

Q5

North Bristol Amateur Radio Club

The Proactive Radio Club

Page Community Association
Page Road, Staple Hill
Bristol BS16 4NE

May 2024



New Event in this quarter

Meals on the hill is going ahead in the picnic area at Tog Hill thanks to our Chef, Bodger. This Free event is on a Saturday day time so you can stop all the sniggering and comments ref the adult nature that happens on an evening at this venue.

We will be cooking burgers, sausages and onions on gas rings not BBQ. Tea and coffee will be available. Please Book if you want food & bring your own Mug

At the event we will be taking part in the 6m contest, and as I know nothing about contesting, I will leave this to Mat to organise.

Mat, G7FBD has Also been working hard getting permission to use Page Park, yes, we will be there on midsummers day.

We have the usual fun page and a bit of history about radio amateur satellites.

Calendar of events has something for all members with training now taking place in room 3 once again.

At this moment in time we are working on a new event later in the year. Unfortunately, it is not a biggie, just a good one. Many of you oldies (Like Me) will remember the crash of a Bristol Britannia in Downend. It is that event that is to be remembered and we hope to be opposite the crash site in Overndale Road (see page 3)

Club Special Event News

Mills on the air is not far off being the 11th and 12th of this month (May) we will have the kit available that we have used with great success at flight 777 and ROTA.

The antenna will be the trap dipole on 20m and 40m. Not the comical rotating dipole of last year. The radio is the club's Icom Ic7300 powered by a deep cycle hobby battery. This may be the last time I use the wet cell battery as John, G4WOD has talked me around to changing chemicals and possibly will be using Lifepo4 batteries.

For some of you newer members, or indeed existing members who have not attended the mill, it is at Ashton, just off of the A38 past Bristol Airport. It is really not difficult to find, or far to travel. Only 40 minutes from Yate. Head past Bristol Airport, go past the Cheddar turn off, keep going until the country side starts to level off. On the left, just past a garage you will see a turning with a Windmill sign, follow the signs to the mill, Easy. Caution, the roads are quite narrow, with the Mill hidden from view by hedges until the last 50yards when the Mill suddenly appears on the right hand side. Parking is off the road in a lay by.



Back in early April, Mat and myself visited Page Park Cafe. We met the manager and his wife who were over the moon that we have taken an interest. They are open for coffee/tea with soup or bacon rolls to feed our appetites.

We thought Page Park will be the ideal location for any outdoor gatherings we normally have. On or around the longest day we always met at the Downs in Bristol.

Also there was however a downside. We took a look at the web site of the South Gloucester council. Shock, Horror. For a day's event they wanted **£164.90p.** (even for a Picnic) Mat, having emailed the council, had been waiting, for over three weeks for them to reply. Well it is the council I suppose.

At Bitton Railway, the 40's event looks like it is not taking place in the form of previous years. I have visited the station a few weeks ago and was informed that it had been placed on hold. We will endeavour to participate in Railways On The Air. That is however not until September 28th and 29th so there is a bit of time yet. It is understood that trains will be running only on the Sunday of ROTA. It is to be noted that the risk assessment is the same as last year. We will have a good time anyway provided it is not pouring with rain like last year. Now a question I must ask Mat is why is rain not factor in the assessment, as last year I was about one hour away from launching the canoe to remove the antennas at the end of the day. Any member found doing a Rain Dance will be barred from the club for life. Ah well, Bring on Summer.

An indoor event we may be able to compete in is Light Ships and Light Houses on the air. The unfortunate thing with this event is that there is very little public access. As you know, these events are not only for us to enjoy ourselves but to promote our hobby.

Although I have reservations for the reasons given, Mat is making contact with the venue to gain permission. We can, if permission is obtained, operate from the Avonmouth community hall or, failing that, if the WX is warm and sunny, we can work from the park where Bristol City Council have given their permission. By the way, operating from the Hall has the Risk Assessments in place including RF separation provided that a dipole is used in the back yard, however, if we operate from the park, the RF separation has to be completed on the chosen antenna.

Club Special Event News cont'd

Latter in the year we have a few more events lined up. Mat, along with others are interested in contest. I must admit that I am not too keen, but I do have a bash from time to time.

June 15th (Saturday) Meals On The Hill

You will notice that we have a Meals On The Hill. No, it is not a spelling mistake, Not Mills, Meals meaning Food. This event will incorporate a bit of grub in the form of Burgers / sausages in a bun with onion and relish etc. This is a Free Event. We are cooking on portable gas rings thanks to Bodger,M6TNH. Coffee / Tea will be supplied **But you must bring your own mug** as we are not going to do any washing up.

Sept 14th (Saturday only) Church & Chapels On The Air

This is only a one day event, being held on a Saturday. This event is awaiting for some one to organise it. Remember, for It to be a club event, assessments have to be completed for the chosen church and antennas. Instructions by Mat, G7FBD for conducting assessments is in the calendar of events. And, he said is easy to do.

Sept 28th & 29th (Weekend) Railways On The Air

ROTA is to go ahead both days, If, we get help transporting all of the kit. As in past years we have been let down at the last minute. As usual, the biggest kit is the Gazebo and the poles. The poles are my property so I bring those but the Gazebo is the only other bit of large kit.



Nov 6th (Wednesday) Britannia Disaster Downend

For those who don't know, The Bristol Britannia, whilst on trials, crashed in Downend killing all on board. It happened in what is now known as Britannia Wood off Overndale Road. The date was the 6th November 1957. Do we operate just that day or the weekend? please let me know. It is not quite in the realms of flight 777, but I think it should still be remembered as this is still within living memory. I actually saw it fly over Staple Hill. I also visited the crash site. My mum took me to see it, my age, almost 6 years old.

I am trying to get an indoor event organised at the barn opposite the Wood or at the very least on the lawn using the club's gazebo.

Club News:- The Shack Is On It's Way



Here is Geoff, M6GFM looking busy. The area, having been painted with two coats of paint by your Chairman, G8YMM with Namal, M7NML over successive Fridays.

The working desk is in place and secured to the wall. The monitor, courtesy of Mat, G7FBD is in place. So is the clock and rack for the radios.

Just to the right, in front of Geoff, is a small storage area for the projector screens and a few regularly used items.

There is a small section of carpet on the floor, just to add a bit of luxury. I say this tongue in cheek, we will obviously get a piece of off-cut fitted properly. Our Laptop can be fitted under the screen for FT8 or as a panadapter. All this took place on a Saturday morning with Geoff, M6GFM Paul, G8YMM and yours truly Dave G7BYN.

It was suggested that the solder bench be separated from the radio section because of possible solders splashes. I never thought of that, this is what we mean by a brain storming session, there are always going to be suggestions and improvements to be made. Work has yet to start on this, but, it will not be far behind the shack construction.

The next phase is to add antennas and their coax feeds. The plan is for at least a dual band colinier and the club's off centre fed dipole that we had at our previous QTH. (Notice I didn't use the name of the hall)

A question was asked by a member, "Is GB3AC repeater going to be installed at Page?" "Well, there is a back burner you know. The answer is, Never Say Never. Of course, A **Fusion repeater** is a missing type of repeater that, before covid, was at one time going to be installed at Martin Mann's building in Brislington. Staple Hill, I think, would be a better and amazing location.

On a similar theme, your chairman is trying to get the Tower picked up from our old venue after we have been repeatedly let down by someone who was to purchase the lattice tower from the club and deliver the crank up tower for us. We have tried ringing him on numerous occasions, but, he has gone radio silent, failing to return calls or to pay for the tower.

It is unfortunate, but we now have to hire a truck to move things to Page Community, who have very kindly agreed to store them for us. We will also require about 6 members to give us a hand at both ends of the journey I wonder if Page will let us attach the tower to a wall, Mmmm.

I am sorry to have a small rant here in Q5, but, I feel that we have all been working hard at the club to get things progressed in a timely manor only to have things scuppered by a third party.

Club News:- Continued

New form of talks will now mostly be in the form of workshops. As discussed at the round table back in February, It was decided to change the format of Talks and demonstrations. Talks on various subjects by guest speakers however will be the same as before, that is a formal event addressing the whole club.

Smaller “workshops” will be participants involved in a subject or display gathering in a corner of the room around the display. Other members not wishing to take part for whatever reason can carry on with their tests, talks or just a natter. This has worked so far in a few experimental meetings over the last two months. Maybe you hadn't noticed. John, G4WOD brought in his QRP magnetic loop antenna. About half a dozen members surrounded John and bombarded him with questions and had a go at tuning. Meanwhile, Ian, G4TAH was showing how to programme radios.

Another literal workshop will be the shack construction. If you take a look at page 4 in this Q5 you will see that we have started the construction. By the time this edition comes to you I expect things will have progressed even further.

The Constitution will soon be posted to all members. You will soon receive yours by email. I have been busy with Q5 and will get around to typing it out within the next two or three weeks, so please be patient. Any old constitutions pre this 2024 should be discarded as they are no longer valid.

Club Uniform

Mat, G7FBD is getting quotes on New club uniform with logo. The club colours are Polo Shirts in Purple. Zip up Fleeces are in Black both have Club names.

In the photograph on the right I am modelling the Fleece. It is a little on the large size for me but, I may soon grow into it. Joking aside, this one is Mat's he gave it to me to try on as a bit of a joke.

If you want a Polo Shirt or Fleece to replace your worn out one or new members may want to wear one, see Mat at any club meeting or email him with your size at g7fbd@gb3bs.com

He has now got the prices and orders can be completed within a couple of weeks. In the future the club may hold a few of the regular sizes in stock ready for sale.

The price of Polo Shirts is £13.80p that is including the club's Logo and the price of the fleece is to be announced. This is cost price and the club doesn't make anything on these sales. A bit of advice here, I have two polo shirts so that on a two day event at least I don't get a bit whiffy.

For you larger gentlemen, see Mat at the club. This company caters for all your needs.



Satellites with Martin Sweeting

Who the hell is he, more correctly he is Prof Sir Martin Sweeting. He is the founder and executive chairman of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. He has pioneered rapid response, low-cost and highly-capable small satellites utilizing modern terrestrial COTS (Commercial Orbital Transportation Services) devices to 'change the economics of space' that stimulated the so-called 'Newspace' initiative.

What a mouth full. In 2014, he was identified by the Sunday Times as one of the UK's top 20 most influential engineers and in Debrett's 2017 list of the 500 most influential people in the UK.

He holds the **amateur radio call sign G3YJO** with interests spanning HF to microwaves.

He is Chairman of AMSAT-UK and is regularly active on 80, 60, and 40 metres as a member of RSARS and VMARS.

That set the scene for Martin Sweeting. Click on the link and transport yourself to the BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000v7pb>

Professor Sir Martin explains how he became a Radio Ham and then building a mini satellite on his kitchen table. Set up systems for making micro satellites or what we know as CubeSats.



Picture courtesy of the RSGB

Cube Sats do come in different sizes. The ones we know as "FunCube" tend to be only 10cm *10cm * 10cm. I know when I went to Bletchley Park, they had a model of Fun Cube. I guess the size depends on what you want the final satellite to accomplish. Most amateur satellites are just repeaters to the masses and to the controllers, a few more additional features such as battery management and temperature measurements. There may also be the ability to upload to correct errors in the software or, change frequency. Do they use Chirp, I wonder.

Dennis should be able to answer a lot of these questions, and I am sure he will enjoy listening to the clip I found from the BBC. If, for any reason they have pulled it down, I do have a copy of it.

To save me a lot of writing, from time to time I will place in Q5 links for you to click for your entertainment. I am forever trolling the BBC for things on Radio Ham bits, and there is a surprising amount to be found.

For those of you who receive Practical Wireless, They have been giving life stories of the famous who are also radio hams.

An Over View of Your Chairman

Just in case you don't know your Chairman, He is The guy who does a hammer bashing on a club night to make announcements. He also officiates over the A.G.M and any E.G.M, so he doesn't do a lot does he.

How wrong could you be. He was exceptionally busy when we moved from She7. There were several meetings with the She7 Committee, in his own free time. All over Covid, he was negotiating reduced rent and trying to hold the club together. In more recent times, moving the club Venue from She7 to Page community. He organised the antenna removal and most of the heavy kit in his car over a complete weekend (With help from a few other members). Then, storing kit at his house.

On to current times, Paul has represented the club at The Page Community association users event, Page committee meetings, (More of his own free time) Painting the shack with Namal, spending yet another Saturday to head up some more work completing Phase 1 of the shack build. To top it all he is now heading the collection and storing of the towers for the club.(I refer to Page 4) Paul is also heading up the install of new antennas at Page.



Paul, G8YMM in full concentration At ROTA



Paul, G8YMM in full concentration At Flight 777

Paul has a hard enough job working for Transport for London (TFL) so he doesn't have a great deal of Free time. What free time he has he spends with his family and his other family, the radio club.

We should all be proud that we have Paul as Chairman, and he can't do it all on his own so please, Please give him a hand when he wants volunteers It goes without saying, we all need to be organised and we have a good organiser and leader.

Thank you Paul on behalf of the club for all you do that can be seen, and the work you do that can't be seen.

Now Paul I will accept that drink you were going to buy me at the Christmas Free Bar

Club Talk you may have missed

It was back in the beginning of March when Mike, M1ARI gave his talk on SDR radio. He brought along his various devices from a selection of dongle type of players to a larger Hacker one. The Hacker one is a transmitter as well as a receiver. A really nice piece of kit, (although it is very low power on TX)

Mike showed the assembled members how SDR actually works and, how to use it to gain best results.

There was standing room only for his talk. The tables are set out into a square 3 sides were used and the 4th taken up with the projector and screen.

Page community are looking into the acquisition of a very large screen TV/Monitor that can be used for showing Films or Death by Power Point events. That will save us from having to set up a projector and screens in the future.



I must say that Mike is a very knowledgeable guy and knows this subject inside out. If any of you want help set up a system, I am sure Mike will help you.

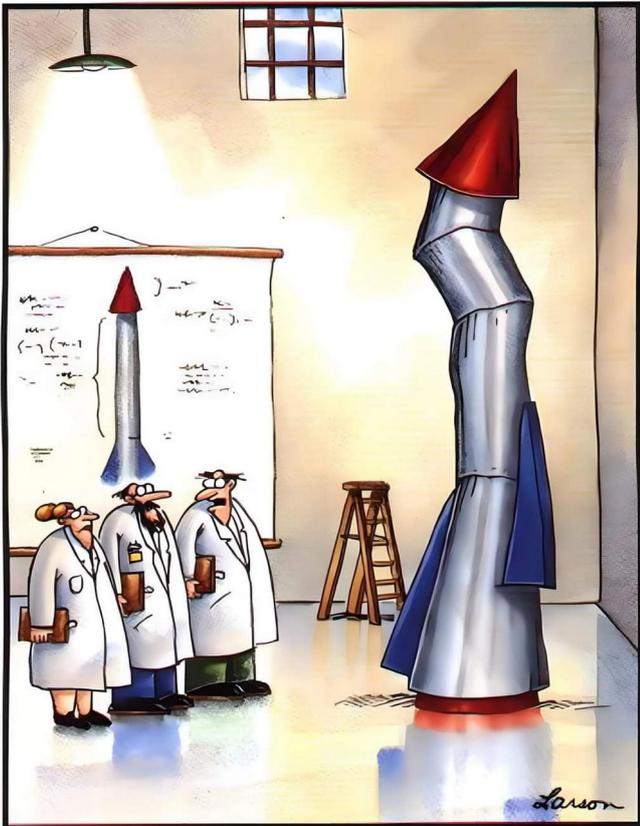
By the Way, if any of you use Flight Radar 24 for tracking aircraft on line, Mike provides one of the many receivers used in receiving the aircraft's beacons. Chances are that you would have inadvertently tracked an aircraft in or out of Bristol Airport via his receiver. It is mind boggling how these systems work, and I may twist Mikes arm into writing an article for Q5. What do you say Mike, Mike, Mike, Oh no, he has ran away.

Support your local repeater

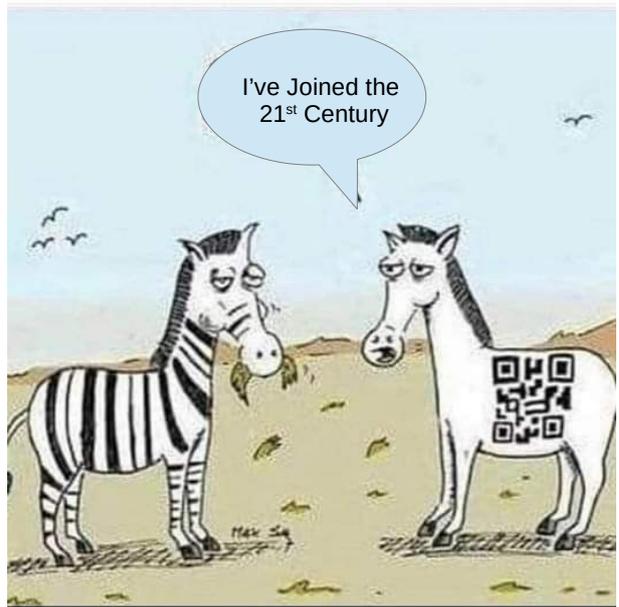
OK, I am a bit biased here. I would like every one to support GB3BS, but it is OK if you support another local repeater. I know times are hard, and years ago when I was bringing up my kids I didn't have the money to go splashing out on repeater subs. However as soon as I could, I did. (If that makes any sense) Anyway, I am now pleading for anyone who uses BS regularly, to support the cause. There is maintenance and electricity to pay of course so I am asking on their behalf, just donate £10 for the year. If you can't no one will stop you using the box. However it would be nice if you could.

(Can I get up off my Knees now, Mat, Mat, **Mat**, Oh, he has gone again)

Fun Page



"It's time we face reality, my friends. ...
We're not exactly rocket scientists."



Mat, Being our special events are always rained off, you forgot to include Flood alerts in our Risk Assessments



If you have any jokes or indeed anything for Q5, please send to me via my email g7byn@outlook.com

Calendar of events

May 3 rd	Prep for Mills On The Air (Bank Holiday Weekend)
May 10 th	Loading cars for Mills on the Air
May 11 th	Mills On The Air Ashton Mill
May 12 th	Mills On The Air Ashton Mill
May 17 th	Mills Results and General meeting
May 24 th	Bank Holiday Weekend No Meeting
May 31 st	QRP Workshop
June 7 th	General Meeting
June 14 th	Get ready for Meals on the hill
June 15 th	Meals On The Hill @ Tog Hill + 6m Contest (Book if you require food & bring your own mug)
June 21 st	QRP in Page Park (Mid Summer's Day)
June 28 th	General Meeting
July 5 th	Number Spy Stations Revisited (Audio Presentation)
July 12 th	General Meeting
July 19 th	Risk Assessments workshop, How To:- By Mat G7FBD
July 26 th	Sale of Unwanted Club Items
August 1 st	Q5 Published
August 2 nd	General Meeting

Events in Red are events held outside of the normal Friday Meeting. If the event is important to you and are not at the previous Club Meeting to hear Announcements, Please make contact to check if the event is continuing.

There are other Special events that the club will be involved with. See Mat, G7FBD for more information.

We do our very best to put on the events listed but, due to unforeseen circumstances, things can change. If the event is important to you, you can always phone the secretary just to check if it is still on or not.

Secretary's Phone Number 07533933831

Club Nets & Contact Details

Please remember, we are trying to keep the Wednesday net a Technical net (If we can). Members may have a problem, or just want to know how something works, ask your question here.

This decision came about because some participants of our nets didn't want to spend the night talking about the weather and general chit chat. They said it was boring, so wouldn't come on any net. The Chit Chat evenings will be the Sunday net. We hope this will cater for all.

Participants of nets can always change the conversation of a net. Therefore, if the conversation said to be boring, you only have yourself to blame.

Wednesday net (This is the regular Net) GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00

Sunday Evening Net This is on GB3BS 20:00 to 21:00

Additional nets By Dave G4FJH

Mondays 2m ssb (144.340Mhz) Vertically polarised @ 20:00

Thursdays 6m via the GB3FH repeater @ 20:05

Club Contacts

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Next Q5 August 1st

Q5 Publication

Last date for articles July 24th

Publication Date 1st August

I hope that I will get articles sent to me from time to time. I thank all of you that have submitted items over the past couple of years. All back issues are available on the club's new web site.

www.nbarc.org.uk