



# KARS News

Don't forget, this is YOUR radio club. If you have any ideas for events, talks or, in fact anything else then please do get in touch. [mm0xbd@kars.org.uk](mailto:mm0xbd@kars.org.uk), [gm4wzg@kars.org.uk](mailto:gm4wzg@kars.org.uk). Please also pass on this newsletter to anyone else who might be interested and don't forget to tell them to look at our website for full information about our club.

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## KARS and KARAVANS

So, the dust is now settling on the weekend of National Field Day, 2008. This is a CW contest and the club fielded a 3.5 man team for this event (GM3ZBE, GM4WLN, GM4WZG and MM0XBD). They were ably supported in the setting up by Richard (MM0PFR), Iain (GM1FEM), Paul (MM0PSA), Steve (2M0SGQ) and last but not least, young Jake, Richard's son. The club had managed to obtain a small caravan from Freecycle, for the grand sum of £0.00, a bargain if ever there was one. Richard, Iain and Paul spent some time during the week leading up to NFD refurbishing the van to get it ready for the operators and made a fine job of it. Setup went fairly well, with no major hiccups, but on starting the contest we discovered a problem with RF upsetting the computer logging, amid a flurry of activity, various things were changed to see if it made a difference which it did appear to. Normal service resumed, well.....at least until the table in the caravan decided that the combined weight of an FT-1000D, a tuner, monitor, keyboard and the hopes and

prayers of the KARS team was too much and gave way with a terminal crack! Some swift planning came up with a solution and Bob set to work, utilizing the mobile workshop that masquerades as Richard's car!

Finally, we were back in business. At least until the RF gremlins decided to pay another visit during the night. After more weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth Bernie managed to configure his laptop to run the logging software and now the team were free to go, full steam ahead. During the course of the remaining hours the team notched up in excess of 600 contacts.....well done to all involved, considering the problems experienced, this ended up a very respectable score.

The weather through the weekend was incredible and I'm sure I'm not the only one sitting here with mild sunburn, my only saving grace was that on the way out of the door on Saturday morning, my wife had the foresight to tell me to take a hat, else I'd be nursing a sunburnt baldy head!!

## More Karavans

The club had been offered the use of a static caravan on the Fordell Firs site to set up a shack on the site. Richard has taken this project on and has a team of helpers in Iain, Paul and Steve to tidy up and make the caravan habitable. These guys have excelled themselves with the work they have put in over the weekend, the amount of effort put in over this weekend has resulted in the beginnings of a radio shack that will hopefully serve the club well over the following months and years.

There still remains lots of work to do, the majority of which is kitting the shack out with radio kit, without involving the club spending too much money. One member of the club, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated a multi-mode VHF rig, Richard has also received a donation from the estate of a silent key of an HF rig too, so we have the basics of a complete shack. What we need to help along the way is wide and varied but if anyone has any of the following items they wish to

## COMMITTEE

From the initial inception of the club, there have been five people involved in the planning, setting up and running of the club. Myself (MM0XBD), Bernie (GM4WLN), Malcolm (GM3TAL), Bob (GM4WLN) and Alex (GM3ZBE). Alex has decided to step down from his committee role to concentrate his efforts on the home front, he'll still be an active member of the club when time allows though. Many thanks to Alex for his commitment over the past year.

As we'd spoken about at previous meetings, we're looking to increase the committee membership to bring more people into the organisation and planning side of the club, to keep up the momentum that we've managed to achieve till this point. I've had a couple of folks speak to me about this recently and expect to be in a position to confirm this soon. In the meantime if anyone else is interested in becoming part of the team to shape the future of KARS, then please let myself or Bernie know.

donate to the club, then please contact one of the committee members.

The list, which is by no means exhaustive is: Lawnmower, coaxial feeder (50ohm), operator seating, radio related literature, tools, soldering iron etc.

Any other offers of help should be made in the first instance to myself (MM0XBD) and I'll pass your details to Richard.

## Club Programme

June 18th

Antenna Modelling by GM3ZBE

July 16th

Special Event Planning.

July 19th & 20th

Club Fun Weekend / Low Power Field day—MM0PFR

August 20th

TBC

This is a first attempt at a newsletter (ever!). So don't be surprised if someone else is doing the next one!

Let us know what you think—feedback isn't just something you get in the shack!

## Rallies

3rd August

LORN Radio Rally, Crainlarich

20th September

Jaycee's Open Day

19th October (provisional)

Galashiels Rally

Any other dates for the diaries, we should be including? Let us know!