

GB1EWT, Essex Wildlife Trust Sat 5th August

Once again Acorns' members operated from the EWT Centre at Mucking, braving the expected rain and thunderstorms, none of which turned out as bad as was expected.

However, we were unlucky as a large solar storm hit the earth at around 6am (the SFI was 7 when checked at around 9am). Due to the expected weather, we set up a 2m station and an HF FT8 station only. A foray across the bands with FT8 showed above 20m to be poor with 20m also suffering.

Throughout the day we operated on various bands as conditions improved, but all the contacts made were within Europe. The best spot distance was the northern east coast of the USA but we made no contacts there, apart from two Russian stations all contacts were sub 1000 miles using 30W.

As reports were showing Tropo Propagation on 50MHz we had a little try and managed to make our best non-Russian distance of 1100 miles, using a full size G5RV.

2M (photo shows antenna on the roof) returned 11 contacts split fairly evenly between Essex and Kent, best distance was Broadstairs about 40 miles away but the contact was lost. HF FT8 returned 15 contacts but did not run all day. Visitor numbers to the centre were very low due to the forecast weather, so by the afternoon the event turned more social as more members arrived.

Well done to Eddie G0BKL, Peter M6RFW, Lawrence 2E0LHT for operating and Seb 2E0FZS and Nick G4HCK for visiting and to James 2E0SUQ for the photos.



GB2SN, Sat 19th Aug

Our next field day is to take part in "Lighthouses on the Air". We have our very own lighthouse at Stoneness (hence GB2SN) in West Thurrock. This will be the perfect chance to find out just how portable your portable set-up really is. This will be another fun day.

New Look Website. <https://taarc.co.uk/>

Club member James 2E0SUQ has invested a lot of time, energy and innovation to create a new look Acorns website – the cornerstone of our information sharing.

Menu features include:

- Events, Calendar, Gallery, About Us, Links to RSGB pages and you can download past editions of the newsletters. For club members there is a Web-based forum. Dates of our regular events (SSTV, CW and Zoom meetings) are also listed.



To join Acorns, and benefit for all these activities, mentoring and help: Visit the Contact Us Page.