



Issue 5  
January 2011

# Nunnsfield House Amateur Radio Group



## Newsletter

Hello again, It has been a while since the last issue this has been partly again due to having no copy for the Newsletter. I have now received several articles and they are included. It may be that an article has been missed, this is due to the fact that items are being sent to my home e-mail address and they get lost in it. I have asked that you send any articles to a specially setup e-mail address. This keeps any club items separate and they can then be easily found Please send all items to [nharg.publicity@talktalk.net](mailto:nharg.publicity@talktalk.net)

Martin G7MKS  
Complier and Editor

Do you get a copy of this Newsletter ? or know a club member that does not.. **If we do not have a current e mail address for you then you will be missed of the mailing list.** If you change your address please let us know at [nharg.publicity@talktalk.net](mailto:nharg.publicity@talktalk.net) Your details will never be passed outside of the club and will only used to contact you on club related issues. For those of you without email and wish to receive a copy by post please update the membership secretary with your correct post address.

### In the Shadow of the Sun— Honor Harger and Dr Lucie Green

For those of you who did not go to the RSGB Convention in October (2010) year. There was a Lecture on the Sun and its functions. By : Honor Harger and Dr Lucie Green.

Entitled In the Shadow of the Sun Part 2  
It was one of the biggest lectures attended at the convention. For your information here is a web link to a video on the talk. , very interesting..

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/live/video/424>



## ANTENNA PROBLEM— Ken G3OCA

*For some months I have noticed that the SWR on my 20/15/10m antenna has been varying from its normal 1-1.2 to 1-1.6/1-1.8. Using the auto-atu in my TS870 seemed to show that all was OK giving a SWR of 1-1.2.*

The set up at G3OCA is a little complex consisting of a TS870-LP FILTER-LINEAR AMP-LP FILTER-SWR METER feeding the antenna.

The continual changes of SWR sometimes within seconds convinced me that there was some underlying problem which needed to be addressed before the onset of winter.

Calling on the assistance of my trusty friend Peter G6KUI we collected the MFJ analyser and the large DUMMY LOAD from NHARG we started to run some tests. All the antenna cables enter the garage through a pipe built into the wall once inside they are broken and then joined using in-line connectors this avoids the replacement of long cable runs in the event of weather damage.

We connected the MFJ to the appropriate cable and tried to find the resonant points for each band, there were in fact NO resonant points at all indicating that there was a complete break in the connection to the antenna.

Tilting over the central tower should be a straight forward process however we are keen gardeners and have many trees and shrubs growing bigger each year but by careful pulling and gently parting the branches we got the beam down to working height. There were however other complications ,two washing lines to drop, one 80m dipole and one centenary rope supporting some coax feeders to lower. Finally all was ready for checking, the dummy load was attached to the end of the feeder and the resistance at the antenna measured this was found to be 57 ohms indicating that the coax feeder was OK. Next we checked the resistance between the actual element and the feeder connection, central conductor to element ZERO ohms as it should be, outer conductor to element MANY megohms showing a very high resistance and the source of the high SWR. The connection was carefully taken apart ,the aluminium oxide was cleaned from the element and the bolt, washers and nuts were also cleaned of all corrosion before being reassembled and given a good protective coat of corrosion resistant gel.

The MFJ was used to check the resonant points on each band all of which appeared on the central frequencies with a 1-1.1,1-1.2 SWR showing all was well.

Raising the antenna back to its working height and replacing all the ropes and cables was quickly completed.

That the antenna was back fully repaired is shown by the DX worked later that day Venezuela,Nicaragua,Congo,Brazil and Bermuda.

Ken G3OCA

# What is Snow?

As we have had so much snow just lately I decided to find out something out about it. Searching the web I came across this website and here are some of the items to be found on it. If you would like to find out more interesting facts about snow visit. [home-](#)

Snow is really ice shaped into tiny crystals. Most of the time the snowflake is made up of many of these tiny ice crystals stuck together. Like raindrops, snowflakes begin as water vapour in a cloud. When a cloud is very cold this water vapour changes into ice crystals.



If you could look at a snowflake under a microscope you would see that each crystal has a beautiful six-spoke shape which is usually symmetrical, and no two are alike.



Why is snow white? Ice is transparent, yet snow looks white. This is because the ice crystals in snow reflect daylight in all directions. Daylight is white so the snow appears white.

However, red, green, blue and even black snow is occasionally seen in many parts of the world. The colours are due to the dust or fungi collected by the snow as it falls through the air. Red snow occurs in some areas of Europe - especially Italy - where the air is filled with dust particles from the red sands of the Sahara desert. Snowflakes that form around dust particles take on a reddish colour.

Snow has many uses in nature. A thick layer of snow does not allow heat to escape from the ground beneath it. It works like a blanket to save plants and animals from the damage caused by freezing temperatures. Although it may be cold above the ground, snow is a good insulator, and keeps the heat underground in. It is because snow keeps heat in that many Eskimos and Arctic explorers build igloos of snow blocks.

Snow is often a very useful source of water supply, especially in hot, dry countries. Often, deep layers of snow on high mountains will not melt until late spring or early summer. Rivers like the Nile in Africa, and the Indus in India, would dry up in hot weather without supplies of melting snow. Another use of snow is all the fun you can have when the ground is covered in snow.

## How to get in touch

We have setup an E-mail address for you to send items in or make contact, **please only use this for items for inclusion in the newsletters.** [nharg.publicity@talktalk.net](mailto:nharg.publicity@talktalk.net) or post to Newsletter, Nunsfield House Amateur Radio Group, 33 Boulton Lane, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD

## Formats to use

The Newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher, we can accommodate most formats but if you wish to submit an article please use "word" format or "rich text". For pictures and photographs use "jpeg" these will produce the best quality and are the preferred format.

## MY EARLY TRAVELS- Ken G3OCA

In the middle to late fifties I travelled in many parts of Europe with John Smith an officer in the Royal Navy. Having been recently posted to Greece we decided to spend part of my leave travelling by train from London to Athens.

We purchased a through ticket to Athens on the international train which enabled us to get off and on at any point in the journey this cost about £40 return for John but a single for me as I would be returning to my unit.

We caught the boat train from Victoria Stn , the ferry from Dover to Calais and then by train to Paris where we would catch the Paris to Istanbul Express which we would leave at Belgrade to travel south the Athens.

Air travel at this time was very expensive besides you saw more of the country and met a great many more local people on the train.

It took two days to reach the Yugoslav border and then through Belgrade and our first real objective Skopje in southern Yugoslavia. We had timed our arrival for the day of the big weekly market as we had found out that many of the local peasants wore their distinctive village costume to come to the market. We were amazed at the variety of colour and design in the clothing worn by the female members of each family with the children also dressed in colourful clothing. John was very anxious to travel some 20miles to see a tiny famous chapel deep in a narrow valley. We caught a local bus and after a long walk we reached the chapel. The chapel built some feet above the unpaved road and consisted of a single room the walls of which we covered in original frescoes of saints painted in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the chapel was built. The ceiling was covered with a large fresco of Christ Pantocreator staring down at any visitor. There are no habitations within several miles and why the chapel was built in an isolated place is something of a mystery.

Although the roof was still sound there appeared little sign of any recent visitors.

The valley floor had a small river flowing along it and further up the valley we could see the wall of a small dam the track was unpaved and the seemed no vehicle tracks.

Looking more carefully at the sides of the valley we realised that there were a considerable number of manned machine-gun the occupants of which were all inspecting us through binoculars, we quickly decided that a strategic withdrawal would be a good plan. On returning to Skopje we were told that this valley ran right through to the border with Albania and was heavily guarded!!!

Having had a hard day we sat down for dinner in our hotel and ordered a carafe of local wine this quickly disappeared before our dinner came so a second carafe followed the first. Finishing our dinner we looked at each other and debated as to how we could reach our rooms up a flight of stairs, carefully leaning against each other we weaved our way drunkenly to bed. This was not our only brush with officialdom we were taking some photographs across the city when we were accosted by a policeman on a motor cycle who in extremely poor German accused us of taking pictures of military installations he pointed to a yellow building at least 5 miles away and said it was an army barracks we persuaded him that we were quite innocently taking photographs of his lovely city! Our final memory of Skopje was the unfailing production of Crème Caramel for desert, one evening Christmas Pudding was announced for desert, we were however not surprised by the arrival of Crème Caramel.

Next Time . Our adventures in Greece

Ken G3OCA

## GOTCHA! Hull man convicted of radio offences

A Hull resident was sentenced at Hull Crown Court on 22nd November 2010 for causing deliberate interference to amateur radio users in the Hull region of Humberside between June and November 2009.

The defendant was also convicted of unlawfully using radio equipment without a license from Ofcom, which was installed in his van and driven around the region to interfere with legitimate users of the local amateur frequencies.

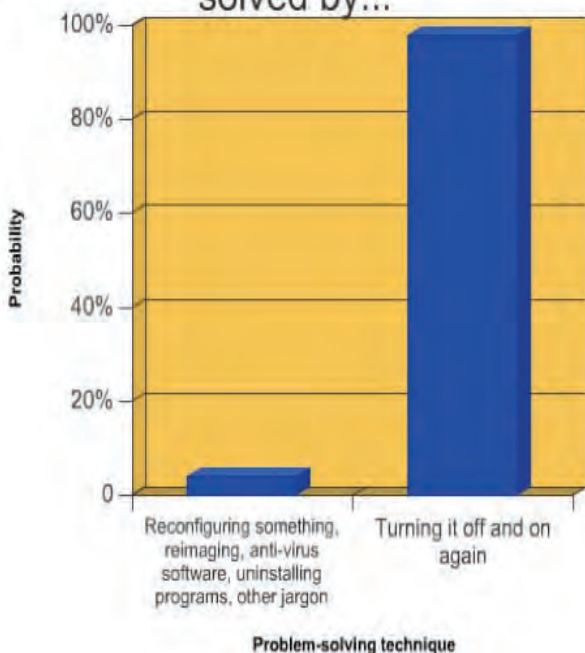
He was sentenced to: Four months imprisonment suspended for 18 months a curfew between 7pm and 7 am for 3 months via a means of electronic Tagging Forfeiture of his van and radio transmitters, to Ofcom.

Commenting on the sentence, Paul Mercer, Head of enforcement at Ofcom, said: "There are around 900 amateur radio users in and around the Hull area, who have been deliberately disrupted for more than four years. Ofcom is very pleased with this result, which will hopefully give these users some welcome relief, as well as sending a very strong signal to those that abuse the airwaves. This followed a dedicated investigation by Ofcom involving six enforcement officers working day and night to bring the culprit to court."

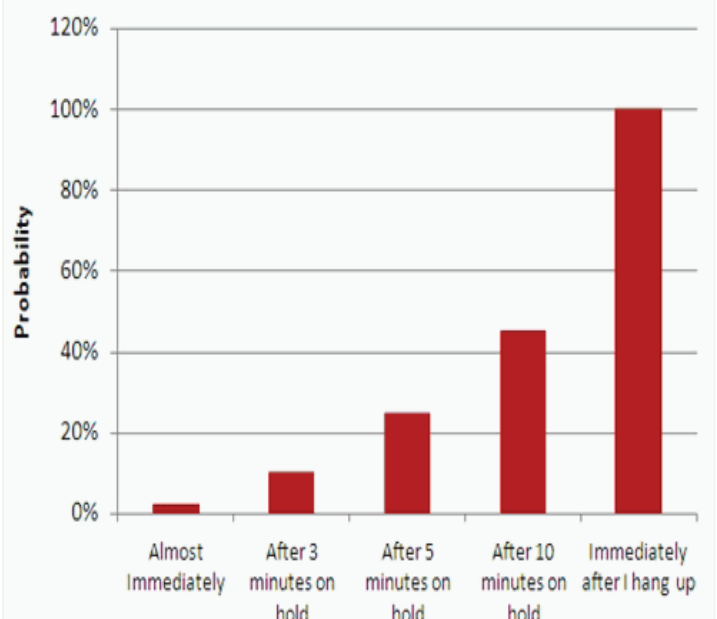
Mr. Sheldon, the Court Recorder commended Ofcom for the quality of the evidence that had been collated and the quality of file presented in court.

## LIFE EXPLAINED BY SCIENTIFIC GRAPHS

Likelihood of a computer issue being solved by...



Probability the Customer Service Representative will Answer



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER—Ken G30CA

### SCENE WEST CENTRAL INDIA

TIME 0600 The room has no air-conditioning, but fortunately the lack of insects means we can leave the windows open all night. The temperature is about 75F and even at night rather humid. We have cleared the spiders away the biggest is about 4 inches across with a body the size of a small pill and long very thin legs and they appear by the dozen out of the forest.

0615 Get up and head for the morning cup of tea. Temp. about 80F.

0630 Collect all our gear cameras, tripod, binoculars, hat, sun cream and insect repellent. Climb into our vehicle and head for our first location. This may be anything between 2 and 10 miles away.

0700 Reach location could be forest, grassland, paddy fields, sandy coast or lake whatever type of birds we are looking for.

Walk, stand, look and listen set up equipment wait, walk on and wait for about 3 hours. Temp 85F as we head back for breakfast.

1000 cooked breakfast, toast, tea, coffee, omelette etc.

1030 Set out again, different location. Temp 87F. Walk anything up to 4 miles carrying all our gear all ready for immediate use this makes the carry awkward but is essential. Something may appear at any time.

1230 Arrive back at base, hot tired and soaking wet. Temp 90F.

Change clothes ,hang the wet ones up ready for use tomorrow, they will be dry but sweaty next time, but cannot keep up with freshly washed things. Lunch, curry, rice, fruit and lots of tea. Water is always carried on the vehicles and we pack our own refilling it from the large container.

All the water in sealed bottles as the local water can be contaminated, even cleaning our teeth using bottled water.

A sleep now and a read in the shade.

1500 Head for another cup of tea, Temp 96F

Leave for new location and repeat the morning expedition exactly. It is all

Walk, stand ,look and listen, then the big moments we see or hear a new bird/creature all is quiet talk in whispers, its in the tree/bush WHERE???

Comment by bird guide the 'bird is on that branch/behind that tree/walking in the undergrowth' I cannot see it , set up camera, spot bird it is in deep shadow, DAMN. It's moving there it is in the clear now. Get some good pictures, everybody really happy another one in the bag.

1800 Head for base, even more hot and sticky, clothes wet through. But HAPPY, HAPPY another great day.

1930 Dinner, big cooked meal, meat usually goat or chicken, rice and fruit a big bottle of cold beer, followed by coffee and a talk about how the day has gone and plan for tomorrow.

2130 Sort out dry clothes for morning, check camera batteries and memory cards

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER (cont)

### Ken G3OCA

happy another one in the bag.

1800 Head for base, even more hot and sticky, clothes wet through. But HAPPY, HAPPY another great day.

1930 Dinner, big cooked meal, meat usually goat or chicken, rice and fruit a big bottle of cold beer, followed by coffee and a talk about how the day has gone and plan for tomorrow.

2130 Sort out dry clothes for morning, check camera batteries and memory cards

2200 Turn off all the lights open all the windows, do not need any bed covered as it is still about 85F but getting cooler, settle down for a good nights sleep ready for another hard day tomorrow after the 6-8 miles walking today.

And you thought it was a holiday!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ken G3OCA

## More on Snow, Photograph by — Martin G7MKS



*Looking towards Elvaston from Chellaston*

## Club Program—2011

**Please note - any blue highlighted evenings are external speakers please make every effort to attended. They are also open evenings - all welcome**

### January

- 7th Committee Meeting/Shack Night
- 14th **Talk on the Computer Programme "Radio Mobile" - a path plotting and prediction programme - by Ian Brown (G3TVU)**
- 21st Junk Sale
- 28th TBA

### February

- 4th AGM
- 11th Erecting a Wire Antenna
- 18th **Northern Lights**
- 25th RSGB Project ?

### March

- 4th RSGB Project ?
- 11th **'Prevention of Terrorism' by Julie Coulton from Derbyshire Constabulary**
- 18th RSGB Project ?
- 25th RSGB Project ?

### April

- 1st Global Warming - Forum
- 8th Libraries - Forum with Rosina
- 15th Committee Meeting/Shack Night
- 22nd Good Friday - Shack Night
- 29th Royal Wedding!!!

### May

- 6th Windows 7 - Forum
- 13th Photo Competition - Plants
- 20th Bring Your Camera - Dave Barker
- 27th **Club Program - Looking Forward. Please bring ideas with you!**

### June

- 3rd Shack Night
- 10th Junk Sale
- 17th Planet Hunting - Andy Barker
- 24th Fox Hunt - Brian Reid

**Please put of a copy of this club program on the wall in your shack**