

FROM THE EDITORS

07/89 DECEMBER 1989

This edition of the Newsletter may very well reach you in the New Year. The usual Christmas rush and a bout of 'flu have delayed its assembly until mid-December. Nevertheless we both wish all of you a very Happy New Year and trust that it brings all that is wanted by way of microwave success. As usual, contributions of news and technical items should be sent to Peter, G3PHD, 146 Springvale Road, Sheffield S6 3NU or to Barry, GBAGN, 345 Redmires Road, Sheffield S10 4LD. You can telephone instead, if you wish....Peter is on 0742 681216 and Barry can be found on 0742 304888 (evenings).

Thanks are due to all readers who have sent in items for this month.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

FOR SALE: - Chris Tredwell, G8CHW, 45 Dingleberry, Olney, Bucks., MK46 5ES, has the following on offer since he is going QRT:

- * Complete 23cm station consisting of a Trio TS711E, LT23S, SSB Electronics PA 2 x 2C39BA (160w o/p), MV1296S preamp, 48 ele JVL quadloop antenna.
- * 13cm station - Icom IC271E, SSB Microline 13cm transverter, DX230S preamp, 2 x 66 ele JVL quadloop.
- * 9 cm station - SM6HYG convertor, 66 ele JVL quadloop antenna, 1104/3312 tripler (metalwork only), 9cm TX mixer (mtlwork only).
- * 6 cm station - RX mixer and 6cm TX mixer (metalwork only).
- * All accessories - wavemeters, low power meters, etc, etc.
- * One Minitower, wall mounted, max height 21ft. Complete with head unit, AR22 rotator, assorted lengths of pole.

ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED! RING CHRIS ON 0234 711620 (AFTER 6pm)
OR WRITE TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE.

FOR SALE: - Dave Robinson, G4FRE, 15 Ferry Lane, Felixtowe, Suffolk IP11 8UR, (Or 'phone, daytime only, 0473 642639) has the following for sale:

- * Icom IC402 with 3SK97 RF stage, internal masthead preamp interface and MML432/30L 30 watt amplifier. PRICE £250.
- * Bird model 43 elements:- 5C, 5E, 500E. PRICE £27.50 each.
- * BGY22 (flangeless) 2.5W 384MHz amplifier. PRICE £10.

WANTED: - 21 element OLD STYLE 432 Tonna antennas. Ring G4FRE as above.

(continued on the next page....)

FOR SALE: - Steve Davies, PA/G4KNZ, Bellstraat 33, 1221 HC Hilversum, Netherlands, has the following types of CONNECTORS for sale:

- * Rhode & Schwartz FNB1006/50, "hermaphrodite" for 0.5"diam cable, (few).
- * Spinner N-type 50 ohm plug for 17mm diameter cable inc. jacket, marked variously "39 52 10 01", "155 210 01" or "BN 8701 03" (lots).
- * Amphenol N-type 50 ohm plug, for cable of approx. 0.25" diam., marked B2-5381 (lots).
- * Spinner N-type 50 ohm sockets, marked "BN 84 55 03", and plugs marked "BN 84 47 03", for 10mm cable (few).

Steve would appreciate any technical specs on these connectors. They are for sale at a nominal charge (plus postage).

WANTED: - Lyle Patison, P.O. Box 1108, Wollongong, NSW 2500, Australia, would very much appreciate any information on a power supply that might be suitable for a Watkins Johnson 3501-1 TWT. The info can be sent to G3PHD (QTHR) for subsequent forwarding to Lyle.

PERSONAL BEACONS

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we are anxious to receive details of any personal beacons that are operational on any microwave band. We will compile a list of these beacons so that we can, hopefully, publish it at the start of the Cumulative "season".

Now that our licence permits such beacons it really is over to all of us to use the facility! Many people cannot hear the usual unattended beacons such as GB3MLE from their home stations. The knowledge that a near local has a personal beacon might be of immense value to these people, especially to those having limited test gear.

In addition to the 10GHz wideband beacon operated by G4SNL in Cornwall, we are pleased to report a similar beacon operated by GW4JJW, Andy Bell. Andy's beacon can come up on any frequency from 10.350 to 10.400GHz (varactor tuned) and feeds a small horn, roof-mounted, pointing out over the Bristol Channel, towards Watchet. The NGR is ST190798. Ring Andy (tel. 0222 752189) if you want a signal.

In the North of England similar facilities on 10GHz are available from Barry, GBAGN of Sheffield. He is located on a site some 950 feet asl with a good take-off towards the South Yorkshire area. Telephone him, after 6pm on 0742 304888.

Eric, G3MWN, of Wath-on-Deerne near Rotherham, has a 10GHz wb beacon available on request. Ring him on 0709 873211. This beacon has been heard over a wide range of distances and compass directions.

Those of you in the Lancashire region may not know that Ray, G3NKL of Longridge, and Denis, G3FNQ of Southport, both have home stations operating on 10.3GHz wideband. These two work each other with relative ease over the Lancashire Plain and Ray's signal has been copied on a horn from the summit of Snowdon in North Wales (QRB 127km).

Making up a beacon has never been easier! You are referred to the excellent article by Mike Dixon, G3PFR, in the Dec. 1897 (08/87) Microwave Newsletter. Why not make one this winter? You've got nothing else to do have you ?!!

ROUND TABLE NEWS

Your attention is drawn to two forthcoming events:

LEEDS ROUND TABLE - organised by G3PYB and the Yorkshire Microwave Group

DATE: SATURDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 1990 - (1030-1700 APPROX).

VENUE: YORKSHIRE TELEVISION CENTRE, LEEDS.

FURTHER DETAILS: ring G3PHD (0742 681216 after 6pm). it is essential that you register your intent to attend as YTV security requires a list beforehand. Sandwiches and coffee will be available at a small charge.

PROGRAMME: Essentially concerning narrowband techniques for 10GHz and higher. In addition there will be some lightwave equipment on view and plenty of opportunity for widebanders to discuss their interests. A range of test gear will be provided and a bring and buy stall is planned. THIS MEETING IS ESSENTIALLY A "WORKSHOP" AT WHICH YOU CAN TEST YOUR GEAR AND LOOK AT OTHERS.

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WINCHESTER ROUND TABLE - organised by G3JHM, G4ELM and the Southern Microwave Group.

DATE: SUNDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1990. - (1000-1700)

VENUE: IBA, CRAWLEY COURT, WINCHESTER

FURTHER DETAILS: contact G4ELM or G3JHM (tel. 0420 63315)

PROGRAMME: In addition to the usual test gear facilities, bring and buy and the Microwave Components Service, there will be a wide range of discussions on "matters microwave" as well as some forward planning for the forthcoming Cumulative season. This is always a very enjoyable get-to-gether so why not come along yourself?

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RECENTLY HELD ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

Just after the last Newsletter had been "put to bed" news came in of a Round Table planned for December 10, 1989, at Pebble Mill in Birmingham. Thanks to a great deal of effort by Dave, G0DJA, the Midlands area finally got its own Round Table! We have not received a report on it as yet but trust that those of you who attended had a good time. Dave sent out loads of duplicated information sheets to all those he thought might be interested so we hope lots of people turned up on the day.

November saw the popular Martlesham Round Table, a report on which appears in the following pages, courtesy of that "Square Basher" Dave Robinson, G4FRE.

More such events are needed if the microwave profile in the UK is to be raised. The RSGB Microwave Committee will help as much as possible but the real crunch comes when both an organiser and a venue are in short supply. If you can help to provide either or both of these essential items then the rest will follow. Just contact the Committee through the chairman, G3PFR. It would be nice to have meetings in Central Scotland, Bristol, North Lancashire and perhaps Tyneside. To our knowledge there has not been a Round Table event in London, the enthusiasts there no doubt going to Martlesham or Winchester.

ACTIVITY NEWS *** NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE WORLD ABOVE 1000MHz ***

First of all we will take a look at the Operating Ladder. Next month's Newsletter will have the FINAL Ladder positions for 1989 so if the details shown here are out of date for you then please update them as soon as possible, that is if you want to be given your rightful position next month! Band and column leaders will be individually identified. No prizes....just the kudos!

OPERATING LADDER: (SINCE 1.1.89). Ranked this month on multiplied scores

BAND GHz	POS.	CALLSIGN	MULTIPLIED SCORE (AxB)	BEST DX (Km) (A)	STNS WRKD
3.4	1	G6DER	2842	947	3
5.7	1	G6DER	7020	702	10
10.0	1	G3YGF/P	11200	320	35
	2	G3JMB/P	9170	262	35
	3	G8LSD/P	8908	262	34
	4	G8KQW/P	7400	370	20
	5	G8BJG/P	5140	257	20
	6	G8IFT/P	4902	258	19
	7	G3ZME/P *	3840	160	24
	8	G3PHD/P *	2916	243	12
	9	G3FNQ/P *	2635	155	17
	10	GW3ATM/P *	2025	134	15
	11	G3PYB/P	1991	181	11
	12	G6NLC/P *	1802	106	17
	13	G8AYY/P	1573	143	11
	14	G0DJA/P *	1240	124	10
	15	G8AGN/P	775	155	5
	16	G3NKL/P *	640	160	4
	17	G3JMB (HOME)	80	40	2
24.0	1	G3PYB/P *	405	135	3
	2	G3FNQ/P *	355	71	5
	3	G13WIL/P *	192	96	2
	4	G3PHD/P *	142	71	2
	5	G8AGN/P *	135	135	1
	6	G3NKL/P *	78	39	2

NOTES: * = Wideband only

Our first letter is from Steve, PA/G4KNZ. He is still relatively inactive on the bands due to household "duties". Steve now owns the full callsign PA3FLJ by the way. He is a little disappointed that the PA licence does not include the 3,4GHz band. By the way, he is virtually out of the BFQ34 devices he advertised in the Newsletter recently but he would try to get some more if there were a sufficient demand from G amateurs.

Our other "DX" correspondents are from Australia -- Lyle, VK2ALU and Des, VK5ZD. Lyle sends his usual newsy letter that we can only precis here. He and VK2ZAC (in Sydney) are getting ready for their 280km 10GHz narrowband tests along the NSW coastline. Lyle is using a 30mW injection locked system that is compatible with ZAC's nbFM set up. During November Lyle attended the first Mi rowave Field Day organised by the national society, W.I.A. It was a "show and

demonstration" day only to mark the opening of the 23cm repeater at the WIA NSW HQ. Lyle was invited to take his microwave gear along. VK2ZAC and VK2BDN also attended. Lyle is rapidly becoming the 10GHz "Ghuru" of Australia! Quite a few Sydney amateurs turned up as well as some from the countryside and Lyle was kept very busy demonstrating his gear and answering questions. Hopefull all this will result in an increased microwave population in VK. Lyle has also just become the proud owner of a WJ 3503-1 TWT which should provide about 1 watt o/p on 10GHz. If he can get a suitable power supply going he will try rain-scatter tests from his QTH in Wollongong to VK2ZAC about 60 miles north in Sydney.

VK5ZD, Des, writes in once more...nice to hear from you Des. He has finally "cracked" the 100 miles on 5.7GHz with a two-way contact of 177km to VK5NT (on 12.11.89) The two ends of the path were Willinga Hill, South Australia and Illawarra Hill, near Snowtown, S.A. Both sites are at 400 m.a.s.l and there is a long stretch of sea between them. WIDEBAND was used to make this contact(!) by the way. Des used a 5.7GHz gunn oscillator whilst 5NT used a 726 type klystron (120mW o/p). Circulators were used and the receivers were 30MHz IFs, with PLL detectors. Two foot dishes with "penny" feeds completed the gear.

Jack, G3JMB, updates us on a 122km contact between Fule beacon and Dunstable Downs. Jack's partner Allan, G8LSD took the children to Whipsnade Zoo as a bribe! Jack is very pleased to be the proud recipient of Certificate No. 1 for the 10 squares on 10GHz, Allen receiving Certificate No.2. (Hearty congratulations to both....eds). The two stations both completed the squares on the same day, the last QSO of the cumulatives in fact, but Jack was first to get all the necessary cards in for the certificate claim.

Mike, G3LYP adds a postscript to his article in the July and August Newsletters and to G4TXG's subsequent comments re asymmetrical sidebands with low power gunn oscillators. On checking the modulation pattern using the tone oscillator circuit shown in the August issue he found a perfectly symmetrical pattern around the carrier frequency. Apparently a tone wave form approaching a true sine wave does the trick. Mike has now completed a JVL transverter for 10GHz and was pleased to be able to check it at the Martlesham Round Table in November. The noise figure was about 10dB, a little worse than hoped for but comparable to another JVL being tested around the same time.

GBAYY, Paul, points out that a number of West Midlands operators use 144.525 FM for microwave talkback! He also sends us a nice photo of Richard, G1SLE/P operating from Merryton Low during July (a familiar site to your hon. editors!).

Our final contributor this month is John, G4BYV, reporting good conditions to the West on the 3rd December 89. G1OGDP was S9+ in Norfolk (23cm??). He has a 13cm version of the OE9PMJ 23cm preamp if anyone wants the details (SAE please).

Some final requests from your scribe:

1. Please continue to send in details of all 100km+ paths worked on 10GHz during 1989 and details of any paths worked on 24GHz. NGR's and distances plus site name please to G3PHD (address on page 1). We hope to publish are annual maps of activity as soon as possible in the New Year.

2. Let us have a lot more input to the band reports, especially the lower microwave bands of 3.4 and 5.7GHz.

Finally, many thanks to all who send in Xmas cards and greetings....all heartily reciprocated from Barry and myself.