



RSGB DX CONTEST

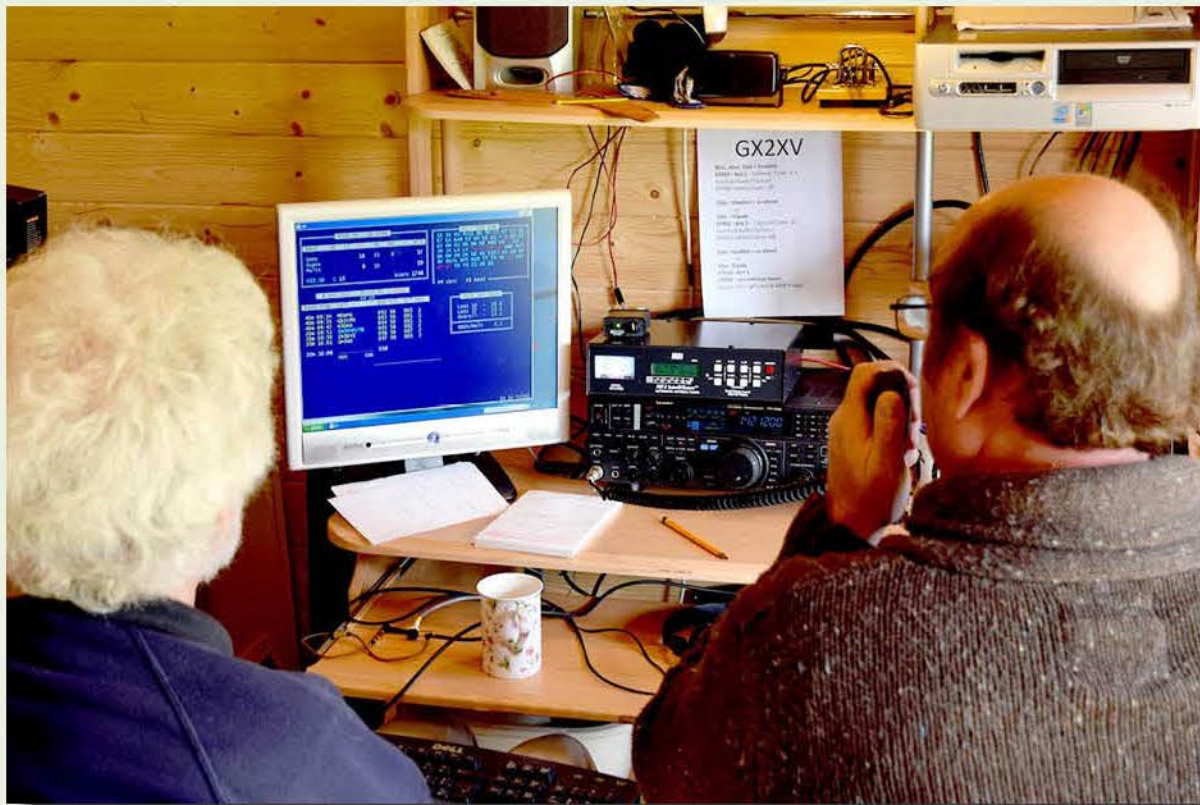
Sunday 8th October 2017



The RSGB DX Contest took place on Sunday 8th October. We had already set up the club's Yaesu FT950 for use at the picnic in September so we decided to use

this for this contest. Our callsign would not simply be the usual G2XV but would contain a secondary locator which English clubs may use and become GX2XV. This

is longer but we hoped that it would make us more attractive to foreign competitors for whom different prefixes attracted different multipliers.



Steve G8CRB

Mike M6IXF



David G0LRD

Thanks to Colin, the FT950's rear key socket had been repaired. A delicate bit of SMD work as can be seen from the picture. The antennas used were G4AWP's 140' doublet, and his two folded dipoles for 15m and 20m. These were all served by open wire feeder and connected to the rig via baluns – one commercial, one from an Elecraft kit and one home-brew. The antenna

tuner was automatic, kindly loaned by David LRD.

The contest began at 06.00 (local) and AWP was up and ready to go. After 45 minutes searching the bands and calling CQ, the first contact was made. Unfortunately for us, there was an 'Oceania' contest on at the same time and many European stations would not respond to

UK calls. However, when eventually a VK station was contacted on 40, we knew that it was going to be an interesting day. Steve G8CRB arrived and more contacts were gradually entered into the log. Mike M6IXF also made a very useful contribution of QSOs. The team would be completed by the later arrival of Richard G3T-FX who cycled out from Cambridge.



Commercial Balun



Kit Balun



Home-brew Balun

The FT950 had been set up with full CAT control from the 'SD Logger' program running on the PC. This is a fascinating phenomenon when first seen as well as

extremely efficient. The log follows the rig automatically as the bands are searched, avoiding the need to log the frequency manually. This feature, together with the

automatic ATU made band and antenna transitions very quick and easy.



Folded Dipole

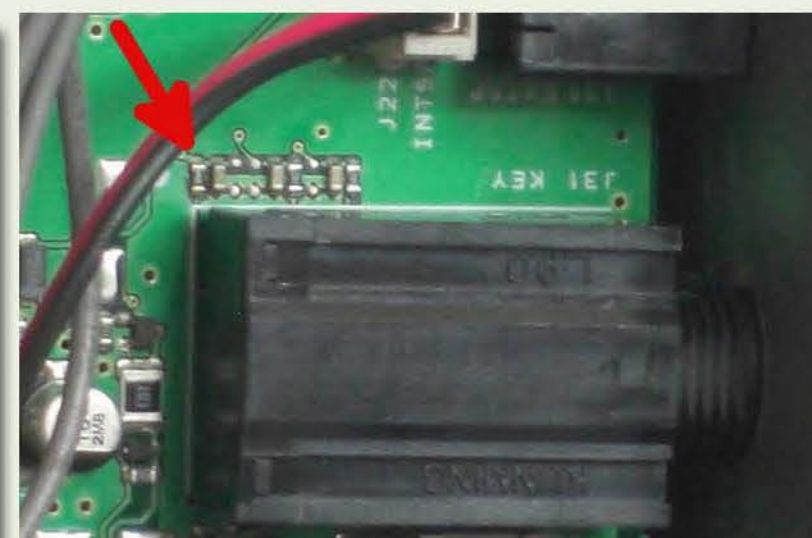
With mid-morning came welcome cups of coffee. David LRD got to work on the CW paddle but soon elected to enter a call sequence in the computer log and let the machine take most of the strain from that point on. His morse skills came to the fore in decoding incoming signals and he made the remarkable score of 50 CW contacts in his two sessions. These QSOs were a great help in themselves and they also allowed those contacts to be worked a second time, by phone, with the appropriate multipliers.



Richard TFX going mobile

Conditions did not seem as good in the previous few days and there was less activity than expected, but despite that 148 unique contacts were made.

Band	80m	40m	20m	15m
Contacts	18	47	70	13



FT950 Repair

A large number of different countries / states were worked including: 9A, DL, EA, EI, DL, EU, F, HA, I, K1, K2, K6, K7, K9, LY, LZ, OE, OH, OK, ON, P5, PA, SM, SP, UA, UR, VK2, YL, YO, YU as well as England, Scotland & Wales.

Whilst contesting is not for everyone, it certainly is one way to make a lot of different contacts around the world in a short space of time. For those who came out to Willingham it was a most enjoyable day.

Thanks to Richard AWP for Report and Pictures