NEWSLETTER

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C.D.A.R.S.

SEPTEMBER 2023 CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Ofcom consultation document expires on the 5th of September, so don't forget to have your say.

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

Mini Loop Antenna's

Want a mini loop antenna that works? Then try this one.

Wiggington Field Day

Due to commitments there isn't enough support for HF Field Day this year, hopefully we'll be back on track next year.

Morse Code

Morse code inkers, putting the dit's and dah's to paper, making a 'hard copy' to be read later.

Spotlight

Elkeridge, Maryland, another of Jeremy's 2022 QSO's.

Want to write something for the newsletter? Then you can contact me on bryanpage1@btinternet.com

If you want something or have anything for sale, why not drop me an email and I'll put it in 'For sale and wanted'.

Morse links

If you're interested in Morse code, here are a few useful links:

FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

https://fists.co.uk

Wikihow

How to learn Morse Code

https://www.wikihow.com/Learn-Morse-Code

The Ham Whisperer

Morse Code Course

http://www.hamwhisperer.com/p/morse-code-course.html

LEARN MORSE CODE

LEARN MORSE CODE in one minute !

http://www.learnmorsecode.com/

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

https://lcwo.net/

Tools for learning Morse Code

https://www.aa9pw.com/morsecode/

Celebrating the unique art form of Morse Code

https://cwops.org/

Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

http://www.g4fon.net/

Contents

September 2023

Regulars

6

Other

Welcome


Bryan M0IHY

HF contests are back on this month. The ratio for VHF to HF contests for September is just over 2:1, whilst October increases to just over 4:1, plenty to get on with.

Thanks to Guy (M0GUY) for his excellent talk on QO-100 (Quatar-OSCAR 100), I was surprised at how easy it was to get the satellite dish pointing in the right direction, James (M0JCQ) got it in the right direction first time! There were no QSO's made but Guy ran us through the basics and explained that you could get a reasonable LNB for around £30 off Amazon, other components are more expensive but depending on what you want out of it the more expensive items can be substituted. There's plenty of information on the Internet, notably http://www.dd1us.de, he does a 68-page PDF on Quatar-OSCAR 100 which also includes components to complete the operation .

This month CW Corner looks at 'Morse Inkers', electromagnetic devices that put the dit's and dah's onto a strip of paper. John (forgotten his callsign) one of the volunteers at the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park has a collection of these devices. I suppose you could consider this the equivalent of a modern day 'hard copy'!

Well done to Dave (G8FMC) for selling some of the surplus club equipment at the Northampton Radio Club BBQ.

Item	Sale Price
Yaesu FT270 2m FM TCVR	£30.00
Kernow 13.8V @ 5A PSU	£10.00
Victor VC3165 Counter	£20.00
Maplin MF1000 Counter plus Maplin MG205 Function Generator	£45.00
Total	**£105.00**

The Ofcom consultation document is closing on the 5th of September, it's your right to vote on this subject, so don't miss this opportunity to have your say.

Angie and I are off to the G-QRP Convention at the Harper Adams University, Telford on the 2nd and 3rd of September, last year it was a great success, hopefully we'll come back with lots to tell.

Bryan M0IHY

Chairmans Ramble


Dave (G8FMC)

Well, what sort of a month has it been? I am actually making some progress in converting my large front bedroom into an indoor workshop. Jean's profiling bed has gone to a good home locally. That gives me lots more room to move onto the next stage.

Recently acquired racking from IKEA assembled by my daughter Mel (the IKEA Queen!) with a bit of help from me. A sort of posh black version of Dexion (IKEA's BROR range – very good) with a big pull-out metal drawer. I have temporarily put most of the crap that was littering the floor onto the rack shelves (although it all needs sorting and tidying) so the floor is reasonably clear for the first time in ages.

The aim is to get the lounge and dining room looking 'normal' and confine the radio kit to the 'Shack' (was bedroom 3) and the 'Indoor workshop' (was bedroom 1). My family might actually visit for a meal if the dining table is re-discovered and able to be used to eat!?

I have just got back from visiting my friend John G4KXP in Droitwich for a few days. In theory a bit of R and R for me, but as usual we spent quite a bit of time on 'Antenna work'! Using cast off bits (mainly ex Geoff G3NPI, now SK) John (that is G4KXP John; so many John's in my life!) had made a 10m Moxon Rectangle. We got this up on a temporary pole and did a bit of tuning using my 'RigExpert' analyser and his Mini-VNA (Vector Network Analyser). Interesting and a bit amazing that the correlation between the 2 instruments was very close!

We establish yet again that if one has an antenna (Yagi etc) pointing to the sky, even if the Reflector is quite close to the ground, then the tuning is not far off what it will be when up in the clear. Thus, adjustments are quite easy, using a step-ladder if necessary? We then used my 6m portable mast to temporarily raise it up closer to normal height, then make any final small adjustments. Up on the tilt over ally pole mast at normal height (a modest 8m or so) it still had a good match.

Right, how does it work? The 10m band was utterly dead! However this morning there was a bit of activity and comparisons with John's Trapped-Dipole showed an increase of about 2 x S-points on most signals. Also less noise! The Moxon although modest in gain, has good nulls, so can be very useful in reducing noise and pick-up of unwanted emissions.

John's pole now has a 10m Moxon and a 6m Moxon. We removed his 2m and 70cm beams temporarily. These higher bands are very poor at this low QTH, close to the Droitwich canal and in a bit of a dip! We hope he can have some fun over the next year or so with Sporadic-E and enhanced propagation during the Sun-spot max period?

The weekend of 2-3 Sept has the 144MHz trophy and the HF SSB FD. Not enough members were available to make a proper FD event a viable option unfortunately. The club call of G3MDG will however be activated from the G8FMC QTHR, in the Fixed sweeper section, with Roger M7RMF and Matt M1DTG as co-operators. We hope to also be able to swap to 144MHz for a few hours as well, probably using G8FMC?

So, hopefully some fun on HF and a modest entry to swell the total for the VHF Championship?

Till next time;

73 all, Dave K, G8FMC (Chairman and Contest Coordinator)

Mini Portable Loop Aerials

Credit: Jim Sterling GM3UWX

I subscribe to 'SPRAT' the Journal of the G-QRP Club and looking over previous copies I came across an article in issue 139, page 16 regarding loop antenna's.

Jim had made these aerials a couple of years before the article went into SPRAT for use on holiday stating "they worked so well that I think other members might like to try them too."

The aerial supports are made by gluing 20mm uPVC conduit tubing (25mm for the top band loop) into square frames using inspection elbows, or 90° elbows for the corners (materials from major hardware stores).

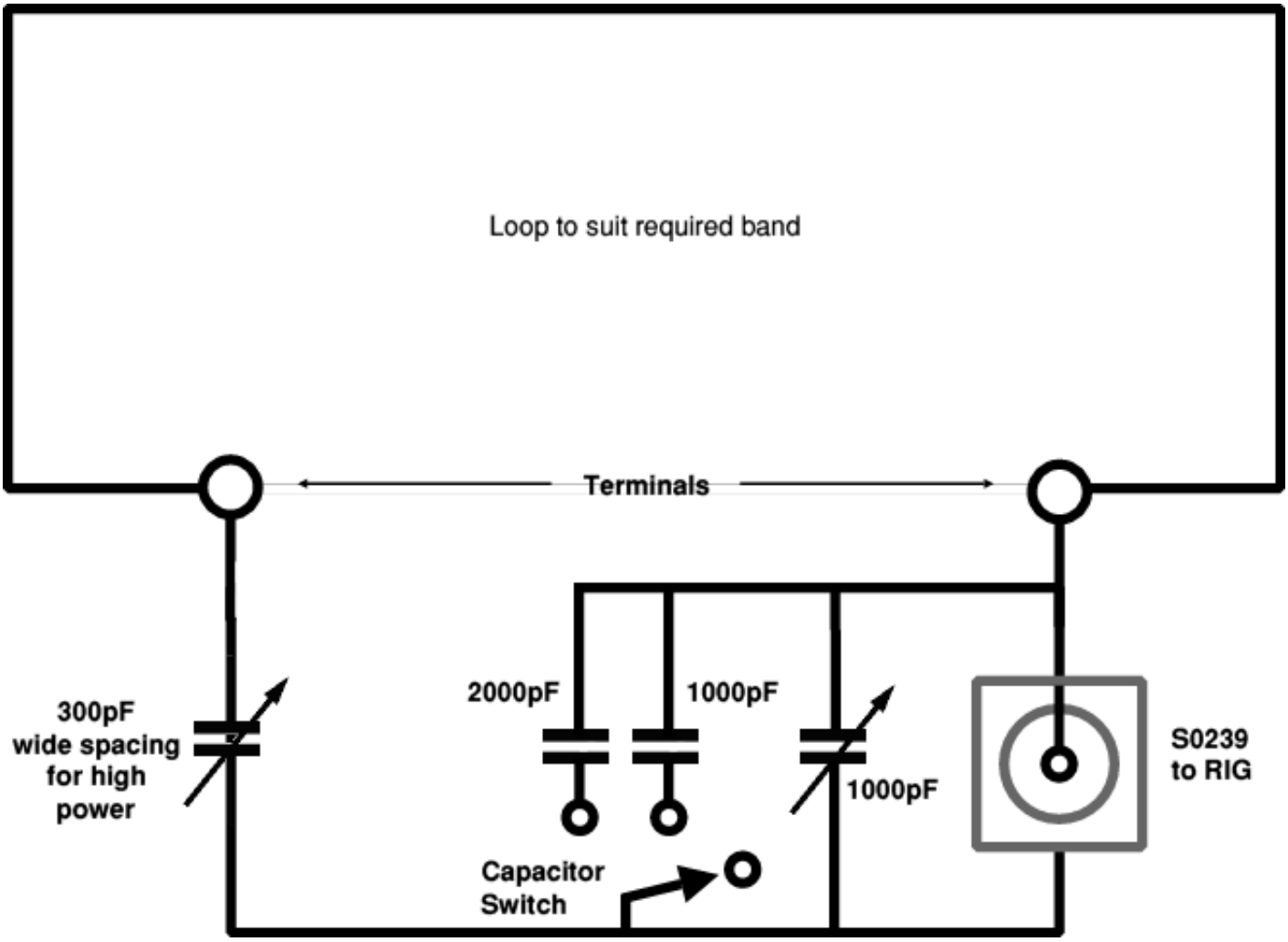
He decided that 26" was the largest size he could easily fit in his car and experimented from there. The dimension given is the size of the wire loop and conduit was cut accordingly. He built and tested each loop before gluing the conduit corners in place and reduced the frame size in each case until he could tune the highest frequency with a capacitance of around 60pF. This gives a reasonably high Q but is not as sharply tuned as a magnetic loop, he glued each loop only after he got the size right.

For single turn loops PVC covered heavy duty flexible cable, the kind used for DC power supplies for 100W HF rigs was used, and for multi turn loops, smaller covered flexible wire such as the cores of 13A mains cable was used.

Conduit

Inspection elbow

90° elbow



GM3UWX Tuner

The tuner (previous page) is just a Pi circuit with extra capacitance switched across the 1000pF matching variable capacitor to allow for the high Q of the loop. The loop is the inductance and the radiator. The 300pF tuning capacitor has a 3:1 slow motion drive for easier tuning.

The 2 variable capacitors in his QRP tuner have quite small spacing and were taken from an old valve receiver.

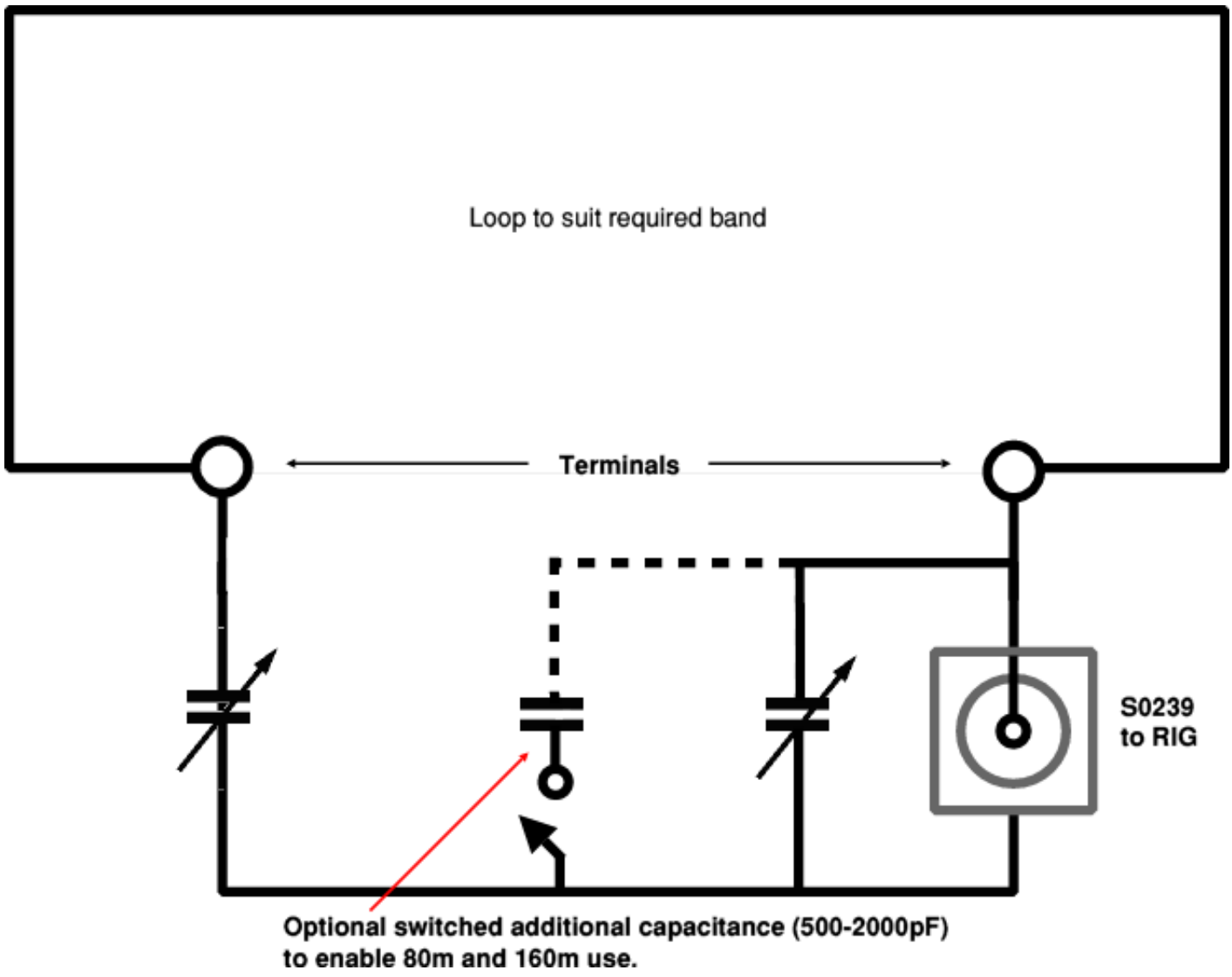
His QRO tuner has quite a large wide spaced transmitting variable capacitor from an old 150W AM/CW valve transmitter and a series of switched fixed capacitors for loading, so that he can fit the whole thing into a 6" * 4" (150mm * 100mm) plastic box. It runs 100W.

These are the loops Jim uses:

Band	Turns	Frame
160m	5	26"
80m	3	26"
40m/30m	1	26"
40m/30m/20m	1	21"
40m/30m	1	12"

The 12" loop is the one he uses for teaching practical at his radio club, with the club shack at the other end. He say's "it sure beats carrying a 66 foot aerial around".

Steve Nichols (G0KYA) notes this antenna in his "Stealth Antennas" publication (available from the RSGB shop) in the "**Let's get *really* stealthy**" chapter, he quotes "I built my own just to test the design and was amazed at the results".



G0KYA Tuner

Steve goes on to say “The whole thing was put together in about an hour and I taped the loop to my curtain rail just to try it. I could easily run 10W without the capacitors flashing over and found that it would tune on 40m (7MHz) easily, down to an SWR of 1.5:1. If I removed one of the turns in the loop I found that I could tune 30m (10MHz) instead.

I connected the antenna up my radio, tuned the loop for 7.030MHz and dropped the power to 5W. I listened around and found that signals on the loop were generally down about 1 - 3 S-points compared with my 40m loft-mounted dipole and external 80m OCFD. I tentatively put out a CQ call on CW and PA1MAX from the Netherlands came back to me. Max gave me a 579 report and we had a quick chat - all of it solid copy. He was using 100W to a dipole. Amazing! The thing actually worked.

Jim, GM3UWX, says you can play with the size of the loop to get it to work on other bands. This will depend on having big enough capacitors or adding extra capacitance in parallel”.

Steve (G0KYA) added a meter to his project to enable easier tuning, he said “I also had a small meter in the box so I inserted a small diode and a variable resistor in series with the meter and wound the leads around on of the connections to the loop to pick up some RF. This allowed me to tune the antenna for maximum current.

The variable capacitor on the left is to tune the antenna for maximum current whilst the variable capacitor on the right matches the load to 50 ohms.

Ed: Maybe something to consider as a winter project?

Have your say

Listed below are the 17 questions regarding proposed changes to the Amateur Radio licensing framework.

Question 1: Do you agree with our proposal that each licensee should only be able to hold one personal licence? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 2: Do you agree with our proposals to permit greater supervised use of the radio equipment by others? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal to use M8 and M9 for Intermediate licensees going forward? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 4: Do you agree with our proposals to change our policies on the use of RSLs? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 5: Do you agree with our proposals to allow the use of any suffix? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 6: Do you agree with our proposals to allow a change of call signs? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 7: Do you agree with our proposals on the limits to how many call signs can be held? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 8: Do you agree with our proposal to simplify special event call signs? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 9: Do you agree with our proposals to increase transmit power? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 10: Do you agree with our proposed changes to remote control operation? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 11: Do you agree with our proposed changes to Beacon operation? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 12: Do you agree with our proposed changes to Gateways? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 13: Do you agree with our proposed changes to repeaters? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 14: Do you agree with our proposed changes to allow Foundation Licence holders to build their own equipment and access the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequency bands? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 15: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposals to permit some limited airborne use? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 16: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposed changes in licence format and the alignment of standard terms and conditions? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Question 17: Do you agree to Ofcom's proposed changes to the licence terms and conditions? Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

Answering the questions is not necessarily straight forward, it's felt that if you agree in principle but not totally, you should answer 'no' and explain why, answering 'yes' could possibly get the explanation ignored.

A4. Responding to this consultation

A4.1	Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 4 September 2023.
A4.2	You can download a response form from **https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/updating-amateur-radio-licensing-framework**. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
A4.3	If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to **amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk**, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet.
A4.4	Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation: Amateur Radio Review Ofcom FAO Spectrum Licensing PO Box 1285 WA1 9GL
A4.5	We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:
A4.6	send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files; or
A4.7	upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.
A4.8	We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
A4.9	We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt of a response submitted to us by email.
A4.10	You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.
A4.11	It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in the consultation document. The questions are listed at Annex 7. It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.
A4.12	If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact Amateur Review at amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk.
A4.13	Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish responses on the Ofcom website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period.
A4.14	If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to, and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.
A4.15	If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
A4.16	To fulfil our pre-disclosure duty, we may share a copy of your response with the relevant government department before we publish it on our website. This is the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for postal matters, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for all other matters.
A4.17	Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our Terms of Use.

Next steps

A4.18	Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement by the end of 2023.
A4.19	If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

CW corner

Source: https://www.electronics-notes.com

Morse Code / Telegraph Inker Machine

Although most Morse code messages were copied down by an operator, sometimes a direct record of the message was needed and for this a Morse Inker was used as part of the telegraph system.

Although Morse telegraph traffic was read by operators and written down by them, on some occasions a direct indication of the characters sent over the wire was needed.

Although operators were very practised at sending and receiving, when a message had been sent, there was no way or retrieving it if letters were missed. Also if a permanent record was needed, then the hand writing of the operator may not have been sufficient.

Another instance when a Morse telegraph inker machine may have been required was if a station was to be left unattended for a short while. Messages sent would appear on the inker machine, although for longer periods of inactivity, lots of paper would be wasted.

When this was required, typically a Morse telegraph inker was used. These Morse code machines were used on a number of occasions although these machines are now relatively rare.

Morse inker beginnings

Although Samuel Morse invented a Morse embosser which was used for the 1844 inaugural transmission, this Morse code machine was not particularly effective because it was difficult to read the embossed markings.

The next Morse telegraph machine as a chemical recorder introduced in 1845 by Bain.

However the most successful Morse code machine was the Morse Inker which was invented in 1854 by Thomas John of Vienna.

The Morse inker used an inked wheel which was brought into contact with the paper for key down periods. The paper was moved along powered by a clockwork motor, so it would not keep operational indefinitely. However the clockwork mechanisms were developed sufficiently well so that they would be able to operate satisfactorily for some while, and they could easily be re-wound as needed.

Morse inker photos

Morse telegraph inker machine

In this machine, the inked wheel moves up and down to provide the intermittent inking of the dots and dashes on the paper. The clockwork motor is regulated to provide a constant paper speed and in this way make the markings decipherable.

This Morse inker is a British machine from the early 1900s.

Paper feed on a Morse telegraph inker

The paper feed system stored paper similar to that used for punched tape used for teleprinters and the like. It was a long roll and about an inch across. This was fed through the paper handling system shown, and the inked wheel dropped onto it when the inker was activated during key down periods. It lifted away from the paper for key-up periods.

The paper was fed through at a steady rate by the clockwork mechanism so that the length of the dots and dashes could be seen.

Electromagnet on a Morse telegraph inker

The electromagnet system was similar to that used on sounders. It pulled levels to actuate the inked wheel so that it came into contact with the paper during key down periods.

Ed: I suppose these had a modern day equivalent of the dot-matrix printer.

Spotlight - Elkeridge, Maryland

QSO with Roland A Sanders, K3RA

Band:	12m	**QTH:**	Elkeridge
Mode:	CW	**Coordinates:**	39°12'57"N 76°42'33"W
Date:	5th June 2022	**Time Zone:**	UTC-4/5
Time:	13:32z	**Population:**	25,171 (as of 2020)

Source: Wikipedia

Flag

Elkridge is an unincorporated community and census-designated place (CDP) in Howard County, Maryland, United States. The population was 15,593 at the 2010 census. Founded early in the 18th century, Elkridge is adjacent to two other counties, Anne Arundel and Baltimore.


Elkridge Furnace Inn, Furnace Avenue

Elkridge qualifies as the oldest settlement in its present county, when Howard was a part of Anne Arundel County. Its location on the Patapsco River was a key element in its growth. The Maryland General Assembly elected a law to erect a 30-acre (120,000 m2), forty-lot town at the pre-existing settlement of Elkridge Landing to be called “Jansen Town” in 1733. In 1738 an attempt to formalize the town failed with the death of the commissioners before passage. In 1750 a second attempt to formalize the town was attempted around the lands of Phillip Hammond. By comparison, Baltimore Town consisted of only 25 dwellings at that time. A third petition was filed in 1762.

The settlement was founded as a place where planters, who each had a wharf along the river, could bring their tobacco crop to be loaded on English trading ships. Later, Elkridge Landing was built as the seaport dock for the community. In 1755 the Elkridge Furnace was founded at the Elkridge Furnace Complex, a historic iron works located on approximately 16 acres (65,000 m2) and including six remaining buildings of an iron furnace which operated into the 1860s. The millrace that fed water to the furnace was filled in during the 1920s to create the current “Race Road”. The Hockley Forge and Mill were created upstream in 1760. In 1781, Lafayette camped light infantry at Elkridge Landing en route to Virginia during the Revolutionary war. In 1825, Jansen Town burned, taking out all of the oldest buildings at the Landing and 9 out of 10 houses in the village. The same year, on October 12, 1825, the Elkridge Landing postal stop was created.


Thomas Viaduct

Elkridge has historic churches, including Melville Church on Furnace Avenue. Its original building was the first Methodist church built (1772) and was visited on the circuit rides of Francis Asbury. Saint Augustine Church, on Old Washington Road, was built in 1845 and opened its parochial school in 1870.

Elkridge had a rich history of industries, including pig-iron forging, basket weaving, paper, cotton and grist milling, as well as employment from the B&O Railroad. The Thomas Viaduct, located over Levering Avenue at the entrance to the Patapsco Valley State Park, is the oldest multiple-arched curved stone railroad bridge in the world. Built in 1833, its architect was Benjamin Latrobe, Jr. The B&O first used horse-drawn coaches in relays, hence Relay Station was added. The viaduct also carried the Tom Thumb, and

the first telegraph message from Washington, D.C., stating “What hath God wrought?” was wired across.

Elkridge did not escape the Civil War. Union troops guarded the Thomas Viaduct and the thoroughfare to Baltimore with a captured Winans Steam Gun while camping on Lawyers Hill, a community of summer estates built over the years by residents such as Caleb Dorsey (”Belmont”), Baltimore City Supreme Bench Judge George Washington Dobbin (”the Lawn”), Thomas Donaldson (”Edgewood”), John Latrobe (”Fairy-Knowe”), and the Penniman family home (”Wyndhurst”). Some of these families had slaves.

“Maycroft”, a Lawyers Hill Estate.

Their estate cottages were built along the top of the Lawyers Hill, including along Old Lawyers Hill Road, on which at one corner stands the Elkridge Assembly Rooms. This community hall, built in 1871, was a neutral meeting place for entertainments for Northern and Southern sympathizers of the neighborhood and owned by them as stockholders. Neighbors did not betray neighbors and each protected others’ property from advancing troops. Many homes remain, while others burned and have not been rebuilt, such Fairie Knowe in 1850 and 1900. The Lawyers Hill Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

Elkridge includes a range of recreational areas throughout the town. Patapsco Valley State Park runs along the Patapsco River in North Elkridge, with entrances on Landing Road, River Road, and South Street in nearby Relay. Rockburn Branch Park in West Elkridge provides athletic fields, playgrounds, and nature trails. Also in West Elkridge, Belmont Manor and Historic Park hosts private events as well as nature programs with the Howard County Conservancy and surrounding schools.

Troy Park is under construction surrounding Troy Hill Manor.

A pathway in Rockburn Branch Park in West Elkridge.

Jeremy G3XZG

Contest Corner

September HF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Sep	1300-1300	SSB Field Day
Mon	04 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Wed	13 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Mon	18 Sep	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	28 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Sat-Sun	30/09-01/10	1200-1200	UKEI DX SSB Contest

September VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Sep	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest
Sun	03 Sep	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	05 Sep	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Sep	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Sep	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	12 Sep	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Sep	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 Sep	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	14 Sep	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	17 Sep	900-1200	70MHz AFS Contest
Tue	19 Sep	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Sep	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Sep	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

October HF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Mon	02 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Wed	11 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Mon	16 Oct	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB

October VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Tue	03 Oct	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Oct	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Oct	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Sat	07 Oct	1400-2200	1.2GHz Trophy
Sat	07 Oct	1400-2200	2.3GHz Trophy
Sat-Sun	07-08 Oct	1400-1400	Oct 432MHz-245GHz Contest
Tue	10 Oct	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Oct	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Oct	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	12 Oct	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Oct	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Oct	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sun	22 Oct	900-1300	50MHz AFS Contest
Tue	24 Oct	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

Contests/Operating

VHF Championship – AFS (Affiliated Societies) section; we continue to do well in this. Still holding onto 2nd place after results of 70MHz Trophy, 144MHz Low Power and 432MHz Low power. The 2 low power events also had a ban on using KST or similar messaging, which was a pain for some. Low power for these events is 25W and this year I have been using 10W (AL category) in the UKAC's, so not that low power for me!

The eagerly awaited results for the 70MHz Trophy were published just after we went-to-press. John G4CZB/P managed 2nd place in the Single Op Open section, with John G0ODQ in 5th and myself 7th in the SF section. Phil joined the G2L group for this one, where they achieved 3rd in the Open section.

144 MHz Low Power; SF had Charlie G0SKA 4th and Matt G0XDI 5th, followed by John G0ODQ 8th and Roger G3MEH 9th. A few more of us farther down the list. John G4CZB was in the Backpackers with just 5W but also put a log in for us and got 7th in the Open section.

432MHz Low Power SF; Matt G0XDI 5th, Roger G3MEH 8th and John G0ODQ 9th, with a few more of us down the list. Particularly for these last 3 events we have maintained and slightly improved our overall position, as much by 'weight of numbers' as any particular individual efforts. A great team effort overall, with just 3 more to play for. (144MHz Trophy 2-3 Sept, 1.3GHz and 2.3GHz Trophy 7th Oct.)

The evening UKAC's (under the Northampton banner) we are a steady 3rd place out of 41, and have also opened up a bit more of a gap from 4th place. Keep up the good work all.

Dave's Delta-loop experiments continue:
Well, I did dabble in the IOTA contest (using G3MDG, Boy so much better than either G8FMC or M0K!) and had my Cobweb up on a temporary pole near the house as well. I was thus able to do direct comparisons on 20m between the Delta-loop and the Cobweb.

The Cobweb was MUCH quieter than the Delta-loop! In fact the noise pick-up was so bad on the loop that generally using my 80m/40m Fan-Dipole as an RX antenna for 20m gave better signal/noise ratio! Not a resounding success for the loop?

As was pointed out during a phone call with my good friend Stewart G3RXQ, the super low-angle radiation of a vertically polarised loop, is also perfect for picking up crud from (non-compliant?) electronics in local houses!!!

I thus had a re-think and remembering the old adage that; 'If you can't hear them then you can't work them', I decided that rejecting at least some of the local crud was a priority for this QTH, even if sacrificing some distant DX?

I dropped the loop and re-orientated it for horizontal polarisation, fed in the middle of the bottom. (One can also feed it at the apex, either way it is a bit like 2 x Dipoles stacked). I had a suspicion of the direction that the main interference came from, so also changed the orientation to potentially minimise pickup from that source – to the SW? RX noise has dropped by 10–15dB, so I can now hear more stations, result!

So on 3rd Aug I tuned round and heard Z3120KR a special event station in Nth Macedonia, 59 both ways. Then I beat the pile-up for CQ7JMJ in Portugal, 57-9. Well medium hop is working OK. On the evening of 4th Aug I heard LU3MCJ and got 58 from him in Argentina; so the longer skip is not completely duff? I will again compare with the Cobweb during SSB FD on 2-3 Sept when a few of us will be in the Fixed category from G8FMC QTH.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

For sale and wanted

If anybody has anything for sale, or wants anything, then this is the place to ask, photo's and descriptions will help, email me at bryanpage1@btinternet.com.

Any other business