

IOTA 2005

As a customary part of our Programme of Events we entered this worldwide Contest. Our endeavour was enjoyment for the participants along with the self-training of our new members. Sadly, out of a potential 56 attendees (less the three who kindly sent their apologies for absence), we mustered barely more than a dozen for this Summer week-end event 30/31st July 2005. As this is the height of the so-called English Summer we invite the ladies to put on the annual BBQ after the Contest closes and the work they do both behind the scenes and on the occasion equals the efforts of the operating team.

An early start for Graham G4PTK and Howard G6KQP on Saturday morning saw our well known mobile shack (the former County Council mobile dental surgery) towed from its security compound out to the site at White Lodge Farm, Broughton Hill crossroads (NGR SK722239 - NW of Melton Mowbray, junction of the A606 and the B676) from where we enjoy magnificent views towards Nottingham and the Derbyshire hills. One of the first tasks being to ring-fence our site from the main field to prevent the local inquisitive four-legged occupants to stray too near us and our vehicles!



Once on site Dick G3NVK and Phil G4LWB along with Bill G4HEE and his son Dermot SWL joined the transport duo and we soon had the task of erecting the 60ft tower with the 5-element multi-band beam and the major dipoles accomplished - the local onlookers taking a great interest. The shack was then kitted-out with the computers for logging and DX cluster monitoring, the FT-1000MP and all the other ancillary equipment -

especially the vital ingredient of the tea and coffee brewing facilities - essential as a warmer-up, a spur to activity and a reward for tasks done - no excuses! We're British!







GIT ORF MY LAND!

Kick-off time (Noon GMT) and we commenced action on 20m SSB - radio conditions were poor, in fact no better than they have been now for some months, but persistence pays and the station G4FOX/P closed down around 23:30 there being no advantage in continuing throughout the night (as we have previously) under those conditions and with such a dearth of operators.

At 09:00 Sunday we began again and continued to climb slowly to a score of 240 stations worked by the end of the Contest as the midday sun shone briefly through the overcast. Our attendance figures increased (the “catering staff” in the form of Jan (who kindly supplied the cooking facilities and acted as chief cook), Jo (who’d done the shopping, preparations, baking) and Linda and Teresa (who helped with the table service and distribution) all adding to the atmosphere as the smells of burgers and bangers drifted across to the wary watcher in the field Unfortunately Hilary was not able to attend (but sent a Ration Party in the form of Phil with homemade commodities for us.)





“Hope I’m not next!”



Eventually we all sat to enjoy the delights of open countryside, and conviviality within the happy pursuit of amateur radio and alfresco relaxation. Some took time out to indulge in SSTV, whilst others sneaked a look at the Grand Prix motor racing on television!





Thoughts turned to our next activities which include Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September - HF SSB Field Day when we will be at White Lodge again and, as holiday-makers flew back to Nottingham East Midlands Airport, a reminder of our annual assistance at the Leicester Amateur Radio Show, Donington Exhibition Centre, Donington Park Motor Racing Circuit, Castle Donington on 30th September and 1st October. We'd like see a few more members on parade on each of these occasions.



Lessons learned:

- Dick has to learn there are other prefixes than G3 and that the Club callsign is G4FOX ☺
- Bill suggests the upward facing in-built 'speakers with even the most sophisticated of rigs aren't up to much and recommends some external 'speakers both for the operators and those listening in the shack.
- From Howard: Where there is livestock it is essential that all oddments (particularly loose bits cable, nuts and bolts etc.) be retrieved as soon as they are dropped and a good search of the site be made before we leave.
- More members should try to come and "have a go" - either setting up, logging (non-licensees can do this) or operating (especially the newly-licensed).
- Morse is not a dead language.
- The more members who involve themselves in these activities the easier and quicker it becomes to mount a week-end such as this.



POWER TO THE PEOPLE



DERMOT WINDING US UP!