

CatRad Camp Shilton 2006 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 Monday 17th July to Saturday 21st July 2006, as Mike was due to fly out of the UK on the Sunday. 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 year there was a shortage of club members available to camp out or spend more than a day at the Camp. Due to having to work, baby duties, illness and family commitments. Thus only four members John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Alvin G6DTW and Mike G3TWJ were able to commit to the six days. As Paul was not able to attend this year, this report is based on the video content taken during the week.

Preparation

During the previous few days Bryan collected the initial food supplies together.

With the low number of personal available it was agreed that the radio and supporting equipment would again be reduced. Using light weight poles to support the require aerals. John loaded up his van with the required poles, aerals and Radio and computer equipment.



Alvin G6DTW wandering up to assist John G8MNY with his van at the top of the field.

The Journey

Monday morning, It was going to be another very hot July day. Mike had driven up to Bryan's to wait for John. John travelled to Caterham to pick up Bryan's kit. Then off to Ashted Surrey via the M25 Motorway to pick up Alvin and his sleeping quarters. With Mike and Bryan in the car behind filming the Journey and keeping a safety watch on the equipment on top of John's Van. As in previous years they arrived at the 'Burger Tea Bar' on the A40 for the late breakfast. The 100 mile Journey via Caterham, Ashstead, M25, M40 and A40 to Shilton was uneventful.

Setting Up

Bryan, Mike, John and Alvin arrived on site. Weather was very hot. Mike's brother Pat had previously cut the long grass on the field. John drove the van to the top of the hill in the corner of the field as in previous years.



Mike G3TWJ working on a mast before it is erected.

The 44ft mast was erected. Consisting of one light aluminium pole on top of a standard aluminium scaffold pole at the bottom. Using a gin pole made from the smaller poles available.

The 44ft mast supporting the 3 element Mosley TA33 Junior 10/15/20 metre tribander. Above this a 5 element 6 metre yagi beam.

The large blue and orange mess tent was erected. Most meals were eaten outside as it was one of the hottest July weeks for several years. The van sprouted it's usual side tent for the two HF & 6 Metre stations. Equipment provided by Mike and John
Inside the van was the 2 metre and Packet radio station

Site Power

Power for the five stations this year was provided by either a 600 or 500 Watt Generator, providing power to float charged a battery at each station.

The five GX0SCR/P stations consisted of.

HF1

John's HF station used an IC735 and ATU into two more inverted Vs for 80/40m or 3 element 10/15/20 metre beam.

HF2

Mike's Elecraft K1 QRP transceiver. He had access to the 80/40 metre trap dipole and HF beam.

SIX METER

The 6m station FT690 with 50w PA/ preamp RF clipper & NES LS, connected to the 5element yagi at 44 feet.

FOUR METER

No 4 Metre activity this year.

TWO METER

John's 2 metre station was in the middle of the van which had an auto-caller driving the TS700g, 200watt 12volt Power Amplifier feeding the 11element beam at 42 feet on the "String Wonder" telescopic mast. This was lower then normal as John broke a string halyard again when extending telescopic last (top) mast section.

PACKET RADIO

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

SEVENTY CENTIMETRE

MESSING

Bryan G0SYR did all of the cooking (allowed off the washing up!) except the one fish and chip round. So he has his quality rest time. It was so warm in the evenings that the meals were eaten out in the open.

It has to be reported that menu and catering was excellent again this year.



What a nice Cuppa. Left to Right.
G6DTW, G3TWJ, G0SYR, G8MNY



LH John G8MNY on HF
RH Mike G3TWJ on LF with K1 QRP
transmitter sending and receiving morse code
(CW)



Bryan G0SYR having a cuppa and a well
earned rest

Operating

Alvin was very keen and did most of the operating.

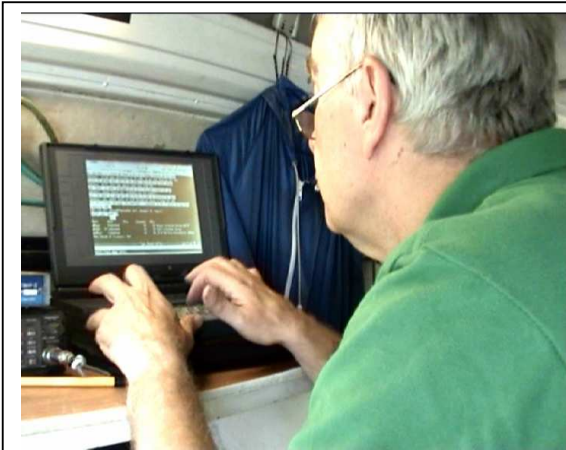
Others who attended & operated.
Ted G7OBF who was staying in the area and attended some of the meals with his wife Cathy. Ted also assisted on the Saturday dismantling the equipment.



Alvin G6DTW posh sleeping accommodation

Weather

Was excellent. Warm, Hot Sunny for most of the time. Thursday night light rain. The tents and ground dried out very quickly when the sun came out. Saturday morning by lunch time, all the equipment was dismantled and packed up. A first for the CatRad summer camp. When saying farewell to Pat in his cottage it started to rain. This developed into a Torrential rain storm with thunder and lightening for the duration of the journey back to Caterham Surrey.



Bryan G0SYR using Packet Radio system



John G8MNY and Ted G7OBF rear operating on HF



Shilton 2006 Aerial Systems



Shilton ford West Oxfordshire July 2006

From the logs supplied. These have been analysed as follows. We are getting close to the 23rd 11 year sun spot cycle minima.. Due in 2007

Country prefix worked by Mike G3TWJ on 7,14mHZ, GX0SCR/P HF2 Station Elecraft K1 QRP Transceiver

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|------------|-------|--|--|
| 7MHz | DK3 DL3 DJ3 DL6 DF2 DL4 DJ0 DK1 DK6 DL1 | EA3 | EI | F8 F/M0 | M0 2E1 G0 G3 G4 2E0 GM3 | HA5 | OE1 | OK5 | ON | PA5 PA0 | SM5 SM6 | SP9/1 | | |
| 14MHz | DF9 | DL1 | DL3 | DL8 | DL9 | F2 | GM3 | HB9 | IK1 | PB2 | RA1 | | | |

Country prefix worked by Alvin G6DTW

on 1.8, 3.5,7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz GX0SCR/P HF1 Station IC735 3 element Beam

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|------------|--|-----------|-----|----|-----|
| 433MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 144Mhz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50MHz | G0 G6 G4 | EA1 EC1 F6 | HA3 HA6 HA5 | I0 I4 IW2 IZ4 IZ1 | LA2 LA6 | | OE1 | OH3 | OM3 OK1 | | | S58 | YU | 9A3 |
| 28MHz | DL1 DL0 DK2 | SP7 | | IK1 | HA2 | OK2 OK1 | | | | | U6 UR5 | W3 | | |
| 14MHz | W3 | F4 F5 | G3/MM GI0 | IK1 | HI13 | OY | | | | | | | | |
| 7MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5MHz | G3 G4 | GW | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.8MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Country prefix work by John G8MNY VHF on 50MHz and 144MHz 28,14,7,1.8MHz

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|--------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|------------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|---|--|--|--|-----|------------------|
| 50MHz | CT1 | EA2 EA3 EA5 EA7 EH5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 144MHz | 2E1 | M3 M0 | ON4 | G4 | PD1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 144MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14MHz | KP2 | GM0 MM0 | HB9 | DP1 DL0 | SQ3 | RN6 | IW1 IK2 IK1 | OM2 | F | | | | UR7 | S58 4O3 9A |
| 7MHz | M0 | VK7 | SM | PA0 | GI7 | G3 | LX2 | | | | | | | |
| 3.5MHz | EI3 | G4 | GM3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.8MHz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Number of CW/SSB/CONTACTS Per Band (MHz) Based on supplied logs files

| LOG | 1.8 | 3.6 | 7.0 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 28 | 50 | 70 | 144 | 432 | Packet | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|--------|--|
| DTW | | 5 | | | 8 | | | 11 | 40 | | | | | |
| MNY | | 3 | 9 | | 17 | | | | 6 | | 7 | | | |
| TWJ | | | 36 | | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Radio Propagation

We are currently going toward the lowest point of the Solar Cycle No. 23. VHF and HF Conditions were not as good on the HF bands as it has been on some previous occasions.

The Solar Cycle 23 minimum is forecast to be in 2007. So the downward trend is due to level out will continue for the next year or so. The solar scientists are forecasting that the next Solar Cycle 24 will begin in late 2007 or early 2008.

The Solar Flux Index which measure the amount of radio noise from the sun is illustrated in the following table put out on the Amateur Radio Packet bulletin network to PROP@ARL by K7RA that covers the period of our activity during our field day.

The table shows the number of Sunspots for July 2006 during our groups fieldday.

Sunspot numbers for July 13 through 19 were 11, 15, 17, 20, 23, 26 and 24 with a mean of 19.4.

10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 70.9, 70.2, 70.8, 71, 71.2, and 71.1, with a mean of 70.7.

Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 14, 6, 4, 4, 3 and 2 with a mean of 5.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 10, 5, 2, 2, 2 and 2, with a mean of 3.7.

Sunspot numbers for July 20 through 26 were 14, 12, 0, 21, 19, 16 and 20 with a mean of 14.6.

10.7 cm flux was 72.2, 72.6, 73.6, 76.5, 77, 75.5, and 74.7, with a mean of 74.6.

Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 4, 4, 4, 6 and 6 with a mean of 4.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 5 and 5, with a mean of 3.9.

