

PA News

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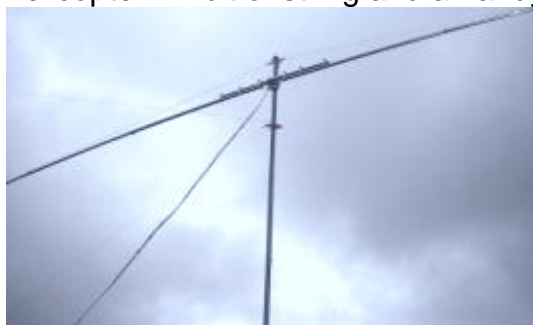


G4BJC/P goes on Holiday

Hello all, once again, from a very cold and snowy Holland. We have now arrived back from our Christmas and Hogmany break in Scotland and by the time you read this we will be settled into our usual hard working routines. The holiday went very well although some plans had to be rapidly changed due to a bit of a family crisis. This included my planned operation of the club Callsign **GS4BJC/P**. I did however get to air the call a few times on VHF (2m) and managed to get a full day (on HF) at the QTH of Brian, MM0ERK (along with Alan – MM1EQE), in Montrose about 70 miles North of Edinburgh. Although we were hampered by high winds and heavy rain it was with great pleasure that I managed to join the ISWL 40m net on Sunday 29th December at 15:00 UTC. ISWL stations worked were as follows:

- M3CRC -Chris (G21011) – 56
- G0KOC - Arthur (G20358) - 59
- G0HZZ - Norman (G21045) - 59
- G3WRD - Bob (G6832) – 59+10
- M3HEM - John (G20579) - 53 (fully readable in clear with 10 watts)
- M0JYY - Mike (G18441) – 58
- M0AAJ -Tony (G20132) – 59

What made the day even better, for me, was that I finally got to try out my homebrew rotary dipole. Rotary was the correct name for it. At only 15 feet high but being 35 feet long, when the wind got up it resembled the propellers of a helicopter. A bit of string and a handy fence post cured this problem however.



The picture to the left is that of the rotary dipole used in Montrose. 2 old silver rod antennas with coils removed, strapped to a thick wooden dowel and fed with 300 Ω ribbon, with 50 Ω coax to the MFJ-934 antenna tuner. The radio was my IC-718 running between 50 and 80 watts and powered by a portable power station that will even jump-start my car.

I got the idea for the dipole from reading an article in one of the off the shelf magazines. I made a few alterations, namely feeding it with the ribbon feeder rather than coax. The next thing will to be to add a 4:1 balun to see if it makes any difference in the performance.

I managed to air the Callsign on VHF 2m mobile, which was interesting. Comments like we have never heard that on this band before and what does the GS represent. The last comment got me really thinking. How many Radio Amateurs actually know what the club Callsign designators, from different areas, really are. I managed to use both (English Club Call) GX4BJC/m and (Scottish Club Call) GS4BJC/m so I managed to, hopefully, to put the ISWL a bit more firmly on the map.

Stations worked on 2m mobile were as follows:

Brian, Montrose	- MM0ERK as GS and GX,	145.725 AG
Alan, Carnoustie	- MM1EQE as GS,	145.725 AG
Ally, Monifieth	- MM0DRA as GS	145.725 AG
Robin, Kirkcaldy	- MM0RBN as GS	145.725 AG
George, Carnoustie	- MM1DSD as GS	145.725 AG
Cliff, Coldstream	- G3YOG as GX4BJC/m & M0CXA	145.700 BT
Allan, Newcastle	- G1XYS (M3XYS)	145.550



The Portable Station in Brians' shed



Brian (left) & Alan (right) getting things ready



The QTH of Brian, MM0ERK
70 miles North of Edinburgh (sigh)



The Long Journey Home

Okay, that is it for this month. If there is space and time allows I will put something together next month about the Rotary Dipole. Very easy and seems to work.
Happy New and all the best.