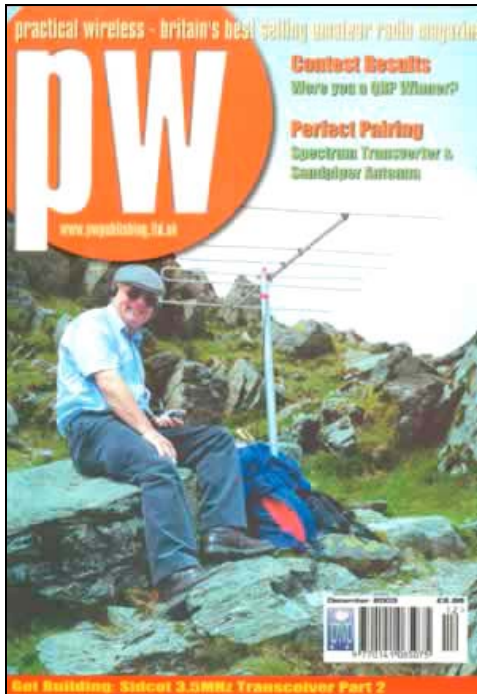


Journal & Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 003



See Page 2 for full report

Fame for GM3NHQ

Our newly appointed Vice President, Tom Harrison GM3NHQ, was pleasantly shocked recently when he received a telephone call from the Editor of the Practical Wireless magazine asking if they could use the photograph he had submitted with his entry for the Practical Wireless Low Power VHF Contest held on 15th June 2003 for the cover of their magazine.Fame at last!!

**NOVEMBER
2003**

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AGM RESULTS

Club President George Duncan (MM1DSD) opened the Dundee Amateur Radio Club Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18th November 2003 at their usual meeting place within Graham Street College Campus in Dundee.

There was little change to the current Office Bearers of the Club with the majority willing to continue in office for a further year. The only changes were the voting in of Tom Harrison (GM3NHQ) as Vice President and Bob Ganson (MM0BTD) as Contest Manager due to the sad passing of Jack Nicholson.

Club Treasurer, Ally Cattanach (MM0DRA), read out the financial report which showed that the Club Funds were in reasonable condition and with the exception of anything unexpected occurring during the forthcoming the Club would remain in the black.

The main topics of conversation were surrounding the improvements to be made regarding tuition that the Club provides to those wishing to either start off in the hobby or for those who wished to progress on towards their Intermediate or Full Licences. The Club is to make enquiries about obtaining a room at the College on a second evening to facilitate the training needs of the Membership.

There was a general consensus that the showing of RSGB video's on Club Nights was enjoyed by all and it was planned to introduce more of these into the Calendar of Events for the next year.

CLUB FEES

At the recent AGM it was decided that the current £10 per annum Membership Fee for the Club would not be increased and would remain at this level for 2004.

Membership Fees are due as of 18th November 2003 and should be paid to the Club Treasurer.

Anyone wishing to join the Club should drop along to the Graham Street College Campus on a Tuesday Night at 7pm where you will be made most welcome.

MORSE CODE

By Peter Spence

This Morse Alphabet was compiled by Peter Spence (now 90 years of age) who served in the Royal Corps of Signals during WWII. Thanks go to Bill Rackham for the forgotten couplets for F, G, J, L, U, V, W, A and Z.

A is dot-dash and N is dash-dot
B is dash-dot-dot-dot, Oh! What a lot.

C is dash-dot-dash-dot like two N's, you see,
And you only need one dash less for a D.

E-I-S-H what a curious word,
But we often remember things truly absurd.

Well it means all the dotty ones put in a row.
Then with all the plain dashes we spell T-M-O.

Now you've learnt half the alphabet, learnt it in bits,
So now we will learn about Morse opposites.

While K's little dot is caged up inside,
Then R's two dots can sit out with pride.

F is quite simple with the dash in its spot,
But if you misplace it, then L you have got.

Remember G can give you a clue.
To finding the make-up of your W.

P's dot-dash-dash-dot makes a horrible grin,
With turned around X's smile looking quite thin.

Q is the question to which you can't lie.
Because whatever you say the answer is Y.

V is for victory with a dot less for U.
J stands alone, must be learned through and through.

The very last letter will have to be said
As dash-dash-dot-dot which means it is Z.

Newsletter Articles



Creating a newsletter, even one of this size with less than half a dozen pages requires the input from all members with articles that their fellow members may be interested in. If you have anything you wish to

submit for inclusion in a future newsletter please email to Martin Higgins MM3AWM at mm3awm@dundee-amateur-radio.co.uk. Digital camera images and word processed documents save time when creating the newsletter.

GM3NHQ.....the 'Snowdon' Expedition

By Tom Harrison



Following the Club's efforts in National Field Day in June this year (we were last, by the way!), GM3NHQ felt in need of a holiday. A trip 'south of the Border' seemed to fit the bill and, since the Practical Wireless Low Power VHF Contest was due the following weekend, it was decided to incorporate this into the trip and make it a 'DX-pedition' to an exotic country....Wales! And if you are in Wales operating on VHF, there is only one place to do it from....Snowdon, the highest bit! (I know...I've been there before). So Sunday 15 June found GM3NHQ and his long-suffering XYL at Llanberis, in North Wales, sitting in a coach on the narrow-gauge railway, being transported (with no effort on my part and in about 1 hour) to the mountain summit, 1085m above sea level. In the rucksack was an FT290, battery pack and spare, microphone and key, logsheets and sufficient flasks of coffee for a several-hour stay and, in my sweaty hand, a collapsible 5-element yagi and 6-foot long mast.

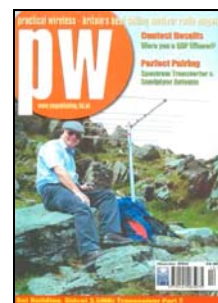
The weather was beautiful and the views were themselves sufficient reward for the trip, but the contest had been under way for a couple of hours by the time GW3NHQ was set up and ready to go at midday. The FT290 gave about 2 watts RF to the yagi, the mast for which had to be held and turned manually by the operator. A CQ on SSB started a pileup and steady operation until about 2.15pm, when the coffee ran out. By that time GW3NHQ had worked 55 stations in 19 grid squares for 1095 points, including G, GI, GW, EI and GM. Particularly satisfying was the hookup with GM4ZUK/p on Cairn o' Mount. The weather continued brilliantly throughout.

The gear was packed up at 2.30 and the long trek down started. (Those of you who venture out on the hills will know that coming down a mountain is just about a hard on the legs as going up and it was nearly three hours later that a tired GM3NHQ and XYL regained the car park at Llanberis. The entry was sent off to PW with a few comments on the Contest and a photograph of GW3NHQ in full flow at the mountain top, taken by the XYL.

And the Contest result?.....
.....32nd out of 79!

Not too bad but.....
.....a GRAND DAY OUT!

The story ends several weeks later with a call from the Editor of Practical Wireless asking if he could use the photograph for the front cover of the 'Contest results' issue in November...fame at last!



October 2003

SSTV Competition Results

By Ally Cattnach - MMODRA



The Club October SSTV Competition entries were checked over by Bob Ganson (MMOBTB) with me announcing the results at the Club Meeting on 28th October.

Our own President, George Duncan (MM1DSD) was announced the winner after achieving 28,880km with entries from Indonesia, Brazil and Japan and is seen here being present with the Peter Deans SSTV Award by Peter Deans himself.

Other entries were received from myself with 17,631km and Peter Deans (MM3DCB) with 14,881km.

It is hoped that there will be more entries in future competitions due to the number of members taking an interest in this part of our hobby.

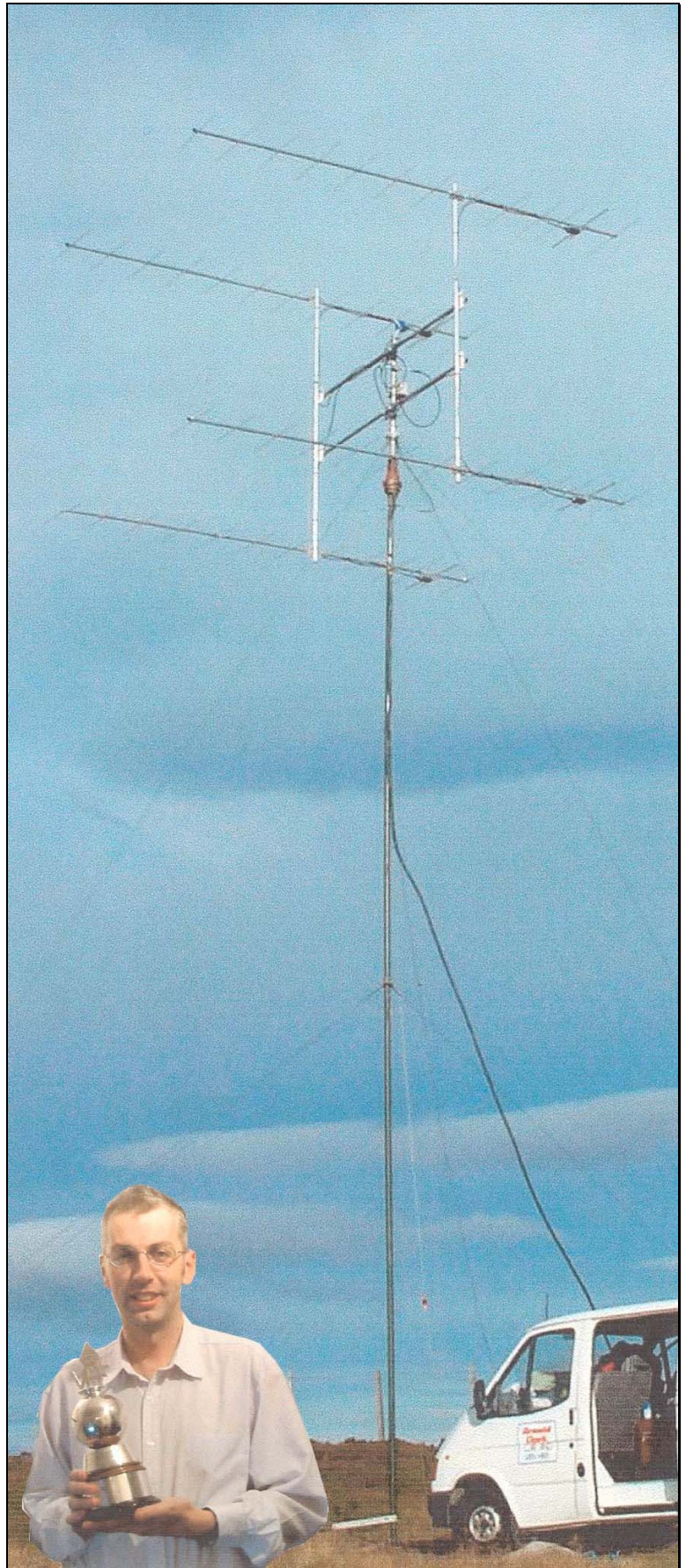
RSGB 144MHz Trophy Contest 2003

Thorogood Trophy Winner

By Donald Black - GMOPIV

Congratulations go to Allan Duncan (GM4ZUK) for succeeding in repeating his win of last year in the Single Operator (Others) section of the RSGB 144MHz Trophy Contest which was held over the weekend of the 6th and 7th September this year.

After the aurora excitement in 2002, conditions were rated as very average this year, QSB was evident and entrants struggled to complete long distance contacts. According to the Radio Society of Great Britain VHF Contests Committee web site at www.vhfcc.freereserve.co.uk the best conditions were into France and a good number of DX contacts took place in that direction. Activity was poor and there were many comments about a lack of UK activity. This could have been due to the HF SSB FD contest which took place at the same time and allowed many former class B licensees to take part for the first time.



Use of Two-Way Radio in Motor Vehicles

Mobile Amateur Radio Operation - Mobile Phones and the New Laws

As stated on the RSGB Web Site

The use of 2-way radio equipment (unless the device can also be used as a phone) when driving is not included in the new offence. It must be remembered that there is still a risk of distraction and prosecution under other laws should an accident occur.

If stopped by the police for operating mobile amateur radio, the reference to quote is:

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2003 Statutory Instrument 2003 No 2695. This lays out clearly the exemptions under the new law.

Statutory Instrument No. 2695 can be viewed at: www.legislation.hms.gov.uk/si/si2003/20032695.htm

Office Bearers & Honorary Membership

President George Duncan MM1DSD	Vice President Tom Harrison GM3NHQ	Hon. Treasurer Ally Cattanach MMODRA	Hon. Secretary Martin Higgins MM3AWM
Honorary Presidents The Late Charles Orr (GM2CPC) The Late Sam Hall (GM2AOL) Findlay Baxter (GM3VEY) Derek Coupar (GM3YVX) John Hughes (GM3LCP) The Late Jack Nicholson (GM0MFE)	Technical Advisor Tom Harrison (GM3NHQ)	Talks Convenor Alex Ferguson (GM7IIL)	Committee Members Allan Duncan (GM4ZUK) Bob Ganson (MM0BTD) Jack Nicholson (GM0MFE) Ron Redford (MM0CTS) Alex Ferguson (GM7IIL) Donald Black (GM0PIV)
Honorary Members Stewart Hutchinson (GM3WPA) Moritz Heintze (GM4ZNO) Arthur Campbell	Newsletter Editor Martin Higgins (MM3AWM)	Public Relations Martin Higgins (MM3AWM)	WebMaster Martin Higgins (MM3AWM)
	Contest Manager Bob Ganson (MM0BTD)	Morse Code Tutor <i>Position Vacant</i>	Librarian Malcolm Scott (SWL)

Club Website

By Martin Higgins - MM3AWM

Since the recreation of the Dundee Amateur Radio Club Web Site in time for our Special Event at the week long Titanic Exhibition in Dundee it has received a total of 2097 visitors, which according to the web site visitor logs, from all over the world.

The number of visitors that our web site receives is partly due to the excellent placement it has within the various Internet Search Engines. To maintain this position it is important that the content of the web site is regularly updated with new topics of interest and to this end I would ask all Members for their assistance by submitting pictures and information of interest to fellow amateur radio operators.

