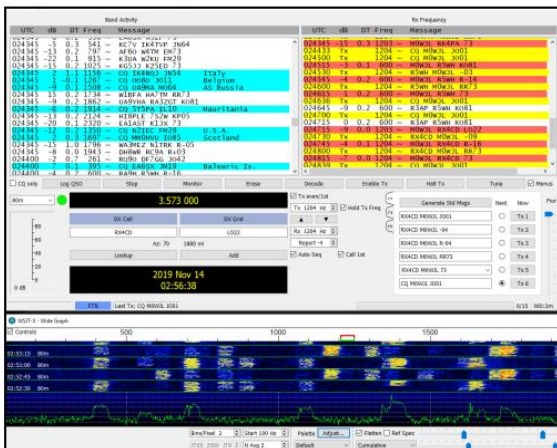




The Merits of GB3VHF - Nigel M0ICH

On top of Hazler Hill (347m ASL) in Shropshire I can receive GB3VHF on 144.430 USB 160 miles away in Kent using horiz' or vert' polarization with my 3 element (10dB) beam aimed at 120°. I then tried my mag mount antenna (virtually no gain) but couldn't hear the beacon proving a beam is essential for SSB DX despite the inconvenience of setting it up. I will test my X30 co-linear (4dB) another day but it needs the stand too so using Yagi is better.

I then tried a sked with Nick G4HCK and Eddie G0BKL in Grays w/o success. They are 20m ASL with intervening hills whereas the beacon is at 205m ASL. I did contact G4HOJ south of Lincoln (61m ASL) 102 miles away without hills by pointing my Yagi to 70°.



The Advantages of FT8 - Gordon M0WJL

Less than optimal HF conditions make FT-8 rather useful. However, contacts on FT-8 aren't always easy. As with other modes, not everyone who calls CQ responds to replies and CQ's can go unanswered. During this session several US stations called CQ but only one responded to my replies.

Typically contacts are with German, Italian and Russian stations, occasionally Polish, Bulgarian and Scandinavian stations but stations much further away have been contacted. Using: ICom 7100, 50W, HyEndFed resonant on 10,15,20,40 and 80m.

Acorns SSB net that goes a little bit further - Nick G4HCK

October was the launch of the Acorns' SSB net. Three people joined in: G4MJM, G0BKL and G4HCK. The topics ranged from 3D printing, why a television switches itself off, why use USB/LSB, cloud storage and the weather. The net ran for 45 minutes. Tune into 144.300 USB at 7.30pm and then QSX on the 4th Tuesday of each month. NB; the December SSB net will be ad-hoc as it falls on Christmas Eve!

Articles for RadCom and Practical Wireless

You may have noticed Eddie G0BKL on page 90 of the November issue of RadCom presenting two items from a previous Club meeting. Fame for the Vice-Chair (!) but it doesn't really matter which club member it is or what they talk about, it's the fact the club gets free publicity around the country. So, if you have some interesting aspect of radio to share to help promote Acorns drop a line to Nigel M0ICH and we'll try to get your idea in print.

Antenna Analyser - Part Deux

Following on from a previous presentation, Eddie gave the Nov club talk showcasing even more uses of an Antenna Analyser. As well as antenna SWR and Impedance graphs, they can be used to check frequency response of Traps and Baluns. Cables can be checked for faults and the velocity factor of a cable can be determined. This is exactly the type of relevant information and helpful demonstrations that club meetings are all about.



Christmas Meeting (19th December at 8pm) - and into the New Year

Watch this space! The default meeting point is the Scout hall - but this may change to an alternative location so look out for last minute email and check the website before you set off. There are preparations in hand for three field day events in the first six months of next year - more details in the January edition of the newsletter. Happy Christmas!