz.

This is co-channel with low power Talk Sport Clipstone, Notts. Libya has re-activated its Benghazi transmitter on 677 kHz in Arabic sometimes causing a heterodyne as Qatar uses 600 Kw on 675 kHz. BBC Asian Network heard with 'Asian Network News' at 17:00 on 837 kHz. Transmitter site is Freemans Common, Leicester with 0.5 Kw. French station Bretagne 5 St. Goueno has been missing for several days from 1593 kHz. It was a strong signal at night. Has it gone QRT for good?

Time will tell. If so it opens up the possibility of hearing Romania or Voice of America Kuwait on this frequency. I remember some years ago VOA Kuwait being heard at 23:00 with English news.

Late News

Australian Northern territories Short-wave VL8A Alice Springs heard at 20:30 with ABC news / BVL8 K Katherine just audible on 2485 kHz at the same time with same programme. This is my first reception of Australia on the 120 metre-band. Voice of Hope Zambia re-activated on 13680 kHz Sat and Sun closing at 17:00 in English. Alexander Alternator SAQ Sweden 17.2 kHz.

The antenna caught fire recently so scheduled broadcast in CW on 24th October and at Christmas is unlikely. Voice of Turkey 'B-16' schedule as from October 20th to Europe in English:- 13:30 on 12035 kHz, 19:30 on 6050 kHz and 23:00 on 5960 kHz.



Local station

by David G4JHI

It is confirmed that the Horsham DAB transmitter which hosts the Sussex digital multiplex on channel 10B came on air as scheduled during the summer. Following comments about DAB in the 4G article in this edition (page 23) it is possible (also likely) that the reception issues from my roof aerial are being contributed by this new edition (my theory) since I have an amplifier and live about a mile away from the site in Horsham town centre.

Recently whilst driving through Horsham town centre along Albion Way and to the north side of the station bridge it is no longer possible to receive some of the available DAB multiplexes in the area. The only ones that work now are confirmed as BBC National and Digital 1 and of course Sussex. As I drive along the aforementioned route silence now appears on anything else! Nothing from Surrey, Sounds Digital or London networks!

Following a conversation with Mick G4EFO it is presumed that the new strong Sussex multiplex is overpowering the car receiver. Many car antennas have amplifiers built in and therefore are prone to being overloaded. Perhaps the situation might be less if any particular car system didn't have an amplifier. The powers that be probably aren't interested as the more distant multiplexes are not intended to officially cover Horsham.

Digital blocking is happening from the offending new transmitter sites in the town centre area. Mick advised that with digital transmission it is completely different to analogue interference and just wipes the front end out and one receives nothing! Earlier in the year my car system picked up all of the aforementioned multiplexes (with the exception of London 3) through the town centre area.

Following conversations with other DAB listeners in the Horsham, unless you live fairly close to the town centre area mentioned above don't worry your DAB radio reception probably hasn't changed at all. For the record BBC Sussex transmits to Horsham on 95.1 MHz FM and Heart on 97.5 MHz FM from the Arts Centre. If you drive past and tune to 99.9 MHz FM there is a spurious mix of both stations present which is believed to be due to the mixing effect in FM receivers and has been audible ever since both transmitters were on air simultaneously.

The original site was on the top of the Sun Alliance building (the one that was demolished) and this spurious signal was much more widespread across the town centre area. The only problem is that this signal did and still does cause problems with reception of Kiss FM UK which transmits on 100.0 MHz FM but this service is intended for the Greater London area.

Due to the close proximity of BBC Radio London on 94.9 MHz FM and LBC on 97.3 MHz FM they are also severely interfered with in the town centre area too from the aforementioned stations that transmit from the Arts Centre. So to sum up, more transmitters can equal fewer services available!



'I wanna tell you about avto radio with the big beat'

Авторадио Санкт-Петербург

by Julian Thompson, G1ODN Monday 26th September 2016

Booking a holiday excursion of St Petersburg in the Russian Federation, I was redirected (albeit with miscreant laughter from the woman inside the ticket kiosk) for immediate boarding of a long boat vessel at a nearby pier, not the usual one, located immediately opposite the entrance to the Hermitage art collection.

I boarded and sat myself down opposite the guide, who had covered his microphone with the remains of a *Blackpool souvenir tea towel*, secured firmly in place by a large red elastic band.

Yes, I admit buying my ticket in Russian and I was sold a ticket for the Russian tour. I had been redirected to the Russian-speaking pier where everything was written in Cyrillic script. Once aboard, I should have known that tour commentary would be given in native Russian. Yes, *now I get the joke!*

As the tour commentary started, I went up to the top deck where I discovered three things that impressed me. Firstly the boat crew were armed with four outboard motors facilitating easy navigation across the *Bol Neva* river and back without being impeded by the Peterhof hydrofoil passing the other way (see photo next page).

Secondly, the trip was good value-for-money as we continued weaving our way through the canal network. Engines were cut every time we approached another road bridge: causing me to duck with my camera to avoid head injury. *'Elf and safety would have prevented this behaviour back in Blighty!*

Friendly reception

Thirdly, I was delighted to take photos of some women waving happily at me from the pavement. *Afterwards I learned that was a strong tradition to promote tourism.*



Girls waving!



But it wasn't until I returned home that I realised that I had also photographed the *Avto Radio Wanja - St Petersburg 'Avto'* radio station (broadcasting on 88.4 MHz FM; and also via the Internet - see below).



Longboat, Avto Radio

Quick and dirty research says that the *Avto Radio Wanja - St Petersburg 'Avto'* radio station plays popular music, and its analogue broadcasting signal for locals lies smack between *Classical radio* on 88.9 FM and *Tampa StPb Clearwater* on 88.1 FM. Needless to say, *Internet Radio* guarantees listeners the clearest broadcasts - See *HARC News article on Internet Radio, May 2016 at page 15.*

Broadcaster's tea towel tradition?

Should we be told if all St Petersburg broadcasters feel it's customary to impair the clarity of their broadcasts by masking their microphones with *souvenir tea towels*?

References

St Petersburg radio stations eg: Tampa StPb Clearwater 88.1 FM etc

www.stpetersburg.com/radio

Avto Radio Wanja (St Petersburg) accessed via Internet radio (September 2016) at

www.streamingthe.net/Avto-Radio-Wanja-FM-88.4-Mhz-St.Petersburg/p/4076

Footnote: *Title spells "Avto Radio Saint-Petersberg"*

The Shipley Zero Station

by 2E0NKC

I recently attended a lecture on the 'Zero' radio stations set up by the Home Guard units and the regular army. This was a fascinating talk. There were several of these in Sussex including Wakehurst Place just south of Turners Hill. This is a NT garden open daily with an information board describing the bunker. The Shipley station is just south of the A272 up a public footpath and is where the path bends to the right.

A lot of it has fallen in and it is in a poor condition. It has an escape tunnel at one end. I intend to re-visit and take a saw to remove some tree roots to get a better look and also take a torch so I can see better inside. One would have to crawl on your stomach to get in which I do not recommend.

David Ansell



Reception Issues



by David G4JHI

Have you had any issues recently with your Freeview television reception? If so read on and if not keep for future reference! During the summer several new cell sites have been switched on across the Horsham area which are transmitting 4G for mobile broadband. Some of these are using the 800 MHz frequency range but not all. If you live near to one of these sites it is possible that interference may occur disrupting Freeview reception especially from the Midhurst transmitter since some multiplexes transmit on nearby frequencies.

If you use an amplifier the 4G signals may get into it; again causing problems. The Freeview signal may end up being degraded with possible breakup or some multiplexes may disappear completely. The solution is to fit a 4G filter between the aerial and TV set or before the amplifier. In some cases it may be necessary to remove the amplifier completely. If the cell site is very close there may be cases where it is not possible to cure the issue.

The only way forward is to use an alternative platform such as satellite. I myself noticed an issue not that long ago where my DAB signals had reduced in signal strength from the roof aerial which feeds into the distribution amplifier located in the loft. I believed that something may have gone wrong with it and called in the engineer that fitted the new system last year (HARCNEWS September 2015). He checked the aerial on the roof including swinging onto a different transmitter and ended up replacing it and the amplifier to no avail.

It was also noticed that Band II FM signals appeared to occasionally drop out slightly according the engineers signal meter although I hadn't noticed anything myself. When the DAB aerial was connected directly to a receiver bypassing the amplifier the reception turned out to be much better. As a last resort a 4G filter was put in place between the DAB aerial and input to the amplifier which appeared to improve things.

It was believed that the DAB aerial was picking up some of the 4G signals and feeding into the amplifier even though they are completely different frequencies and reducing the signal strength of some DAB multiplexes (the amplifier has a built 4G filter but only gives protection on the UHF section). This particular scenario is not confirmed however as to do that one would need a spectrum analyser.

The 4G filter specification:

Passes: 5-790 MHz

Rejects: 793-821 MHz

Pass Band Attenuation <1dB (5@790 MHz)

Rejection Band Attenuation: >20dB

There is a company set up called at800 which provides help with reception issues due to 4G. I actually contacted them following the engineers visit to see if they had come across the issue that I appeared to be having and because Freeview reception wasn't involved they couldn't help and advised me to contact BBC reception advice and I left it at that!

www.at800.tv

0808 13 13 800 (free from mobiles and landlines)



Astra 1

German channels ZDF Kultur, Einsplus and Einsfestival transmissions closed on the 30th September due to financial reasons. Einsfestival frequencies have been replaced by the channel 'One' in both SD and HD and will be targeted at a 30 – 49 age group. Content for 14 – 29 year olds will be made available online only similar to what has happened in the UK with BBC Three.

www.ard.de

Astra 2

According to reports on the Digital Spy forums a recent software update to SKY+ HD boxes can cause some recorded content to be automatically deleted without the consent of the viewer! Recommended action is to make sure you select the 'Keep' option (blue button on remote control) for the recordings that you wish to keep. It is not clear if even with this option selected as to whether some content may be automatically removed at a later date. Recordings which have been deleted and go to the 'bin' but have not been deleted permanently may get so at some point in any case.

For new customers to Sky they now issue the Sky Q box as standard. There is the main receiver and the mini for use in other rooms around the home and four programmes can be recorded at once whilst you watch a fifth! It appears that the first time install or an upgrade is likely to take longer than previous installations due to being more complex. There is mention of a hybrid LNB which is different to a universal LNB and there may be complications if Freeview signals are distributed down any of the same cables as the satellite feeds.

To keep non-Sky receivers and terrestrial equipment in the equation it may necessitate the need for an additional dish! Also the cost of the monthly subscription is quite a lot more. The Sky Q boxes are also 4K ready but then if you're going to want to watch that then you will also require a new TV! However standard SKY+ HD boxes are still provided to new customers in the event that they are not in a position to have suitable feeds from the dish such as in an apartment block.

It is likely that current SKY+ HD boxes will continue to be in use by many viewers for some time yet. The editor's opinion is "if it isn't broke don't fix it!"

www.sky.com

Local news

Are you getting the right local news on TV for your area? There was discussion about this after the last committee meeting. It appears that Horsham is more likely to be covered from the south east area regions rather than south being Southampton. Horsham viewers watching Freeview from Midhurst receive just that but on Sky satellite the default region could be south east or south or London depending on your post code.

If you have Freesat, upon first setup one can input a post code so you can set it to whatever you like! All the ITV regions now transmit free to air (not that long ago there were some encrypted versions) and can be added manually if required. BBC One regions however appear on the EPG for Freesat and Sky. Personally the editor gets his local news from BBC Radio Sussex at 08:00 hours using his Sony portable radio on 95.1 MHz FM!

Diary

Nov 3rd, Club Night: Club - Graham Somerville - Use a Web Search of BHI & Noise cancelling

Nov 6th, West London and Electronics Fair - Kempton Park 10:00

www.radiofairs.co.uk

Nov 9th, 80m Club Sprint SSB 20:00 - 21:00

Nov 12th, 160m Club Calls Contest (Super League) 20:00 - 23:00

Nov 17th, Social Evening: The Cricketers - Wisborough Green

www.cricketersarms.com

Nov 20th, Sunday Morning Fox Hunt 10:00

CATS Radio & Electronics Bazaar - Oasis Academy, Coulsdon 10:00 - 14:00

www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/bazaar.htm

Nov 23rd, CARC / HARC Challenge, Hut 18 - Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Crawley
From 19:30

Nov 24th, 80m Club Sprint CW 20:00 - 21:00

Dec 1st, Club Night: AGM

Dec 4th, 144MHz AFS

Dec 10th, HARC Christmas Bash (Details to be announced) - *Note that this is a change of date*

For details on the above contests use this link and follow to the appropriate section

<http://rsgb.org/main/radio-sport>

All above times are UTC

Committee/Club Meetings and Socials start at 20:00