



Issue 174

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# NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting 3rd March 2020 will be at .  
**The Hurst Community Centre, Room 15, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH**  
Doors open at 8PM

Date	Event
3 March 2020	Natter Night
17 March 2020	Icom R8600 by Robin M0RJT
7 April 2020	Natter Night
21 April 2020	Andy from SDRPLAY more information to follow
5 May 2020	Natter Night
19 May 2020	John Knight G8MWF, Flying
2 June 2020	Natter Night
16 June 2020	East Anglia military airfields by Ian G7PHD
7 July 2020	Natter Night
21 July 2020	Testing Batteries by Marion Osbourne

Please accept my apologies but this is sent out earlier than usual.  
I am off to Warsaw for the weekend and I wanted to send this out before I left but I will be around for the meeting on Tuesday.

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From Chris

I have some CQ-TV magazines of the BATC from CQTV69 TO CQTV 242 (that's the 1969 to 2013). They are FOC to the first responder and just these two conditions apply - no picking and choosing and no reselling on E-Bay. If no one is interested, then they will be disposed of.

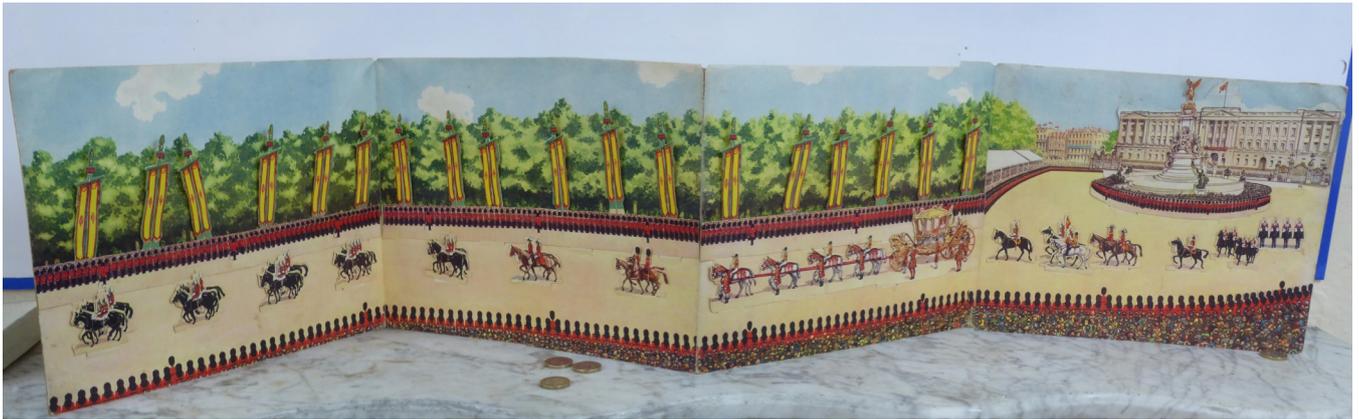
Regards  
Chris G0FDZ  
chris@g0fdz.com

## The next meeting is a Natter Night

While I am writing this it has been snowing here in North Heath but hopefully the weather will be ok for next Tuesday so hopefully see you there.

**The Last meeting** was a bring a thing night which was “as these things are” a success.

Here are some photographs of things “bringed” along on the evening.



A rather interesting cardboard replica of the 1953 coronation brought along by Frank G3WMR



A Burndipt BE301 SARBE beacon brought along by John Knight G8MWF



Two rather interesting digital clocks brought along by Pete Martin G0GIR with an interesting tale of their development.



An old radio brought along by Mike Overton G6DBE



An impressive Tecsun radio kit brought along by Ian Connor G7PHD



A deck prism brought along by myself G4YIB

# The Rainham Rally 2020

By Frank Connor G3WMR



The rally was well attended with all the usual traders present.

A number of club members were in attendance for what was a good rally to visit.

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## Rainbow Clouds



I saw these clouds in Oslo just after sunset these clouds have sometimes been mistaken for the Northern Lights (or Aurora Borealis) but I have been informed that they are nacreous clouds - also known as polar stratospheric and 'mother of pearl' clouds.

They are formed when the stratosphere becomes very cold around  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  and are more likely to be seen in northern countries above or around the Arctic Circle

Their colour comes from ice crystals refracting the sun's rays to give a rainbow effect. They are usually spotted before dawn and

just after sunset as their altitude catches the longest, late rays of sunlight.

Although spectacular as nacreous clouds appear, their presence allows for the chemical reactions that lead to ozone depletion.

The following is Inspired by and based on an article in the Official Newsletter of the **Four State QRP Group – WQ5RP**  
Sent to my by **Tony Fishpool G4WIF**

## **Origin of the Name "HAM" for Amateur Radio Operators Or Why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"**

"Ham radio is a popular term for amateur radio, derived from "ham" as an informal name for an amateur radio operator. The use first appeared in the United States during the opening decade of the 20th century—for example, in 1909, Robert A. Morton reported overhearing an amateur radio transmission which included the comment: "Say, do you know the fellow who is putting up a new station out your way? I think he is a ham." However, the term did not gain widespread usage in the United States until around 1920, after which it slowly spread to other English-speaking countries. "

There are a number of reasons given for why we are called Hams but here is one that may be correct and the theory goes like this:

The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". This was tedious to type out in code so they revised it to "HY-AL-MU," using the first two letters of each of their names.

In early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO." They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM."

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

It is claimed that in 1911 ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for amateur stations around the country to be saved from the greed of the commercial stations who didn't want them around.

The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM." That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station ""HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM."

The above as researched by Jim Wake, VE3NMZ and displayed in the Hammond Antique Radio Museum in Guelph, Ontario.

## **Another theory is the Hammarlund legend**

It might be an example of corporate wishful thinking, Hammarlund products were supposedly so pre-eminent in the pioneering era of radio that they became a part of the language of radio.

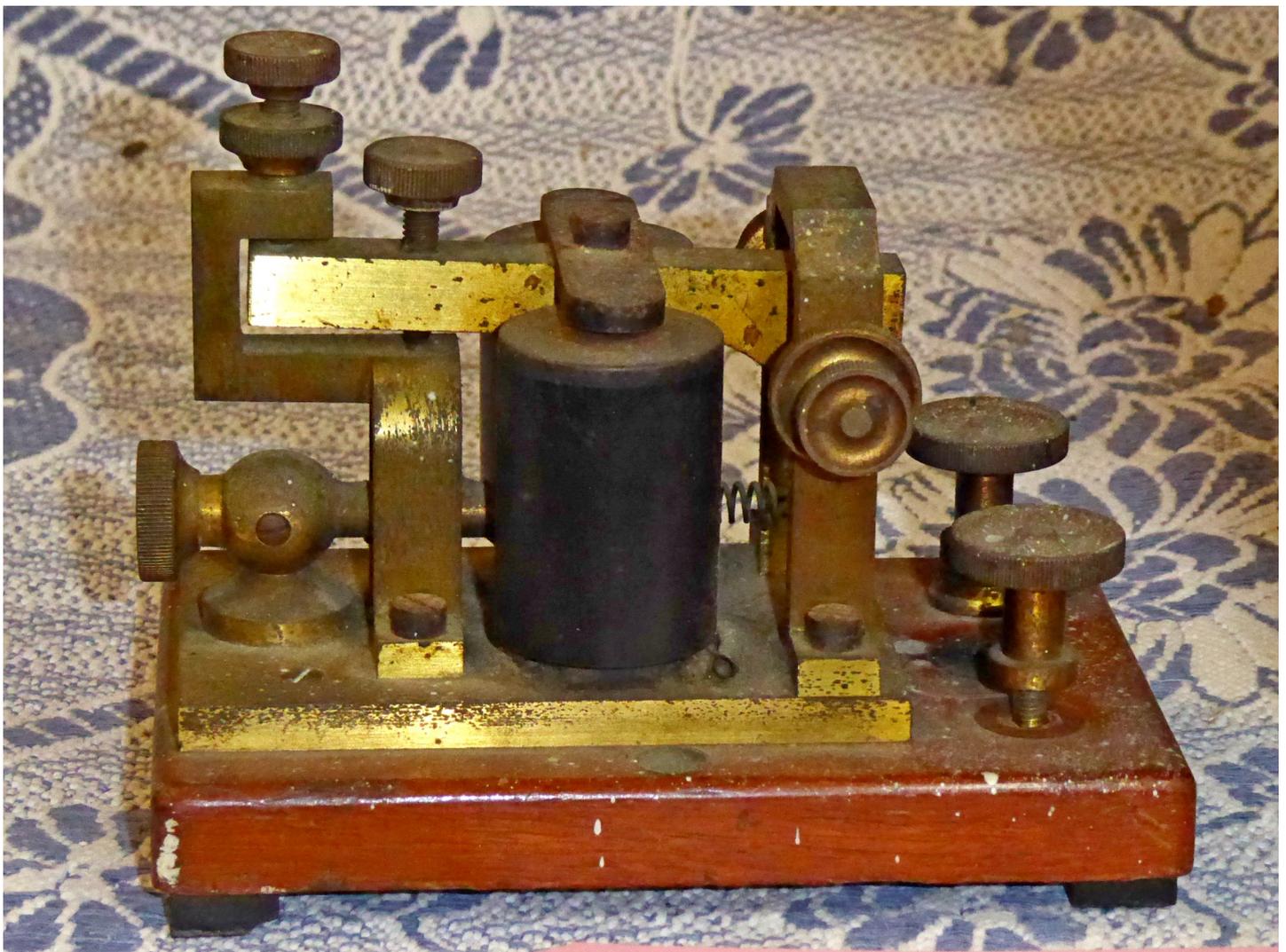
The story goes, early radio enthusiasts affectionately referred to Hammarlund products as "Ham" products, and called themselves "Ham" operators.

## **A theory going back to Land Line Telegraphers**

In the early 1900's the term Ham was used to describe landline telegraphers who lacked ability or who had poor "ham fisted" skills.

These unskilled operators were blamed for several train wrecks in the 1890's.

Early radio stations employed many former wire telegraph operators, and within the new service "ham" was employed as a negative term by professional radio telegraph operators to suggest that amateur enthusiasts were unskilled.

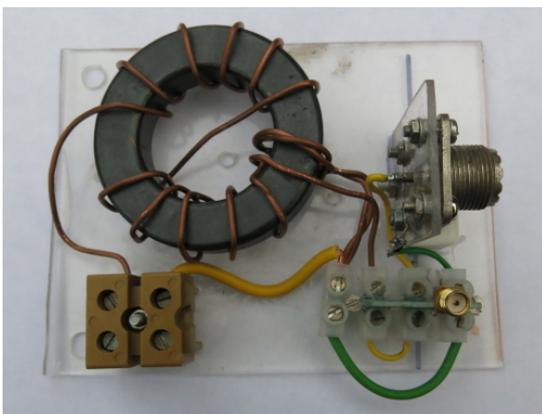
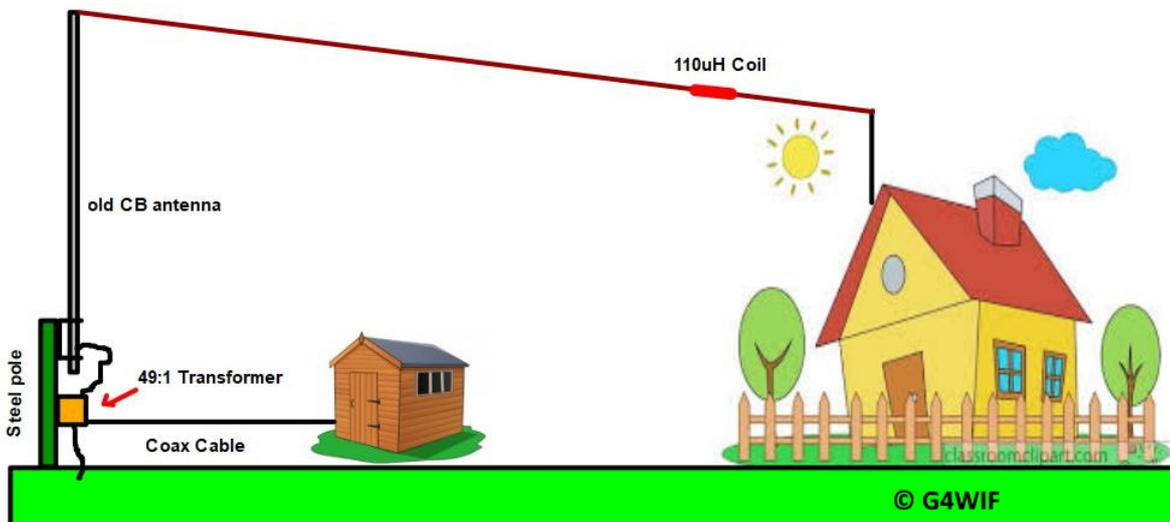


A telegrapher's sounder from the Richard White collection

## Playing with aerials – Tony G4WIF

Now being retired I can spend time playing around with radio for hours and perhaps days – just to see how things work. That’s what happened in January when I started reading about end fed antennas. There is a popular kind of end fed antenna that likely owes more to luck than science - and that is the random length wire with 9:1 unun. It relies on its “multi-bandy-ness” on a choice of non resonant (magic lengths) of wire that just happens to present something around 450 ohms on the bands of interest. It has to be that odd impedance because you are invariably matching to 50 ohm coax.

The other kind of end fed is one that is cut at half wave to the lowest band of interest. Popularly, this is 80 or 40 metres. At a half wave the feed impedance of a half wave at resonance is high. In the order of 3000 ohms.

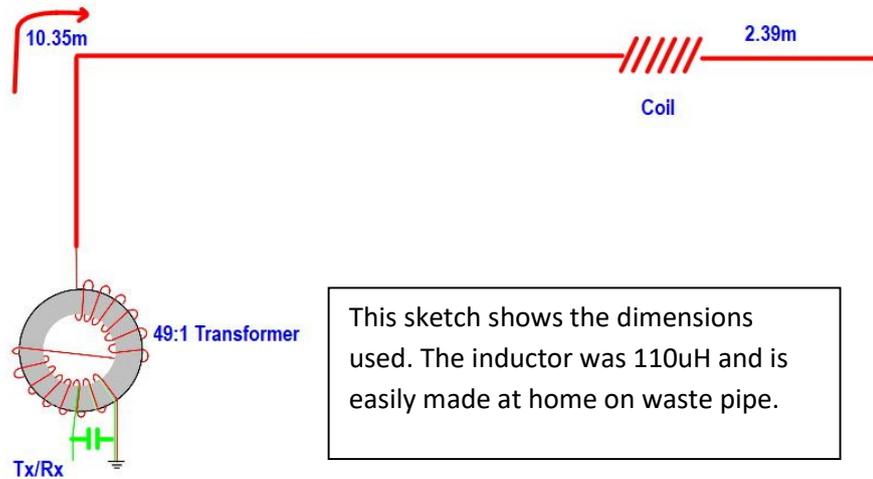


If you have a 49:1 transformer at the feed point you can get a reasonable match. To the left is mine which lives in a LIDL sandwich box at the base of the antenna.

There is a bonus in that harmonically related bands offer a similar match. There are “long half wave end feds”, and shorter ones that employ an inductor at the far end and that’s the one I made for 80 metres. You don’t get much of 80m - but that’s common in trapped verticals too. You just have to choose which “slither” of 80m that you like and cut accordingly. Outside that, your ATU will have to take

up the strain with the consequential feeder loss. [I’ve included expected losses in a longer article \*]. The bands above, 40/20/15 and 10m get reasonable matches.

I have written a longer article with the transformer winding details \* – plus I explain what went wrong at the beginning of the project . I started with an inverted “L” using a CB antenna as the vertical part, and then eventually replaced that with a taller fishing pole that held up the vertical section in the form of a length of wire.



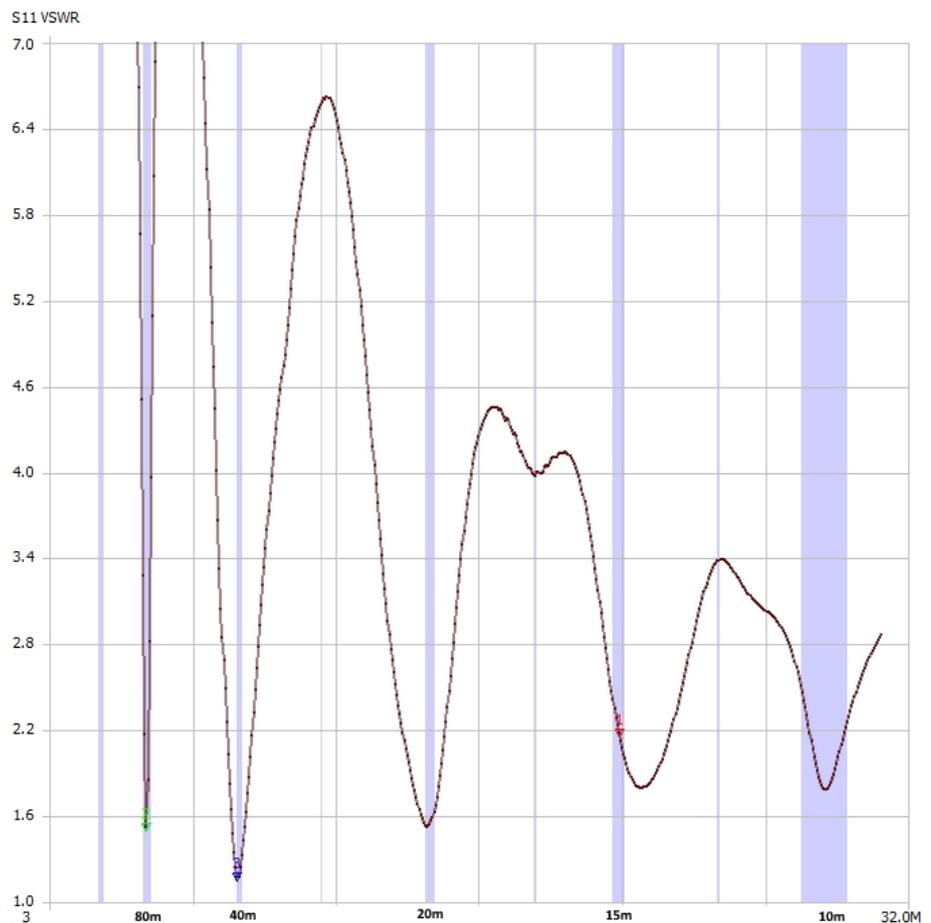
This SWR scan was from a NanoVNA which you can buy for around £40.

[A truly amazing piece of test equipment].

Preliminary tests on 40m using the Reverse Beacon Network (and 5 watts) shows that I’m reaching most of Europe.

There was another bonus from using the telescopic fishing pole that in the recent high winds it was easy to collapse the aerial to avoid damage.

Unlike with a quarter wave vertical, you do not need an extensive ground at the feed point. Some will argue that a counterpoise wire will suffice and people do use that when operating portable. A ground



rod will also bleed off static and that seems a good enough reason to use one and it also has a tendency to reduce RF on the outside of the feeder. If some is detected a common mode choke will fix that.

[\*] [www.fishpool.org.uk/efhw.htm](http://www.fishpool.org.uk/efhw.htm)

## From the last newsletter



I posted this picture in the last newsletter and asked if anyone knew what it was and now I have found out.

A chance conversation with a friend who knows the area where the photograph was taken informs me that it is an Ice House (sometimes known as an Ice Well) that would have served the estate of Richmond Palace.

The building is separated from what were the palace grounds by an underground line on an embankment but of course that would not have been there when the Ice House was in use.

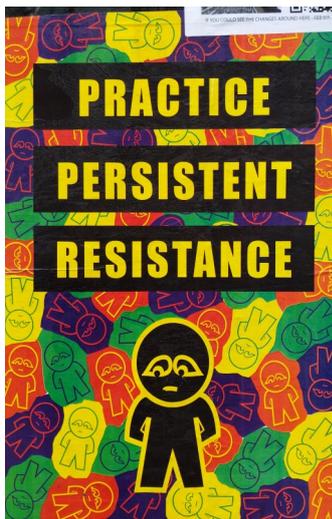
## Seen in Oslo



Floating in the harbour opposite the famous Oslo Opera house are these floating log cabins which turned out to be sauna's.

We were walking past and saw there were unclothed people inside and considering the air temperature was around 0C and there was ice floating on the water a most surprising site was a girl appearing on the back wearing just a bra and knickers who then dived into the harbour.

Apart from the temperature and the floating ice the water did not look too inviting anyway.



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I have no idea what the poster on the left is about but I saw it whilst walking through the East End the other day and liked the colours.

If anyone knows about it please email me.

That's all for this issue, **thanks to the contributors** and see you at the meeting,

All the best

Dave