



Issue 177

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# NKRS Newsletter

Our next meeting will be whenever the world is declared safe but when it happens it will be at **The Hurst Community Centre, Room 15, Hurst Place, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3LH**  
Doors open at 8PM

**As you will be aware events across the globe have been cancelled or postponed because of the spread of the coronavirus.**

**With the UK government banning any gatherings of more than two people to limit the spread of coronavirus, all live events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.**

## Club Net

The club net is now taking place every Tuesday 8.30pm , call on 145.5 and then we move to a convenient clear channel. Please join us.

**PLEASE NOTE UNTIL MEETINGS RESUME I WILL ONLY PRODUCE THE NEWSLETTER MONTHLY**



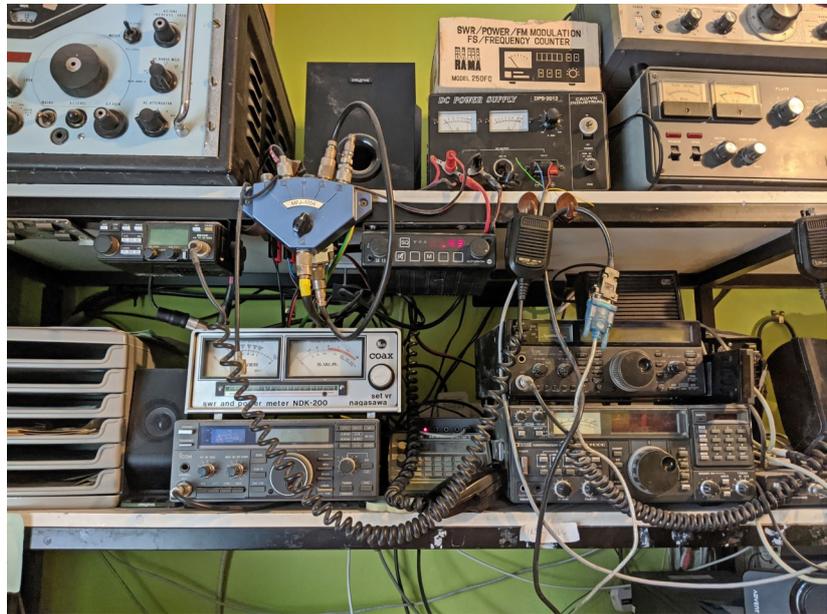
For information about the above photograph see page 2

## My Shack

The photograph on the previous page is of my shack.

I thought I would start the newsletter off with this for a particular reason which is n is that I am hoping to get other readers to write about their shacks for the newsletter. Not asking you to write a book about them, just a couple of photographs and a few paragraphs about what is there.

Please also see Pages 6 and 7 for Steve Osborne's G9JZT shack.



Above left is my in my operating position for the club net, so you can print this out and mount it on your wall so you can look at it when we talk on Tuesdays so you know what I look like.

Above is the equipment that gets the most use.

Above the shelf near centre is the 12 Volt power supply that feeds everything that does not run off of 240 volts.

Under the shelf is an Icom IC20 for VHF FM and to the right of that an ex met police Autophon SE157 UHF at present monitoring 432.575.

Below is an Icom IC 726 HF /50MHz transceiver with an swr meter on top. To the right of that is an AOR-2002.

Further right is an IC821 multimode vhf transceiver and underneath an Icom IC-R7000 for monitoring purposes.

My antennas consist of a Multiband vertical for 4/2/6 Meters a long wire with a remote SGS auto tuner for HF and a marine band vertical for other things.

The call sign badge was a present from Phil G4EGU given to me many years ago.

That's my shack now tell us about yours.





The Weatherbox by Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ

*This is part 2 of an article provided by Chris for the last newsletter but space did not permit inclusion.*

*Thank you Chris for your contribution to the newsletter.*

Another project of mine which was of much shorter duration and was called the 'Weatherbox' by its inventor Barry G8AGN.

I commenced building this project very recently and it is comprised of a Bosch temperature, pressure and humidity sensor connected to an Arduino Mega with an LCD screen and hexadecimal keypad for data entry.

The reason for this project is that at microwave frequencies the propagation is affected and some frequencies can be severely attenuated by humidity in the atmosphere and also by oxygen absorption. The software already has the correct ITU info on absorption by water vapour and oxygen at all frequencies. The unit will determine the relative (relative to temperature) and actual humidity (in grams of water per cubic metre of air).

The unit takes the weather data in real time from the sensor and then uses that to produce microwave path performance data from user input data i.e. frequency (anything from 1 to 1000 GHz), path length (kms), transmit power output (from 0.01 mW), transmit antenna gain (dB), receiver antenna gain (dB), receiver noise figure (dB) and bandwidth (kHz). The resultant is the expected C/N which is very useful. The unit has a built in GPS receiver and it calculates your 10 digit Maidenhead locator position (this is better than 10m accuracy – my home locator is J001BK55BT). It also displays GPS date and time (UTC).

This amazing unit was very simple to put together and further changes have resulted in an SD card writer/reader which enables data logging over user defined intervals. Ten non-volatile memories can keep user data such as different bands/rigs etc. for instant recall. The Arduino sketch is easily available from Barry and takes less than 30 seconds to install.

All this for less than £40 and the die-cast box that houses it was the most expensive item.

## What I miss about being socially isolated.

Having now been in the enforced isolation for several weeks I realise what I am missing. Not to say I'm unhappy about the situation I'm in, of course nobody wants the current circumstances but we are making the most of it.

### Public transport



I didn't realise how much I would miss going down to the station jumping on the train, going to London catching a bus going on to wherever, and other various places.

Now I can't do it I realise just how much I enjoyed it when I could.

Just before lockdown I discovered that by using my pass I could go as far as Reading for nothing on the newly opened TFL line. I just hope one day I'll get the opportunity to do that but who knows.

### Canals

Since I was a schoolboy have been travelling along canals.

For many years I cycled them and in more recent years spent a lot of time walking along them. Unfortunately we have none in easy reach but we do have the Thames which I use as a substitute.



### Coffee shops



I admit it, I'm addicted to coffee. I make no pretence of this.. Not only do I like the coffee but I also like the coffee shops and have a number of them that I like to visit from different areas of London. I recently discovered a whole load of new ones in the East End that I looked forward to visiting.

The question now is whether they will still be in business

when we return back to what will be the new normal.

### Walking around the East End

I enjoy walking round the countryside and I have been doing more of that than in the current circumstances but the East End has a special attraction.



### Breakfast

Not the breakfast itself I don't have much anyway and if I chose to I can always have at home what I have when I am out.

What I do miss is the company. A few days a week I met various people in various places for breakfast that's what I miss. I'm not a major sociable person but I do miss that social interaction.



Continued on Page 5



### Brick Lane

It always makes me smile when I turn into Brick Lane and pass the first piece of street art.

Then you start to get a sniff of one of those curry houses that make the street famous. I think that this street is a perfect example of everything that great about living in a multi-ethnic city. Further along the road is the Brick Lane Mosque. Outside of Israel, this is the only building in the world to have been at various times in its life a Church for the French Protestants (Huguenots) ( from 1742), a Synagogue for the East End's influx of European Jews (from 1898), and a Mosque (from 1990). It is now a place of worship for the area's Bangladeshi Muslims, whose culture and cuisine give the street its unique flavour, sights and sounds and amazing smells.

It is an area that has constantly changed through the years, please don't change too much before I get to visit again.



I would be pleased to receive any one else's observations on the current situation that I can use in the newsletter.

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Military Communications.

I know a number of you are interested In military communications and the following link allows you to download free of charge a copy of **Jane's Military Communications 1982**

<https://www.pdfdrive.com/janes-military-communications-1982-e189231295.html>

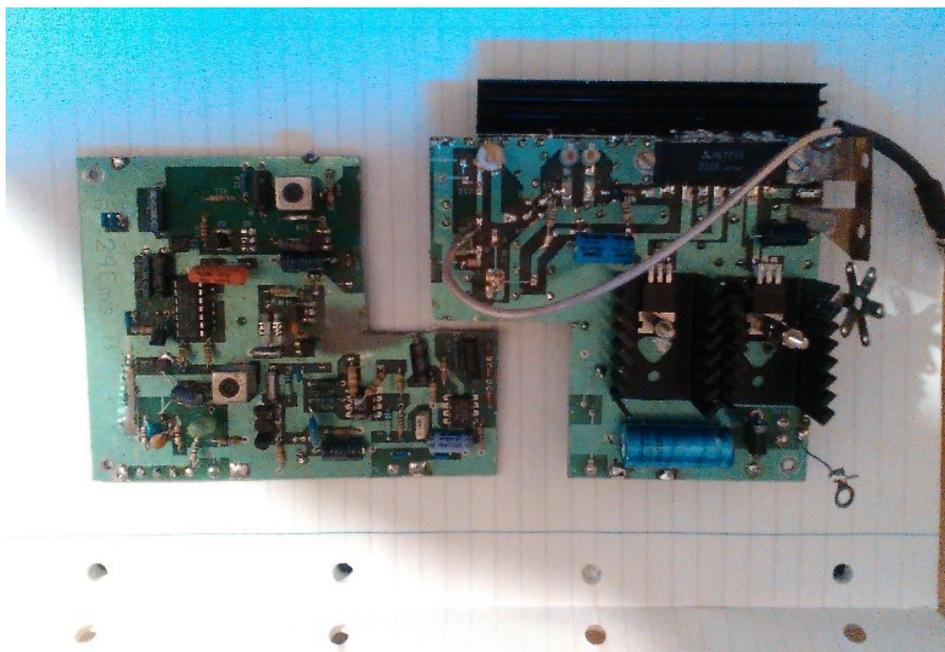
There are a number of other free ebooks on the site you may find interesting. Thanks to John Moore G8DOG for providing this information.

# Me and my Shack by Steve Osborne G8JZT

As lock down has caused the house to be filled with the family I have found myself spending more time in the shack than perhaps I otherwise would so have put the extra time to good use in clearing a lot of the old tat that has been acquired over the years some of which made it to the local recycling centre just prior to lock down. So the shack is looking reasonably tidy and work space has been revealed. The photo below is me in the operating position.



And the second the other side. It's quite comfortable and insulated so it is warm in the winter. The time has not all been spent on being tidy, we have been pushing projects on too. Currently I have a need to get back on to 23cm so have been repurposing an old ATV TX to become a driver for a PA for the digital station. The picture shows where I have removed the RF stages from the video and audio section.



Perhaps more on this later when it has been boxed up and working as intended. Incidentally for the same reasons I needed to use my old FM TV receiver which was still under the bench and found to be duff so immediately went looking for my old Amstrad SRX200 sat rx which I did some mods on for the purpose of receiving ATV many years ago, only to realize that had been included in the last clear out that went to the local recycling centre. Happens every time.

Continued Page 7



It's not all been radio work I have been working on my 5" gauge J39 Steam engine as well. I am now on to the boiler which has been stripped down so that I can assess if it is in a serviceable condition.

On initial inspection it looks quite good, but I am waiting for the arrival of an Endoscope which will allow some more detailed inspection of the boiler internals.

The picture below is of the front tube plate. The boiler body is made from steel which appears to have been made from a rolled and welded plate as it looks as though there is a weld running laterally down the inside of the tube.

The tubes themselves are made from copper and the larger one is where the Super heater tubes run.

The right hand picture is of the fire hole end and that boss at the top is where the regulator goes and if the boiler is ultimately considered as serviceable will have to be replaced for a thicker one as all the threads are stripped out, an unfortunate consequence of dismantling so a nice little welding job coming up soon although I think I will be leaving that task to a professional welder.

The above is just a snippet of what I get up to when left to my own devices so I had better get back to it.

Perhaps catch you on the club net on a Tuesday evening.

Stephen G8JZT



Staying with the Steam Theme.

75027 a relatively new steam locomotive having been built in 1952 undergoing refurbishment at Sheffield Park earlier this year.

**I recently received the following from the Thurrock Acorn Amateur Radio Club which I think is self explanatory.  
Anyone who is interested please contact them.**

Subject: VE Day 75th anniversary  
To: Eddie Smith <mail@eddiesmith.plus.com>  
From: Nicholas <ttt@taarc.co.uk>  
Organization: Thurrock Acorn Amateur Radio Club

Good afternoon,  
This event is open to everyone - however you will need a full licence to use the GB callsign which we have for the event. See below:

If you are interested please contact [taarc@eddiesmith.plus.com](mailto:taarc@eddiesmith.plus.com) by Friday for full information. Those with Foundation or intermediate licence can still take part but under their own call sign (sorry that's Ofcom rules).

So lets blow off the cobwebs off the rigs and get onto the airwaves !!!

Regards  
Nicholas Wilkinson  
07785391005

**From:** Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club <[mail-op@taarc.co.uk](mailto:mail-op@taarc.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 29 April 2020 16:00  
**To:** [nicholaswilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholaswilkinson@btinternet.com)  
**Subject:** VE Day 75th anniversary

## VE Day 75th anniversary

*Please respond only to the address quoted below*

Dear Members,

I am proposing that the Club operates a special event station to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday the 8th of May. We have just had verification from Ofcom that a NOV on the Club's callsign can be shared and operated from the members home addresses.

I propose that we do as we did for our last event and conduct a "handover call" on 2m to pass the callsign to the next operator to ensure only one station is operating.

I am looking for operators, the only stipulation is that they must be full licence holders.

Please let me know by this Friday if you are interested and also what time and band/mode you would like to operate. I will then organise a schedule. No set times, so when and where is upto you.

Please reply to [taarc@eddiesmith.plus.com](mailto:taarc@eddiesmith.plus.com)

Please help celebrate this important international event.

Eddie G0BKL

73  
Thurrock Acorns ARC

## Some spring views from Kent



One good thing is that the weather has been great and the flowers have been blooming along with the weeds and grass in my garden. These are photos taken when exercising during lockdown.



### Re Newsletter 177

Thanks to **Lawrie Atkinson G4FAA** for responding to my photograph but I must confess that I cheated a little as you can see from the original picture on the left.

This one has the split screen so therefore the side valve engine so must be dated as you said in the 50's.

I had a number of Morris Minor vans that I travelled extensively with including taking one down to Athens and back. Also my wife and I spent our honeymoon sleeping in one in France so they have fond memories for me.

This was not photographed in Vallance road but not too far from there. It was taken on one of my last walks through the East End Just before lockdown and it was a bit like a ghost town then.

That's all for this issue keep safe and be around for the next newsletter in a month and if possible write something for me to include.

All the best

Dave Collings