

11/10/99

RAGCHEW

10p

GARES WINS FRANK HOOSEN TROPHY

The committee has received notification from the RSGB that GARES has been awarded the Frank Hoosen Trophy for their entry in the National Field Day competition. The trophy is awarded to the leading station on the 20 metre band and congratulations are due to all those involved. Arrangements are being made to collect the actual trophy.

1999 CLUB CALLS CONTEST

The 1999 RSGB Club Calls contest will take place on Saturday the 13th November between 2000 and 2300 UTC. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Steve Richards G4HFT.

THANKS FROM MARGARET

A card has been received via Les from Margaret Hughes (XYL G0ECJ). The message in the card is reproduced here :-

20/9. Dear Les,

Would you please convey my thanks to all at GARS for the card & their good wishes - both were very much appreciated. (I'm making good progress and should soon be rid of the sticks.)

Thank you again.
Margaret. (XYL G0ECJ)

THE AGM (Revisited)

Apologies to Leta Woodcock G4RHK who was omitted from the list of elected officers. Leta was elected catering manageress and was also co-opted on to the committee by the elected members.

WHAT GOES ON AT BARROW WAKE ?

Well, it all started on the 2nd August when, due to the fact that there was no meeting at the school, it was decided to hold a VHF / UHF portable meeting at Barrow Wake. Barrow Wake, by the way, is the old road from Birdlip to the Air Balloon. It's blocked off at its lower end and is now a big long car park and Scenic Viewpoint.

Around the appointed time various operators arrived and started to set up their stations but, even before all the aerials were erected, a thunderstorm approached and everything was swiftly dismantled. According to my log I started at 18:54 and finished at 19:09 - having just 1 QSO. The QSO was with MI1BYV, which was the best I'd done up to that time, so from my point of view it wasn't a complete waste of time.

The outcome of this meeting was that it was decided to form an "Escarpment Group" - a very loose knit collection of people who would occasionally venture out to Barrow Wake (or elsewhere) for some /P working. By its very nature there isn't a single point of contact but, if you're interested in joining us, then a word with Anne Reed 2E1GKY should suffice.

From Anne 2E1GKY :-

The Barrow Wake 'Birdlip' VHF/UHF Group are now well established with several regular members and already two most enjoyable Sunday afternoons. One of these was operating during a 2Mtr contest and as well as several local contacts Tony M1EET got into France on SSB and was well pleased. Anne 2E1GKY made contacts on FM into Gwent and North Hill, near Minehead as well as Porlock and one contact on 6M using the Palstar handheld with a Watson Tri-bander mobile aerial.

THE DF HUNT

By Anne Reed 2E1GKY

The DF hunt at Newent on Saturday September 11th was very poorly supported with only Brian, Alan and Anne taking part. Tony and Vernon had gone to a great deal of trouble planning this event. Anne 2E1GKY missed a turning to the Glasshouse (May Hill) location on her approach but this turned out to the members advantage because she found a perfect place to have a pot of tea with some scones and cream and jam after the hunt which was enjoyed by all. The name of the place is Taynton Farm Centre which is in a really beautiful location for an afternoon run or just for tea.

FROM THE FOX'S POINT OF VIEW

By Tony Martin G4HBV

Once again for the 1999 DF hunt the station was run by G4HBV and G0THO. We were pleased with the location and would like to think we have at last found a site that we can use again. Some years ago we did attempt a long distance (several miles) version, but it was not a success, and so we have since organised "walking distance" hunts only. Apart from the car parking problem, there are other considerations: the most important being the level of signal we generate at the start. Ideally this needs to be just good enough for detection by the sort of receivers in use, so that anyone going off on a reciprocal finds this out quickly before too much time is wasted. Hence I use a 1W Tx and keep to as short an aerial as possible. Of course, without doing a full "dress-rehearsal" test, we have sometimes got it wrong in the past. For example, last year at "Fiddlers Elbow", although I used a full 132 foot wire, we were effectively blocked out at the start by that 100 foot drop and thick greenery.

This year both Vernon and I were pleased to see our stalwart supporters all arrive individually.

.....Same site next year, but thinking caps on for a possible change of style.

Dates for your Diary

1999

October	04	Slide show - Operating from Lundy Island
	11	
	18	
	25	
November	01	Talk - History of the Eddystone company by Les Harris G0ULH. Several working receivers will be on show.
	08	
	15	
	22	
	29	
December	06	Mystery voice competition. Slide show - GARES review of 1999 by Tony Martin G4HBV
	13	Leta's Christmas buffet
	20	No meeting
	27	No meeting

2000

January	03	No meeting
	10	Heathkit evening
	17	
	24	
	31	