



# Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club



Airwave 70.450 MHz

Volume 4, Issue 3

[www.wadarc.com](http://www.wadarc.com)

Newsletter:- July 2004

## 2004 Committee

**Colin G3RLA**  
Chairman / Newsletter

**Bob G4NCI**  
Treasurer

**Tom G4BKF**  
Secretary / Publicity

**Steve G7BBF**  
Broadband

**Gordon G8MMM**  
Publicity / Newsletter

**Phil G6IIM**  
**Neil G4OAR**  
**Gerry G8TRY**

Meetings are held  
at Irby Cricket  
Club  
2nd & 4th  
Wednesdays 8pm  
Start.

Visitors are  
always most  
welcome

Suggestions for  
Club talks or  
your comments

on any topic ..

to:-

Colin

[g3rla@wadarc.com](mailto:g3rla@wadarc.com)

or any committee

member

## Chairman's Notes :-

So the holiday season is with us once again, just 4 weeks or so and the little horrors (sorry, sweet young children) will need entertaining all through the long hot summer holiday. As the radio club too takes a short recess the WADARC Committee feel that you may need a break from all that and look forward to seeing you at the arranged D&W meetings, (see list of dates overleaf) a good way to keep in touch with the membership in the relaxed atmosphere of various Wirral watering holes.

As our simple quiz in the last issue of the newsletter managed to stump all our readership, we have abandoned that approach. Overleaf you will note the novel caption competition, I will be looking for some humorous suggestions from readers.

My thanks to Peter (G6KBQ) for his copy and pictures on the transit of Venus.



## Friend of WADARC Award

Richard Welch G8NDD receives the cup this year for his services to the club since its conception

## Club Roundup

Thanks to all those 42 members and friends who supported the annual club barbecue on the 9th of June and commiserations to those who were unable to attend.

An enhanced menu specially selected by the gourmet members of your committee ensured a satisfying response. The salmon steaks were much in demand but this was exceeded by the clamour for the chairman's succulent fried onions which ran out midway through the evening. This problem will be remedied for next years event.

A vote of thanks goes to Richard, G8NDD for providing the excellent gas barbecue and also to Steve, M0SPD who was able to show off his BBQ cooking skills. Our thanks to Janat (G4NCI XYL) who took charge of the strawberries and cream. A selection of photographs by our new digital photographer, Neil G4OAR appear below for your enjoyment.



Janat wins the draw



Tom tells a tale



These strawberries are good!



Second helpings please



Relaxing

**IMPORTANT.. New e-mail Address???**  
**Changed your e-mail address lately? Then**  
**please advise the**  
**Secretary .... Tom. G4bkf@wadarc.com**

### The WADARC Caption Competition

Entries to The Committee by the 22 Sept 04



Please give us your wittiest caption suggestion. A prize for the selected winner.

### Dates For Your Diary in 2004 :

The Leasowe Lighthouse weekend will be on the 21/22 August

The North Wales DF hunt is provisionally set for Sunday 12th, September 2004

### Practical Wireless July 2004

The above magazine carries a half page feature on the **WADARC Direction Finding Challenge**. Our congratulations to Tom, G4BKF who is the sole organizer of this very successful and enjoyable competition.

### Wirral & DARC - Calendar 2004

July  
**7th, D&W The Harp Inn, Neston.**  
**14th, A Bring and Tell Evening.**  
**21st, D&W The Fox and Hounds, Barnston.**  
**28th, The Revenge DF Hunt.**

#### WADARC Summer Recess

There are no club meetings during the summer but club contact can be maintained by attending the regular weekly D&W meetings commencing on the Wednesday the 4th, August.

Details of the chosen pubs for these meetings can be obtained from committee members. see [www.merseyworld.com/wadarc/calendar](http://www.merseyworld.com/wadarc/calendar)

The WADARC autumn program will start on September 8th when a Pre-owned equipment sale will be held at the IRBY club-house.



The Sun & Venus from a Cloudy Wirral



A view of Peter's simple setup

### Transit of Venus, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004

As a physicist I felt bound to attempt to photograph this first transit of Venus in 121 years. This phenomenon has historical importance because it was used to measure the size of the solar system. The first problem for me was that Tuesday dawned cloudy on Wirral. Nevil Maskelyne the Astronomer Royal was sent to Saint Helena in 1761 to observe the transit – only to find the day cloudy and make no observations. I was luckier in that the cloud broke at 7.45 am and I was able to take some photographs before the cloud cover returned. I used a 7 x 40 monocular focussed onto a sheet of card to avoid looking directly at the sun. Galileo Galilei's loss of vision is attributed to his having observed the solar surface regularly with a telescope. In observing Venus on its journey across the face of the sun I was struck by how small it is in comparison with the sun's size. Venus is about the same size as Earth, but somewhat hotter! During the course of the half hour that I watched the sun's disc was several times covered by clouds and by Easyjet vapour trails. The second transit in this pair will be on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 and then there is another gap of 105 years.

Incidentally, Mason and Dixon (the men who surveyed the Mason/Dixon line in the USA) were sent to Sumatra in 1761 to observe that transit. On leaving Portsmouth they were attacked by a French frigate and 11 seamen died. They never reached Sumatra, that had been captured by the French, but observed from the Cape of Good Hope- the only people in the southern hemisphere to see it.

**TJ Peter Williams (G6KBQ)**

### Wirral links with members visiting Friedrichshafen Via Wirral Internet Node

We are pleased to report that thanks to two Club members, Chris (M1EEV) and Roy (M1EIV) we now have two nodes up and running on the Wirral. The node run by Chris was put to good use to keep in touch with some of our members walking around the Friedrichshafen Rally in Germany during the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of June. The quality of the audio was good despite the fact that the German repeater was some 20km from the rally and the guys were only using hand held rigs.

The repeaters at the far end of the link were DB0FIG-R and OE9XVJ-R and some of the callsigns monitored were MM0FMF (Andy), Dennis (G3UVR) and Phil (G6IIM). Both Gordon (G8MMM) and Vic (G4UDR) contributed from the UK.

To anyone interested in using this mode all you need is a UHF rig which you can tune to 430.025MHz and either a DTMF mike or keypad. Just type in the node number, call and get connected!!

**Gordon G8MMM**