

# HF HIGHLIGHTS

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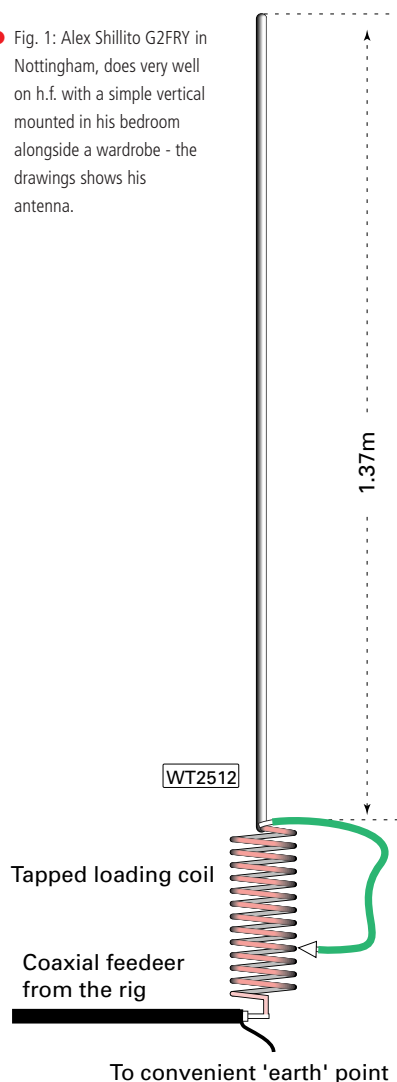
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REPORTS, INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO ME PLEASE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

I have had several enquires regarding the antenna used by **Alex Shillito G2FRY** in Nottingham who does very well on h.f. with a simple vertical mounted in his bedroom alongside a wardrobe. Well, I managed to have a long chat with Alex and he kindly forwarded a drawing of the antenna for you all to see (**Fig. 1**) together with details of its installation and how it was constructed.

The metal rod is the element from an old CB antenna. A coil made of 30 turns of copper wire is wrapped around wooden dowel and then fixed to the bottom of the rod. A length of RG-58 coaxial cable feeds the antenna which is tuned by an a.t.u. and the earth is a central heating radiator which is about two feet from the

● Fig. 1: Alex Shillito G2FRY in Nottingham, does very well on h.f. with a simple vertical mounted in his bedroom alongside a wardrobe - the drawings shows his antenna.



antenna. This set-up in his bungalow (400ft a.s.l.) works extremely well and allows Alex to operate c.w. on 14, 21 and 28MHz and as an example He told me he worked into Brazil, Japan, Aruba and Argentina this month.

## DX NEWS

Onto some DX news now and a group from the **World Wide Young Contesters (WWYC)** will be active as **OJ0YC** from Market Reef EU-053 between the 23rd and 26th of September. The operators will be OZ1AA, OH6GDX, SM3WMV and KU5B. They plan to operate on all bands and modes and to participate in the **Scandinavian Activity Contest (SAC)** using s.s.b. A QSL card will be made available via **Patrik Willfor OH6GDX, Langviksgatan 24 B13, FI-65100 Vasa, Finland** and full details of the operation are available at <http://oj0yc.m3php.net/>

Eight members of the **Tennessee Valley DX Association** will operate as **W4D** from Dauphin Island NA-213 from 1900 on the 24 September

Saddle Brook, New Jersey late one evening on 3.5MHz s.s.b. proving the new antenna and location were working well!

**Ted Trowell G2HKU** on the Isle of Sheppy in Kent found 'conditions poor' for most of the month. Activities in the garden prevented much h.f. operating but one or two stations made his c.w. log. The 10MHz band around 2100UTC was not in good shape but Ted worked Y19ZF (Iraq) with 5W QRP, CQ14EFL (Portugal) and regular **PW** author **Henryk Kotowski** using the call **OH0/SM0JHF** from Aland Island EU-002 using a Ten-Tec Omni 5 at 70W or Icom IC-703 at 5W with his full-size G5RV.

## THE 14MHz BAND

A change to the 14MHz band around 2130UTC found high QRN, but a few stations coming well through the noise. These included ZA1FD (Albania), ZP6CW (Paraguay), VK8KAW (Australia) in Darwin and FM5CW (Martinique) NA-107.

## CARL HAS LOTS OF HF ACTIVITY THIS MONTH TO REPORT, TAKE IT AWAY CARL

until 1200UTC on the 27th. The group will use 100W transceivers with a variety of antennas and plan to be active on all h.f. bands from 3.5 to 28MHz up. A QSL will be available via **Paul J. Pagano WA4AA, 7725 Royal Harbour Cir, Ooltewah, TN 37363, USA** direct or via the bureau.

## MIA CONTEST

For island chasers this month there's **The Mediterranean Islands Contest**, which is taking place from 1200 on the 18th to 1200UTC on the 19th September. It should provide plenty of opportunity to pick up some new islands and work enough of them to claim one of several awards. This contest is organised by the Mediterraneo DX Club and a full copy of the rules and awards can be found at <http://www.mdxc.org/contestmia/rules.htm>

## YOUR REPORTS

On to your reports now and first off is **David Ballantyne G6OCD** in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire who has just replaced his old h.f. rig with a Yaesu FT-102 and matching FC-902 tuner and changed his dipole for a full-size G5RV. David was pleased to work W2ONV (USA) in

Welcome now to new reporter **Kevin Haworth** whose callsign is **2E0XTC**. Kevin lives in the village of Knott End on Sea (IO83MW) overlooking Morecambe Bay and has been licensed as an Amateur since November 2003, passing his intermediate exam on the 18 May receiving the call **M3KJH**. Kevin says "My station has been in our family for two generations and was passed down to me by my late uncle **G7CEM**, who sadly passed away one week before he was able to operate on h.f. He used the Yaesu FT-107 I now own as a s.w.l. and as a boy I remember sitting with him listening to all kinds of exotic stations for many an hour. The antenna I use is a Cushcraft D4 dipole and I have just installed WINEQF on my computer as my logging programme and immediately started my h.f. activities. I haven't looked back since".

On 14MHz this month, Kevin's s.s.b. contacts include VK4BUI (Australia) in Tinbeerwah, Queensland, PY0FF (Brazil), 4X4MU (Israel), OD5UR (Lebanon), W5IZ (USA) in Burleson, Texas, C31JM (Andorra), ZD8I (Ascension Island) AF-003, VR2XLN (Hong Kong) and CN8TW (Morocco) in Casablanca.

In Kidderminster **Elgin Mackinlay M3BDK** has been on 14MHz s.s.b. later in the evening

when conditions seem to have improved slightly! Stations worked include HK3AK (Columbia) 2307, LU7YZ (Argentina) 2316, AA4V (USA) on the Isle of Palms in South Carolina NA-110 at 2327, YV5EED (Venezuela) 0416 and OD5NJ (Lebanon) 0548UTC. Elgin said "It might be worth mentioning to everyone that International Reply Coupons are not valid in Lebanon, only USA Dollar bills and the current mailing is US\$1.75 for a QSL card".

Over to Nuneaton where **Chris Colclough G1VDP** used his Yaesu FT-897 and Cushcraft MA5B with s.s.b. once again to log OZ/DG7SFL/P (Denmark) on Langeland Island EU-172, CE1LDS (Chile), JW7XM (Svalbard) on Spitzbergen Island EU-026, VO2/AB5EB (Canada) on Battle Island NA-044, 8P6RS/W4 (USA) in Orlando, Florida, 9K2RA (Kuwait), 9A/S52DG/P (Croatia) Krk Island EU-136, CU3GD (Azores) EU-003, A71EM (Qatar), TK/DL9YBY (Corsica) EU-014 and CQ14XK (Portugal) for the Euro 2004 Award with most contacts being made between 2100 and 0000UTC.

The mobile log of **Mark Taylor G0LGJ** in Dereham continues to grow with the help of his new 'Outbacker' type antenna and Yaesu FT-100. Making his log this month were EL/EI5IF (Liberia), 7X4AN (Algeria), EA9IE (Ceuta & Melilla) and HK3AK (Columbia) between 2102 and 2201UTC followed later by an early morning QSO with TK/IK2WZM (Corsica) EU-014 at 0354UTC.

Two s.s.b. stations were contacted by David G6OCD in the late evening. The first was OH3DB (Finland) and this was followed slightly later by UR5IAW (Ukraine).

Also on this band was **Martyn Medcalf M3VAM** who used his Icom IC-746 and long wire antenna to work s.s.b. stations F4ECJ (France) 1445, ER1QQ (Moldovia) 1548, EW/N6OX (Belarus) 1812, S50BAL (Slovenia) 1936, SV3EXU (Greece) 1937, HG56VEK (Hungary) 2005, LY2FY (Lithuania) 2231 and ED5AEK (Spain) at 2251UTC.

In Newtonabbey, Northern Island **Peter Lowrie MI5JYK** says "I picked up a copy of *Simple and Fun Antennas* by the ARRL and found a few 'superb' articles in it on verticals and in particular <sup>o</sup> wave ground planes. Several of the articles mention the idea that a ground plane works just as well with two radials as four was just an alleged marketing ploy! I therefore built a copy of one of the antennas described and scaled it up for use on 14MHz using an SO239 socket as the feed head with the radiator taped to a 21 foot fibre glass pole to act as a support for the radiating element and the radials acting as guys. The feed-point of the antenna is about 1.8m above ground which allows me to hang the radials at about 45 degrees. The antenna is then tuned via an a.t.u. which is fed with an odd length of RG58".

The arrangement certainly appears to work well judging by the size of Peter's logbook! And operating with his MFJ-9420 s.s.b. transceiver Peter worked ON4AEK (Belgium), ER7HQ (Moldovia), DA0HQ (Germany), SP9ZST

(Poland), YL2KO (Latvia), the RSGB call GB5HQ, EA4RCT (Spain), OJ0U (Market Reef) EU-053, PA6HQ (Netherlands), OM5A (Slovak Republic), 5B4/RW4WR (Cyprus) AS-004 and two new ones, John GW3ARS (Wales) in Porthcawl and best DX P40HQ (Aruba) SA-036 between 1405 and 1711UTC. Not a bad tally for a new antenna 'cut one foot too short' and just 5W out. Peter is checking the measurements when he builds a second antenna for a spare!

### THE 18 & 21MHz BANDS

With a change to the 18MHz band Martyn M3VAM found CQ44ITZ (Portugal) 1515, CS94MD (Madeira Island) AF-014 1518, S5048AL (Slovenia) 1926 and CN8JV (Morocco) at 1635UTC.

During one evening the band was in reasonable shape and Mark G0LGJ found 3V8BB (Tunisia), 7Z1SJ (Saudi Arabia) and ZX7ZZ (Brazil) around 2130UTC.

The 21MHz band provided Chris G1VDP with 7K3EOP (Japan) Shinjuka, near Tokyo, IR1PL (Italy) operating from the lighthouse at Portofino ITA-131, CS2004REP (Portugal) Euro 2004 Special Callsign and SX5A/58 (Dodecanese Islands) EU-001. Chris also mentions that he had to cancel his operation from Berry Head Lighthouse in Brixham, Devon due to problems with his car and wishes to apologise for anyone waiting for him on air.

### THE 28MHz BAND

Only one report for the 28MHz band as most of you found conditions here very poor indeed. Ted G2HKU was listening one afternoon and heard 3V8BB (Tunisia) break through the noise with a good signal and worked him at 1500UTC with 70W!

### SIGNING OFF

That's about it for another month and the conditions have still allowed a fair bit of DX to be worked. The most popular band by far has been 14MHz though openings have occurred at some time or other on all other bands. I have had several calls from readers who want to know how to submit their logs. It's easy; If you would like to send in a report just include your name, callsign



● New reporter Kevin Haworth 2E0XTC.



● Chris Colclough G1VDP.



● Mark Taylor G0LGJ.

and location together with your station details, a copy of your log giving the band, time, callsign and mode used along with any other information you think will be of interest and I will do the rest! As usual my thanks go to all our reporters for their logs and to **Tedd Mirgliotta KB8NW** editor of the *OPDX Bulletin* for all the DX information. Until next time have a good DX filled month.

73. Carl G2UW5W