



# SPRAT

THE JOURNAL OF THE G QRP CLUB

DEVOTED TO LOW POWER COMMUNICATION

*In memoriam*



*George Dobbs G3RJV*  
*27 July 1943 - 11 March 2019*

I'm sorry to have to tell you that George died in hospital on 11th March 2019. Our thoughts go to JoAnna and Ben & Stephen.

He was diagnosed with dementia a couple of years ago, but was managing fine - between us, he and I were dealing with Sprat and he was actively dealing with club matters for a long time. Unfortunately, on his last visit to the lodge in Wales in mid-2018, he fell and broke his hip and was taken to Aberystwyth hospital where he was operated on and given a new hip.

However, he reacted badly to the anaesthetic, and this made his dementia worse, and thus he was unable to recover properly from the operation. He was transferred to Oldham Hospital where, after discussion with JoAnna, he was moved to a care home near where he lived in Littleborough.

After some more discussion, he was moved to a care home back in Oldham, where he was given more support, and living, apparently happily there. My wife, Pat, & I visited regularly and were welcomed with open arms, and we discussed club affairs, I showed him radio circuit boards, and we talked about club members who had sent greetings.

On our last visit in early February, we took the photograph that you saw on the front of the last Sprat, but he didn't seem quite as "with it" as he had been on previous visits.

We were going to see him again in the next week or so, but unfortunately, that visit was to be the last time I saw him. He was moved to a high dependency unit in Oldham Hospital in early March with pneumonia and an infection, but did not respond to the antibiotics, and he died there a few days later in the early morning of the 11th March.

The future of the club is assured - George did an enormous amount in the background, but as his problems grew, George had problems keeping up to date, and lots of things - for example the awards, were missed. After a request in Sprat, more members came forward, and we now have a great group of people running the club.

In the rest of this tribute publication you will hear from a few members how George influenced their lives, particularly in the field of ham radio and in QRP operation.

We are sure that George would want us to carry on as we have under his leadership for the last 45 years, since he started it all in 1974.

*As well as the G-QRP Club leader, I have lost a dear friend*

**Graham G3MFJ**

George, caught in a rare photograph with a microphone to hand, while addressing attendees at Tim Walford G3PCJ's successful QRP-in-the-country day held on July 18th 2011



*photograph courtesy of Colin Redwood G6MXL*

Prepared with admiration, by Tex Swann G1TEX and Graham Firth G3MFJ. We acknowledge, with thanks, all the contributions sent to us, and we apologise if we have not included any in this publication. Should we have used a picture without permission, we also apologise.

**Graham Firth, 13 Wynmore Drive, Leeds LS16 9DQ 0113 267 1070**

# How I met George G3RJV

## Tony G4WIF

By the early 90s ham radio had rather paled for me. Operating commercial radios didn't provide much by way of challenge and other happenings in life pushed it to one side. Then a chance purchase of Practical Wireless made me aware of a different kind of radio. A young vicar (young by the age that I am now!) had written about QRP and mentioned a QRP club that he ran. I wrote a letter to George G3RJV - and not long after he had responded with a complimentary copy of Sprat and a small kit to build - called the Oner.

Until then the idea of building your own equipment had not occurred to me and the satisfaction gained was soon to become more apparent. So this is where my GQRP Club story began - where a busy vicar found the time to put a pen to paper (no word processing or email then).

My job had put me in regular contact with Graham G3MFJ. Both of us working for BT meant regular visits to his home in Yorkshire (and he to mine in Kent). We had previously discussed perhaps a "once in a lifetime trip" to the ham radio Mecca that is Dayton. Chance intervened and we both attended a southern rally at the Pickets Lock centre. There we first met George whose face had greeted us from the editorial page of Sprat each quarter. Thus friendships were formed, and later when Dayton plans began to firm up, George suggested that Graham and I meet up with the GQRP crowd and stay at the same hotel. This was in 1996 and the above series of events can truly be said to have changed my life significantly.

Because of George's friendship, I have travelled and met some of the world's nicest people. I have made lifelong friends around the globe because of his simple desire to make ham radio fun - and to spread that message far and wide.

For as long as I knew him, George had a way of finding people who would volunteer without realising that they had. When the world discovered the internet, and it seemed that GQRP club needed a website, I came away from a chat with



Graham G3MFJ, myself, Dick G0BPS and George in 1997 at the Dayton Hamvention.

George having taken on the role. It seemed that is how all positions in GQRP were filled. "People would appear when needed" was his belief.

George once explained "why QRP", he said: "Because it is a hobby we don't have to do it - or mean anything - or fit into the world plan. As long as you can do one useless thing a day - life still has some meaning and that is the essence and the joy of life".

*So for the friendships I enjoy and the fun that I've had through you George, I thank you so very much.*

**Tony G4WIF**

# Amateur Radio without George G3RJV

Steve G0FUW



*Steve and George together at a Rishworth GQRP convention*

Amateur radio without George is an unknown experience for me – he has always been there; George was the catalyst for me becoming a radio amateur. I recall toying with the idea of gaining an amateur licence but being put off by the cost of new radios and the high tech approach of the amateurs I met. Then one wet bank holiday weekend I bought a copy of Practical Wireless and in there was an article that showed how you could build a QRP transceiver at a reasonable price. The author made it sound so understandable, so achievable that it left me thinking, I can do that and I did.

Over the last thirty five year he has been an inspiration, a mentor and a friend. George's Kitchen Table Technology columns in Short Wave Magazine, his PW designs and of course his beloved SPRAT helped me to build a station and pass the Radio Amateurs Exam.

I first met George at his vicarage in Rochdale and whenever I visited I was always made welcome. George, and Jo, were always the perfect hosts. That shone through when the Club Conventions started. Those early days in the church hall and indeed the church were such friendly gatherings, due mainly to George's ethos and warm nature.

Being asked to assist with the Rishworth conventions was a true honour. Working with George on those Buildathons and seeing what went on behind the scenes was a real pleasure, It was hard work at times but always enjoyable, educational and so rewarding to see others benefiting from George's wisdom and kindness.

*He will be missed but his legacy will continue and we will all to do well to follow his fine example. Rest in peace my old friend and as my old mum used to say, good night and God bless.*

**Steve G0FUW**



**Doug DeMaw W1FB**

**George G3RJV**

**Dick G0BPS**

I first met George in 1984 when he came to the Dover Radio Club to give a talk. A couple of years later Kanga Products was born and a close working relationship with George started.

During a conversation with George In 1989 at the first QRP convention he suggested that I join him and travel to Dayton, USA for the Hamvention taking our kits. This was one of many trips to the USA I shared with George, usually staying over a few days and exploring the countryside.

The photo above was taken in 1993 when George & I stayed with the famous Doug DeMaw W1FB and his wife Jean at their home in Michigan.

*One small claim to fame is that we even shared a double bed a couple of times when travelling to Friedrichshafen in the aptly named German village of Kippenhausen*

**Dick G0BPS**

Though I never had the privilege in person, I have listened to Rev Dobbs presenting and of course enjoyed his writing. In addition to being a pillar of G-QRP he communicated well on the virtue and approach to building radios and transmitters. He even wrote a children's book on the topic that is still a treasure - in addition to engaging experienced hams. He fully appreciated that he wasn't academically trained in electronics, no worry, he demonstrated the passion for understanding circuit basics and getting them to work well. His presentations are motivational and incorporate wisdom. I won't forget his expression that we should do at least one 'pointless' thing everyday (many of us are doing well here!) and that too many of us miss the opportunity of exercising a trade or craft. Those who knew him well certainly are blessed, meanwhile all of us can appreciate the video and text left with us.

**Curt Milton USA**

## de G4BUE



*George, G3RJV in the G4BUE shack in July 1982.*

I first got to know George Dobbs, G3RJV, when I joined the G-QRP Club in August 1976 and was immediately struck by his enthusiasm for everything to do with QRP, especially home construction. Coming from a non-technical background, I envied his depth of knowledge but quickly realised that he was not only willing to share it with members like me, but actively

encouraged members like me who, until I met George, had been mainly a radio operator. I got to know George better when I became involved in the administration of the Club in January 1979 and helped him with the text for SPRAT articles.

I met him for the first time in April that year at the Leicester Exhibition, where George arranged for club members to meet at the end of the annual event for a get-together before leaving to travel home. This was the forerunner to the social side of the Club that grew almost as quickly as the membership in those days. This meeting with George led to the start of my regular Members' News column that first appeared in the Summer 1979 edition (19) of SPRAT.

At that time George lived in Nottingham, but in January 1980 he moved to Birmingham when he was appointed a vicar at Chelmsley Wood, and lived at the local vicarage.

In June 1982 the RSGB held their annual HF Convention in Oxford and George was instrumental in the RSGB inviting the Club to have a stand and provide two QRP stations for the event. He organised this with a wonderful display of members' home-brew QRP equipment that not only caught the eye

*L-R: George, G3RJV; Chris, G4BUE; Norman, G4LQF and Pete, G3PDL.*



of those amateurs sympathetic to QRP, but also of the ardent QRO contest and DXer operators, converting many of them to the QRP cause in the process.

In the summer of 1982 Jo and George made a tour of southern England, visiting and staying with Club members, and we had the pleasure of hosting them in Sussex for a few days in July. George was able to

give me a one-to-one 'apprenticeship' into the art of home-brewing that inspired me to start using the soldering iron more than the morse key. This was the effect George had on you. Even if you didn't intend to do any home-brewing, a few hours in his company would have you converted and reaching for the soldering iron.

The following year the RSGB moved their HF Convention to the NEC in Birmingham, where the G-QRP had a club stand, and George's QTH became the focal point for those members visiting the event and wishing to stay overnight. How Jo put up with us all I will never know because for a few days in 1983 and 1984, their vicarage was full of QRPers from all over the UK. Goodness knows what George's local parishioners thought about seeing their vicarage turned into a QRP camp for a few days! Fortunately none of them witnessed the incident when it is rumoured I had to climb through George's shack window in the middle of the night in my underclothes, that George later reported in SPRAT 39!

*L-R: George, G3RJV; Colin, G3VTT; Ian, G3ROO; George, GM3OXX, and Chris, G4BUE.*



*L-R: George, GM3OXX, examining a piece of QRP equipment and Colin, G3VTT, asleep in G3RJV's Birmingham shack.*

I really got to know George in October 1983 when he, George, GM3OXX and I went to the USA for the first time to attend the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Convention in Houston, Texas. Goodness knows how we persuaded our wives to let the three of us go on our own, but we did. We had been in contact with Adrian Weiss, WØRSP, who was organising the first QRP convention in the USA for many years, as part of the ARRL Convention, and we



agreed to take part by each giving a presentation, (George Dobbs on QRP in the UK and the G-QRP Club, George Burt on home-brewing and me on 'milliwatt and microwatt', making QSOs with milliwatt and microwatt power levels).

We were hosted in Houston by Leo Delaney, KC5EV, and his wife Sharon, and whilst there we met many of the QRP-ARCI (the main QRP club in the USA) members who had travelled from all over the USA for the Convention. They all agreed what a great time everybody had had and decided to hold a similar QRP convention as part of the annual Hamvention at Dayton, Ohio in April the following year, and thus the 'Four Days in May' (FDIM) annual event there was born.

In 1985, Colin, G3VTT, and myself went to the Dayton Hamvention to take part in FDIM, and help the QRP-ARCI gang with their stand. The following year I did the same, but on my own, and whilst there some of the ARCI-QRP members suggested the G-QRP-Club should think about having a stand there. I came back to the UK with this great idea, and as soon as I suggested it to George he jumped at it, and in April 1987 we, together with Pete, G3PDL, and Norman, G4LQF, took the G-QRP-Club to Dayton. It was a huge success and led to the Club having a stand there for many more years.

I had met G4LQF at the NEC in Birmingham and, because he lived close to George, Norman's QTH was used as an 'over-flow' when accommodation ran out at George and Jo's QTH. I knew G3PDL through the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) and used to smile when George reminded us that it was Pete who taught him the Morse code when they were both teenagers and good friends in Lincoln. They had both been born in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, Peter just three weeks before George! Poor George, he knew his CW 'fist' was never one of the best, and used to pull Pete's leg that he would tell everyone that it was G3PDL who had taught him the code, thus risking Pete's high status in FOC.

After G3PDL retired, he and Diane moved to Crete, where Pete was initially QRV as SV9/G3PDL, and then as SVØXBM/9 when he got a Greek licence. Sadly Pete became a Silent Key in April 2010 after being diagnosed with cancer the previous October, and George flew out to Crete to conduct his funeral service.

*It has been a real pleasure to know you George, and to be a small part of your enthusiasm for QRP and the G-QRP-Club. The Club is you, it was your idea, you started it and you ran it for all those years until bad health eventually overtook you. As the Club moves into a new era, despite you having been taken from us, my memories, especially some of those from the early years described here, will remain with me for ever. RIP.*

**Chris G4BUE**

Be assured that the international impact of George's tireless efforts to promote QRP must be kept alive. QRP operation of amateur radio equipment is not only challenging and rewarding, but also the most ecological mode of them all.

I will devote my Dxers Unlimited radio hobby program this week to the memory of G3RJV as a tribute to his contributions to amateur radio.

**Arnie Coro CO2KK, Cuba**

# George Dobbs

## A Real Radio Amateur to Remember

If there was ever one person who made an indelible mark on my personal and radio life it would be George Dobbs. I write these notes on his life with great sadness and a deep sense of loss at having lost a friend, pal, confidant and a man who was with me and gave wise advice in some of the darker moments of my life.

I first met George in the mid 1970s at an exhibition at the Grandby Halls in Leicestershire and, in George I found a radio amateur who had his roots in the real radio values of old, with home construction, low power – just enough to make the contact – and the use of CW. I liked him from the outset.

He was no hot shot DX chaser but could, in his own humble manner, describe how he had built his transmitter and relate the contacts he had made with it. He gained respect from many a high power contester and DX chaser alike. Maybe the contacts he had were not long distance to a pile of mud somewhere in the Pacific with a meaningless report but they passed greetings thoughts and intelligence to a fellow constructor - using just enough low power - and they stimulated others to build and operate. I loved the concept as did many others and we watched GQRP grow.

George had his 40th birthday party in my back garden and we were together along with JoAnna for his 70th birthday which we spent on a Thames Barge on the River Medway. These remain treasured memories to me and George often said to me since he was still on that barge such was the day.

I had the privilege of taking George to the Dayton Hamvention three times and they were days of great fun despite his steady decline in health and strength and to me those long discussions we had about spiritual matters and church history were of tremendous value. I hung on his every word whilst driving us along Interstate 75 through Ohio and he related his thoughts with both wit and deep consideration.

George did so much to encourage the home construction of electronic equipment throughout his life and I often wonder precisely how much influence it has had on providing the United Kingdom with engineers he'd stimulated, often young in life, by hammering copper pins into a piece of wood as in his contribution of the Ladybird Books, more complex circuitry, thanks to the Practical Wireless articles, and a steady stream of good common sense easy to duplicate projects thanks to his editorial work in the pages of Sprat. He must have served this country well.

I can honestly assure you that when I enquired of a fellow engineer (G7KLJ) on the Radio Caroline vessel precisely which SWR bridge he had used on the low power medium wave transmitter being brought into service he waved a home-made box with a meter on the front at me and said "oh I copied a George Dobbs article". I can think of no better epitaph.

*Now go play your part – go and honour George by making something and using it on air at 5W. Bye George and thanks..*

**G3VTT**

# George Dobbs G3RJV sk

## Michael Mi5MTC

Reviving teenage interest in building one valve radios, my early retirement plans were influenced by G3RJV's inspiring advocacy of QRP simplicity, intriguingly citing Occam's principle - another cleric, Franciscan 14th century.

My condolences go to JoAnna and family on George's sad death.

I first met George in person at Celticon 2000 in Dublin and learnt of his interest in Celtic Christianity on a visit to St Kevin's in Glendalough. I also met Jo Anna at QRP Conventions in Rochdale and Rishworth, where his talks were always an inspiration. We recorded his QRP talk at my Club's Lough Erne Rally, a visit that included a voyage to see Celtic monastery remains on Devenish Island.

G3RJV founded SPRAT and edited some 175 issues, recording, exchanging and widely spreading practical QRP ideas submitted by an international band of QRP enthusiasts. George featured some in his own multitude of articles in Rad-Com, Practical Wireless, Short Wave Magazine etc.

Always citing sources, eminently readable and replicable in practice, sample titles included Plug in Your Soldering Iron and Begin Here, Kitchen Table Technology, Review of G4OO's Digest of Horizontal Aerials, and many more. More of What's Watt set out his Watts & S Units chart (S9, 1,000 Watts: S5, 4 Watts)

*Among most precious possessions is my QRP Membership Certificate signed 22 years ago by George Dobbs - .a plain simple good man, skilled communicator and technician, and a friend, whose significant influence on my retirement life has been invaluable good.*

*May he Rest in Peace.*

**Michael Mi5MTC**



I was deeply saddened to hear the news of George's passing. Though I never met him, he had a DEEP influence on my life, and on my career in amateur radio. Thanks, George, and rest well

**Adam Grose KC7DVF**

How very sad it is to hear this. George meant so much to so many! Please pass on my sincere condolences to the family.

**Dave W7AQK**

# A very relaxing gent to be with.

Ian Keyser G3ROO



L-R: George, myself and Ade Weiss WØRSP - author of "The Joy of QRP" and Fred Bonavita W5QJM.

I first heard of George and the G-QRP club in the autumn of 1976. I wrote to George and joined the club....however George forgot to do the paperwork and it was not until I was visiting him in the spring of 77 that we realised that I had not been issued with a number.

I came in at #395 where now the membership numbers of new members are at over 16,000.

We quickly found that we had a lot in common,

especially in radio and over the following years I became a frequent visitor to Rochdale spending many happy times there with Jo, George, and the boys.

Back then we both wrote extensively for the Short Wave Magazine, either alone or together and we co-designed and published many circuits. One memorable radio was called "The Sudden". George had pitched the idea during one of our phone conversations and we decided that I should visit and we would build it. This we did and the result was very pleasing. The following morning walking down to Tesco to get some shopping we passed the 'Sudden Health Centre'.... (Sudden is a town in the UK near where George used to live). In that moment we knew we had a name for the receiver – a form of which is still sold by the club today.

In 1989 we were both invited to talk at the Hamcom convention in Dallas. As we were making the long trip, and I had never been to the states, it was decided to go for two weeks.

We had a fantastic holiday.... stayed with some lovely people and saw a lot of the wonderful state of Texas.

The photo is of George and I at the convention being presented with awards.

George had given talks before in Texas and he was made 'Admiral of the Texan Navy'. I was declared an Honorary Citizen of Texas!

Several trips to USA with George to other conventions followed but never as good as that one!

*Over the years we have seen less of each other but when we did meet I always felt 'at home'. He was like that... everyone was relaxed in his company.*

*Goodbye George we will miss you.*

**Ian G3ROO**

# Memories of George G3RJV

Richard J. Constantine G3UGF

No one who ever entered George's study in Sudden, Rochdale could ever fail to have been amazed. Walls of books, theology yes, books about life and ministry yes, but just about every book ever written on the subject of QRP, radio and electronics.

Many of them by the man himself and born of his other calling," to do more with less." Indeed, I think this mantra epitomised all aspects of his life that is, to live simply and to give of himself to others.

The wall above his tiny desk and work bench had shelves stacked full height, with almost every project he'd ever built, displayed or written about in magazines, it was quite something to see. There was always another idea or project in the making.

Annually, the numbers of visitors and international guests beating a path to his and Jo-Anna's door, for the QRP convention at the nearby church grew, with his and the club's reputation.

I know that it gave George immense pleasure and satisfaction to see the club thrive and that he had some small part in stimulating the enquiring minds and ultimately careers of so many people of all ages.

It is therefore a sad time indeed, for everyone who has ever been touched by George's life and generosity. From my earliest days of contact with G3RJV on 160m, both as teenagers, I have always and forever will be, proud and privileged to call George, Jo-Anna and family, my friends.

Juggling his ministry writing, lecturing and travelling made huge demands on his time and the support and love of his family cannot be underestimated. They made it possible for us to share in some small part of this unique and remarkable man's life.

Whilst we mourn his passing and naturally feel great sadness, we can take comfort in knowing that he has most definitely left the world a better place. For us, through his example and inspiration to many, he leaves us a unique and lasting contribution to our hobby worldwide and to any young person that ever read his Ladybird books.

His only reaction to being called, 'a giant of QRP' was usually to smile. However, George would frequently comment, when asked to sign a cherished example of one of his books, that it would now be worth less with a signature, as he had signed so many over the years and that the unsigned ones would be worth more .... I think not.

It is said that we live for as long as there are people to remember us. George will certainly live on in the minds of anyone who tries to. 'live simply and do more with less.' Amateur Radio owes him a great debt.

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him,  
may he now rest in peace, his work is done.*

**Richard J. Constantine G3UGF**

*I met Rev. George many years ago at Arkicon when my good friend, Henry Schneider and I drove up from the Houston area and he was there along with a few others from G-QRP. Gracious all of them, but even then Rev. George was something of a QRP celebrity and I was a little surprised that he was so approachable to just chat radio. I've been a bit intermittent as a member of G-QRP, but always liked the approach George gave SPRAT with its build-focus.*

*He will be missed in the QRP community.*

**Mike Goins k5wmg**

*Farewell to one of Nature's gentlemen, and a thoroughly decent bloke in every sense.*

**Peter Thornton G6NGR**

*Very sorry to hear of the sad news about George today. He will be sadly missed. May he Rest in peace.*

**David G4DMP**

*How sad, the end of an era.*

**Dick Pascoe G0BPS**

*George will be missed by millions, including myself. A real nice bloke. A legend who will be remembered by us all forever. Our thoughts are with his family.*

**Les G4HZJ and family.**

*I was going through a tough time of illness and stress in my then parish. George allowed us to use his Welsh holiday home.*

*End of an era for me ... we must all strive to follow his radio examples and his life examples.*

**Rev Graham J Smith G4NMD**

*This global membership club is his legacy, and his passion for home brew design and construction made him an ambassador for qrp ham radio. I don't think he will be forgotten, he made QRP cool.*

*Rest in Peace George, a true gentleman.*

**Mark G0NMY**

*I knew George from his many trips to FDIM and wonderful talks about minimalist radio projects. A QRP Hall of Famer and great raconteur who was a popular figure on both sides of the Atlantic.*

*I am going to miss him, and we are all diminished by his loss.*

**Preston Douglas WJ2V  
President QRPARCI**

*This is very sad to hear. He shall never ever be forgotten. His good and very fine work shall remain in the world of QRP and ham radio longer than any of us shall remain here most certainly.*

**Steven 2E1HFH**

*I never met George Dobbs, but I'd have really liked to. I have read many of his writings and appreciate his designs and leadership for G-QRP.*

*I have built a few of his projects and had success with them. He will be missed in the QRP community. RIP George and thanks. I will be praying for you and your family.*

*So sad we have lost one of our best so quickly.*

**Everett Catlin N5MZX**

*A true radio hero had been lost.*

**Andy G0FTD**

Very sad indeed. George & I have been friends for over thirty-five years, though I have not seen him very often in the last few years. It was on one of my visits to his vicarage in Chelmsley Wood that he invited me to write articles for SPRAT and become the VHF Manager for the GQRP club. My condolences to Jo & his two boys.

Rest in peace, George.

**John G8SEQ**

I always admired George's KISS approach to amateur radio. He always showed how much can be done with so little. Please pass my deepest sympathy to Jo-Anne and the boys.

I have happy memories of QRP 'meets' at the Rochdale vicarage where all were welcome.

Another great icon has passed from the radio world.

Rest in peace, George.

**Phil G3SES**

I want to express my sadness about his passing. I met him once many years ago in Dayton - I think it was in 1998 and he was such a gentleman.

I know he will be missed for all his GQRP activities, but more than this, he will be greatly missed by his family. If you get chance, please pass on my condolences. I'm saddened to hear the news.

**Ian Poole G3YWX**

I have just read about The Rev. George's passing. I'm very sorry for you (our) loss; my sincerest condolences. George was such an inspiration to all who love Amateur Radio, and QRP in particular. Coincidentally I've just finished reading his 1972 book "Making a Transistor Radio": beautifully illustrated and nicely done.

**73 Kenn W1KMH**

Very, sad to read of George's death.

So many words but none of them seem to acknowledge the influence his Ladybird books on Electronics and Radio had on my early years and the choices in career. Without him taking the time to create them, I wouldn't have achieved what I have.

**Martin M0HKG**

This is very sad news. George was one of the people who was always 'there'. loved his hobby and encouraged many others to greater things.

Recently we've lost many similar souls, I guess no more than normal but it seems that several important names have gone.

I will miss George immensely.

**Robin G5HI**

I was very sorry to hear the sad news about George. Although, as a Johnny-Come-Lately to the hobby I sadly never got to meet George personally I nevertheless feel his presence in so many ways. His passion, enthusiasm and inspiration shine through the pages of SPRAT. I wind my toroids according to his instructions and I delight to study schematics that he penned and shared. His legacy will live on and his contribution to amateur radio is enormous.

We will miss you George but we will always remember you.

Sending love and prayers to his family and friends.

**Nick Wood 2E0NTV**

Sorry to hear the news, he will never be forgotten.

**Brian G3KJX**

I wish to send you my condolences for the 'passing' of the Revd. George Dobbs G3RJV.

**Luis Terres EA3WX**

Our condolences go to George's family at this sad time.

**Rob McDonnell**

on behalf of  
Warner's Group Publications  
Publishers of  
Practical Wireless magazine

I am sad to read of George Dobbs passing. He was a guiding light that got me back into home-brew construction. I attended his conference at the 1990 Dallas Ham Convention. He implored his audience to go beyond consumerism in ham radio and appealed to our natural curiosity to be creators and experimenters and build our equipment. Above all he emphasized having fun with radio. He brought back for me why I got into ham radio. I will sorely miss his presence in the QRP world.

**Rick WD5L**

This is very terrible news. I had some technical exchanges with George when I become member of the G-QRP Club and particular when I became G-QRP Club representative in Italy. The amateur radio community has lost one of the most important keys to the homebrew guiding and supporting. Looking at the comments reported in all messages we can understand the importance of George for the amateur radio field.

RIP dear George and condolences to his wife and G-QRP Members as he was part of each of us.

**Gian I7SWX**

I was very sorry to hear the sad news about George. Although, as a Johnny-Come-Lately to the hobby I sadly never got to meet George personally I nevertheless feel his presence in so many ways. His passion, enthusiasm and inspiration shine through the pages of SPRAT. I wind my toroids according to his instructions and I delight to study schematics that he penned and shared. His legacy will live on and his contribution to amateur radio is enormous. We will miss you George but we will always remember you. Sending love and prayers to his family and friends.

**Nick Wood 2E0NTV**

It was awful to receive the email noting that George had passed. This is a tragedy, and kinda hits home because we were only a couple of months difference in age. My very sincere condolences to his wife and family, and to those to whom he was close. He really will be sorely missed. I still have very fond memories of meeting up with George and Graham when I was over in the UK a few years ago.

**Norm VK5GI Australian rep.**

I was very sad to read that George, G3RJV had passed away, his name will be forever linked to the world of QRP. At least I can look back on the many club gatherings at Sudden in his company. Condolence to his XYL and family.

**72, Brian, G0NSL**



Oh dear-what very sad news indeed. Like so many others this George plus the other George-GM3OXX were both the main mentors for getting me well and truly hooked on QRP! I met both of them many, many times and feel greatly privileged to have known them both for oh so many years. RIP George G3RJV words all one cannot express how deeply saddened to hear of his passing. My deepest sympathies to his XYL and family. What a loss to the QRP world!

**Derrick Dance (Del) GM4CXP**

Sorry to see that George has passed away. Although I have been a member of the GQRP Club for some time, I have never managed to get to a convention. I have only met George once when he addressed us after dinner at the RSGB Convention at Horwood House and managed to have a few words with him. He struck me as full of fun and I miss his articles in PW which were always informative and interesting. He was perhaps the most irreverent reverend I have ever met who enjoyed making fun of himself. I am sure that you will be passing on the thoughts of the Amateur Radio Community to his family and would like to be included.

**David M0VTG**

Please have my sincere and deep condolences for George's family and all Club members. If you can, please pass these to wife and family of George. I met him in 1975/6 just after the Club was born and growing and we shared several ideas by paper letters, then in times we had a lot of exchange by email too and now I'm sure he resting in peace and we all will get his example to real Ham Spirit. My best condolences at all Italian QRP'er name, please.

**Alex I5SKK EuCW Chairman**

I have just read about Rev. Dobbs' passing. I'm very sorry for your (our) loss; my sincerest condolences. Rev. Dobbs was such an inspiration to all of us who love Amateur Radio, and QRP in particular. Coincidentally I've just finished reading his 1972 book "Making a Transistor Radio": beautifully illustrated and very nicely done

**73 Kenn W1KMH**

I was saddened to learn this week about George G3RJV becoming a silent key. was able to meet him a few years ago when he was at the Dayton Ham-vention. George seemed like a very kind and considerate man and it was a pleasure to talk with him for a short time.

I had purchased a book written by him and George signed my book and I will cherish it always. George contributed so much to QRP over the years and he will be long remembered for his efforts.

I felt compelled to write you folks to express my condolences as a member of GQRP since we all had George as a friend.

He definitely will be missed by HAMS and the many friends worldwide.

**Bob N9SIU Indiana**

I was sorry to hear of the death of George G3RJV. He was a great bloke, and the huge number of testimonials we have read in the last couple of days are a tribute to all he has done over decades for our shared hobby. It would have been great if he could have come to Telford last year, but now we know why he didn't - things don't always work out quite as we would wish. Let's hope the Buildathon and Convention/HamFest this year will match his ideals.

**Martyn G3UKV**

In my years working with Practical Wireless and Short Wave Magazine (later to merge with other magazines to become Radio User) I had the pleasure of working with George on his various projects that he created for the magazines. He'd originally started with the two magazines, back in the December 1970 issue of SWM in an article entitled "Cloth Ears - The Psychology Of CW Reception".

Then, in 1974, George's name came up as gauging interest in forming a club for QRP enthusiasts. The comment by Paul Essey G3KFE/G3SWM, who was editor of SWM at the time said: "Now, along comes another, from Rev. G. C. Dobbs, G3RJV, who would like to gauge the support for any QRP Club activity-it sounds as if between G2FWA and G2NJ, George has been heaved into the firing line..." And there George has remained until very recently.

That really was the start of George's 'second career' as an author, going on to write for almost all magazines that had radio related articles in some form or other for their readers,

I had the pleasure of meeting George several times, the last was at Tim Walford's QRP in The Country open day, and this is a screengrab from a video taken by **Rob Mannion G3XFD** and is to be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-KDpQd1s1k>



You'll be sadly missed  
George

pp 'tex' G1TEX  
**Rob G3XFD**



*George and the typewriter.  
From SWM July 1981*



## de G3MFJ

I received my G3MFJ licence in December 1957. At that time, my parents (I was still at school!) lived in a house on the north side of a steep hill. The local TV transmitters on 45 and 190MHz were on the south side of that hill, some 35 miles away. As you can guess, the TV signal was very weak, and even if I could have afforded, I couldn't run more than 5 or 6W due to the dreaded TVI. So, it was in my nature to use low power, and even when I went to work and could have afforded a little more power I have always built my own transmitters - I still couldn't use any power higher than that anyway. I later discovered that a lot of the radios that I had built were from articles George had written in many ham radio publications, I had not connected the author's name at that time.

A number of years later, when I was working for British Telecom, in the course of my job, I met Tony, G4WIF, already a G-QRP Club member. He decided that as a low power user, I should join the G-QRP Club, and he even paid my first year's subscription. This brought me into a new dimension of ham radio. We met regularly, as our jobs caused us to have to visit each other at fairly regular intervals.

On one such visit, we went to a local rally (Picketts Lock?) and there we met both met George for the first time. George introduced us both into a new world, and as we had already spoken about a possible trip of a lifetime to Dayton, George lighted on this and persuaded us that it was a good idea, and we next met in Dayton at one of the early Four Days in May conferences in 1996.

That was the first of many trips with Tony to meet up with George mainly to America, where we discovered that Tony & I had a common interest in simple test equipment. Soon we were giving talks on this subject both in the UK and in the USA, and together, we wrote a small book on the subject encouraged by George of course, and we were both inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame, and I am sure that George had something to do with this.

*Tony G4WIF, myself, George G3RJV & Dick G0BPS*

*Photograph courtesy of G0BPS*



I don't think any of this would have happened without George's influence, he had a way of persuading someone to go ahead and do things that they otherwise wouldn't have done. Hence I took on various jobs with the G-QRP Club, from database manager, where I had the privilege of printing 3500 Sprat labels every three



months, through taking over the club sales after the previous incumbent died, and finally, as Treasurer when Peter Linsley left the country to live in Crete. Recently, of course, I have been editing, at various levels, Sprat, as George's illness progressed, and I have been really proud to do this especially as it meant that I had to visit him frequently.

Thanks George, for all you have added to my life even my wife, Pat, was hooked by him as she often went with me to visit George and JoAnna some 40 miles away. We were still visiting up to last month when we visited him for what was to be the last occasion before he died.

George's not quite 10-gallon head  
in the 10-gallon hat!  
*10-gallon Texan hat supplied by Glen K5FX*

*I remember George for his gentle humour*

**Graham G3MFJ**

