SECRETARY’S REPORT

During this last year the Club has held 20 meetings, comprising 10 lectures/talks, 6 Natter nights, the AGM, one outdoor event, two Table Top sales and the traditional Christmas Social. In addition the club has been involved in a number of events away from our usual meeting venue, such as the visit to the Horndean ARC for their annual quiz, the Hobbies Extravaganza at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Thinking Day on the Air, FLAME at Foxlease, a visit to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford, Dorset, the Eastleigh fireworks Night and the RSGB ssb field day.

As in the past, our biggest challenge has been the organising of suitable speakers for the meetings; despite these difficulties the following is a summary of the year’s meetings:

Jan 13th  Digital Photography by Stuart M0SIM
During the evening Stuart gave us a fascinating insight into the equipment that he uses and the superb results that he obtains

Jan 27th  Natter Night

Feb 10th  Communication by Conrad M0HPC
Conrad challenged us to consider how we are perceived by others when we operate on the radio, he provided us with some very useful and thought provoking ideas.

Feb 24th  Natter Night

Mar 10th  AGM

Mar 28th  Natter Night

Apr 14th  Table Top Sale

April 28th  Domestic Plumbing by Malcolm G0LMD
Malcolm shared some of his trade secrets with us and set off a lively range of questions, which highlighted our lack of understanding of several aspects of domestic plumbing.

May 12th  Vertical Antennas by Bert G4XHZ
Bert outlined for us the thought processes that he has gone through in developing an all band hf vertical antenna for use /M and /P

May 26th  Natter Night

June 9th  Newspaper publishing by Quintin M1ENU
Quintin explained how a daily newspaper is published from the source text and pictures, through the press work and distribution and convincingly demonstrated that it is a minor miracle every 24 hours.

July 14th  Treasure Hunt

Brian and Liz organised an excellent evening in the grounds of IBM at Hursley, which allowed us to have a good look at the superb setting and proved how un-observant most of us are when walking around.

July 28th  Lundy Island Dxpedition by Ian G0GRI
Ian explained to us the challenges and problems associated with mounting a Dxpedition to Lundy Island, together with the thrill of making contacts.

Sept 8th  Natter Night

Sept 22nd  Secret agents, radio and Mecca by Chris G4HCL
Chris gave an amusing talk on the problems and experiences associated with designing and supplying a radio system to a country in the Middle East

Oct 13th  Table Top Sale

Oct 27th  Canals by Bryan Evans
Brian shared with us his long-standing enthusiasm for canals and associated activities.

Nov 10th  Telegraphy and the WRNS by Shirley G0TBC
Shirley shared her reminiscences about her training and work with the WRNS

Nov 24th  Satellite data for all by Lawrence Harris
Lawrence explained the development of communications with weather satellites and demonstrated the type of images that can be received relatively simply.

Dec 8th  Natter Night

Dec 15th  Christmas Social
Conrad and Penny kindly compiled another of their multifaceted quizzes which was much enjoyed.

Bert G4XHZ
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club, held at the Scout Hut, Brickfield Lane, Chandlers Ford on Friday 10th March 2006

The meeting opened at approximately 20:00

Apologies for absence were received from.

G4EOW, G0UKB, M0SIM.

2005 AGM Minutes.

As the Annual Report had not been circulated prior to the AGM Brian, M0WSR, briefly read out the previous year’s minutes, which were then agreed by the attending members. It was noted that Quintin’s call sign was entered incorrectly and should be M1ENU

Proposed by Quintin, M1ENU, Seconded by Eric, G3KXE

Chairman’s Report

Brian, M0WSR, outlined the year’s Friday evenings activities and highlighted the Club win at the Horndean annual quiz night with the highest score in the history of the quiz.

Brian, M0WSR, announced the kind generosity of Vic, G3NVB, for offering the Club a large sum of money to fund the purchase of a Laptop PC and Projector. The Club thanked Vic.

Brian, M0WSR, specifically thanked:

- Brian, G0UKB, and Shelia, G0VNI, for their continued work with education
- Jim for managing the Club catering [and congratulated him for his recent M0FKG call sign]
- Stuart, M0SIM, for managing to supply the Club with a loan projector
- Conrad, M0HPC, as Club Secretary
- Ted G0BHK as Treasurer

He went on to announce that Conrad, M0HPC, and Stuart, M0SIM, have decided to stand down from the Committee this year.

Brian reiterated his thanks to the whole Committee.

He further thanked 2 club members Liz, M0ACL, and Paul, M1CNK, for their work both within and outside the Club

Finally thanks went to Larry, G2DSY, for his help and guidance throughout the year.

Proposed Conrad, M0HPC, Seconded Malcolm, G0LMD

Secretary’s report

Conrad, M0HPC, thanked everybody in the Club for continuing to make it a success and specifically thanked Brian, M0WSR, for his ongoing support.

He continued by explaining that he believes the Club’s biggest challenge is to find speakers for Friday evenings, he commented that many have agreed that the natter nights have been a success and therefore the Committee intend to keep that format for the foreseeable future.

Conrad, M0HPC, agreed that all evenings events had been a success and highlighted the 2mtr orienteering event organised by Brian, G0UKB, as particularly well received.

He reiterated his intention to stand down from the Committee and further stated his commitment to the Club offering assistance when possible.

Proposed by Ted, G0BHK, Seconded by Paul, G0TLG

Treasurer’s Report.

Ted, G0BHK, thanked Sheila, G0VNI, for a smooth handover last year.

He commented that the Club income was £211.73 with a balance of £2452

He explained that the Club had just purchased a Transceiver.

Explaining the financial statement, Ted, G0BHK, mentioned that the Club had only
been invoiced for the hall for the first half of the year – this is now being addressed.

Ted, G0BHK, thanked Brian, M0WSR, for printing the report and for not charging the Club for materials.

The Club continues to support the CDXC, but has not supported GB4FUN this year.

Ted, G0BHK, thanked auditors Larry, G2DSY, and Quintin, M1ENU

Shelia, G0VNI, asserted that it had been previously agreed that auditors should not be from the Committee. Ted, G0BHK, explained that the Committee were unaware of this, but would rectify for future years.

Shelia, G0VNI, declined to independently audit the books.

Membership Secretary’s Report.

In the absence of Stuart, M0SIM, Brian, M0WSR, explained that there was no formal report, but announced that membership is 55. Those that have not renewed are being followed up and some are now likely to renew.

The Club welcomed Alan, G4BIZ, to the Club.

It was agreed that the Club membership fees should not be raised this year.

**Proposed** by Ted, G0BHK, **Seconded** by Eric, G3KXE.

Events

There was general discussion regarding events; Malcolm, G0LMD, indicated that a field is available at East Stratton if needed for HF field day.

Brian, M0WSR, agreed to speak to the staff at Bursledon Windmill to see if an event can be held there

Appointment of the Club Auditors for 2006

Auditors were agreed as Shelia, G0VNI, and Steve, 2E0ESP

Election of the New Committee for 2006.

Larry, G2DSY, listed those existing Committee members who were prepared to stand again namely:

Brian, M0WSR
Brian, G0UKB
Jim, M0FKG
Ted, G0BHK
Quintin, M1ENU

He then asked for at least two further volunteers and Bert, G4XBZ, and Malcolm, G0LMD, both offered and were accepted.

Brian, M0WSR, explained that Bert, G4XBZ, had agreed to be Club Secretary. Conrad agreed to help with the handover to Bert, G4XBZ.

Other positions will be decided at the first committee meeting

**Proposed** by Paul, G0TLG, and **Seconded** by Liz, M0ACL.

A show of hands was taken to accept the new Committee, this was unanimous.

Election of Club President.

Brian announced that Larry, G2DSY, was prepared to continue as Club President.

A show of hands was taken and Larry, G2DSY, was unanimously accepted.

Larry, G2DSY, was thanked for the past year’s presidency.

Any other business.

1) Malcolm, G0LMD, asked why the club evenings weren’t publicised in Radcom. Conrad, M0HPC, explained that this had been overlooked and apologised. He explained that the Club did now have an entry in the Year Book.

2) Mike, G0WIL, suggested that the Club appoint equipment trustees in case that the Club folded.
There was much discussion and Paul, G0TLG, **proposed** that the Club should take advice and report back at either the next AGM, or if necessary, an EGM. **Seconded** by Malcolm, G0LMD

3) Quintin, M1ENU, **proposed** the following motion:

That the Club support the education work of the South African Radio League among the needy by sponsoring a bursary for one student under the age of 18 to the amount of £150 this financial year. The bursary is to be called the YARP (youth for amateur radio project) Itchen Valley Radio Club Bursary

Conrad M0HPC **seconded** the motion.

Discussion was heard and concern was expressed as to whether Club funds were sufficient to support this. It was confirmed by the Committee that funds were sufficient.

Other charities were mentioned by the members but it **was voted by majority that the motion should be carried**.

4) Vic, G3NVB, complimented the Committee for an excellent annual report.

Conrad, M0HPC, and Ted, G0BHK, were thanked for putting it together. Brian, M0WSR, was thanked for the printing.

Conrad, M0HPC, thanked all who contributed with articles.

5) Sheila, G0VNI, **proposed** an amendment to the constitution as follows:

Section 11.b should read Audit of the Club funds shall be completed before the AGM. The selection of 2 auditors from the ordinary membership shall be appointed at the AGM.

**Seconded** by Ted G0BHK

Agreed by unanimous vote

6) Brian, M0WSR, announced that the next meeting would be held on 24th March to sort equipment.

Meeting closed at 21.25

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**The Portsmouth Shutter Telegraph Line**

The year was 1796 and the political unrest in France was causing considerable concern to the British Admiralty. They were particularly worried because messages between Admiralty Headquarters in London and the fleet based at Portsmouth were taking, at the very best, 4.5 hours to be delivered by horsemen.

They knew only too well that the French were leading the way with their new methods of communication – by the end of 1792 an astounding new system of signalling had been developed by the six brothers Chappe using ‘levered semaphores.’ Stations could be situated in towers located nine to ten miles apart and were able to send messages over hundreds of miles at around 1.75 words per minute.

Experiments had already been carried out in England – the Reverend John Gamble had invented such a machine and had been sent to Portsmouth to carry out trials. This was a 5 shutter machine allowing 32 (2 power 5) different signals. It was erected on Portsdown and on 6th August 1795 he reported that it was complete and in working order. However, the Admiralty decided to use a design by Reverend Lord George Murray instead. This machine consisted of 6 shutters in two columns in a vertical frame 20 feet high. Each shutter could be either closed or open which gave 64 different permutations (including all open and all closed). During September 1795 successful experimental trials were carried out on Wimbledon Common. Murray was awarded £2,000 for his invention, and Mr. George Roebuck was made Superintendent of Telegraphs on a salary of £300 per annum.

continued overleaf……
The Portsmouth Shutter Telegraph Line

The Admiralty to Portsmouth telegraph became known as the ‘Portsmouth Shutter Telegraph Line’ and during March 1796 work commenced on building it. It was ready just a few months later. There were 10 signalling stations. These are listed together with their modern location:

1. Roof of the first Lord’s house – Whitehall
2. Chelsea – Royal Hospital
3. Putney – near Telegraph Inn
4. Cabbage Hill – near Chessington Zoo
5. Netley Heath – ‘Telegraph’, Blind Oak Gate
6. Hascombe – Telegraph Hill
7. Blackdown – Tally Knob
8. Beacon Hill – Harting Down
9. Portsdown Hill – Cosham Road Junction
10. Portsmouth – Southsea Common

This type of telegraph was obviously vulnerable to fog and other meteorological difficulties. The builders of the Lines were perfectly well aware of this, and went to considerable lengths to build stations that were as high as possible and clear from local fog conditions. The stations were located between 10 and 14 miles apart. The telegraph was able to work throughout the hours of daylight on at least 200 days per year.

It seems that the Telegraph was never meant to be permanent but was intended for use only until the end of the Napoleonic Wars, as the construction of the signal stations was little better than a sturdy hut with two rooms and a coal shed.

It was very successful however taking about 7.5 minutes to send a signal from Portsmouth to London.

By the end of 1796 lines had been completed between London & Portsmouth and London & Deal. By May 1806 a Plymouth extension was in operation and June 1808 saw the completion of a London to Yarmouth line.

On 18th May 1814 peace was proclaimed and Napoleon was banished to the Isle of Elba. On 6th July 1814 the Portsmouth Shutter Telegraph line was ordered to ‘immediately discontinue’. Napoleon had other ideas. He escaped from his prison island and landed in France on 1st May 1815. Once again England was at war and the Portsmouth Shutter Telegraph was re-established. Seven weeks later on 18th June 1815 Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and ten days later on 28th June 1815 the Admiralty announced plans to establish a ‘permanent’ system of stations using Semaphore – a machine with movable arms.

The Shutter Line was finally closed in March 1816, but until June 1822 when the Semaphore opened Portsmouth was without a telegraph link.

Ted Stiles G0BHK
It hardly seems that a year has passed since sitting down and writing last year’s report. Is it age or, as I prefer to think, we have had a busy year that gives me the impression time has passed quickly.

Firstly, I will start this report with the Club’s THANKS to Larry, G2DSY, our President. He has presided over the Club and Committee with stature and for being there whenever we needed that extra special advice and knowledge.

The greatest event of the year, to my mind, was Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club being presented with a Laptop computer and Video projector from one of our members. Our Club President, Larry G2DSY, as the picture on the front cover shows, is seen receiving the equipment from our benefactor Vic, G3NVB. His generosity has brought IVARC right up to date with equipment. I know Larry expressed the Club’s thanks at the time of the presentation, but I would also like to put it in print how very grateful the Club is and say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Since that date both items have been used with great effect at two of the Club’s indoor meetings. The laptop was also used for logging at Foxlease, near Lyndhurst, recently for Thinking Day on the Air, the Girl Guides annual event for sending greetings messages to fellow Guides around the globe. We are very fortunate to have within our membership Liz, M0ACL. Not only does she do a tremendous amount of work for the Girl Guides but she also gets our club involved with events such as Foxlease. This helps to promote amateur radio with today’s youth and also amateur radio to a wider audience. We must also give thanks to Liz for making the bags to protect our new equipment.

Thanks also must go to Brian, G0UKB for getting together all the necessary leads to go with our new equipment to enable connections to various inputs and outputs. We are also grateful to Brian for all the tuition he gives to us, keeping us up to date with new technology and software. Also for being one of the Club’s tutors and bringing new enthusiasts to amateur radio.

Thank you Sheila, G0VNI, our other tutor, for all you do for the Club.

I do consider it is the prime function of being Chairman to give thanks to people who participate in the success of a club or society and with that in mind I must continue in that vein. As with all clubs, we function with the help of a dedicated few who perform their duties for the benefit of the membership as a whole.

Ted, G0BHK the Club’s Treasurer, does a tremendous job in keeping our funds intact and making sure all are outgoings are kept right up to date and the Club remains financially viable. From us all THANK YOU. Ted and Pat have moved house since last year and are now living in Sussex. Although much further away Ted has continued to be at all Club meetings and has every intention to continue his duties within the Club.

Bert, G4XBZ our Secretary, has also achieved a great deal for our Club in keeping us well informed on the research he has done in trying to find new speakers and venues for us to visit. He has been the backbone of your Committee since taking the position, and to you Bert, our sincerest THANKS.

It is with regret that next year we have to find a replacement for Bert. For strictly personal reasons he has requested to be replaced as Secretary and he will be missed by us all. We are not losing him as a Club member, just his skills as Secretary, so on everybody’s behalf THANK YOU Bert for all you have done for us.

G0LMD, Malcolm has done a great job as Membership Secretary. One of his achievements has been to endeavour to get everybody’s e-mail address so that communication between Committee and members can be done very effectively and with little or no expense to the Club. THANK YOU Malcolm and thanks for withdrawing your request to stand down as a committee member.
M0FKG, Jim, thank you from us all for keeping our lips lubricated. Your dedication on the catering front is much appreciated and the support you give to all events is very welcome indeed.

Quintin, M1ENU, has been a great help with all the backroom bits and pieces that he does, all of which is very necessary for the smooth running of any organisation.

Thank you Steve, M0GSP, and Sheila, G0VNI for agreeing to audit our accounts.

Our Club entered teams in two quiz events this year. The first was at Horndean and District ARC where we went to defend the title we won last year, and once again the team were successful thanks to Quintin M1ENU, Ted G0BHK and Brian G0UKB for their expertise. Later that same week we held our own quiz night. We had teams from Andover ARC, Horndean and District ARC and ourselves. A very enjoyable evening it was and Horndean reversed the tables this time and won our trophy. Well done to all!

I consider that our Club has had another very successful year and our thanks must go out to all those who have made it such. Bert has outlined all our events in a separate report in this issue, so I need say no more on that point. All Club members need to be thanked for their continued support whether it be attending everything that happens or just being a member on paper. It takes all sorts to make a club successful. So again on behalf of everybody, I say THANKS TO EVERYBODY for an enjoyable year!

Finally, special thanks go to the three members involved in the production of this report. Ted, G0BHK was responsible for editing the input and Brian, G0UKB, and Quintin, M1ENU kindly did the printing.

Brian M0WSR
Chairman

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TREASURER’s REPORT

I am pleased to report that our Club continues to maintain a reasonable level of funds.

Income

Our income from subscriptions dropped by 8% this year reflecting a further reduction in membership numbers (it fell by 23% last year). However, we generated extra funds from the sale of junk equipment and the proceeds from raffles held at Club meetings.

- the equipment we purchased from the Southampton University Wireless Society cost us £50, but when it was sold it realised £249.10. Although some of the items were purchased by our own members certain other members worked hard for us arranging sales through RadCom and eBay – thank you very much!
- the introduction of raffles at Club meetings raised a total of £122.50 for an outlay of £46.23. Thanks to those who bought tickets, also to those who supplied prizes as well as buying tickets. The auditors have pointed out that the ‘Raffle Proceeds’ shown in the Statement of Income and Expenditure is a gross figure because the cost of the raffle prizes has been included in the ‘Meeting Costs’ – it should have been separated out.

Early in the year Vic Bryant, G3NVB, very generously offered to purchase a laptop computer and a projector for Club use – they have been made available to us on a permanent loan basis. The arrangement was we would purchase the equipment, then Vic would reimburse us. It is for this reason we see an entry of £421.64 in our Income under the heading ‘Refund for Laptop.’

Expenditure

It is very noticeable that we have paid considerably more rent this year for use of the Scout Hut when compared with last year’s figure - £395 this year compared with £105 last year. The reason for this is the Scouts were late billing us last year, so we effectively only paid for 6 months use last year, but have had to pay for 18 months use this year.

We paid out less for Stationery/Postage, Licences and Training this year, but meeting costs remained about the same bearing in mind they include the cost of raffle prizes.

Although we expected our ‘Donations’ to be greater this year they were in fact less – we only supported CDXC.

Our insurance costs have risen slightly as a result of purchasing the new rig, and they will rise again in the coming year as a result of the need to cover the new laptop and projector.

A new category of ‘Miscellaneous’ has appeared which includes the cost of refunding Mike, G0WIL, for his antenna which was broken beyond repair at the Hobbies Extravaganza, also the £50 which we paid the Southampton University Wireless Society for the contents of their Shack.

As stated in last year’s Treasurer’s Report, the Club purchased a new Kenwood TS570 early in the year.

Summary

The Club’s activities this year have resulted in us ending up with a deficit of £679.47, or roughly 28% less than we started with. This was not unexpected considering we purchased a new rig costing £809. Also the higher than usual rent and the replacement of the broken antenna did not help us. I think under the circumstances our financial year has come to a satisfactory conclusion.

A full set of Accounts will be available at the AGM for your inspection.

In the coming year we need to at least maintain, if not increase, our membership numbers

Please support your Club in any way you can in the coming year – by attending our meetings and events, by advertising the Club and attracting new members, by supporting our sales & raffles, and maybe you could even give a presentation yourself?

My apologies go to one of our auditors, Steve Palmer, M0GSP, because I inadvertently used his former callsign, 2E0ESP, on the financial statement.

Ted Stiles G0BHK
Treasurer
# Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club

## Statement of Income and Expenditure

**For the Year Ended 31st December 2006**

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<td>Refund for Laptop</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>421.64</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>84.88</td>
<td>99.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income**

| Total Income     | 797.21| 1429.55|

**Expenditure**

| Total Expenditure| 585.48| 2109.02|

Less Total Expenditure

| Excess Expenditure over Income | -679.47 |

## Financial Statement

| Balance B/F 1/1/2006 | 2452.33 | Current Account | 852.34 |
| Less expenditure for Year | -679.47 | Petty Cash | 6.31 |
| Balance C/F 31/12/2006 | 1772.86 | Deposit Account | 914.21 |

| Total | 1772.86 |

Accounts audited by:

Sheila Williams G0VNI

Steve Palmer 2E0ESP
Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent. Since they were a perfect match, they soon generated harmonics. They wrapped the harmonics in dipoles. But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements.

American Hams heard for the very first time!

A while ago I made an interesting boot sale purchase - a very tatty bound volume of ‘The Model Engineer’ covering the period from January 5th 1922 to June 29th 1922. Amazingly it was sufficiently popular in those days to be published weekly. However, what was more interesting was the discovery that each edition carried a ‘Radio Engineering’ section. On the 12th January the following article was published:-

'The Atlantic Test

It is certainly an achievement for the amateurs of this country to have successfully secured, last December, the signals transmitted by the Radio Relay League of America. Mr. A. E. Greenslade of the British School of Telegraphy, was one of those successful wireless enthusiasts, and had spent much time previously in designing a suitable receiver for these short wave transmissions. Mr. Godfrey, the American Relay League’s representative, who was in England for these tests, was also successful with his apparatus as were several other British “radioists” whose names as yet are not to hand.'

A Young Man of the Bands

O, to have a little beam! 
And rotator to turn it round!
The crank up tower to hold it up, 
And make the DX louder sound!

To have an amp that runs a K, 
And lets me make big contest runs! 
A dresser filled with QSLs, 
From Europe, and the rarest ones!

I could be busy all the day, 
Working DX on the noise floor, 
And sending morse to radio hams, 
In lands I've never worked before!

I could be quiet there at night 
Beside the rig and by myself, 
Sure of DX and loth to leave 
The rotator and amp and PC shelf!

Och! but I'm weary of wire dipoles, 
And never an afternoon US rush, 
And tired I am of search and pounce, 
And the QRN and the lonesome hush!

And I am praying to God on high, 
And I am praying Him night and day, 
For a little beam - a beam of my own - 
Up in the wind's and the rain's way.
The Diary of an IVARC Project
(FLASHING LED badges for FLAME 2006)

What comes first? The chicken or the egg, or in this case, the blue flashing LED or the plastic badge frame?

"You won't believe how many photos I had to take of the badge to get one with both lights on!!"

Often good ideas are born through pure serendipity, the right things happening at the right time. So it was with this project. I (Brian G0UKB) had previously bought a job lot of LEDs off a dealer (Christian Slater of Slatec Electronics) in Yorkshire and was delighted with the product and price. So when Chris e-mailed me with a special offer of some new LEDs he'd got for sale I thought it worthwhile taking a look. He'd got ultra-white and ultra-blue LEDs, blue flashing LEDs, RGB LEDs with a built-in device to cycle the colours, violet and ultra violet LEDs – an impressive collection. What's more the special prices were good – about 30% of his normal retail price, so naturally I ordered 10 of each just to see how useful they might be.

At the same time Liz, M0ACL, was wading through a new craft catalogue looking for ideas for Girl Guides when she discovered some lovely acrylic badges: 2 part that popped open to allow you to put your design inside. So she ordered a sample too.

The badges arrived and looked ideal for a children's project – but what? I think it was Liz that suggested the possibility of a flashing LED if only we could find a battery suitable. It looked like a 16mm CR2016 might be a good fit, but would 3v be enough to flash an LED with built-in current limiter and flash mechanism? The answer was 'yes', but the old flashing red LEDs just didn't look anything special – until Brian remembered the order from Slatec with its blue flashing LED. My goodness it was bright! All Liz had to do was design a badge logo to incorporate one or two of the LEDs and we had the 2006 Flame electronics project.

Well not quite all – first there was the simple matter of stocking the project. CR2016s are £1.99 in Maplins, the LEDs were 35p each and the badge was 35p too, so we were looking at nearly £3 – way too much for a badge. I immediately set an aggressive target of £1 and went Internet searching.

The badges seemed to be unique to the London Badge company (curiously enough based in Fareham) so there was little we could do to reduce the price except hope for bulk discount – the plan was to kit 300 badges each with two LEDs and a battery. That many LEDs would work out at 30p each, but Hong Kong suppliers on Ebay seemed to suggest we could halve that cost, so I ordered 10 of 3 different types from different suppliers. To my surprise none worked off a 3v CR2016! Actually one of the 3mm red/blue flashing ones was on the edge of working – about 30% of the stock worked and the rest just wouldn't fire up. So back to Slatec with a grovel and an order of 600 driving the price down to 25p each.

Just the batteries left, and here Hong Kong and Ebay did come up trumps – pricing around we managed to get Chinese CR2016s for the princely sum of 11p each! Of course these weren't Duracell, but a test sample (hint – never buy 600 batteries off Ebay without having bought a sample of 10 or so first) proved they would drive the blue flashing LEDs for approx 8 days – well enough for our needs. Just to be sure of getting a full week out of the badge we decided on one battery per LED rather than running both LEDs from a single battery.

So all sorted – total cost: Badge 31p, 2 LEDs 50p, 2 CR2016s 22p – just 3p over a somewhat crazy target.
Well not quite all sorted. Now we get to the stage where the real strength of IVARC comes in. It's easy for Liz and I to have an idea and source all the components but at this stage that's all we had – an idea and a heap of components.

In comes the final pair of the group that puts together all of the Scout and Guide projects – Mike, G0WIL and Sheila, G0VNI. Mike never gets phased – we say we have this idea and no matter what it is he makes it work. In this case the project involved accurately drilling 600 holes in a brittle acrylic that cracked if it was in the same room as a drill bit. To be honest I expected about a 20-30% fail rate with cracked and broken badges – the fact that Mike had 4 failures in 300 was absolutely amazing. I saw the jig that Mike had made to support the plastic casing and also provide the template to ensure the hole positions were consistent – a nice piece of engineering.

Sheila is the process manager. She takes the idea and the components and optimises construction. A bend of an LED leg just so or positioning sticky tape just a few mm differently makes a complete difference to just how easy the construction will be for young hands, and Sheila has a rare talent of being able to tune and optimise any project – our Flame 2002 amplifiers would never have been built in the allotted time had she not intervened and completely revised the assembly process.

Now we were ready! And what a hit the badges were – we sold all 300 at £1 each and had queues in the radio room for people wanting to make them. A casual stroll through the Foxlease campsite after dark revealed just how many flashing blue lights there were – it was amazing planes didn't attempt to land there. So the success of nearly 3 months planning and buying equipment and the month that Mike spent drilling 600 holes and the final project tuning sessions was obvious in the delight of all the youngsters who actually built something exciting that they could brag to parents and friends.

So if you are planning a project, even one as simple as just pressing LED legs against a battery, don't underestimate just how long it takes from idea to kitted end result and don't underestimate the talents required to really polish the project.

A final note – it took several months kitting out just 300 simple badges. Spare a thought and a note of thanks for folk like Tony KB9YIG who is running the Softrock projects. Single handedly he has kitted at least 5 kits with runs of 1000+ including printed circuit board and SM components. An outstanding feat and it's folk like Tony who are keeping the hobby and spirit of amateur radio alive today. My hat comes of to him.

Brian G0UKB

Swains Island DXpedition

Hrane YT1AD, with the team of Krassimir K1LZ, David K3LP, Alan K6SRZ, Doug N6TQS, Harry RA3AUU, Eugene RK3AD, Viktor RU4SU, Vangelis SV2BFN, Alekcej UA4HOX, Roman UR0MC, Milovan YU1AU, Mladen YU7NU, Vel YZ1BX, Stevan YZ7AA, and potential team members Srecko YU1DX and Dragan YZ1EW, will be going on a DXpedition to Swains Island between April 4-15th, using the callsign N8S (November Eight Sugar).

They will stay on Swains Island 10 days and will operate with 6 stations on the air at the same time. Activity will be on 160-2 meters using CW / SSB / RTTY / SSTV / PSK31.

The DXpedition will also be active from the Tokelau Island as ZK3A between April 16-19th, and the Independent State of Samoa (5W - formerly known as Western Samoa from 1914-1997) as 5W5AA between April 20-24th.

QSL N8S via YT1AD: Dr. Hrane Milosevic, 36206 Vitanovac, Serbia - EU
QSL ZK3A via YU7NU: Mladen Bogdanov, Beogradska 21/18, Pancevo, 26000, Serbia - EU
QSL 5W5AA via YZ7AA: Stevan Stepanov, Temerinska 22, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia - EU

For more details and updates, please visit the KH8/S Web site at: http://www.yt1ad.info/n8s/
More on Verticals
by Vic Bryant G3NVB

How it all started

With the general low levels of propagation on the higher HF bands, I decided around the beginning of 2006 to move more to the lower bands and concentrate my activity on 40 and 80m. This thought was spurred by the excellent talk that Bert G4XBZ gave on his vertical that he uses for portable operation. My thoughts leant towards a vertical of some sort for 40m. Such an aerial would be about 33ft high, not too visually obvious, the only major problem being what does one do about the other half of the aerial, namely the (most important) ground. As my 80m dipole also covers 40m via an ATU I thought it would be a good idea to be able to compare "On Air" the performance of the two aerials with vastly differing radiation patterns. Even using diversity reception. As a keen experimenter this looked an interesting operation. Note that in the G3NVB shack, experimenting means "Fiddling About"!

What does it do?

The quarter wave vertical has a radiation pattern with, theoretically at least, no overhead radiation together a strong ground wave signal. That is the "Sliced through Doughnut " pattern on its back. The dipole on the other hand has a very large vertical component allowing NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Sky wave). The radiation pattern looks in general like an orange due to the effect of the earth. This is why we get such good performance over the UK during the day and into Europe at dusk when the sun goes down and the F layer goes up.

The RADCOM (May 2006) letter by Nick Brooks G4BMI describing a vertical with a very simple folded counterpoise also encouraged my thoughts. In general verticals need to work against a ground plane of a fan of wires laid on or under the ground and much has been written about the merits of various arrangements. The late Les Moxon G6XN was a devoted and noted aerial experimenter and concluded that for best performance ground radials should all be less than λ/4 long, joined together and brought to resonance. The purists talk about "Lots" of radials. The laying of a lot of radials on or under the front lawn struck me as being a major construction effort. It all sounded very difficult and I tend to go for an easy life.

How about EZNEC?

Re-reading some of my favourite literature (the ARRL and RSGB Handbook) it appeared that one could get satisfactory performance with a few elevated radials a few feet off the ground, indeed an aerial could operate with only one when it would appear as a dipole with the elements set at 90 degrees. G4BMI has effectively one elevated radial which is folded back on itself and provides a much more compact structure. It has become known as a "Counterpoise" and presumably modifies the radiation pattern into something like that which we are seeking that is fairly symmetrical. It's also much easier to build. For this sort of configuration G6XN reckons that you can get away with only two radials, which will cancel out the vertical component of the radiation pattern. G4BMI has taken this idea further. This seems to be the principle of a simple aerial but it all seemed too good to be true, so what does EZNEC tell ? Figure 1 shows the general arrangement.

Fig 1: Basic Aerial Arrangement for 40mtrs
Figure 2 shows the SWR and Figure 3 shows the radiation pattern.

This is highly idealised and is not likely to be repeated at my QTH because of the effect of local overhead electric cables and telephone wires. It must be remembered that the results of a modelling exercise only shows the performance of the model, not how it is in reality. Much depends on how realistic the model is. Usually my projects do not work without a lot of “Tweaking” which is where the “Fiddling About” activity appears.

So how is it built?

I decided to press into service one of the 6” diameter; 8ft long hollow fibreglass tubes that have been loafing in my garden. Some time ago I had bought an old army portable aerial mast in a fit of enthusiasm which comprised a bag of guys and ten of these tubes that fit into each other. I have never had the courage to fit them all together to make an 80ft mast and I certainly would not have been able to get it erected single handed.

I also bought one of the SOTA 10m fishing poles advertised in RADCOM. These are about 2” diameter at the base tapering to about 3/16” at the top. The lower end of the SOTA pole was packed out with 3/8” square wood strips glued in place. The base of the pole then slides down the inside of the fibreglass tube. An M6 bolt passed through the tube stops the pole from sliding down inside the tube.

The aerial proper comprises a length of flexweave aerial wire passed up inside the pole. The whole assembly is then lifted into place and fitted with guys at the base and about 2/3rds of the way up. A strut provides additional support at the top of the base tube to take the strain of the feeder cable into the shack.

The counterpoise is just 16 SWG plastic covered mains wire formed as a transmission line as shown in the sketch and tied onto my neighbour’s fence. A length of copper tube suitably guyed supports the other end of the counterpoise. The picture shows the finished product, showing the folded counterpoise on the right hand side and the balancing wire on the left. It also shows the mess of overhead electric and telephone wires that I have to live with.

How does it work?

The first step is to make a few measurements with the MFJ aerial analyser. This gadget is one of the most useful pieces of gear any amateur can have, after a test meter. It will measure coaxial cable loss, and capacitance and inductance at the operating frequency as well as SWR. First test measured at the base showed a Radiation Resistance of about 38
...Remains of Empire continued

mooring buoy. The passengers and luggage were got ashore in a rowing boat during which our power supply nearly finished up at the bottom of Sebang harbour.

A Dakota was sent from Changi to pick up the passengers and our PS went on the manifest. Meanwhile the Sunderland flew back to Selleta on three engines for repair. Dennis said “I know a Sgt Green at Changi in traffic handling”. A signal produced the response that the PS had been put on a York flight to Negombo. Ah said Dennis, “I know a Sgt Brown in Servicing at Negombo” A phone call solved that problem. The MT Sgt then arranged for the PS to be picked up by a vehicle going up to Negombo and we had our power supply. It was massive and weighed more than 60lb.

We lived in a palm leaf basha along with a few scorpions, tree rats and the odd rat snake. Just behind the basha were two suitably spaced coconut palms. When the coconut boys came round we got them to put up a one and half wavelengths folded dipole for twenty metres which we had constructed.

So we started off with 150 watts CW. At that time amateur radio was going over to VFO’s so we constructed a Franklin VFO to replace the CO. We wanted to go on phone but had no means of producing sufficient audio to amplitude modulate 150 watts. We decided to build a small amplifier and suppressor grid modulate the 803’s. This only gave about 60% modulation but worked quite well.

The electricity supply was bare wire on poles. The alternator was one and a half miles distant and a few contacts were lost when a falling palm branch fell on the wires and blew the supply. If Dennis was on CW I could copy the CQs, as the lights dimmed in the mess bar.

At that time, radio conditions were quite good. In the morning the band was quiet except for the odd tea planter in south India. In the early afternoon, the Pacific islands opened up, mostly US servicemen. About 15.00, Western Australia came in and by 19.00, Malaya and Singapore, the East coast of Africa and South Africa. About 22.00 the Suez Canal zone would be heard and if things went well we would work Italy then France and if we were very lucky we might make it to the UK just after midnight. This didn’t happen too often because we got up to go to work at 04.30, so Saturdays were our only late nights. We could work the States occasionally, both East and West coast. We only knew of one other VS7 on the DX bands, even so there were not the pileups on us that we would get today. There was a forty metre net operated on Sunday mornings. They were all tea planters, but all they discussed was tea and didn’t want to know us.

In March 1948, Dennis was due to return home and was fortunate to fly home as Wop in a Sunderland which due to go home for a major overhaul. He purchased the biggest tin trunk I have ever seen and packed up the station and we loaded it on the Sunderland. One month later, I was also due to return home on a troop ship which was still the main method of transport. While in the transit mess at Negombo I met one of the Sunderland crew who had just returned by air. He said Dennis had got all his gear ashore before the customs realised they had arrived.

Ceylon had by then got their independence and was now Sri Lanka and VS7 became 4S7. I think it was my happiest time in Amateur Radio and many thanks to one of the kindest gentlemen I have ever met.

Larry Dale G2DSY

DESLIGHTED AT HOW WELL HE GETS OUT WITH A KILOWATT AND AN INDOOR DIPOLE, BOB GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE EFFECTS OF NEAR-FIELD SP,
It all started so well – the rope atop the oak tree nearly 60’ high was still in place and 2 weeks prior to the event we managed to catapult another decent height rope over a tree 150’ away – perfect for the G5RV or any other wire antenna.

So when we arrived at Foxlease mid Friday afternoon on a dry, windless February day that promised to be light until after 6pm we thought we had plenty of time to accomplish the simple task of setting up the HF and then VHF antennas. However we had not taken into account Foxlease’s latest residents – two Kuni Kuni pigs, imported from New Zealand to help eat the brambles. Now it wasn’t the pigs themselves that presented a problem, more the location of their electrified fence holding pen, almost directly under one of the rope bearing trees. So a democratic vote was held and everyone (except Brian, G0UKB) decided that Brian, G0UKB should go and look after that end of the antenna. The fact that the tree was also in one of the muddiest parts of Foxlease merely added to the fun and potential intensity of the electric shock.

So up went the G5RV and very impressive it looked, probably 45’-50’ high in the middle (even allowing for catenary sag made worse by the weight of the ladder line/coax feeder). A length of coax far longer than was absolutely necessary was attached and brought into the Kenwood TS-850 to tune. Only it didn’t! Down came the G5RV and it was soon apparent that the SO-239 at the end of the ladder line was hanging on by one connection. There was only one course of action – shout rude words into the air! Have you ever tried soldering a large lump of metal (for example, the body of an SO-239) using a gas soldering iron on a chilly February afternoon? Don’t bother – it can’t be done. More rude words. Plan B – a piece of chocolate (terminal) block to connect the ladder line and coax directly, protect the joint with bicycle inner tube and seal as best as possible. Voilà – a working connected G5RV!

So back inside, connect to the TS-850 and hit the tune button. Banshees wail! The TS-850 has developed a fault with its ATU. It’s M0ACL’s rig and storing it in the cold loft over winter has caused some mechanical problem with its auto ATU which causes it to scream whenever it tunes.

Not to worry – we will use the back-up rig (a Yaesu FT-857) which has both HF and VHF, so a good general purpose rig. Of course it doesn’t have a built-in ATU, but the LDG Z100 tuner was purchased specially to accompany it. So attach the power lead to the LDG Z100, no, not that power lead, the other one, the one that fits. Don’t you just love those little barrel power plugs – they all look exactly the same but come in slightly different sizes – and we have them all except the size that fits an LDG Z100 automatic antenna tuner. In his rush Brian, G0UKB picked up the wrong lead (note, that in all such cases it is always Brian, G0UKB’s fault, except that he blames everyone else). The third opportunity in less than an hour for an expulsion of rude words before the 40 mile round trip back to Chandlers Ford to pick up a tiny power cable.

Time passes – Brian returns, the sun is setting, where did that afternoon go? So attach the antenna...
to the now powered ATU and thence to the FT-857 and press the tune button. Whirr, whirr, click, click – one tuned antenna – great celebrations all round. But why are the bands so dead? They were louder on the TS-850 surely, even with an untuned antenna. Antenna straight into the back of the TS-850 confirms this – the FT-857 is a deaf as a post! “Ah!” says Brian, “I remember reading that if you are using the FT-857 for portable work and it gets a voltage spike or ‘brown-out’ its EEPROM can get overwritten and the EEPROM contains all the values that determine its HF RF gain – this is a well documented problem on the Internet – all we need is the original values that were in the EEPROM and it's straightforward to restore them and return the rig to good HF RX performance”. Fortunately I had the foresight to write these values down and store them safely in the very home I've just returned from! The rude words were, of course, expunged from the last sentence before committing to print! So plan C – use the TS-850 with its internal ATU turned off and with the LDG Z100 performing that function.

At last a working HF system. A quick trawl round the bands and Paul EA7GGU in Malaga confirmed that our TX was working too. Off to tea and an hour later just test the set-up once again and put C6AMM, in the Bahamas, into the log.

So that was Friday – the weekend proper had yet to start. Actually after that it was all anti-climax. Of course we contacted several Guide stations in the UK and beyond and of course it was nice to contact the Chief Commissioner for Wales. Gilwell Park is also nice to work on Thinking Day, as are the other regional Guiding Centres (Netherurd near Edinburgh and Broneirion in mid Wales). The weekend was for the girls, and they certainly enjoyed themselves, both the ones in our shack and the ones we spoke to at the other sites.

Oh, and just in case anyone was wondering whether there was any time to work DX – the log includes several Ws, a 9K from Kuwait City, a 7X from Algiers, a VO from Newfoundland and the usual smattering of European and Russian stations.

So close to being a disaster.

Brian G0UKB

THE TALE OF EDDY CURRENT

This is the story of Eddy Current (from Ampton Court) who was arrested for the shocking crimes of the induction of Milli Volt, an 18 year old coil, and, for the theft of her joules. "I couldn't resistor" he told Judge Henry Coney (son of Ma Coney).

"You've already been charged for being a receiver. You have some dubious connections and you seem to be doing time-constantly. You are a silicon man. This second offence has diode consequences because you didn't meter in the normal way" said Judge Henry. Then he gave him electron morals "you must keep your energy level and not get excited".

He told the jury "I am positive that I've never met a more re-volting person, but don't let that ampere your judgement of therMistor Current". He said to Eddy "I'm solenoid, I re fuse to be light on you. I'll give you a sentence that Hertz to make you rectify your current way of life. Watt power I have!"

Eddy was lead without resistance through a battery of press people across a Hall effect and clamped in ions in a dry cell (with only one electrolyte) to accumulate a couple of thoughts without torquing to anyone.

His cell-mate was a chap called Mike Rophone, a positively live wire who was in for a salt and battery. Eddy cabled his girlfriend Cath Ode but he never received anode in reply.

A while before he was to be discharged he chipped the wail to create a tunnel effect and while Mike was diffracting the warders he escaped through a grid and jumped into an alpha sports car with Webber carburettors, and beta hasty retreat. He later switched to a high capacity mega cycle and raced ohm via a short circuit over Wheatstone Bridge where he was run to earth in a magnetic field. He later married Milli Volt and they had lots of small currents.