

## RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY WHICH  
REPRESENTS UK RADIO AMATEURS

Founded in 1913 incorporated 1926.  
Limited by guarantee  
Member society of the  
International Amateur Radio Union

**Patron:** HRH Prince Philip,  
Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT

Membership is open to all those with an active interest in radio experimentation and communication as a hobby. Applications for membership should be made to the Subscriptions Department from which full details of Society services may also be obtained.

### General Manager:

Peter Kirby, FCMI, MISM, GOTWW

### Honorary Company Secretary:

Rupert Thorogood, G3KKT

### Honorary Treasurer:

Dr R Dingle, G0OCB

### BOARD OF THE SOCIETY

#### PRESIDENT

Colin Thomas, G3PSM

#### MEMBERS

R Barden, MD0CCE

R Bellerby, GM3ZYE

P Brooks, G4NZQ

L Butterfields, G0CIB

D Field, G3XTT

B Reay, G8OSN

J Stevenson, G0EJQ

A Vinters, G0WFG

D V Wilson, M0OBW

#### REGIONAL MANAGERS

G Hunter, GM3ULP - Region 1

D Morrison, GM1BAN - Region 2

K A Wilson, M1CNY - Region 3

H Scrivens, G0UGE - Region 4

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M Harper, MW1MDH - Region 6

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A Johnston, G8ROG - Region 9

G Keegan, G6DGK - Region 10

P Helliwell, G7SME - Region 11

P Brooks, G4NZQ - Region 12

J Stevenson, G0EJQ - Region 13

Details of the Society's volunteer officers can be found in the RSGB Yearbook 2009.

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Website: [www.rsgb.org](http://www.rsgb.org)

WebPlus: Members-only website [www.rsgb.org/membersonly](http://www.rsgb.org/membersonly)  
Use your callsign in lower case as the user name, and your membership number (see RadCom address label) as the password.

# One Down and One to Go

Halfway through my term as President signals a review of the past year and the highlight must be the very successful move of the Society's offices from Potters Bar to Abbey Court in Bedford. The General Manager, in last month's *RadCom*, covered this topic in more detail, including a mention of Bletchley Park. Since writing that piece the Society has been given the planning green light to demolish the existing wooden building currently behind Block B and to redevelop the existing site. More news of this will be published as the redevelopment moves ahead.

A new promotional aid in the form of GB4FUN MK2 appeared, initially at the HFC at Wyboston Lakes and then at the Leicester Show at Donington after the exterior graphics had been completed. Judging by the reactions of those who have seen the trailer to date, it is going to be busy in the forthcoming year visiting educational establishments and other venues.

The QSL bureau operation was also put out to tender and is now operated on behalf of the Society by Norcomm Services. A few problems manifested themselves during the changeover but these have been addressed and indications are that the system is now operating smoothly.

As I write this, I have just returned from the triennial IARU Region 1 Conference in Croatia where many of the papers were written by RSGB Spectrum Managers and specialist officers. More appears on this subject elsewhere in *RadCom* but one of the difficult subjects on the agenda was 40 metre bandplanning after 29 March 2009. This date was agreed at WRC-03 as the date on which the 7100 – 7200kHz segment would become an amateur service Primary allocation and coincides with the start of the broadcasting services A09 summer

schedules. The new bandplan, agreed after many hours of discussion, will appear in next month's *RadCom* and users of 40 metres are urged to study this carefully.

And what of the next 12 months? The development of Bletchley Park remains a priority. The fight continues against home networking devices that radiate up to 500 metres from installations, as does the uphill struggle against the importation of non-complaint computer PSUs. Negotiations continue with Ofcom and the Ministry of Defence on spectrum requirements for the future.

Finally, I must give thanks to all those volunteers who give their time and efforts into supporting the Society and its aims. Without you, the Society could not operate. On behalf of the Board and the National Council, thank you.

Colin Thomas, G3PSM

## Exam News

Good news on the examination front – 2008 has seen a 6.8% percent increase in the numbers of candidates sitting all three levels of the RCE. This rise is across all three exams with the biggest increase in the numbers sitting the Advanced examination. The December 2008 Advanced examination saw 112 candidates participate. This is the largest number since the new examination structure was introduced.

All those involved at every level of the RCE scheme should be congratulated on this magnificent achievement particularly the clubs right across the UK who has in recent years embraced the training ethos. And the good news is the predicted figures for 2009 show a further percentage increase in candidates.

## Trophy Manager

The Society is looking for a volunteer Trophy Manager to work with Jane Finch at Abbey Court, Bedford. The position involves the co-ordination of trophies on behalf of the Board, the Contest Committee and other groups within the Society with trophy responsibilities. Ideally, the person concerned will live within easy travel of Abbey Court in order to be able to help prepare trophies for presentation at events such as the AGM and the HF Convention. Please e-mail [GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk), before 15 January, if you feel you may be able to help.

## Morse Certificate

In 2009, the RSGB is to introduce a Morse Certificate of Competency to provide a form of recognition for those who wish to have something to record their achievement in learning Morse code. It is not intended that it should be a national standard of proficiency similar to the licence examinations.

The lowest speed for which the Certificate will be issued is 5 wpm. This has been chosen as the threshold to encourage learning the Code and as a step towards inspiring and achieving confidence and moving forward to higher speeds. Full details will appear in the February *RadCom*.

## The President's Diary (by Mrs President)

Now that you've looked at the title, don't just turn the page and before you start saying who on earth is she – let me introduce myself. I'm Gwen, G4JYL. That's the first shock over with, now to the second shock, I've been a member of the Society for almost 40 years since becoming a short wave listener not long after I met Colin, G3PSM, your president.

Electing the president is a bit like the supermarket BOGOF, elect the president and get the Mrs free. I'm the one who treads (I was going to write 'dutifully' – no chance!) two paces behind at functions, rallies and anywhere else the bossman happens to turn up! Joking apart, I do enjoy meeting so many new people and I am more than happy to lend a hand selling you raffle tickets and books on behalf of the Society.

It is difficult to believe that it is a year since Colin was elected as your president. Ah well, what's a few more wrinkles! I know that some members probably think that being president is a couple of year's worth of jollies and junketing at the Society's expense. Well, he does get invited to open new club premises, present prizes at club celebration dinners and speak at various club events. Did you realize that he also often puts in 12 hour days attending meetings, etc?

So what happened this year? It goes something like this.

**January 19:** Board Meeting & Inaugural Dinner. Definitely posh frock time. It was nice to see so many local amateurs and friends from overseas.

**January 24:** RSGB/Ofcom Forum – 7 hour day

**January 26:** ETCC Meeting – 7 hour day

**February 15/16:** Management Meeting & RSGB Spectrum Managers Meeting (means I had to get up an hour earlier to walk the dog before work in the dark and the rain. Oh joy!).

**January 27:** Editorial Interview (You must be getting fed up of seeing his picture in *RadCom* by now).

**March 4:** What has the RSGB ever done for me? Or getting a grilling from the local amateurs at the Waterside Club

**March 14/16:** Board Meeting/ Regional Council Meeting & Blackpool Rally. (More dog walking at both ends of the day in the cold and dark).

**April:** A very busy month with Management Meetings, the AGM, visiting the new HQ and Bletchley Park. Also meetings for IARU and speaking at the Bath Club. He wasn't able to go to the GMDX convention as I dragged him to Yorkshire to meet the other in-laws – not a happy bunny!

**May 6:** Invited to Chester and District Radio Society 60th Anniversary Dinner. Yet another posh frock (*Peter, can I get a clothing allowance? NO!*).

**May 13/19:** Dayton Hamvention. Sounds like a great jolly. Let me assure that it is very hard work for everyone who goes. A lot of income is generated for the Society in book sales. About 20,000 people attend this rally. Dayton is not the greatest place in the US, so I stayed home and walked the dog some more – at least it's light and warmer.

**May 27:** Another grilling from local amateurs. This time at the Hordean & District ARS

**June 7:** Opening of new shack for Lincoln Short Wave Club who were evicted from their old premises and have worked hard to fund raise, find their new location and build their shack next door to a very nice village hall on the outskirts of the city. It was nice to see some young amateurs present. We had a lovely tea and we saved the Society some money as we stayed with my Mum who lives not too far away. Thanks Mum.

June was also more meetings and, of course, Friedrichshafen Amateur Radio Show, which we combined with our holiday. Sold a few books on the stand with Kath & Dave, met with some old friends and I had a very good time. Colin had meetings to go to.

I think you will have got the picture by now and the rest of the year carries on in the same way. Well that's not all of it. Colin is in touch most days with Peter Kirby about matters concerning the Society. Then there are all the e-mails – 400 of the things when we came back from holiday. There are also those folk that send you an e-mail and ring up 10 minutes later to see if you got it! Why does the phone always ring in the middle of dinner? Last, but not least, I do have a brain in my head guys and I can remember to give the President a message if he's not about when you ring.

## Awards Publicity Manager

The Society has a number of awards programmes, both HF and VHF, which are challenging and rewarding but which are not well publicised. It is felt that much more could be done if time and effort were put into raising their profile in the way that, for example, has been done with the IOTA programme. The job could, for example, involve attendance at rallies, talks to clubs, etc. but the approach would very much be up to you. If you would be interested in taking on this publicity role, working with the Awards Manager John Dunnington, G3LZQ (whose role is to check applications and issue awards) then please contact the Board member responsible – Don Field, G3XTT by e-mail to don.field@rsgb.org.uk, ideally before 15 January.

## G5RP Trophy



The G5RP Trophy was donated by the Vale of White Horse ARS to commemorate its late chairman, Ted Wake. Although Ted's personal passion was HF DX, most of the society's membership were dedicated VHF DXers whom he often declared 'quite incorrigible' – but that standing joke did not disguise the unwavering support and leadership that he gave to the club and its members. When Ted died, those 'incorrigibles' decided to donate a trophy to achieve what he had always wanted: to encourage more newcomers into the higher levels of HF DXing.

The G5RP Trophy is awarded to a fresh newcomer each year. The terms of the award – for the most 'progress achieved' in the preceding year – are specifically designed to identify people who have recently boosted themselves into the higher levels of serious HF DXing. This can happen at any time in an amateur's radio career, so the G5RP Trophy is not limited to the newly licensed. On the other hand, 'progress' can be achieved in many different ways, which the judging panel can assess by individual merit.

The award is made each year by nomination, and is normally presented at the HF Convention. There are no rules about nominations being either open or secret, but if the winner is already attending the HF Convention it may come as a complete surprise – as it did to the 2008 recipient Tim Beaumont, MOURX.

The G5RP Trophy is achieving its purpose, for many past winners have gone on to become established and respected HF DXers. In the judges' experience there is never a shortage of suitable candidates, but there can sometimes be a shortage of nominations. So if you are an established HF DXer, and you know someone who deserves recognition and encouragement, then next year please do what Ted Wake would have wanted, and respond to the call for nominations (usually in the August *RadCom*).

# IARU Region 1 Conference

## A summary of conference matters and how they affect UK amateurs



Conference delegates with the town of Cavtat in the background.

**REPRESENTATIVES.** The 21st IARU Region 1 conference opened in Cavtat, Croatia on Sunday 16 November. Representing the RSGB at Cavtat was head of delegation Angus Annan, MM1CCR; RSGB General Manager, Peter Kirby, G0TWW; RSGB HF Manager, John Gould, G3WKL; RSGB VHF Manager, David Butler, G4ASR and RSGB Microwave Manager, Murray Niman, G6JYB. Graham G3VZV was there in his wider role of IARU-R1 Satellite Coordinator.

RSGB members also at the conference but wearing IARU hats were RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, IARU Region 1 HF Manager and Bob Whelan, G3PJT, who is the chairman of IARU Region 1 Regulatory and Licensing Working Group.

The conference secretary was Don Beattie, G3BJ. Staffing the conference office were Don Field, G3XTT, Ian Greenshields, G4FSU and Hilary Clayton-Smith, G4JKS. Ian Greenshields and Don Field also carried out the duties of Secretary of HF to microwave conference streams C4 and C5.

**CAVTAT.** The conference was officially opened by Kreso Antonovic from the Croatian Ministry of Sea Transport and Infrastructure. He welcomed the 140 delegates representing 51 Region 1 societies. He spoke of the development of radio communications in Croatia including the introduction of the new Croatian Communications Act this year. Following on, the Mayor of Cavtat, Madame Mira Buconic, offered the delegates a warm welcome to the nicest part of Croatia and hoped that the conference would be a great success.

On completion of the opening ceremony Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the President of Region 1, chaired the First Plenary session. This session was primarily to agree the chairmen of the four conference streams: C2 – Credentials and Finance, C3 – Administration, C4 – HF matters and C5 – VHF/Microwave Matters. RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM was nominated to chair the C4 committee.

During the afternoon session, the various Region 1 working groups met. These included the EMC WG, IARUMS WG, the EUROCOM WG and the ARDF working group.

Monday saw the start of work of the C2 Finance/C3 Administration streams and the C4 HF and C5 VHF/Microwave streams.

**C2/C3 ADMINISTRATION.** This area of the Conference was attended by the head of the RSGB delegation Angus Annan, MM1CCR and RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, G0TWW.

During the course of the discussions, the conference agreed minor changes to the HST (High Speed Telegraphy) and ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) rules, to allow both disciplines to expand.

Wolfgang Hadel, DK2OM, Chairman of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service, reported that there were now fifteen countries working in the Monitoring Service. He also informed the conference that the Monitoring Service will be monitoring the migration of the broadcast stations from 7100 – 7200MHz, which is due to commence from 29 March 2009.

The conference recognised the importance of the EUROCOM group

establishing greater influence by, and visibility of, the amateur services within the European Commission and the EU. EUROCOM was invited to develop a strategy to achieve these objectives. The conference agreed to revise and delete a number of standing recommendations. The most contentious of these was recommendation 1.16.5.2 that was introduced at the Brighton conference in 1981. This recommendation, when introduced, discouraged mixed amateur radio and CB radio events and recommended that increased efforts be made to ensure the general public were aware of the technical and educational nature of amateur radio compared with CB radio. Conference felt that in 2008 this recommendation was no longer relevant and it was deleted.

On the EMC front, the EMC working group reported that the IARU efforts to slow the adoption of a PLT emission standard had paid dividends. Romania asked that more information be provided to member societies about the work being done in the EMC WG. Chairman Christian Verholt, OZ8CY responded by commenting that some member societies such as the RSGB had regular high profile articles in their monthly magazine on EMC issues. More information was being issued and member societies were being asked to tackle their individual administrations head on with regards to PLT matters.

One area of concern was that the conference agreed to a recommendation by the C2 committee to set a deficit budget for the next three years. This was based on the level of the financial reserves, which were felt to be strong enough to allow the region to run the various lines of operations without cutbacks or increasing the subscription level. This was argued against strongly by the RSGB in both the C2 committee stage and the Final Plenary. The RSGB felt that the incoming Executive should be asked to review all budget headings and review costs with a view to presenting a break-even budget to member societies in year two and three. The action to encourage the Executive to seek ways to cut costs was supported by South Africa and Croatia and unanimously agreed by conference, however the arguments against setting a deficit budget were not supported by conference and the RSGB voted against the proposed budget in the Final Plenary.



RSGB team at the Final Plenary meeting.



The Opening Plenary meeting.

**C4 HF.** *This report was prepared by John Gould, G3WKL, RSGB HF Manager.* The key HF focus was the expanded 40m band, which comes into play when the broadcasters move out of 7.1 – 7.2MHz from 29 March 2009. Inevitably, there were widely differing views but all agreed that CW, digimodes and SSB should get additional spectrum. The new 40m bandplan includes provision for digital voice and also recommends 'contest preferred segments' for both CW and SSB.

The other main agreement on HF was an updated chapter on 'Contest Guidelines' in the *HF Manager's Handbook* [1]. This, along with proposals from DARC and RSGB, means that Region 1 contest organisers retain control over setting frequency limits for their contests, but that they are expected to state what those limits are and also to manage the operation of their contest within those limits. For smaller contests, this should mean that more contests will fit within the contest preferred segments. Note that this will not constrain the larger contests, but it should mean that for many contest weekends there should be segments of the bands available for non-contest operation.

Other agreements were reached on restricting unattended beacon activity below 20m, adding some notes on SSB QRP and digitised voice to the HF bandplans. Below 169m, a bandplan for 136kHz was approved, and the 500kHz Working Group's remit was

extended to cover preparatory work for WRC11.

Operating Practice was another key topic for discussion. The majority feeling was that ON4UN and ON4WW's booklet *Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur* [2], which was endorsed by the IARU last summer, needed further publicity and, along with encouragement from Societies not to cause interference, it was thought that these measures should be sufficient to counter the operating problems experienced on the HF bands. Our approach on countering deliberate interference did not meet with approval as many Societies preferred to self-regulate rather than refer suspected jammers to their Administration. Given the lack of appetite for passing concerns about possible jammers to the regulators, with the inherent risk of taking action ourselves, the Society will likely draw a line under its work in this area. Time will tell though whether education is sufficient.

**C5 VHF/UHF.** *This report was prepared by David Butler, G4ASR, VHF Manager.* The primary VHF focus at the conference was one of band planning and future spectrum requirements within IARU Region 1. The meeting acknowledged that Digital Voice (DV) communication would, eventually, replace analogue FM voice traffic and that it was sensible to designate frequencies for dual-use rather than specify new channels specifically

for digital voice. It was also felt beneficial to designate calling frequencies and centres of activity during the initial transfer from analogue to digital, especially for those countries that have a low amateur radio population. Band planning discussions and recommendations were also made regarding Internet voice gateways, APRS allocations, EME, FAI propagation and meteor scatter usage.

RSGB introduced their paper on VHF spectrum requirements and the meeting agreed that it will be added into the IARU Region 1 VHF Managers Handbook. The key targets for spectrum requirements between 30 – 1000MHz include beacon allocations in the vicinity of 40 and 60MHz, the addition of a harmonised global allocation to the Amateur Satellite Service within the 50MHz band, a region-wide allocation at 70MHz and the establishment of 430 – 440MHz as a worldwide exclusive band.

Operating practice was another key topic for discussion with new QSO guidelines for Aircraft Scatter and Transitory Weak Signal procedures to be introduced into the VHF Managers Handbook. The requirement for a Region 1 AM allocation within the 2m band was raised and the meeting concluded that this mode could be carried out within the 'All Mode' segment. Other agreements were reached on the use of RSQ (Readability Strength Quality) for digital modes and MOS (Mean Opinion Score) for digital voice as a supplement for RST reporting. Discussions were also carried out regarding the requirement to increase VHF contest activity, the exchange of contest logs via a Region 1 website and definitions of remote controlled contest stations.

On the beacon front, the meeting agreed to encourage the deployment of multi-band VHF beacons such as GB3RAL that currently operates on 40.05, 50.05, 60.05 and 70.05MHz. The use of WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) beacons in the 50, 70 and 144MHz bands was discussed and allocations agreed. The frequency suggested for the Six Metre band (50.400MHz) raises the possibility of a revised IARU Region 1 beacon band at a later date and a draft paper to this effect is being prepared by the RSGB.

**C5 MICROWAVE.** *This report was prepared by Murray Niman, G6JYB, Microwave Manager.* The three themes of Beacons, Digital modes and Spectrum also featured in microwave matters at the conference. First, beacons. Three RSGB papers were accepted that not only enhanced guidance, but addressed the growth in microwave beacons numbers and reception ranges by adding a new spectrally efficient 50kHz segment in most microwave bands – a noticeable feature in the new 2009 RSGB bandplans.

Two bands that came in for special attention were 1.2GHz (23cm) and 3.4GHz.



Colin Thomas, G3PSM and Ian Greenshields, G4FSU driving the HF stream.

The 23cm band not only received a number of modernisation adjustments (Digital Voice, Echolink and Image modes), but widespread acceptance of the far ranging RSGB paper *'A New Vision for 23cm'*. This agreed a reserve sub-band for narrowband operation at 1240 – 1240.75MHz and a new framework for flexible bandwidth Digital Voice, Data and DATV in what is usually considered to be a most challenging band, but potentially has the capacity to be a showcase for new amateur technology.

The 3.4GHz band has its own issues (not least its future use for 4G mobile communications). A pair of RSGB papers received unanimous support and go some way to address this. Bandplan and VHF Handbook changes will support the latest amateur developments in EME and Satellites as well as the efforts of other Societies to gain access to the all-important 3400 – 3410MHz segment.

Operating and contest matters were not overlooked. Adoption of a spreadsheet format for ATV contests was agreed. The new rules for remotely controlled contest stations provoked interest in the UK microwave 'rover rule', resulting in an invitation for a future proposal aimed at promoting activity.

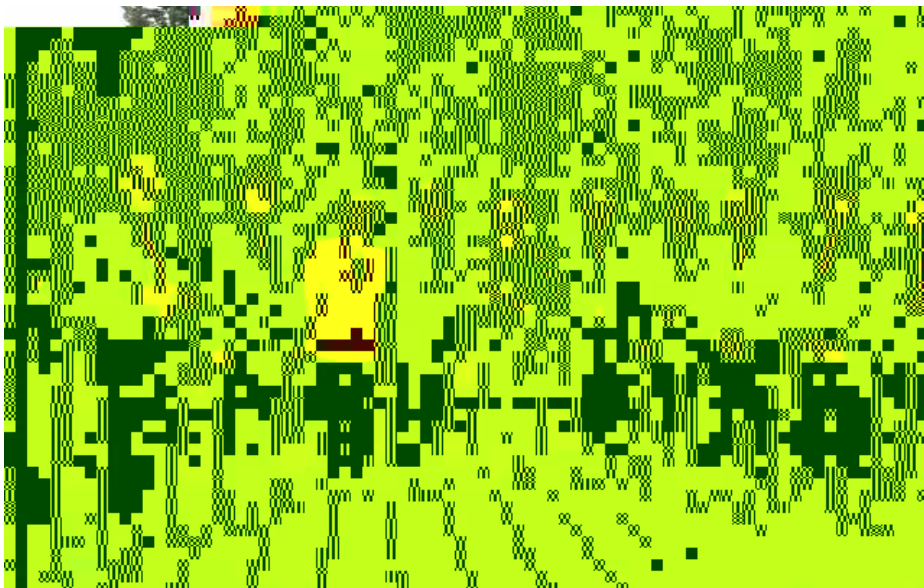
Broader microwave spectrum matters, terrestrial and satellite, also received attention and conference approved papers specially suited to Region 1 needs and pressures, joining the VHF needs in the Handbook. This overhauled past interests in new / realigned frequencies, beacons (notably a new requirement near the 30GHz water minimum) and satellite bands. The papers adopted included a radical and more proactive strategy to counter the widespread commercial pressures on spectrum (notably in the 1 – 10GHz secondary allocations), marking a departure from past IARU practice.

**SUMMARY.** Overall the conference approved nearly forty top level VHF-Microwave recommendations resulting in a raft of detail changes, as well as IARU VHF Chairman OE1MCU forming a new team to support them going forward.

Should any member wish to know more or have queries on the resulting bandplan changes, please see Websearch. The complete bandplan will be published in the February *RadCom*.



The incoming IARU Region 1 Executive Committee, chaired by new Region 1 President, Hans Blondel Timmerman, PB2T (centre).



IARU Region 1 President, Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, with invited guests to the Opening Ceremony.

**ELECTIONS.** During the Final Plenary session, a number of key elections took place that directly affect the RSGB. RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, was voted onto the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee. Colin will hold the chair of the influential External Relations Committee. Bob Whelan, G3PJT, continues as the Chairman of the IARU Region 1 Regulatory and Licensing Working Group. Martin Harrison, G3USF continues as the IARU Region 1 Beacon Coordinator; Peter Kirby, G0TWW continues as Vice Chairman of the EUROCOM Group and, nominated and supported by the RSGB, Greg Mossop, G0DUB, was elected to the position of IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator.

**WELL DESERVED.** The biggest and nicest surprise at the Final Plenary was the award of the Roy Stevens Trophy to Past RSGB

President and IARU Region 1 Secretary for the last six years, Don Beattie, G3BJ.

The Roy Stevens Trophy is awarded for an outstanding contribution in international amateur radio affairs in memory of the late Roy Stevens, G2BVN, who was RSGB President in 1966 and was a long-serving IARU Region 1 secretary.

The next Region 1 Conference will take place in Sun City, South Africa in October 2011.

#### WEBSEARCH

- [1] IARU Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook, [www.iau-r1.org/HFM%20Handbook%20V6.1.pdf](http://www.iau-r1.org/HFM%20Handbook%20V6.1.pdf)
- [2] Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur, [www.rsgb.org/operating/procedures/Eth-operating-EN-RSGB-SITE-july1-2008.pdf](http://www.rsgb.org/operating/procedures/Eth-operating-EN-RSGB-SITE-july1-2008.pdf)
- [3] Conference Papers, Minutes and Recommendations, [www.iau-r1.org/Cavtat%20papers.htm](http://www.iau-r1.org/Cavtat%20papers.htm)
- [4] RSGB Bandplans: [www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans/](http://www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans/)

# Exam Successes

The Radio Society of Harrow has recently completed its second Foundation Course. Seven students, including one Explorer Scout, took the exam in October and all passed.

The course and exam were held at the 17th Harrow Scout HQ and the Society would like to thank Vince Kingsley, G7LWN, the Group Scout Leader of 17th Harrow, who has gone out of his way to help them settle in to their premises.

Another Foundation Course will take place in early 2009 and an Intermediate Course is planned to follow. For further details contact, Ray, GOBSP at rayasnow@aol.com or see the club website at [www.g3efx.org.uk](http://www.g3efx.org.uk).



From L-R, Don, GOACK, Andrei, Corey, Nandesh, Helena, Ian, Peter and Paul.

John King, mentioned in the September *RadCom*, who took his Foundation and Intermediate Exams on the same day, has been successful in upgrading to Advanced in October with the Mexborough & DARS. He can now use the ship's radios at sea, which was his main goal. The club members at M&DARS look forward to working him from all over the world!

In November, the Pontefract club had two reasons for celebration. Pontefract & DARS saw the five students on its Intermediate Course all pass, plus David Ward – an aspiring amateur from Sheffield – visited the club to successfully take his Foundation exam. David says he's hoping to be able to get back to the Pontefract club early in the New Year and is especially keen to join in with construction on the Pontefract Junior J antenna project next January!

The five on the Intermediate course were David, M6DWJ; Liam, M6IAM and his granddad, Mel, M3LCS; Laura, M3JRQ and Catreena, M6CHF. Liam and David got their Foundation licences in September, Mel has held M3LCS since 2003. Laura and Catreena have held their licences since May 2008.

For information about up-coming courses, please phone the club on 07594 596 040 or e-mail [info@pontefractradioclub.org](mailto:info@pontefractradioclub.org).



Two members and the Cwmbran & DARS passed the Intermediate exam in October. This was followed by six members passing their Foundation exam in November. The club would like to congratulate Richard, 2WOYAD and Shane, 2WOYAB for their Intermediate success and Ashley, Shane, Jack, Mark, Russell and Paul for attaining their first step on the amateur ladder.



Well done to Steve Whitfield for passing the Foundation exam back in September, he is now the proud holder of the callsign MJ6SIT – with all due deference to Barbara Wodehouse no doubt! Subsequently, club president Mike, GJOPDJ has started teaching a new Intermediate course on Wednesday evenings with Mike, MJ3SZI, Steve, MJ6SIT and Chris, MJ3CMB taking part. Good luck chaps!



Hucknall Rolls-Royce Amateur Radio Club is delighted to announce the success of three members in obtaining their Foundation Licence. These are Carl, M6CMR, Lesley, M6LHP and Ian, M6YAI. Of particular note is the success of Lesley, who with considerable help from a number of club members managed to pass at her first attempt – well done Lesley! The club and its members are genuinely delighted to welcome all three candidates both to the club and our hobby.



## Wireless Rescue

GB5CQD will be on the air on 23 and 24 January from the club rooms of the Scunthorpe Steel Amateur Radio Club. They plan to use the 2m band and the HF bands for their operation. The event is in commemoration for devotion to duty 100 years ago of Marconi Marine wireless operator Jack Binns on the White Star liner RMS Republic. The Republic had been in

collision with the SS Florida in thick fog and, as a result, was punctured below the waterline and began to sink.

Binns stayed at the key for 36 hours sending 200 messages with the distress cry CQD, which preceded the use of SOS. Over 1600 lives were saved.

The signal was received by the Marconi Station at Siasconset, Nantucket, which

alerted other ships to the rescue, making it the first sea rescue by wireless.

Binns worked as a wireless operator until 1912, when he turned down an assignment aboard the ill-fated White Star ship, the Titanic.

Other clubs planning to take part in the commemoration are the Radio Officers Association at the Lizard and Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

## Rally with a Difference

The Amateur Radio Caravan Club (ARCC) is a club who meet for caravan rallies roughly every fortnight or so between Easter and November, at various destinations in and around the Leicester area. A two week summer holiday rally is held each year, normally during July, further afield. In 2008 it took them to Hendra Holiday Park just outside Newquay in Cornwall.

As well as each individual's unit, a communal tent was erected for those wishing to participate in using the special event call sign GB2RCC. (It has to be said that the tent was also referred to as the 'beer tent!'). In addition, a range of aerials (about 11 or 12) were erected on the site in order to cater for almost every band. Sometimes during the day, and virtually every evening, members would set up a station in this tent and over the course of the two weeks many contacts were made to stations around the world.

Anybody interested in joining ARCC should contact Paul Wright, G3LMK the Club's Membership Secretary, via the club's website [www.arcc.org.uk](http://www.arcc.org.uk).

## North Wales Rally

The weekend of 1/2 November saw the reappearance of the North Wales Rally in Llandudno. Priced out of existence in 2005, a new venue was found at John Bright School in the middle of the town. The Rally had a wide variety of stands from the big traders like Waters & Stanton and Radioworld, components, second hand rigs, the RSGB, computers, clubs and other organisations. There was also a very successful Bring & Buy.

It was opened by the RSGB President, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, who also did a presentation on behalf of the Merion Amateur Radio Society to Bob Smith GWOAYQ among many other duties. The North Wales Radio Society would like to thank Ron GW6ZDH for his untiring work in getting the Rally 'off the ground' and to those members of other local clubs who helped out. The date for the North Wales Rally 2009 will be 31 October and 1 November. All enquiries to [lizcaban@vodafoneemail.co.uk](mailto:lizcaban@vodafoneemail.co.uk)



## Hastings JOTA

Brede Steam ARS members were kept busy during Jamboree On The Air with tuition sessions for approximately 27 Scouts from Hastings on the Saturday and 20 Cubs from Hastings and Battle groups on Sunday. Activities included radio theory, demonstrations of different types of communications, short wave listening and the passing of messages to other JOTA and amateur stations. Because of the numbers involved the Scouts/Cubs were split into small groups and took it in turns at the various activities. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and, after a rather shy start, were sending messages to other stations. The Cubs wanted to keep passing messages even after time was called. At the end of the each day communications badges were awarded to all Scouts and Cubs, even to the BSARS members present. BSARS members are already booked for next year's JOTA.



## Anniversary Dinner

Trowbridge & DARC celebrated their 25th birthday at a dinner held in Southwick on 20 November. Attending were past and present members and guests. The club's inaugural meeting was held on 24 November 1983 at the home of Peter Woodhouse, G2BQY. Peter's widow Georgina and Martyn Phillips, G3RFX were special guests on the night. The clubs holds a Christmas reunion meeting on 3 December at the village hall in Southwick. All past members and associates of the club over the 25 years are invited to attend, particularly if they could not make the previous event. For further details contact the secretary Ian Carter, G0GRI 01225 864698 or e-mail [tdarc@btinternet.com](mailto:tdarc@btinternet.com).



## JOTA

The Three Counties ARC from Hampshire supported the Alton Guides and Brownies with their JOTA radio and internet station at their HQ in Alton.

This year, a full program of events was put on for the Brownie pack. As well as the HF radio, where all girls sent greeting messages to Guides or Scouts in other towns and campsites nationwide, slow scan TV pictures from the International Space Station were received. Other activities included a weather station, with real time pictures from satellites viewed courtesy of Frank, G7CND and a demonstration of both polar orbiting VHF and geostationary microwave images.

Most amusing event of the weekend was a very young Brownie said to her dad, "we even heard the space station". Dad replied, "You have a very vivid imagination", then Paul stepped in and explained to the parent that an astronaut was heard talking on his radio by the children, after which the youngster said to dad, "See, and there are people living in space!".



## Digital D-Star Radio

The GB7SF Team attended the 18th Great Northern Hamfest in November to spread the word about Digital D-Star radio and to offer support to local amateurs wishing to utilise the existing local repeaters of GB7SF and GB87YD. A lot of interest was shown. Steve, M1ERS, Mark, M0ADH, John, M0ADS and Trevor, M0TWS were on hand to demonstrate the D-Star system and also to offer advice and assist with programming radios. Many people were able to hear digital transmissions for the first time, and several were heard to comment on the clarity of the audio.



L to R Trevor M0TWS, Andrea 2E1CIC and Steve M1ERS. Photo by M0ADS.

## Junk Sale

On Sunday 23 November Falkirk & DARS (GM0FRC) held a Junk sale at the Masonic hall on Bo'ness Road in Grangemouth, which proved to be very successful. In spite of the snowy weather, there was still a reasonable turnout with thirteen tables to rummage through. Jaycee Electronics, RSGB and RAOTA were also in attendance. Falkirk club wish to thank all those who contributed to this event and to all who made donations.



## Bath Buildathon

Following on from the success of last year's event, the second Bath Buildathon is to be held on Saturday 17 January to encourage newcomers to have a go at home brewing. The Buildathon will allow those with limited soldering experience to develop their skills under the watchful eye of some very experienced homebrewers. The kit chosen for the Bath Buildathon is the Brendon DSB



Transceiver from Tim Walford's Somerset range of kits. The QRP transceiver has been specifically designed for the newcomer so you can be confident that you

will go home with a working 80m voice transceiver.

The Buildathon is planned to run from 9am to 6pm. All soldering and test equipment will be made available on the day and refreshments will be provided. All you need to bring is a bucket full of enthusiasm and a packed lunch. The cost of the day will be £60 to include the cost of the kit, refreshments, room hire, etc.

If you are interested in joining in the fun, please contact Steve Hartley, GOFUW on 01225 464394 (7-9pm weekdays), or by e-mail to GOFUW@tiscali.co.uk. Interested parties are advised to book early.

## GB1CODY

To mark the local celebrations of the Centenary of the first powered flight in Great Britain, the Farnborough & DARS operated a seven day special event station at the Aldershot Military Museum where other 'CODY Events' were also being staged. A somewhat elderly 100W output single sideband transceiver plus an equally simple horizontal all-band Windom, elevated at only 25', enabled the Club's operators to enjoy more than 600 voice contacts in some 66 different countries across the world. Given that the station was operated essentially only during the Museum's 10am to 5pm opening hours, the whole exercise was deemed by club members and visitors alike, to have been a genuine success.

The Farnborough & District Radio Society would like to thank Ofcom for granting this very special four letter suffix callsign.

## D of E Award

The Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force (Cottingham detachment ACF) recently undertook a challenge for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. For their skill challenge, their theme was radio communications. The RCF training team of The East Yorkshire Repeater Group were approached and asked if they could help. A foundation course was run over 5 weeks, with 4 members, including their Detachment Commander, WO2 Susan Allaker. Their RSGB lead instructor for the duration was Mario Brashill, G2DPA, along with Andy Russell, GOVRM. The RSGB Regional Manager for Region 4, Harold Scrivens GOUGE, also dropped in to give a few kind words of encouragement, with his well known sense of humour and an hour or so of hands-on work with them all.

The course was a busy few weeks, with the cadets making their own dipole for HF, winding baluns, tracking satellites and getting their hands very dirty! Their hard work and determination paid off, with all candidates receiving a pass in their Foundation exam. All candidates were presented an RSGB book pack kindly donated by the RSGB for their sterling effort.



(L/R); Harold Scrivens, GOUGE, Cadet Michelle Carress, WO2 Susan Allaker, Cadet Pete Brebner, Lead instructor Mario Brashill, G2DPA.

## GQRP Convention

The GQRP convention was held at Rishworth School for the first time in 2008. Following the retirement of Rev George Dobbs, G3RZP, from the church at Rochdale, the convention moved to a new home. The new venue is just off J22 of M62 on Yorks/Lancs border. Visitors enjoyed interesting lectures on home brew software defined receivers and applications such as CW skimmer for detecting DX activity.

## Braille Celebration

Terry, GM3WUX will be operating the special event call GB2HLB, from 26 December 2008 to 22 January 2009, to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Louis Braille. Each QSO will receive a special QSL card depicting Braille and raising awareness of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). A fund raising page for RNIB can be found at [www.justgiving.com/louisbraille](http://www.justgiving.com/louisbraille).

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Damian Kamm has written a WAB awards add on module for Logger32, the logbook program by Bob Furzer, K4CY. This module may be useful for anyone interested in the WAB awards (or for those chasing UK counties etc) and who use Logger32 for logging. It holds the complete database of WAB areas/squares.

Damien would really like someone to try it out and is interested in WAB chasers who would like to test it out. E-mail [KammDP@btopenworld.com](mailto:KammDP@btopenworld.com).

- Mr Thomas Sheppard, GOKSK, was Mexborough & DARS Secretary and Tutor of the club for many years. He became silent key in October. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and family.

- The Saltash & DARC held their 44th AGM in November. The club donated £45 from their junk sale to Cancer Research UK thanks to the support of the other local clubs. They also need to find a new meeting venue after 44 years at the Toc H building.

After the AGM, the club invited Mr John Hopper the author of the book "Captain Henry Jackson of HMS Defiance" (available through the RSGB) to be the honorary club President. This was accepted.

- The Stenigot Chain Home ARC was formed recently as there was a gap in the area for an RSGB affiliated club – the nearest was Lincoln some 30 miles away. The club meets on the third Friday of the month at Gayton le Marsh Village Hall at 7.30pm, finishing times vary dependent on the programme. The club operates an open door policy and membership is free, they do ask for a voluntary contribution at meetings to fund the club. [www.stenigotchainhomearc.co.uk](http://www.stenigotchainhomearc.co.uk).

## GB3KK

The 70cm repeater at Ballycastle forest, GB3KK, transmits on 430.975MHz and receives on 438.575MHz with a CTCSS tone of 110.9Hz, its locator is IO65WT. Full details can be found at

[www.ukrepeater.net/repeaters/gb3kk.htm](http://www.ukrepeater.net/repeaters/gb3kk.htm). It is now linked 24/7 to the Ireland conference server via Echolink, which brings coverage from all over the world right into a small handheld radio which you can carry with you while walking within the RF coverage area of the repeater.

Steven, MI1DOG displays a small handheld Icom IC-E7 radio that can now be used to work the world with 1.5 watts from anywhere within the Ballycastle area. Using mobile and base stations, coverage is extensive from Scotland to Donegal and well into Mid Ulster.



Steven, MI1DOG, with handheld which can work via GB3KK.

## GB3SS Drama

The recent icy roads brought some drama to the GB3SS Speyside repeater one wintry Friday afternoon in November. Barry, GM4TOE from Tomintoul had come across a car accident on the Tomintoul to Dufftown road, a woman was badly injured with three children on board. In that particular area, there is no mobile phone coverage.

Barry put out an emergency call on GB3SS. This was picked up by Jon, 2M0IBO in Longmorn near Elgin who called the Police and Ambulance. John's phone, unfortunately, was in a different room from his shack and he had to nip back and forth passing details to the emergency services.

Jon and Barry stayed in touch till the emergency services arrived. Jon also managed to contact the relatives of the lady who had the accident and passed on details of what had happened.

## Fund-Raising Night Walk

Braving the elements on the Blackdown Hills in October, 300 walkers in 48 teams took the Moonraker night-time walking challenge. They were supported by over 50 members of Taunton Vale Rotary Club and Inner Wheel, plus Red Cross and RAYNET teams.

The first team left the base at Trickey Warren Farm around 4:30pm in the afternoon, and the last team left after dark at around 7:30pm. They were able to choose between the Extended/Challenge 16 mile route, the Standard 13 mile route, or the 8 mile Single Leg. The weather was not as bad as had been forecast and it was a dry, dark night for most of the time. Eventually, the rain did reach the hills at around 3am and the last few teams got very wet on the last stage!

The winners were: Extended Challenge Route – The Optimists Team 61; Standard Route – The Saints Team 49; Single Leg – The Happy Hashers Team 6.

Taunton Vale Rotary Club and the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance would like to thank all the walkers from the Taunton area, and also to thank the British Red Cross, the RAYNET communications team and local farmers and residents for their support on the night.

## Correction

The December RadCom stated that David Barber G8OQW had a SSTV QSO with the International Space Station. In fact David carried out a 2M FM QSO with Richard Garriott passing greetings from Chelmsford, Essex, the 'Birthplace of Radio' and wishing him well for his remaining few days in the ISS. In addition, over 40 high quality SSTV pictures were received from the International Space Station. We apologise for any misunderstanding that might have occurred.

## Leicester Show

The organisers of the recent Leicester Amateur Radio Show were very pleased with turnout at the show in late October. With no motor racing over the weekend, visitors were able to park within easy reach of the show – although the weather wasn't too kind! Geoff Watts, part of the organising committee, can be seen here thanking Jim Stevenson, GOEJQ, Regional Rep for East Midlands for his help in publicising the show within the area. Details of next year's show will appear on the LARS website.



## Marconi Collection

In 2004, the Marconi Collection was presented to the University of Oxford by the Marconi Corporation. A three year project funded by the late Douglas Byrne, G3KPO under the auspices of the Wireless Preservation Society has enabled the sorting, arrangement and cataloguing of this vast archive, which is now one of the Bodleian's large collections. During the work, a number of fascinating items were uncovered including records of Marconi's earliest demonstration in Britain carried out on the roof of the General Post Office in London in July 1896. Of special interest are records relating to the Titanic disaster of 1912. These include the logs of ships' radio operators, who were Marconi employees, as well as thousands of messages exchanged before, during and after the emergency.

A further grant from the former Trustees of the Wireless Preservation Society, was announced in November. This will fund the 'Byrne Marconi Visiting Fellowship', which is intended to support study in the Marconi and related archives in Bodleian and the Marconi objects in the nearby Museum of the History of Science. Richard Ovenden, Keeper of Special Collections and Associate Director, Bodleian Library, said: "The collection will be of interest to researchers in the history of science, business and social history, and to technical enthusiasts who can draw on the outstanding depth and breadth of the archive. The Bodleian Library is delighted to have catalogued the Marconi Archive and to make it available online to the international community of scholars'.

See [www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/modern/marconi/marconi.html](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/modern/marconi/marconi.html).



The original portable coherer receiver used by Marconi to demonstrate his invention to the public at the Toynbee Hall, London, 12 December 1896.

Getting listed here and on GB2RS is easy. E-mail details of your meetings as early as possible to GB2RS@RSGB.org.uk and we'll do the rest. We need to know your club name, RSGB Region number, contact name & phone number, date of meeting and detail of meeting. Example: South Bristol ARS, Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282, 29 October, On the Air. It's that simple. The deadline for RadCom is the 1st of the month before the cover month (so for this January issue it was 1 December), while for GB2RS it's 10am on the Tuesday for the week of broadcast.

**1 SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES**

REGIONAL REP: GORDON HUNTER, GM3ULP, GM3ULP@RSGB.ORG.UK

**AYR ARG**

John, GM3CSO, 01292 443 580, gm3cso@gm0ayr.org

- 7 Open Discussion Night - review activities for first half of the club year
- 21 The National Digital TV Switchover by John MacNeil, Digital UK

**LIVINGSTON & DARS**

Norman, 0131 449 7641, uk.groups.yahoo/group/ms01iv

- 6 Club Evening
- 13 Operating Evening
- 20 Club Evening
- 27 Morse Code Practice

**LOTHIANS RS**

Colin, GM4HWO, enquiries@lothiansradiosociety.com  
14 Video Night with Peter Dick, GM4DTH

**PAISLEY (YMCA) ARC**

Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, 01505 613633, bill@3bis.co.uk  
21 Communications in the SCC, GMOKDF

**WEST OF SCOTLAND ARS**

Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, 01415715512, fred.coombes1@ntlworld.com, www.wosars.org

- 2 No Meeting
- 9 Club Night
- 16 Developments in SDR
- 18 AFS Contest (CW) - Club Station
- 23 Club Night
- 30 Club Night

**WIGTOWNSHIRE ARC**

Ellis Gaston GM0HPK, 01776 820413

- 8 Club Re-opens
- 15 PSK 31 and Natter Night
- 22 ATUs by Ian White, GM3SEK - non members welcome
- 8 Shack Tidy and PSK 31

**2 SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES**

REGIONAL REP: DENNY MORRISON, GM1BAN, GM1BAN@RSGB.ORG.UK

**ABERDEEN ARS**

Lewis, GM4AJR, 01224 575 663, www.aars.freemove.co.uk

- 1 Hogmanay Holiday
- 8 Junk Sale

**3 NORTH WEST**

REGIONAL REP: KATH WILSON, M1CNY, M1CNY@RSGB.ORG.UK

**CHESTER & DRS**

Barbara Green, 0151 339 9183, www.chesterdars.org.uk

- 6 Annual General Meeting
- 20 Construction Challenge Winner

**MACCLESFIELD & DRS**

Tom, M1EYP, 01625 612 916

- 5 Planning Evening
- 12 How Far on a Watt? - Studying HF Propagation
- 19 Social and on Air Evening
- 26 Digital Modes Talk and Demonstration

**MID-CHESHIRE ARS**

Peter Paul Fox, G8HAV, 01606 553401

- 7 Radioactive Planning Actions
- 14 Committee Meeting: Finalising RA details
- 21 G3ZTT HF and G8ZTT VHF on the Air
- 28 The Importance of Phase Noise by G8ATB

**SOUTH MANCHESTER R & CC**

Ron, G3SVW, 0161 969 3999

- 2 Club Closed
- 9 Aerial Clinic with Ron, G3SVW
- 16 Triumph Motorbikes by David Porter
- 23 Annual Dinner
- 26 Monthly Technical Forum
- 30 My Introduction to Amateur Radio by G3SVW

**STOCKPORT RS**

David, M1ANT, 0161 456 7832

- 6 Mentor Evening & Practical - What Rig & Why?
- 20 Logger32 explained by Bernard, G3SHF

**THORNTON CLEVELEYS ARS**

John Webb, G8RDP, 01253 876313, mail@tcars.org.uk

- 5 Natter Night
- 12 The Computer Finale with Ted, G3WBB
- 19 Auction by Mike, G4EZM
- 26 Fishermans Friend by Chris Rotherham & Dennis Walker

**WEST MANCHESTER RADIO CLUB**

Steve, 01942 888 900, www.wmrc.org.uk  
18 Red Rose Winter Rally at Lowton Civic Centre

**4 NORTH EAST**

REGIONAL REP: HAROLD SCRIVENS, GOUGE, GOUGE@RSGB.ORG.UK

**EAST CLEVELAND ARC**

Alistair, G4OLK, 01642 475 671, alistair.mackay@talk21.com

- 2 On the Air
- 9 Radio Magazines Evening
- 16 On the Air
- 23 Radio Components Catalogues Evening
- 30 On the Air

**MALTBY & DARS**

Keith, G1PQW, 07701 156678, www.maltbyradio.org.uk

- 7 On the Air
- 14 Is it Morse Code?
- 21 On the Air
- 28 Antenna Workshop

**NORTH WAKEFIELD RC**

Jim Thornton G3YDL, events@g4nok.org

- 1 No Meeting
- 8 Video Night - Peter Island DXpedition followed by Pie and Pea Supper
- 15 Introduction to CW for Beginners
- 22 An Introduction to SD Computer Logging
- 29 Club Night

**PONTEFRAC T JUNIOR RADIO CLUB**

07594 596 040, info@pontefractradioclub.org, www.pdars.com

- 1 No Meeting
- 6 Junior J Antenna for 70cm
- 13 Radio Propagation by Robin Bellerby, GM3ZYE

**PONTEFRAC T JUNIOR RADIO CLUB**

Chris, 07970 479 200, info@pontefractradioclub.org

- 27 VHF Vertical Antenna Project

**TYNEMOUTH RADIO CLUB**

Tony, G8YFA, tony.regnart@gmail.com

- 4 What I got from Santa
- 11 Operating Night and Morse Classes
- 18 Magnetic Baluns by Glen, GOSBN
- 25 Operating Night and Morse Classes

**5 WEST MIDLANDS**

REGIONAL REP: TREVOR BAILEY, MOKMB, MOKMB@RSGB.ORG.UK

**BROMSGROVE & DARC**

Chris, M0BQE, 01905 776 869, m0bqe@hotmail.com

- 9 Club Discussion
- 16 PC Troubleshooting
- 23 Committee Meeting
- 30 Operating in Malawi
- CHELLENHAM ARA
- Pat, G3IKR, 01386 792 542
- 2 Pat's Quiz

**COVENTRY ARS**

John, G8SEQ, 07958 777363

- 1 2m DF. 10am start from club house
- 2 Bedworth Lions Club opening of GB4BLC at QTH G8GMU 11am
- 2 Tribute to G2FTK
- 9 Bring your Christmas Presents
- 23 Annual Dinner
- 28 Quiz Night
- 30 Video Night

**GLOUCESTER AR & ES**

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01452 548478, daytime, www.g4aym.org.uk

- 12 Return after Festive Holiday with a Quiz
- 19 RAYNET Talk
- 26 Operating Club Equipment

**MIDLAND ARS**

Norman, G8BHE, QTHR, 01214 229 787

- 7 New Year Resolutions and Plans
- 14 Training Classes
- 21 Visit by RSGB Representative Chris, GOMLY
- 28 Training Classes

**MID-WARWICKSHIRE ARS**

Bernard, M1AUK, 01926 420 913

- 13 Mini Talks - points of interest and controversy!
- 27 Meeting on Air - 20:00 hrs. All - including non-members - welcome to chat on 145.225MHz.

**SALOP ARS**

www.salop-ars.org.uk

- 8 Natter Night
- 15 GPS and Power Meter Calibration Night
- 22 Natter Night
- 29 Chairman's Discussion Night (your ideas aired).

**SOUTH BIRMINGHAM RADIO SOCIETY**

Don, 0121 458 1603

- 7 Hot Spud Evening and New Years' Resolutions
- 9 Construction Evening
- 12 Ragchew and contest Meeting
- 16 Construction Evening
- 19 Ragchew and contest Review
- 23 Construction Evening
- 26 Removing 50cm Aerial and Feeder
- 30 Construction Evening

**STRATFORD UPON AVON DRS**

Jack, G3VYE, 01926 641 988, g3vye@onetel.com

- 12 Radio Ancient & Modern by G8HJS
- 26 Aerial Planning Applications by 2E0BOT, Electrical Measurement using a PC by GOCHO

**TAMWORTH ARS**

Colin Marks, G4ZPJ, 01827 700 893, colin.marks2@ntlworld.com

- 8 Natter Night
- 15 Video Evening
- 22 Construction Night

**TELFORD & DARS**

Mike, G3JKX, 01952 299 677, mjstreetg3jkk@blueyonder.co.uk

- 7 Open House/On the Air/Committee
- 14 80m SSB T/Rx Kit by Steve Drury, G6ALU
- 21 Society Project Launch
- 28 D-Star Update by M0FHM

**6 NORTH WALES**

REGIONAL REP: MARK HARPER, MW1MDH, MW1MDH@RSGB.ORG.UK

**MEIRION ARS**

John, MW0VTK, 07868 738016, www.meirionars.multiply.com

- 8 AGM

**WREXHAM ARS**

Glyn MW0BNB www.qsl.net/wars/

- 6 No Meeting
- 20 On air Night

**7 SOUTH WALES**

REGIONAL REP: JIMMY SNEDDON, MW0EQL, MW0EQL@RSGB.ORG.UK

NO LISTING AVAILABLE.

**8 NORTHERN IRELAND**

REGIONAL REP: PETER LOWRIE, M15JYK, M15JYK@RSGB.ORG.UK

**BANGOR & DARC**

Mike, G14XSF, 028 4277 2 383

- 8 Annual Prize Quiz

**9 LONDON & THAMES VALLEY**

REGIONAL REP: ALISON JOHNSTON, G8ROG, G8ROG@RSGB.ORG.UK

**AYLESBURY VALE RS**

Roger, G3MEH, 01442 826 651, roger@g3meh.com

- 14 Club Dinner
- BURNHAM BEECHES RC
- Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720
- 5 Contest Planning
- 19 Test Equipment and Testing, Dave, G4XOW

**COULSDON ATS**

Andy, G8JAC, g8jac@btinternet.com

- 12 CATS New Year Dinner
- CRYSTAL PALACE R & EC
- Bob, G30OU, 01737 552 170
- 2 Undersea Cables by Steve, G3WZK

**NEWBURY & DARS**

Richard, G3ZGC, 01635 46241, richard.jolliffe@vodafone.com

- 28 Surplus Equipment Sale

**READING & DARC**

Pete, G8FRC, 01189 695 697

- 8 Colin Thomas, G3PSM, RSGB, on Regulatory Framework
- 22 Rascal RA17 Demo by John, G3NCN

**SOUTHGATE ARC**

David Sharp, M0XDS. E-mail david.sharp1@tesco.net.

- 14 Arrangement of Meetings for the Year

**SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB**

Ray, G4FFY, 020 8644 7589

- 5 The Goubau line by Mike Underhill, G3LHZ

**SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

John, G0BWV, 020 8644 9945,  
info@scrs.org.uk

15 JOTA 2007 & GB100J by Dennis,  
MONDJ

**WIMBLEDON & DARS**

Jim, MOCON, 020 8874 7456,  
www.gx3wim.org.uk

9 GB3NS talk by Dennis, G00LX  
30 Digital Amateur Radio on the Air

**10 SOUTH & SOUTH EAST**

REGIONAL REP: GAVIN KEEGAN,  
G6DGK, G6DGK@RSGB.ORG.UK

**ANDOVER RAC**

Martin, MOMWS, 07776181646,  
www.arac.co.uk

6 24th Solar Cycle Discussion  
20 Simple Propagation Hints for the Newly  
Licensed.

**BREDE STEAM ARS**

Steve, 0142 720815, m0nuc@aol.com

3 At the Bunker  
6 Operating from the Shack  
13 Operating from the Shack  
20 Operating from the Shack  
27 Operating from the Shack

**CRAWLEY ARC**

John, G3VLH, 01342 714 402  
28 AGM

**FAREHAM & DARC**

Ken, M0KLS, 02392 797 240

21 Foundation Course Planning  
28 AGM

**HASTINGS E & RC**

Gordon, 01424 431 909,  
gordon@gsweet.fsnet.co.uk  
www.herc.uk.net

25 Annual Club Lunch  
28 TBA

**HORNDEAN & DARC**

Stuart, G0FYX, 023 9247 2846,  
www.hdarc.co.uk

6 Natter Night/Social Evening  
27 Annual Quiz Evening

**ITCHEN VALLEY ARC**

Quintin, M1ENU 023 8078799,  
qq2@soton.ac.uk

9 Modern Microscopy by David Johnson  
23 Members' Evening

**MID-SUSSEX ARS**

Sue, G6YPY, 01273 845 103,  
sue@figgerit.co.uk

2 Meet the Committee and Round Table  
Evening

**SOUTHDOWN ARS**

John, G3DQY, 01424 424 319,  
vaughdqy@aol.com

5 AGM at Chaseley  
7 Operating at Hailsham

**SWINDON & DARC**

Den, M0ACM, 07810 317750,  
www.sdarc.net

8 Natter Night  
15 Contesting in France at TMOHQ by Ian,  
G3BYB  
22 Natter Night  
29 Talk

**WORTHING & DARC**

Roy, G4GPX, 01903 753 893

7 GX3WOR OTA and Discussions  
14 Surplus Sale  
21 Working Aurora on a Shoe String by  
Jonathan, G4RGV  
28 GX3WOR OTA and Discussions

**11 SOUTH WEST  
& CHANNEL ISLANDS**

REGIONAL REP: PAM HELLIWELL,  
G7SME, G7SME@RSGB.ORG.UK

**EXMOUTH ARC**

Mike, G1GZG, 01395 274172

7 Talk by Tony, M0THJ  
21 Auction and Junk Sale

**JERSEY ARS**

Phil, MJ0JER, gj3dvc@gj3dvc.org.je

16 Echolink Tips and Hints Evening  
30 Quarterly Members Meeting (and  
GB3GJ Repeater Group)

**SALTASH & DARC**

Brian, MOBHG, 01752 844 321

9 Inaugural Meeting at the new venue:  
The Burraton Community Centre,  
Saltash. New & Prospective Members  
Welcome.

**SOUTH BRISTOL ARC**

Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282

7 Understanding Circuit Diagrams by  
Mat, G7FBD  
14 Display of Club Archives by Muriel,  
G4YZR

21 PSK & Digital Voice Presentation by  
Mark, 2WORMR

28 OTA

**TAUNTON & DARC**

William, G3WNI, 01823 666 234,  
g3wni@btinternet.com

7 Review of the 2008 HF Convention by  
Peter, G0EYR

14 Operating Club Station & Morse Class.  
21 Quiz

28 OTA and Morse Class

**THORNBURY & SOUTH****LOUCESTERSHIRE ARC**

Tony, G0WMB, 01454 417048,  
tonytsgarc@sky.com

7 Slideshow - Italian Lakes by Alan,  
G8AZT

14 On the Air Night

21 Video Night

28 On the Air Night

**TORBAY ARS**

Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk

2 New Year's Operating Night

9 Natter Night

16 Operating Night

23 Natter Night

30 Annual Construction Cup

**TROWBRIDGE & DARC**

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698

7 Committee meeting & aerial planning  
session

21 AGM 8pm

**YEOVIL ARC**

Gary, 2E0BFJ, g.swain@tesco.net

1 No Meeting

8 Photo Gallery, MOWOB

15 Forgotten Aerials by G3MYM

22 Transistor Basics by G6LLP

29 Committee Meeting & SOTA

**12 EAST & EAST ANGLIA**

REGIONAL REP: PHILLIP BROOKS,  
G4NZQ, G4NZQ@RSGB.ORG.UK

**BITTERN DX GROUP**

Keith, G0GFQ, 01263 588 506,  
info@bittern-dxers.org.uk,  
www.bittern-dxers.org.uk

29 Informal Evening

**BRAINTREE & DARS**

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947

5 Equipment Safety Testing, Operating  
Evening

19 Bench Top Test Jigs and Test Probes by  
Howard, G6LXK.

**CAMBRIDGE & DARC**

David Leary, G8JKV on 01223 355254

2 Informal Evening

16 Informal Evening

30 Informal Evening

**CHELMSFORD ARS**

Martyn, G1EFL, 01245 469 008

2 CQD, RMS Republic & Jack Binns by  
John, G8DET

23 Extended weekend operating from  
Sandford Mill commemorating Jack  
Binns, 1909

**DOVER RC**

Brian, G4SAU, g4sau@darco.org.uk

7 Operating and Natter Night

14 Gadget Night

21 Operating and Natter Night

28 Meet the Members

**GORLESTON ARS**

David, G3OEP, QTHR, 01493 662 323

31 Lunch time meeting at the Short Blue  
Public House

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARS**

Gerald, G8AKL, 01487 740794,  
www.hunts-hams.co.uk

8 Informal Evening

22 Data Modes by David, G8LRS

**KING'S LYNN ARC**

Ray, G3RSV, ral-g3rsv@supanet.com,  
www.klarc.org.uk

1 No Meeting

8 Committee Meeting and Club Night

15 Club Night and 2m Club Net

22 Club Night and 2m Club Net

29 Club Night and 2m Club Net

**NORFOLK ARC**

Mark Taylor, G0LGJ, 01362 691099,  
narc@g0lgj.co.uk

7 Informal / Construction / Workshop

14 How to do a Special Event Station with  
Rex, G0CLR

21 Visit from Paul Bigwood of Yaesu UK

28 Informal / Construction / Workshop /  
Bright Sparks

**13 EAST MIDLANDS**

REGIONAL REP: JIM STEVENSON,  
G0EJQ, G0EJQ@RSGB.ORG.UK

**EAGLE RG**

Terry, G0SWS, 01507 478590

13 VOIP by Charles, G0CMB &  
John, M3ERG

**LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC**

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319

6 Welcome to 2009 & Video Evening

13 'More on Thermionic Valves' Andrew,  
G7SEG

20 'Are you a Hoarder?' Ian, G8SNF

27 Practical Evening

**MELTON MOWBRAY ARS**

Geoff, G3STG, 01664 480 733,  
g3stg@btinternet.com

16 Quiz Evening with G6PGP

**SOUTH NORMANTON****ALFRETON & DARC**

A J Highton, 2E1GWO, 01773 783658

5 M3/M6 OTA Night

12 Practical Soldering with Mike and Russ

19 Junk Sale

26 Video Night

**SOUTH NOTTS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Terry, MORIA, www.radioclubs.net/snarc

7 Simple Maths for Radio

14 Annual General Meeting (members only)

21 Advanced Course: Scientific Calculator

28 Advanced Course: Licence Conditions

**WELLAND VALLEY****AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

Simon G8PAN, 07977 266643 e-mail  
swd@phasor-design.uk.com,  
www.wvrs.com

19 Talk by Max Corney

**HELPLINES****IMPORTANT NOTICE**

RESPONDENTS TO ITEMS IN THE 'HELPLINES' COLUMN ARE ADVISED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, BUT TO COPY THEM AND SEND THE COPIES. THIS IS TO PROTECT YOUR (OFTEN VALUABLE) PROPERTY IN THOSE VERY FEW INSTANCES WHERE THE ORIGINALS ARE NOT RETURNED.

*Members are reminded that Helplines is a free service that can be used to ask other members for help on amateur radio related matters.*

*Requests for assistance such as trying to track down unusual or obsolete parts or manuals are always welcome. Helplines does not accept advertisements of items for sale (see Members Ads, page 88) but will consider 'free to good home' type offers. Items for inclusion can be sent by post to RSGB HQ or preferably by e-mail to radcom@rsgb.org.uk.*

• Kathryn Stuart is trying to trace my husband's step uncle – a Richard Metcalfe, the younger son of the RSGB President 1960 (they would have been about 20 and late teens then). They would be 68 and about 65 now we think. I know it is a very long shot – but one of your members may have a memory going back 48 years or have known the family or even kept up a friendship with them. I'd like to thank Michelina and Harold from Region 4 for all their help so far. Please e-mail thestuarts@ntlworld.com.

• GM4ZNC is looking for a copy of the circuit diagram for a rather old BNOS Electronics Linear Amplifier, model LPM144-25-160, which is in need of some TLC. Any help would be appreciated and all costs will be reimbursed. GM4ZNC is QTHR or via e-mail GM4ZNC@aol.com

• Mr A E Sexton has a Yaesu FT757GXII complete with PSU, mic and other accessories which he would like to donate to a disabled operator. He notes that the radio has not been used for some time and may require an overhaul. Please contact him on 01279 416 278 or write to 122 Longfield, Harlow, Essex, CM16 6LB.

• Can anyone help Christine RS 202322 as to how she can add variable power output to an Albrecht 485S. All costs will be met. Please contact her at christinewalden@tiscali.co.uk

• Tom, G0CAJ/ZS1AFS has acquired a FT-101B and a FR-7700. Whilst they will both be mainly ornamental (in the house and not in the shack), he would like to be able to switch them on occasionally. He remembers an RSGB mod. board for the front end of the FT-101. Is there anyone who has the original article with drawing, or has a board and never installed it? He would be interested in either possibility. The FT-7700 is to be used as a house radio. Can anyone suggest a front end mod. that will improve the reception, or does anyone know of a pre-amp that could be used? E-mail: info@onboardpublications.co.za He returns to the UK regularly and has a UK mailing address. Costs incurred will be reimbursed.

• Darron Sanchez, WA5TCZ, is trying to locate a late 1930s 150mA meter for a replica Mk 3 diplomatic wireless set. If anyone can help, please contact him at wa5tcz01@cox.net.