

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Incorporating Derby Wireless Club (1911)

DADARS Newsletter
November 2018

EVENTS RECENT AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 2018

- 6th Junk Sale
- 13th Committee Meeting
- 20th Video Night - Sutton Coalfield Antenna Masts
- 27th No Meeting

DECEMBER 2018

- 4th Junk Sale
- 11th No Evening Meeting
- 11th Afternoon Social Event 2pm at the King's Highway, Derby
- 18th Year in Retrospect - A Natter Night
- 25th No Meeting

JANUARY 2018

- 1st Junk Sale
- 8th Committee Meeting
- 15th To be Decided
- 23rd No meeting

For the latest information, please view the Club website or emails from the Secretary.

We meet at 7.30pm on the FIRST and THIRD Tuesdays of the month. There will be NO meeting on the FOURTH Tuesday or the FIFTH if there is one.



Introduction

Welcome to the November edition of the DADARS newsletter. I intend to publish the next edition in 2019 so I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. I did notice that many of the shops in Derby already display Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas celebrations started, full-scale, on 1st September in the Philippines so I feel justified making such early exaltations.

If you still do not believe that Christmas is already here, then you need to see the singing penguins in Derby Garden Centre!

Christmas Social Event

In previous years, we have held a Fish & Chip supper in December at the Clubroom. Whilst a popular gastronomic experience, some members have expressed preference for an event with less acid regurgitation and reflux. For a change, the Club Committee organised an afternoon carvery type meal at the King's Highway, Derby DE22 3NH at 2pm on Tuesday 11th December

2018. It is available for Club members and a guest. The numbers are limited and at the time of writing were already full.

Club Subscriptions

Just a reminder that Club subscriptions are due on January 1st 2019. The Committee made the decision to freeze the fee to £5.

Talks and Presentations

The Club did well this year with four talks during the last 6 months. We need to keep up the momentum.

In April, Peter G6KUI treated us to an interesting talk on FT8 digital modes. Peter described the details of the mode and explained how to use it effectively. The talk created enthusiasm and was a revelation for some members. Peter presented the talk very well despite the additional excitement of the projector blowing up mid slide.

In May we had a truly magnificent presentation (well - I thought so) from Chris G4AKE



Singing Penguins - Press the Button and Cringe



called 'Fibre Optics and the Radio Amateur'. Fibre optics support nearly all modern communication medium but the technology and methodology are often unknown or over looked.

Colin presented an interesting talk on 18th September called "Shades of the Wireless Set 18". Colin presented the history, his personal experience and opinions of the equipment and brought in equipment for Club members to see and touch. Information on the Internet is very limited on this subject - it is clear that Colin is an expert. I wondered if this information could transcribe into a document for display on the Club web site for posterity and for others to enjoy.

Finally, we had another interesting talk on 16th October by Andy G8VYO called "Integrating Old & New British Gas PMR Systems". Andy described the difficulties, trials and success of integrating a number of existing PMR (Private Mobile Radio) systems into an integrated network in the South East of England for British Gas in the 1990s. Andy took us through the steps in an interesting and understandable way and highlighted both the successes and the failures.

GDPR

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), 2016/679 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 4th May 2016 and came into force on 25 May 2018. The scope of this directive applies to the methods we employ to process and store Club personal data.

The committee met in May to finalise and adapt our procedures to comply with the regulations. As is usual, the guidelines were difficult to interpret and much of the legislation seemed to be aimed at large online companies. The legislation exceeded 150 pages of confusing legal text. Despite this, the Club committee believe that we now comply with the legislation to the best of our understanding using the best information available at the time.

Thanks go to Martin and Jenny who took on the bulk of the work liaising with our sister Club: *Nunfield House Amateur Radio Group* and with other organisations to evolve a club process that is workable and compliant with the GDPR. The process is now complete and any member can request to see their personal data and understand how it is used and stored. Any member of the club requesting information relating to the GDPR can use the dedicated email address found on http://www.dadars.org.uk/contact_us.htm



Andy G8VYO presenting

Junction 28 Rally

The Club booked a table at the Junction 28 Rally on June 10th 2018. This was organised by the South Normanton Club. Thanks go to Martin and Jenny who staffed the stall most of the day. Lots of junk and stuff moved hands making the day tiring but successful.

Tips and Wrinkles

I think that the newsletter should include some technical content so I have included some odds-and-ends that made me smile during a recent project.

Caveat Emptor (Buyer Beware)

I recently spotted an advert on Amazon.co.uk for 'new' ceramic valve caps suitable for the 813 at a price of £3.20 including free postage and packaging. I needed two for an amplifier project so rather than asking around, I ordered them. A week later, they arrived. The advert described them as "*Gold Tube Ceramic Socket for 811, 805, 572b and 813*".

They came under the category '*Audio Amplifier Parts*'. I thought, naively, that recent Audiophile interest in 813 audio amplifiers had maybe created new production runs on difficult to get parts - for example ceramic valve bases and anode caps. Oh no - the anode cap is made from white synthetic resin (It looks and feels like plastic) and I can assure that the metal part is very shiny but probably contains no gold at all!



I have to say that the caps do fit very well on the 813s so I decided to use them and see if they catch fire or self-destruct. Up to now, they seem to be working ok - I will let you know.

The adjacent photo shows the anode caps. Note also the copper strip used in the anode circuit. It seems mandatory for constructors to build the anode circuitry using tinned copper strip - it is certainly standard practice in commercial amplifiers.

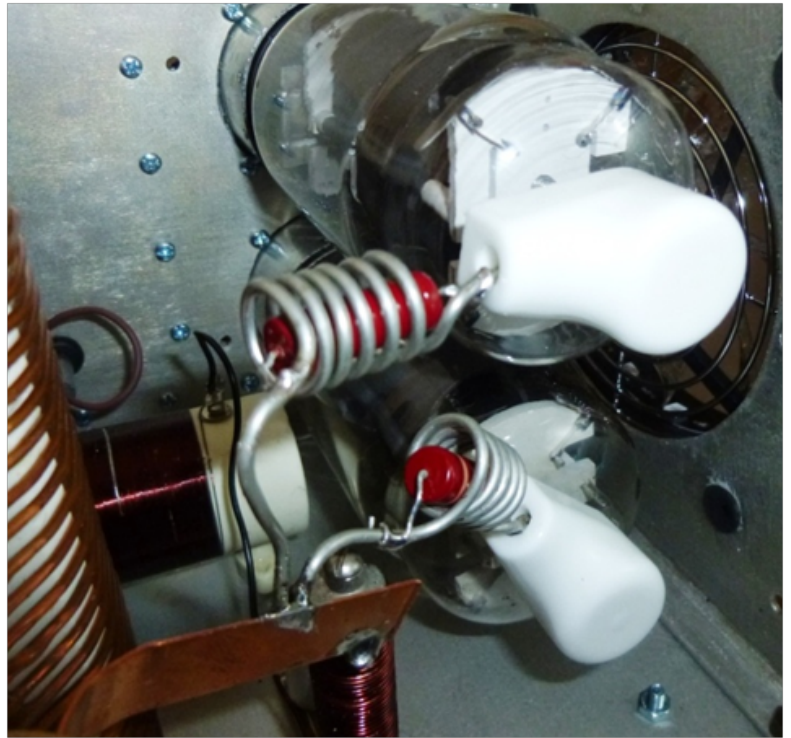
I was desperately looking around the garage for copper strip and came across a number of copper 'tangles' that I ordered for repairing my tiled roof. If you want to know more about 'tangles', then I suggest you search for it on YouTube. Anyway, tangles are ideal for use in linear amplifier tank circuits, ATU, strip line or the construction of magnetic loops. These are available from many sites including Amazon although I warn you, search for 'Copper Tingle' otherwise your browser will return results for other dubious items!

On the subject of tank circuits, does anyone know why commercial manufacturers employ heavy copper strip in the anode circuit? Is it to look good? For example, the anode impedance for a pair of 813s at 2.5kV is between 2k Ω and 5k Ω depending on tuning and so at 400 Watt, the anode current and hence loss is not particularly high. I tried replacing the anode feed using thin copper wire instead of the copper strip and anode chokes. I could see no difference at all. Similarly, I cannot see coroner discharge a problem at amateur power levels. If anyone knows the answer, find me at the next club meeting. I will include the answer in the next publication.

That is all for this issue. The next will be around June 2019. If anyone has information or tips or anything for inclusion, please get in touch with me - I am desperate for content. Otherwise I have to fall back on singing penguins again.

73's Chris G4AKE

Happy Christmas .



Plastic Valve caps



Copper Tingles