

## CatRad

### 'Wireless Weekend 1992' by P N Lewis G4APL

The time came round once again to the Spring Bank Holiday, where the hardy CatRad members make the Annual pilgrimage to a little village of Shilton in Oxfordshire.

After the weeks of planning what wireless gear, aerals were required, stocking up of the food Supplies, the Expedition, was ready to go.

So Thursday 21st, May saw the forming of the convoy, 08:30 saw Bryan G8DTQ/M walking down to Caterham Valley to get last minutes food stocks, John G8MNY/M was picking up Bob G3DPW, who is to assist John in hooking the 25 foot trailer to his vehicle, they then progressed to Caterham. Will G0OBH was driving over from Dartford, whilst Mike G3TWJ/M was picking up Ted and Paul G4APL/M was getting his act together.

The Journey was uneventful, we journeyed along the M25/M40/A40 this time we did not miss the in famous M40 Junction 8, a little while later the call came over the Wireless, that the Roach Mobile, was getting a bit hot , and Mike had pulled off the road to let the engine cool down, the weather was very hot ( in fact a lovely day).

In the mean time the lads had pulled up at a lay-by a few miles down the road, about 11:30 am, we all had a late '11am snack and coffee' that was acquired from the mobile snack bar.

After Mike and Ted arrived and eaten, we all continued our journey. We arrived at the field in Shilton at 1:30pm.

Work started straight away in setting up a 40 foot mast at the top of the field for HF Station 1 (Camp one) this mast was to support a 2 ele TA32 Jnr, 2 ele 6m beam, one end of a G5RV and a 200 foot long wire.

There was a break here for a light lunch, under the shade of the trees, we all could have sat there for hours, as time was getting on we set too to complete the task of setting up the site before dusk.

The half size G5RV was located and laid out to give us the position for the base of the second 40 foot mast again to be sited at the top of the field, this mast was to support a 3 ele TA33Jnr, the other end of the G5RV and a 80/40m trap dipole.

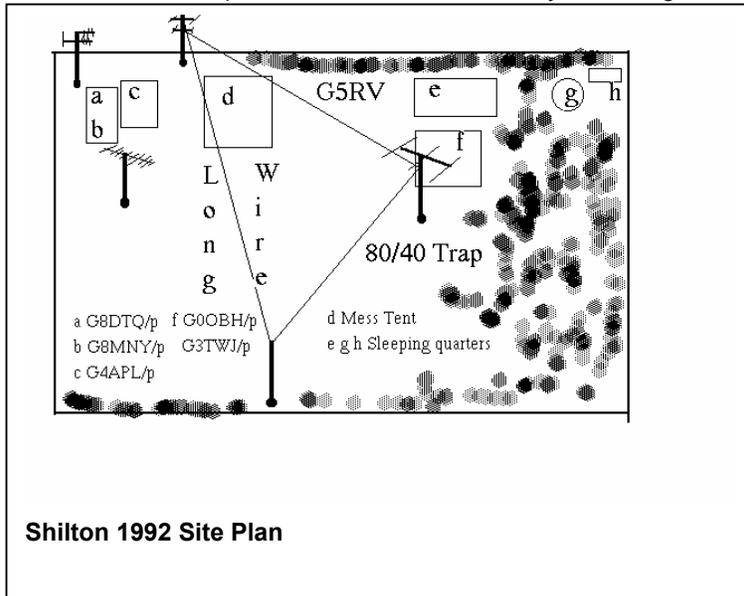
At this point it was decided to get John's Van to the top of the Hill, now that most of the heavy gear had been removed from the van, the van lost traction to get up the Hill, a Call was made for Bob to lend a 'hand'!!!, a block and pulley was set up, and with a big push, pull and smell of burning rubber from the tyres, we eventually got the van to the top of the field.

The next mast to go up was a 55 foot one at the bottom on the field (next to a green house which had appeared since last year), this mast was to support the long wire and the 80/40m dipole.

A 30ft mast was erected beside John's van to support a 4m dipole, 70cm and 2m beams for AX25 Packet Radio.

The last mast to go up was the 56ft string wonder of John's, supporting the 17 ele 2m Beam.

In the mean time the tents for the HF station (Camp 1) (G4APL/P) and 2m G8MNY/P, Packet Radio G8DTQ/P was set up, next was the Mess tent very much larger than in previous years, where this year



we could eat inside, the second HF Station (Camp 2) G0OBH/P and G3TWJ/P and the three tents for sleeping quarters.

By 7:30 pm Will had a station running just in time to work his 80m schedule.

All the stations were active by 9:30 PM (well done chaps)

Evening Dinner was prepared by Bryan, and was gratefully eaten after a hard day.

This year we had a mains intercom set-up between the HF tents which worked very well, so that a check could be made as to which band the other stations was using.

The usual schedules were maintained 20m in the morning with our VK and ZL friends, 80m CW with Ken G3CQU, 11AM on 40M with the Isle of Man, 80m with Peter G4AKG, 2m contacts were maintained with G4AKG(Peter) G7BSF(Ann) G7BWE(Trevor who had put a mast up out side for the weekend to work us), G0AHX(Fred).

We operated on ALL Bands

160M in the evenings, 80 - 10 including WARC Bands, 6m ,4m, 2m, 70cm

In the early hours of Friday morning (I mean early morning. around 4AM) the pleasant sound of the CUCKOO was heard, followed by someone shouting at the top of their voice WHERE IS THAT ..... CUCKOO!!

'TOMORROW MORNING CUCKOO BASHING PARADE WILL BE CALLED AT 05:00 HOURS'

.....'HERE IS A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.....'

..... TEA WILL BE SERVED IN THE MESS TENT IN FIFTEEN MINUTES'.....

The time was still not 6AM ( so we had a cold cup of tea for those that lay in)

Well those that were trying to get some 'kip' were not amused!!!

Soon after the Generator was started up, the HF Station 2 radio operators started up with the customary tuning noises ringing out across the fields and the village of Shilton!!!!!!!!!!!!.

Friday was spent working the band interrupted by Byran preparing the food and cooking the meals, and dragging the other Radio Operator away from the 'rigs' (Some had to be tempted by a plate of food and lead to the Mess Tent)..

We had many visitors over the weekend, from the village and nearby Amateurs who dropped in, also 'Mr Navy' him self clutching his morse key arrived Friday (yes talking about you Bill G0IEC), who operated G4APL/P on 40m CW for three solid hours ( well done).

Friday evening after our evening meal, radio operations were suspended, whilst we all sat down to to watch the Video Recording of the Shilton '92 event to date.

Radio operation commenced after the show, whilst some of the group retired for the night. Those of you that have slept in a sleeping bag, will no doubt remember that once you are inside and zipped or laced up how 'easy' it is to get out.

Ted having retired in HF Tent 2 (Camp 2) and Will had retired to an adjacent tent, Paul operating the HF station 1 (Camp 1) wanted to know what frequency was being used by the other HF station.

CAMP ONE CALLING CAMP TWO!!!!!! belled out of the inter-com speaker No reply  
**C A M P O N E C A L L I N G C A M P T W O !!!!**

Apparently there was a lot of B..... \*!&£\$\*@!\*% eventually a polite reply came back  
'WE HAVE CLOSED DOWN FOR THE NIGHT!!!'

oops!!

Saturday morning at Sunrise, the Cuckoo was heard much further away, though the heavy stumping of feet was still to be heard in the field.

'.....CUCKOO BASHING PARADE...THOSE PRESENT TO FALL IN N O W !!!!'  
followed by the 'SHILTON WEATHER REPORT'!!!  
and

HERE IS A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT... THE WEATHER REPORT HAS BEEN CANCELLED'!!!

..... TEA WILL BE SERVED IN THE MESS TENT IN FIFTEEN MINUTES'.....  
(Thanks Bob G3DPW)

During Saturday the static level on 2m was getting very high, 4m receiver opened with sporadic E and Paul was alerted that 6m might be open, it was, and the FT690 & amplifier and home brew beam was put to good use working the pileup, (then BANG! THUNDER CLAP) had us all running disconnecting all the gear and earthing everything in sight.  
We all huddled together in the mess tent waiting for the storm to past over.

Saturday evening saw the customary Fish and Chip meal which went down very well.

Sunday morning started off the same as per the previous days, the Sun rose (so did Bob) and by now the tape recording had been well programmed (in the Shilton Studio's) with the early morning calls, for the Cuckoo Bashing Parade, The Shilton Weather report (that had been cancelled) Tea being served in the mess tent at some ridiculous hour of the morning for some of us.

After saying all that, it did generate a lot of laughs!!

We operated all the stations until 2 pm, had the customary meal prepared by Ted(G3GKF) and sat down under the trees in the shade to eat it.

In the meantime the Skies started to get a bit darker in the distance, which motivated all of us to start packing up all the equipment, tents, masts and aerals. The thunderstorm went right around us, being on the hill we all had a good view of the forked lightening display going on around us, though we only got a little rain it did not last long.

Everything was packed up by 6:30pm. We then went across to see Pat and had a nice cup of tea with home made cakes (which was baked by Iris, Bryan's Mother) these went down a treat,

We started the journal back at 7.25pm, G3TWJ/M Mike and Ted decide to take a non-motorway route back, where as G4APL/M, G8MNY/M, G0OBH/M went back via the motorway.  
The radio link was kept busy and we were in contact with G7BSF G7BWE G0AHX on the way back.

We arrived back in the Caterham, Purley, South Croydon between 9:30- 10pm.

It must be said at this point that Bryan(G8DTQ) did us all proud, in supplying a full English breakfast and meals throughout the whole weekend.

Thanks must go to John(G8MNY) who arrange for the supply of generators, masts etc, and transported them to the site.

CatRad 1992 Wireless Weekend Report

To Pat Roach for the use of his orchard and freedom of his cottage, which had the facilities to make us all feel human again.

And the support of members for which the weekend would not have been another great success.

The weather, despite the Thunder Storms was Hot, with the temperature inside the tents reaching 95F at times.

So that's the Shilton '92 report for this year, we are thinking how to make next year even better, hopefully the 'Club's Callsign' should be with us and that will mean we could put our non Amateur Visiter's 'On Air'.

G4APL..  
27.5.1992