

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.

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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 2008

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Website:
www.rsgb.org
WebPlus: Members-only website
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.

New GB4FUN
Arrives Shortly

The RSGB/RCF is delighted to report that the new GB4FUN Radio Communications demonstration module will arrive shortly. The new module that replaces the GB4FUN mobile classroom is a 27 foot display trailer with a side opening pod. The trailer is being manufactured by Marco Trailers of Newhaven. The new module will be a quantum leap from the previous vehicle that was restricted in the numbers of visitors it could cope with at any one time. The new trailer will be able to accommodate a class of around 30 children and or about 20 adults at a time. The module's first visit will be to the 59th Astronautical Congress in Glasgow from 29 September to 3 October. It will be at the HF Convention (HFC), over the weekend of the 10, 11 and 12 of October and at the Leicester Show, Donington Park on 24/25 October.

Managing Repeater
Abuse

Unfortunately, there has been a recent upsurge in repeater abuse in a number of areas of the UK.

Repeater keepers have been advised to take positive action such as closedown 'cooling off' periods and 'curfews' at times when abuse has been observed to be at its worst. The RSGB are in ongoing discussions with Ofcom on how offenders can be identified and dealt with.

If you require any advice or assistance, please contact your local RSGB ETCC area manager whose details can be found on www.etcc.rsgb.org.

Bletchley Park Latest

Although running behind schedule, discussions continue between the RSGB and the Bletchley Park Trust to open a new National Centre for Amateur Radio at Bletchley Park. The original plan was to refurbish an existing building to house the new centre. However, following a survey the building identified has been deemed to be beyond economical repair. The discussions now centre on finding a site to put a new building in place that fits in with the Bletchley Park Trust 10 year plan for the site. At the time of going to press, nothing has yet been decided but the Society is confident that a solution will be found shortly. It is hoped that the new centre will be up and running by early Summer 2009.

QSL Bureau Report
August 2008

Progress continues with card handling and improving the distribution system. In July, just over 78,000 cards were handled, with a similar number in August. This compares with just over 63,000 in June and around 50,000 cards per month for the first 3 months since the new arrangements came into effect.

There have been a number of sub-manager changes over the past month or so and these include the series GOKAA-KZZ, GOMAA-MZZ, G4KAA-G4KZZ and GM4. The sub-manager for the G7 series has recently resigned and a replacement is being sought. In the meantime the G7 series will be directly handled by the QSL bureau.

For more detailed information about these and current changes please check www.rsgb.org/membersonly/qslbureau/ and use the pull down menu at More about the QSL Bureau. At the time of writing the list was up to date to the 4th September 2008.

Thanks must go to the various RSGB Regional and Deputy Regional Managers who have assisted in sorting cards left over from retiring bureau sub-managers. An example is shown in the accompanying photograph!

The opportunity has also been taken to update the Bureau web pages on the Society site and these now present a more colourful and readable explanation and guidance of how the bureau operates.

Anyone having any specific questions regarding the QSL Bureau should contact: RSGB QSL Bureau, PO Box 5, Halifax HX1 9JR, England. Telephone: 01422 359362. E-mail: qsl@rsgb.org.uk. Between 21 and 28 September, the QSL Bureau will be on holiday and, although the cards will still be sorted, phone calls will be recorded because the 24 hour message line will still be recording your calls.

New DRM

Brian Shearer, M11HMV is the new DRM for Region 01, District 14 (Dunbartonshire, Argyll & Bute, Western Isles). His e-mail address is mmihmv@hamcall.co.uk and home telephone number is 01369 705333. Jim Stirling, GM3UWX, the retiring DRM, has been in the position since the inception of the Regional Scheme and the Society wishes to thank Jim for his commitment to the DRM position.



HF Matters for the IARU Region 1 Conference

Following the leader that Murray,

G6JYB, recently wrote about the VHF, UHF and microwave topics for the triennial IARU Region 1 Conference in November, it was suggested that I should highlight some of the key HF issues.

Most attending the conference probably will agree that deciding a band plan for the enlarged 40m band is the main HF priority. On other issues, much of the groundwork was completed at the Interim Region 1 Conference, held in February 2007, so some of the papers are carried forward for ratification by the full conference.

A new 40m band plan is needed for next year when the broadcasters finally relinquish 7.1 – 7.2MHz. Three proposals have been put forward for the conference: one from the Germans, one from the French and one from us. The issues are, first, how to carve up the additional 100kHz, ie what should be the proportion given to each of the main bandwidth subdivisions, should we have 'preferred contest segments' and, if so, should they be for both CW and SSB. Secondly, how do we shift some of the nominal frequencies for certain usages / special interest groups and maintain harmonisation with Regions 2 and 3.

At the last conference, in 2005, it was decided that the chapter on contests within the HF Manager's Handbook needed updating. The RSGB put forward a revised chapter at the Interim Conference, which is now due for ratification in November. Apart from bringing much of the detail up-to-date, for example dropping items such as paper logs, etc, it puts more emphasis on contest organisers to improve and clarify how their contests will fit with non-contest activity. A new proposal that we have written takes this theme a little further by suggesting that contest organisers do more to manage the adherence to the frequency plan that is specified for use in their contest.

The focus on HF contesting has brought some additional topics to the fore. Perhaps, one of the most interesting is the Swiss proposal for a European DX Contest. This is aimed at harmonising a number of existing contests. Whilst this might have the benefit of reducing the number of weekend contests, it is not clear how it is proposed that any void created would not immediately fill with new contests. Of the other papers, possibly the Romanian proposal for rule changes for the IARU contest will produce the most fun, as early indications suggests it might disadvantage some countries and favour others! Colin, G3PSM, who chairs the

Region 1 HF committee will have a difficult time, as apart from the obvious conflict of interests some will see papers of this sort to be outside the remit of the conference.

We have been successful since the last conference in getting the matter of deliberate QRM more firmly onto the agenda. Since the Interim Conference, pressure from both the RSGB and the Belgian society UBA for better education and training material has been met with endorsement of an HF Operating Guide produced by Mark, ON4WW and John, ON4UN, by the IARU, see links below. Along with our own Operating Guide by Don, G3XTT [1], it is excellent and I would commend it to you. Our plan for this conference is to extend that success with some more hands-on action, as our view all along is that whilst improving education and training is important it is not likely to be sufficient.

I would encourage all members to take time to look at the papers, for example a French proposal to legitimise AM activity on 80m (it is not actually permitted within the IARU Band Plan), South Africa's renewed attempts to get SSB allowed on 10MHz and our own proposals about the HF noise floor and for revising the 136kHz band plan. All the papers will be formally discussed at the Spectrum Forum meeting on 20 September and apart from posting your views on the C4 discussion forum, see links below, you could lobby via groups such as AMSAT-UK, BARTG, BATC, CDXC, FOC, G-QRP or RAYNET who are members of the Spectrum Forum. There will also be a chance at the HF Convention to discuss the issues, as the session that I will be running called 'HF Forum' will focus on the conference papers.

John, G3WKL
HF Manager

WEBSEARCH

IARU Region 1 Papers:

www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/

IARU_R1_Conference_2008/index.php

"Let's make DXing enjoyable again, please":

www.on4ww.be/op.html

UK C4 Discussion Forum:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukc4discussion>

REFERENCES

[1] RSGB Radio Amateur Operating Manual – 6th Edition, Don Field, G3XTT



Do you want to circle the world?

That is a dream for most people, but in reality very few of us achieve it. Second best I guess, would be in a position to be able to influence and achieve the activation of some of the remotest islands on the planet as part of the RSGB's Islands on the Air Programme (IOTA). IOTA is probably the most exciting awards programme in Amateur Radio. Enjoying generous sponsorship from ICOM, the IOTA programme has as its participants some of the keenest and most adventurous Amateur Radio operators in the world.

We currently have a vacancy for a new **IOTA Committee Chairman** and we are looking for a dynamic, energetic leader to take on this role and to drive the programme forward to new heights.

If you feel you have what it takes to make the programme a world beater, then in the first instance contact RSGB General Manager by Email on GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk

 IOTA is proudly sponsored by 

Railways on the Air

Registrations for this event on 27 and 28 September are progressing well. For details of how to register, please see August's RadCom. Registrations so far include:

Eden Valley Railway, GB2EVR
Ribble Steam Railway, GB5RSR
Kirkby Stephen East, MXORXY
Tomoulin FNQ Australia, VK4GHL
Westlancs Railway, GB4WLR
Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway, GB6PDR
Crewe Heritage Centre, GB4CHC
The Helston Restoration Project, GBOHBL
The Keith & Dufftown Railway, GM3TKV/P
Leadhills and Wanlockhead Railway, GB0LWR
Stephenson Railway Museum, GB4SRM
Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, GB2STI
Lincolnshire Wolds Railway, GB2LWR
Brusselton Incline Engine House, S&D Railway, G1DFN
FIRAC, SP9JPA
Welsh Highland Railway, GBOWHR
Gloucester & Warwickshire Railway, GBOGWR

Wireless Times

After delighting audiences at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Manchester Comedy Festival, The Wireless Times outside broadcast crew are visiting Sheffield Amateur Radio Club on 6 October. Wireless Times is a recreation of an outside broadcast back to the main studio of a major radio station in 1930s Britain. Reeling from one disaster to another, the cast often need the help of the audience to create the sound effects for the various 'spots' being broadcast.

Sheffield ARC meet at the Sheffield Transport Club, Greenhill Main Road, Sheffield S8 7RH at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Amateur Radio Firsts



John, 9M6XRO (also GM300K) was in Mozambique as C91XO on DXpedition in July and reports the first ever 160m Top Band QSO between C9 – JA. The QSO was made by John, C91XO and Shige, JH2FXK. Shige is the Editor of DX Magazine 'Five Nine'.

Trygvi, OY4TN made the first ever EME QSO from OY – JA. The QSO was made to JR3REX on 2 August. Trygvi was just using 300W and 2 x 9 element Yagis.

Golden Jubilee

2008 is RAOTA's Golden Jubilee year and the celebrations continue to the end of the year. GB500T has been on the air from members' QTHs around the country and will continue to appear on the air through to the end of 2008. Its schedule is at www.raota.org. The Leicester Show is always a big event in the RAOTA calendar. Not only will you see RAOTA's largest rally stand but this is also when RAOTA members gather together for the AGM. This year RAOTA will also be holding a celebratory evening meal with several guest speakers lined up. The Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association aims to keep alive the traditions and spirit of amateur radio. Membership is open to anyone interested in these aims.

Beginners Satellite Session



Dave Johnson, G4DPZ of AMSAT-UK and the RSGB Amateur Radio Manager, Carlos Eavis, GOAKI will be presenting Amateur Satellite Operation for Beginners as part of the lecture stream at the Leicester Amateur Radio Show in Donington Park on Saturday 25 October at 1200.

They will explain how to get started in the fascinating world of amateur radio satellite communications. With some satellites you can communicate using little more than a standard dual-band FM hand-held, others use SSB or CW and permit intercontinental DX communications using the VHF/UHF bands. Most of the astronauts onboard the International Space Station are licensed radio amateurs and operate 2m FM when off duty. There is a real thrill in talking direct to an astronaut in space.

In addition to the presentation, there will also be practical demonstrations of satellite operations throughout the day as orbit passes permit.

Stolen Badges

During the last night of the Jamboree in Ireland, a radio scouting and JOTA badges collection was stolen from Jochen, DK8ZM. There are about 300 rare badges. For further details, check out the website www.radio-scouting.de/badges.

Radio Get-together



Jim, MOJHW, grabbing a quick cup of tea!

Twice every year, Jim, MOJHW and his family organise a get-together of radio amateurs and friends to promote

amateur radio. The venue is a field behind the village hall in Harlaxton, Lincolnshire. They put up about 3 or 4 tents and gazebos and have a couple of radio stations up and running. Jim starts a barbecue at about 3pm.

The latest gathering was on 23 August and there was a good gathering of radio amateurs and their families from all over the Region, including the RSGB Regional Representatives.

Icom Batteries

On 26 September, a new EU directive comes into force preventing the importation of Ni-Cd and some other batteries into Europe. Ni-Cd batteries for Icom radios will only be available from Icom UK until their UK stocks are exhausted. Alternative types of battery for current equipment has been available for some time, so there should be no problem in finding a substitute. For older equipment where Ni-Cd was the only type of battery available, replacements may not be available.

Care should be taken to ensure you have the appropriate charger for alternative battery technology that is used for your equipment.

Please dispose of your Ni-Cds safely. Most municipal recycling centres have facilities for the disposal of batteries and you may also be able to leave the defective batteries with your replacement supplier for disposal. Should you require any further advice please e-mail Icom at: info@icomuk.co.uk.

D-Star

Sheffield amateurs now have access to local D-Star repeaters on VHF Port C, using 145.7375MHz (-600kHz shift) and UHF Port B, on 439.7375MHz (-9.0MHz shift), as well as the D-Star network using local repeater GB7SF, located in Sheffield.

GB7SF has the latest G2 software installed, allowing access to other similarly equipped repeaters in the UK and around the world. More improvements to the system are planned.

The first overseas visitor on UHF, Connie, KBOZSG from Walnut Grove Missouri, was extremely pleased to work through GB7SF Port B on its inauguration day and will soon be the lucky recipient of a GB7SF polo shirt! Details at www.gb7sf.org.uk.

60 years of ATV

Ian Waters, G3KKD has been involved in ATV for 60 years and in his video he reflects on how ATV has changed – starting from callsigns that ended in /T and TV cameras that used Photicon tubes. This is very much a personal journey into one man and his hobby and covers a 60 year span. Check out the website and use the select drop down menu to watch the video, www.batc.tv/channel.php?ch=1.

GB1CODY

GB1CODY will be operating from the Aldershot Military Museum in Farnborough, Hampshire to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight in England on 16 October 1908, at Farnborough by S F Cody. The Farnborough & District ARS will be operating the station on a daily basis from 13 to 19 October: 0900 to 1200Z LSB on 7050kHz 1200 to 1600Z USB on 14250kHz Possibly 0900 to 1200 on 3.70MHz with extended hours on 16 October.

They will acknowledge all QSOs (via the RSGB QSL Bureau) with a special QSL Card. Details on the web at www.fdrs.org.uk.

GB2WCM

GB2WCM will be on the air in aid of the Mount Edgcombe Hospice in St. Austell, Cornwall from 1 October for 28 days. This is a solo operation by Dennis from his home in Mount Hawke, Cornwall and bands and times will vary subject to work. Dennis hopes to activate all bands from 80 metres up to 70cm. QSL via the bureau or direct to the PO Box (see qrz.com). SWL reports are most welcome and all QSLs will be replied to.

Palstar R30A

The Palstar R30A portable communications receiver is an update on the previous R30CC version. It covers 100kHz to 30MHz with a Collins mechanical filter, re-designed control board and new display module. The size of the front panel has been increased to allow the use of larger push buttons with a recessed tuning knob and the tuning rate of the Up/Down buttons has been changed from 500kHz per step to 100kHz per step.

Two Collins IF filters provide unmatched selectivity. The radio also features 100 programmable memories, variable rate tuning and switchable bandwidths in all modes. The R30A has a full 5 Watts of audio power to drive large external speakers. It is also equipped with a 10 AA cell internal battery pack that automatically connects to the radio when the external adapter plug is disconnected, allowing portable operation. The price remains at £499.

Available from UK importers Nevada on 02392 313090 or check out www.nevadaradio.co.uk.

Guides Radio



Sue, M5AFY and Ray, G4MRA, once more, talking into the ice cream not the mic!

It may have rained heavily between from 2 to 9 August but it didn't stop the Guides Radio Station GB4GIN (GB4 Guides in Northamptonshire) from setting up and getting on the air. On the Saturday, whilst setting up, there was torrential rain but they managed to erect a Cushcraft R8, a 20 metre delta loop, a 70cm Yagi and a 2 element beam. The aerials were put up with the assistance of Rob, M3GTG and Kara, M6MCR who has only just qualified. Completing the team of six were Natalie, M3NEC and John, M5TTT.

Guides at the camp came from countries stretching from Russia to New Zealand. The weeks aim was to teach the Guides and Brownies their name in Morse code and also in the phonetic alphabet, to explain how amateur radio works and to get all them all 'on the air' to send a message. On completion of all these tasks a certificate was issued.

During the week, hundreds of youngsters did the course including over 100 Brownies in a day. Thanks to Ray, G4MRA who manned the HF station and lined up amateurs prepared to receive the childrens' messages, the amateurs who volunteered their help and also the amateurs who took the time to receive messages the children sent. Personalised QSL cards are on their way!

Boys Brigade

The Boys' Brigade are looking for Clubs and ex Boys' Brigade members who hold an advanced licence to help them link up over the weekend of 3 to 5 October. This is to celebrate the organisation's 125 years of existence. Any station being organised will be able to apply for a GB125 callsign so long as the application is accompanied by a signed letter headed letter of support from the Battalion or company that the station is been put on for. Time is of the essence as there isn't much time left to apply for the callsign. The event is been run on the lines of the Scouts JOTA weekend. So far GB125BB Grimsby & District Battalion and GB125LB Leicester Battalion are just two confirmed stations but there are more to follow. If any club wishes to help, please can they contact their local Boys' Brigade. Details at <http://hosting.boys-brigade.org.uk/links.php>.

News in Brief

- As from 1 August, the QSL route for David, CE2EYN in Chile (ex-GW) is via M3ZYZ, details on QRZ.com.
- ML&S have been appointed as UK & Ireland distributor for the GeoSat 5 Blu APRS. This new SatNav has the facility to hook up to any Kenwood APRS transceivers. The Geosat 5 Blu comes with a Kenwood-ready cable and exclusive APRS bi-directional RS-232 APRS interface compatible with all current APRS ready Kenwood Radios, including the new TM-D710A/E.
- Waters & Stanton have now been appointed distributors for the Heil professional series of microphones. They recently supplied a professional recording studio with an entire set of Heil PR-40s and PR-30s for an extended jazz recording session where fidelity and ruggedness were prime requirements.
- Popular Communications Senior Editor Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, (ex-K2AES), passed away in Florida on 22 August at age 75. Tom was Senior Editor and founding Editor of Popular Communications magazine, a CQ publication.
- Dave Morgan from the Dave Morgan Jazz band is a licensed radio amateur, G3MEM. He passed his RAE in 1957 at the age of 17 although due to ill health Dave has not been on the air for the last 12 months, thankfully he is on the slow road to recovery and will be back on the air soon. For any one interested in jazz, there is a sample of David's music on YouTube.
- Ken Perfect, G3FIK recently passed away. He was a very important person in the modern development of amateur radio in the UK. In the late 1960s and early 70s, Ken travelled to Japan and America seeking the latest equipment. He introduced Yaesu, Sommerkamp, Swan and Atlas equipment ranges to his customers at the Alum Rock shop that he kept under the callsign of G3FIK. His service department received and repaired equipment from all over Europe with many satisfied customers.
- The rules and application material for the WAIP (Worked All Italian Provinces) HF Award are now available both in paper and electronic format. Those interested can contact Saverio, IK2RLS by e-mail at ik2rls@alice.it for the electronic forms, or Saverio Amore, IK2RLS, via DeGasperi 18, 20060 Vignate (MI), Italy for paper ones. For the paper versions, please to send a SASE with 3 Euros, or 3 IRC (new type) or 5 US\$ for mail expenses.
- On 3 and 4 October, Dutch radio operators will be transmitting in Morse on 20 and 40m from the original radio station of the seagoing museum tug boat 'Elbe'. There will be a special QSL card for this event – callsign PA08DWN.

Young Success



The Hilderstone Radio & Electronics Club have approached the challenge of encouraging youngsters into the hobby by actually going to the youngsters, instead of expecting them to come to the club! They are now based at Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate. The enthusiastic acting Head of Science there, John Hislop, G7OHO, already runs an after-school electronics club and they have assisted some of the youngsters with their Foundation course. They have found the students very enthusiastic and keen to learn and, in the process, the club has also had great fun! From September, meetings have been at the school and they hope to continue fostering the students' interest.

They have received a great deal of support from local amateurs but any further support, even from further afield, would be gratefully received, eg redundant equipment, etc. Ken, G3JIX has already donated an aerial mast that will greatly enhance the operational facilities at the school. Icom UK have also donated a D-Star transceiver.

75th Anniversary

The Thames Valley ARTS celebrates its 75th anniversary this autumn. Geoffrey Holland, G3GHS, who joined the Society in 1951, has researched society records and discovered that the first formal meeting was held on 4 October 1933 with G2NN as President. RSGB affiliation was in 1934 and by 1938 there were 50 members with a subscription of 3/6d.

Field days, including those on 56MHz were entered and annual dinners all took place. G8SM kept the records during WW2 and meetings resumed on 25 September 1946 at Carnarvon Castle Hotel, Hampton Court with 22 members by 1947. Subscriptions rose to 7/6d.

Some well-known callsigns have joined over the years including G6CL, General Secretary to the RSGB, G5LC who was President of the RSGB, G4CI who is still on the committee and G2NH, both of the Quartz Crystal Company. Horace Cullen, G5KH, gave the Cullen Cup that was awarded for the best score for NFD between TVARTS and Sutton and Cheam Radio Society. Well over 250 amateurs have been members during the last 75 years.

JOTA

GXOSCR will be operating on behalf of the Caterham 9th Guides and 9th Brownie Groups on Saturday 18 October, from the home of the Lewis family (G4APL, G7BSF, 2E1PAL & M3BYL). They hope to have other M3 licensed Caterham Guides do some of the operating. They will be active on LF/HF, VHF and Packet Radio TCP/IP World Wide Convers amprnet network channel 11 (gx0scr@gb7cip.ampr.org). BBS GXOSCR@GB7CIP.#32.GBR.EU. QSL cards preferred direct to G4APL or GOSCR, QTHR or via the Bureau.

Leasowe Lighthouse



For the Wirral & District ARC, 2008 proved an outstandingly successful year for the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend held on 16 and 17 August. Located at Leasowe, at the northern tip of the Wirral Peninsula, the event was run in conjunction with the Friends of Leasowe Lighthouse.

They operated an HF station on all bands, plus one on VHF, primarily FM, but with some SSB. The HF station utilised a Carolina Windom stretching from the top of the 101ft lighthouse, whilst a rotatable 17-element Tonna and vertical for VHF were mounted above the roof line of the lighthouse.

Some 600 contacts were made on HF, including many lighthouses and lightships, with the furthest distance being 4510 miles to Fortaleza in Brazil. The best DX was 3675 miles to Bear Island, far into the Arctic Circle. The longest distance 2m FM contact was with a station in Surrey, a distance of some 200 miles. A total of 170 VHF stations were in contact over the two days of operation.

The team was led by Geoff, G4WUA, supported by Simon, 2E0BDO, Steve, G7BBF (who provided the live webcams) and Jim, MOBAS along with many club members. The VHF station was operated primarily by Simon, 2E0VNB.

On the Sunday, the lighthouse was open to the public. Each tour, conducted by 'the Friends', stopped at the second floor (location of GB4LL). Eric, G6HWD gave a short explanation to the background of the event and the contribution of amateur radio to the community, together with a brief summary of the club station.

Congratulations

Mexborough and District ARS have had some exam success in recent days. On 1 August four out of five candidates in the class upgraded their Foundation licences to Intermediate. The unlucky candidate will be trying again. Then on 29 August, it was congratulations to Les, Paul, Chris, Adrian and Roy on passing their Foundation exam. Welcome to amateur radio!



News in Brief

- Whitton ARG in West London is a registered examination centre for all levels of licence and is offering courses for the Foundation and Intermediate levels. An Intermediate Course is starting on 5 November with the exam on 17 December. To apply, please telephone 0870 760 5082 or e-mail gOofn@msn.com.

- Cwmbran and District Amateur Radio Society is a new radio club located at the Community Centre, Ventnor Road, old Cwmbran, NP44 3JY. They are able to offer Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced licence courses and exams. Full disabled facilities are provided and they have a well stocked kitchen! They meet every Thursday between 7 and 9pm.

- After a long struggle, the Cambridgeshire Repeater Group's 70cm D-Star digital regenerative node (repeater), GB7PI, now has gateway access enabled. The repeater is located at Barkway, Hertfordshire and the group Technical Co-ordinator, Gavin Nesbitt, M1BFX, would welcome reports from both RF and gateway users. Reports should be e-mailed to technical@cambridgerepeaters.net.

- On 18 and 19 October, a team from Wakefield and District Radio Society will be operating from Britain's highest pub, the Tan Hill Inn, using the callsign GB1TAN. Further details can be obtained by contacting Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563 117 or by going to www.wdrs.org.uk.

Summer Camp 2008



The Braintree & District ARS held its four day summer camp on Gosfield Airfield, by kind permission of local land owners Peter & Cheryl Tutton. Set up took place on the Friday and by evening all was complete. There were two club tents, one for an HF station, the second for 2m and 70cm. Two towers held an HF 3-element beam and a full size G5RV and a 2m beam and a vertical antenna. This gave two full days for operating. Club members who lived in town, flats, or have small gardens had the opportunity to use beams and towers, something they could not do from their home QTH. It was a good chance for all members to come to chat and play radio in a nice relaxed situation. Some members even brought along their own tents and stayed overnight. Despite the torrential rain earlier in the day, all the equipment and tents were dismantled on the Monday, everyone having had a very enjoyable few days operating from a beautiful woodland location.

Rapid Progress



Although it was only re-established at the start of this year, the Bolton Wireless Club is now an RSGB Registered Examination Centre, and can already boast its first success. Paul 'Mac', M3VPM recently became the first candidate to sit his Intermediate tests within the Club and now holds the callsign 2E0VBQ. The picture shows Mac receiving his pass certificate from Club Chairman Derek, G1AEQ.

Chris, G4HYG is now registered as the lead instructor and the Club has already started a course to prepare four of its newest members for their Foundation exams in the autumn.

50th Anniversary



Left to right, Albert, G1KSC, Brian, G4JCH and George, G4EUF seen erecting the 6m beam aerial during the club field day event.

Loughborough and District ARC is 50 years old in 2008. A group of local radio amateurs had been meeting in various local public houses for many years in Loughborough and, whilst in the Corporation Hotel, Bill Blanchard and Mat Hawks had the notion to start a radio club. The landlord made an offer for them to use the hayloft above the old stable in the pub yard. There was just one problem though, no ladder to get up to it. At the time, some demolition work was being carried out in the town. So, not to be discouraged they obtained a staircase from a demolished house. This had to be manhandled on a push cart across town, what a sight! Since that time the club has met in a number of locations in Loughborough and, since the early 90s, meets in Shepshed.

The club had a get together of present and past members during June, which saw in excess of forty attending, including the clubs Honorary and a Founder Member Bill Blanchard, G3LHB. A special event callsign, GB50LA, was used on that day.

The callsign was used again for a club field day event at Greenhill Lodge Farm, near Coalville on 20 July. The club operated on 6m and various HF bands, making in excess of sixty contacts during the operating period. The site is close to the highest pub in Leicestershire and on the day it was all that members could do to keep the operating tent from blowing away!

30 years On the Air

The Wirral and District ARC are celebrating their 30th anniversary. Whilst a couple of senior members have gone 'silent key' over the last year, the overall membership is increasing, which is most pleasing to see. The Club meets twice monthly on a Wednesday at their HQ at the Irby Cricket Club on Wirral, for talks, presentations and practical evenings. The alternate Wednesdays are allocated to an informal gathering at various other local locations where lots of radio and technical topics are discussed.

They are currently commissioning a UHF D-Star repeater (GB7WP) to provide coverage of the Wirral and surrounding areas. www.wadarc.com.

Shack Sloth



Cambridgeshire Repeater Group member Daryl Burchell, GOANV, got bitten by the SOTA bug earlier this year. Being an avid CW enthusiast, he decided that was going to be his way of getting his Shack Sloth status. Starting from scratch on 6 March, Daryl began monitoring SOTAWatch and pounding the key – mainly on 20m and 40m CW. By August 17th, he had reached the 1000 point mark and, at the time of writing, has notched up an impressive 1107 points. Daryl is particularly delighted that a large number of his QSOs have been achieved whilst operating /P using a QRP rig and simple wire antennas.

Having become a Shack Sloth, Daryl has now tentatively started activating summits and has set his sights on becoming a Mountain Goat. Living in Cambridgeshire – which is hardly renowned for its hills – may mean this will probably take a little longer!

Field Day Weekend



On 5 and 6 July, the Macclesfield & District Radio Society participated in the VHF National Field Day, an annual radio contest run by the RSGB. This was the first full contest participation by Macclesfield's amateur radio club for many years and was the first experience of contesting for several of the more newly licensed members. Despite it being early July, the weather was miserable, including storm-like conditions overnight.

Contact was made with 103 stations across six nations - England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Belgium. Operation was entirely on the 2m band, and used three modes - SSB, FM and CW.

The operators involved were Allan, G0JNJ, Keith, G3VKF, Greg, 2E0RXX, Tom, M1EYP, Sean, MOGIA, Ray, M1REK, Roger, MOGMG, Liam, M3ZRY, Bob, M3UVM and Jimmy, M3EYP.

**1 Scotland South
& Western Isles**

Regional Rep: Gordon Hunter,
GM3ULP, gm3ulp@rsgb.org.uk

BORDER ARS

Ray, GMOCDV, 01573 228730
10 AGM

COCKENZIE & PORT SETON ARC

Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723
3 Normal Club Night
5 RSGB 21/28MHz contest
17 Video Night
24 CQWW SSB contest

PAISLEY (YMCA) ARC

Bill Anderson, 2MOBZZ,
015050 613633,
bill@3bis.co.uk
1 CITRAC NADICS/Traffic Scotland HQ
visit of H. Purdie
15 The Early Days – Pt 2 GM4FLX
29 The Role of the MN in WW 2
GM4GZQ

**2 Scotland North
& Northern Isles**

Regional Rep: Denny Morrison,
GM1BAN, gm1ban@rsgb.org.uk

ABERDEEN ARS

Lewis, GM4AJR, 01224 575 663,
www.aars.freereserve.co.uk
2 Junk Sale
9 Quiz
18 Video
23 Construction Night
30 On the Air

MORAY FIRTH ARS

Jim, MMOSMD, 01340 820 134
2 Natter night
11 Autumn junk sale 12 noon,
Scout hall Fochabers

3 North West

Regional Rep: Kath Wilson,
M1CNY, m1cny@rsgb.org.uk

BOLTON WIRELESS CLUB

info@boltonwireless.org.uk
27 Talk on portable aerials for the
MF bands

4 North East

Regional Rep: Harold Scrivens,
G0UGE, g0uge@rsgb.org.uk

DENBY DALE RC

Gerald, G3SDY, 01484 602905
1 Mini-rally and surplus sale

EAST CLEVELAND ARC

Alistair, G4OLK, 01642 475 671,
alistair.mackay@talk21.com
3 Radio magazines evening.
10 & 24 Night on the Air
17 Radio components catalogues
evening.
31 Technical forum

MEXBOROUGH & DARS

Sharon, M0BOH,
M0boh@aol.com
3 Building Antennas with Jimmy,
M1DAH

17 Quiz Night with Ron, GOTLA
17 HF Radio Night in Main Hall
24 Pie & Pea Supper

PONTEFRAC T DARS

07594 596 040, www.pdars.com
4 Intermediate Course on 4th, 11th,
18th, 25th
7 Chinese Whispers, Reg, G4KMW
14 Chinese Whispers, Reg, G4KMW
followed by Reflecting on standing
waves Chris, MOJRQ
21 & 28 Chinese Whispers, Reg,
G4KMW

SHEFFIELD ARC

www.sheffieldarc.org.uk
6 Talk by G7CGK on Enigma and
Random Acts Presents The Wireless
Times
13 Talk MOGAV on UHF/VHF
20 MOBIL talk on holiday pics
27 AGM

TYNEMOUTH RADIO CLUB

Tony, G8YFA, www.g0nwm.com
3 Morse BINGO + Winners Prizes
(GOSBN)
10 & 24 Operating Night and Morse
Classes
17 SSB Contesting CQWW – GONWM / P
(GOSBN)

5 West Midlands

Regional Rep:
Trevor Bailey, M0KMB,
m0kmb@trevorbailey.plus.com

COVENTRY ARS

John, G8SEQ, 02476 273 190
3 The Leicester Repeater System G4AFJ
10 Annual General Meeting
17 Visit to local radio station (Provisional)
24 Radio Workshop VHF/UHF Operating
6m, 4m, satellites
31 Video Night

GLOUCESTER AR & ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01452 548478, \daytime,
www.g4aym.org.uk
6 The Development of Man Pack Radios
by Mike Hazell and Richard Hankins.
13 & 27 Informal Evening
20 Operating Club Equipment

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ARS

Bernard, M1AUK, 01926 420 913
14 Technical Topics - Tips, hints and
wrinkles for the brow
28 Programme Planning for 2009

SANDWELL ARC

Dave, G4JSR, 0121 552 1820,
david.stocker@tesco.net
6 Natter Night
13 & 27 On the Air night
20 Talk by Martin, G2BXP about his year
as Mayor of Sandwell

STOURBRIDGE & DARS

John, M1EJG, 01562 700 513,
www.g6oi.org.uk
6 Social/On Air Night
13 & 27 Open Shack Night
20 Main Meeting

TAMWORTH ARS

Colin Marks, G4ZPJ, 01827 700 893,
colin.marks2@ntlworld.com
2 Natter Night
9 Fault Finding
16 On the Air
23 Video Evening

TELFORD & DARS

Mike, G3JKX, 01952 299 677,
mjtstreetg3jkk@blueyonder.co.uk
1 Open House/On the air/Committee
8 Hamfest debriefing/Brain-storm re
new Society project
15 Hints & Tips. Members talk about
their favourite ideas and methods
22 Engineity Museum project
29 Video with food!

WYTHALL RC

Chris, G0EYO, 07710 412 819
3 Intermediate Course on 3rd, 10th,
17th, 21st, 28th
7 Annual General Meeting, Board
Room, Wythall House 8.30pm
12 Lord Pettitt's Shooting Party
14 Committee Meeting

CONWY VALLEY ARC

Wynne, GW6PMC, 01745 855 068
1 Training and career of a Radio
Operator in the Royal Navy during the
60s and 70s by Paul Kennedy,
GW4DVQ

6 North Wales

Regional Rep:
Mark Harper, MW1MDH,
mw1mdh@rsgb.org.uk

WREXHAM ARS

Glyn MW0BNB www.qsl.net/wars/
7 On air night.
21 HF Antennas by GW3RME

7 South Wales

Regional Rep: Gareth Price,
GW3MPP, gw3mpp@rsgb.org.uk

CARMARTHEN ARS

Les, GW8PSJ, 01239 811 922
7 Normal club night and on air
21 Introduction to AMUs

NEWPORT ARS

Paul, GW7RIB, 01633 665 289
nars@gw4ezw.fsnet.co.uk
3 Demonstration of the use of Logger 32
by Steve Williams, GW4OGO

SWANSEA ARS

Roger, GW4HSH, 01792 404422
25 Bus trip to Leicester Rally, picking up
throughout South Wales

8 Northern Ireland

Regional Rep: Peter Lowrie,
M15JYK, m15jyk@rsgb.org.uk

No listings received this month

**9 London and
Thames Valley**

Regional Rep: Alison Johnston,
G8ROG, g8rog@rsgb.org.uk

AYLESBURY VALE RS

Roger, G3MEH, 01442 826 651,
roger@g3meh.com
8 Digital TV update by Nigel, G8AYM

BROMLEY & DARS

www.bdars.org, bdars@g0tlk.me.uk
5 Foundation course at Victory Social
Club, Kechill Gardens

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 October issue
it was 1 September), while for
GB2RS it's 10am on the Tuesday
for the week of broadcast.

COULSDON ATS

Andy, G8JAC, g8jac@btinternet.com
13 Sub-sea cables by Steve, G3WZK

CRYSTAL PALACE R & EC

Bob, G300U, 01737 552 170
3 Beekeeping by Peter Springall

EDGWARE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

John G3SJE, 0208 204 1034
1 & 3 Operating GX3ASR for the
Edgware Activity Period, rules at
g3sar.thersgb.net

HOME COUNTIES ATV CLUB

Dave, MOSAT, m0sat@gb3hv.com,
www.gb3hv.com
28 DVD authoring basics

NEWBURY & DARS

Richard, G3ZGC, 01635 46241,
richard.jolliffe@vodafone.com
22 Amateur Television with Rodney
Smallwood, G8DGR

READING & DARC

Pete, G8FRC, 01189 695 697
3 Foundation Licence Course on 3rd,
4th, 10th, 11th
9 Construction Contest hosted by
Robin Caine, G4IWS
23 EMC by Paul Knott

SHEFFORD & DARS

David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757
2 & 23 CQWW planning
9 Contacts I missed a talk by Ian,
G1JCC
16 Autumn Junk Sale
25 CQWW Event
30 CQWW Feedback

STEVENAGE & DARS

John McCutcheon, 01462 459254,
www.sadars.org
7 VHF Operating - 144MHz UK Activity
Contest.
14 Operating
21 Talk
25 CQWW SSB HF Contest Weekend
28 VHF Operating - 50MHz UK Activity
Contest.

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Ray, G4FFY, 020 8644 7589

6 Surplus sale

SUTTON & CHEAM RSJohn, G0BWW, 020 8644 9945,
info@scrs.org.uk16 The quest for a quiet radio
environment by John Cleeve, G3JVC**VERULAM RC**Ralph, G1BSZ, 01923 265572,
g1bsz@aol.com21 Equipment Test Evening
(Repeat by request)**WEY VALLEY ARG**

www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk

3 The 3X5A Experience by
Roger Western, G3SXW
17 60 Working Vintage Wireless Sets by
Stan Casperd, G3XON**WIMBLEDON & DARS**Jim, MOC0N, 020 8874 7456,
www.gx3wim.org.uk10 WWII Mitsubishi Bomber Radio Talk
and demonstration on air by Len
and Dick
31 Annual General Meeting**10 South & South East**Regional Rep: Gavin Keegan,
G6D GK, g6d gk@rsgb.org.uk**BISHOP AUCKLAND RAC**Mark, G0GFG, 01388 745353,
www.barac.m0php.net/11 Tees Cottage Open Weekend
18 JOTA Weekend**BREDE STEAM ARS**

Steve, 0142 720815, m0nuc@aol.com

4 Operating from the bunker
18 Brede Scout Hut JOTA Weekend**FARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT****RADIO SOCIETY**

John, G3KND, g3knd.radio@talktalk.net

13 Operating GB1CODY at the Aldershot
Military Museum to celebrate the
100th anniversary of the UK's first
powered flight**HASTINGS E & RC**Gordon, 01424 431 909,
www.herc.uk.net18 Auction St Johns Church Hall Brittany
Road TN38 ORD Doors open 9am**HORNDEAN & DARC**Stuart, G0FYX, 023 9247 2846,
www.hdarc.co.uk7 Natter night/social evening
28 AGM**HORSHAM ARC**

www.harc.org.uk

2 Used equipment sale
16 Social – The Queens Head,
Barns Green**MID-SUSSEX ARS**Sue, G6YPY, 01273 845 103,
sue@figgerit.co.uk3 Working aurora with a shoe string by
Jon Ruff
10 Radio Night
17 AGM - Wine and Cheese
24 CCTV Part 2 by John XTW
31 Oscilloscope Basics by
Chris Saunders**SOUTHDOWN ARS**John, G3DQY, 01424 424 319,
vaughdqy@aol.com1 Operating at Hailsham
6 Talk by M0AEK on Scuba diving on
open water at Chaseley
19 Operating & grass cutting at Beachy
Head site**SWINDON & DARC**Den, M0ACM, 07810 317750,
www.sdarc.net2 & 9 Natter Night
16 Software Defined Radio
Developments – Jan, GOBBL
23 Natter Night**TROWBRIDGE & DARC**

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698, E/W

1 Talk by Hans Summers, GOUPL
15 Natter night**WORTHING & DARC**

Roy, G4GPX, 01903 753 893

1 Micro DXpeditioning by G3SXW
8 AGM
15 Hints and tips evening
22 History of the RSGB by G4EFO
29 GX3WOR on the air evening**11 South West
& Channel Islands**Regional Rep: Pam Helliwell,
G7SME, g7sme@rsgb.org.uk**APPLEDORE & DARC**Brian Jewell, M0BRB, 01237 473251,
brian.jewell@ic24.net

20 Echolink by Jeff Blight, G4SOF

CORNISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Ian, 01872 561 058

1 End-Fed Antennas by Graham, G3LAI
13 Computer section meeting. Using the
Internet for Family History by
Peter G3WKP**EXETER ARS**

Paul, 2EOEXR, pchesh-29@hotmail.co.uk

13 Propagation by G7NBU
27 Natter Night**EXMOUTH ARC**

Mike, G1GZG, 01395 274172

1 PIC/AVR part 2 by Dean, G0UIL
15 Operating & natter night**GUERNSEY ARS**

Phil, GUOSUP

31 Raynet. An update by Mike GU3WHN

HOLSWORTHY ARC

Ken, g7vja@yahoo.com

1 DF (Direction Finding) by Colin,
G4XLP**SOUTH BRISTOL ARC**

Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282

1 Technical Matters Forum
8 Autumn Table Top Sale
15 Club Events and Contest Planning
for 2009
22 Computer Clinic
29 OTA**TAUNTON & DARC**William, G3WNI, 01823 666 234,
g3wni@btinternet.com1 Annual General Meeting. 8pm
8 & 29 Operating Club station &
Morse Class.
15 Prepare for JOTA18 JOTA Weekend. Huish Wood
Scout Camp.

22 Aerials by Chris, G4DCH

THORBURY & SOUTH**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARC**

Tony, GOWMB, tonytsgarc@beeb.net

1 Woodhouse Campsite Shack Visit
8 & 22 On the Air Night
15 Video Night
29 Emergency Communications by
Mike, GOJMD**TORBAY ARS**

Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk

3 & 17 Operating Night
10 & 24 Natter Night
31 TARS Awards**WESTON-SUPER-MARE RS**

Kirstie, M3UWI, 01934 613 094

20 Chris Hampton from Raynet is visiting
to give a talk.**12 East and East Anglia**Regional Rep: Phillip Brooks,
G4NZQ, g4nzq@rsgb.org.uk**BRAINTREE & DARS**

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947 20

6 JOTA Planning
20 Possible talk by Mr & Mrs Jiggins or
Aerial matching by G3PEN**CAMBRIDGE & DARC**

David Leary, G8JKV on 01223 355254

4 Visit to HMS Belfast
10 Informal Evening
31 Radio Web Sites**CHELMSFORD ARS**

Marty, G1EFL, 01245 469 008

7 Annual General Meeting

COLCHESTER RADIO AMATEURSDavid Chambers, M1AMI, 01206
870989, www.g3co.ccom.co.uk19&20 Jamboree OTA, Great Porters
Farm, Fordham Heath**DOVER RC**

Brian, G4SAU, g4sau@darco.org.uk

1 & 15 Operating & Natter Night
22 Talk on the Enigma Machine by
Fred, G4GAN
29 Operating & Natter Night**FELIXSTOWE & DARS**

Paul, G4YQC, paul.whiting@bt.com

13 Fish & chip supper at The Victoria,
Felixstowe Ferry John, G1HSL
25 Foundation Course Weekend
Paul, G4YQC
27 Worked all FDARS on-air competition**GORLESTON ARS**

David, G3OEP, QTHR, 01493 662 323

25 Lunch time meeting at the Short Blue
Public House**HILDERSTONE R&EC**

Mike, G4MIX, g4mix@waitrose.com

10 Natter Night
24 Hazel Farrow on Underwater Digital
Photography**KING'S LYNN ARC**Ray, G3RSV, ral-g3rsv@supanet.com,
www.klarc.org.uk2 Committee Meeting & 2m club net
9 Talk by Ray Faultey, G3ASG, WW2
experiences with the Radio Security
Service16 Club Night & 2m club net
18 Special event station for JOTA
Weekend
23 & 30 Club night & 2m club net**LEISTON ARC**Dave, G4HUP, 01473 737 717,
g4hup@btinternet.com

7 Construction Evening

NORFOLK ARCMark Taylor, G0LGJ, 01362 691099,
narc@g0lgj.co.uk1 Fun Evening with Peter, G3ASQ and
Friends (Venue TBC)
8 Informal (Venue TBC)
10 RSGB HF Convention Trip Wyboston
Lakes Weekend
15 Table Top Sale (Venue TBC)
18 JOTA Weekend
22 Members Forum (Venue TBC)
29 Bright Sparks / Informal**PETERBOROUGH & DARC**David Howlett, MOTVG;
padarc@tesco.net22 Feeding the Antenna
Mike Grierson, G3TSO**SOUTH ESSEX ARS**southessex.ars@btinternet.com,
www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

8 Station on the Air

13 East MidlandsRegional Rep: Jim Stevenson,
G0EJQ, g0ejq@rsgb.org.uk**DERBY & DARS**

Martin, G3SZJ, 01332 556 875

7 Junk Sale
14 Committee Meeting
21 Video Show
28 Night on the Air**LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC**

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319

7 How I got into Amateur Radio,
Brian, G8BUB
14 AGM
21 Video evening, members' choice
28 Practical Evening**SOUTH NORMANTON ALFRETON****& DARC**

A J Higon, 2E1GW0, 01773 783658

6 Operating System Demonstration by
Russell Bradley, G0OKD
13 Winter Construction Project,
Mike Jeffs, M0RMJ
20 Junk Sale
27 Results of Photography Competition**WELLAND VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO****SOCIETY**Simon G8PAN, 07977 266643
www.wvars.com

20 RSGB talk by James, G0EJQ



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