

# Science Week 2006

March 19th 06

## S 'NO' W PROBLEM!



The HF beam and co-linear, ready for action over the weekend...11th and 12th March!

### NO STOPPING US!

*On a windy, cold and damp Friday morning, in what's supposed to be near to the start of spring (no sign of that yet in South Derbyshire), the infamous aerial erectors of the South Derbyshire and Ashby Woulds amateur radio group set to work. The trusty beasts (that's the aerials, not the members!), were brought from their slumbers to help participate in one of our annual special events.*

*This year's event was held, as usual at the Rosliston Forestry Centre; which is an environmental science centre that opens all year round for people to walk, picnic, play, cycle and learn about their local environment and habitats. Well worth a visit!*

So, after an hour or so of organising and setting up, Jacqui - M3JQY and club secretary, was first off on 2 metres with the event call GB4NSW. Our first contact of the weekend being GOBAM in Worcester...

However, in some ways, the Saturday was a little disappointing really, we had very few visitors; we were absolutely frozen as we'd kept all the doors open to try and encourage some people to come

and see what all the noise was about; we were suffering badly from some QRM on HF that was (we think) being caused by some emergency lighting in the building, and to cap it all, we were told that it couldn't be switched off! This went down well as I'm sure you can imagine! Here is a picture of a somewhat bemused member of the club (Clarry—G4HIW)



as he tried with all his might to pick out a station in all the noise...it paid off in the end as he spoke to Canada - VE3NBW, Lebanon - OD5NH and Eastern Siberia - RW9HH (he was quite amazed to be talking to us as it was snowing here!!!) Another good HF

contact was made by G7JHW (he doesn't usually operate in public!!!), he called a couple of times and was straight into Oklahoma - K5KW. When asked how he managed that so easily he stated - 'you only need to have the equipment set up correctly! Hi! Hi!' Anyway, we were very impressed.

The Sunday was a much better day, despite quite a lot of snowfall there was a constant stream of visitors all day... some visiting amateurs, some old, some very young and many families out for the afternoon.

The stations that we were operating using our GB4NSW callsign were:

1 x HF stations - TS950 on the Cushcraft AS3 beam

This is our club's instructor, Lewis - G4CRT - picking out another HF station.



1 x 2m and 70cm station; an IC706 on a co-linear—the best contacts here were to London (another science week station), and to a place just outside Liverpool. Quite a 'feet' we thought - with 50 watts!

1 x FM1000 on a vertical 'green-stick' antenna

We had many contacts on 4 metres actually, the first time we have used it at a special event, I'm sure that it won't be the last! Here is the club's star operator (and cheeky mon-



key!) Robert - M3FKV using the 4 metre station, and very professionally too!

## DISPLAYS

As well as the stations, we tried to provide other areas of interest...

Another club member, Bill - G0WHC - kindly brought along many of his real vintage radios - a super collection. An excellent display of early crystal sets, extravagant loud speakers, posters and of course, the all important 'valves'. These provided a great display and talking point for amateurs, visitors and all. His collec-



tion (some of it above), was also of interest to the local press as they came to take photographs - the photographer was quite interested in the fact that - provided you were within about 30 miles of the transmitter, you could pick up a signal with your cats whisker and crystal, etc, whereas now, with a little FT817 and your 5 watts, and good conditions

...you could quite easily have a QSO across the Atlantic. If you think about the time scale, things have come a very long way, in the geographical sense of things, in a very short time.

Bill also brought along some very nostalgic music, and the sound of Glen Miller brought the radios to life...a 'dance club' was suggested...we declined!

Many young children were also very interested in the sets...

In this picture, Bill was explaining to the little fellow how the transistor set received the signal and then travelled through the circuit to the speaker - he was very interested, and the family stayed with us for quite some time that afternoon. His



mum and sister also became intrigued ... In the next picture, they are admiring a valve portable radio... mum is pointing out the dial and some of the stations. It was very rewarding that



quite a number of people appreciated someone else's hobby and the care that has been taken of these very old sets.

Another point of interest was a display put together by Steve - M3KPO— the club's 'webmaster' and SOTA fanatic!!



A collection of wonderful photographs taken from Snowdon and Shining Tor; his SOTA beam can be seen to the right of the picture; and his article about the joys of getting 'wet through' which can be read in detail on the club's website:

[www.sdawarg.co.uk](http://www.sdawarg.co.uk)

Please do visit our website and find out what the group is up to, we meet once a week at Moira; we take part in many events over the year - our next one

being the Festival of Leisure at the Maurice Lee Memorial Park on the 24th and 25th of June 2006. Our club call sign is G0SRC and our chairman - Roger, M1CBO.



There were times during the event when we had a 'ull' ...

but entertainment was always at hand with Dave - G0AOD - on the mike!

**On behalf of the club, I would like to thank everyone that helped to put on the event; from erecting aerials, to operating, to coming back to the call and most importantly...making the tea!!!!**

**Jacqui - M3JQY**



And so... after all that hard work...our 'be-loved' mast is lowered...and put to bed!!!