

CatRad Camp Shilton 2009 Report

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GX0SCR/P SHILTON Summer Camp

Caterham Radio Group's annual Summer camp event held this year between Tuesday 7th July to Sunday 12th July 2009. 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 26th Year since the first record visit and Camp in 1983

This year the following members John G8MNY, Bryan G0SYR, Alvin G6DTW, Kim G6JXA, Mike G3TWJ, Chas M0BIN had committed to the six days on site. With Ted G7OBF and XYL coming for a couple of day trips..

This report is again based on feedback from John G8MNY.

Preparation

As in the previous 26 years, Bryan collected the initial food supplies together.

As last year VHF NFD was the weekend before and John had only one day to change over the Van load, with the required poles, aerals and Radio and computer equipment. Luckily John was not providing a VHF NFD station this year. John just providing operating and support to the local NFD Contest teams..

As in the previous years, it was agreed that the radio and supporting equipment would again be at reduced level. Using light weight poles to support the required aerals.

The Journey

Tuesday morning

The journey up with Chas's Camper taking Bryan and all the food. John's Van with everything else.

The 'CatRad convoy' set off at 10:30 from Caterham and was uneventful with GPS giving the burger bar stop off countdown. Alvin and Kim arrived early and blocked the access to the field with his Motor Home. When the rest of the group arrived they were unable to enter the site.. Alvin moving the motor home managed to catch the gate with his huge rear lighting panel/bumper. That came off (already broken). As John drove up the field and then let the air out of his Van's rear tires for higher grip on the grass. The exhaust pipe broke! So we had a noisy return home.

Setting Up

Bryan, Mike, John, Alvin, Kim and Chas arrived on site

That afternoon they managed to get the 6Metre and HF mast up.

They also put up the mess tent in the rain ☹️

Wednesday the 40Metre dipole, Packet Radio and 2Metre stations were set up. Ted turn up later with his TS2000 HF transceiver handbook. Ted had purchase a faulty made up PSK31 data lead!

This year Chas bought his bicycle and flashy yellow riding kit (see Bryan's Photos). No radio's this year.

Sunday John was heard on the SRCC 160Meter net including good signals from G8TB, G3DPW, G4DDY, and G4FDN. The low radio receive noise floor helped.

There was slight rain when packing up the tents, but sunshine for lunch. and the trip back in convoy.

Site Power

Power source: John's small 500 Watt Honda generator (ex Teds's) or John supplied 2.3kWatts petrol generator. The both generators ran OK, after John sorted the block fuel tap in the 2.3kWatts. Mike's old Nissan generator needs a new magneto coil

John's transceivers were power 'floated on batteries' (except the valve Power Amplifier) Ted's and Mike's HF transceiver were connected to mains Power Supply Units (PSU).

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 5element yagi at 8metres AGL (Above Ground Level) to Bampton Node, Signal strength 59 with no preamp or Power Amplifier.

144MHz SSB TS700G 200Watts Power Amplifier to 11element at 17metres AGL

50MHz SSB FT690 50Watts Power Amplifier to 5element at 15metres AGL

14/21/28MHz SSB IC735 100/400 Watts Drake L-4B to 3element HF Tri-bander at 13metres AGL
7MHz SSB IC735 100/400 Watts Drake L-4B Power Amplifier to dipole at 10metres AGL NE-SW
3.5MHz SSB IC735 100/400 Watts Drake L-4B Power Amplifier to dipole at 10metres AGL NW-SE
1.8MHz SSB IC735 30Watts ATU (Aerial Tuning Unit) to 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.

Corn Beef Hash was again served for Wednesday evening as Kathy and Ted G7OBF (Paul G4APL got the feedback on the Corn Beef Hash via Packet Radio)

Fish and Chips were collected from the Carterton Fish Shop Saturday evening. It has to be reported that menu and catering was excellent again this year.

Operating

Those present did some operating as detailed in the Logs detailed later in this years report.

Weather

The weather of the period consisted of Sunny spells with heavy shower of rain. Tuesday was the wettest day with the Mess Tent roof leaking.

Visitors

Several visitors (no Paul G4APL)

Ray G3LQC the Bampton Packet Radio Sysop,

Another mate of Chas bought his 50MHz BNOS Power Amplifier..

Bill G4LWL visited on his motor bike..

"Hi John, it was nice to meet you and some of the lads on Saturday."

" You certainly seem to have got the equipment sorted out for field days."

"Hope you got the tents down dry HI!"

" I've got to try and fix the alternator problem on the other bike today,"

"Cheers, Bill. G4LML73"

The Journey Home

The trip back in convoy was in the dry.

From the 2009 logs supplied. These have been analysed as follows. We are getting close to the 23rd 11 year sun spot cycle minima.. Due in 2009 (REVISED)

Country prefix worked by John G8MNY Kim G6JXA
on 1.8, 3.5,7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz GX0SCR/P Station IC735 3 element Beam

433MHz														
144Mhz														
50MHz	CT2	EA3	G4	SP7	F1	SP5								
28MHz														
14MHz	G0 G1 G8 GM0	AM1 AN5 DD8 DF DG DK	DL DM EA4 ED5 EE5 EH3	ES3 ES6 F HA HB9	I0 IW3 I6 IK3 IT9 IY1	IU9 IZ8 LA1 LA8 LA9 LA0	LU1 LU3 LZ M0 M5 M6 MM0	MM3 MU3 OE3 OE5 OH1	OH3 R5 RM9 RN3 RU6	RW9 S40 S59 SG7 UA4 UR5	UV5 UY6 VE3 EI9 EI4 W2	4X		
7MHz	DG8	G4	F1	MM3	DF1	IK2	M0	OZ5						
3.5MHz	G0	G3	M0	MM3	G4	GB2OZ1								
1.8MHz	G													

Country prefix work by John G7OBF and Mike G3TWJVHF on 28,14,7,1.8MHz

50MHz														
144MHz														
28MHz														
21MHz														
14MHz														
7MHz	GB7	GB4	G0	G3	GB2									
3.5MHz	M6	G6	G0											
1.8MHz														

Number of CW/SSB/FM/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	
MNY	4	11	8		90				11		10			
OBF		3	6											
TWJ	NO	LOG												

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.

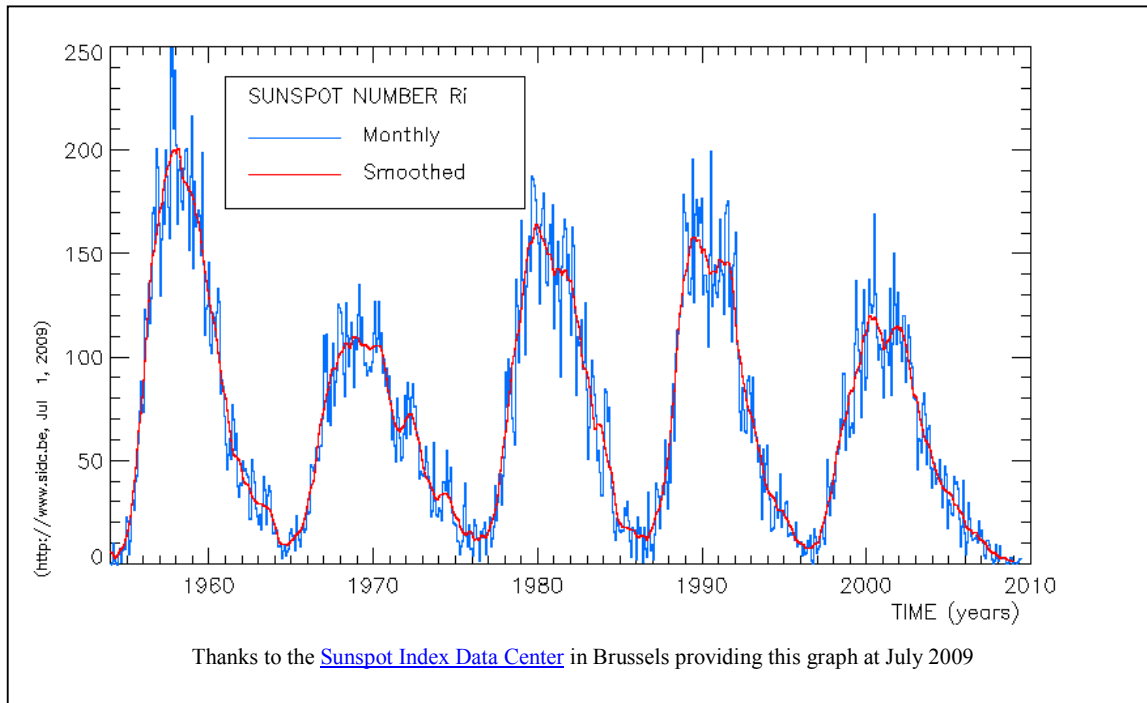
The Solar Cycle 23 minimum is forecast to be in 2009 (REVISED). So the downward trend is due to level out and expect to start improving next year..

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 for July 2009

PROPAGATION,

The solar factual data for the period from the 6th to the 12th of July 2008, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 13th of July.

Solar activity was low on the 6th when the only C class solar flare of the period took place. The sunspot group responsible belonged to the new sunspot cycle and was the largest thus far. As it rotated out of sight it was in its decaying phase, however, it could last the two week period it takes before it rotates back into view again around the 23rd of July. Solar flux levels declined from 71 units on the 7th and the 8th to 68 by the 10th. The



average was 69 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 12th July remained unchanged at 70 units. Geomagnetic activity was quiet everyday. The average was Ap 5 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds vary between 350 and 460 kilometres per second. Particle densities were low but increased to 22 particles per cubic centimetre late on the 9th. A further increase to 39 particles per cubic centimetre occurred briefly early the next morning. Bz varied between minus and plus 5 nanoTeslas everyday except for the 9th which varied between minus 8 and plus 10 nanoTeslas.