



**GM4RIV**  
**THE WIGTOWNSHIRE**  
**ARC**  
**Club Magazine**

**Autumn 2002 Issue**  
**No 10**

## BHO's Ramblings

Well that's the AGM over for another twelve months thank goodness. As those who attended will know we have had a few changes among the committee and office bearers and there is a full copy of the minutes elsewhere in this issue along with the names and contact info of the office bearers and all committee members. I think the last 12 months have gone reasonably well with some useful new (to us) kit in the shape of the VHF/UHF/Six meter base radio with tri-band aerial and triplexer also two lap top PC's running on the 486 processor platform these will be a great help for logging on any future outside special events and also for running digital modes such as packet, SSTV, PSK 31 etc.

We have had some excellent visits to various places of interest such as the EPO and Police HQ in Dumfries and the Moyle Interconnector at Ballantrea, we have also had some interesting and not so interesting visitors giving talks and presentations on various aspects of our hobby.

I quite enjoy putting this magazine together but I am finding it very hard to think of things to put in so if any of you have something you would like to share with us like, ideas for antenna, projects to build (simple ones!) stories about ham radio, stories not about ham radio in fact anything you think might interest or bore us then please put it on a £5.00 note and send it to me via the club or e-mail.

Richard MM1BHO

# JAYCEE ELECTRONICS LTD

## AMATEUR RADIO SHOP

20 WOODSIDE WAY, GLENROTHES, FIFE, KY7 5DF

TEL 01592 786962

FAX 01592 610451

E.MAIL [jayceecom@aol.com](mailto:jayceecom@aol.com)

WEB SITE [HTTP://members.aol.com/jayceecom](http://members.aol.com/jayceecom)

YOUR ONE STOP AMATEUR RADIO SHOP  
LARGE SELECTION OF EQUIPMENT ON DISPLAY

PROMPT MAIL/TELEPHONE ORDER SERVICE

ACCESS-VISA-SWITCH WELCOME

FLEXIBLE FINANCE TERMS



**AUTHORISED DEALER**

**KENWOOD - ICOM - YAESU - ALINCO**

ALL THE GOODS WE SELL COME FROM

GENUINE UK IMPORTERS

OPENING HOURS

TUES to FRID 9am to 5pm SAT 9am to 4pm

CLOSED SUNDAY and MONDAY

**Draft Minutes of AGM held in the Aird Building on**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2002**

**Richard Hopkins MM1BHO occupied the chair and welcomed the 19 members present. Apologies were received from Frank Claytonsmith GM3JKS, Jim Clark MM0CNF, Gerry Maxwell GM4BAE, Gillian Robinson 2M1FQI, John McCulloch MM1DWJ and SWL Andy Shankland.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting were read with acceptance proposed by Eric Sandilands GM0FSZ and seconded by Jim MacPhee GM3VNW.**

**There was no business arising and no relevant correspondence.**

**President's Report**

**Richard gave a comprehensive report of the club activities over the year. These events included two at Portpatrick, which included a FSTV link, a visit to the Scottish Rally at Coatbridge, participation in the PW low power contest, Science Week at Stranraer Academy and our annual Lighthouse Weekend. Mention was made of our latest club purchase, a Yaesu 736 VHF and 6 metre transceiver with a tri-band antenna. We are also expecting delivery of two second hand laptop pcs. On completion of the Novice Course run by the club we welcomed new licensee Robin Jeffrey 2M1SCO. Thanks were also expressed to the committee for their support.**

### Secretary's Report

The report was given by secretary Neil Macdonald GM4LQS. Comments were made regarding the poor returns of the questionnaire on members needs. Our committee goal of raising the profile of the club resulted in taking part in events involving the public. The club now have a well equipped station and it is hoped that with a little refurbishment the shack will be made more attractive to operators. A request was also made for volunteers to help with the Foundation Course to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Frank GM3JKS had asked about the club magazine distribution as he had missed the last issue. From details gleaned from the floor this was found to be a one off situation.

### Treasurer's Report

John Bray GM6FPD gave his report. The club funds stood at £108.62 after purchases during the year. After clearing up a few points, the members present accepted the statement of accounts. Membership fees would remain the same, £6, for the year 2002/2003 with the Community Learning Service fees of £5 jnr & benefit, £9 conc & £12 full.

John, having served as treasurer for 21 years, has decided to stand down.

### Hilda Kelday Trophy

The above trophy is awarded, by the committee, each year to a member who has made that extra contribution to the club activities. This year the President was pleased to announce that the award

would go to Ian Macdonald MM5WIG for his service in the clubs training program and on becoming the RSGB Snr Training Instr. Ian thanked the committee and the club and was very pleased to accept the trophy.

At this point Richard Hopkins thanked John Bray for his many years of service as treasurer and the members joined in with the warmth of their applause.

A.O.C.B.

Eric MM0FSZ asked if the club would be taking part in this years JOTA event. Secy to sound out Scout and Guide Groups. Ian MM5WIG outlined the results of the past years training. Robin 2M1SCO and, with conversions, most of the membership were licensed for HF. Details were given of the Foundation Course setup and a call was made for members help on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. It was decided to have a Christmas Dinner this year, details to be advised. The Pie & Peas night to be Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. The question of a Fox Hunt was raised by Ellis GM0HPK so he was asked to organise it. To this he agreed.

The chairman brought the meeting to a close at 21.05 hrs.

Chairman ... ..

## The QSL Bureau

I thought it might be a good idea now that we have the two new laptop PCs to have a word about QSL cards and log keeping, as you know it is a requirement of our licences to keep a log of all the activities of our individual radio stations, and of course it follows that we must do the same when operating the club station. I am hoping now we have the PCs in the shack that this will happen on both HF and the VHF stations, we use the Log-EQF log system for keeping records as I think this is by far the simplest logging system I have used, it allows both auto and manual entries and has a host of other functions to help us keep accurate logs and send out QSL cards to stations we have contacted.

The biggest problem I have found with this system is no one seems to know how to set it up and use it, this has in the past (and still does) cause me a great deal of

**GB2L CP**

Corsewall Point Lighthouse

Station Operated By The Wigtownshire Stranraer South West Scotland

August 2002

An amateur Radio Club

Locator IO74KX  
WAB NW97  
LAT 55 DEG N  
Long 5 DEG 15 MIN W  
POST CODE DG9 00G

Please Visit our website - [www.qsl.net/gm4rtv](http://www.qsl.net/gm4rtv)

Heartache, distress and late nights in the shack trying to put the dates and times right on QSL labels before printing and sending them off to the RSGB for forwarding on.

So as soon as is practicable I will be setting up both the laptops with the Log-EQF software and I will be giving a demonstration to any one who is interested in learning how to set up and use the program, (please form an orderly queue!!! and no pushing in from the back Jim!!!!) I hope that as a club we will be doing a few more contests and or special events during 2003 and it would be really nice to think that all I have to do as QSL manager is print the labels, stick 'em on the cards and send 'em off....it's not much to ask...I'm only human....I need my beauty sleep like the next man....or woman....I don't want to have a nervous breakdown... ..I'm too young... ..well almost....so please chaps let's try and get it right this coming year.

For anyone interested the QSL cards this year were printed by the same company that print this magazine....the cost to the club was £15.00 for 500 cards and they are willing to keep that price available for members, you must have the artwork print ready on disc otherwise a one off set up charge of £5.00 will be made. You can contact Liz or John at Small Print Castle Douglas on 01556 503718.

Your poor downtrodden QSL Manager  
Richard MM1BHO

*Autobar and Leisureline*  
*222 King Street*  
*Castle Douglas DG7 1DS*  
Telephone/Fax 01556 502529

We supply

CB Radios  
Aerials PSU's  
Car and Caravan Accessories  
Tents Sleeping Bags  
Hand & power tools  
Towing equipment  
In car audio  
And much much more

Contact Martin, Val, Davy or Richard

## The Lighthouse Weekend

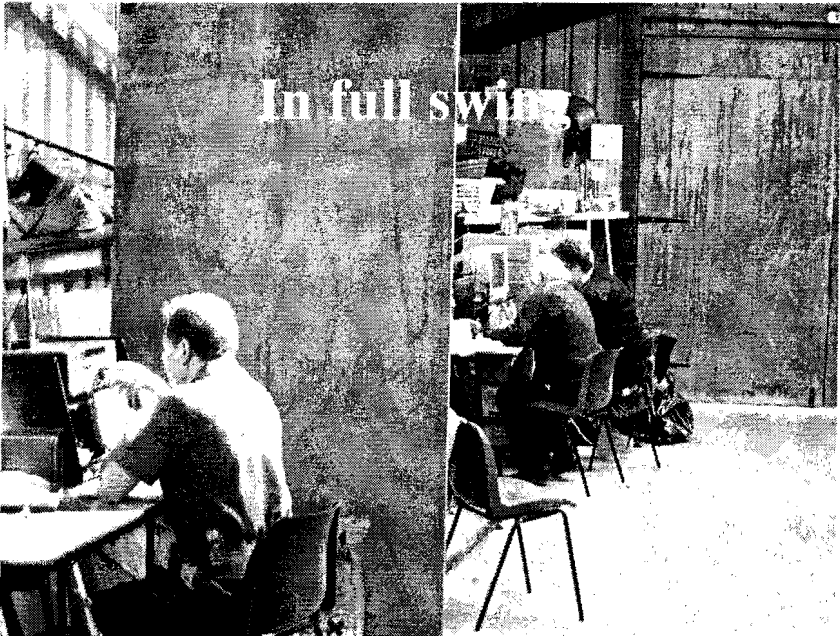
Or to give it its official title, the "International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend". The smooth logistics operation swung into action on Thursday night, while some prepared for the talk by two *agents* of the Radiocommunications Agency, others had moved the mast, trailer and other items out to Corsewall.

By early afternoon, Friday, the vanguard of our team had arrived at our destination. Eric FSZ, Ian NBG, Jim VNW, Rod NGI, Andy Shankland and yours truly Neil LQS. This year there was much more space and soon two operating positions had been set up. We were given the use of the field next door, the cattle having been persuaded to move into another. The team worked hard and within a couple of hours the extended mast had "*sprouted*" (a VNW in joke) the HF beam. Also in that time a guyed mast had appeared sprouting an HF dipole, a six metre beam and a two metre beam, both steerable. The early part of the evening soon passed when we used GS4RIV/P to amass quite a few qsos, some with stations in the same position as ourselves. When 23.59hrs arrived we became GB2LCP and then things opened up, with stations stateside knee deep waiting to work us. Well, that took care of Friday which had been a great day. Saturday morning at 0230hrs saw us trying to pry the key from Jims hand, *enoughs enough* or some such thought, so we called it a day. Saturday dawned quite pleasantly and after various stages of breakfast we recommenced. I think one of our first contacts that morning was an AX,

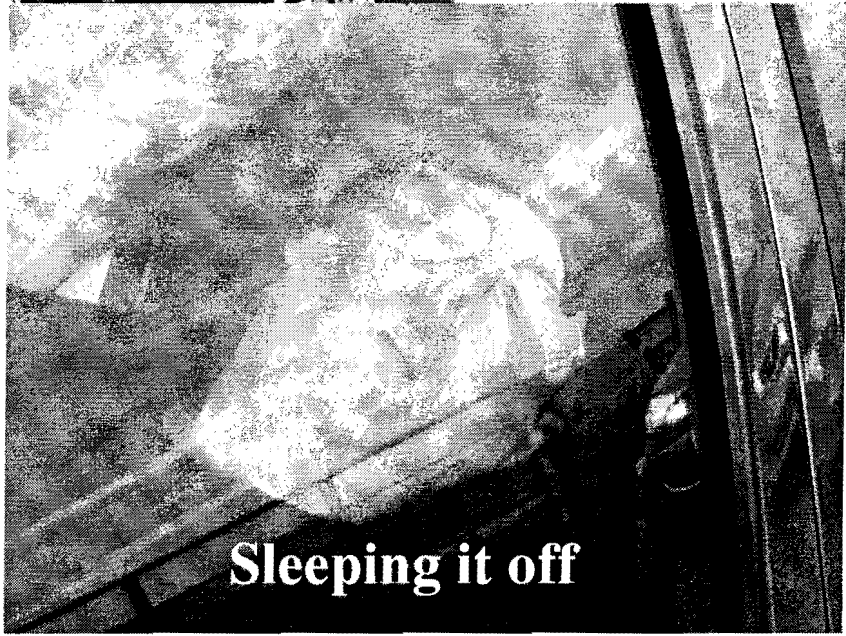
with Jim in control. Weather remained fair all through the day and we worked a few lighthouses on both HF and VHF. I happened to be operating and contacted a "lightship with a street address in London". Seems there a few odd situations out there. Jim LPT appeared early morning and was press ganged onto HF in double quick time. Richard BHO arrived in the evening and brought some brisk weather with him. Sufficient to say, we had to lower the HF beam for safety's sake. Leo also arrived, having gone back earlier in the day to collect some *sleep* points for use during Sunday morning. Evidence of Leo's dedication came to me when I came to, in the middle of the night, with "CQ CQ CQ" booming out of the night. That must have been about 0530hrs and all on his own too, the Brits having bowed out. Through the night the rain came on and lasted until about 1430hrs on Sunday. John SWX visited for a short time and brought goodies for the operators. The bands were busy and contacts were being made steadily through until about 1400hrs. As the sky brightened it was decided to dismantle the site but we gave Jim the benefit of a few extra minutes by saving the HF antenna till last. Then two visitors arrived, Angela and Gavin, but by that time unfortunately we were non operational. Late afternoon saw everything cleared and people moving out. What can I say other than " what a great weekend was had by all ".

Reporter Neil GM4LQS

Pictures By Eric (Le click) Sandilands GM0FSZ



**In full swing**



**Sleeping it off**



# CRAIG COMPUTERS

01465 715557



Sales • Repairs • Upgrades • Builds • Advice

**19 Hamilton St. GIRVAN KA26 9EY**

## THE GIRVAN ONE STOP COMPLETE PC SHOP

No Second Hand Hardware used in Builds or Repairs  
ALL MATERIALS CARRY MANUFACTURERS' GUARANTEES  
WORKSHOP AND HOME VISITS, ANALYSIS AND REPAIRS  
INK CARTRIDGES \* WIDE SELECTION OF PAPER  
COMPACT DISKS \* FLOPPY DISKS \* ZIP DISKS  
ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM STOCK, NEXT DAY OR SECOND DAY

.....  
CRAIG CLASSIC SYSTEM FROM £745.00

CRAIG GAMER SYSTEM TO YOUR SPECIFICATION  
.....

# CRAIG COMPUTERS

Tel: 01465 715557

Fax: 01465 712279

Irene & Bill O'Hara  
Partners



OPEN Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm

e-mail: [craig\\_computers@lineone.net](mailto:craig_computers@lineone.net)

**19 Hamilton St. GIRVAN Ayrshire. KA26 9EY**

Continue to support the Girvan PC Organisation. Dedicated to PCs

# **Club Contacts**

## **President**

Richard Hopkins MM1BHO 01556 650448  
e-mail richard@mm1bho.freemove.co.uk

## **Secretary**

Neil Macdonald GM4LQS 01776 702570  
e-mail neilmacdonald@wigtownshire.freemove.co.uk

## **Treasurer**

Davy Bisset MM0KBT davy-bisset@supanet.com

## **QSL Manager**

Richard Hopkins MM1BHO contact as above

## **Committee Members**

Robin Jeffery 2M1SCO 01556 690660  
thejefferyclan@burnbreakfarm.fsnet.co.uk

Ian Macdonald MM5WIG 01988 403364  
E-mail weebooks@globalnet.co.uk

Stu Collings GM4YYF 01776 810292  
stu.collings@btopenworld.com

Andy Shankland SWL 01071 402164  
E-mail afshankland@netscapeonline.co.uk

**Club Website [www.qsl.net/gm4riv](http://www.qsl.net/gm4riv)**



**GM4RIV**  
**Wigtownshire ARC**