



G3NMD Newsletter
Houghton-le-Spring ARC

- Club Meetings
- Meat Raffle
- Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em
- Radio Caroline
- ICOM Power Leads

Welcome to the Houghton-le-Spring ARC newsletter for November 2017,

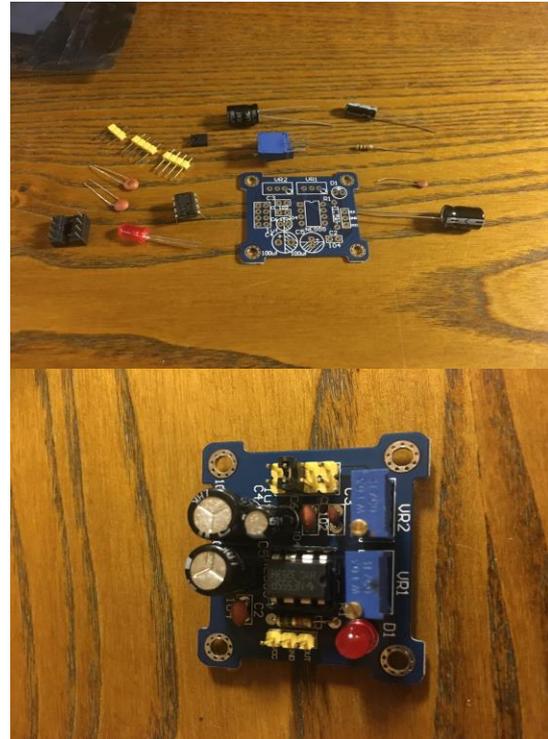
Club Meetings

3/10/17 As always it was a good meeting and a good turnout, George brought in the New RSGB Call book which always creates interest with everyone looking up their callsign, Chappy M6OGC had his Intermediate project to be tested, it was a little Pixie 40m CW transceiver, it worked first time much to his delight as you can see in the photo below



Ian MORZE, Scott MOMCN and Ray M6RNQ were doing Morse practice and a few SSB contacts were had on the HF bands.,

10/10/17 A bit of soldering, foundation training and on air training going on tonight at the club, Scott MOMCN had a little project given to him by Barry GOSCI to build tonight it was a 555 tone generator, it just needs to be tested now.



Amanda continued her Foundation training with Ian MORZE and completed an on-air contact on HF and Morse appreciation,

16/10/17 A great turnout tonight which will keep George M5GHT the treasurer happy, plenty of projects to look at and try out, Greg brought along his Drone which he made himself, after a demonstration in the car park he brought it in for a closer look, he explained what was in it and how it all worked, it has a action camera attached and built in Arduino to control everything,



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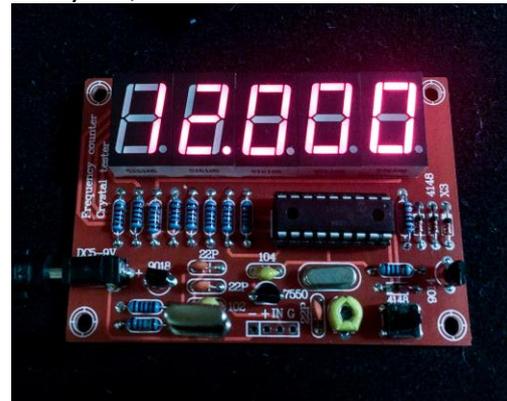


Tom and John were testing a BFI noise canceling speaker which wasn't working, the first test was the power cable and it was found the positive wire had come away



, a quick resolder and test with a multimeter showed it was working correctly, they plugged it in and connected to the clubs radio and it worked a treat, very impressive little speaker,

Dave had mentioned last week about a crystal tester kit he was building, he brought it along to the club to show everyone,



he had a box full of various value crystals and tried a few and it showed the value perfectly.

Reg and Sarah have been buying a little morse keyer from America, they brought it in for use to have a look at and see if we could get it working, it didn't come with instructions, the instructions were available on line, Scott MOMCN downloaded the instructions and worked out how it worked, it needed a couple of jumpers changing position to get the dits and dahs the way most people work, with a few button presses and letters sent in morse you can do various things like turn the speed up or down, it has a record facility where you can record 2 messages, which it will transmit at the push of a button, it was an inexpensive kit but it looked top quality with a Perspex case.



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We had a visit from Garry 2E0AAC who is looking to join the club, he is looking to learn CW and made a great start with Ian MORZE and Ray M6RNQ

24/10/17 A very busy night tonight with a few old faces making an appearance including Alan 2E0YDT it was great to see him and have a catch up, more radio programming going on, Dave brought in his Retevis MD390 to get more frequencies added and other DMR talk groups etc., after a problem updating the firmware and lots of research Tom MOHYE managed to get it back up and running, Amanda continued her Foundation course,

31/10/17 A quiet night tonight but it was Halloween so I guess everyone would be out trick or treating, unless they were at the local football match, I bet they would have had more fun trick or treating hi hi, Amanda continued her Foundation course, tonight was tuning an antenna and some mock tests, Garry 2E0AAC continued his morse code training with

Scott M0MCN and Ian M0RZE, he is doing really well, and Scott was firing the letters at him and he was straight back with the answer, so next week they'll add a few more letters in for him to learn and he will be up to speed in no time, Greg brought in a couple of Asda washing lines for Chappy to make a dipole, they have wire inside which look like they will make a good antenna, they were 20m long and only cost £1.50, I need to get some more photos from the club nights, I will try harder for the next newsletter,

Meat Raffle

3/10/17 Phil 2E0DLA / Ron M6YRC

16/10/17 George G4RNI

31/10/17 George M5GHT / Ian G7MFN

Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em

As most of you will have seen Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em and remember the theme tune but how many of you knew it was Morse code? Here is the Morse Code for SOME MOTHERS DO AV EM and it all makes sense

... ---- ./ -- ----. ... / -.. / .- ... / . -

A Couple of articles sent in by George G4RNI first being info from Radio Caroline and also this month he has been looking at Icom power leads and see what he has to say about them

Radio Caroline

U K

Radio Caroline AM: Many people are asking about the 648kHz AM service and



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where we stand. Thanks for your continued interest and support. Here's an update as of October 5th from station manager Peter Moore.

We know that people are as keen to see our new service commence, as are we. There was a romantic notion that we 'might just' get on air by August 14th and indeed, this was tried but it was not possible. It is a new situation for Caroline to have to consider matters like Fire Insurance, Health and Safety, Public Liability and all the regulations and certifications needed for handling heavy objects, working at height and the dangers of RF and high voltages. In simple terms we know exactly what we are doing but just need lots of paperwork to prove it. When this is achieved, the actual installation is a relatively easy task and we are keen to do this at the earliest opportunity.

Radio Caroline fb page via Nico uit Gouda (5/10-2017)

www.radiocaroline.co.uk

Below is a photo of the ID plate attached to Radio Caroline's 50kW medium wave transmitter from the 1980's.

You'd have to put a few quid in the meter to run this beast!



Icom Power Leads

Icom's magical filtered power leads. What are they all about?

Ask many and they'll tell you they keep the noise level down.

What noise? Is it something peculiar to Europe? Why don't the Yanks have a filtered power lead? Is their electricrky cleaner than ours?

The answer is really simple. The filter is there because the EU says it has to be. It's there, NOT to protect YOU from noise but to protect your neighbours from any chance of your Icom radio sending RF down the power lead, past your transformer (which is a joke because it's a huge RF choke) and into the mains.

It's only effective IF your rig sends RF down the DC lead and IF you have the body of the filter box correctly and securely RF grounded along with everything in your shack all bonded to a real RF earth.

Have you a REAL RF earth? In the vast majority of cases I seriously doubt it. That spike you drove into the soil some 20 feet away may be at earth potential in the soil but by the time you run 20 feet of cable



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from it to your shack it just ain't no earth
no more!

I've TRIED REALLY, REALLY HARD to find
RF in my DC leads and I can't. There's
none there.

What we CAN thank the EU for is the fact
Icom has to pass onto the radio buyer the
cost of this nothing box. Perhaps one Icom
radio submitted for approval had minute
traces of RF on its power lead? I dunno. I
do know though that if you buy a SMART
TV and it has an ethernet port, the TV will
come with a clip on ferrite they tell you
that you MUST use for the TV to conform
to emission standards.

Then they let plasmas wreak havoc and
millions of chop suey power supplies onto
the market that've never been near a test
facility. But you have your Icom filtered
lead that removes, well, nothing, because
there's nothing there.

George G4RNI

And Finally, Thanks for reading the newsletter for
November 2017 from Houghton-le-Spring ARC,
and if there is any radio related content from the
club email details to Scott using email
MOMCN@yahoo.co.uk
