



Newsletter: July 2020

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Make the Most of QRP... or die trying!

Seb M7SAC is newly licensed and the happy owner of a FT450D and a multi-ranger six band mobile antenna. Here are two accomplishments so far:

- Disguised the antenna behind an old Sky satellite dish,
- Transmitted CW on 80m at 10W about 20miles.



His next challenge is increase the range on HF but how far can he expect to go? Two useful websites which help predict propagation:

- <https://dxheat.com/dxc/>
- <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

Screenshot shows PSK reporter's live list of contacts so if he can do it, so can you! You can filter PSK reporter for band and power.



The online meeting will include a discussion with RSGB Region 12 (us!) representative Dave M0MBD (Right, in photo below). There is so much happening in the world of Amateur Radio with more people than ever gaining their Foundation Licence. This is a big opportunity for Acorns. We are already registered to facilitate the "Beyond Exams" scheme.



Special Event Call Sign: GB4VJD

Following the two very successful Special Event Call Signs so far this year (GB6VED and GB4KEY) a third one is being arranged for Saturday 15th August. Exactly how, when, where and who will be on the list to operate is being organised by Simon M1GGY and more details will be published in the August Newsletter.

The benefit of these events, apart from supporting the club and giving us the opportunity to submit articles to National Radio Magazines, is that it motivates you to take part and do radio.

2m Activity Day: Saturday Afternoon 18th July

This can be so much more than exchanging a signal report or a few pleasantries. There are opportunities to conduct propagation tests as well. Here are some practical examples:

1. Operating with a hand held. What difference does it make being in a wood compared to the adjacent car park.
2. Operate Mobile to see how the signal fades with distance and to compare a rubber duck with a mag mount.
3. "S" point drop between vertical and horizontal polarization.
4. Reception difference in downstairs, upstairs or the loft.

Let us know how you get on as this would be a good angle to promote in our next RadCom and PW submissions.



Essex Wildlife Trust: The call sign GB1EWT has been secured for another year but the event itself, provisionally scheduled for 8th Aug, remains unconfirmed. Check the website for updates.