



Carrier Wave

Aberdeen
Amateur Radio

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Club News

We start with the sad news that Bill Mitchell GM3FRI passed away on the 29th September. Bill was a long time member of the Club and had suffered significant illness in recent months.

Two big outside events took place, the International Lighthouse Weekend and SSB Field Day. GB2GNL was a great success and it proved to be an excellent dry run for the Field Day event a few weeks later. The antenna was different. An 80 m full-wave loop was supported by a single 40 feet mast. One CQ call was made on 7.103 MHz and several hours later we were still on the same frequency working through the pile-up! Thanks to the operators for their sustained efforts in coping with the never-ending steam of calls.

As the antenna tuned on all the old bands from 80 m to 10 m, it was decided to use it for SSB Field Day. The tent was pitched a little too closely to the antenna this time and this caused a puzzling RF feedback situation on 15 m.

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Coming up soon:-

- AGM
- Special Event Forest
- Construction nights start soon

The contest was hard going at the start as conditions were not at their best. Perhaps we started on the wrong band. Although 20 m appeared to be open, stations were unwilling to reply to our calls. The only problem encountered this year was with the computer logging. The computer worked perfectly but the running of the paper log in parallel with it resulted in the two systems going out of step when two sheets of logging paper stuck together. This meant that serial numbers issued were out of order for 5 QSOs. This was rectified later but the times of the QSOs were wrong by a few minutes. The points total for the 24 hours was higher than last year but we may lose some when the log is checked against the other entrants. Our log has been submitted and the adjudicator has confirmed receipt of it. If we lose a significant number of points it is probably due to inaccurate logging. We must practise this aspect of the event. The tent and antenna were erected with great speed and dismantled with even greater efficiency. Many thanks to all those who lent gear and helped to rig and derig the stations at GB0GNL and GM3BSQ/P. It has to be said that the WX was very favourable on both occasions.

At the club premises work has been done on both HF antenna systems. The multi-band vertical needed some TLC and some replacement parts had to be found/made. This is now about finished as Ian, GM8MHU came to the rescue with some paperwork and parts. Thank you to all those who have helped with the antennas.

The HF Foxhunt was a new item and Colin, GM4TVB proved to be too cunning and elusive for us using 80 m. None of the hounds managed to sniff him out. Ian, GM4GVK came close using a H/B DF loop and an FT817. A few small alterations in next year's event should bring success to some of the "hounds". A few members built some special antennas for DFing on 3.640 MHz.

**On a Lighter Note****Stan Simpson, G4ITM**

Stan, GM4BKV unearthed this amusing tale from a booklet written by the above amateur.

There's a sagging disused rhombic to the North of Khatmandu,
There's a Yagi up a pole below the town;
And all that's left of a Dixer who was known as Mad Carew
Is a wooden shack forever falling down.

It was in the mess one evening that the incident began
We were celebrating Fanshawe's RAE.
By the time it came to midnight we were blotto to a man
And someone said he'd try DXCC.

There was silence in the mess-room for a moment, maybe two
As hurriedly we downed our final tots
For the voice that made the statement was the voice of Mad
Carew
A man we knew had only fifteen watts.

He was daring, he was reckless, he was loved by one and all,
He led his small platoon through shot and shell.
He did wheelies on his skateboard at the regimental ball,
And the colonel's daughter smiled on him as well.

There's a filthy little back-street so the native fellas tell,
There's a stinking little junk shop on the right
Run by a one-eyed coolie by the name of Sid Patel,
Who charged Carew two rupees for a kite.



He flew the kite one morning on three hundred feet of string,
The antenna wire was hanging underneath;
But as he'd brought no tools he did a very foolish thing,
He tried to bare the feeder with his teeth.

There was a vivid flash of lightning and it travelled down the wire,
The antenna lead was glowing cherry red.
His dental plate exploded and his jodhpurs were on fire,
And Mad Carew was very, very dead.

There's a tiny little graveyard to the west of Khatmandu
Where regimental heroes meet their God,
There's a sobbing colonel's daughter tends the grave of Mad
Carew,
And as she weeps, she mutters, "Silly sod."

All prospective kite fliers take note!!

Snippets

If you have difficulty finding a source of less common ICs or discrete Semiconductors you could try:-

Tele-Part Economic Devices at www.telepart.co.uk

Tel. No. 01952 273130

e-mail orders@telepart.co.uk

Address Vision Aids Ltd.

PO Box 73,

Oakengates, TF2 8WR

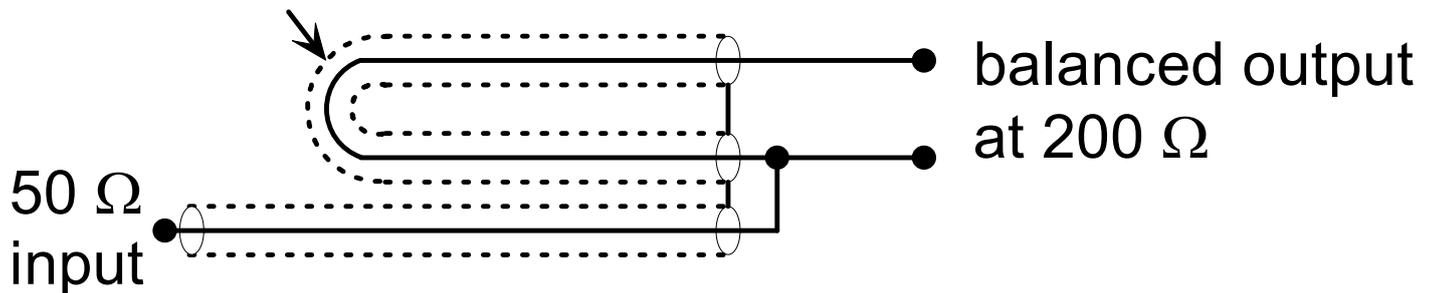
I managed to get AF amp chips for TS830S and FT757.....GM4OBD



Technical

Some of the winter constructors may be building baluns of the broadband variety with ratios of 1:1 and 4:1. These are for multi-band antennas and will be constructed on ferrite cores. One way to achieve a perfect match to a balanced antenna is to use a coaxial balun. These are very easy to make and reliable. They are however band specific. I have used them from 3.5 to 800 Mhz. The diagram shows a half-wave coax balun.

half-wave loop
of 93 Ω coax



Calculate the length of a half wave at the operating frequency and then multiply this value by 0.84 which is the velocity factor of the RG62A/U cable (93 ohm). This is an ideal system at VHF and above as the loop is only a couple of metres or less in length.

Next time a simple addition to the above will allow the balanced output to be changed in impedance from 200 Ω to any value from zero to many thousands of ohms. This allows the maker to take advantage of the full-wave dipole which has a rather large impedance at the feedpoint.

.....GM4OBD

**For Sale****Ian Munro GM4GVK (01224 316787)**

- Pair of Magnum–K Speakers 25 Hz to 20 kHz, 3 speakers with 12” Bass unit gives excellent quality. Dimensions 15” x 24” x 11.5”
- Heathkit HW-8 QRP Rig. 80-10m approx 2W o/p. Includes mains PSU and Manual. **£100.00**
- Goldring variable speed turntable, shure 75 pick-up

Wanted

Articles for inclusion in future newsletters.

- Please submit articles for inclusion in the December issue by Thursday 30th November.

Wanted

Do you know of anyone with a Kenwood AT230 ATU or perhaps an AT180 and they would be willing to part with it for a sum. This is an ATU which is different from the existing club ATU and would fill in the gaps that are not covered by the MFJ tuner. It is effectively the big brother to the AT130 which has been used with great success along with all the loop antennas recently.

73 from GM3BSQ