

IARU Region 1 sets a challenging agenda



General view of the Final Plenary. Photo: G4JKS.

The International Amateur Radio Union is the 'umbrella' organisation for national radio societies around the world. It is organised into three Regions, reflecting the ITU Regional Structure. Each Region has a General Conference every three years. In 2014, it was the 23rd General Conference of IARU Region 1 that opened on Sunday 21 September with 43 Member Societies present in person and 17 Member Societies represented by proxies. Representatives of radio amateurs living in Europe, the Middle East and Africa met to agree and coordinate activity to safeguard and develop the future of amateur radio. IARU representatives from the Americas (Region 2), Asia-Pacific (Region 3) and the IARU International Secretariat, along with representatives from amateur radio societies in Kosovo and Tunisia, attended as observers.

Real progress was made at the meeting on a number of topics that are of key concern to UK radio amateurs. This came from getting people together over several days and facing them with the realities that we need to protect our spectrum as well as address the declining numbers of active radio amateurs. It was heartening to see the real progress made by Lisa Leenders, PA2LS, the Region 1 Youth Coordinator in this latter respect. Over the past three years Lisa has established Youth Coordinators in 21 national societies including the RSGB, held a Youth meeting at HamRadio, Friedrichshafen and organised the highly successful Youngsters on The Air (YOTA) event in the summer, which our own team will attest was a fantastic event. Lisa has organised the December YOTA month in which there will be 17 callsigns active in 14 countries, including Gx14YOTA, which will be on the air from 13 local clubs around the UK. Lisa has done some amazing PR for the new movement, including an active Facebook group and website www.ham-yota.com I have left her an open invitation to come and speak at next year's RSGB Convention.

Turning to the more mundane, the Conference reviewed the strategy of IARU

Region 1, its finances and membership. The reserves are in good shape, especially as they are kept in Swiss Francs! The issue to which Conference looked, and in which we took a lead, along with six other Member Societies elected to the in-conference Finance Committee, was to ensure that investment of the significant reserves would be focused on protecting, developing and

promoting amateur radio across the Region. For example, sizeable support was given to youth projects.

Region 1 operates through a number of permanent Committees, Working Groups and Coordinators. This includes EMC, Political Relations, Emergency Communications, Youth Programmes, ARDF, Development of Amateur Radio in developing countries (STARS Working Group), Spectrum development and protection via ITU, CEPT & the World Radiocommunication Conferences (External Relations Committee), Intruder Watch, Space and High Speed Telegraphy. The work and plans for the next three years of all of these groups and individuals was reviewed and, in a number of cases, updated.

Of particular importance to us was the amendment of the Terms of Reference for the EMC and Political Relations Committees that now provides a clear requirement for Region 1 to lobby at political, governmental and business levels on matters of EMC and related legislation and standards. The recognition of the importance of its standards work and the need to lobby saw the former EMC Working Group being elevated to the status of a permanent committee. This way, formal business on EMC matters can be transacted at the IARU Region 1 Interim Meetings (that are, as the title implies, approximately half-way between General Conferences). We are delighted to report that Hilary, G4JKS, an RSGB Past-President, is a member of the new Region 1 EMC Permanent Committee and took an active part in its discussions during the conference.

As usual there were a number of proposals in the key spectrum areas of LF/HF and VHF/UHF/microwave. Discussions extended over a range of areas including band planning, contests, remote working and innovative developments in the areas of satellites and digital TV. The position on future World Radiocommunication Conferences was also discussed. Conference considered and made recommendations in the areas of QSL

management, responsible QSLing, malicious QRM, youth initiatives, copyright and article reproduction and CW procedures. A full report of the proceedings of the final Plenary will be published in due course on the IARU Region 1 website (www.iaru-r1.org) and we plan to run a more detailed account of some of the main decisions in these areas in the December *RadCom*.

AWARDS. The Region 1 Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy was awarded to Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, for his meritorious service to amateur radio over many years. Gaston was a past-chairman of the Eurocom Working Group, which preceded the current Political Relations Committee, and then took on chairing the Region 1 Amateur Radio Space Exploration Working Group, known under the somewhat enigmatic shorthand ARSPEX.

At the final dinner, at the end of the conference, IARU Region 1 Medals for services to Region 1 were awarded to the retiring President, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, retiring Vice President, Hani Raad, OD5TE, the retiring Region 1 Treasurer, Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE, and retiring Executive Committee members Nikola Percin, 9A5W and Panayot Danev, LZ1US. Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU the retiring Chair of the VHF/UHF/SHF Committee and Martin Harrison, G3USF, Region 1 Beacon Coordinator also received the prestigious medal. Martin has been Region 1 Beacon Coordinator for a number of years and has done much to encourage development of the effectiveness of beacons in order to assist day-to-day band usage as well as propagation study.

NEW COMMITTEE. Conference elected a new Executive Committee to serve for the next three years and, as you will probably have heard via GB2RS or our website, Don Beattie, G3BJ was elected IARU Region 1 President. Whilst it is exciting to have an RSGB Past-President and Life Vice-President elected as IARU Region 1 President (and we wish to extend our personal congratulations to Don and Hilary), the real pleasure is in recognising the strength that he, the very capable members of the new Executive Committee, committee and working group chairs, and other individual appointments bring to Region 1. The challenges ahead in terms of WRC15, continuing pressure from EMC and other spectrum users, as well as addressing the declining interest in amateur radio within the Region are not to be underestimated. Colin, G3PSM needs recognition in that he stood aside from being re-elected to the Executive Committee to serve his final 3-year term so that Don could be elected President (a Member Society can only have one delegate on the Executive Committee); Conference saw this



Final Plenary, left to right G3BJ, G3WKL, G6JYB, G4SWX, G3VZV and G4JKS. Photo: G4JKS.

as a magnanimous move and re-elected him Chair of the important External Relations Committee, where he can continue his



Don, G3BJ & John, G3WKL awaiting the start of a committee meeting. Photo: G4JKS.

excellent work supporting the core programmes such as the interfaces with ITU, CEPT and WRC15.

Along with Don I am pleased to say that Faisal Alajmi, 9K2RR was elected Vice-President unopposed. The Secretary remains as Dennis Green, ZS4BS, and the new Treasurer is Eva Thiemann, HB9FPM. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Ranko Boca, 4O3A, Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE, Dave Court, EI3IO, Ivan Stauning, OZ7IS, and Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO.

The RSGB continues to play a role in the Working Groups and Committees, and the following were elected at the Conference: Emergency Communications Coordinator: Greg Mossop, GODUB, External Relations Committee Chair: Colin Thomas, G3PSM, Region 1 Amateur Radio Observation Service Coordinator: Mark Jones, GOMGX, HF Beacon Coordinator: Martin Harrison, G3USF, and Satellite Coordinator: Graham Shirville, G3VZV.

The main RSGB delegation comprised Murray Niman, G6JYB, Microwave Manager

and Spectrum Forum Chair, John Regnault, G4SWX, VHF Manager and I. The Society also supported Don Beattie, G3BJ's attendance as he needed to listen to views and discuss his ideas for the future work of Region 1 with other Member Societies. We were extremely grateful too for the support within the conference from Hilary Claytonsmith, G4JKS and Graham Shirville, G3VZV who attended at their own expense. With many parallel committee or working group sessions we were able to provide good coverage of all meetings. Greg Mossop, GODUP attended as Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator and, finally, I should acknowledge the work of Ian Greenshields, G4FSU who was kept busy most of the conference as Secretary to the Region 1 HF Committee.

One of the final parts of the conference is the location for the next conference. After a spirited presentation by IRTS to promote Dublin, and a bid by the Serbian national society, the decision was taken to hold the 2017 IARU Region 1 General Conference in Wildbad Kreuth, near Munich.

John Gould, G3WKL
RSGB President

Special Event Promotion Working Group

In support of the RSGB's desire to identify how best to promote amateur radio to recruit newcomers to the hobby, a working group is being set up to identify best practice when running special events open to members of the public. The focal point of this group is a Yahoo discussion forum where members are encouraged to share their experiences and approaches to organising and running special events with the aim of developing guides, resources, recommendations and a set of 'best practices' for all UK Clubs to share.

This working group needs your support and all UK Clubs and Societies are encouraged to participate to share their approaches to organising public events, what works well and what doesn't work so well. RSGB and Affiliated Club Members are welcome to join the Yahoo Group 'RSGB_Inspire' (https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/rsgb_inspire/info) to take part in the discussion. For more information please see page 8 of the October issue of *RadCom*.

Exam Question Writing Workshop

Have you ever thought that radio exam questions could be better written? Would you like to help strengthen the RCF exam question bank? The RSGB Training & Education Committee is committed to helping the RCF Exam Committee build and improve the exam question bank. Last year it organised a question writing workshop in Sheffield and a number of gaps in the bank were filled. A number of attendees went on to write more questions.

The next workshop will take place in Bath on Saturday 6 December. The aim of the workshop is to enable issues to be discussed openly so that attendees gain confidence in writing new questions on their own. There will be a couple of short presentations on what makes a good question and some examples of things that can go wrong. Attendees will be asked to bring some draft questions with them and share them with the group for peer review. Having gained some practice it is hoped attendees will submit further questions afterwards. RSGB Book tokens are available for a number of accepted questions.

Attendance is free for RSGB Members. Anyone interested in attending should contact Steve Hartley, GOFUW via tec.chair@rsgb.org.uk



Some of those who attended the exam question workshop in Sheffield.

UK Amateur Licence Review comment deadline

All Members are reminded that the closing date for responses to the Ofcom consultation paper *Updating the Amateur Radio Licence* (35-page/264KB PDF) is 20 October 2014. It is vital that anyone with an opinion on the proposals takes the time to put their views in writing, either by filling in the online response form or by letter.

The RSGB has put together a brief commentary to help illustrate some of the more significant changes proposed and this should be read in conjunction with the consultation document.

See <http://rsgb.org/licencereview>

Club of the Year



Once again, we are indebted to Waters and Stanton for their generous sponsorship of this competition. This year, we will be judging entries in two categories: Clubs with fewer than 25 members and clubs with 25 or more members (during

2014) and there will be separate prizes for each category.

We will also give weight to entries that are supportive of young people. The judging criteria are as follows:

- **Membership age profile.** How successful has the club been in encouraging 'new blood' into membership, particularly younger people?
- **Training and advancement of members.** What initiatives has the club taken during the year to develop the skills and interests of their members? Additional credit will be given for initiatives that the club is undertaking for the first time and/or are 'out of the ordinary'.
- **Spectrum use.** How active is the club on the air and what new activities have been undertaken during the year.
- **Outreach and promotion.** What outreach activity has the club undertaken to promote amateur radio?
- **Success stories.** An opportunity for the club to report on any activity not covered above that they are proud of.

These criteria will be used by the Regional Team in judging the Regional entries and by the Board when determining the overall National winners.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Only one entry per RSGB affiliated club/group is allowed.
- Entries must be for club activities undertaken from 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014.
- All entries must be received no later than midnight 31 January 2015.
- All entries must be a maximum of 1000 words. The maximum amount of photos/pictures allowed is 6 per entry; however a club logo is allowed as an extra.
- All activities mentioned in an entry must be the work of the club and not done by individuals alone outside the club.
- All entries must have a declaration from 2 club officers (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer etc.) stating that the entry truly reflects the information provided and that all activities have been club activities, and not done as non-club members. No signatures are required.
- All entries must be in a standard electronic format - Postal entries are not allowed

Upon submission, all entries become copyright of the RSGB.

The regional judges have the right to enquire about the contents of any entry they receive and any entry containing false or misleading information may be disqualified. Please ensure that there is a contact person identified on the application to whom enquiries may be addressed.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Entries or part entries may be used for RSGB promotional purposes.
- The judge's decisions are final and no



Reading & District ARC won the National Club of the Year trophy for 2013 and were presented with their cheque at the AGM. Will it be your club next?

- correspondence will be entered into.
- The winning clubs from each of the 13 Regions will be automatically entered into the National final.
- Entries received after the closing date will not be judged.
- On entering the competition, you agree to these Conditions of Entry.

PROCESS.

All entries must be received by the Manager of the Region in which the club or group has its main premises by the due date.

In order to determine Regional Winners, entries will be judged and ranked by a Regional Manager from outside of the region to ensure impartiality.

The Board will determine the National winners using a published scoring system. The National winners will be announced at the RSGB AGM in 2015.

Islands on the Air

As previously reported in *RadCom*, the RSGB's Islands on the Air (IOTA) programme has just celebrated its 50th anniversary as a premier DX programme, with participants travelling from near and far to be part of the celebrations in Windsor. It was an appropriate moment for the Board to begin to take steps to ensure the sustainability of the programme over the next 50 years.

The Board and the IOTA team want to ensure that the programme is properly resourced in terms of manpower, IT (including online island credit akin to Logbook of The World), and better web accessibility for newcomers so that the programme can grow, as well as remaining relevant to old hands. Obviously database permanence, ensuring backwards-compatibility is very important. We are calling this vision 'New IOTA'. It will be characterised by a partnership approach, utilising the motivation, skills and enthusiasm we believe exists within the IOTA community to enable the programme to reach its full potential.

Over the next nine months, a group drawn from this international community will develop a plan that will consider management and governance, IT, data management and security, partnering options and any other matters relevant to IOTA's future.

The plan is for a devolved structure that captures the great enthusiasm and skills of IOTA participants and carries the successes of this amateur radio DXing and contest programme forward into the next fifty years and beyond



Searchable RadCom Archive

The RSGB has launched a new searchable *RadCom* archive. The archive initially contains 14 years of editions, searchable by author and keywords. Search results for editions since October 2013 also come with hyperlinks to our digital editions so you can read the article online. We will be putting more editions online every month.

The archive is available at www.rsgb.org/main/publications-archives/radcom/search-archive/

If you have any comments about this new service, please e-mail membership.services@rsgb.org.uk

For any technical issues, please use our online IT and Web Helpdesk at www.rsgb.org/helpdesk

New Membership Website Portal

The new Membership website portal is now operational. The new service offers Members a page where all RSGB online Membership services can be easily accessed from one point.

From your Membership Services portal you will be able to:

- Update your Membership details
- Renew your Membership
- Reset the password you use to log in
- Add or remove your Membership account roles and preferences
- Read the digital edition of *RadCom*, search the archive and browse back issues
- Download a Member's free admission voucher for Bletchley Park

In addition to these services, Members will also be able to browse news from their RSGB Region and find the contact details of their Regional team.

IMPORTANT CHANGES. Most RSGB Members will be able to login with their callsign and Membership number just as they did before, but now with the option of choosing a new password once they have logged in. However, there are some changes:

- You can now enter your username in either upper or lower case letters
- At login you can now have a password reminder e-mailed to you if you lose or forget your password
- Those logging in with RS numbers, ie RS123456, will experience a password reset on first login – the default password being so much like the user name is an obvious security risk – and a new password will be automatically created and e-mailed to you
- If you wish to renew your Membership you do not need to login to do so – even though

the option is there in your Membership Services portal – and you can do so via the RSGB Shop as before.

The Membership Services portal supersedes the section called 'MyRSGB'. A similar portal for affiliated clubs will be available from 1 November 2014.

FEEDBACK AND OPINIONS. We would like to know what you think of the new Membership Services portal. Please send feedback to membership.services@rsgb.org.uk Please note we do not intend to publish any contributions on the web or elsewhere.

TECHNICAL ISSUES. Any questions or problems concerning the Membership Services portal should be submitted through our online helpdesk system at www.rsgb.org/helpdesk.

QSL Matters

More Members than usual visited the QSL stand at the National Hamfest recently. Perhaps it was the display of classic radios, promoting the OQRS message? Feedback on the now-established Members Only and 'send-all-send-any' policy was most encouraging. It's clearly having an effect on QSL turnaround times, whilst giving assurance for many that no cards are waiting in envelopes – a pat on the back for our dedicated sub manager team.

Last month's column about helping us to save time to sort more cards also came in for much comment. One Member asked, "Why is it better to send more cards less often, in a single package?"

In a nutshell, it costs you less and makes sorting easier because we have fewer envelopes to open! The most cost effective way of sending cards for most Members is as follows:

- For light users, wait until you have about 35 cards and send using a Second Class, Large Letter stamp (73p).
- For moderate users, wait until you have 1kg of cards (about 300) and send using the Small Parcel service (£2.80p).
- Please remember to include your *RadCom* wrapper with every despatch.

SUB MANAGER UPDATES. Busy sub manager Ian Fugler, G4IY (currently handling five G4 groups) is consolidating letters B-C into his commitment in an enlarged group, now G4A-C.

Following our announcement last month that G3W-X manager Prof Colin Bayliss had passed away suddenly, Jim Peden, G3ZQQ has stepped in, enlarging his already sizable commitment to G3Y-Zs and RSGB Members with Special Prefix calls. He now covers G3W-Z.

G4S-G4U and M5 manager Steve Shenstone, M5BFL has moved to Kent – see the RSGB website for details before sending more collection envelopes. His e-mail address is unchanged.

M3 and M6 manager Roy Taylor, MORRV continues to experience difficulties in tracing Members with M3 callsigns. He currently has significant numbers of envelopes not displaying RSGB Membership numbers. Roy asks us to remind everyone, especially those upgrading to other calls, to keep their information current by using the new Membership Services Portal when you log onto the RSGB website (see above). Members should list not only their current call but also any previous or additional calls (such as, M3-6 or 2 Series). This can also be done by telephone to Bedford HQ – speak to the sales department.



AROS Co-ordinator

The Amateur Radio Observation Service (AROS) Coordinator runs our team of volunteer observers and liaises with Ofcom's Enforcement Team. The RSGB Board is pleased to announce that Mark Jones, GOMGX has been appointed to succeed Keith Bassett, G7NBU who is retiring. AROS works behind the scenes, largely independent of the rest of the RSGB, to assist radio amateurs and others by investigating reports of licence infringements and poor operating, which might bring the hobby into disrepute.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following Members whom our records show as having reached 60 or 50 years' continuous Membership of the RSGB.

60 years

Mr P Cohen	GM3LKY
Mr A B Woolford	G3SNN

50 years

Mr L L N Cobb	G3UI
Mr D M Gresswell	G3PWY
Mr D W Eaton	G3TAO
Mr P S Duncan	G3TKA
Mr A M Fentham	G3TON
Mr R A W Stevens	G3TVI
Mr D W Fill	G3UBB
Mr J P H Burden	G3UBX
Mr D J Aldridge	G3VGR
Mr I F Peterkin	G3WDU
Mr P G Brooker	G3WXC
Mr A Strong	G3WXI
Mr J K Gibson	G3WYN
Mr P A Ellis	G3YAS
Mr P J Marcham	G3YXZ
Mr A K Sinclair	GD3TNS
Guernsey ARS	GU3HFN
Mr P Herman-Cranmer	G4TFP
Mr P C Shepherd	GOKXX

Helping the BBC

Many radio clubs and individual radio amateurs stepped up when volunteers were sought for the BBC 'WW1 At Home' exhibitions that were held all around the UK. The RSGB received a thank you on behalf of all those who volunteered and ran very impressive displays showing the public all about communications of that period.

"The BBC has had incredible support from local

amateur radio clubs wherever we've been and we couldn't have run our events without them. They all worked extremely hard at the events on our behalf as the activity has proved so popular with the public. It's been a pleasure working with them and we'd like to thank both them and the Regional Managers who got involved" said Ceri Saunders, Researcher, BBC Learning.



The RSGB would like to welcome to the RSGB family the following new Members who have joined their voice to ours and are helping to keep the RSGB strong.

Mr A Mason	RS300220	Mrs A Ross	RS300544	Mr A Spurr	RS300730	Mr N Thomison	W9IGY
Mr R Greenwood	RS300221	Mr N Bristow	RS300559	Botkyrka R A	SK0HB	Dr R Rikoski	W9ZD
Mr P Hewitt	RS300223	Mr J Sydney	RS300569	Mr N Rashleigh	VE3LC	Mr D Shaw	WA0EMX
Mr G Davies	RS300229	Mr J Drew	RS300574	Mr B Allison	VE3NJK	Mr M Cohen	WA2ARS
Mr S Coombes	RS300249	Mr D Shaw	RS300577	Mr D Rajnacith	VE30OI	Mr J Garland	WA5FLT
Mr B Beard	RS300255	Mr N Jessop	RS300579	Mr B Rawlings	VE3QN	Mr C W Dole	WBONPR
Mr A Young	RS300257	Mr J Wilkinson	RS300588	Mr I MacFarquhar	VE9IM	Mr M Cohen	WA2ARS
Mr C Wilson	RS300259	Dr B Wilkinson	RS300589	Mr R Kowalski	VE9UHF	Mr J Garland	WA5FLT
Mr N C Jones	RS300300	Ms C McBride	RS300628	Mr S Sullivan	VK2OAA	Mr C W Dole	WBONPR
Mr R Hampson	RS300309	Ms S Gray	RS300629	Mr G Head	VK6FSGH	Dr G Lemaster	WB5OYP
Mr R Williams	RS300328	Mr D Gray	RS300630	Mr J Krout	WOYQG	Mr L Larks	WB6QZK
Mr K Missenden	RS300336	Mr A Mohammed	RS300677	Mr M Gruber	W1MG	Mr W Moore	WD4HXG
Mrs S Johnson	RS300404	Essex Ham ART	RS300694	Mr H Hazelrigg	W4PH	Mr T Wilheit	WX4TW
Mr R Heslop	RS300409	Mr M James	RS300697	Mr J Ross	W5XTL	Mr D Radford	ZS5DR
Mr L Burton	RS300439	Mr S Sabo	RS300724	Mr D Jenkins	W6JWL		

The RSGB would like to welcome back the following Members who have rejoined the Society.

Mr P J Halpin	MOEEH	Mr K Wood	M3AXZ	Mr R Griffiths	M6RGI	Waterlooville ARC	MX0SSP
Dr M Roe	MOGXM	Mr P Weaver	M3GDK	Mr P Briggs	M6XRB	Mr W D Coleman	N2BC
Mr D H Prior	MOHPT	Mr J Dove	M3XDO	Mr P Warriner	MI6PWR	Mr G Danylchenko	VE3YTZ
Mr S Slarke	MOMUF	Mr A A Williams	M3XIH	Mr D W Gonella	MM1BTJ	Mr J Knoblock	W3RFC
Mr D W le Grove	MOTIN	Mr A Yates	M6BGK	Mr L Hayward	MW0SEC	Mr J Luhn	W5A00
Mr G A Stephens	M1GRA	Mr J Grove	M6BXG	Mr E Dobson	MW3WCS	Mr M J Dusa	W9MJD

News

Para-Sets at the NRC

On 11 September the RSGB's National Radio Centre (NRC) hosted an attempt to recreate the some of the clandestine communications of World War II. The Milton Keynes ARS Para-Set group, in co-operation with 'Les radios de la Résistance' (TM3RCA) attempted to recreate a WWII Para-Set net between Dijon, France and the Bletchley Park museum (GB2BP).

Sadly the gods of the aether were not smiling and communications were dogged by QRM and QSB between Bletchley Park and Dijon. However, signals were briefly copied by the main station at the NRC, GB3RS, using its FTdx-5000 transceiver and a Stepp-IR antenna.

The event was organised in France by Philippe Givet, F5IYJ and *Les radios de la Résistance* and supported by the MKARS Para-Set group in the UK by John Pether, G4JGG, Andy Cygan, G7JQL and Peter Davies, MOPJD.



Philippe Givet, F5IYJ and, on the right, M. Rebsamen, Minister of Work, M. Millot, Mayor of Dijon and M. Delzant, Préfet de Région.

The Para-Set and HRO installed at the National Radio Centre.



Yaesu Competition



At the National Hamfest, Waters & Stanton drew the winner of the Yaesu competition they have been running since the Spring. Customers who bought Yaesu radios from W&S returned their warranty cards to go into competition to win a FTM-400DE dual band radio transceiver from W&S plus a Diamond X-50 dual band base station antenna, together worth more than £600.

The photo shows (l-r) Peter Waters, G3QJV with the Diamond antenna, Dean Croome (Yaesu) with the FTM-400DE, Jeff Stanton, G6XYU and Ailsa Turbett (Yaesu). The prize winner will be notified of his good fortune.

Contests, Anyone?

Capel Battery Contest Group (Maidstone YMCA ARS) is seeking new members to join them for next year's Field Day contests. You don't have to be a member of the Maidstone Club, as they will be affiliating Capel Battery Contest Group to the RSGB. Currently they enter VHF NFD, HF SSB and the 144MHz Trophy Contest. If enough CW operators come forward they have some parties interested in doing HF NFD and could provide support and a site. They have access to Capel Battery ,overlooking Folkestone and Littleswitzerland. No contest experience is required as they believe that 'we all had to start somewhere'. They say that they don't take things too seriously and if they end up last, so be it. Enjoying radio is more important.

IPARC Contest



The International Police Association Radio Club (IPARC) invites all radio amateurs of the world to take part in the IPARC Contest that takes place on 1 and 2 November. It's CW on the 1st from 0600 to 1000UTC and 1400 to 1800UTC, then SSB on the 2nd at the same times. Operation is on a number of bands and frequency ranges and no contest QSOs outside those frequencies count.

The exchange is signal report, serial number and

members of IPARC also exchange IPA with US members including their state.

Logs must be in by 31 December and full rules are available (in English) at www.iparc.de

Calling Marconi Enthusiasts

At the September Skills Night run by the Chelmsford ARS, Terry, G3VFC asked for help identifying a mystery component. It's apparently part of a 50 ohm dummy load power meter, and is stamped with Marconi.



If you can help Terry out with any information about this, please go to www.essexham.co.uk/mmo

ISS Poster

Radio amateur and astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZOUDF has put the final touches to the official crew poster for the International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 42. It is now available to download from the AMSAT-UK website (<http://amsat-uk.org/2014/09/30/iss-expedition-42-poster-released/>). The poster parodies the popular *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams and is generally thought to be the best ISS crew poster yet released.



5MHz News

The latest edition of *The 5MHz Newsletter* is now available for free download from <http://tinyurl.com/m9a9puy> or the RSGB 5MHz webpage. Edition No 11 features the latest 5MHz News, plus a Midsummer's Day on 5MHz and BeaconSpot looks at the new Swiss 5MHz Beacon.

Previous copies are also available for download from <http://tinyurl.com/p22gybh>

At a recent meeting with their regulator, ICASA, SARL – the South African Radio League – reached an agreement to exchange their 5MHz channel at 5250kHz, which is used for propagation experiments, for the more common beacon channel of 5290kHz. On 4 October, ZS6KTS and the other stations in the South African 5MHz WSPR Cluster changed over frequency. Their other channel at 5260kHz remains in use as normal for general contacts

The Worldwide 5MHz Amateur Allocations chart can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/pjhd943>

Open Day

Blackmore Vale ARS in Shaftesbury is holding an Open Day on Saturday 8 November at their Charlton club site from 10am to 4pm and inviting fellow amateurs, the general public and schools from the local area. The aim of the Open Day is for club members to demonstrate as many aspects of amateur radio as possible; they have also called for help on activities they do not cater for from some of the other local clubs. They have been in contact with Michael, GOPOT in regard to the RSGB Inspire initiative ,and he will be attending.

Bring a book, buy a book

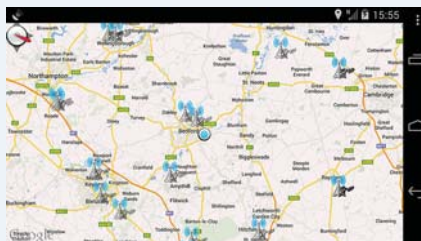
At the G-QRP Convention in Ripponden on 25 October, the traditional Bring a Book Buy a Book stall will be operating in aid of Children in Need. Last year over £600 was donated to the appeal. The book exchange has provided some fantastic opportunities to share books around and obtain rare and treasured books from others at very reasonable cost, whilst supporting a very worthy cause. Richard, G4UGF says that he has empty tables ready to accept books from those turning out their book shelves. If you are not attending the convention then Richard is QTHR.

RFinder special offer

RFinder is the official Repeater Directory App of RSGB. To celebrate the partnership, RFinder is offering UK customers a six month bonus for new purchases and renewals of RFinder until the end of October.

RFinder is the World Wide Repeater Directory, with 170+ countries and 50,000+ repeaters world wide, available on Android and Apple devices. It is accessible from web.rfinder.net, routes.rfinder.net, RT Systems, CHIRP, RadioBuddy, GPS POI's for your favourite GPS unit and two more upcoming third party applications on Windows and OS X.

If you are an existing user, you can renew and get your extra 6 months. Don't forget to put your current e-mail address in before you click the Subscribe button.



Please send news reports to radcom@rsgb.org.uk. To get future events listed here and put on GB2RS, e-mail details of your meetings as early as possible to radcom@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: Fraser Road Radio Society, Region 9, Graham, GONBI, 01234 832 700, 29 October, On the Air. It's that simple. Please note that we don't normally print 'closed', 'TBA' or 'every Tuesday'-type submissions. The deadline for the December edition is 23 October and for the January 2015 issue it's 20 November. For GB2RS, the deadline is 10am on the Thursday for the week of broadcast.

INTERNATIONAL

Pafos Radio Club, Cyprus,
Richard, 5B4AJG, 00 357 97 857 891,
5B4AJG@cyprusliving.org

NATIONAL

AMSAT-UK
<http://amsat-uk.org/>
Weekly net every Sunday 10am, 3.780MHz
Civil Service Amateur Radio Society,
Weekly net every Tuesday, 8pm, 3.763MHz

REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

REGIONAL MANAGER: JASON, O'NEILL, GM7VSB,
RM1@RSGB.ORG.UK

Ayr ARG
John, GM0EPO, aargsec2014@gmail.com
12 Linux basics for radio amateurs,
Tom, GM4DOZ
26 FUNcube dongle, Bill, GM3PMB
Border ARS
Alex, GM8BDX, 01890 830 607
14 Club meeting
Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC
Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723
7 Club night
19 On-air activity night
21 Mobile phone networks,
Gavin, GM0GAV
Kilmarnock & Loudoun ARC
Graham, MM3GDC,
mm3gdc@btinternet.com
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sunday club 9am-1pm
4, 18 Construction/education night
6, 13, 20, 27 Construction
11, 25 Club night
Lothians RS
Alan, GM3PSP, 0131 623 4580
12 The GPO Tower – its role from the
1960s to 1980s, Mike, MM0MLB
26 Dipoles to Hexbeams in African
locations, Nick, G3RWF
Stirling & DARS
John McGowan, gm0fsv@gm6nx.com
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10.30am till late
afternoon for construction, RCE
training, projects as well as operating
West of Scotland (Glasgow) ARS
info@wosars.org.uk
5, 12, 19, 26 Construction night & licence
preparation
7, 14, 21, 28 Club night with talks,
quiz & raffle

REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

REGIONAL MANAGER: BERNIE MACINTOSH,
GM4WZG, RM2@RSGB.ORG.UK

Aberdeen ARS
Fred, MM0DL, 01975 651 365
6 Junk Sale
13 Why not try Worked All Britain?,
Fred, GM3ALZ
20 Ham radio team quiz
27 Construction & on the air

REGION 3: NORTH WEST

REGIONAL MANAGER: KATH WILSON, M1CNY,
RM3@RSGB.ORG.UK

Bolton Wireless Club
boltonwireless@gmail.com
10 Antarctica to Sahara – A life on HF,
Ron, G3SVW
24 Show & Tell – 5 minute presentations
Chorley & DARS
Mark, G1PIE, procter_family@sky.com
26 MX0ISN, Lancashire Day
Mid-Cheshire ARS
Peter, G8HAV, 01606 553 401
5 Fireworks night
12 Junk sale
19 Committee meeting
26 Digital communications talk
South Manchester R&CC
Ron, G3SVW, 01619 693 999
6 What have you worked this month?,
Club members
12, 19, 26 Intermediate classes
13, 20 Club night
24 Technical forum
27 *HR Deluxe* as a user, Peter, GOBHP
Thornton Cleveleys ARS
John, G4FRK, 01253 862 810
3 Natter night & on the air
10 Do you need scaffolding?, Phil, 2E0UJ
17 Construction
24 The Lizard, Dave, G8KBH
Wirral & DARC
Simon, G6XHF, 0151 601 3269
4 UK Activity Contest 2m
5 Social, Hooton Hotel
11 UK Activity Contest 70cm
12 The Arduino microprocessor, by Paul
and Dennis, G6YBC of Kanga Products
18 UK Activity Contest 23cm
19 Social, The Ship
25 UK Activity Contest 6m
26 The impact of digital electronics on music,
Edward Peak

Furness ARS member Chris, MOKPW, was guest speaker at the Ulverston Ladies Club September meeting to do a talk and demonstration on An Introduction to Amateur Radio. Much to his surprise a total of 35 ladies attended, helped by an announcement of the event in the local newspaper. The talk, which lasted for just under an hour, consisted of a brief introduction to the hobby, along with a history of amateur radio in the UK and the history of his time in the hobby. Following the talk was a demonstration of HF using a TS-570D and a long wire antenna. HF conditions were not favourable that evening and there was a lot of local QRM, but the assembled group were intrigued to hear the brief DL, EA and GM QSOs. The talk and demonstration was well received with many questions asked afterwards, which was encouraging considering amateur radio is not your usual subject for a group of senior ladies. His favourite moment of the evening was the lady took a handful of leaflets and was later heard saying to a friend 'this might get my husband from under my feet!'



In late September, **Furness ARS** held an outdoor on air evening on Birkkrigg Common (IO84KD) near Ulverston. Members met from 6pm and brought along their own equipment including an IC-706 Mk IIG and FT-857 along with a 20m fishing pole vertical and 40m inverted V. For VHF, various handhelds were used. Reasonably pleasant weather and band conditions were enjoyed and the club's callsign, GX4ARF, was used. 20m QSOs into Europe with the Far East were heard but, unfortunately, not worked. Whilst on 40m, 50 watts into the inverted V resulted in a good crop of inter G stations, including MX0LTC at the Sidmouth Observatory. Before heading home a few members used some of the club's 80m ARDF receivers to successfully test out the beacon that had been built by Ken, MOKOH. The ARDF kit is now ready to be used at their JOTA event.



REGION 4: NORTH EAST

REGIONAL MANAGER: NIGEL FERGUSON,
GOBPK, RM4@RSGB.ORG.UK

- Angel of the North ARC**
Nancy Bone, G7UUR, 01914 770 036
3, 10 On the air + Foundation and Intermediate classes
17 Why does amateur radio continue to endure and attract in an age of Twitter, Facebook and Smart Phones?, Warren, G7MWB
24 On the Air
- Denby Dale RC**
Richard, MORBG, 07976 220 126
5 RSGB news update, DRM Gerald, G3SDY
12, 26 Night on the air ±145.575MHz, 7.30pm
19 Round Britain sponsored flight in aid of Cancer Research, Trevor, MORTC
- Halifax & DARS**
Martin, M0GQB, 01422 341 317
4 Pie and pea supper. Pre-ordering of pies is essential to ensure sufficient are available.
- Hornsea ARC**
Gordon, G3WOV, 01377 240 573
5 G2LR and The Dambusters, John, G3XYF
12 RSGB Archives part 2
19 AGM
26 New committee meeting
- Sheffield & District Wireless Society**
Krystyna, 2EOKSH, 07884 065 375
5 Design and construction of a 600W MOSFET linear amp, Bob, G4APV
19 Worked All Britain, Krystyna, 2EOKSH

A new radio club, **Colburn and Richmondshire ARS**, meets at Colburn Village Hall, Colburn Lane, North Yorkshire DL9 4LZ. Meeting times are fortnightly from 2 October at 7.30pm. Contact Colin by e-mail to colinslyne@btinternet.com

REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

REGIONAL MANAGER: MARTYN VINCENT, G3UKV,
RM5@RSGB.ORG.UK

- Aldridge & Barr Beacon ARC**
Albert, G0KFS, 01922 614 169
3 General discussion
17 Programme for 2015
- Bromsgrove & DARC**
Dave, M6DKT, 07584 025 156
5, 12, 19, 26 Data night
7, 14, 21, 28 Club night
- Central Radio Amateur Circle**
Martin, G1TYV, 07906 905 071
1 Foundation course
4 144 UK Activity Contest (dry run) Clent Hills
6 Group meeting
8 Foundation exam
15 Saturday meeting

- Cheltenham ARA**
Derek, G3NKS, 01242 241 099
4, 11, 18, 25 Slow CW, 8-9pm, 3540-3550kHz
18 Lunch at Brockworth
20 EGM followed by Something old, something new from your shack
- Coventry ARS**
John, G8SEQ, 07958 777 363
3, 19, 17, 24 Club net at 8pm 145.375MHz & 7.16MHz
7 Bangers & mash
14 Skittles night
21 Committee forum & project discussion
28 Radio workshop + bring your rig
- Dudley and District ARS**
Carl, M0ZCR, m0zcr@live.co.uk
4 UK Activity Contest 2m & night on the air
11 On the Air & natter night
18 Club social, open discussion
25 MORSD on Air
- Gloucester AR&ES**
Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime
3 Talk by Steve Knibbs from BBC Points West
10 HF operating from the shack
17 Workshop, construction, general discussion
24 Informal evening
- Malvern Hills RAC**
Dave, G4IDF, 01905 351 568
11 Vintage and military radio evening
- Midland ARS**
Norman, G8BHE, 07808 078 003
5 Bonfire night BBQ outside and training classes
9 West London Radio Show at Kempton Park, TW16 5AQ
12 Committee meeting and training classes
19 Shack on the air, ragchew and training classes
26 Christmas party arrangements and training classes
- Rugby ATS**
Steve, G8LYB, 01788 578 940
1 General radio activities in the Radio Room
4 UK Activity Contest 2m, on the air and projects
8 PIC/Arduino/PC problem solving, C programming and general assistance, Steve, G8LYB
11 UK Activity Contest 70cm, radio operation and projects
15 BBQ – Free to members!
18 UK Activity Contest 23cm, radio operation and projects
22 USB type C an introduction, Ian, M0IJS
25 UK Activity Contest 6m, radio operation and projects

- 29 Multimeter calibration check session, Steve, G8LYB
- Salop ARS**
salopamateurradio@gmail.com
5, 12, 19, 26 Club CW net 4.30pm 144.070MHz; Club net 8.30pm GB3LH
6 Natter night / committee meeting
13, 27 Natter night
20 Chairman's forum
- South Birmingham RS**
Gemma, M6GKG, gemmagordon.m6gkg@gmail.com
4, 11, 18, 25 Coffee morning 11am to 1pm all welcome
5 AGM 8pm
6, 13, 20, 27 Training classes, Dave, G8OWL
9 West London Radio and Electronics Show
10 Committee meeting
14, 21 Work in the shack
24 Final arrangements for Christmas party
- Stratford Upon Avon DRS**
Clive, G0CHO, 01608 664 488
10 Keeping the lights on – The Electricity Distribution Network, Clive, G0CHO
24 Informal / practical evening in shack – bring your own projects to discuss or work on
- Sutton Coldfield ARS**
Robert Bird, spirit.guide@hotmail.co.uk
3, 17 Net 145.250MHz from 7.30pm all welcome
10, 24 Club meeting. Visitors welcome
11 Net 70.475MHz. All welcome
- Telford & DARS**
John, M0JZH, 07824 737 716
5 Committee/GX3ZME OTA HF
12 Aspects of telecommunications during the Great War, Dr John Moyle, G1AWJ
19 Equipment sale
26 Club project – story so far – getting specifics together with project leaders
- Wythall Radio Club**
Chris, G0EYO, 07710 412 819
1 Bonfire night at Wythall House
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 club net 145.225MHz 8pm
3, 10, 17, 24 Advanced course 8pm
4 Morse class 7.45pm, preparation for Club Calls and 2m UKAC
7, 14, 21, 28 nibbles night in the shack
8 RSGB Club Calls contest, 1.8MHz
11 Morse class 7.45pm, committee meeting 8.30pm
12 80m Club Sprint SSB Contest
15 D-Star practical workshop 11am-2pm
18 7.45 Morse class, 8.30 Free 'n Easy evening
24 Curry night at the Monsoon, 6.30pm
25 7.45 Morse Class + PSK 31 and beyond, Callum M0MCX
29, 30 CQWW CW contest



Deadline for your entry in the 2014 Club of the Year competition is 31 January 2015, see the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org/coty

Bromsgrove and District ARC have had a busy few months with the special callsigns, GB1WVO and GB2WWT. The response from amateur around the world was unbelievable, they are still getting requests for QSL information. The club has also been running Foundation and Intermediate courses. We will be taking part in the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) weekend, they will have a special callsign for the event, with plenty of Scouts and Cubs taking part in arranged activities! More details are available at www.radioclubs.net/bdarc

Midland ARS celebrated its most recent exam pass when Steve Vicars obtained the callsign MOSSV. He's seen here with trainer Ron, MOWSN.



REGION 6: NORTH WALES

REGIONAL MANAGER: LIZ CABBAN, GWOETU,
RM6@RSGB.ORG.UK

Dragon ARC

Stewart, GW0ETF, 07833 620 733

3 The Cobwebb, 1/4 wave stubs and folded dipoles, GWOETF

17 AGM

North Wales Radio Society

Liz Cabban,

lizcabban@vodafoneemail.co.uk

6 General meeting

13 Technical topics

20 Visit by Graham Coomber, GM of RSGB

27 Natter Night

The BBC WW1 roadshow visited the Rhyl airshow in August. The Regional Manager was approached by BBC Learning to provide some help & support for the Comms zone with the Royal Signals. A team of 6 attended over the 2 days – Liz, GWOETU, Gordon, MW0GBR, Tony, MW0BJX, Dave, MO0BW, Kath, M1CNY and Mark, MW1MDH. They were kept busy all day, despite a slow start due to inclement weather, with enthusiastic youngsters and adults alike creating, sending & receiving messages in CW. The Zone included other forms of comms including semaphore, field telephones and other radio activities. The whole event was very well organised by the BBC teams and those involved were very well looked after. It was a busy but very enjoyable weekend and they even managed to see the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (minus the Lancaster) and the Red Arrows.

REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

REGIONAL MANAGER: JIMMY SNEDDON,
MW0EQL, RM7@RSGB.ORG.UK

Aberystwyth & DARS

Ray, GW7AGG, 01970 611 853

13 Communications on wind farms and hydro systems, Ray, GW7AGG

Carmarthen ARS

Lloyd, 2WOLLT, 01239 711 297

4 Working satellites, Elgan, 2W0ZZU

18 Antenna for portable operation/practical, Allan, GW4VPX

Llanelli ARS

Craig, MW0MXT, 01269 845 773

3 On air night

10 Club raffle

17 Social evening

24 Junk sale & club raffle

Laugharne ARS has announced a new 100 award for 1296MHz contacts. Contacts must be non digital (ie CW, SSB, FM, AM), the aerial must be handheld and the output power must not exceed 100mW at aerial. A total of 3 contacts over 100km is required for the award, which is free and intended to promote activity on 23cm, particularly portable / SOTA activity. The award consists of a certificate and eggcup. More from the Award Manager, Matthew, GW6KOA by e-mail to matthew.twyman63@btinternet.com

REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

REGIONAL MANAGER: PHILIP HOSEY, MI0MSO,
RM8@RSGB.ORG.UK

Ian, G1OAZB and Bobby, M1ORYL gave an interview on BBC Radio Ulster from the BBC World War One at Home event that was held in Northern Ireland.

The photograph below shows Bill, G14AAM, Gary, G16ATD, Peter, 21OETW and Stephen, G10HHV struggling with what appears to be a new type of aerial but is, in fact, their temporary home at the beginning of September's SSB field day at Drumawhey, Co. Down.

The next meeting of **Bangor & District Amateur Radio Society** is the annual surplus equipment sale on 6 November, one of the most popular events of the season.



REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

REGIONAL MANAGER: LARRY SMITH, G4OXY,
RM9@RSGB.ORG.UK

Bracknell ARC

Andy, M0HAK, andy@m0hak.co.uk

5, 19, 26 Net 8pm 145.375MHz

12 Aspects of the BBC, Tony, G0OVO

Burnham Beeches RC

Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720

3 Club project construction 2

17 Broken equipment evening,

Jeremy, G8MLK

Echelford ARS

John, G4GSC, 01784 451 898

13 Radar, Magnetron developments, Nimrod,

UAV's + video, Prof Simon Watts, G3XXH

27 On-Air evening/CW practice/Bring & Buy/natter night

Edgware & DRS

Mike, G4RNW, 02089 500 658

13 The History of the saxophone and

'other things', Mike, G4RNW

27 A talk by Dr Jamie Barras

Newbury & DARS

Rob, G4LMW, 01635 862 737

26 An introduction to digital television,

Ray, G4FON

Southgate ARC

Mr K Mendum, G8RPA, g8rpa@arrl.net

12 Autumn junk/surplus sale

Verulam ARC

Peter, G4HSO, 01438 833 066

13 Social with Repeater Group 7.30pm,

Rose and Crown Pub

18 EMC, John, G8MM

A new amateur radio club at the Royal Hospital Chelsea (Home of the Chelsea Pensioners) has been set up with the assistance of the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society (RAFARS) and the Radio Society of Harrow (RSH). A chance meeting in Cheltenham with Flt/Lt Richie Judson, GORHJ, Chairman of RAFARS, led In-Pensioner (I/P) David Lyall to enquire of his fellow ex-Royal Signals friend I/P Ray Petrie whether there were any radio amateurs in the Royal Hospital, which bore immediate fruit when Ray replied "I'm one – GOSLL!" Meetings followed with Richie Judson and later with Brian, G3YKB of RSH, resulting in offers of equipment from RAFARS and a course of instruction by RSH for aspiring amateurs to take the Foundation exam for a licence. In the late 1940s David had been an SWL and to his surprise nearly 50 years later he acquired



his callsign M6YDG. They now have the use of a small hobby room, with a 10-160 metre band transceiver, another for the 2 metre band and a couple of discreet antennas (the Royal Hospital is a Grade I listed building).

The photograph shows Richie Judson (centre) with I/Ps David & Tom Lyall, Ray Petrie and Brian Hodgson (Richie and Brian displaying RHC plaques presented to them by the Club in gratitude for their help and encouragement).

On National Heritage Day, 13 September, **Dorking and District Radio Society** provided an important attraction at National Trust, Polesden Lacey near Leatherhead in Surrey. There was a special exhibition entitled Communications in the Trenches that included a replica radio station, complete with a soldier in uniform. It attracted great interest from the visitors and gave an excellent impression of the equipment used during WW1.

In contrast, there was a modern radio exhibit using the special event callsign GB0NT. A 2m station was particularly busy throughout the day. Another station was devoted to CW on 21MHz using a 4-square antenna with stations worked in Saudi Arabia and the USA. A phone station on 40m and 80m was less busy but a number of contacts with other commemorative stations were made. A WSPR station with a real time visual display demonstrated the reach of their 0.5W signal on 10m. The coverage was mainly throughout Africa and included a report from Melbourne, Australia.

The activity at this site high on the North Downs was well supported by members, producing interesting and wide ranging discussions with visitors. It was the club's third collaboration with the National Trust and with Fetcham Scouts who supplied and erected a marquee.



On 31 August at Crossness Museum's steaming day and local history fair, three former KW Electronics employees (pictured L-R, Chris, G8GKC, John, G8JAD and John, G4MGY) visited the **Cray Valley Radio Society** exhibit that included a feature on the amateur radio equipment manufacturer that used to be based in nearby Dartford, Kent.

Rather than just put on a traditional special event station (as previously done with GB2CM at the museum) CVRS developed an exhibition stand linking modern day amateur radio with local 'radio' history (to fit the theme of the day) featuring displays about local companies with

radio connections. The approach worked very well with CVRS members able to concentrate on talking to the public about the displays and provide information and answer questions about present day amateur radio. Emphasis was placed on the current route into the hobby via the three-tier licence system and the central role played by local clubs like CVRS providing training courses and helping newcomers get on the air.



REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

REGIONAL MANAGER: MICHAEL SENIOR, G4EFO,
RM10@RSGB.ORG.UK

Brede Steam ARS

Dan, M0HOW, 01424 882 008

4, 11, 18, 25 At the shack operating GB1FBS

Bromley & DARS

Andy, G4WGZ, 01689 878 089

18 Members' short talks

Crystal Palace R&EC

Bob, G30OU, 01737 552 170

7 Talk by Guide Dogs for the Blind

Dorking & DRS

Garth, G3NPC, 01737 359 472

25 3-dimensional measurement and mapping of an antenna radiation pattern + AGM, Garth, G3NPC and Alan, M6NNB

Hilderstone R&EC

Chrissie Turner,

hilderstoneclub@gmail.com, <http://g0hrs.org/>

13 Natter night

15 Buildathon construction day

27 AGM

Horndean & DARC

Stuart, G0FYX, 02392 472 846

6 Natter night and social activities evening

20 House wiring/electrics to the home, Bob Button

Horsham ARC

Adrian, G4LRP, 07714 664 957,

drm103@rsgb.org.uk

6 Trams and electric traction,

Ian Geldhill from the Volks Railway

13 Social 8pm, The Limeburners

16 Fox hunt

Itchen Valley ARC

Quintin, M1ENU, 023 8078 7799

14 Auction

28 Multi-club quiz, Quintin M1ENU

Mid-Sussex ARS

Sue Davis, G6YPY, 01273 845 103,

7 Radio night

21 Radio night and table top sale

28 Grand winter used equipment sale 7pm

Southdown ARS

John, G3DQY, 01424 424 319

3 Clansman field test equipment, Barry, G8DUX

5 Operating at the Hailsham shack and at Beachy Head afternoons

17 Christmas at the Toby

Sutton & Cheam RS

John, G0BWV, 020 8644 9945

20 How valves work, David, MOSXD

Swindon & DARC

Jonathan, M0ZGB, m0zgb@btinternet.com

6 The latest Somerset range of kits, Tim Walford, G3PCJ

13, 27 Activity night

20 The tour (of Swindon in old photos), R Townsend

Trowbridge & DARC

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698, E/W

5 G2BQY & G4UNU Constructor's cup entry judging

19 Natter night

West Kent ARS

Keith, G4JED, info@wkars.org.uk

10 Club meeting

Wimbledon & DARS

Kim, G6JXA, 07812 735 507

28 Surplus sale, Jim, G4WYJ

Worthing & DARC

Gordon, 2E0GTG, 07801 599 470

2 Sunday breakfast 9am

12 Discussion evening

19 bhi, new advancements in noise cancelation, Graham, M3ZGS

26 G3WOR on the air

21 August will be remembered as the day all his friends at Worthing and District ARC lost their President and fellow club member of many years, John Slater, G8FMJ. John was licensed as G8FMJ in 1971 a few years after starting work in the family business Slaters Television run by his late father Al Slater, G3FXB. This was a job for



life and having taken over running the business when Al retired he had sold the shop this year in the process of going into retirement. All the plans were made, but he never managed to achieve the goal of having time for himself and family, together with spending more 'radio time'.

The early years of G8FMJ were spent on VHF and, with the licence changes in 2003, John was then to be heard on the HF bands. 80m became a passion and he was always to be heard taking part in the 80m Club Championships plus sprints and other contests. This year he was looking forward to attending the RSGB Convention to collect his trophies. John had been working with the club to achieve a better performance in the SSB Field Day and last year the result of the work came to fulfilment with 1st place in the restricted section for G3WOR/P. His personal efforts were to be rewarded for winning the SSB ROPOCO contest using the G4DAA Channel Contest Group club call, plus he was to receive the Verulam Silver Jubilee Trophy for the highest placed error-free log.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Field Day isn't just about winning. For **Itchen Valley ARC** it's far more about improving the station, honing operating skills and hopefully, beating previous scores. This year IVARC broke the 500 QSO barrier for the first time ever. Add to that getting an Intermediate licensee on air for his first real HF contacts (apart from training) and also having a Foundation trainee volunteer to take some logging sessions and immediately find himself having to learn N1MM in front of a pile-up – and coping admirably – all concerned would consider it a success. The team consisted of operators Paul, G6MCX, Richard, G3OTK, Ray, G3HRH, Liz, MOACL, Brian, GOUKB and newcomer Dave, 2E0JHD who also shared logging along with yet to be licenced Ray. The station used a Tennamast portable trailer mast, using the rotator cage and a scaffold pole they were able to get our fan-dipole to nearly 13m high. The fan dipole consisted of 3 dipoles for 80, 40 and 20m with a separate dipole for 10m. 15m was catered for by being 3N/2 on the 40m dipole. All were connected into a Kenwood TS-570 running 100W barefoot and powered by a linear PSU running off their newly acquired (2nd-hand) Honda generator. Despite the antenna wires sometimes resembling maypole dancing they were soon staked out by the ground crew and the operators, joined by Graham, G3XSD and Mike, G3NKR. Long lengths of cheap Poundland string staked the dipole ends to the ground, sufficiently far from the mast that even the 80m ones were 3m above the ground. The club still have lots to learn; they persisted on a dying 20m band for far too long and didn't make the best use of 80m overnight but all in all it was a great effort. Over half the 532 QSOs were on 40m and a third of those were with German stations. In contrast they only made 6 contacts on 15m and 2 on 10m with the best DX either being JA on 15m or PY on 10.

So, if you've not contested as a club before – why

not give SSB FD 2015 a go? All you need is tent, rig, antenna and generator – oh, and operators, of course. A computer for logging is also pretty much essential these days. It's a great way to get club members involved, both old hams and those newly licenced ones that haven't yet had much opportunity to get on air.



West Kent ARS were pleased to see several hundred visitors to their recent Fair in Tunbridge Wells, having sold out all available space for traders and having to decline some late booking requests. The overall feedback was very positive, with many traders wanting to book again for next year, the plans for which are at an early stage with the date to be confirmed soon. The club last ran such an event in the 80s and were, on this occasion, pleased to have visitors from around Kent and neighbouring counties. Thank you to everyone who came along, and they look forward to seeing you and many more again in 2015.



Maidstone YMCA ARS entered the 144MHz Trophy contest in September and posted a claimed score of 100 QSOs with some nice contacts into France and Germany. They hoped for a much higher QSO score than achieved but the main amplifier failed on the Saturday. The club intended to post an entry in the HF SSB contest, but Murphy got in the way. For some strange reason they could not get either of the HF beams to load properly. Much time was spent, bashing heads! It was a great shame as the callsign G3TRF has not been heard on the air for some time. With thanks to Nick, G4ZXI, Ray, MORAY, Trev, G6ALJ, Ian, 2E0IJH, and JB, GOXJB.

REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLANDS

REGIONAL MANAGER: PAM HELLIWELL, G7SME,
RM11@RSGB.ORG.UK

Appledore & DARC

Alan, M6CCH, 01237 422 833

17 Light-hearted radio quiz, John, G3JKL

Bristol RSGB Group

Robin Thompson, G3TKF,

robin@g3tkf.co.uk

24 My latest DXpedition, Phil, G3SWH

Callington ARS

John, G4PBN, 01822 835 834

5 The magnetic loop revisited, Ray, G8AWB

Cornish RAC

Steve, G7VOH, 01209 844 939

5 Committee meeting

6 Main meeting

20 Activities evening

Exeter ARS

Nick, MONRJ, 01363 775 756

3, 17 Net on 3.675kHz at 7:45

4, 11, 18, 25 Net on 145.575MHz at 7:45

10 CW practice and amateur radio videos

24 Bring in something interesting

Exmouth ARC

Mike, G1GZG, 01395 274 172

5 Clock/watch repairing

18 Auction night

Plymouth Radio Club

David, 2E0DTC,

d.beck123@btinternet.com

11 Natter night

Poldhu ARC

Keith, G0WYS, g0wys@yahoo.co.uk

11 An introduction to SDR radio,

Simon, G4ELI

Saltash & DARC

Mark Chanter, 2E0MGC, 01752 215 546

6 Annual General Meeting

20 Operating night

South Bristol ARC

Andrew, G7KNA, 07838 695 471

6 Start of the Christmas raffle

13 Valve technology, Cyril, G3XED

20 Annual General Meeting

27 Open house and on the air night

Torbay ARS

Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk

28 Transport in the area from years gone by,

Image Bank at Totnes

Yeovil ARC

Rodney, MORGE, 01935 825 791,

6 Demonstrations: bring along your

crystal set

13 Talk by G3PCJ

20 Morse practice, G3MYM

27 On the air



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Exeter RAYNET Group have built and installed their new 70cm repeater, GB3EX, north of Exeter in Devon. With hardware donated by Alec, GOBCO, club members Pete, G3ZVI, John, G8XQQ and Skip, 2E0TGT, they built the repeater from scratch. Ultimately, powered by both solar and wind power it will provide excellent coverage for East Devon for RAYNET activities. The photo shows chairman Keith, G7NBU affixing the antenna mast to a barn with the solar panel already in place.



In July, seven members of the **Exeter RAYNET Group** provided key communications and timekeeping for the Clinton Estates Endurance Ride around Bicton in East Devon. RAYNET members, at five check points, correlated the movements of 120 horses and riders on seven routes up to 80km in length. They were at full stretch providing up to the minute statistics and emergency messages for over eight hours. The event organisers thanked the RAYNET team for the faultless continuous coverage that enabled them to instantly know the location of every rider. The photo shows some of the members outside the Hub. From left are John, G8XQQ, Keith, G7NBU, Tony, MOTHJ, Phil, 2E0PCJ and Pete, G3ZVI.



DEADLINES

The next deadlines for entries in *RadCom Around Your Region* are 23 October for the December edition and 20 November for January 2015.

REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

REGIONAL MANAGER: STEVE THOMAS, M1ACB,
RM12@RSGB.ORG.UK

Braintree & DARS

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947

- 3 The use of scopes, GODEC
- 17 Making up patch leads – bring your own cable and plugs

Cambridge & DARC

David, M0ZEB, 01353 778 093

- 14 RSGB update and discussion, Steve, M1ACB
- 28 Spectrum analysers – design and use, Andre, G6ALB

Chelmsford ARS

secretary@g0mwt.org.uk

- 4 Essex RAYNET, Roland, MOBDB
- 17 Skills workshop

Felixstowe & DARS

Paul, G4YQC, pjw@btinternet.com

- 11 A trip down RSGB memory lane, Paul, G4YQC
- 24 Junk sale

Harwich ARIG

Michael, 2E0GUI, michael.2e0gui@gmail.com

- 12 Club night

Norfolk ARC

Chris, GODWV, 01603 898 678

- 5 Informal
- 12 Getting started in amateur television, Noel, G8GTZ
- 19 Changes in the weather, Jim, G3YLA
- 26 Informal and Bright Sparks

South Essex ARS

Terry, G1FBW, 07986 070 040

- 11 AGM (members only)

Thames ARG

Mark, M0IEO, 07940 579116

- 7 AGM
- 15 Foundation course

The **Braintree & District ARS** annual surplus equipment sale took place with its usual auction format. All items for auction are either donated, with all monies to the club, or commission sales with a percentage to the club. This year's auction included some very good meters, antenna tuners, leads and test gear. As a result, the club funds were given a great boost. Some items, that were not sold, will be taken to the Canvey Rally next year.

Two members of the club traveled to Lincolnshire to run GBOBIB from the village of Baston for an 1940s themed event called Baston in The Blitz. Tony, G0IAG and Edwin, GOLPO set up the station on Baston playing field, surrounded by militaria, stalls, re-enactors and living history displays. Apart from operating the station, Tony and Edwin spent a lot of the time talking to the public about wartime radio communication and the children were encouraged to send Tony their name in Morse code for a proficiency certificate. A small display of wartime military radio was on show with a selection of WW2 Morse keys.

Tony and Edwin, who are also members of Duxford Radio Society (DRS), would like to thank DRS for the loan of a Wireless Set 19 for their display. On the day a good numbers of stations were worked in eight countries.



The Ideas Festival runs from 20 October until 2 November and celebrates the creativity of Chelmsford's people, past and present. Amongst the highlights is a talk by Professor Marconi, the grandson of Guglielmo Marconi. This will be complemented by an account of the extraordinary space technology that the company e2v produces today. Amateur radio features on two days. Members of **Chelmsford ARS**, Jim, 2EORMI and Pete, MOPSX will be giving presentations in the Ideas Hub on The World of Amateur Radio from 10am-4pm on Friday 31 October and Sunday 2 November. They will explain how to get started in the hobby, practical uses, applications, including the fun and zany aspects. Join them for demonstrations with short introductory talks at 10am, 12pm and 2pm. It's a free drop in session, no need to book. Further details at www.changingchelmsford.org/if2014/

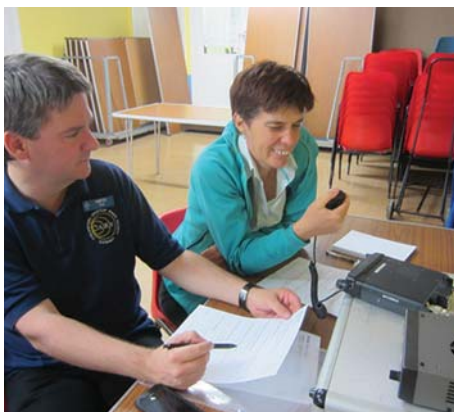
A Friday evening net was launched in the Norwich area on 3 October for newer licensed members of the local amateur community to get on the air and discuss topics important for them. The net will be run by Nigel, 2EONLK using the repeater GB3NB and will commence at 7.30pm for one hour. Everyone will be welcome to join but the main intention is to encourage younger members who are perhaps tied up with school work on other evenings. Initially, this will be on a trial basis for the whole of October. If there is sufficient support Nigel will continue and encourage a rota of operators to become controllers and establish the net as an on-going event. Nigel's initiative arose from a discussion at the **Norfolk Amateur Radio Club's** annual forum and has the club's full support.

There was another busy Skills Night for the Chelmsford ARS in September. Almost

50 attendees gathered for a good mix of demonstrations, show-and-tell, chat and tea. On the agenda for the September evening was a demonstration of a Raspberry Pi being used to show the signal spectrum of the 40m band, patch lead soldering sessions, a session for those just joining the hobby, a demo of the Flex 1500 SDR, a live CW station, satellites, data modes and callsign badges while-you-wait. More details on the free Skills Nights are at www.hamskills.co.uk. The photo shows Jim, 2E0RMI talking to a possible new Foundation candidate.



In October, Cathy Colless, MORTW will travel to Antarctica to take up the post of Radio Communications Officer at the Rothera Research Station. In 2013 Cathy, then a Senior Systems Architect at Anglia Ruskin University, took and passed, all three amateur radio licence levels in just 57 days with no prior amateur radio experience. She did the Foundation course and exam with the **Chelmsford ARS** in October 2013, and whilst attending the CARS Advanced course in November, took her Intermediate exam with the **Bromley and District Amateur Radio Society**. With the Intermediate successfully under her belt, she was able to sit the Advanced exam session with CARS on 6 December 2013 and became the holder of MORTW. She leaves the UK to travel to Antarctica via Punta Arenas in Chile on 19 October. Cathy has started a blog that will detail her experiences in this opportunity of a lifetime: follow it at <http://passyourmessage.com/>. The photo shows Peter, MOPXS teaching Cathy, MORTW at the CARS Foundation course.



Special event station GB2HB was activated in August to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Heavenly Body II, the B17 aircraft that crashed at



Canvey Point in 1944.

They also operated at the Island Yacht Club on four weekdays during August when good weather and great conditions (and lots of aircraft activity overhead, including a wartime DC3, two spitfires and twice the only two Lancasters still flying passed overhead) meant 422 contacts in 41 countries was worked. Highlights were USA/Canada and Indonesia. There was lots of feedback from stations received by email and social media. The video and information on the club website and QRZ.com about the crash.

As part of the Essex Ham field day in September, images celebrating Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin were captured in two passes of the International Space Station. The image show here was captured at 1500 local time using the MMSSTV application and a home-made Slim Jim antenna which was being used for the event's 2m station. The Essex Ham field day at Galleywood Common was an opportunity for some technical experimentation, including testing of antennas and hardware in preparation for an upcoming Essex RAYNET event. Receiving live images from the ISS was the icing on the cake of a useful, and fun, Essex Ham event.



REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

REGIONAL MANAGER: STEVE BODEN, G4XCK,
RM13@RSGB.ORG.UK

Derby & DARS

Richard Buckby, radio@dadars.org.uk

4 Junk Sale

11 Committee Meeting

18 The Claymills pumping engines

restoration project, Andrew Parsons

25 Night on the Air

Grantham ARC

Kevin, G6SSN, 07793 142 483

4 AGM

18 Construction evening

Melton Mowbray ARS

Brian, M0YBX, 07772 659 622

21 Developing data

Northampton Radio Club

John, G4CZB, 01604 832 584

3, 10, 17, 24 Net on 145.4625MHz 8pm,
all welcome

6, 13, 20, 27 Club night

Nunsfield House ARG

Ken, G3OCA, 01332 720 976

7 Railway signalling

14 GM & EI Island operation

21 Club night

28 Committee meeting

RAF Waddington ARC

Bob, G3VCA, 07971 166 250

3, 10, 17, 24 Net 145.325MHz 8pm

13 Committee meeting

South Kesteven ARS

Nigel, M0CVO, 01476 402 550

5, 19 Net on 145.525MHz 8pm

12, 26 Informal

Welland Valley ARS

Peter, G4XEX, 01858 432 105

3 Net on 145.275MHz + data evening

17 Build a bug key and connecting cables

Brian, M0YBX was elected as secretary for Melton Mowbray ARS at their AGM in September. Other news from the club is that Pete, G3XYC and Pete, M0LBM took part in the 80m Club Championship and finished in ninth position in the local league.

DEADLINES

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