

Fort Purbrook ARC – 'Field Weekend' July 2013

Mick Ponsford M0GWD contacted *Newsdesk* with the latest news of activities of the fairly new and enthusiastic **Fort Purbrook Amateur Radio Club** (FPARC) based in Portsmouth, Hampshire. Mike reports, "Just an update for you on our 'field weekend' over the weekend of July 27th and 28th following on from the excellent and well-received talk by *PW* Editor **Rob G3XFD** at our club QTH at Fort Purbrook, Portsmouth on the Friday evening July 26th. Thank you for a great evening Rob!

"Fort Purbrook Amateur Radio Club was formed just two years ago and we are based at Fort Purbrook, Cosham, Portsmouth. This is the most easterly of the line of Victorian hilltop defence forts, completed in 1870 and built to defend Portsmouth Naval Base against a potential inland invasion from the French. Built at huge expense under the auspices of Lord Palmerston, they never saw action and have come to be known as "Palmerston's Follies.

"With no permanent shack available to us at the Fort, we have followed on from our two operating weekends during 2012, 'under canvas' as before, but this time in our new 8m x 4m club marquee. This was erected, along with our inverted V trap dipole, on the afternoon of Friday 26th July, prior to Rob's talk in the evening.

"As before, our Honorary Secretary, **Neil Hoare M0NEH** provided the transceivers, a Yaesu FT-897D for use as the 2m Station, together with a Yaesu FT-920 for the h.f. Station. This was supplemented on the Sunday by **Geoff Wiggins G4XMJ** our Honorary Chairman, who arrived with his Yaesu FT-1000. The necessary power supplies, s.w.r. meters, etc. were provided by the club. Additionally **Alan Mock M0OCK** brought his trusty Kenwood TS-530S along on both days, stringing-up a separate low-level wire dipole for 7MHz (40m)].

"Radio wise the stations worked very well, often with both h.f. stations working on 7MHz with no problems. Although on the Saturday 40m was not in good shape due to the static crashes from the seemingly country-wide thundery weather. Luckily 14MHz (20m) had many IOTA Contest stations to work over the weekend, and the 7MHz band conditions were much improved on the Sunday.

"The rain reached us Saturday evening at barbecue time, and all credit to Geoff G4XMJ who donned his waterproof and cooked in the rain! The new marquee kept us all completely dry – a good bad weather test. Sunday morning arrived with nice sunshine to start the day, and **Ted Fitzgerald G3XUX** arrived to run his well-known 4m Sunday morning Net on 70.325MHz from the rear of his Land-Rover. Ted later worked one of the h.f. stations and created his own mini pile-up!

"The plan was to work all over the weekend and take down the marquee and antennas on the Monday morning, but the weather turned very windy Sunday afternoon and to avoid potential damage to the marquee overnight, we packed everything away and left the Fort at 1700hrs. A great experience for all involved and our thanks go to all of the club members who turned up and helped, and to all of those Radio Amateurs that we contacted and who made the weekend worthwhile.

"We intend to book another 'field weekend' soon, and will post details on the Events page of our website when a date is known. The QSL Cards are being designed at the moment and once printed all direct QSL Cards will be responded to, with the remaining QSL Cards sent via the bureau.

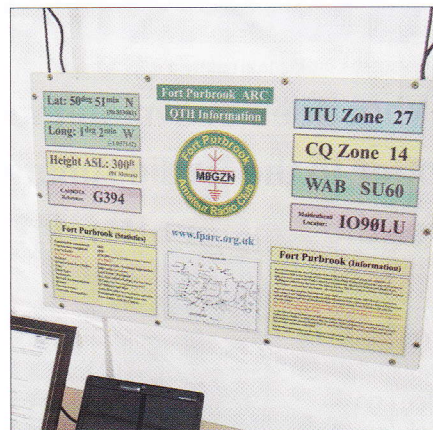
"The main photographs show the marquee up on the Fort ramparts, approximately 100 metres ASL, with the inverted V antenna supported by the central mast. On-going into 2014 we're determined to take the club forward and hopefully increase on our current membership of 30. 73, Mick.

Mick Ponsford M0GWD (Technical Sec. FPARC).

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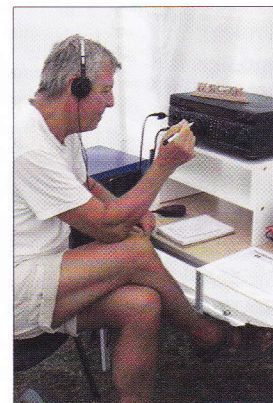
The view south – standing just behind the marquee, with the Isle of Wight in the distance behind Portsmouth.



The club's QTH Information board.



Inside the marquee - all stations active. From the left clockwise – Peter Digby G4NKK, Gary Cobb G3TMG, Geoff Wiggins G4XMJ, Mike Smith 2E0GTT, Alan Mock M0OCK.



Geoff Wiggins G4XMJ working the h.f. station.



The club's marquee on the Fort Purbrook's ramparts. The inverted V antenna is in the background, with the 4m vertical in the left foreground and the 2m vertical in the right foreground