

## What (isn't) on this month

It's been a busy month. Below are some snippets from presentations; and we have not covered all the regular features like the weekly or monthly nets. If you want the next 12 months to be as packed as the past year then consider whether you are able to take a leadership role in the club. Speak with Chair, Nick G4HCK.

## Raspberry Pi

Microprocessors are the way forward for amateur radio with so many applications. But you really need someone to show you how to get started. This is where Vice-Chair Eddie, G0BKL, has been so helpful with a series of video tuition workshops over 2021 with the final class this year on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. If you missed it, or wanted to build on your skills, then join the classes that will recommence next Spring.

```

1 from gpiozero import LED, Button
2 from time import sleep
3 button = Button(20, pull_up =
4 led = LED(16)
5 led_status = False
6 while True:
7     button.wait_for_press()
8     print("pressed")
9     #print(led_status)
10    if led_status == False:
11        led.on()
12        led_status = True
13    else:
14        led.off()
15        led_status = False
16        #sleep(1)
17    print(led_status)
18    sleep(1)
19

```



## Oscar 100

On 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, guest speaker Dominic, M0BLF, explained how to use the satellite callsign "Oscar 100" for a QSO. Most amateurs will already have all the equipment they need, even if they don't realise it, but if not then Dom showed us how easy it is to build the equipment. It's amazing that with a little bit of kit and knowing how to use it means we can actually avail ourselves of satellite communications from our back garden. Even listening in to others, via our computer, is fascinating.

## The Bands are opening!

Gary, M0ICG, writes: "The new solar cycle has begun and the SFI is slowly increasing, but has this improved propagation? Absolutely!"

Nick, G4HCK, told me about a regular net he joins on a Sunday morning with fellow Rotarians in UK, Australia and New Zealand. This was an opportunity to see if I could hear them with my multi-band Inverted V dipole. For the first couple of weeks, I could only hear Nick and Vernon (G0EGW), then on week 3, Bill, VK4ZD, in Queensland came out of the noise for a few seconds at a time. Week 4 propagation was much better and I could clearly hear Bill (42/53) and was able to follow the net. Propagation was definitely improving because after the net I switched to 17m and had my first QSO with Hideo, JE1SSE, in Japan. Week 5 was the breakthrough; propagation was really good. I could clearly hear Bill (5,5) and pinged Nick a quick email to let him know. Nick then kindly called me into the net and Bill gave me a signal report of 5,5. Woo hoo – my first Australian QSO! Thanks Nick!"



## DMR Hot Spots

The Oct Club Zoom was presented by Dave De La Haye, M0MBD, who is also the RSGB Regional Rep for our area. He spoke about DMR; what it is, how it works and the different network options. The key to DMR is that it uses the internet to connect one repeater to another. So long as you are within range of a connected repeater you can access almost anywhere in the world. But what happens if you are not close enough to a repeater? No problem, use your own Hot Spot made from a Raspberry Pi. It takes a little configuration and patience, but it works.