

<i>CARRIER WAVE</i>	October 2005
	Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society

We start this newsletter with some not so good news.

Stuart McNicol GM3UU is now a silent key. He passed away on the 11th August in his 99th year and will be sadly missed by many of our club members. He was an active radio amateur until very recently and he participated in many of our club activities over a period of half a century. He was very helpful to newcomers to the hobby and always a real gentleman.

A rather disappointing piece of news was the rejection of the club's application for a lottery grant. The committee spent a considerable amount of time and effort in preparing what seemed, at every stage, to be a promising application but unfortunately it was not successful. The main reason for it failing seemed to be the fact that we had far too healthy bank balance. We can however be a little more upbeat for the future as the lottery grants organisation say that this in no way affects any future application.

On a more positive note we are making progress in a number of other areas. The 40 m loop had another airing at the Walker Park for the International Lighthouse Weekend. On this occasion it was supported at three of the corners with the 6.7 m lightweight SOTA poles. Provided guys are placed at the appropriate points, the glass-fibre masts can support the loop well. An aluminium 20' mast was used at the corner with the feeder to help support the extra weight of the 93 0 coax. Quite a number of lighthouse stations were contacted including a Swedish lightship. 40 m proved a good band and on 20 m it was possible to switch between the loop and a 20m quarterwave vertical with 8 radials which gave up to two S points improvement on the more distant

Newsletter of the Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society

stations. The kite was raised on both days, on the Saturday for demonstration with no antenna and on the Sunday with an 80 m vertical. However it was too windy to leave up as the flying line had too great a tension.

Construction nights are proving very popular indeed. Fourteen people have now embarked on the 3.5 MHz CW TX project with a number of the control boards completed and tested. Start thinking about a day and time for a Club Net on 3.5795 MHz for the QRP constructors. So that these TXs don't get left to gather dust on a shack shelf some thought could be also given to practising short QSO's in CW on the Morse nights so that people can feel a little more confident at going on the air with them.

Thanks to Ian, GM8MHU for the Quiz of last month. It might be better to have the next one within a different evening as the construction needs more or less the full time span of an evening. Splitting the evening into two halves would allow a longer time to be devoted to the quiz but we would not be expecting the quiz-maker to entertain us for a whole evening.

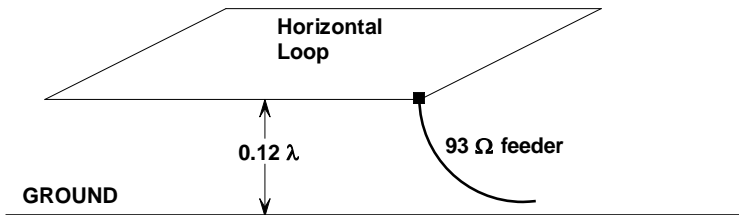
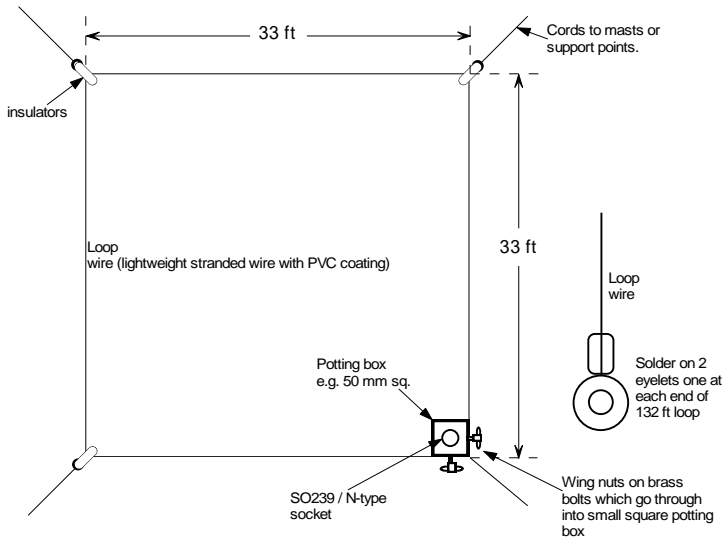
Finally, despite a failure of just about everything at some point and an unexpected attack of the craneflies, at least two for every contact made, we had an enjoyable attempt at SSB Field Day. The committee would like to express its grateful thanks to all those who helped in any way over the two days.

Snippets

1. Remember that members can borrow CDs by contacting a Committee Member and signing the Library Book. The borrowing period will be 1 week, subject to negotiation. Titles are :
 - (a) ARRL Periodicals 1997 to 2004 including :
 - (i) QST, the ARRL monthly magazine
 - (ii) QEX, the bi-monthly Experimenters, magazine
 - (iii) NCJ National Contest Journal
 - (b) QEX from 1981 to 1998 on two discs
 - (c) Sprat issues 1-100, the QRP quarterly magazine
2. We have some aids for logging and operating during contest-like conditions. Free software is available on The Net which can help you with this and if you come along on the computing evening you will be shown how to use some of this software. Remember to bring a blank floppy or CD.
3. On the programme you will see 2 short contests for clubs. These are both held in early January, on 80 m, one for CW and one for SSB. These are ideal for getting practice in some contesting. The rules will be appearing shortly in the publications and probably on the RSGB Web Site. In the past clubs put forward teams in 5 member teams. Give this some thought and be prepared to give your name to the organiser before the end of the year

Technical Corner

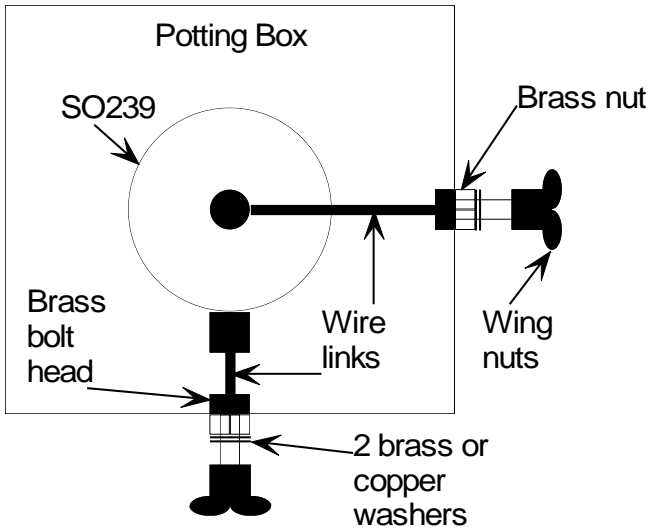
The Horizontal Loop Antenna (40 to 10m)



For 40m the height is about 5.1m. For an 80m loop it would be 10.2m. Effectively this is just a quad antenna on its back.

Feeding the antenna is done with a coax of 93 ohm impedance. The loop has been checked with the analyzer and it registers an impedance at a corner of about 100 ohms

Details of the connector box are below



The 93 ohm coax is connected to the transceiver via a standard coax to coax ATU with the standard pi tank tuner circuit.

Tuning should be good on all the old harmonically related bands and the SWR can be kept to well below 1.5:1 in most cases.

As the antenna is really just a cubical quad on its back the major lobe is vertical but quite wide and this makes it particularly effective on 40m for interGM and G working.

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. 80-1 Om approx 2W o/p. Includes mains PSU and Manual.
- Yaesu FRG7700 Gen. Cov. RX, 30 kHz to 30 MHz, SSB, FM & AM wide and narrow + 2 VHF converters 118 - 150 MHz and 140 -170 MHz. Full manual and circuit diagrams included. **£150.00**
- Goldring variable speed turntable, shure 75 pick-up

Wanted **Graham Sangster GM4OBD**

- Does anyone have A.F. optput transformers from old valve radio with the typical 33:1 turns ratio for matching the likes of the 6V6 to (3, 4 or 8) ohm, single or push-pull at a low level of 1-10 watts?

Wanted Items for inclusion in the December issue by 17/11/05

Suggestions, Comments and Feedback Corner



de _____