

PA NEWS
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GM/PA3HJB/P & MM0CXA/P
JUNE 2003
(Summer Holiday)



Hello everyone. Michelle and I returned to The Netherlands at 09:30 hrs, on the 30th July, after having left Newcastle after a 2-hour delay. The ferry made good time and we arrived on schedule.

The week in Scotland proved to be quite fruitful and I think I managed to put the ISWL on the map North of the Border. With Tom Reid working the South, Wales and Ireland and me in Scotland and Holland I think the League has had a good airing with portable and mobile operations.

We arrived in Carnoustie on the 24th June and after unpacking the car and getting our kit stowed away I went to the QTH of Alan Thompson (MM1EQE). This was with the idea of getting the Tuesday 80m net. However this was not to be as disaster had struck before my arrival. While Alan and Brian (MM0ERK) had been getting the antenna (pictured at top of page) ready the feeder cable snagged and pulled it straight out of the antenna. This meant that we couldn't join the net but all was explained on the phone, to Arthur (G0KOC), and other arrangements were made.

Wednesday night (25th) was more successful, however. Although I had a bit of difficulty finding a clear frequency Arthur did manage to find one and "THE ON-THE-SPOT ISWL NET" was arranged. In just a few minutes Arthur had phoned round to let members know I was on the air, on 40m, and I had the pleasure of operating using both my callsigns – GM/PA3HJB/P & MM0CXA/P. This may sound a bit strange but when I am at home in The Netherlands I cannot use PA/MM0CXA/P. This is because I am actually resident here. However, when I am in Scotland, visiting, I can use both. I did manage to get tongue-tied a few times forgetting what callsign I was using at any one time and also when I was crossing the border from G to GM I kept forgetting to go from M0 to MM0 and vice versa.



BILL (MM0HAY) & BETTY HAY
JAYCEE ELECTRONICS

Thursday (26th) was quite a quiet day, as far as radio was concerned. I did try to get a few contacts, in the morning but after Wednesdays net the battery didn't have a lot of life left. That was put on charge and we decided to pay a visit to the Amateur Radio Shop of Jaycee Electronics instead. The shop is privately owned by Bill & Betty Hay, is situated in the town of Glenrothes, Fife, and is part of the Waters & Stanton Group.

Bill & Betty have run the shop for over 25 years providing a very good service to Radio Amateurs, SWL's, Airband/Scanner enthusiasts and CB operators. It was here that I was given my first bits of advice, when I first started on CB (prior to sitting the RAE) and I still buy spares and accessories from them when I am visiting "home". Thursday evening saw us visiting family, in Arbroath, and then heading back to my parents house for a break.

Friday (27th) was an interesting day. We went out for a drive and I took along the Kenwood 2m mobile. I decided to listen to the Angus Repeater (GB3AG) with the intention of catching up with a few friends from the local area. I could not believe what I heard. The first station I heard was GM0OLF (Dave). This is fair enough until I found out the stations he was working were VK3ABB (Brian) and VK3AUR (Michael). AG (145.725) has been linked to Echo-Link and is now providing links all over the world. There was a lot of discussion, between us, about the dangers of this system replacing radio. We came to the conclusion that it would not replace radio but it would certainly enhance the possibilities especially when conducting tests etc. I have used this system a few times over the past 18 months and I have found it to be very useful indeed. A point to note, however, is that although Echo-Link is a computer based communication system we were all using radios and not computers. You must be a Licenced Radio Amateur to obtain the software and it can be found by typing Echolink into your search engine.

Saturday (28th) saw me make an attempt to join the 80m ISWL net. Although contact was made conditions were not good for me and I faded into the ether. The rest of the day was spent making alterations to the trailer and getting ready for a night out with my parents.

Sunday (29th) bought us to the day of departure and it was with some sadness that we left Carnoustie at just after 09:00 hours local time. The trip to Newcastle was brightened up by G3YOG (Cliff – ISWL member – Berwick) and GM4XZZ (Landels – Eyemouth). This contact was made using the Berwick Repeater (145.700). We had a great discussion about antennas and Landels has actually sent me the dimensions for his Bow-Tie Antenna and a few pictures.

That brings me to the end of my holiday story. I was going to include an extract of my log but it wouldn't have left me enough room to add any pictures. This is a selection of the pictures I took while I was in Scotland. They may not be the best ones but they are my favourites.

One more thing before I go. My two friends from Scotland (Brian – MM0ERK & Alan MM1EQE) will be at the Montrose Air Station on the 26th and the 27th of July operating GB2MAS. MAS is the oldest Air Station in Scotland and was in action long before some of the more better known bases in the United Kingdom. More details about this event can be obtained by contacting Brian. His details are on www.qrz.com.

73 es enjoy the pictures. See you next month.

**GM/PA3HJB/P & MM0CXA/P
HOLIDAY SNAPS**



**GM/PA3HJB/P & MM0ERK
THE ROTARY DIPOLE**



YOURS TRULY



**The trailer, TS570DG and the
portable power supply.**

The trailer was very kindly donated to my portable radio station by my father (Peter) who thinks I am completely mad but helps me all he can anyway.

He put a lot of time and hard work getting it ready for me and I am extremely grateful. Thank you Dad.

The portable station up and running at the "Black Slab" in Carnoustie. This location looks out across the North Sea and the building in the background is the clubhouse of Carnoustie Golf Club. The antenna is a 40m dipole @15 feet. The flags are that of The Netherlands and the St. Andrews' Cross of Scotland. The Rotary Dipole was used on the Wednesday night net at the same location.

