

CARRIER

WAVE

JUNE

2005

**Aberdeen
Amateur
Radio
Society**

This is an introductory and experimental newsletter. The idea is to help exchange information and keep the club members informed as to what is happening within the club. The newsletter would be issued on a regular basis. Not everyone is happy to stand up and address the club members with a lecture or even a mini-talk but this does not mean that they haven't useful information to relate to the membership. Also they may wish to ask questions. This could provide a platform on which to do this.

The frequency of the newsletter would depend on the amount of information passed to the 'editor' before a certain date, say the Thursday prior to the date of issue. The most effective circulation would be achieved by issuing at a junk sale as these meetings seem to get the highest attendance. Initially it would be wise not to be too ambitious. An issue rate of between 4 and 6 newsletters per year seems reasonable. For those keen on VLF this corresponds to a frequency of 0.00000016 Hz!!!!

A very big thank you to all those who helped put the station on the air at Crathes. Any worries about the time needed to erect the tent were dispelled but there was a significant delay in putting up the antenna because the allocation of field space was adversely affected by the portable toilets located only 20 feet from our tent.

Operationally it appeared to be a success with a constant stream of stations calling us on 40 m. One interesting point was that reports received were regularly about two 's' points greater than that given. The G5RV was lying almost exactly East-West and above a substantial water table. This could have given us a fairly good take-off. Unfortunately we were not allowed to erect the 40 m horizontal loop. We did however work a station in the south of England who was using this very antenna and 5 watts and his signal was 57 so it was a slight disappointment but other sites will allow the loop antenna in the future. Also the vertical antennas on site proved successful and amazingly the stations on 20 m and 40 m did not seem to interact.

Stan, GM4BKV was good enough to take away the logs for writing up neatly

Several radio amateurs paid us a visit at Crathes, one being Gavin Tytler who was a founder member of the Society in the nineteen forties.

If you have any information about the club in its early years, photographs, documents or just interesting tales and you think that they would be of interest to the club membership in general, the committee would be pleased to hear from you.

One or two members have mentioned possible sites which could be accessed in future for field day type outings. If you know of any such site please let a committee member know and we can check its suitability for HF and/or VHF. The site at Countesswells is available at present and it is close and accessible. However it will probably be sold for housing soon and a new venue will be needed. Also it is quite unsuitable for VHF/UHF. The Cairn o' Mount site is excellent for VHF/UHF and it is the only one I know of that is good for a South and East take-off. The hill of Dudwick near Ellon is a second choice but as the MOD have a large dome on the very place where many VHF stations have been set up in the past it rules out multistation use. The Walker Park at Girdleness seems to be a good HF site and may well be used more by us in the future.

The recent survey about club interest in field days, contests and outings showed an extremely high and positive response. We are currently trying to get kits of gear listed and stored so that as little preparation of hardware is needed before any event. Two areas for improvement, identified last Sunday, are:

1. More station patch leads are needed.
2. More people need to know how the masts fit together and how they are erected.

Perhaps we can tackle both these on the "Antennas at GM3BSQ" night coming soon.

If 2 increases output then open out coils when power is off

If 1 & 2 increase output then circuit is already tuned for maximum output

TIP

Have you ever had the frustration of trying to put a nut on to a bolt in an inaccessible spot?

One solution might be to take a plastic knitting needle or similar and taper the ends differently so that one end picks up a 6BA nut and the other a 4BA nut with gentle insertion into the threaded centre hole. If you leave enough thread exposed at the other side it is possible to start threading the nut on to a bolt.

plastic knitting needle