



# Carrier Wave

Carrier Wave  
Volume 3 Issue 4

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August 2007

## Club News

### RSGB Low Power Contest 2007, 22 July

This years CW QRP contest started amid a damp miserable morning with low mist interspersed with wetting showers. Walker Park was again host with Norman MacKenzie's tent & Graham Sangster's antenna, a 41m centre fed doublet with 450 ladder line duly erected. Graham also provided the generator which powered the light & the laptop. The rig was powered by large 12v battery supplied by Norman. Thanks to all the helpers who turned up at 08:15 local time with all equipment ready to start with a little time to spare.

Operating times were on two three hour sessions, 09:00z - 14:00z and 13:00z - 16:00z. on the 80m and 40m bands. No pile up, just a fairly steady trickle of contacts between often quiet periods. We used the maximum antenna height of 11 meters but only required one support & the maximum power of 10 Watts.

Thanks to Allan Duncan GM4ZUK for the loan of his Elecraft K2, Matching ATU, Winkey & Winkey software. Using Super Duper logging programme, this years event hardly saw the paddle key used. All CQ calls & reports were computer generated. All entries logged in SD although we still kept a paper log just in case of computer failure.

Operators for GM3BSQ/P were 2M0RND GM3WIJ GM4OBD and GM4TVB who managed to make 19 contacts on 80m, 220 points & 54 contacts on 40m, 550 points.

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Visit the AARS  
on line at

[http://  
www.radioclubs.  
net/aars/](http://www.radioclubs.net/aars/)

## More Club News

### Portable evening on the Air

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June meeting was detailed as a mobile operations night.

However, as late as Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>, we had, by design, no firm structure for this event. Just a few random ideas for an outdoor event instead of being restricted to the club HQ for an On the Air evening. Ideas ranged from VHF portable with one station at Walker Park to various stations VHF or HF dotted around town to setting up a portable station outside the HQ all of which would be weather dependant.

On the night & not until 19:15, it was agreed that an HF portable, multi-station, multi-location format was best suited to the conditions. Stations were set up at Hazelhead, Countesswells Road RGC Field and Westburn Park and 14.250MHz USB voice being the nominated frequency & mode.

First on the air was Colin GM4TVB/P & imagine, to everyone's surprise, working a VP8 station !

Graham GM4OBD/P had a little fracas with a blown fuse which did not want to be found. Of course all the good fuses were checked first before finding the rascal hidden in the terminating DC lead connector mounting.

Ian GM4GVK/P at Hazelhead worked well using his usual QRP station & 5 ish watts.



## QRP IN NZ.

In planning my trip to NZ I had to bear in mind the current limitations in hand carrying equipment especially when the new rules in the UK limit you to one item of hand luggage in the aircraft cabin. I discarded the idea of taking my TS50 and PSU and opted for the smaller QRP FT817 with small switch mode PSU.

I also took a small atu, the palm iambic keyer leads and a 20M long wire. All this could fit into my cabin case although I put leads and antenna into my hold luggage.

I was therefore limited to 5watts and thus QRP. I first erected the 20M LW in Christchurch at my sister in laws house. I had to restrict it to the back garden as the front had the main AC feed to the house was draped everywhere including trees. The wires were so low I could almost jump up and touch them. The general state of mains distribution seemed pretty dire. Lamp posts had mains, lighting and phone lines hanging all over the place. pretty much like USA in the country areas. Certainly a good going force 10 would knock most of the poles & wiring down.....So it was the back garden which had the advantage of approx north facing and the antenna ran from the house to this beautiful silk tree...

On switch on the HF bands were totally quiet not dead but no activity at all. Some odd suburban electric noises but no signals were heard. However on 40M at 1845 local Eu's VKs and ZL's started to be heard. The Eu's were extremely strong most S8 and the odd one at S9. VK1 – 3 heard at good signal strength and lots of ZL's with North Island ones ZL1 and ZL2 at good strength. The skip wasn't ideal for South Island but they were still quite readable

**Norman GM3WIJ**

## Programme of Events

### September 2007

Saturday	1st September	2007 RRGB SSB Field Day 2007 (SSB) GM3BSQ/P at Walker Park
Sunday	2nd September	2007 RRGB SSB Field Day 2007 (SSB) GM3BSQ/P at Walker Park
Thursday	6th September	2007 Junk Sale
Thursday	13th September	2007 Digital Modes including WSJT, EME, Meteor Scatter, JT6M,
Thursday	20th September	2007 Equipment Check + Inventory
Thursday	27th September	2007 On the Air + Morse Practice
Thursday	4th October	2007 Junk Sale

## Programme of Events

### August 2007

Thursday 26th July	2007 On the Air
Thursday 2nd August	2007 Junk Sale
Thursday 9th August	2007 HF Fox Hunt
Thursday 16th August	2007 Printed Circuits. A Fundamental Approach. Talk by Tony GM4HTU <b>INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND</b>
Saturday 18th August	2007 GB2GNL at Girdleness Lighthouse
Sunday 19th August	<b>INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND</b> 2007 GB2GNL at Girdleness Lighthouse
Thursday 23rd August	2007 Construction + On the Air
Thursday 30th August	2007 On the Air + Morse Practice



## What can you contribute to AARS contribute in 2007?

I have only been a member of this Club for 21 months, but I have been a member of clubs for many years and I therefore feel qualified to assess our performance, attributes and achievements.

As a club, we have an exceptional mix of different professionalisms and contributions from members. This has allowed us to achieve a presence in many radio events and exposure to the wider community. Nor must we not ignore the internal development within the Club, projects of construction and developing operational strategies for outside events which are integral to our licensing conditions.

However, I perceive a future problem.

We have trained many “amateurs”, through the foundation licence and above, but we appear to see very few of these hams joining to the club.

As I look around the club meetings, one sees that many of the Club Members are of the more mature nature. I believe we must give more attention to develop youth involvement and precipitation in our hobby.

In the current P.C. environment this may have some difficult connotations, but we mature hams have, generalising, a successful record of raising children, grandchildren and beyond.

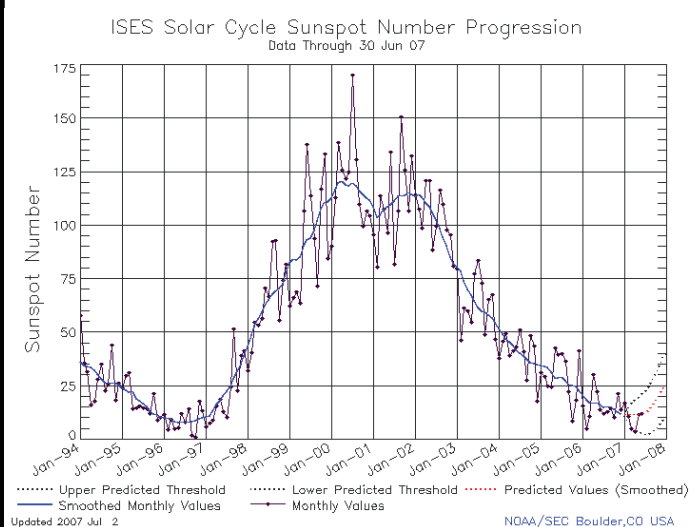
I truly believe that the ethos of amateur radio remains a concept which is worth propagating. I have no easy solutions to his problem. We know that with the proper support the youngsters of this generation can achieve as much, if not more, than we have been able to.

I believe we have a duty and a necessity, to involve the youth from our communities to take an active part in our hobby.

Our challenge in 2007 is to further our achievements in the varied activates we enjoy and to increase the participation from our newer and perhaps younger members.

**Colin, GM4TVB**

## Technical



Propagation is at best the result of an intricate labyrinth of reflective and refractive layers surrounding our terrestrial abode. Predictability uncertain but very interesting for amateur purposes. General predictions are reasonably assured using data from our nearest star which interacts in part with earth's magnetic fields to produce variable sunspots and associated solar flares both in number and intensity.

The trick seems to be predicting exactly when solar minimum will or has occurred from the daily sunspot count data. The solar cycle No23 graph insert from June 2007 indicates we are at or near solar minimum. Keep tabs on your personal experience and compare at <http://sec.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/> **GM0VGI**

## Snippets

### Amateur Satellites

#### How far can I communicate?

How far a station can expect to communicate using an amateur satellite depends on a number of factors, but it is possible to operate almost globally using amateur satellites. One benefit of using amateur satellites as a communications medium is that it is possible to predict very accurately and consistently when a QSO can take place. Because satellite communication almost always demands line of sight between the ground station and the satellite, the vagaries of propagation present in many other DX modes can be ignored

**RSGB 2007 Yearbook**

**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**

**Stan Sutherland GM4BKV  
(01224 691716)**

- Projector screen
- Epson 45 printer
- J mast, Aluminium

**Wanted**

Articles for inclusion in future newsletters.

**Wanted**

Members genuinely interested in building a USB WINKEY2 in kit format from <http://k1el.tripod.com/wk2info.html>

- Please submit articles for inclusion in the October issue by Thursday 27th October 2007.

**Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society**

Club Calls **GM3BSQ** & **GS3BSQ**