



Handy Gadgets that Serve a Purpose

Jon GØFDS, like many Hams, likes gadgets. He demonstrated two devices at the October meeting. The first, as shown in photo, fits between the handheld and the supplied antenna. A digital display gives the SWR and the power output. Sometimes, these numbers are not what you would expect. A high SWR may apply to a handheld that has been converted to the amateur band rather than specifically made for it. Also, the SWR can change depending the size of the rubber duck antenna (usually they come in two sizes).

He also brought a Frequency Counter, which is pocket sized box that displays the frequency of a nearby transmitter. Useful to checking "from time to time", as per your licence requirement, that your transmitter has not drifted.

Club Meeting on 15th October

Eddie, G0BKL, brought along two homemade Morse code keys constructed with a 3-D printer. There was a straight key and an iambic paddle key. For those that aren't sure: A straight key is like what you see on old films that has a single up/down movement, whereas an iambic key has two buttons so you can generate the code by either pressing the left key for dots or the right key for dashes or - and this makes it iambic - pressing both keys at the same time to speed up the sending. The clever thing about the straight key is that its size means you can use it in one hand sending with your thumb rather than finger - which would be very useful "in the field" where there is no table to rest on.

In the addition there was a Table Top Sale and the social aspect to catch up on project, activities, arrange "skeds" and general help and advice.



How to Deal with Trolls

In Sept, Acorns are pleased to welcome David M0TAZ who spoke about the RSGB response to Abuse of Service (AOS). Some hams get a cheap thrill by cutting across other people's transmissions just to be nasty. David explained the rationale behind why the most effective way to deal with these trolls is simply to ignore them.

Situation Becoming Vacant

The AGM is not until March but early notice that after three years of excellent service, Dave M5ABP (photo), is going to step down as Club Secretary. So this is your big chance to jump in and help shape the future of amateur Radio in this corner of Essex.

What does the Club Secretary actually do?

Take Minutes | Keep the Attendance Register | Answer emails | Data Controller | Update RadCom with events | Processing Merchandise | Welcome new members.



Two Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 16th Nov 1pm-5pm: 2m Activity Day. The Acorns' Controller will monitor the calling channel and then QSY for voice on FM or give the frequency and mode for SSB or Data if you prefer.

Tuesday 19th Nov 8pm: Club Meeting. The Aug presentation was about antenna modelling. This time Eddie G0BKL will give a live demo of the AA-54 Antenna Analyser showing how to trim or extend your antenna to make it resonant.