



RAG CHEW

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Crickly Hill Country Park Meeting Anne 2E1GKY and Arron M0MNH

On Monday 26th May (Spring bank holiday) several club members gathered for our third annual meeting Crickly Hill Country Park. Again a most enjoyable afternoon with members using various antennas and the discussions on these as always were most interesting. The weather although not sunny and warm was dry and still for those attending: Barry M64UJ and his-partner, Anne2E1GKY, Arran M0MNH, Paul 2E0PWC, Dave G4BCA, Vernon GOHTO, Brian M6BRI and Algi SWL.

Anne made a good contact with Brian G4CIB near Chepstow Castle using a HB9CV horizontally Polarised on 2m SSB with an excellent signal strength and was well pleased as the antenna had not been used quite some time with the Yaesu FT290 and its FI2010 ampflifer. Vernon also used his Yaesu FT290 and amplifier Dave also had his FT290.

Arron M0MNH was operating a Phillips FM series on 70MHz (4m) an output of about 30 watts. The antenna Arron was using was a homebrewed Moxon Rectangle.

He made good QSOs with G7LFC/M, M0JZT/P and SOTA stations GWB-009, 2W0VAC using an Ascom 550 radio all reports of 5 & 9.

The Moxon rectangle generator can be found at www.moxonantennaproject.com , it should give 5.5db, on a good day for 4m contacts.

Brian M6BRI was using D-Star and 2 metres, making good contacts on D-Star and on 2 metres working three SOTA competitors using his handheld Icom IC-E92D.

Further 1970s 2 Metre Contest Reminiscences Brian G4CIB

(continued from previous Ragchews')

The May 1970 contest has come and gone. Arthur, G8BRN is busy at his place of employment at GCHQ, and I am finding my feet as a junior engineer in the design and development department at Smiths Industries in Bishops Cleeve. The thought of doing any more portable contests is put on the back burner, my log book records that I did make a few more contacts from the home station in Longlevens in a fixed station contest on 6th December 1970.

The years 1971 and 1972 must have been a busy years for Arthur as my log book records that I only operated from my home station for a few contests, working the usual crop of stations located in the Severn Vale.

Early in 1972 I built a little 2 watt transistor transmitter, amplitude modulated (AM) of course, and this opened all sorts of possibilities to operate /P without having to resort to power supplies to generate HT for valves. I purchased an ex-Army R209 receiver covering 1 - 20 Mc/s - a compact valve receiver which ran off 12 volts and had an internal vibrator to generate the HT for the valves, which, incidentally were directly heated 1.5v filament types as used in the popular little portable radios in the 1950s before the development of transistors. I suddenly got the /P bug again and at every possible spare moment I would head to Cud Hill near Painswick Beacon to operate.

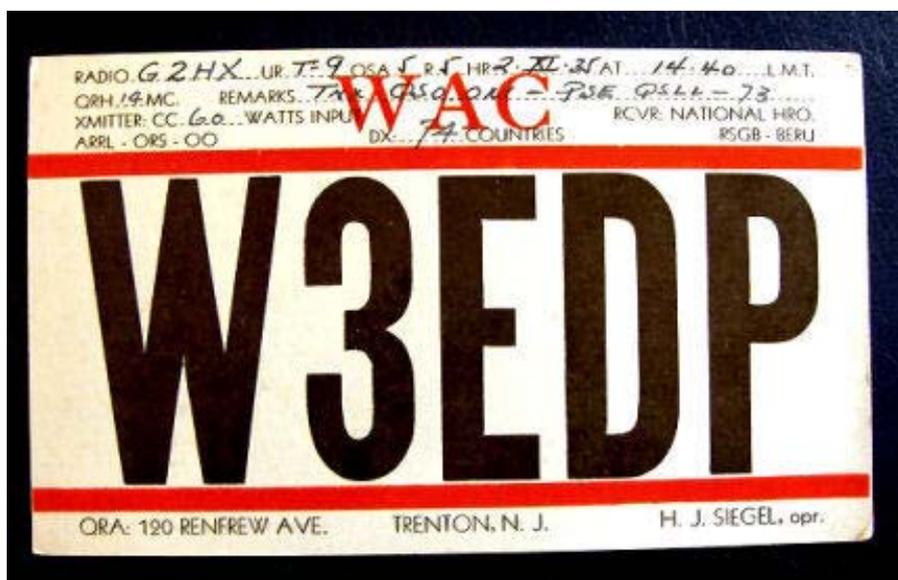
My set-up consisted of an 8 element J-Beam Yagi supported by a lightweight mast (also from J Beam), a Mosfet converter dropping the 144-146 Mc/s signal down to 4-6 Mc/s which could be tuned on the R209 receiver and my little home-brew 2 watt AM transmitter. At this time I had a Ford Escort Estate Car which was great for loading all this stuff into. My log book tells me that I operated from Cud Hill in a contest on 21st May 1972 from 0900 - 1700 and using the little 2 watt AM transmitter I worked 58 stations over a wide area, no great DX but very encouraging, nevertheless, for QRP operation.

Late in 1972, Arthur, G8BRN sounded me out again regarding doing some more /P contests in 1973 and so we arranged a planning meeting at his house where he introduced me to Dave, G8DHA who had recently joined GCHQ as an apprentice. Incidentally, I still keep in touch with Dave - he was posted down to Bude and is still there, now retired. A new site was needed for our contests, however, as "our" lay-by at Cutsdean had been incorporated into a road widening scheme. So in the Spring of 1973 Arthur and I did several "reccy" outings, travelling over the Cotswolds also to Bredon Hill and one memorable outing over the Brendon Hills to Lynton in North Devon. We were becoming more desperate when a chance conversation with an uncle of mine who was involved with the Cheltenham branch of the Royal Observer Corps led to an offer we couldn't refuse...

(to be continued)

History in a Shoebox Tom G3XMM

The shoebox has long been used as a convenient storage space for QSL cards. Often these boxes get stored away only to re-appear years later when some sort of tidy-up operation is under way. Such was my experience some years ago when helping to clear the shack of G2HX. Owen had boxes of QSL cards covering some fifty years of amateur radio operation and many of these were of considerable historical interest. A photograph of one such card confirming a contact on the twenty-metre band is shown. The date of the contact was the 2nd November 1935. W3EDP had the latest thing in receivers, an HRO, and a sixty-watt transmitter. No detail of the aerial is given but it is possible to make an informed guess as to what it was.



H. J. Siegel had become W3EDP a couple of years previously and in the interim period had set about designing an effective and convenient all-band antenna. In so doing he used up in excess of a thousand feet of wire we are told before coming up with the 84-foot plus counterpoise aerial that is known by his call-sign. Details of this aerial appeared in the T & R Bulletin on this side of the Atlantic in February 1936 and presumably in the U.S.A. a little before. Therefore it is most likely that the aerial in use at the American end of the contact detailed on the card was in fact the original W3EDP in the late stages of its development. There must be other examples hidden away in shoeboxes I suspect, how about a G5RV using a G5RV or W3DZZ using a W3DZZ for example? If you have any cards of this type or indeed of a more general historical significance in your collection I am sure we would all be interested to see them.

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Thank you to those who have contributed to your issue of Ragchew  
If you have an article to share; projects, old stories, jokes or cartoons, trips, interesting non radio interests - email it to me or give it to me on paper at the club  
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