

Newsletter

Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

www.g3mdg.org.uk

January 2023

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Ashley Green Village Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP

Welcome

With temperatures dropping at the beginning of December and snow on the ground, it felt more like the winters of years ago, time to get those indoor projects on the go, having made that statement we now find ourselves immersed in the high single-figures °C temperatures at the end of December, winter is certainly different to when I was young!

This month sees the 36th edition of the newsletter in this form, 3 years old this month, it's a shame Jeremy couldn't have been here to celebrate with us, but I'm sure he's 'up there' keeping an eye on things though.

I trust and hope whatever you celebrated all went well and was a success over the Christmas and New Year period.

HF contests start again this month, next month the VHF contests start to increase in number.

As I've had no offers (at the time of going to press) of QSO's for Spotlight I've included another one of Jeremy's QSO's from last year, this is something Jeremy started, which I think we should continue, it shouldn't take too much of your time, let's try and get one of your QSO's in Spotlight next month.

Books and a handheld are listed in *Any other business*, some useful stuff there.

Bryan M0IHY

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Contact details

Chairman -
- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)

Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)
- Dave Keston (G8FMC)

Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)

All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on cdars-committee@googlegroups.com

Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY)

Secretary's Ramble

I hope you all had a good Christmas and are looking forward to a fruitful and active New Year.

When I was (much!) younger, so much of the excitement of Christmas was focused around the presents – giving and receiving. As a youngster keen on technology this posed a problem for my family – how could they be expected to understand what components I wanted for a particular project? Even if I could explain it to them, how would they get hold of the right parts? There was, of course, no internet, no “wish list” on Amazon, no search engines. Virtually everything had to be bought by mail order, sending Postal Orders or cheques and hoping something would turn up.

How much easier things are now, we thought. But a couple of years ago, in our household of four adults with very diverse interests, we realised that specifying and buying the right presents hadn't really moved on a lot. So we decided to turn things on their heads! We give ourselves carte blanche to buy our own presents, leave them in piles in the spare bedroom for others in the family to “adopt” as presents to wrap, label and give. I was reminded this year that it's not just me, the technical radio amateur, who has incomprehensible presents. I found a label I had written for a gift to my 24-year-old from last year that said something to the effect of “I have no idea what this is”. But he was happy with it regardless.

New year is a time to look back and forwards. Only a year ago events in all walks of life were still being cancelled due to the ongoing COVID situation. COVID is anything but gone away, but now we can plan ahead with greater certainty and confidence. On the radio front, the HF bands are likely to be better than they have been for several years with solar activity heading upwards. Increasing penetration of fibre for telecommunications just may bring about a reduction in ADSL interference. We might even find phone chargers that don't create broadband hash across the entire HF spectrum! We can but hope.

Whatever your plans for 2023, may they all come to fruition. And let's look forward to a healthy and active club, supporting one another in all our diverse interests.

Malcolm G3ZNU

Editor's Muse

Turmoil in the shack as I got things ready for the cold weather, thankfully the insulation applied to the walls of the shack area has proven itself with the shack a better place to be now.

This month there are books and a handheld for sale, see *Any other Business* for the list and prices.

CW Corner is slightly different this month with a tale of how soldiers were saved using Morse Code embedded into a song.

Bryan M0IHY

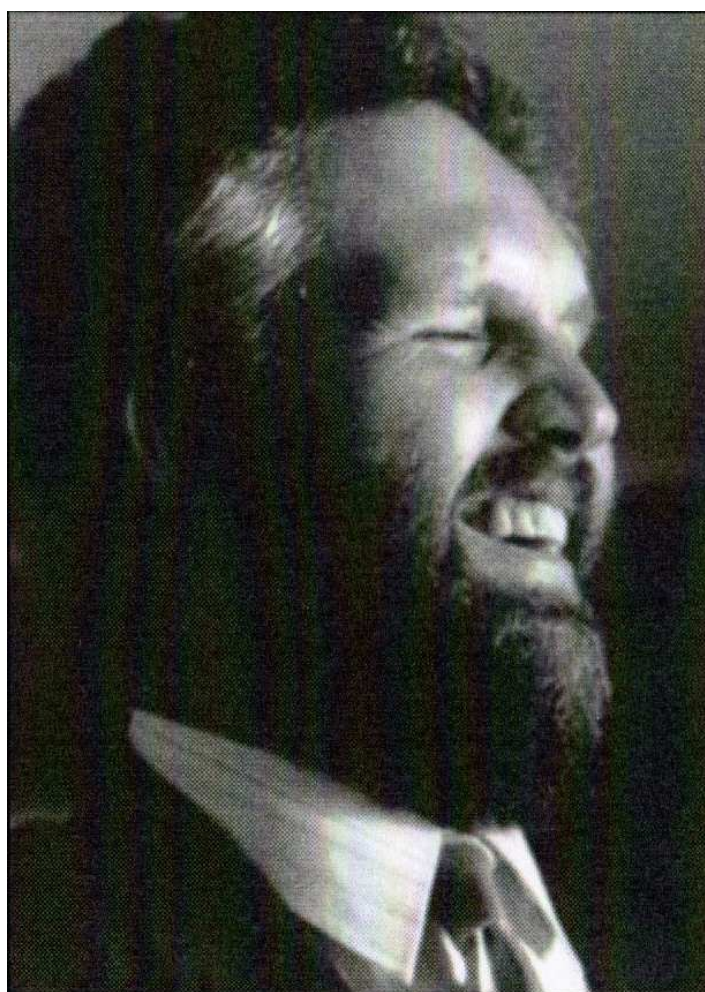
Jeremy's Service of Celebration

For those unable to attend, following is the Service of Celebration, attended by over 100 people (guesstimate, probably a lot more) with Internet links to Guatemala, New Zealand and Australia, one person who couldn't attend due to covid had their message played at the service.

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

King's Chapel, Amersham

Wednesday 7th December 2022



JEREMY BROWNE (1952 - 2022)

Jeremy's Service of Celebration

Welcome and opening prayer

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

Tributes

Jeremy, the Father	Lorna Browne
Jeremy, the Father and Grandfather	David Browne
Jeremy, the Husband	Hilary Browne

Hymn

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou for ever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness

Jeremy's Service of Celebration

Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with 10, 000 beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Tributes

Jeremy, the Colleague	Angela Phelan
Jeremy, the Friend	Terry Robinson

Reading

1 Peter chapter 1: verses 3-9	Derek Bownds
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Address

Jeremy, the Believer	Mike Dwight
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Jeremy's Service of Celebration

Hymn

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Without a doubt Jeremy, you'll be missed...

Bryan M0IHY

Credit: [The Verge](#), Jeff Maysh

THE CODE: A DECLASSIFIED AND UNBELIEVABLE HOSTAGE RESCUE STORY

HOW THE COLOMBIAN ARMY SENT A HIDDEN MESSAGE TO HOSTAGES... USING A POP SONG

Colonel Jose Espejo was a man with a problem. As the Colombian army's communications expert watched the grainy video again, he saw kidnapped soldiers chained up inside barbed-wire pens in a hostage camp deep in the jungle, guarded by armed FARC guerillas. Some had been hostages for more than 10 years, and many suffered from a grim, flesh-eating disease caused by insect bites.

It was 2010, and the straight-talking Espejo was close to retirement after 22 years of military service. But he couldn't stand the thought of quitting with men left behind enemy lines. He needed an idea, and when he needed an idea, he always went to one man.

Juan Carlos Ortiz was dunking his kids in the pool at his home in Coconut Grove, Miami, when he got the call from Colonel Espejo. With his easy charm and seemingly natural talent for creating clever commercials, the 42-year-old advertising executive had earned himself a Don Draper-like reputation in Colombia.

The ambitious Ortiz had shot to fame at the Colombian office of Leo Burnett — the legendary ad agency behind Tony the Tiger — where he created an anti-drug TV spot for the Colombian President's Office. The ad showed an addict on a bus mistaking a fellow passenger's dandruff for cocaine and snorting it up his nose. It made Ortiz the first Colombian to win a gold Lion at Cannes, the advertising industry's Oscars. He returned to Bogotá a national hero and received a commendation from the nation's first lady.

The success of his ad also brought threats from FARC guerillas, who relied, in part, on the cocaine market to fund their decades-old campaign against the government. "I had gone against their objectives with my anti-cocaine commercial," he remembers. "They offered me the opportunity of paying them in exchange for my life."

Deeply concerned by threatening letters and phone calls, Ortiz bought a bulletproof car for his family, and even assisted police in a sting operation to catch his blackmailers. But the threats persisted, and fearing for his safety, his employer urgently transferred Ortiz to its New York office. He took his family with him. A high-profile move to rival ad agency DDB in Miami followed, but Ortiz could never forget his enmity toward the FARC. He became the go-to guy for the Colombian army's more bizarre requests in their battle against the guerillas.

On the telephone, Colonel Espejo explained that he urgently needed to get a message to the captured Colombian soldiers: help was coming. Daring commando missions were taking place throughout the region, including Operation Chameleon — a sixth-month operation that involved 300 government soldiers and secret raids. Because the FARC shoots hostages dead at the first sight of a military invasion, Espejo had to convey to the captives to be ready to escape.

How do you reach soldiers held under 24-hour armed guard in deeply rural territory? Juan Carlos Ortiz's mind raced between ideas: Sky-writing? Aid parcels containing secret messages?

THE ARMY AIR-DROPPED 7 MILLION PACIFIERS INTO THE JUNGLE WITH A MESSAGE ENCOURAGING REBELS TO RETURN TO CIVILIZATION

Ortiz had designed unorthodox campaigns to battle the FARC before. In 2008, he dreamed up an operation to persuade pregnant female guerrillas to defect: the army air-dropped 7 million pacifiers into the jungle with a message encouraging rebels to return to civilization. The operation involved seven helicopters, three airplanes, 960 flight hours, 17,800 gallons of fuel, and 72 soldiers flying twice a week for four months. During

the holidays, the army illuminated giant Christmas trees across the jungle to remind guerrillas what they were missing. They also wrote messages promoting peace on soccer balls and floated them down the river toward the rebel encampments.

But this operation would be far more challenging. They had to create a message that could be understood by the hostages, but remain invisible to their captors. They needed to give the hostages hope, and encourage any soldiers harboring plans of escape that now was the time. Ortiz agreed to participate, and boarded the next plane to Bogotá.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, emerged in the 1960s as a group of armed Communist peasants opposing the government and demanding labor reforms. This followed a period in Colombian history known as “La Violencia,” when fighting between the Liberal and Conservative parties resulted in 300,000 deaths. Driven deep into the jungle by a 1964 military bombing campaign, the FARC built up their strength and numbers. By 2010 the FARC had an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 members, according to the International Crisis Group.

By the time that the FARC and the Colombian government announced a ceasefire at the end of last year, their civil war had become one of the longest-running and bloodiest in the world. The FARC, Latin America’s oldest surviving left-wing insurgency, has been labeled a terrorist group by the US State Department and has a long history of kidnapping to help finance its operations. In the past decade, 6,880 people have been snatched in Colombia and held for ransom — some for as long as 18 years. Five hundred of the hostages are either involved with the military or politics. While the FARC prefer to kidnap Americans for money, prominent Colombian prisoners can be valuable political leverage.

Hostages’ accounts of their time in captivity are harrowing: Sgt. Jose Libardo Forero was one of Colombia’s “forgotten” hostages, held by the FARC for nearly 13 years. After his release, Forero spoke of relieving his mental anguish by bonding with jungle animals and one pet pig he called Josefo, whom he got hooked on coffee. Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt, held for six years, recalled being chained to a tree by her neck.

Ortiz arrived at the Bogotá headquarters of the DDB advertising agency. The modern building features floor-to-ceiling windows that boast panoramic views of the traffic-choked Colombian capital, but keep out the symphony of car horns playing below. That day he was joined by his team of creative minds: Rodrigo Bolivar, Alfonso Diaz, Mario León, and Luis Castilla, the leading lights of Colombia’s advertising industry. Together with Colonel Espejo, they brainstormed ways to get a message to the hostages.

Sending messages directly to hostages is often impossible and not found in the guidebook of any law enforcement or military agency, says Christopher Voss, the FBI’s lead international kidnapping negotiator from 2003 to 2007. Now the owner of the negotiation firm Black Swan Group, Voss says: “When you send a message to a hostage, you have to assume the hostage takers are seeing it too.”

Gary Noesher is a former Chief Negotiator for the FBI who spent 23 years rescuing hostages and has dealt directly with the FARC. He says that sending sensitive messages meant solely for hostages is “incredibly risky.” Colonel Espejo’s case reminds him of a siege at the Japanese ambassador’s mansion in Lima, Peru, in December 1996. Noesher was on the team tasked with saving 72 hostages. “Secret messages were transmitted through the garbage. We received word that terrorists played indoor soccer in the living room, and a bomb was placed underneath the room and detonated,” Noesher says. “That is the only time I can remember covert messages sent to hostages.” Noesher won’t say exactly how the messages were sent, but adds: “Food and water were going into the embassy. All I can say is... messages were transmitted.” All of the militants were killed, along with two commandos and one hostage.

SENDING MESSAGES DIRECTLY TO HOSTAGES IS OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE

Col. Espejo ran the brainstorming session with the efficiency of a military operation. He explained that FARC guerrillas usually allow hostages access to radios; it relieves the tedium of long hikes through the Colombian jungle and keeps their minds from escape.

Communicating with hostages via radio is a years-old practice in Colombia. The show “Voices of Kidnapping” on Bogota’s Caracol Radio is dedicated to victims’ families who send messages to their loved ones via special call-ins. Creator Herbin Hoyos Medina came up with the idea in 1994, after he was kidnapped for 17 days. He now broadcasts the show from Madrid, giving families 30-second slots to send messages.

Ortiz considered hiding a message in a radio commercial, perhaps hidden in the fine print spoken quickly at the end. Then Diaz, the creative director, suggested using code. What about código Morse, he said — Morse code.

It wouldn’t be the first time Morse code was used in a hostage situation; in 1977, one of 52 hostages held captive by South-Moluccan gunmen on a Dutch train managed to transmit the message “get us out of here,” using sunlight and a hand mirror. Then there was Jeremiah Andrew Denton Jr., a United States Navy rear admiral who spent almost eight years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, four of those in solitary confinement. In a forced North Vietnamese television interview in 1966, Denton ingeniously used Morse code to communicate with American Intelligence by blinking his eyes to spell out “T-O-R-T-U-R-E”.

“It was a eureka moment! We thought about hiding the Morse code in an advert,” says Ortiz. “Then we thought, how about a song?” As a young man, Ortiz was a musician, but his career never took off. The idea of producing a hit song appealed to him.

Ortiz pitched the Colonel a plan as if he were pitching a commercial to Heinz or Coca-Cola. The Colonel stroked his chin. Espejo liked the code idea, because he knew that many soldiers — especially in the communications departments — were taught Morse code in their basic training. Furthermore, Espejo reasoned, “The FARC were peasants from the fields, they wouldn’t know [Morse].” It was a longshot, but if the team could disguise the telltale dot-dot-dash signals in a song, there was a chance the soldiers would hear the message.

Radio Bemba is a small recording studio with six electric guitars on the wall where musicians write catchy commercial jingles. If the DDB agency is in Bogotá’s “Manhattan,” Radio Bemba is in the city’s “Brooklyn,” sharing its front door with an architecture company in a 50-year-old building on an edgy street. Word quickly got around the studio that the military wanted to produce a song so popular it would enter the “Lista 40” — Colombia’s Billboard charts. Producer Carlos Portela, 34, thought they were nuts.

“But they were deadly serious, and explained it was a secret project,” says Portela, who wears an eyebrow ring and produces music for beer commercials. “Obviously we had never worked with Morse code before. But they were very specific about what they wanted. They needed to know if we could hide their message in a song, so that nobody would detect it unless they knew Morse code.”

The team began experimenting with Morse code using various percussion instruments and a keyboard. They learned that operators skilled in Morse code can often read the signals at a rate of 40 words per minute — but played that fast, the beat would sound like a European Dance track. “We discovered the magic number was 20,” says Portela. “You can fit approximately 20 Morse code words into a piece of music the length of a chorus, and it sounds okay.”

“YOU CAN FIT APPROXIMATELY 20 MORSE CODE WORDS INTO... THE LENGTH OF A CHORUS, AND IT SOUNDS OKAY.”

With the help of a military policeman skilled in Morse, they coded the message: “19 people rescued. You are next. Don’t lose hope.” It was a signal to boost morale and indicate that help was nearby. Portela wrote the song and the lyrics with composer Amaury Hernandez, creating a thinly-veiled ballad about life as a hostage: “In the middle of the night / Thinking about what I love the most / I feel the need to sing... About how much I miss them.” He even added the lyric, “Listen to this message, brother,” just before the coded message kicks in. The code sounds like a brief synth interlude just after the chorus.

Portela says they played with the Morse code using Reason software, which gives each audio channel or

instrument its own dedicated track. With a separate visual lane for certain elements, it was possible to match the code to the beat of the song — and, crucially, blend it in.

Hiding the Morse code took weeks, with constant back-and-forth with Col. Espejo and the military to make sure their men could understand the message. “It was difficult because Morse code is not a musical beat. Sometimes it was too obvious,” says Portela. “Other times the code was not understood. And we had to hide it three times in the song to make sure the message was received.”

Finally, in September 2010, the song was mastered. They titled it “Better Days,” performed by session artists Natalia Gutierrez Y Angelo, fairly anonymous background musicians who’d worked on other jingles at the studio. Ortiz thought it was a masterpiece. “When I first listened, I thought it was a song of freedom,” he says.

With the song completed, they had to get it on the airwaves. Commercial Colombian stations largely only played hits by famous artists like Coldplay and Shakira. Luckily, says Col. Espejo, in many of the jungle areas where the hostages were held, all the radio stations were controlled by the government. “The hostages were listening to our own stations, so we made sure the song was played,” he says. “The code message said, ‘you’re next’ because the hostages thought if they ran away, they would die in the jungle. We let them know that our troops were nearby.” At that time, active commando missions were underway, placing troops undercover in FARC-controlled areas.

THE SONG WAS PLAYED ON OVER 130 SMALL STATIONS AND HEARD BY 3 MILLION PEOPLE

Former hostage Major General Luis Mendieta Ovalle Herlindo helped the operation by appearing on live television and making an appeal directly to the guerillas. Herlindo, who escaped in one of the secretive commando-led escapes during “Operation Chameleon,” said: “This message is for members of the FARC. For those being held captive without a radio. Please, give them radio.” Though it might seem that this gave the game away, to Colombians it sounded like an appeal for hostages to be able to hear the voices of their families, who call in to radio shows.

The song was played on over 130 small stations and heard by 3 million people. Though most Colombians in major cities would not even recognize the song, it became popular in the rural areas controlled by the FARC. By December 2010, “Better Days” was echoing across the jungle. And the plan worked.

“We know of hostages who heard the message and were able to escape and provide information that led to the release of more hostages,” says Colonel Espejo.

“Better Days”

[VERSE 1]

In the middle of the night
Thinking about what I love the most
I feel the need to sing
What my heart has to give

I talk about those I love
About how much I miss them
I talk about pride and strength
Which beat inside my heart

[CHORUS]

A new dawn singing this message From my heart
Although I’m tied up and alone I feel as if I’m by your side
Listen to this message brother

[MORSE MESSAGE]

19 people rescued. You're next. Don't lose hope

[VERSE 2]

I want to keep on fighting
For my friends, my family, my children
We will soon see each other again
I'm sure better days are coming

[CHORUS x 2]

Later in December 2010, the FARC announced its plans to release five more hostages as a humanitarian gesture, including a police major, two military service members, and two politicians; two months later, Major Guillermo Solorzano, 35, and Corporal Salin Sanmiguel, 28, were released back to their families; and in the spring of 2012, the last 10 police and military hostages — some of whom had spent 14 years in captivity — were released and flown in a Brazilian military helicopter to safety. Colonel Espejo watched the hostages on TV, waving and punching the air with delight as they stepped off a helicopter in Villavicencio. At the country's presidential palace, the president, Juan Manuel Santos, said: "Welcome to liberty, soldiers and policemen of Colombia. Freedom has been very delayed, but now it is yours, to the delight of the whole country."

One former hostage was able to confirm the song's effectiveness, according to Col. Espejo. He told Ortiz of a clandestine operation that resulted in the release of Private Joshua Alvarez. In his military psychological evaluation, Col. Espejo says that the soldier spoke of hearing "the code hidden in the song," and revealed how the message was passed from soldier to soldier. The song was even enjoyed by the FARC, who were oblivious to its secret message. Back home in his village in western Nariño, Alvarez was greeted with a hero's welcome, including fireworks and banners.

"It makes me very happy to think of the hostages listening to our song," Ortiz says.

Ortiz still keeps in touch with Col. Espejo, who retired from the military and now works as a journalist. Col. Espejo wrote the book *El Gran Cartel*, an investigation into the FARC's finances. Ortiz continues to travel between Colombia, New York, and Miami, where he has created commercials for Rice Krispies and Volkswagen. He's earned a place in the American Advertising Federation's Hall of Fame, and on a top 10 list of "exceptional Colombians."

On the wall of Ortiz's Miami office there's a photo of him celebrating his gold Lion for the dandruff cocaine ad in 2000, wildly waving a Colombian flag on stage. He recalls how he persuaded a local tailor in Cannes to fashion him a Colombian flag on the morning of the awards. Receiving that award should have been the greatest moment of his life, he says, but that victory was marred by the FARC and their threats. "One moment, I was the king of the world," he says ruefully, "the next... just another Colombian victim of the terrorists. Being able to help the military with the code project was my way of helping them fight."

The army agreed to declassify "The Code" operation in 2011 and allowed the song to be entered into the Cannes Lions. "Better Days" earned Ortiz his second gold Lion. "This time," he says, "we enjoyed it."

Ed: It just goes to show how 'inventive' people can be to get the message across.

If you want to see the internet article (with pictures):

<https://www.theverge.com/2015/1/7/7483235/the-code-colombian-army-morsecode-hostages>

Spotlight - Burlingame, California

QSO with K6SQL, "Bill"

Band: 14MHz
Mode: CW
Date: 9th January 2022
Time: 15:59 GMT
QTH: Burlingame, California
Coordinates: 37°35'0"N 122°21'49"W
Time Zone: UTC -8
Population: 31,386



Seal



Burlingame is a city in San Mateo County, California. It is located on the San Francisco Peninsula and has a significant shoreline on San Francisco Bay. The city is named after diplomat Anson Burlingame and is known for its numerous eucalyptus groves, high quality of life, walkable downtown area, and public school system. As of the 2020 census, the city population was 31,386.

Burlingame is situated on land previously owned by San Francisco-based merchant William Davis Merry Howard. Howard planted many eucalyptus trees on his property and retired to live on the land. Howard died in 1856 and the land was sold to William C. Ralston, a prominent banker. In 1868, Ralston named the land after his friend Anson Burlingame, the United States Ambassador to China. After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, hundreds of lots in Burlingame were sold to people looking to establish new homes, and the town of Burlingame was incorporated in 1908. In 1910, the neighboring town of Easton was annexed and this area is now known as the Easton Addition neighborhood of Burlingame.

Burlingame refers to itself as the City of Trees due to its over 18,000 public trees within the city. In 1908, the Burlingame board of trustees passed an ordinance "prohibiting cutting, injuring, or destroying trees". The city also has many parks and eucalyptus groves.

In 2018, upon the 150th anniversary of the 1868 landmark Burlingame Treaty between the U.S. and China, a new bust of diplomat Anson Burlingame, sculpted by Zhou Limin from China, was unveiled at an international ceremony at the Burlingame Public Library.



Burlingame Avenue

Burlingame experiences warm and dry summers, with no average monthly temperatures above 71.6°F (22°C). According to the Köppen Climate Classification system, Burlingame has a warm-summer Mediterranean climate.



El Camino Real
Built: 1873-1876

Burlingame Avenue and Broadway, two streets running parallel to each other about one mile apart, are two of the city's main retail districts and downtown areas. Downtown Burlingame Avenue also houses the Apple Store.

Kohl Mansion, also known as The Oaks, was built in 1914 and is located at 2750 Adeline Drive in Burlingame, California. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture and social and cultural significance to the local area in 1982. The Kohl Mansion is open to the public for events and is used for weddings.



Jeremy, G3XZG

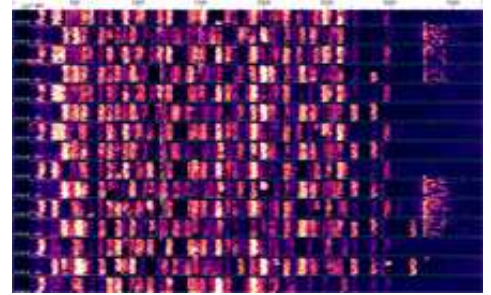
Precursor to FT8?

This is what Wikipedia tells us about FT8...

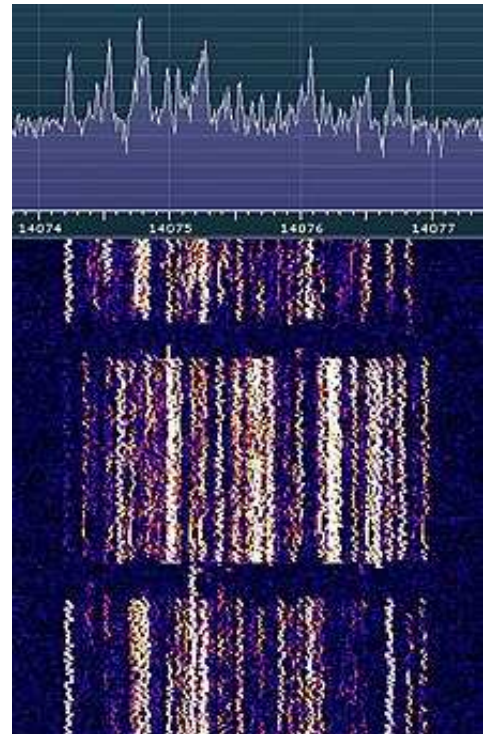
FT8 or Franke & Taylor 8 is a frequency shift keying digital mode which was released on June 29, 2017, by the creators Joe Taylor, K1JT and Steve Franke, K9AN along with the software package WSJT. FT8 is a popular form of digital weak signal communication used primarily by amateur radio operators to communicate on amateur radio bands with a majority of traffic occurring on the HF amateur bands. It is currently the most popular digital mode on spotting networks such as PSK Reporter.

The mode offers operators the ability to communicate in unfavorable environments such as during low sun spot numbers, high RF noise, or during low power operations. With advances in signal processing technology FT8 is able to decode signals with a signal to noise ratio as low as -20 dB, which is significantly lower than CW or SSB transmissions. The mode works by sending signals in 15-second-blocks with 12.64 seconds of transmission time and 2.36 seconds of decode time, this gives the mode five words per minutes effective transmission.

The mode requires each computer to be synced up in time with each other with most users making use of either NTP or GPS to ensure transmissions fall in the proper window. This allows FT8 transmission to support up to 13 characters, the mode uses forward error correction to ensure proper transmission and decoding. As the mode is quite limited in the number of words that it can send, it only sends enough information to ensure a contact with each station. There are multiple uses for FT8 including contesting, testing antennas, and for scientific research.



FT8 on 40m



FT8 blocks on 20m

Now do an internet search on the following:

[Games to Play in the Car \(Including Paper and Pencil\)](#)

You'll end up with an abundance of options, among which is the well known '*The Licence Plate Game*'.

Rewind some 70 years to the 1950's...

As a child I remember well sitting on the back seat of my fathers car with my sister, we each had a sheet of paper and a pencil, the object was simply to write down as many car licence plate numbers as we could, the winner being the one with the most numbers at the end of the journey.

The gist of this is that like FT8 minimal information was required and we were quiet (no other communication) during the journey, I wonder whether Steve Franke and Joe Taylor based FT8 on this simple *Licence Plate Game* with radio's replacing pieces of paper, was this therefore the precursor to FT8?

Just a thought.



1950's logging

Bryan M0IHV

January

HF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat	07 Jan	1300-1700	RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests CW
Sun	15 Jan	1300-1700	RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests Datamodes
Sat	21 Jan	1300-1700	RSGB AFS 80m-40m Contests Phone

VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Tue	03 Jan	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Jan	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Jan	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	10 Jan	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Jan	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Jan	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	12 Jan	2022-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Jan	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Jan	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Jan	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC

February

HF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	06 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC SSB
Sat	11 Feb	1900-2300	1st 1.8MHz Contest
Wed	15 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC DATA
Thu	23 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC CW
Mon	27 Feb	2000-2130	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Wed	01 Feb	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Sun	05 Feb	0900-1300	432MHz AFS
Tue	07 Feb	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Feb	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Feb	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	09 Feb	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	14 Feb	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Feb	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Feb	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	21 Feb	2000-2230	1.3GNhz UKAC
Sun	26 Feb	1000-1200	70MHz Cumulatives # 1
Tue	28 Feb	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

Any other business

I'm having a clearout this month, the listing below are all the books I have that are now surplus to requirement, amongst which are 3 "old style" study manuals (as in one version earlier than the current version) and are free of charge to those wanting to study for that particular licence, some of the books come with CD's.

On the next page I'm advertising the SenHaix handheld, again, surplus to requirement.

Any interest in these items should be addressed to bryanpage1@btinternet.com.

Title	Pages	Price
The Amateur Radio Operating Manual	240	£2.00
Exam Secrets	104	£1.50
Advance! The Full Licence Manual (old version)		Free to any Intermediate licence
Intermediate Licence Building on the Foundation (old version)		Free to any Foundation licence
Foundation Licence NOW! (old version)		Free to any newcomer
The Rig Guide	94	£1.50
The ARRL Antenna Book 22nd Edition (with CD)	936	£10.00
International Antenna Collection	248	£3.00
Understanding Basic Electronics ARRL	370+	£5.00
HF Antennas For All Locations	322	£5.00
An Introduction to Antenna Modelling (with CD)	74	£3.00
Ham Radio for Dummies	359+	£1.50
Backyard Antennas	200	£3.00
SDR Softwarwe Defined Radio	294+	£5.00
Farady, Maxwell and the Electromagenetic Field	320	£3.00
Work The World With JT65 and JT9	76	£3.00
Amateur Radio Essentials	270+	£4.00
Radio Propagation Explained	125+	£3.00
Radio Orienteering The ARDF Handbook	106	£3.00
The Magic Bands	224	£6.00
Raspberry Pi Explained	202	£3.00
Getting Started in Amateur Radio	90	£2.00
RTTY/PSK31 For Radio Amateurs (with CD)	48	£3.00
MORSE CODE For Radio Amateurs (with CD)	48	£3.00
Amateur Radio Explained	150+	£2.00
DMR for Beginners Using the Tytera MD-380	48	£1.00
The radiotoday guide to the Yaesu FTDX10	208	£8.50
FT-817ND manual with clear front and black back, printed on 160gsm high quality A4 paper and spirally bound.		£9.00

Any other business



SenHaix dual band radio, complete with charger and programming lead, offers over £45 accepted.