

CatRad Camp Shilton 2004 Report

From: G8MNY@GB7CIP.#32.GBR.EU

To : G4APL@GB7CIP.AMPR.ORG

Edited by Paul G4APL

GX0SCR/P SHILTON Summer Camp

Here is an insight into the Caterham Radio Group's annual Summer camp event held this year between Tuesday 20 July and Sunday 25 July 2004. Up to 8 people attended the event in a orchard field at the old tiny village of Shilton, near Brize Norton RAF air base (Witney) West Oxfordshire. IO91es

PREPARATION

Tuesday Morning Bryan and Andy filled up Andy's KA (Ford car) with food supplies before meeting up with John at Bryans home.

John spent the previous few days collecting and borrowing kit and trailer for this six day event. Packing it all and double checking the kit etc. and drove up to Caterham.

The 100 mile Journey via the M25, M40 and A40 to Shilton was uneventful with the usual 2metre chatting in convoy and some HF /M DX worked by Andy G0KZT on the way.

SETTING UP

We arrived Tuesday afternoon to a fairly sunny warm afternoon. Unpacked the 8 Metre long pole trailer. The Van driven up the hill to it's normal location at the top of the field. The HF operating side tent put in place attached to the VAN.

We then laid out the first HF Beam mast. When that had been erected and all its aerials tested, it was placed on the bottom rotator, and the adjacent mess tent set up.

The second 2 metre mast was erected when the wind settled down later that evening (and it had stopped raining).

SITE POWER

The van has a 12V 100AH 2nd battery that was used for 2M SSB 200W PA, 2 Metre Packet station, and 50Watt 70cms station, van lighting and recharged from a SMPSU. (Switch Mode Power Supply)

Generators: A small 500VA Honda for light loads use ran most of the time, and a new 2.7KWatt one for when the two 400Watt valve PA's (Power Amplifiers) were in use.

MASTS & AERIALS

- 1) An Alinco rotator had the heavy 2 x 7Metre scaffold pole mast on it that held a halyard attached to the rotating guying sleeve, for a trapped 80/40m dipole and also a sloping 40Metre dipole aerial. Then a large TA33 three element HF Trapped tribander for 10/15/20 Metres, above that another Rotator for the 6Metre 5element beam and above that was a 4Metre co-linear at 15metres.
- 2) A DC rotator had a lightweight 4 section home made 17M tall mast on it. That held up a halyard that supported a LF long wire & 40M inverted V dipole. On top of this mast was the 2Metre 11el beam that was a cut down 17 el tonna.



John G8MNY Standing with Cynthia seated



Generators power supplies



Mike G3TWJ Front with John G8MNY

3) This was another home made mast, but has an easier windup system to give a 8 metre mast it is attached to the van for main support and has safety guys as well. It supported the packet radio 2M 4el vertical beam and a 70cm crossed polarised beam.

4) At the bottom of the site a light weight nest of poles made up another 17 Metre tall mast & halyard supporting the other end of the 80/40 Metre trap dipole and also the LF long wire.

HF1 Operated mainly on CW by Mike G3TWJ. K2 5W CW or IC735 100W into mainly 80m/40 Metre Trapped dipole at 14 Metre With the Drake L4 QRO 400W PA into 20 Metre beam 40 Metre V or 80 Metre dipole.

HF2 Operated by Andy (TS2000) G0KZT , Paul G4APL and Belynda M3BYL TS2000 into Tribander inverted 40 Metre V, sloping dipole or long wire and ATU.

IC735 10/15M beam or with the Drake L4 400W QRO HF PA into 20 Metre beam.

SIX METER Operated by Andy G0KZT or John G8MNY TS2000 into 6 Metre beam, with 2 x rotator direction puzzle to solve!

FOUR METER Operated by Andy G0KZT FM 25Watt rig into the co-linear at 15 Metres.

TWO METER Operated mainly by John G8MNY on SSB TS700G and Auto-caller with AF (Audio Frequency) processing and DSP LS, into either TONO 200W PA and preamp, or a 400W homebrew 4CX250B PA and Mutek Preamp. Aerial 11el and 17M via H100 coax.

PACKET RADIO Operated mainly by Bryan G0SYR FT290R 2.5W into 4el beam and 8 Metre. With PacComm TNC and Laptop running Paket6.

SEVENTY CENTIMETRE Operated by Bryan G0SYR IC480 and 50W PA into 10el crossed yagi and 8 Metre

MESSING

Bryan G0SYR did all of the cooking (allowed off the washing up!) except the one BBQ meal and the fish and chip round. It has to be reported that menu and catering was excellent again this year.

During the week Ted G7OBF and Kathy came for the day. Ted taking the opportunity of having some technical work carried out on getting a transceiver installed and working in the car.



Ted G7OBF standing with Bryan G0SYR Seated



Paul G4APL and Belynda M3BYL



Bryan G0SYR operating Packet Radio

Saturday 24 July 2004

Saw Paul up at 04:45hrs and eventually Left with Belynda to travel to Shilton. We had a good journey and arrived at 07:30 ready for Breakfast.

Paul and Belynda worked 174 Stations during 8 hours of sitting in front of the Transceiver.

Belynda M3BYL had her ### number of contacts before the IOTA (Islands On The Air) DX Contest started at 1PM for 24 hours on CW and SSB on all the Contest bands. Bryan reported that she was DX spotted on the DX Cluster as being a young YL operator.

After an enjoyable custom Saturday evening Fish and Chip meal with Mike ,Cynthia, Kathy, Ted, John, Bryan. Belynda and Paul got back into the car to travel back to Caterham. Despite the A40 being closed due to the bridge road works, and having to follow a diversion which found them going north towards the Midlands until they picked up the M40 at Junction 9.

Sunday 25 July 2004

After lunch. The camp was dismantled and Mike, John Bryan made the journey back. When they got back it was noticed that the water plastic beer barrel and the trailer spare wheel had gone AWOL. Possible back on the A40.

From the logs supplied. These have been analysed as follows. Band conditions were variable due to Auroral Activity affecting the HF bands. Also we are getting close to the 11 year sun spot cycle minima.

Country prefix worked by Paul G4APL and Belynda M3PYL on 14, 21, 28MHz GX0SCR/P HF2 Station IC735

4S7	9A8	DK9	EU2	IS0	LA1	OE4	OM3	RA3	RX9	SP4	UA3	US7	UX3	YO9
4X4	9H4	DL4	EU5	IT9	LA3	OE5	OM7	RA6	RY4	SP5	UA4	UT0	UX8	YU1
5B4	9V1	DL7	EU6	IV3	LA4	OE5/3	ON6	RI1	RZ3	SP7	UA9	UT1FG/MM	UZ1	YU7
8S0	A45	DL8	HA0	IZ0	LU1	OE7	OZ1	RK3	RZ6	SP8	UN0	UT5	VE1	YZ1
9A1	CT1	EA3	HA1	IZ7	LZ1	OE8	OZ4	RN3	RZ9	SP9/3	UN3	UT7	W1	
9A2	CU3	EA4	HA5	JA1	MM0	OH	P3	RU4	S51	SP9	UR5	UU2	W4	
9A3	D4	EA5	HB9	JA7	MM5	OH3	PY2	RV3	S57	SQ2	UR6	UU7	YL2	
9A4	DD7	EA6	I8	JH1	N2	OH5	PY2	RV6	SM0	SV9	UR7	UW0	YM0	
9A6	DJ1	ES4	IK5	KZ4	N4	OH6	R3	RW1	SO5	T94	US0	UW5	YO3	
9A7	DK7	ES8	IN3	LA	OE1	OK1	RA1	RX3	SP3	UA1	US5	UX2	YO5	

Country prefix worked by Mike G3TWJ and John G8MNY on 7 and 14MHz GX0SCR/P HF1 Station

2W0	DF4	EI	G0	GW	LU1	MM3	OK1	RK3						
4N7	DL8	EJ	GB2	GX	LZ2	MW	ON4	SV8						
DF2	EC4	F	GM	I3	M0	N4	PA0	W5						

Country prefix worked by Andy G0KZT and John G8MNY on 14, 21, 28, 50, 70, 145MHz GX0SCR/P HF2 Station TS2000

14, 21, 28MHz

50MHz

70MHz

145MHz

2E0	DL4	MM0	OH4		2E0	IK5	SQ6	G0		2E0		G7		
9A	DL7	M10	W2		OE6	IK8	DH1	HB9						
9A3	DL8	OH3	OK1		IW3	IO3	HB9	IO						
DF7	EU2	DL8	OM3		IZ2	IV3	IK1	IK2						
DG3	G4	I8			9A3	IW2	IK2	IK4						
DG8	M3	IZ8			DL7	IZ2	IZ5	SP5						
DH1	MM3	YL2			I2	OK1	OE1							
DH3	G0	W4			IK0	OM3	OE2							
DL1	G3	KC8			IK3	SP7	OM5							

Country prefix work by John G8MNY VHF on 50MHz and 144MHz + 1.8MHz

50MHz	IO3	IW3	IZ6	S57	T77									
144MHz	F1	EI	F0	G0	G1	G3	G4	G6	G7	G8	GW3	M0	M3	GB5
144MHz														
1.8MHz	G4	G8												

Number of CW/SSB/CONTACTS Per Band (MHz)

LOG	1.8	3.6	7.0	10	14	18	21	28	50	70	144	432	Packet	
APL					160		11	3						
KZT		1	11		12	1		6	46	7	1			
MNY	2								5		50			
TWJ		1	27		9									
SYR														

Radio Propagation

We are currently going toward the lowest point of the Solar Cycle No. 23. VHF and HF Conditions were not as good as it has been on some previous occasions. It would appear as the week progressed. The Radio propagation conditions were getting worse.

There were large solar flares on the 22 July, producing ionospheric disturbances. The Solar Flux declined from 175 to 145 between the 20 and 25 July.

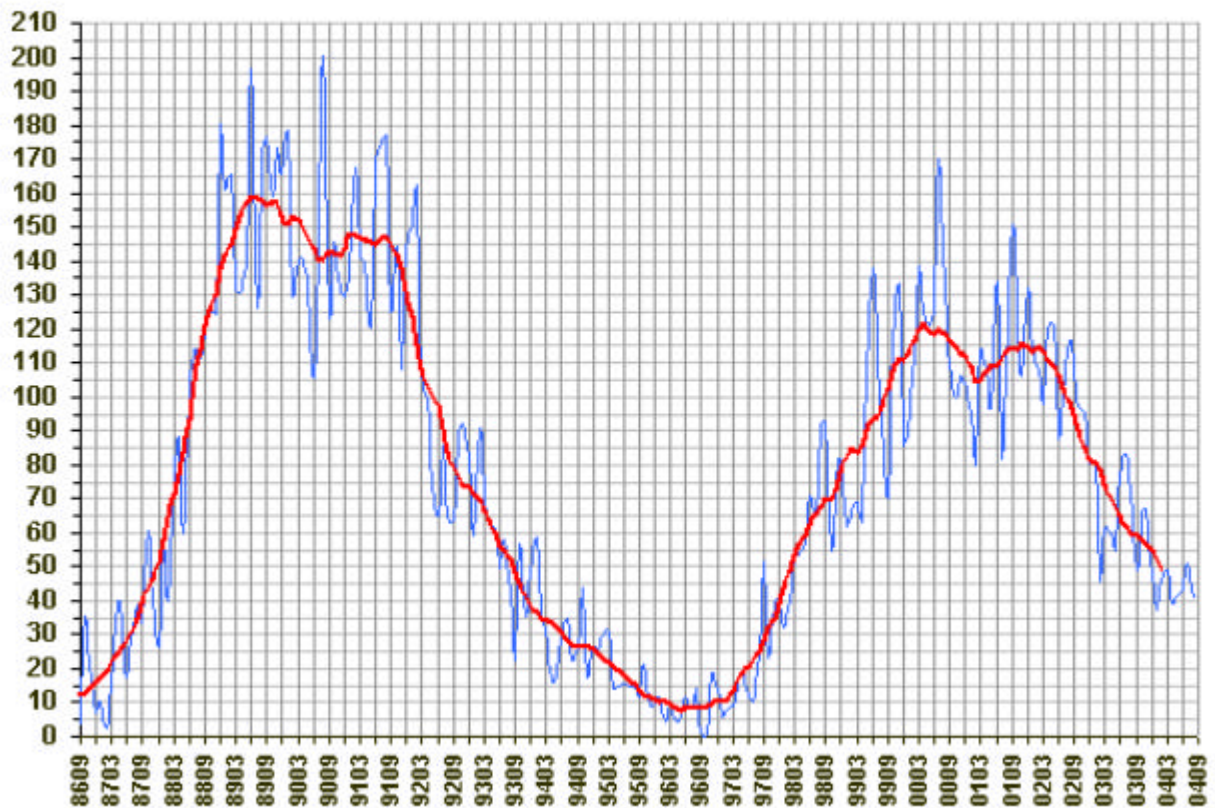
Looking at the logs and feedback. There were radio auroras, vary few Sporadic E openings were few and of short duration. Auroras being reported 23rd and 25th July on the DX Clusters.

The Cycle 23 minimum is forecast to be in 2006. So the downward trend will continue for the next year or so. 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.

```

From: DJ2LB@DB0NHM.#NDS.DEU.EU
---SolarFlux of last 75 DAYS-----show/sfi <h> <w> <m> <q> --HB9BPP--
      MAY   JUN                               JUL                               AUG
SF ...30.1...5...10...15...20...25...301...5...10...15...20...25...30.1...5...
176                                     :...
170                                     :...
164                                     :...
158                                     :...
152                                     :...
146                                     :...
140                                     :...
134                                     :...
128                                     :...
122                                     :...
116                                     :...
110                                     :...
104:::...                             :...
98  :...                               :...
92  :...                               :...
86  :...                               :...
80  :...                               :...
-----
09.08.2004  Schaltjahr
DJ2LB de HB9CGB-8    >
    
```

Solar Cycles 22-23



Thanks to the [Sunspot Index Data Center](#) in Brussels providing this graph.

Graph shows Sun Spots the period September 1986 to September 2004 for Solar cycles 22 and 23

The red line is the monthly smoothed sunspot number while the blue line is the actual monthly sunspot number. Cycle 22 started in September 1986 at 12.3. Cycle 23 started in May 1996 with the monthly SSN at 8.0 and peaked in April 2000 at 120.8. The last smoothed monthly sunspot number is for February 2004 at 49.3.

The next solar minimum will likely occur sometime in 2006 with cycle 24 peaking in 2010.

The CatRad group put out the following 'Advert' on the Amateur Radio Packet Network before the week away.

Original to EVENT@WW

13 July 2004

Path: !GB7CIP!GB7CIP!

T:From: "G0SYR" <g0syr@gb7cip.ampr.org>

T:Newsgroups: ampr.club.event

T:Message-Id: <cd1ke6\$84p\$1@gb7cip.ampr.org>

Hi All,

The ever dwindling group of ageing, hardy souls from the Caterham Radio Group will be operating from a field near Oxford (England) from Tuesday 20th till Sunday 25th July 2004 (I'll specify the year so when this message gets re-gurgitated into the packet system next year, or the year after you won't be disappointed when you don't hear us)

Our exact location will be the village of Shilton (Oxfordshire) in locator IO91ES (NGR SP269089) about 25Km west of Oxford.

We will be operating LF/HF/VHF/UHF phone and CW and if various clapped out laptops/TNCs can be made to function we will be on packet though we can never be sure what node will be within range.

For those that like a challenge (Andy FTD) it would be great to work you. It WILL be a challenge to work us, as you won't know what frequency to look on or when, and one of our keenest operators likes QRP CW to make things harder (though he has borrowed a Drake L4B if he can lift the PSU out of the van without hurting himself)

We shall be using our club call GX0SCR/P but we will make it even more of a challenge to work us by spending much of our time lying in the sun/eating/drinking when you might imagine we'd be rattling off contacts at a huge rate.

Best option is to look for us on world converse channel 11 or channel 1234 on the XROUTER chat network and set up a sked..

Hoping the wx will be kind to us and look forward to working anyone that can rise to the challenge.

G8MNY,G3TWJ,G0KZT,G7OBF,G4APL,G0SYR :-)

--

73 de Bryan g0syr.ampr.org [44.131.244.60]

Amprnet mail g0syr@gb7cip.ampr.org

AX25 mail G0SYR@GB7CIP.#32.GBR.EU

From: G4APL@GB7CIP.#32.GBR.EU
To : G4APL@GB7CIP.AMPR.ORG

21 July 2004
R:040721/1801Z @:GB7CIP.#32.GBR.EU \$:37896G4APL

Original to EVENT@WW

Path: !GB7CIP!GB7CIP!
T:From: Paul Lewis <g4apl@gb7cip.ampr.org>
T:Newsgroups: ampr.club.event
T:Message-Id: <cdmb10\$q3t\$1@gb7cip.ampr.org>

Just like to report that the aged hardy persons on their wheeled transport arrived safely, and that they have reported all aerials and equipment are now operational Tuesday evening 20 July 2004
Paul g4apl

Original to FTDLOG@GBR
From G0FTD Andy

Original to FTDLOG@GBR
22 July 2004

Yep the one and only G4APL was worked on 14Mhz whilst I was /M (first time I'd even heard Paul's voice - in fact he didn't sound like a sysop at all ;-)).

And then the rest of the Caterham packet mob turned up as GX0SCR/P with Andy G0KZT on the mic. Oh well Bryan G0SYR did issue the challenge to work them ground wave.

Not too bad for a 7ft whip on the car and 100 watts - - Andy G0FTD-

FROM G0SYR (GX0SCR/P) AT Shilton Camp

Original to EVENT@WW
22 July 2004

Hi All from Shilton Oxfordshire IO91ES As our Hon. Chairman told you we arrived safely not a lot of lying in the sun so far as its been raining a lot here in Oxfordshire but wx has picked up so hope the rest of the week will be better.

We are accessing the packet network from 144.950 MHz which is port 1 on the node at Bampton called BAMPTN:GB7BA many thanks are due to local sysops G3LQC,G0AOZ and G4FLY for providing us with the local link, only need a 2.5 watts to a 4 ele yagi for 100% link.

We have worked a few stations on 6 metres into Europe yesterday our first QSO on arrival was actually on 4 metres when we called just to check the SWR was ok.

Activity is quiet on 2 metres SSB though we are provoking a few calls when running the 400 watts but condx are poor Main highlight was working G0FTD/M on 20 metres though I don't think he can claim he rose to the challenge as our colleague passed his freq via packet and we found him :-)
but never the less a challenge on that frequency.

More news as it happens (if I can be bothered)

73 de Bryan, John, Mike and Andy
G0SYR, G8MNY, G3TWJ, G0KZT
at GX0SCR/P