



RAGCHEW

SUMMER SPECIAL 2019

From the Editor

By Brian G4CIB

I started writing this in mid-May and it seemed like autumn - grey skies, heavy rain, the outdoor temperature barely in double figures. The warm weather of April and May seemed a long time ago! Now we are into late June and as I put the finishing touches to this issue, it's pouring with rain but the forecast for the coming weekend promises hot weather.

To raise our collective spirits I've put together this **Summer Special** focusing on /P operating. Trawling through the archives I have uncovered many photographs of past and present members operating at various Field Days, club picnics and DF contests which I hope will inspire our newer members to have a go!

I have also received a bumper crop of photographs from members - far too many to publish them all in this issue, but they will be filed away for future editions.

Many thanks to all the members who have helped me put this issue together especially **Anne 2E1GKY** who contributed the lead article.

The usual regular features will appear in the next issue which I hope to publish in late August / early September.

Contest Round-up will report on our latest standings in the UKAC Local Clubs table. **Malcolm G6UGW** will be continuing his series on the Amateur and Broadcast bands. Also featured will be a reprint of an article first published in Practical Wireless in May 1983 which through the good offices of **Mike G6OTP** they have given permission for it to be reproduced in "Ragchew"

Some caption errors crept into the last issue.

Leta G4RHK has pointed out that at the time of the Fleece Hotel Dinner Dance she had not taken her Radio Amateurs Examination (RAE) and Morse test for her licence and that she was **BRS41248** (British Receiving Station).

Also apologies to **Jim** who won the Advanced Section of the Construction Contest - his call sign is **M7GKN**, not G7GKN. **Stop Press News - Jim is now 2E0GKN!**

Bank Holiday Monday Operating on Crickley Hill

By Anne 2E1GKY

Bank Holiday Mondays are a special treat for GARES members as we are able to operate from the Country Park at Crickley Hill which is organised by myself and Gary M0XAC who, as Treasurer promptly pays the fee enabling us to access the coach park.

We have been meeting here for several years and with facilities nearby, this has proved to be an improvement on our previous location at Barrow Wake.

Being on the Cotswold escarpment weather extremes are often experienced, with thunder and lightning one August Bank Holiday which I will never forget as journeying home was quite unpleasant. We have had hailstones, heavy rains and strong winds, but undaunted, regular members will turn up regardless.

This year so far has seen some weather extremes - Easter Monday, April 22nd being quite hot, whilst the Spring Bank holiday on 27th May, there was a cutting north-easterly wind making operating outdoors very chilly.

I wonder what August Bank holiday on Monday 26th August will bring?



Brian G4CIB and Tony G4HBV operating on what appears to be 6 metres. The rig is an IC202S driving a 6m transverter into a 4 element yagi. The location is Gamage Court near Minsterworth, the QTH of **Noel G4PHO (SK)**, the year is 1998. (Photo 2E1GKY)



At the same location on the same date, **Tony G4HBV** (above) is operating his home-brew 128 set replica on Top Band. As some light drizzle was in the air, a cardboard box gave the rig some protection. (Photo 2E1GKY)



Another view of **Tony G4HBV** operating his replica 128 set. (Photo 2E1GKY)



Brian G4CIB is determined to carry on operating in the drizzle at **Gamage Court**. **George G7GQC** and **Jenny G7JUP** looking on. (Photo 2E1GKY)



It's 1998 and our DF Hunt was held in Newent Woods, the Fox Station manned by **Tony G4HBV** (Top Band) and **Vernon G0HTO** (2m). In this group photo we have (L-R) **George G7GQC**, **Anne 2E1GKY**, **Alan G1IFF**, **Leta G4RHK**, **Brian G4CIB** and **Tony G4HBV** (Photo 2E1GKY)



It's Direction Finding Contest time and the year is 1992, the location Beechenhurst Picnic Site near Speech House in the Forest of Dean. Here we see the competitors getting ready for the start signal. (Photo G4RHK)

A Crickley Hill Selection



Here we see **Dave G4BCA** and **Mike G6OTP** with an Arrow 2m/70cm antenna with duplexer for satellite use. The antenna is feeding into a Kenwood TH-D72 handheld (Photo M0XAC)

This photograph perfectly portrays the pleasure of operating outdoors. Here we see **Anne 2E1GKY** and **Vernon G0HTO** enjoying some 2 metre operating on an IC202S. (Photo M0XAC)



The weather is not always as kind at Crickley - this is August Bank Holiday 2015. Here we see **Gary M0XAC's** Delta Loop with which he managed to work the USA and Saudi Arabia.

(Photos M0XAC)



This is the /P station of **Arron M0HNNH** operating in the recent 70MHz Cumulative Contest.

Hopefully it's a trick of the camera lens, but the antenna does look rather close to the nearby power line! (Photos M0HNNH)



Easter Monday 2005 - 28th March and here we see **Mike G0VWH**, **Tony G4HBV**, **Anne 2E1GKY** and **Stan G4YYR** operating from Birdlip. (Photo G4CIB)



This splendid photo submitted by **Anne 2E1GKY** shows the summer house she used as a shack during the summer months at her previous QTH in the Reddings.

It was supplied with mains power and a convenient mast for antennas.

This photo also submitted by **Anne 2E1GKY** shows our old club caravan at Gamage Court, the QTH of **Noel G4PHO (SK)**. The occasion is the 1998 Operating/Picnic weekend. This was a superb rural location near Minsterworth with a wonderful view across to May Hill (below). During these weekends club members could come and go as they pleased, bring their own equipment to operate with the club antennas or just sit and chat.



(Photos 2E1GKY)





The caption on the back of this photo gives the date as 20th July 1983 and the location is Robinswood Hill Country Park where we held our Activity Evening. I am unable to determine what equipment is being used but I'm sure if you speak to **Ian G4CLR** at the next club meeting, he will be able to tell you!

(Photo G4CIB)

It's August Bank Holiday Monday 2005 and **Brian G4CIB** and **Leta G4RHK** are on holiday in Devon. In this photo **Leta G4RHK** is in QSO with GARES members who are operating from the escarpment site near Birdlip. The antenna is a 4 element yagi, the rig an Icom IC202S feeding a Microwave Modules 30 watt amplifier. The location is Meldon Hill near Chagford on the north-east edge of Dartmoor.

Several club members have owned Icom IC202 rigs over the years. It was an amazing little 2 metre 3 watt ssb/cw rig which is still highly rated as a prime mover for microwave transverters. As well as having excellent performance specifications, it boasted good battery capacity - 9 rechargeable "C" cells although it could, of course be powered by an external battery

(Photo G4RHK)





It's 1998 again and **Brian G4CIB** and **Leta G4RHK** hosted a Garden Party at their QTH in Corse Lawn. Members were invited to bring along vintage equipment. Here we see **Brian G4CIB** and **Vernon G0HTO** getting to grips with operating some 2 metre "seperates" The mast alongside the operating table is supporting an 8 element yagi.

Luckily the weather was dry and below we see **Brian G4CIB**, **Carolina (G0EEA XYL)**, **Leta G4RHK**, **Roy G3VZR**, **Anne 2E1GKY** and in the background **Graeme G0EEA** is imparting his wisdom to his son David. (Photos G4CIB)



And Finally....

I hope this selection of photos has inspired our newer members to "have a go" at operating outdoors. The availability of compact rigs such as the FT818 and FT857 have revolutionised the concept of operating /P. When I first operated as G8CIB/P in the early 1970's, the boot of the car was filled with all the paraphernalia required - valve AM transmitter, valve receiver, 2 metre converter, 12V - HT vibrator power supply etc. And all to produce 10 watts of RF! Please continue to send me your /P operating photos for the GARES archive.

73 Brian G4CIB (g4cib@outlook.com)