



Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club

Annual Report

2016 / 2017



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GB1BWM *Bursledon Windmill*



Bursledon Windmill looking spectacular in the May sunshine for - **Mills-on-the-Air 2016**

Equipment used:

A Yaesu FT-840 transceiver feeding an MFJ-948 tuner to a half-sized G5RV antenna held aloft by two ex-military 40ft push-up masts. There was a 2mtr collinear on top of one of the masts driven by a Yaesu FT-897D. A total of about 120 QSOs were made during the activation, most of which were on 40mtrs SSB. Conditions on 40mtrs varied during the earlier parts of both days and the skip was such that only the stations in the very far north of Scotland, Ireland and the near continent were workable. As the day went on conditions improved and inter-G communications became quite good.

At one point we all became very excited to hear a station from Thailand (HS0ZHO) on 40mtrs SSB coming in at S9, telling us he was working us from Phuket Island. It was only when we pressed him for more details that he admitted he was working remotely from his German home near Dortmund. All was now explained!

Ray G3HRH operated on 2mtrs SSB using his /P setup which consists of a Yaesu FT-726 transceiver feeding a BNOS brick power amplifier, all of which can be powered from 12 volt leisure batteries. His antenna was a 7 element Yagi at 20ft. Ray made 8 QSOs on what was otherwise a quiet band.

Thanks go to our hosts at Bursledon Windmill who have asked us to come back next year. For information about the Bursledon Windmill please visit their excellent web site at – <https://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/bursledon-windmill>

My grateful thanks to members of the *Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club* for their help over the weekend.

Colin G4GBP

Minutes of the Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club AGM held at the Village Hall, Otterbourne on Friday 8th April 2016

The Annual General Meeting opened at 20.00 after the distribution of the Annual Report.

1. Apologies

22 Members were present, as noted in the Attendance Register.

Apologies for absence had been received from Brian Jones G0UKB, Liz Jones M0ACL, Peter Thurlow G4YUP.

Visitors: Steven Preston 2E0BHY and Ken Hastie G4DKH.

Our Chairman Paul Garland G6MCX took the Chair.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 27th March 2015

These Minutes were agreed by the members as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by Vic Bryant G3NVB
Seconded by Peter Baxter G4EOW

Signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

5.2 Paul explained that although he hosted both the Girl Guides' and IVARC web sites free, the service provider was paid from Club funds every two years.

10. Thumbnails of the new Committee would be shown on our web site shortly.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was submitted as part of the Annual Report. Paul G6MCX thanked

- The Committee for all their support.
- Ted G0BHK for putting together the excellent Annual Report and for seeing to its production.
- Quintin M1ENU for working as Secretary for something like 10 years. He was now standing down from the Committee.

- Peter G4YUP's 2m net on Fridays that had been so well supported, and not just by members.

He reported that the future of the Club is being addressed and suggestions have come in from the Forums on directions we should take. The new Committee will explore these.

Proposed by Geoff Morgan G3ROG
Seconded by Graham King G3XSD

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was submitted as part of the Annual Report. After explaining each of the entries for both income and expenditure, Ted G0BHK highlighted that the Club showed a profit of £82 for the year.

Subscription income was down, and so was raffle income, but donations were up. The sales figures had been divided into the various auctions and other sales, and brought in £343 in total. The membership had supported the tea/coffee provision well.

Our main expense is the rent, and this had covered 21 meetings and one further in the local church hall. Insurance cover stayed much the same.

All the Field Days have made a profit.

Ted thanked

- Paul G6MCX for the provision of tea/coffee etc. from his own pocket.
- The independent financial examiners for an efficient job.

Ted has been responsible for putting together the Annual Report for many years. This year was the first for some time that we have had to pay for its printing at a cost of £100, a decision taken by the Committee. Discussion ensued on the best way forward. The options investigated by Ted were voted on by a show of hands, and resulted in: All-colour 6, Black & White only 1, Web page only 8, Covers only coloured 2. The consensus was that we should seek sponsors to continue with the

excellent colour edition, but use the web page option as a fall-back position.

Ted made a plea for more raffles to be undertaken, say 1 a month, as they boost funds significantly.

Proposed by Quintin Gee M1ENU
Seconded by Colin North G4GBP

5.1 Membership subscriptions for 2016/17

No change in Membership subscription was proposed this year

Proposed by Ray Hills G3HRH
Seconded by Alan Badcock G8IPQ

Approved unanimously.

Annual Subscriptions are now due and Ted would be happy to accept cash, cheque, or bank transfer.

5.2 Sponsorships in 2016

The Treasurer proposed that we continue our £18 subscription to the Chiltern DX Club, CDXC. It was noted that we could apply to them for a speaker or video of expeditions.

The Treasurer also proposed that we continue to support registration of the Girl Guides' web site (£23.99 every other year). This accounting value appears every year, since we pay for the IVARC website alternate years as well.

Proposed by Colin North G4GBP
Seconded by Graham King G3XSD

Approved unanimously.

6. Membership Report

Ted G0BHK stated that in the past year we had lost nine members, but had gained four new members, so the total stood at 29. Two of the lost had been Silent Keys.

A further two potential members were visiting tonight.

7. Field Events Report

No separate report was submitted for this, but a section of the Secretary's Report covered the items in general. Some results were as follows.

National Field Day: 554 QSO's scoring 1775 points in the Restricted section giving us 15th place.

VHF/UHF Field Day: runners up as we narrowly missed out on overall 1st place to Cambridge & DARC; 1st in 144MHz with 6 lost contacts; 2nd in 432MHz with 8 lost contacts; 2nd in 23cm with 2 lost contacts.

SSB Field Day Restricted section; we came 8th overall with 485 QSO's amounting to 2084 raw points with 84 multipliers giving us a total of 175,056 points.

Thanks to Vic G3NVB for providing refreshments to all participants and their acolytes.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was submitted as part of the Annual Report, listing all the events that had been undertaken

We lost the Horndean Quiz for the first time in seven years. The trophy had been returned to the Horndean ARC.

Omitted from the report was an Arduino Course run by Brian G0UKB for 6 people in February.

Proposed by Paul Wilton M1CNK
Seconded by Ted Stiles G0BHK

9. Election of President

Vic Bryant G3NVB was nominated by Paul Garland G6MCX and Seconded by Graham King G3XSD.

Approved unanimously.

10. Election of the Committee for 2016/2017

The President chaired the meeting. He began by thanking Quintin M1ENU for his sterling

work for the last decade. He also applauded Ted for travelling the long distance (Rustington near Littlehampton) from where he attends our meetings.

The following made themselves available for the Committee:

Paul Garland	G6MCX
Brian Jones	G0UKB
Duncan Keith	G3RQF
Ted Stiles	G0BHK
Ray Holmes	2E0DHG
Sean Quinn	M0MMR

Proposed by Mike William G0WIL
Seconded by Paul Wilton M1CNK

Approved unanimously.

With the meeting's approval, Paul G6MCX assumed the chair.

11. Any Other BUSINESS as notified to the Secretary

11.1 Presentation of Awards

1. Clubman of the Year trophy was awarded to Ray Hills G3HRH, together with a £15 Amazon voucher.



Ray has been very active in contests and special events and has actively encouraged members to participate in the various RSGB Field Days. He acts as quartermaster and stores much of the Club equipment, often volunteering his services to move our trailer mast and associated gear.

2. Newcomer of the Year trophy was awarded to Sean Quinn M0MMR, together with a £15 Amazon voucher.



3. The DX Ladder trophy, below, was won by Peter Baxter G4EOW, together with a £15 Amazon voucher.



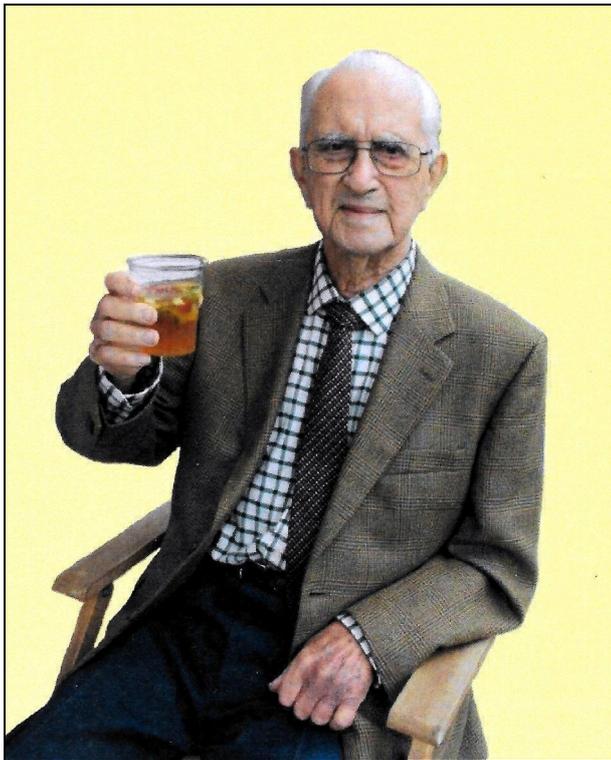
4. The Treasure Hunt trophy was won by Ted Stiles G0BHK.

11.2 Appointment of Financial Examiners for 2016/2017

Independent financial examiners were agreed as Graham King G3XSD (second year) and Ray Hills G3HRH.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:10.

Larry Dale G2DSY becomes a Silent Key



I was very sorry to report the death of Larry G2DSY, who passed away peacefully on 30th December 2016 at a Romsey care home. Larry was a past President of IVARC, and had been actively involved with Amateur Radio since his school days when he was a member of Scarborough Short Wave Club.

He first applied for an 'Artificial Aerial' licence in 1937 and was issued with the callsign '2DSY.'

He studied as an 'Aircraft Apprentice' at RAF Cosford 1938-40. He had hoped to get into Signals / Communications, but in 1940 the RAF desperately wanted Mechanical Engineers. On completing his training he was assigned to '5 Bomber Command' and served at various bases in Lincolnshire. It was a hazardous life for groundcrew and he lost a number of his pals as a result of dropped bombs and aircraft collisions. One of the squadrons he served was 617, the Dam Busters.

In 1945 Larry was sent out to India, but following the Japanese surrender he was sent to Ceylon where he worked on Sunderland Flying Boats.

Whilst in Ceylon Larry was able to resume his amateur radio activities and was able to operate as VS7DR.

Larry returned to UK mid 1948, but he and his wife Anna had a young family, and he did not renew his UK licence until about 1960. His original '2DSY' callsign was then prefixed with a 'G' to become G2DSY.

Larry lived to the grand age of **95 years**. A few months before his death he was delighted when he became a **great great grandfather**.

IVARC Membership 2015 / 2016

Callsign	Name	Surname
2E0BHY	Steve	Preston
2E0DHG	Raymond	Holmes
2E0DIA	Richard	Babb
2E0HAI	Will	Ettle
G0BHK	Ted	Stiles
G0UKB	Brian	Jones
G0WIL	Mike	Williams
G2DSY	Lawrence	Dale
G3HRH	Ray	Hills
G3NKR	Mike	Rowlands
G3NVB	Vic	Bryant
G3OGY	Stan	Andrews
G3OTK	Richard	Harris
G3ROG	Geoff	Morgan
G3RQF	Duncan	Keith
G3XSD	Graham	King
G4DKH	Ken	Hastie
G4EOW	Peter	Baxter
G4GBP	Colin	North
G4JNT	Andy	Talbot
G4MZU	Tony	Harrison
G4YUP	Peter	Thurlow
G6MCX	Paul	Garland
G8IPQ	Alan	Badcock
G8TEC	Geoff	Cook
M0ACL	Liz	Jones
M0IKT	Dave	Capstick
M0MMR	Sean	Quinn
M0XGT	Glyn	Thomas
M1CNK	Paul	Wilton
M1ENU	Quintin	Gee

31 Members

Chairman's Report 2016 / 17

This year has been difficult at times with strong views being aired about the Club's direction and what we should have in the way of equipment. We seem to have ridden the storm quite well and the members have settled down.

As in previous years, we entered the 3 main RSGB Field Days. The SSB field day was dogged with inclement weather, but the other two were blessed with brilliant sunshine. All those who attended enjoyed themselves and hopefully the members who organised each event will submit a report.



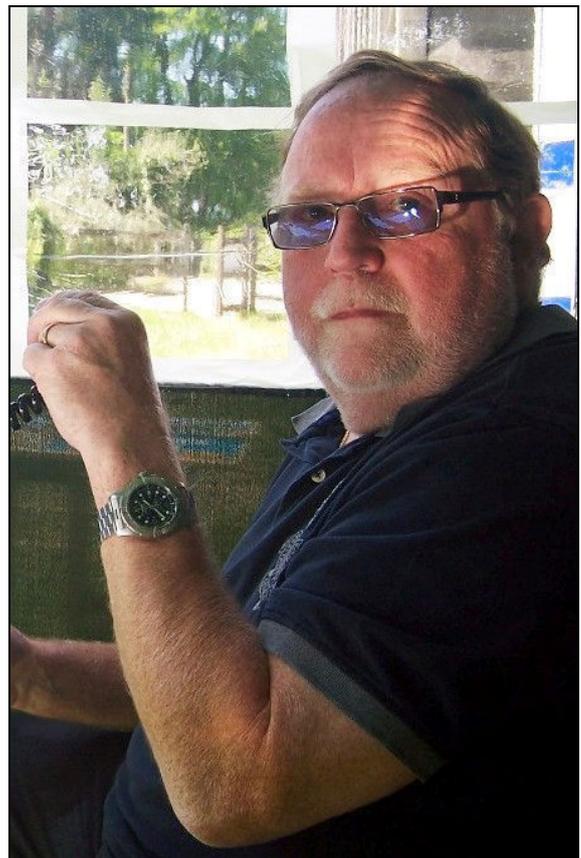
This year saw us purchase a Kenwood TS-590 to add to the equipment we use for field days etc. The radio was purchased after the Kenwood 570 let us down on CW field day.



Chairman, Paul, G6MCX receiving the Clubs TS 590 from Tony

The Club remains in a reasonable position as regards members, we would like more, but like all clubs these are quiet times for Amateur Radio. This club has some very knowledgeable members and over the year several have given very good presentations to the members, I thank you all for your time organising those presentations.

Colin North G4GBP, organised a special event 'Mills on the Air' station at Bursledon, and later in the year a 'Jamboree on the Air' event for Hampshire Scouts at their Winter Camp. A number of IVARC members gave up their weekends to help Colin set up and man the stations. The JOTA event, in particular, was well supported; special thanks go to Will, Brian & Liz for their demonstrations. Both events were well supported by club members popping in for a few hours.



This year I am stepping down from being Chairman; I will take up the roll of Secretary if nobody else comes forward. So that means we need someone to step up to the mark and volunteer their services and take on the Chairman's role. It's not a hard job, but we must have a Chairman, as well as Secretary & Treasurer, for the Club to function.

Thank you all for the support you have given me over the 3 years I've held the Chairmanship.

Here's to a new future for this great club

73 Paul G6MCX

Secretary's Report 2016/17

The Club has held 22 meetings over the last year, including 10 talks, 8 Members Forums (including one at an alternative venue), the AGM, the Auction, the Junk Sale and the traditional Christmas Social. The following is a summary of the year's meetings.

8 April 2016:
Annual General Meeting

22 April 2016:
Collapse of the Emley Moor mast by Ray G3HRH. A fascinating insight into the design, construction and failure of the Emley Moor mast, witnessed by a young G3HRH in 1969. Ray shared some of his vast knowledge of not only the mast itself, but also the antenna arrays and various aspects of the beginnings of independent television and indeed the birth of colour TV in the UK.



13 May 2016:
Members' Forum:
Various discussions, including the D-Star repeater was up and running, but with adjacent channel interference and over deviation. Also there were plans put forward for mini presentations throughout the year.

27 May 2016:
Third method SSB generation by Vic G3NVB. It was back to the classroom for some of us to relearn all about the traditional methods of pruning an AM signal so we could pump the maximum power allowed by our licence into the air. Vic, with his usual passion for everything radio related, gave an excellent and informative presentation that was enjoyed by all. His challenge at the end for

the younger members to use an Arduino or something to find a way to do it simply in software. This led to many discussions, experiments and subsequent talks and presentations by the young and obviously very talented and knowledgeable members who have joined the Club in the last few years.

10 June 2016:
Members' Forum:
Planning for the RSGB National Field Day and Otterbourne Jalopy.

24 June 2016:
Digital Communications and Software Virtualisation by Will 2E0HAI. A very visual presentation with live signals, the underlying mathematics and bespoke software written by Will left us in no doubt where the future of amateur radio lies. I have to admit that I had to dust off my old copy of "Engineering Mathematics" by VB Stroud when I got home to brush up on Fourier Analysis to grasp the finer points of the presentation and I doubt that I was alone.

8 July 2016:
Members' Forum:
Options for a new radio, following the problems encountered on previous field day events.

22 July 2016:
Annual Club Junk Sale.

12 August 2016:
Third method SSB, experiments with the Weaver method by Glyn M0XGT. Following on from the challenge set by Vic G3NVB and the excellent presentation by Will 2E0HAI, we were treated to a very practical demonstration of how I and Q signals are used to modulate and demodulate all of the traditional and modern communication schemes.

26 August 2016:
Members' Forum:
Planning for future events – Churches on the Air, Railways on the Air, JOTA and SSB Field Day.

9 September 2016:
Members' Forum:
Post contest analysis of the SSB Field Day with 400+ contacts and 100K+ points. Final planning for future events

23 September 2016:

How to build a TV transmitter by Ray G3HRH.

A detailed presentation on how ITV got into colour TV and UHF. Ray discussed the problems and solutions of working with travelling wave tube (TWT) and klystron devices.

14 October 2016:

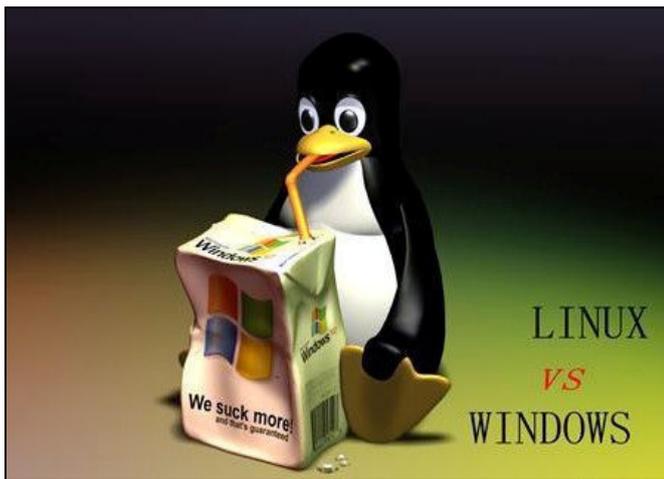
Ordnance Survey into the 21st century by Dave M0IKT.

Dave gave us an insight into how the Ordnance Survey are using GPS, drones and modern mapping technologies to produce printed and electronic maps in the 21st century. He also discussed access to OS Opendata and OS Openspace and the advantages of using open source information.

28 October 2016:

System Recovery using Linux by Brian G0UKB.

When Windows really screws up you need Linux to drag you out of the ditch like a trusty Land Rover with a strong steel rope.



11 November 2016:

Members' Forum:

Planning for the Club Auction.

25 November 2016:

Annual Club Auction.



13 January 2017:

Members' Forum:

The hall was not available so the meeting was held at an alternative venue.

27 January 2017:

Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) by Andy G4JNT.

A great discussion with live demonstration of WSPR and WSJTX software by Andy left us speechless.

10 February 2017:

Members' Forum.

Discussions included planning future club events.

24 February 2017:

A Home Made CW Transceiver by Richard G3OTK.

Proving that the home brew aspect of amateur radio is alive and kicking, Richard gave us a presentation on his home made CW transceiver.

10 March 2017:

Contesting from VY2ZM on Prince Edward Island by Paul G6MCX.

If you ever wondered what an amateur radio station looks like, given hundreds of acres of fields by the sea with no neighbours and limitless cash, this is it.

Events:

4 & 5 June 2016:

RSGB National Field Day.

2 & 3 July 2016:

VHF Field Day.

30 & 31 July 2016:

Islands on the Air (IOTA)

3 & 4 September 2016:

SSB Field Day

7, 8 & 9 October 2016:

RSGB Convention

9 Dec 2016:

Club Christmas Social

11 & 12 March 2017:

RSGB Commonwealth Contest (BERU)

Sean Quinn M0MMR
Secretary

Contesting with N1MM: getting it working

Two case studies: TS-590 and G4ZLP interfaces

by
Graham King G3XSD

1. Introduction

A number of IVARC members have experienced issues when commissioning N1MM with the TS-590S(G) and/or with one of a number of G4ZLP CW/Digimode boxes and a different transceiver. Clearly there are many combinations of transceivers and boxes but these two examples involve hints and tips that are relevant to the undiscussed options, thus this paper may remain useful.

Both the 590 and some of the ZLP interfaces can be non-trivial. I offer here a series of tips and checks that can be helpful. I assume in this paper that the PC used runs Windows. There are a range of other tips for those running Linux and trying, for example, to install the full functionality of CQRLog, but these will be the subject of a separate paper.

N1MM is a complex and feature rich contest logger. Because of this, setting up is best done by proceeding step by step so that you can have confidence in each component as you progress toward a fully functioning rig. The philosophy will be to use other programs as tools in order to get that confidence. A number of programs have an element of automation in the way that they explore the environment of the PC and rig/interface and where this is so they will be used to advantage.

1.1 Prerequisites TS-590

Firstly download Kenwood software:

- (1) CP210x serial port driver (Virtual Com Port driver)
- (2) ARCP-590 or 590G (for ts-590SG PC control program)
- (3) FTDI drivers from <http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/VCP.htm>

Why, you ask, do I need the FTDI drivers? Although the 590 does possess an integral memory keyer and both paddle and straight key inputs, it DOES NOT have any means of allowing a PC to key morse. If you only wish to use N1MM for digimode contests you do not need the FTDI drivers, but otherwise you will need a keyer such as a Winkeyer OR a G4ZLP CW keyer. I shall assume the use of a ZLP keyer so, although you can proceed to the 'first job' below, you may eventually need to accommodate a. from 1.2 below. If you want to contest in all modes install (1), (2) AND (3) above.

The first job is to get confidence that the 590 is fully controllable BEFORE attempting to control it with N1MM. When you have a working 590 mimic on your PC screen you can tick this box.

1.2 Prerequisites G4ZLP box

The problem here is that there are many variants. The main options are as follows:

- a. CW Keyer
- b. Simple interface http:
- c. Interface with built in low noise soundcard (for digimodes)
- d. CAT controller
- e. All inclusive, that does all of these things!

They all have one thing in common. They all use FTDI chips for pseudo serial ports through USB
On the ZLP website you are redirected to FTDI for the drivers

<http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/VCP.htm>

- (1) Download and install the appropriate drivers free from here.
- (2) If using options d. or e. involving CAT then download and install the last free version of HRD (HamRadio Deluxe).
- (3) If using b. or c. above then download and install fldigi.
- (4) If using a. above then download and install ANY keying program that is compatible with Winkeyer.

1.3 'Must know' for either of the above

Of course, you must know the COM ports being used. The easiest way to do this is to open Windows, then click on Start/Control Panel/Device Manager. Look under 'ports'.

For TS590 you should see:

'Silicon Labs CP210x USB to UART Bridge (COM 3)' (numbers here arbitrary for illustration)

There should be another entry for the CW keyer, such as 'USB Serial Port (COM5)'

Under 'sound' you should find: 'USB Audio Codec.'

If these are there, run ARCP-590, which should find all this automatically and give you your working mimic on screen, but if it is not fully functional check under the ARCP-590 menu bar for 'Tools', then, 'Setup'. It should say comport=COM3 and give a baud rate. Check this is the same as the TS-590 menu item 62 'USB port setting'. Ensure the box 'connect automatically at start-up' is ticked. If all is well you may jump to download and install N1MM.

For a G4ZLP box type b, c, in the above list:

Here you are looking for just two things, the 'USB Serial Port COM n' and 'USB Audio Codec'. These boxes can generally PTT by detecting a tone on one of the stereo audio channels and if you are working this way you may only need the USB audio. Use the Device Manager method in 1.3 to identify the port numbers. Use fldigi to test the system using the configuration listed later.

For a G4ZLP box type e. in the above list:

Here you will need to identify **three** ports. This is best done using a tool provided on the ZLP website. Go here:

http://www.g4zlp.co.uk/unified/DigiMaster_ProThree.htm

Select the instructions tab and click on 'test' download 'Find DigiMasterPRO.zip'. Extract the exe file and run. This will tell you the three ports and identify which is PTT, keying;CAT; and data. You could jump straight to N1MM Download and install, but greater confidence could be obtained by downloading HamRadio Deluxe from:

<http://www.iw5edi.com/software/ham-radio-deluxe-5-download-links>

Downloading and installing. HRD automatically finds the port and baud rate etc. However, it can be as big a job as N1MM so I only recommend this if you want HRD anyway. It has its uses!

2.0 N1MM

2.1 Download/Install

The important fact is that this is a two stage process potentially. Firstly, go to

<http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Full+Install>

Importantly, you must download and save the full install file. Do not try to run it directly from the website. After saving you must first install, then stage two involves checking the updates. **After performing the Full Install, check the version number of the Latest Update. If that version number is different from the version number of the Full Install, proceed directly to downloading and running the Latest Update installer before using the program.**

2.2 Running and configuring the program

Assuming all has gone well you should have a desktop icon. The first time you run this you will need to supply your station info. Bear in mind there are many contest profiles, many modes for contests and so on. I have provided here the simplest options as an example in order to get the simplest working configuration. You may then adapt, adopt and modify as required, but you should be starting from a working position.

When first running N1MM it is best to create a log in the database. If you don't some things will not work. I suggest an initial CW based log even though you may not be using the mode subsequently. Choose the RSGB80CC pattern. Under 'category' choose single op., band 60m, power low, sent exchange #, your callsign should appear as 'operator'.

Now, when N1MM is run, the entry screen should be on the screen. Select the 'config ports; mode control;audio;other. Select the 'Hardware' tab.

Enter:

port	radio		
COM3*	TS-590	tick only CW/Other	* or your CAT/Data port

fill in:

speed	Parity	databits	stopbits	DTR	RTS
38400*	N	8	1 or 2?	Always on++	Always on++

* or whatever speed ++ or Handshake ? not important choose either

Radio	PTT delay	2radio protocol	footswitch	radio polling rate
nr.1	30	none	none	normal

Tick all boxes on this page except 'dig modes acc Jack radio cmd PTT' leave this blank

port	radio		
COM5*	none	tick only CW/Other	*or your keying port

fill in:

DTR,RTS as above, VFO nr 1, PTT delay as above, 2radioprotocol, footswitch as above
BEFORE leaving this set up make sure you have ticked WINKEY.

After entering this data, select the WINKEY tab

fill in:

Iambic B, Winkey PTT , Use Winkey speed pot* , sidetone freq say 550**, hang time 1.00

* if you want to adjust keying speed from the interface box control instead of the menu based option.

**any audible tone of preference may be chosen

Select the 'audio' tab

Make sure entries comply with:

1.Only use Radio 1

Radio 1 output device speakers (USB audio codec)

Ensure you tick the box for Radio 1 output device is an internal radio codec

Assuming you have a Winkeyer OR a G4ZLP keyer ticking any message button on the main display window e.g. Agn, exchange, my call, etc should result in the 590 transmitting the morse! So, make sure you are on dummy load!

If you wish to edit the macros corresponding to thee buttons simply right click any one of them to invoke the editor. The lists of macros are consecutive for 'run' and 'search and pounce'. The format of macros is:

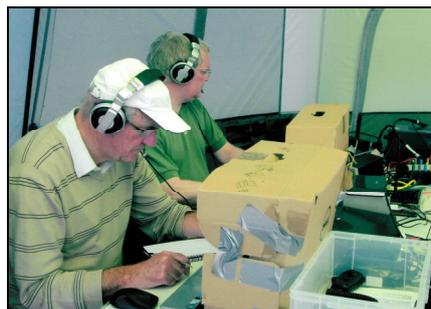
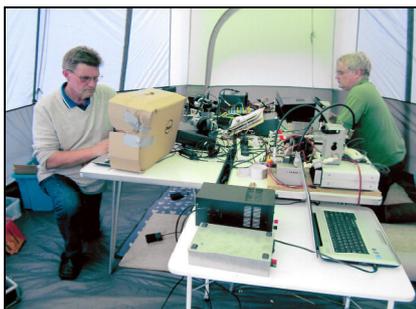
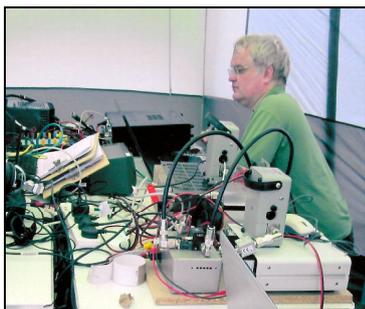
LABEL,MESSAGE

3.0 Conclusion

This is a starter just to get off the ground. There are further configurations for running digimode contests that either interface to fldigi or to MMVARI. These configurations allow waterfall windows and more to be on the same screen as your N1MM logging windows. This could be a Club 'Forum' discussion if of interest. I believe these instructions to be valid but if you find any errors please let me know as I intend to eventually post this on the club website.

Gak01/03/17

National Field Days are popular events





GB2HWC JOTA 2016 Hampshire Winter Camp

With grateful thanks to:

2E0BZY – Tom, 2E0CGH – Wendy, 2E0DHG – Ray, 2E0HAI – Will, 2E0REE – Andy, G0BHK – Ted, G0UKB – Brian, G3HRH – Ray, G3ROG – Geoff, G3YPW – Pete, M0ACL – Liz, M0KTT – Chris, M6LPI – Neal, and all the Scouting fraternity.



The aerials were erected and the co-ax feeders laid out, then all of the radio kit installed into the main room of the Pine Lodge. This time we had the use of the Itchen Valley Radio Club's trailer mast and SteppIR antenna. The trailer and mast were delivered and collected by Ray G3HRH who spent time with us on Saturday. It took a while to erect and to make sure it missed all the aerial guy lines and surrounding trees.

The equipment consisted of:

A full size G5RV for general 80/40m HF usage, an inverted V aerial for data-modes, the SteppIR for 20/15m HF and a 2m collinear for local 2m FM working.

The 2m FM transceiver was a Yaesu FT-897, the 40/80m was a Yaesu FT-840, the SteppIR was connected to the IVARC TS-590, and the data modes kit arrived in a 19" rack-mount courtesy of Will 2E0HAI. We also had several sets of Morse buzzers so the Scouts could send Morse code messages to each other and, as an experiment, we also brought along some Arduinos and Programming computers.

Before the Scouts could send 'greetings messages' over the air they had to fill in a little crib card (so they would not become tongue-tied in front of the microphone). This also required them to have knowledge of the Phonetic Alphabet so that they could spell their names. Plenty of help was needed to make sure that all this went smoothly and thanks go to Wendy 2E0CGH and Ted G0BHK.

The organisation of the JOTA camp is such that there is plenty of entertainment for all the young attendees. We were competing with 'bouncy castles', 'Lazer Quest', 'Surf-boarding' and lots of other activities. Despite this we had a lot of interest from the Scouts themselves and there were often queues waiting to send messages over the air-waves.

Will, 2E0HAI's data modes set-up had its screen projected onto a white wall so all in the room could see what was going on. He was able to communicate using PSK, RTTY and SSTV. We were all fascinated to see SSTV pictures arriving from various parts of Europe. Will also brought along a wide-band SDR so there was much examination and inspection of the whole of the RF spectrum from about 1MHz to 2GHz.



The HF rigs were mainly used for making contact with Scout Groups around the UK and near continent. The FM rig was used to make contact with local groups, such as Locks Heath, and with local amateurs when conditions on HF were not so good. Liz M0ACL also managed to speak to Cairo Scouts which was quite a neat achievement using the SteppIR antenna.

The Morse Code buzzers were amazingly popular considering that most had not heard of Morse Code before the event. They soon got the hang of it and were happily buzzing away. Some were even able to decode some letters without looking at the crib cards by the end of their session. The smiles on their faces were priceless.

The Arduino programming proved to be very popular as well. Brian G0UKB brought some examples and with two programming stations working he was kept very busy. We even found the odd expert among the Scouts, I certainly learned a thing or two!



Andy 2E0REE and Peter G3YPW kept the low band HF stations running well and many greetings messages were passed through them.

Chris M0KTT manned the 2m VHF station for most of Saturday and, with the help of Nigel M0NAF in local Bishops Waltham, did a sterling job.

Liz M0ACL spent most of Saturday using the TS-590 & SteppIR and Sunday on the 2m rig where Matt M0EBX from Haslemere received many greetings messages. Whilst Liz was working the 2m rig Geoff G3ROG was working the TS-590 and the SteppIR.



Thanks also go to those I have not mentioned by name in the above texts. We could not have done it without such a great team and I thank you all for being part of that team!



We were well looked after, fed and watered by our hosts and a good time was had by all. As is usual, the taking down of aerials and the packing up took considerably less time than setting up. We have been invited back next year and have agreed a number of improvements to enhance the Scouts experience of JOTA, possibly adding JOTI!

Colin G4GBP

The Scouts were kept busy



Preparing QSLs & Crib Sheets



Morse Code practice