

CRG AGM -

November 16th 7.30pm. Parkside Federation
Coleridge Campus, Radegund Road,
Cambridge CB1 3RJ.

Hello and welcome to this latest edition of the update. As you can see, its AGM time again, usual time; usual place. The entire committee is standing for re-election this year, so if there are any further nominations please get them to Phil Nice, G8IER, Hon Sec, as soon as possible, similarly any agenda items, or items to be listed under Any Other Business. It should be a lively session this year as the long anticipated issue of raising the subscription to £10 is going to be on the Agenda. We also hope to be joined by some of the Cambridge University Wireless Society members, as we aim to have the loan radio scheme ready to roll by then - more of that elsewhere in this issue. See you there! *Dave, M0VMC - Editor.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

CRG Technical Co-ordinator Gavin Nesbitt, M1BXF, is compiling a full set of site handbooks for the group's repeaters. Anyone with any information, circuit diagrams, schematics, etc that might be of use, please contact Gavin either on the air or by email to: gnesbitt@orange.net.

The group has purchased two Diamond V2000 multiband verticals - one to be deployed immediately on GB3PX (6m Voice), the other to be used when we (Hopefully) relocate GB3PI, PS and PX to the top of the tower at Barkway.

CRG is soon to play host to two new beacons. Although not built or maintained by the group, the 10GHz and 24GHz beacons will be sited at Madingley. More details on www.cambridgerepeaters.net as they become available.

CRG / CUWS LOAN RADIO SCHEME

As part of the Cambridgeshire Repeater Group's campaign to increase usage of the Group's repeaters, the committee has decided to implement a loan radio scheme for members of the Cambridge University Wireless Society. At a fact finding meeting in the summer Gavin, M1BXF and Neil, G4HUN met with Martin Atherton, G3ZAY and a number of CUWS members to try and discover why so few of them use our repeaters. The main reason cited was lack of equipment. Most of the students rely on the facilities offered by the CUWS shack - much of which is HF oriented, and several members find travelling to the shack (Near to the M11 at Madingley) difficult. The CRG committee has therefore voted to provide up to ten dual band handhelds - of the Yaesu VX-3 or similar variety for use by CUWS members during their time at Cambridge. The written agreement - which at the time of writing is still in draft form - states that the purpose and spirit of the scheme is to promote amateur radio activity in Cambridgeshire in general, and use of the group's repeaters and local Echolink nodes in particular. It is hoped that everything will be in place in time for a handover of equipment at the AGM, so look out for some new voices on the air after then - **and PLEASE make them feel welcome!**

- *Rob, M0ZPU - Chairman.*

Ham Radio Friedrichshafen – a beginner's guide

**It was another ill-conceived plan. But one that turned out brilliantly.
Neil, G4HUN explains.....**

Having failed miserably to get to the Leicester Show 2006 (I also failed to get to the Leicester Show 2007 – but that's another story) I put a moan out on the CRG Reflector declaring that I was going to Friedrichshafen, and asking who was coming with me. After several beers at the Black Horse in Dry Drayton we had six names down for the trip. The trouble was none of us had the time to actually organise it – except Daryl, G0ANV.

Those of you who have worked Daryl may believe him to be a laconic character who enjoys pottering around the CW end of 40 metres. Don't be fooled – this is the man who took on the might of RyanAir and won! My god did they bugger him about. This is also the man who managed to get us into a marvellous hotel (Receptionist – male, slightly effeminate – “Hmm, six men.....!”) which was within striking distance of the town centre.

For those who have never been to Ham Radio Friedrichshafen, let me paint a picture. It starts with a twenty-foot high poster in the centre of the town. Every other car you see has some sort of ham aerial stuck on it. 18,000 hams will attend over three days. The exhibition halls are modern (Rebuilt 5 years ago) bright and airy. There is every type of food and drink available, served hygienically and quickly. Take the Leicester Show – and shove it! Transport to and from the venue is efficient and timely, there are some routes through town that are reserved exclusively for buses. Every major manufacturer is there, along with all the major clubs and societies from around the globe. There was a sizeable presence from the RSGB, ARRL, The Slovenian Radio Society (Should you feel the urge to join!) and a myriad others.

Basically the show is divided into several halls. The main hall is full of the large commercial vendors including that well known German emporium Waters & Stanton. Then there are two more halls filled with secondary traders. Finally there is a third hall for the flea market. These are BIG halls. It took John, M0EAV, and I a whole day to do the commercial hall. On day two we covered one of the secondary halls and scratched the surface of the second. We didn't get to the flea market. Granted we did spend a lot of our time in the beer/lunch tents.

One of the things that made the show stand out for me was that virtually everybody has some form of callsign ID on them – be it a T shirt, cap or badge. In the beer tent I felt compelled to shake the hand of 9N7JO (Nepal) to say thank you for the QSO that we had recently had, and for his subsequent QSL card. Everybody met somebody they had worked or knew.

Something that the less faint-hearted might consider would be to drive and camp at the exhibition site. We went to the campsite on the Thursday we arrived, as that was where you could buy your advance three day tickets. The place was full of curious-looking camper vans with aerials for all bands sticking out of them. Flags and callsigns were everywhere. You could have probably worked DXCC in an afternoon!

So, there has to be a catch, right? Right. Avoid the lectures. John, M0EAV and I decided we would love to learn all about the VHF side of the 5A7A DXpedition to Libya. And we would have done if

either of us had been able to speak more than a smattering of schoolboy German. There was definitely mention of EME, and I heard the word “Yagi” more than once. Other than that it was a slideshow of an Arabic hotel filled with unwashed radio hams accompanied by a tirade of gobbledegook. We didn’t go to any other lectures.

But what do you do when the exhibition closes? We decided to go to Switzerland for dinner as it is only a short ferry ride across Lake Constance. There was much excitement at the thought of operating as HB9/ - the trouble was that by the time we arrived, Switzerland was shut. We did manage to scrounge dinner at a hotel near the station, but I can’t help feeling that we missed some of the atmosphere due to the fact that there was nobody else around. By mid evening we were back in Germany, and ensconced in a Biergarten on the lake shore. That was when three very drunk hams from southern Ireland showed up. Followed by the Jagermeister girls. Suffice to say there is now a members-only area of the Camb-Hams website where those pictures reside.

On the last day three of the six decided to visit the Zeppelin Museum (Don’t mention the war: I did once, but I think I got away with it!), whilst the other three (Names withheld to protect the guilty) sat very quietly in a lakeside café drinking tea and nursing hangovers.

By early Sunday evening we were back in Stansted having had an absolute ball. We all bought something to remind us of the trip – Bob, G1SAA had a bit of trouble with his model Zeppelin at the airport, but he managed to board the flight. Three of us had bought Morse keys, so who says that mode is dead?

There is talk of a return trip – provided we can all get false passports for next time.

The team were: G4HUN (“Fingers”); M1BXF (“Sniffer”); G0ANV (“The Organiser”); G1SAA (“Airport Bob”); M1XZG (“Blind Rob”) and M0EAV (“The man who wasn’t there”).

Next issue: An explanation of the Friedrichshafen SOTA Scheme, including detailed analysis of Winter Bonuses.

Vy 73,
Neil, G4HUN.



Left: A group of panic-stricken tourists run for their lives when they realise there is a group of radio hams loose in the Arrivals hall at Stansted.



Right: Barely sober enough to walk, our weary travellers lean on each other for support.....

10	UKSPF	23	30	CRSIEDU	22	50	KW4UG	21	70	IKTHKX	21	90	OKZJS	21
11	SV8CS	23	31	JR2KDN	22	51	G3TBC	21	71	JA9AVA	21	91	JA7KY	21
12	RX0AE	23	32	JH4ADV	22	52	UX1UA	21	72	JH6WJ	21	92	JF1PK	21

* Order takes into consideration how soon 3B7C is worked on each band slot! The red number is the total number of band slots!

Please enter your callsign to find a qso with 3B7C

Search Function now back to Full speed!

Search applied by M. Nicolucci (3B4W/HGDDV/W/P) (c) 2007

QSOs with: **G4HUN**

[Call searched 8 times, 81,138,21,62 has made 13 searches so far]

You have worked 3B7C on 27 out of 28 band slots!

The best time to work 3B7C from [England](#) or from [CQzone 14](#)

	6m	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	80m	160m
CW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RTTY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

More leaderboards? The top 100 band/slots stations in CQ zone 14 of [England](#)

2007.8 search box so far!
NB To see who was the operator you worked, just place your mouse button over their band/mode square above.
Search returned in 0.085844993591309s

DX News - CRG member Neil Whiteside, G4HUN had a bit of luck working the 3B7C St Brandon DXpedition recently, as this screengrab from the online log shows.
(Screengrab courtesy of Adobe Photoshop)

For more information about the Cambridgeshire Repeater Group, including contact details and minutes of meetings (In PDF format) visit:
www.cambridgerepeaters.net

CRG & RSGB

Members may not be aware that since the last update the CRG has become affiliated to the RSGB. This means that individuals no longer have to be RSGB members in order to take part in RSGB events (Such as VHF NFD which we entered as a group in 2006). CRG member Neil Whiteside, G4HUN is also the RSGB DRM for Cambridgeshire, so the group has easy access to the local representative - bend his ear on air if you need to!

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Where to find us on the web

There is a host of information about the CRG and the Camb-Hams available on the internet. You might like to check out:



www.gb3pi.org.uk

The original CRG site, built and maintained by Paul Dyke G2PA. With many pages of useful information on the group's repeaters, as well as contact details, a picture archive and a library of past CRG newsletters.

www.cambridgerepeaters.net

The latest site, being developed by G2PA and M1XZG. This site will have forums, coverage maps and much more besides! There will also be an exclusive member's area where you will be able to renew your subscription online.



www.camb-hams.com

The social side of the CRG. Here you'll find general forums, dates for Pie & Pint nights, the trip to Friedrichshafen, and contest news, as well as online surveys.