



Carrier Wave

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Volume 3 Issue 3

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Club News

BUCKET MILL

The Bucket Mill outing for International Mills Weekend was a little on the wet side this year, however, we still managed to work 131 stations including 13 mills. Total registered Mills this year was only 25 so radio wise it still turned out a good event over the two days.

STOP PRESS NFD 2007.

NFD 2007 was again held this year in Countesswells Field. Unfortunately after two days of sunshine which dried out the field, Friday evening prior to the event settled in with haar, drizzle and rain which lasted most of Saturday. This thoroughly soaked the very long grass, 30cms plus long, resulting in very wet feet and trousers. Both MM0KZV and GM4TVB fell foul of the boggy track. Adam, who was kindly donating a gas heater, needed a push out. However it took a tow from Allan/GM4ZUK to extricate Colin/GM4TVB.

Crathes Cancellation

Crathes Car Rally outdoor event had to be cancelled due to lack of committed resource for antenna & tent

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Our programme of events is on the web at:-

<http://www.aars.freemove.co.uk/>

NFD 2007—the rest

This year was quite a departure from previous years with the introduction of two stations.

Restricted station GM3BSQ/P, 100watts to a 264ft doublet fed with 450 ohm ladder line. The rig was a contest ready FT1000MP donated by Stewart/GM4AFF, operating with the club laptop on SD. This was located at the Northern end of the field in Graham/GM4OBD's substantial modern tent. This station was operational for 24 hours 160M to 10M.

The QRP station (GM4RGC/P) was at the Southern end of the field in GM3WIJ's more QRP style tent. The station was donated by Allan/GM4ZUK and comprised of a K2 Elecraft rig with 100 watt module removed and a companion Elecraft ATU. Allan also provided a up-to-date dell laptop with a win-keyer interface again operating on SD. The K2 provided 10 watts as per the rules and this was fed to an Elecraft switchable 1:1/4:1 balun and onwards to GM3WIJ's 80M inverted vee doublet again fed via 450 ohm ladder line. This station operated on 80 – 10M, the K2's matching ATU loaded up the antenna seamlessly, only requiring the band switch to change bands.

The start of set up commenced at 0900 with the GM3BSQ station with tramping down of the very long grass to enable Grahams tent to get erected, Luckily we had no spectators to witness this bizarre dance!!



NFD 2007—and more

Then on to catapult a support line over a beech tree. This proved more difficult than normal with the wet branches and line. The first lead weight still adorns the tree top! Eventually success was achieved with the second “shot”. Graham’s mast supported the other end of the 264ft doublet.

After sandwiches etc on to the QRP station, which was set up a bit quicker with only one mast to support the antenna. We were up and running with two generators, one for BSQ and the other for RGC, although the K2 was powered by a float charged battery. The generator was primarily used for lighting and providing power for the laptop!

Band conditions unfortunately were poor on the higher frequencies, very few being logged in either station on 10M. However at 1500 UTC, whatever the conditions, battle commenced.

Stewart started off the fun on BSQ, setting an example of how to operate a serious contest event.

GM3WIJ started off the contest at 1515utc in the QRP tent at a slower rate, finding it hard going with 10 watts. However eventually managing to get a reasonable “run” going. One solid QSO with an IZ portable was lost forever when WIJ embarrassingly hit the minus key at the wrong moment. Dispiacere vecchio!!!!

NFD 2007—and more

GM4RGC/P was stood down at night and recommenced Sunday morning finishing early in Sunday afternoon which fulfilled the 12hours allotted.

BSQ/P with Stewart at the helm finished with a flourish getting the score over 700 QSO's

Although the laptops have not been fully down loaded and analyzed, the provisional number of QSO,s were 704 in BSQ/P and 267 in RGC/P.

Operators were GM4AFF, GM4ZUK, GM4OBD, GM4TVB, 2M0RND, MM0DFZ & GM3WIJ.

Many thanks to all the club members both operators and helpers who came along to rig/de-rig the two stations, this greatly assisted the event especially in the fast de-rig and providing a morale boost at the end. A special thanks to Allan's kit which also included two generators.

July 22nd will be the next contest event with QRP NFD at Walker Park.....Must do some practice on Morse Runner before then!!!!

Norman GM3WIJ



FOX HUNT 2007.

After rather luckily winning the VHF Fox Hunt in 2006, I became the Fox for 2007. A rather unusual role for me, a dyed in the wool CW H/F operator.

After announcing my operating frequency 145.450 MHz and FM mode at the club, I duly departed for my lair. I took my FT817 with a whip vertical (mag mount) on the roof of the estate. In addition I took a rather ancient CW practice oscillator which I could modulate the RF by acoustic coupling via the speaker to the 817 microphone. I thought that some long keyed tones would help those with direction finding antennas.

After some initial calls I received two reports from non competing stations, 2M0FYG John in Aberdeen City and MM3PDM/Peter who received me at reasonable signal strength from Stirling Hill near Boddam.

To aid the hunters I gave a few clues to my location.

First mobile to find me was GM8CBQ/M, Norman in Graham/GM4OBD's car with Ron/BQY in the back seat. Graham had his nicely made full wave diamond loop for 145Mhz for D/Fing, this gave this team some advantage, Graham thought an attenuator would have assisted when closing the final location.

Second on scene was MM0MGM/M Matt.

Third was Allan/GM4ZUK/M with Ian/MM0CVH/M in the passenger's seat.

Fourth was GM8MHU/M Ian and Adam MM0KZV on the helm.

Ian/GM4GVK/M was also taking part, but failed to find me before we called it a night at 2100 local. He was using a home brew dipole built that afternoon!

Then back to the club.....so this years winner is GM8CBQ/M & team.

Location was Black Top Forestry commission car park near Countesswells Farm.

Good Hunting in 2008. Now to build a 50 ohm stepped attenuator.

Norman....GM3WIJ

Snippets

Following on from Norman's comments about poor band conditions I have noted a high level of solar activity from the 29th of May to 6th of June with 5C & 8M class flares erupting from sunspots 958 & 960 as they track across the visible side of the sun. The most energetic event, M8.9 peaked at 15:13UTC on the 4th of June. Auroral activity, although raised at 6-7 has not been as energetic as expected in northern skies. Southern skies fared much better with 9-10 on most days. Forecasts indicates more M class flares before sunspot 960 disappears around the sun's eastern limb.

George... GM0VGI

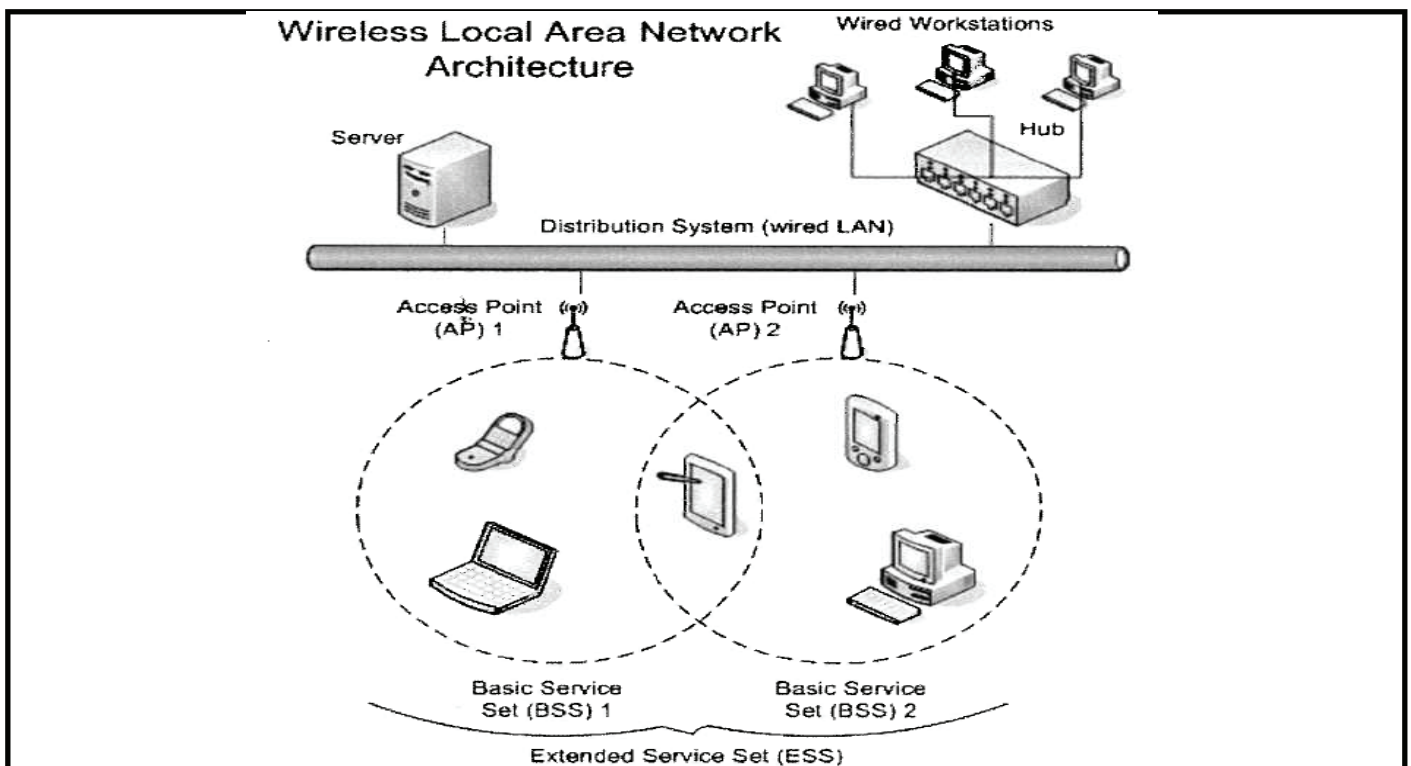
Technical

Wireless LAN's

A Wireless LAN uses the same Ethernet protocol as conventional (wired) LANs but communication Layer 1 is achieved without wires.

WLAN's are becoming increasingly popular as more people have laptop PC's with wireless connectivity and other devices such as PDA's (Personal Digital Assistants).

People can often connect wirelessly to their building networks. This may result in a hybrid network – wireless connectivity between individual devices and a Wireless Access Point (WAP), with the WAP providing access into a cabled LAN as shown below.



**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

For Sale George Anderson, GM0VGI (01224) 702804

- HP 620LX Color Palmtop PC with Microsoft Windows CE2.0. Including docking station, modem phone connector. Cable or IR connection to main PC.

Wanted Articles for inclusion in future newsletters.

- Please submit articles for inclusion in the August issue by Thursday 28th of July

73 from GM3BSQ

Aberdeen Amateur Radio SocietyClub Calls **GM3BSQ** & **GS3BSQ**