GX0SCR/P SHILTON Summer Camp

Caterham Radio Group’s annual summer camp event was held this year between Tuesday 14th June to Sunday 19th June 2011. The event was again held in Mike’s brother’s orchard ‘field’ in the old village of Shilton, near Brize Norton RAF air base (Witney) West Oxfordshire. Locator IO91es.

This will be the 28th Year since the first recorded visit and camp in 1983. This year the following members John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Mike G3TWJ had committed to the six days on site. With Ted G7OBF and XYL Kathy coming for two day trips. Ted also came on Sunday to assist with the packing up of the equipment and aerials.

Paul G4APL did not make the trip this year.

This report is again based on feedback from John G8MNY.

Preparation

As in the previous 27 years, Bryan collected the initial food supplies together.

This year Bromley Pageant of Motoring was held the weekend before, and John provided the Special Event Station. John only had the Monday to change over the Van load.

Mike cycled came over to assist John with loading the Van with the required equipment. On the Monday John was also able to find time to visit his mother in Croydon University Hospital.

This year it was agreed that the radio and supporting equipment would again be at a much reduced level. Using trees and a single light weight pole to support the required wire dipole aerials. Reducing the amount of effort and time to set-up camp with only a few members staying on site for the week.

The Journey

Tuesday morning
The journey started earlier this year, as we left Bryan’s at 09:00hrs with everything in the Van. At 11:15 we arrived at the A40 burger bar stop lay-by.

As usual John drove up the field after letting the air out of the van rear tires for higher grip on the grass. John also had to use his tree loppers to cut away low hanging branches, so that he could park his van in the top corner of the field.

Setting Up

By the evening we had all major equipment and aerials up and running. A contact with Paul G4APL on 2metre SSB.

Shilton 2011 John G8MNY and Mike G3TWJ enjoyed their snack and drink at the A40 burger bar stop
Wednesday
Wednesday saw the 2 metre packet radio system setup. The local GB7BA XRouter node was still providing strong signal to enable access to the network.

Ted G7OBF turned up later with his Kenwood TS2000e and handbook. He was given the 80m aerial to use.

**Site Power**
They used either small 500W Honda or 2.3kW Medusa petrol generator. Both generators ran OK until Friday afternoon when the Madusa would no longer produce much power. Only Ted’s TS2000 had no backup 12V float battery.

John’s transceiver and Mike’s HF transceiver were power ‘floated on batteries’ (except the Drake valve Power Amplifier).

**Equipment**
The GX0SCR/P stations consisted of.

**Station Details**
Station QTH Shilton. IO91es @ 100m ASL (above Sea Level)

Packet 144.950MHz FT290R1 2.5Watts to Vertical
5 element yagi at 8 metres AGL (Above Ground Level) to Bampton Node GB7BA, Signal strength 59+ with no preamp or Power Amplifier.

144 MHz SSB TS700G 200 Watts Tono Power Amplifier to 11element at 14 metres AGL
14 MHz SSB SSB IC735 400 Watts Drake L-4B Linear, ATU wire dipole at 10 metres AGL running E/W
7 MHz SSB SSB IC735 400 Watts Drake L-4B Linear, ATU wire dipole at 6 metres AGL running NE/SW
3.5 MHz SSB IC735 400 Watts Drake L-4B Linear, ATU wire dipole at 12 metres AGL running NW/SE
1.8MHz SSB IC735 30Watts ATU (Aerial Tuning Unit) to 50m long wire at 8metres AGL

**MESSING**
As in previous years. Bryan G0SYR did all of the cooking (allowed off the washing up!) except the one fish and chip round Saturday Evening.

Corn Beef Hash was arranged by request to be served up this year on Friday evening, as Kathy and Ted G7OBF were onsite.

Saturday evening.
Pat (Mike’s brother) drove Bryan to and from the Carterton Fish Shop for the custom Fish and Chip’s.

**Operating**
John, Mike and Ted did some operating. Detailed in the Logs submitted later in this year’s report.
Sunday
John only just managed to be heard by some of those on the Sunday morning SRCC 160metre 1.905MHz (Top Band) net.

Report in signal strength order
Charles M0BIN, Jude M0JCR, Gareth G4XAT, Maurice G4DDY and Pat G4FDN

*Weather*
The weather of the period consisted of Sunny spells and showers of rain.

*Visitors*
Colin G3NNG and Ray G3LQC SysOP of GB7BA Bampton node.

*The Journey Home*
The trip back was uneventful. No floods to see this year.

From the 2011 logs supplied. These have been analysed as follows

Country prefix worked by John G8MNY.
on 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz  GX0SCR/P  Station IC735  Drake PA and wire dipoles

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<th>Band</th>
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<th>G8</th>
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Number of CW/SSB/FM/CONTACTS Per Band (MHz) Based on supplied logs files

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Radio Propagation
We are currently in Solar Cycle No. 24.
VHF and HF Conditions were not as good on the HF bands as it has been on some previous occasions.
With little Sporadic E’s to be heard on 144MHz

The Solar Flux Index which measure the amount of radio noise from the sun is illustrated in the following Graph put out on the Amateur Radio Packet network that covers the period of our activity during our field day. The table shows the number of Sunspots as at July 2011. Note the group was active in June 2011 this year.

PROPAGATION
Extracted from GB2RS Main News for Sunday 26th June 2011
And now the solar factual data for the period from the 13th to the 19th of June 2011
Compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 20th of June.

First this week in the solar news are the latest smoothed monthly sunspot numbers, which for September, October and November are 19.6, 23.2 and 26.5 respectively.

Recent media reports of studies released in the United States have suggested that the solar cycle may have gone into hibernation and that cycle 24, currently under way, may prove to be the last normal one for some time.

These projections should not be taken as conclusive, but if they prove correct they point to dismal prospects for HF operators later this decade. Perhaps the best conclusion for the time being is that we would be wise to make the most of cycle 24 as it moves towards maximum in a couple of years time.

The solar disc had several sunspot groups visible every day. Solar activity was very low on the 18th June and increased to moderate on the 14th June when a M1 class solar flare took place. On the remaining days activity was low when C class occurred.
Solar flux levels initially increased from 87 units on the 13th June to 104 by the 17th June, but as the two largest sunspot groups decayed flux levels declined back to 99 units by the 19th and the 20th June.

The average was 99 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 19th June was 104, that's one unit up on last week.

X-ray flux levels varied little day to day and averaged B2.5 units. Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet but on the 17th June Increased to unsettled levels with an Ap index of 11 units.

The cause of this was a glancing blow from a coronal mass ejection from the M1 flare on the 14th June. The average was Ap 6 units.

Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds decline from 580 kilometres per second on the 14th to 380 by the 19th June.

Particle densities were low throughout. Bz varied no more than minus 8 and plus 7 nano Teslas for the period. Sporadic-E occurred on most days, notably the 17th June when there was a strong 50MHz opening to the south-east United States and the Caribbean. There was a smaller opening to the north-east US and Newfoundland on the 18th June.

Two metres opened to Portugal, Morocco and the Canary Islands on the evening of the 17th June.

Product: Daily Solar Data

Issued: 0825 UT 12 Jul 2011

http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DSD.txt

# Prepared by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Weather Prediction Center
# Please send comments and suggestions to SWPC.Webmaster@noaa.gov
#
# Last 30 Days Daily Solar Data
#
# Sunspot Stanford GOES15
# Radio SESC Area Solar X-Ray ------ Flares ------
# Flux Sunspot 10E-6 New Mean Bkgd X-Ray Optical
# Date 10.7cm Number Hemis. Regions Field Flux C M X S 1 2 3
#-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
2011 06 12   85     16       10      0    -999   B1.7   0  0  0  1  0  0  0
2011 06 13   87     16       20      0    -999   B2.6   1  0  0  0  0  0  0
2011 06 14   99     48      230      1    -999   B2.4   2  1  0  1  0  0  0
2011 06 15  102     48      450      0    -999   B2.4   2  0  0  7  1  0  0
2011 06 16  103     62      450      0    -999   B3.0   4  0  0  4  1  0  0
2011 06 17  104     65      360      1    -999   B2.9   3  0  0  3  0  0  0
2011 06 18   99     67      350      0    -999   B2.3   0  0  0  3  0  0  0
2011 06 19   99     47      270      1    -999   B2.0   2  0  0  5  0  0  0
2011 06 20   96     43      250      2    -999   B2.1   0  0  0  0  0  0  0