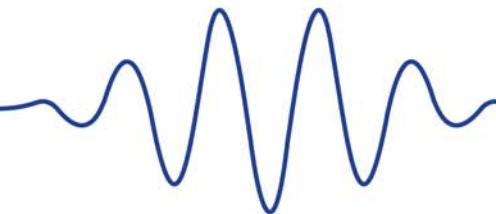




Radio Society of Great Britain

Advancing amateur radio since 1913



# Affiliated Clubs Newsletter

January 2019



The newsletter is sent to affiliated clubs every month  
It contains RSGB Matters, News and Around Your Region from RadCom  
Send details of your club news and events to [radcom@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:radcom@rsgb.org.uk)  
Post your event on the RSGB website by logging in at [rsgb.org/members](http://rsgb.org/members)

## Diversity in amateur radio

'But that's not real radio!' It's not a new cry directed at FT8, DMR or Network Radio, but much older than that and often made whenever someone practices a version of amateur radio different from theirs. I suspect there were similar cries when SSB was first introduced, and before that AM by the CW diehards. Radio amateurs are an inventive bunch, but paradoxically many don't like change and are set in their ways.

In the UK we are blessed with large allocations of spectrum and there are many different modes and frequencies we can experiment with. Yet many radio amateurs never stray from their preferred version, often established early in their amateur radio journey. 'Use it or lose it' has been voiced many times in the past and generally ignored as scaremongering. Ask yourself this, what is the justification for having all this spectrum if we just use a tiny part of it on a limited number of modes and frequencies?

The recent 147MHz allocation was granted on the basis of promoting innovation and not just 'more of the same', with some success. At Ofcom's request, the RSGB recently demonstrated to the business radio user community one of those innovations, reduced-bandwidth amateur TV. Traditionally this type of application has been a heavy user of radio spectrum and is another example of innovation, developed by radio amateurs, which has the potential for commercial use. Whilst not necessarily everyone's cup of tea, FT8 is another amateur radio-inspired innovation that shows that communication can be possible even under adverse band conditions. It is a useful tool as part of our repertoire of communications modes and is most definitely every bit as much 'real radio' as our traditional modes.

As part of the RSGB's Strategy 2022 priority for Diversity, a number of YouTube videos featuring different aspects of amateur radio have been published and are receiving regular large audiences. Through collaboration with special interest groups these videos have been created to promote and encourage amateur radio diversity by showcasing what's available. You may be surprised how much is. You can enjoy these at <https://rsgb.org/video>

Home construction is another key objective towards encouraging diversity in amateur radio and, at the 2018 National Hamfest, we held a very successful Buildathon for inexperienced constructors. It is hoped that this will be the first of many similar events that will help promote and support this aspect of amateur radio.

An RSGB awards scheme aimed at newly-licenced radio amateurs will be introduced during 2019. Delivered through registered clubs, it is designed to support and encourage those newly-licenced amateurs to enjoy the hobby to its greatest extent. It is also intended to nurture those individuals wishing to progress on their journey at any level from Foundation through to Advanced and beyond. This will be

complemented by another initiative that will consist of a wide range of self-administered tasks aimed at furthering knowledge and breadth within the hobby.

During 2019 I hope to get out of my usual amateur radio comfort zone, to try something different and enjoy more of amateur radio's rich tapestry of modes and frequencies. I hope you will join me.

If you have an idea to help encourage diversity in amateur radio, I would love to hear from you. You can email me via [gm0onx@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:gm0onx@rsgb.org.uk)



### Priorities for 2019

- Continue to build the catalogue of special interest videos. Requests for particular subjects are welcome.
- Closer working with special interest groups – supporting the appointment of the RSGB National Affiliated Societies Honorary Officer. Simon Taylor, MWONWM will be working towards closer relationships with the diverse interests of all specialist groups in order to promote interworking, collaboration and building shared cases for mode and frequency use.
- Support and develop further Buildathons and similar practical skills events.
- Recognise the wide diversity of interest within amateur radio and avoid criticism of specialism. Over many years it is those specialists who have given us many of the technically-rich opportunities that make amateur radio of interest to so many today: SSB, DMR, FT8, NBFM, NBTv and many others.

**Len Paget, G0MOONX**  
Board Member

### Continuing priorities

- Through the Spectrum Forum and regular dialogue with Ofcom, continue to present evidence of experimental and novel research by radio amateurs in more efficient use of our allocated radio spectrum.
- Continue to take up opportunities of presenting to the wider public the rich skillset within amateur radio. Many of our volunteers are working within Government, regulatory or advanced commercial, scientific fields.
- Develop our influence within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – linking our skills with those of the National Curriculum and the wider personal development opportunities of amateur radio.

## Regional and Board elections 2019

**This is the time of year when we call for volunteers to step forward for election at the AGM.**

The 2019 AGM will take place at Jurys Inn in Birmingham on 27 April 2019. The Society is run primarily by its Members and we need volunteers who are willing and able to give their time and enthusiasm to keep the wheels turning. This is an exciting time at the RSGB because we now need to devise and deliver new initiatives to implement Strategy 2022. Mark Jones, G0MGX describes his experiences in his first year as a Director, and explains why it is important that people volunteer to help the Society progress.

In 2019 we will be looking to appoint two elected Board Directors, two nominated Board Directors and ten Regional Representatives (RRs).

The elected Board Director vacancies are as a result of two Directors reaching the end of their three-year term – neither is eligible to stand for re-election as both will have completed two three-year terms.

The Nominated Director Board vacancies are as a result of a resignation and a Director reaching the end of his three year term. Notice of these vacancies was given in the October and November *RadComs* and it is expected that the AGM will be asked to endorse two candidates for these roles.

Ten Regional Representatives vacancies also arise due to the current post holders completing their three year terms, or because they were co-opted into a vacancy after the last AGM. Philip Hosey, M10MSO describes his experiences as Region 8 Regional Representative and explains why it is important that people volunteer to help the Society progress. Whilst several Regions have RRs who are willing to stand for re-election, **applications are welcome from all RSGB Members living in the Regions with vacancies.**

- **Region 2** – Scotland North & Northern Isles (Martin Krawczyk, 2MOKAU is currently co-opted)
- **Region 3** – England North-West (Kath Wilson, M1CNY is the current RR and is willing to stand for re-election)
- **Region 4** – England North-East (Ian Douglas, G7MFN is the current RR and is willing to stand for re-election)
- **Region 6** – North Wales (John Pritchard, MW0JWP is currently co-opted and is willing to stand for election)
- **Region 8** – Northern Ireland (Philip Hosey, MIOMSO is the current RR and is willing to stand for re-election)
- **Region 9** – London & Thames Valley (Tom O'Reilly, G0NSY is the current RR and is willing to stand for re-election)
- **Region 10** – England South and South East (Keith Bird, G4JED is currently co-opted and is willing to stand for election)
- **Region 11** – England South-West & Channel Islands (Martin Sables, G7NTY is currently co-opted and is willing to stand for election)
- **Region 12** – England East and East Anglia (Peter Onion, GODZB is currently co-opted and is willing to stand for election)
- **Region 13** – England East Midlands (Jim Stevenson, G0EJQ is the current RR and is willing to stand for re-election)

Nominations for elected Board Directors require the support of 10 Members. Nominations for the RR vacancies require the support of 10 Members who reside in the relevant Region.

Information about the election vacancies, together with nomination forms, are available on the Election page ([www.rsgb.org/nominations](http://www.rsgb.org/nominations)) or the nominations form can be obtained by post from the General Manager at RSGB HQ.

**Candidates** need to download, complete and post their candidate forms to the Company Secretary via HQ (an email copy is also helpful).

**Nominators** – the nomination process is now online. Candidates are given personal URLs and if they wish you to nominate them they will approach you directly. Know someone who would make a good Board Member or RR? Why not ask them to consider standing.

Completed papers, with their supporting nominations must be received by 2359 hours on 31 January 2019.

Volunteers are not paid but out-of-pocket expenses are covered.

If anyone has any questions about the elections or would like to discuss the roles, please contact Board Chair, Ian Shepherd, G4EVK, for the Director vacancies, via email to [g4evk@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:g4evk@rsgb.org.uk), or Philip Hosey, MIOMSO, for the Regional Representative vacancies, via [rr8@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:rr8@rsgb.org.uk). Enquires can also be made to the RSGB Company Secretary, Stephen Purser, GW4SHF via [company.secretary@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:company.secretary@rsgb.org.uk).

**Stephen Purser, GW4SHF**

**Company Secretary**

#### Why you should consider standing for RSGB Board – my perspective after a year on the Board

I had always wanted to put something back into the hobby of amateur radio. Having been licensed since I was 14 years old, the RSGB and the hobby in general have had quite a significant influence on my life and career.

Back in 2013 I became a deputy to one of the RSGB Honorary Officers (HO); that role progressed and I moved into the full HO role in 2014. After 5 years I was quite familiar with some aspects of the RSGB and it seemed that it might be that I could add some value to the RSGB Board. As a chartered IT professional in a customer facing role I thought that some of my skills might be of benefit to the organisation at a higher, more strategic level.

I sought some advice from several RSGB Members, achieved the required nominations and successfully stood for election as a Director at the 2018 AGM. I genuinely believe that our hobby has a huge amount to offer in the future and the strategy that the RSGB follows and how it implements it is key. I am very grateful to be able to form part of the team that steers this ship and hope that I can make a difference.

Being involved in the management of a primarily volunteer organisation brings its own unique challenges; some of which are unprecedented when compared to my professional career. However, seeing results brings me a great deal of satisfaction and I have already made several significant achievements in my role as a RSGB Director.

I published a set of objectives against my allocated key strategic aim "Growth" in the October 2018 *RadCom*. In support of these objectives I have so far helped deliver:

- The first "buildathon" held at the National Hamfest aimed at novice constructors
- YOTA camp
- YOTA month for December 2018
- Development and promotion of a scheme to help individuals on their amateur radio journey (due for launch mid-2019)

If you think you have a set of skills that would be of benefit to the RSGB, enjoy a unique challenge and have time to spare, then please step forward and find out more.

**Mark Jones, GOMGX**

#### Why should you consider standing as an RSGB Regional Representative?

In 2013 I was elected as the Regional Manager for Region 8 (Northern Ireland) since then I have seen many changes in the Society and I have to say, in my experience, these have been positive changes. To be part of those changes has been challenging at times, but in saying that, it has been a rewarding experience at the same time.

Volunteering lets you put something back into the very diverse hobby that amateur radio is. It was only by volunteering for the RSGB that I discovered how diverse it is, by meeting skilled dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers in the Regional Teams and other volunteer leaders in the Society.

Regional Representatives, as we are known as since the 2018 AGM, meet in person with those other volunteer leaders and senior HQ staff as the Volunteer Leadership Team (VLT) three times a year. We also meet regularly via Skype as a Regional Forum (RF). Meeting as the RF and VLT gives us the opportunity to have the views of the amateur community heard by providing a conduit to share news, problems etc and, in doing so, gives us a way of keeping in touch with what is going on. It also lets us help develop the future of amateur radio in the UK and deliver on the Society's strategic goals.

As a Regional Representative, you will be the main contact between the amateur community and the Society in one of the 13 Regions. Along with a team of District Representatives you will have the opportunity to use your skills, experience and passion to have an active and thriving amateur radio community in your region.

So to get back to my question "Why should you consider standing as a Regional Representative?"

- To give something back
- Share your knowledge and skills
- You're passionate about amateur radio
- Like a challenge
- Want to make a difference
- You have dedication

If any of the above points define you, then the RSGB needs you.

**Philip Hosey, MIOMSO**

**Region 8 Regional Representative**



## QSL matters

Last month, we touched on the subject of poor responses to QSL cards. This month we take a look at the QSL information provided by some recent DXpeditions that highlight the need to, 'check before you send'. Please note that some information is abbreviated for space reasons.



**A35EU** – Tonga

Direct/OQRS/Clublog/Logbook of The World, Bureau to GM4FDM.

**EP6RRC** – Iran

Managed by R7AL. Clublog/Direct requests to PO Box of EU7A.

**VP6D** – Ducie (USA address)

Logbook of The World & OQRS at VP6D. Page managed by ZL1NA. No cards mailed from USA, all cards processed and mailed from UK. \$5 mailed anywhere.

**VK9XG** – Christmas Island

QSL via G3TXF. Use OQRS to request/Bureau/direct. Do not send us your card. This shows that there is no longer one single route to confirming a contact. Most of these actually don't wish to receive a card, due to the volume of contacts made. They are happy to either confirm the contact electronically for award purposes, or respond to an online (or in one case a direct postal) request for a card.

Some information may seem confusing where QRZ pages are managed by a different callsign from that of the QSL manager and none of the activators are resident in the country prefix. With so many DX locations now being activated, it's extremely difficult for any bureau to keep track of where to send outgoing cards. This is made harder where the activity is not recent, or there is no routing on the card, no bureau available, or the web information is not current. What is clear is that 'check before you send' has never been more important to avoid disappointment if you want that prized QSL card for your collection.

**Sub-manager information:** Details of the sub managers for the new M7 and GD/MD/2D series is now available on the RSGB website. For some time, DRR Mark Stevenson, MW6KZJ has been caretaking the MW-2W series of callsigns, but now he needs to step back due to a change in work commitments. A permanent sub-manager in Wales is required to handle this active and growing group of calls. If you love cards, have time, space and some basic spreadsheet knowledge please email [qsl@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:qsl@rsgb.org.uk) for information on how you can help.

**New cards from Canada:** A further and large batch of interesting cards has recently arrived for the 150th anniversary of Canada's Federation in 2017 and is now being processed (see photo). To avoid disappointment, please remember to keep your sub-manager well supplied with collection envelopes, as cards are only held for 90 days before being recycled.

## National Club of the Year 2018

In a change from last year, the RSGB will be judging entries in a single category regardless of club membership size. The judges want to learn about the special events that your club has run and details of other outreach activity and initiatives that you have undertaken to promote our hobby. Please use the entry form at <http://rsgb.org/main/clubs/national-club-of-the-year/> to enter, which must be sent to your Regional Manager by 25 February 2019.

Once again, we are indebted to Waters and Stanton for their generous sponsorship of this competition.

In order to determine regional winners, entries will be judged and ranked by a Regional Manager from outside of the Region to ensure impartiality. These winners will be announced at the RSGB AGM on 27 April in Birmingham.

The RSGB Board will judge the National winners, which will be announced at the National Hamfest in September.

## Convention talks online

Two more 2018 RSGB Convention talks are now on YouTube: *Using drones to measure antenna radiation patterns* by Jenny Bailey, G0VQH and *An Introduction to SDRs and GNU Radio* by Heather Lomond, M0HMO. Two others are available on the Members' section of the RSGB website: Don Greenbaum, N1DG talks about the *KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition* and Bo Hansen, OZ2M lectures on *P14, the digital mode for beacons, and why it is a success*. To view the videos go to [www.rsgb.org/videos](http://www.rsgb.org/videos). All the 2017 Convention lectures are now on YouTube.

## Spectrum Forum reports

The reports, presentations and minutes from the recent RSGB Spectrum Forum annual meeting are now available. This year there was a particular focus on the latest state of preparations for the 2019 World Radio Conference and developments in new digital modes. The reports are online at [www.rsgb.org/sfmeeting2018](http://www.rsgb.org/sfmeeting2018)

## Diary dates – RSGB AGM

The 92nd RSGB AGM will be held on 27 April 2019 at Jurys Inn, 245 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HQ. The Society has decided to dispense with publishing its audited report and financial statements in *RadCom*. The pages that become available as a result of this decision will be used for other articles. The audited report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 will be available on the Society's website from 1 April 2019. Printed copies of the financial statements will be available at the AGM and on request from the General Manager, RSGB HQ, 3 Abbey Court, Priory Business Park, Fraser Road, Bedford MK44 3WH. The audited financial statements will also be available from Companies House.

## TX Factor

TX Factor is the only UK TV show dedicated to amateur radio and Episode 22 features two new radios, the Yaesu FTdx101 and the Icom IC-R8600 receiver. Pete, M0PSX visits the 2018 RSGB Convention. Graham Shirville, G3VZV has an update on the latest news from AMSAT, including what to expect when the geostationary satellite Es'hail-2 is in full operation. Bob, G0FGX ventures into the controversial world of Network Radio! There is another free-to-enter draw with a bundle of radio-related items to win.

TX Factor is sponsored by the RSGB and Martin Lynch & Sons, and is also supported by viewer donations. TX Factor is free to watch across all platforms and Smart TVs. See [txfactor.co.uk](http://txfactor.co.uk) for more information.

## Volunteer Leadership Team meeting

The Volunteer Leadership Team (VLT) comprises the Regional Representatives (our link to clubs and Members), the Committee Chairs and Honorary Officers (our specialists on topics relevant to amateur radio), as well as the RSGB Board and senior HQ staff. Its purpose is to engage the volunteers and staff in implementing the goals from Strategy 2022 (more can be found at <https://rsgb.org/strategy>). The VLT meets three times a year with each meeting focused on a couple of subjects. Groups work together to formulate, promote and review these selected subjects to deliver the Society's goals.

The VLT met in mid November to discuss two subjects: DoRA (Directory of Resources and Advice), which is being developed to provide online easy-to-access content on topics often raised by Members; and two new schemes, aimed at promoting progression and diversity within the hobby.

The meeting split into five groups, each containing a mix of staff, representatives and specialists present to work on these items.

On DoRA they considered the initial topic list compiled from VLT Member proposals, and identified the gaps in topics and suggested the priority for implementation. Owners were also nominated for each topic, ie who would be responsible for preparing and updating the information. A separate project team will now be set up to oversee the implementation of DoRA, which will initially be launched in March 2019.

Presentations were given about the new two schemes. VLT Members then prepared suggestions for promoting them to clubs, Members and the amateur radio community as whole, as well as providing further suggestions of activities. Material will now be prepared for their staged launch later in the year.

The next VLT meeting will take place in March 2019.



## UK Spectrum Policy Forum

The RSGB recently had the opportunity to represent radio amateurs in a presentation to the UK Spectrum Policy Forum (SPF). Graham Murchie, G4FSG made a presentation and led the subsequent discussion on behalf of UK radio amateurs. The main objective of the SPF (managed by the TechUK industry association) is to harness industrial insights across the diverse range of spectrum users on the future developments in spectrum-based services and technology. The current phase is reviewing the social and economic aspects of spectrum use. This was a follow-up to the submission in June 2015.

Whilst it is recognised that amateur radio, by definition, does not necessarily contribute significantly to the economic use of the spectrum, the presentation focussed on the shortage of practical skills in the radio arena in the UK and gave examples of where the RSGB is encouraging development of the scarce skills and using them to good effect.

The session was the latest in a series of presentations by different spectrum users including mobile operators, MoD, broadcasters etc. It is vital to the Society that we are seen to be contributing to the wider debate around spectrum use.

Steve Thomas, M1ACB and Murray Niman, G6JYB were also present and contributed to the debate.

The summary of all presentations will be presented to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport over the next few months. The presentations are available at <https://tinyurl.com/ybpnnwaw>

### Congratulations

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

#### 60 Years

Mr R G Dobbinson G3RGD  
Mr P L A Burton G3ZPB

#### 50 Years

Nunsfield House ARG G3EE0  
Mr G B Laycock G3XWN  
Vange ARS RS123408  
Mr S Atkinson G3YPS

### The RSGB welcomes to the RSGB family the following new Members who have joined their voice to ours, helping to keep the RSGB strong.

Mr J Bryant, 20EY	Mr R Brown, G1LY	Marsham ARS, MOVFT	Windmill AR DX G, MX0ISJ	Mr J Fisher, RS320309
Mr B Chandler, 2EOGNC	Mr D Traynor, G1URQ	Mr N Byng, M1CFK	Mr S Hutchison, N6JJA	Mr O Williams, RS320375
Mr J Milner, 2EOIEW	Mr A Course, G4HND	Mr T Malkin, M3VTI	Mr P Stoetzer, N8HM	Mr S Scorer, RS320393
Mr G Lund, 2EONZA	Mr I Bateman, G4SBC	Mr D Chadwick, M6GOX	Mr T Dickson, NF1F	Ms S Evans, RS320466
Mr P Carne, 2EOPJC	Mr R Upton, G7AYB	Mr C Emery, M6LKN	Mr L Leon, OA4DQA	Mr N Winchcombe, RS320497
Mr M Clifford, 2EORBH	Mr B Kagelmacher, G7RAY	Mr M Quinn, M6PNF	Mr P Hernalsteen, ON5AV	Mr S Williamson, RS320597
Mr J Mottram, 2EOSEY	Mr T O'kavanagh, G8XRX	Mr P Hutchinson, M7AAZ	Mr J O Soerensen, OZ8SO	Mr R Moyse, RS320622
Mr M Carus, 2E1HNK	Mr P Clarke, GD1JNB	Mr S Dearne, M7ABC	Mr R Bryce, RS320081	Mr R Kilner, RS320623
Mr O Wood, 2E1HWE	Mr G Taylor, GW7GWT	Mr A Hill, M7AGH	Mr J Bradshaw, RS320142	Mr O Loof, SM2DCU
Mr K Henney, 2EDMQ	Mr F Grisafi, IT9GSF	Mr P Rollason, M7AOR	Mr J Howes, RS320144	Mr M Stubbs-Race, VK2ASR
Mr A Williams, AG6MW	Mr J V Owen, KB7GL	Mr T Piechowicz, M7DGT	Mr S Brock, RS320192	Mr P Hutchings, VK4PG
Mr D Bristol, AG6VX	Mr J Roman, KD2ETX	Mr D Pitty, M7DLP	Mr G Gray, RS320198	Ms M Geissinger, WA0SPM
Mr F Edart, F5EMR	Mr M Young, KJ7BFE	Mr J McDonald, M7JMC	Mr B Scelina, RS320203	Mr G Marks, WD8ICX
Mr J Chandler, G0JNN	Mr B Palmer, KT4ET	Mr J Nichols, M7JZN	Mr J Nisbet, RS320218	
Mr S Parkes, G0WXP	Mr L Andrews, MOLLX	Mr W Bevan, M7WBB	Mr R Coomer, RS320284	
Ms C Howard, G1COE	Mr R Jolly, MORJL	Mr E Berrisford, M7WHO	Mr E Coomer, RS320306	
Mr P Cork, G1GTX	Mr D Lodwig, MOVDL	Mr M Howard, M7WWT	Mr A Dyke, RS320307	

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

Mr P Sands, 2EOWDK	Mr R S Gibson, G4WGR	Mr D A Cripps, G7IDB	Mr H J White, K1RSA	Mr J Keefe, MOJDK
Mr A G Weatherall, 2EOWGA	Mr J Read, G4WWS	Mr WP Miller, G8ESL	Mr K L Ketner, KA5ELD	Mr T Balls, MOTAR
Mr D Mudd, 2IOCGZ	Mr N Bancel, G6KKD	Mr V Benney, G8MUQ	Mr R Bell, MOGMG	Mr G D Mate, M3BSF
Mr J Edwards, G0MJZ	Mr D Robinson, G7EHY	Mr R Finch, GD4RFZ	Dr M Roe, MOGXM	Mr D Watkins, W7JX



## Es'hail-2 launch

Following the successful launch on 15 November of Es'hail-2 on board the SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle, Mitsubishi and Es'hailSat have begun the In Orbit Testing (IOT). The testing phase will take a few months, during which time the amateur radio payload will not be turned on and AMSAT-DL will be commissioning the amateur transponder ground station in Dohar. Once IOT is complete, the satellite will be moved to the final orbital slot at 26° East and there will be an announcement by AMSAT-DL when the transponders are available for use. Before this announcement, no attempt should be made to use the transponders as any interference to the test programme will delay the release and, if excessive interference is seen, this may cause the satellite owners not to make the facility available for amateur use. See p72 for more on Es'hail-2. Photo kindly supplied by DH2VA.



## Exercise Blue Ham

Over the weekend of 13/14 October, the UK Cadet Forces ran Exercise Blue Ham on the 5MHz (60m) band, with '100' added to the callsign to celebrate 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force. Units from the Army, Sea, Air and CCF Cadet Forces applied for a unique callsign for use during the exercise period that had a prefix of MRE with numbers and a letter added that corresponded to their location in the UK. Around twenty stations were operational over different periods of the weekend. This provided amateurs with 'special short period' callsigns to hunt down. It caused some pileups at times, which gave the young operators some interesting QSOs with amateurs being patient until they got called. For those who logged 10 or more contacts during the exercise, a Certificate can be claimed from the Ex Co-Ordinator (<https://alphacharlie.org.uk/exercise-blue-ham>). So far 30 certificates have been issued. Operating conditions at times during the exercise were challenging due to QSB on the band, this raised some questions from the Cadets as many had not experienced this happening before when using VHF or UHF locally at their Units. It is worth noting that Cadets who operated the radio and logged calls during the exercise can use it to achieve the HF element of their Foundation licence.



## More countries on 5MHz

The Indian Government's Telecommunications regulator has published a 2018 Update to the Indian National Frequency Plan, effective 25 October, which lists new bands at 5MHz/60m, 472kHz/630m and 136kHz/2300m. 5,351.5–5,366.5kHz Secondary use, 15W EIRP; 472–479kHz Secondary use, 1W EIRP and 135.7–137.8kHz Secondary use, 1W EIRP. The regulations follows current ITU criteria for these bands.

The latest update to the Montenegro National Frequency Plan from the country's telecomms regulator, Ekip, lists a new band at 5MHz/60m, 5351.5–5366.5kHz with 15W EIRP, which has been confirmed by national society, the Montenegro Amateur Radio Pool (MARP).

Lithuania has also joined those countries active on 60m/5MHz. Telecomms regulator RRT has enabled the new WRC-15 Secondary Allocation in its 2018 update to the country's Frequency Allocation Table.

### News in Brief

#### Podcast moved

The Foundations of Amateur Radio weekly podcast, can be found at <http://vk6flab.com>, including a new home for the weekly net for new and returning amateurs, F-troop. You'll also find information about other podcasts, articles, links to eBooks and more. The existing URLs for podcast subscriptions will continue to work.

#### Graeme Platts, G4XOF SK

Graeme Platts, G4XOF lost his battle against cancer on his 63rd birthday, 26 November 2018. He originally worked at Martin Lynch & Sons in the early nineties at the stores in Ealing and was one of Martin's original employees. Graeme was known for his in-depth knowledge of scanners and communication receivers. After he was diagnosed in late 2017 he made the most of his shortened life. He drew up a bucket list and saw it all through including attending his daughter Emma's wedding and visiting the *Ross Revenge*, the original pirate ship of Radio Caroline that Graeme used to listen to as a kid. That's what got him interested in short wave radio. Totally brave and cheerful to the very end, G4XOF will be missed by his many friends and family. You can find a more detailed tribute to Graeme at [www.rsgb.org/sk](http://www.rsgb.org/sk)

#### Six Metre Band news

Six News 137 is now available for UK Six Metre Group members to download from the UKSMG website. It contains sixty pages of news and comment dedicated to the 6m band. The printed edition will be sent out to those members who take it but all group members can get the digital version via <https://tinyurl.com/ya4us4no>

## KW days

Every year sees an increase in the popularity of KW Days. This year it's on 5 and 6 January. Between the 1950s and the 1970s, the KW company, founded by Roly Shears, G8KW, grew to be the largest maker of amateur radio equipment ever seen in the UK. It offered an alternative to government surplus or homebrew. Initially a 'cottage industry' offering kit parts and part assemblies and AM/CW equipment, it developed into a fully fledged factory making a complete range of SSB transceivers and accessories.

KW Days offer clubs and collectors world-wide a special opportunity to activate and demonstrate KW equipment on the anniversary of the company's founding weekend.

In 2019 stations will again be active in a number of countries – including GB2KW by Sutherland ARS and GB8KW by Cray Valley ARS, who hope to have a rare KW Victor TX restored in time. The famous callsign G8KW may also appear. Of special interest this time will be the KW2000D at the RSGB's National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park. It is one of that last KW2000s ever made, featuring a Nixie tube digital readout and was originally the company founder's personal radio. Fewer than five KW2000Ds were ever made; it is an extremely rare radio.

As always, SSB/CW activity will be on any frequency ending in  $77 \pm \text{QRM}$  – 1.977, 3.777, 7.177, 14.177MHz etc. AM activity will be on VMARS frequencies.



## Lindars Radios



Lindars Radios was established in 2017 by Justin Lindars. It has now been in its current premises in Yeovil since the end of September with a wide network of clientele, including many local radio enthusiasts. The collection of items is growing daily and they have made great use of the new space. Customers really enjoy looking at the vintage section where there are some vintage crystal sets and wartime Morse keys. There is also an area where customers can sit down and have a go at Morse or try an external HF antenna so customers can try out radios before they buy.

[www.amateurradiosales.co.uk](http://www.amateurradiosales.co.uk)

## ISS contact



On 24 October, Delcastle Technical School in Wilmington, USA used a GOKSC LFA Yagi, designed by InnovAntennas, to make contact with the International Space Station (ISS). The pair of 7-ele 144-146MHz LFA Yagis was built by students at the Hodgson Vocational Technical School in Newark, a sister school of Delcastle Tech. When tasked with a project to build a Yagi to use for the contact, Students found the [www.goksc.co.uk](http://www.goksc.co.uk) website that has a selection of free-to-build Yagis designed by Justin Johnson, GOKSC.

## Advanced distance learning course

In the seven years since the Bath team started their Advanced Distance Learning courses they are approaching 700 passes with an average pass rate of 84%.

The final Advanced Distance Learning course to be run by the Bath-based team is due to start on 1 February 2019, aiming for an exam in July or August. Once that course is completed the team will be looking at the new three-tier syllabus to see how their material might be reworked. As a result, the team expects there will be no training in Bath for 6 to 12 months.

The course is free but students must provide their own textbook, calculator and arrange their own exam when the time comes. Guidance is provided by the course team. A £40 deposit is required to secure a place on the course but the deposit is refunded to those who complete the training. Deposits from students who did not complete the course, and generous donations from students who did, have so far raised over £14,000 for charities like the RCF, British Wireless for the Blind and RAIBC.

Course places are limited and the last four courses have been full well before the start date. So, if you are interested in joining, contact Course Leader, Steve, GOFUW without delay via email to [gofuw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gofuw@tiscali.co.uk)

## Sandringham School licence success

Sandringham School was the first school to talk to Tim Peake on the International Space Station and have continued their interest with amateur radio



since then. Eight students sat the Intermediate exam at school and, according to the indicative marks, they have all passed. This needs ratifying by RSGB exams department but they all scored above the threshold so it looks promising. They were very excited, said Alan Gray, G4DJX, the school's headmaster.

## INAC Magnetic Loop Antennas

ML&S has recently been appointed sole UK distributor for the Spanish range of INAC Magnetic Loop Antennas. Martin already sells the Ciro Mazzoni Loops from Italy and by adding the INAC brand, he says that it "simply increases customer choice when choosing a very compact HF antenna operating in a confined space".

Available from £379.95 for an AH-521 three band Halo Loop, INAC are located in Zaragoza Spain and have a huge range including a suitcase antenna covering 40-15m. Their flagship model AX-330 covers 3.5-30MHz and retails at £999.95.

For more info contact ML&S on 0345 2300 599 or go to [www.hamradio.co.uk/inac](http://www.hamradio.co.uk/inac)



Please send news reports to radcom@rsgb.org.uk. To get future events listed here and put on GB2RS, email details of your meetings as early as possible to radcom@RSGB.org.uk. Include your club name, RSGB Region number, contact name, callsign & phone number, date and details of meeting. **Example:** Fraser Road Radio Club, Region 9, Steve, M1ACB, 01234 832 700, 29 Oct, talk on sloth racing, Phil, G9ABC. We normally acknowledge all submissions within 3 working days: if you don't hear from us, please phone. We don't normally include 'closed', 'TBA' or 'every Tuesday'-type entries. The deadline for the February issue is 19 December and for March it's 23 January. For GB2RS, the deadline is 10am Thursday before broadcast.

## CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

### INTERNATIONAL

**Pafos Radio Club, Cyprus**  
Richard, 5B4AJG, 00 357 97 857 891,  
5b4ajg@gmail.com www.cyhams.org  
Meets 3rd Thursdays at the Hole in the Wall  
Restaurant, Coral Bay, 6 for 6.30. Visitors welcome.

**International Federation of Railway Radio  
Amateurs (FIRAC) www.firac.org.uk**  
Nets Sun 14.320MHz at 0830UTC, Wed  
21.3MHz at 1430UTC. g4gnq@hotmail.co.uk.

### NATIONAL

**Amateur Radio Caravan & Camping Club,**  
membership@arcc.org.uk  
www.arcc.org.uk

**AMSAT-UK – http://amsat-uk.org/**  
Open net every Sunday, 10am, 3.780MHz (±)

**British Railways ARS**  
Ian, G4EAN, www.brars.info  
Nets: Tuesday 7pm on 3.68MHz, Friday 4pm  
on 3.685MHz

**British Young Ladies Amateur Radio Association**  
www.bylara.org.uk  
Net Thurs, 3.688MHz±, 6.30pm. All YLs welcome.

**Civil Service Amateur Radio Society**  
Weekly net every Tuesday, 8pm, 3.763MHz

**CDXC – The UK DX Foundation – cdx.org.uk**  
For all interested in HF DX and contesting

**Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association**  
MemSec@RAOTA.org, www.RAOTA.org  
Diamond Jubilee year. Nets: see website

**Worked All Britain Awards Group**  
www.worked-all-britain.org.uk  
Nets most evenings, 3.760MHz±, time variable  
with propagation. Non-members welcome.

### REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

RR: Anthony Miles, MM0TMZ, RR1@rsgb.org.uk

**Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC**  
Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723  
6-12 On-air activity day, pick a day  
11 Club night

**Kilmarnock & Loudoun ARC**  
Len, GM0ONX, Klarcinfo@gmail.com  
8, 15 Club meeting / Training & construction  
22 AGM

**Mid Lanarkshire ARS**  
Joseph, 2M0JHY, mlarsclub@gmail.com  
4, 11, 18, 25 Club night and tuition

**West of Scotland (Glasgow) ARS**  
Jack, GM4COX, www.wosars.org.uk  
2, 4 Closed  
5, 13, 19 RSGB AFS 80m & 40m Contest  
9, 16, 20, 23 Solder Group  
11, 25 Club night  
18 Taking the heat out of a situation,  
Barry, GM0KZX

**Wigtownshire ARC**  
Bob, GM4DLG, info@gm4riv.com  
3 Antennas next to salt water, Bob, GM4DLG

### REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

RR: Andrew Burns, MM0CXA, RR2@rsgb.org.uk

**Aberdeen ARS**  
Fred, GM3ALZ, 01975 651 365  
3 Closed  
10, 17 Quiz night / Video evening  
24 Writing articles for magazines, Graham Knight  
31 Construction & on-the-air

**Dundee ARC**  
Martin, 2M0KAU, 0776 370 8933  
8, 15, 22 Club night & Foundation training  
29 Talk

**Inverness & District ARS**  
John, GM0OTI, 01463 791 444  
2 Club net, 8pm 145.575MHz & GB7BI slot  
1, 8pm  
9, 23 Club night

### REGION 3: NORTH WEST

RR: Kath Wilson, M1CNY, RR3@rsgb.org.uk

**Central Lancs ARC**  
Peter, G3UCA, g3uca@blueyonder.co.uk  
5 Club meeting  
6, 13, 20, 27 Net, 1.940MHz, LSB, 11am  
7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 70.425-70.475MHz, 8pm

**Oldham Radio Club**  
Mike, M1CVL, 0740 276 3203  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2m FM net, 8pm  
3, 10, 17, 24 Club night  
6, 20 D-Star Net - REF 14B, 9.30am  
13, 27 C4FM Net, FCS004-55, 9.30am  
31 Construction group

**South Manchester R&CC**  
Ron, G3SVW, 01619 693 999  
3 Members' reports on Christmas activities  
10 SDR development on GNU radio,  
Steve, M6PPF  
17 Contests large and small, Ron G3SVW  
24 Mini lectures by all members

**Stockport Radio Society**  
Heather, M6HNS, 0750 690 4422  
4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 433.575MHz, 7.30pm  
8 Vector network analysis  
15 Net, 51.550MHz FM, 7.30pm  
17, 29 Net, 145.375MHz FM, 7.30pm;  
committee meeting  
18 Social evening & trophy presentation  
22, 29 Radio night / Skills night  
26-27 Foundation course

**Thornton Cleveleys ARS**  
John, G4FRK, 01253 862 810  
7 Natter night/practical/club on air  
14, 28 Video / Digital modes evening  
21 Discussion on new project

### REGION 4: NORTH EAST

RR: Ian Douglas, G7MFN, RR4@rsgb.org.uk

**Bishop Auckland RAC**  
Gail, M3GBB, 0191 372 0473  
3, 10, 17 Club night and training

**Denby Dale RC**  
Darran, G0BWB, 0797 442 3227  
2, 16 Club night  
6, 13, 20, 27 Club net via GB3HD, 10.30am

26 Foundation class  
30 Real Ale night, Star Inn

**Durham & District ARS**  
Michael, G7TWX, 0782 692 4192  
2, 9, 23, 30 Club night  
16 AGM

**Hambleton ARS**  
John, M6BHP, 0798 000 3293  
9 ATV demonstration  
23 Operating night

**Hartlepool ARC**  
Stan, G7VGM, stan.g7vgm@gmail.com  
4, 18 Foundation/Intermediate training  
11 AGM  
25 Morse night

**Hornsea ARC**  
Gordon, G3W0V, 01377 240 573  
9 Bring a mystery object night  
16 My shack, Gordon, G3W0V  
23 DXpeditions, Richard, G4CGG  
30 Shack and video night

**Newsham ARTC**  
John, 2E0DCV, 01912 371 729  
9, 16 Club night, Foundation training  
23, 30 Club night, Morse training

**Sheffield ARC**  
David, G6DCT, littlewood20@btinternet.com  
7, 21 Shack night operating GX3RCM  
14 Club night

**Spen Valley ARS**  
Russell, G0FOI, 01274 875 038  
3 Shack meeting/on the air  
17 AGM

**Tynemouth ARC**  
mail@gOnwm.com, www.gOnwm.com  
4 Closed  
11 Social media and amateur radio  
18 Club night  
25 Operating award programmes and special  
event callsigns

### REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

RR: Martyn Vincent, G3UKV, RR5@rsgb.org.uk

**Burton ARC**  
Rob, G6EIH, 0781 214 6333  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club night, non-members welcome  
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open net, 145.575MHz, 8pm  
6, 13, 20, 27 Net, 145.575MHz, 10am

**Coventry ARS**  
John, G8SEQ, 0795 877 7363  
1 1st round G2FDC 2m DF Trophy  
4 Radio Workshop  
11 Annual dinner at The Holyhead  
18, 25 Club night

**Gloucester AR&ES**  
Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club net, 145.475MHz FM, 7.30pm  
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net, 145.475MHz,  
then on 80m SSB, 7.30pm  
4, 11, 18 25 Club net, 432.220MHz SSB, 7.30pm  
7, 21, 28 Informal Activities  
14 This is my shack – guess who the photo  
belongs to



**Malvern Hills RAC**  
**Dave, G4IDF, 01905 351 568**  
 8 Show & tell  
 22 Informal

**Nuneaton & District ARC**  
**Neil, MONKE, info@ndarc.co.uk**  
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net, 145.475MHz,  
 9.30pm  
 4 Pint & chat, The Griffin Inn, Nuneaton RD  
 18 AGM & Rugby Radio talk

**South Birmingham RS**  
**Gemma, M6GKG, gemmagordon.m6gkg@gmail.com**  
 1 Closed  
 4 Work in shack  
 7, 21 Checking club equipment  
 8, 15, 22, 29 Coffee morning, 11am, all welcome  
 10, 17, 24 Training classes, Dave, G8OWL  
 14 Checking club aerials and feeders  
 25 Review of this year's rally visits  
 28 Sorting rally stock

**Telford & District ARS**  
**John, M0JZH, 0782 473 7716**  
 2 Informal social meeting  
 9 Club forum – bring your ideas  
 16, 23 Committee meeting / Winter projects  
 review  
 30 Surplus sale

**Wythall Radio Club**  
**Chris, G0EYO, 0771 041 2819**  
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Morse class, club night & activities  
 6, 13, 20, 27 Club net, 8pm, 145.225MHz or  
 GB3WL

## REGION 6: NORTH WALES

RR: John Pritchard, MW0JWP  
 RR6@rsgb.org.uk

**North Wales Radio Society**  
**Liz, GW0ETU, 0776 019 0355**  
 3, 24 General meeting / natter night  
 10, 31 Technical topic / OTA evening  
 17 Marconi in Wales, Peter, GW4UWD

## REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

RR: Glyn Jones, GW0ANA, RR7@rsgb.org.uk

**Aberystwyth & District ARS**  
**Ray, GW7AGG, 01970 611 853**  
 6 Junk sale, 11am  
 10 Propagation perils, Bruce, GW4XXF  
 31 Club net, 145.500MHz then QSY

**Carmarthen ARS**  
**Andy, GW0JLX, 0776 828 2880**  
 8, 22 Club night, social & on the air

**Llanelli ARS**  
**Steve, MW6CCG, 0787 849 4337**  
 7 On the air night and club raffle  
 14, 21 DVD night / Social evening  
 28 Junk sale and club raffle

## REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

RR: Philip Hosey, M10MSO, RR8@rsgb.org.uk

**Bangor & District ARS**  
**Harry, G14JTF, 0289 042 2762**  
 3 Annual quiz

**West Tyrone ARC**  
**Philip, M10MSO, 0784 902 5760**  
 9 Meeting night  
 23 Activity night

## REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

RR: Tom O'Reilly, G0NSY, RR9@rsgb.org.uk

**Aylesbury Vale RS**  
**avrs@rakewell.com**  
 9 Annual dinner

**Burnham Beeches RC**  
**Greg, G4EBY, ebytronics@gmail.com**  
 6, 13, 20, 27 Club net, 145.500MHz, 10.30am  
 7 Planning future meetings & DX picnic  
 21 Club night & licence exams

**Chesham & District ARS**  
**Terry, G0VFW, 01442 831 491**  
 9 FT8, James, M0JCQ  
 23 AGM

**Edgware & District RS**  
**Mike, G4RNW, 020 8950 0658**  
 10 AGM  
 24 Pay your subs tonight

**Milton Keynes ARS**  
**Phil, G4FVZ, 0780 263 6998**  
**all meetings now at Irish Centre, Manor Fields**  
**MK2 2HX**  
 12 100 years of maritime wireless, John, G1AWJ  
 21 Operating skills discussion night  
 28 Building a WWII radio station, Peter, M0PJD

**Newbury & District ARS**  
**Rob, G4LMW, 0797 088 5614**  
 23 Running RIAT, Tim Prince OBE FRAES

**Radio Society of Harrow**  
**Linda, G7RJL, lcasey100@outlook.com**  
 4 Hands-on measurements  
 6, 13, 20, 27 Club net, 1938kHz LSB, 12 noon  
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 145.5MHz FM & QSY,  
 8.15pm  
 12-13, 19-20 Foundation course, 10-4pm  
 18 Club night  
 27 Sunday activity, shack, 2-5pm

**Reading & District ARC**  
**Laurence, G2DD, 0758 470 6625**  
 10 Club equipment demo and review  
 24 Charles Wheatstone, Colin McEwen

**Shefford & District ARS**  
**David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757**  
 3 Welcome back meeting  
 10, 24 RADAR evening / Construction contest  
 17 How fast is your internet?  
 31 Antenna modelling, Gareth, M5KVK

**Whitton ARG**  
**Ian, G00FN, 0795 620 3495**  
 4 Social meeting in the bar  
 11 Raspberry Pi demo  
 18, 25 Club night and on the air

## REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

RR: Keith Bird, G4JED, RR10@rsgb.org.uk

**Brede Steam ARS**  
**Martin, M0MJU, m0nuc.bsars@gmail.com**  
 1, 5, 8, 15, 22, 29 Operating at the shack  
 9am-2pm  
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net, GB3ES, 8.15pm

**Bredhurst R&TS**  
**Nicky, secretary@brats-qth.org**  
 3, 10 Club night  
 5, 24 Coffee morning / Committee meeting  
 17 Bring & talk  
 31 GB3VHF & GB3UHF story, Chris, G0FDZ

**Bromley & District ARS**  
**Andy, G4WZG, 01689 878 089**  
 2, 9, 15, 23, 30 Net, 145.500MHz and QSY, 9pm  
 15 AGM and programme planning  
 29 Club meal

**Chippenham & District ARC**  
**secretary@g3vre.org.uk**  
 1 Closed  
 8, 15 Club night

**Cray Valley RS**  
**Dave, G8ZZK, 0773 954 9822**  
 5 GB8KW KW Electronics special event day  
 17 Planning for 2019

**Crystal Palace R&EC**  
**Bob, G30OU, 01737 552 170**  
 1 AGM  
 4 Video evening

**Dorking & District RS**  
**David, M6DJB, djb.abraxas@btinternet.com**  
 22 Magnetron history, Prof Mike Underhill,  
 G3LHZ

**Hilderstone RS**  
**Ian, 2E0DUE, secretary@g0hrs.org**  
 10, 24 Natter night / talk  
 12-20 RNLI operating

**Hog's Back ARC**  
**Ray, G4LUA, 0118 981 4174**  
 14 Natter night, CW practice  
 28 Amateur satellites, Frank, M0AEU

**Horndean & District ARC**  
**Stuart, G0FYX, 02392 472 846**  
 4, 18 Natter night / Club night

**Surrey Radio Contact Club**  
**John, G3MCX, 020 8688 3322**  
 3, 10, 17, 24 Net, 8pm, 70.300MHz  
 4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 8pm, 145.350MHz  
 6, 13, 20, 27 Net, 9.30am, 1905kHz  
 7 FT8, Alan, G0TLK  
 21 Fix-it, move-it-on, skills, chat and advice night

## REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLES

RR: Martin Sables, G7NTY, RR11@rsgb.org.uk

**Callington ARS**  
**John, G4PBN, 01822 835 834**  
 2 Club night

**Cornish RACub**  
**Steve, G7VOH, 01209 844 939**  
 2 Committee meeting  
 3 Main meeting

**Exmouth ARC**  
**Mike, G1GZG, 01395 274 172**  
 2 Pub night quiz & social  
 16 Ad hoc talk or demo

**Newquay & District ARS**  
**Terry, 2E0XTM, 01841 540 142**  
 16 AGM  
 30 Club night

**Poldhu ARC**  
**Keith, G0WYS, 01326 574 441**  
 8 Business meeting  
 12 Christmas lunch at Wheal Dream  
 18 Marking first USA-UK two way contact

**Riviera ARC**  
**rivieraarc@gmail.com**  
 3 Club night  
 17 7th birthday party, Precinct Centre

**Weston Super Mare RS**  
**Martin, G7UWI, g7uwip@googlemail.co.uk**  
 7, 14, 28 Construction, Morse tuition, operating  
 21 AGM

**Yeovil ARC**  
**Bob, G8UED, 01963 440167**  
 3, 24 The Red Tent DVD, Morse practice  
 4, 18 Sparkford on air and practices  
 17 Practical applications of the Smith Chart  
 19 Coffee morning

## REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

RR: Peter Onion, G0DZB, RR12@rsgb.org.uk

**Braintree & District ARS**  
**Edwin, G0LPO, 01376 324 031**

1 Club net, 145.375MHz, 8pm

**Essex Ham**  
**Pete, M0PSX, news@essexham.co.uk**  
 5 Essex YL Net, GB3DA, 8pm  
 6 Online Foundation course starts  
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net, GB3DA, 8pm,  
 www.essexham.net

**Harwich ARIG**  
**Kevan, 2E0WMG, 0749 352 1049**  
 9 Bitesize Topics, G0DVJ & 2E0WMG

**Huntingdonshire ARS**  
**David, M0VTG, secretary@hunts-hams.co.uk**  
 10 Natter night  
 24 Baluns, Steve, G1KWF

**Leiston ARC**  
**John, G4XVE, secretary@larc.org.uk**  
 8 Quiz night

**South Essex ARS**  
**Terry, G1FBW, 0798 607 0040**  
 8 Pre-Canvey rally meeting

**Thames ARG**  
**Patrick, G8JLM, 01621 855 461**  
 4 Two talks: Fraud and Knots  
 11, 25 CW net 144.250MHz, 7.30pm  
 Net on GB3DA, 8pm  
 18 Practical radio projects

**Thurrock Acorns ARC**  
**Gordon, M0WJL, acorns@taarc.co.uk**  
 1 SSTV net, 144.500MHz, 7.30pm  
 3, 9, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net, 7.30pm,  
 145.500MHz FM  
 15 Basic propagation, Gwyn, G4FKH

## REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

RR: Jim Stevenson, G0EJQ  
 RR13@rsgb.org.uk

**Kettering & District ARS**  
**Ed, M0TZX, M0TZX@yahoo.com**  
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net, 145.300MHz FM, 7pm

**Leicester RS**  
**Sandra, G0MCV, 0793 027 4044**  
 7 Morse class, RSGB video  
 14 Morse class, free 'n easy, committee meeting

21 Morse class, soup and a roll  
 28 EGM followed by AGM

**Melton Mowbray ARS**  
**Phil, G4LWB, 01664 567 972**  
 18 Quiz night

**Nunsfield House ARG**  
**Paul, G1SGZ, pr@nharg.org.uk**  
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net, 145.325MHz, 8pm  
 4 Natter night  
 7, 14, 21, 28 Shack night  
 11 Surplus sale  
 18 Programme planning  
 25 3D printing

**Spalding & District ARS**  
**Graham, G8NWC, 0775 461 9701**  
 18 AGM

**RAF Waddington ARC**  
**Bob, G3VCA, 0797 116 6250**  
 4, 18, 25 Nibbles and club night  
 7, 14, 21, 28 Club net, 8pm, 145.325MHz  
 11 AGM

**Deadlines for the next  
 three issues of RadCom are:**  
**19 December (February edition)**  
**23 January (March edition) and**  
**20 February (April edition)**

### REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

Wigtownshire ARC elected a new committee for 2018-19 at their recent AGM. The new committee comprises President Bob, GM4DLG, Webmaster Oli, 2M00OS, Exam Sec Nadine, MM0WNW, Lead Instructor Clive, GM4FZH, Secretary Liam, 2MOXSE, Treasurer Peter, GM7NFF, Shack Mgr, William 2M0WML and QSL Manager Wul, 2M0WUL. The main base for the club is in Stranraer, where a shack is maintained for members' use. Meetings are held on Thursdays, the first of each month is a talk or presentation. The club's catchment area is large, covering the whole of Dumfries & Galloway, and several of the 70 members make long distance journeys to attend meetings. One member covers 100 miles each way – by bus. Some of this session's talks, as well as visits to sites of interest, will be held in other venues further to the east, which should assist the more remotely located members. Practical sessions, aimed particularly at beginners in the hobby, are held on other club evenings. The club prides itself on being the only exam centre in South West Scotland, and puts especial effort into this aspect of its operation.

### REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

Dundee ARC would like to congratulate Garry, M0XET for passing his Advanced exam. He was the first person in the club to pass the online exam. Garry's training was carried out via the Bath Distance Learning course.

### REGION 3: NORTH WEST

November saw the AGM for Furness ARS, where the majority of the committee were re-elected for another year. The committee consists of Chris, M0TES, Chairman, Chris, M0KPW, Secretary, Martyn, M0TEB, Treasurer and Andrew, M6GUM, committee member and Exam Secretary. During the AGM, a certificate of thanks and bottle of Lamb's Navy rum were presented to Bill, G4USW who has been the club's QSL manager for over 25 years. Bill has decided it's time to retire from QSL duties and take a well earned rest, having produced and administered QSL cards for all the club's special events and activities. A Foundation weekend took place in November, with tutoring and the practical assessment followed by the exam, which was taken online by all candidates. Congratulations to those who passed, and club members look forward to hearing those new M7 calls on the air soon. At the end of the month Chris, M0KPW gave a talk and presentation of his and Nick, G0HIK's recent SOTA activities. 16 activations were made in late August and throughout September in the Lake District and North Pennines. It was a light hearted look at the routes taken to the summits, kit used, QSO counts with photos.

Isle Of Man ARS would like to congratulate the eight members who attend the recent Intermediate course and passed the exam. The candidates were Gavin, 2DOPEY, Allistair, 2DOXCE, Nick, 2DOEYK, Chris, 2DOVES, Mark, 2DOOMY, Daniel, 2DOXPS, Richard, 2DOWFK and Dylan, 2DONAU. The theory side was tutored by Dan, GDOVIK and Andy, GDOAMD, practicals supervised and completed by Richard, GD8EXI, Matty, MDOMAN, John, GDOTFG and Andy, GD1MIP. The exam was invigilated by Liz, MD3EEW. Many of the candidates are now on the Full licence course being run by Richard, GD8EXI.

### REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

Bangor & District ARS held a surplus equipment meeting in November that was very busy. Thanks to all who attended. Some changes have taken place within the Society. It is aimed to create a more social meeting so talks will still take place but will be strictly time limited. Some activities will be curtailed to encourage more interactive activities. The next meeting is the annual quiz on 3 January, which is open to all radio amateurs and their families. The photo below shows Stephen, G10HHV puzzling how to assemble the club's hex aerial.



### REGION 4: NORTH EAST

On 18 November, members of Hartlepool ARC visited the Humber Coastguard Station at Bridlington. The trip was arranged by club member Dave, M6IYH who had been a serving officer at Humber Coastguard before retirement. The officers on duty spent over two hours with club members explaining the many aspects of their job and demonstrating the vast amount of state-of-the-art computer, electronic and radio equipment they use in their work. The station's duties are varied, including everything from co-ordinating cliff rescues, rescues at sea involving RNLI lifeboats and Coastguard helicopters, dealing with shipping and pleasure craft to dealing with beached marine life! Hartlepool ARC is very grateful to Humber Coastguard for allowing them to visit and they fully appreciate the sterling service carried out by their experienced, professional officers.



Lough Erne ARC is proud of young member, Nathan, M10NPR. Alongside A-levels at Fivemiletown College, he took the Advanced Distance Learning Course. In August, he got excellent A-level results and a Full licence with his first QSO at the YOTA gathering in South Africa. His YOTA reports included a video presentation to a club meeting. The Armistice Centenary events included a special event station GB1918EKN at Enniskillen Castle. Nathan, now an RSGB Youth Representative, relished the challenges of amateur radio in an interview with Radio Ulster's John Toal. A link to his interview is within the club's online GB1918EKN report. Go to <https://learc.eu/gb1918ekn/>



## REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

Raspberry Pi was the subject of Verulam ARC's October meeting. It started with a viewing of the presentation Mike Richards, G4WNC, gave at the RSGB Convention in 2017. Afterwards members talked about the use they were making of this powerful little device for both amateur radio and other purposes. In November, eight students at Sandringham School, St Albans, together with two adult members of VARC, passed their Intermediate licence examination. Interestingly the only two girl students had passed their Foundation exam together, just in time to take part in the School's contact with Tim Peake aboard the ISS in January 2016. The training and exam arrangements were organised by club member Greg Beacher, MOPPG. *(Presentations given at RSGB Conventions may be downloaded from the RSGB website – Ed).*

## REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

Hordean & District ARC has completed the latest Intermediate class with the exam held in November. All three students passed. Congratulations to all the successful candidates and thank you to the club's Intermediate licence assessors Simon, G0IEY, Frank, G0LFI and Russ, G4SAQ and the training manager, Ken, G0JWL. Contact Julia, G0IUY (on 023 9278 5568) with any enquiries about future courses at all three levels. Club chairman Ken, G0JWL presented Jon, M6HZQ with the Sid Jenkins Memorial Trophy for his winning antenna club project for 2018, which was a half wave flowerpot antenna for 2m/70cm (see photo, right). Sid, G4CHO, was a founder member of the club in 1975.



Over the Armistice weekend, a joint collaboration between Chertsey RC and Echelford RC took place to operate GB1WAR. Over 300 QSOs were made using CW, satellite, FT8 and SSB. The station respectfully acknowledged 100 years since the end of WWI and the sacrifices of those in WWII and more recent war efforts, their families and friends for which we owe our freedom.

Marsham ARS is a new radio club, recently affiliated to the RSGB. The club meeting place is the Club House, Wood Fields, Fairlight. Meeting dates vary, so email Steve at sec.m0vft@gmail.com for full details.

## REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLES

Terry, ex coxswain of the Sennen Cove lifeboat and top LF band DXer, gave Poldu ARC a very entertaining and interesting talk in November. He described the various lifeboats he has served in up to the present day Tamar class multi-million pound boat *City of London* and the various 'shouts' he has been on, many of which have involved towing stricken trawlers and coasters back to port. All the crew except for the coxswain and engineer are volunteers so after a day's work to have your pager go off means it is down to the lifeboat station, get kitted up and out to sea, possibly not returning to port for 8 hours or more. Then back to work in the morning, so it takes a special type to volunteer for this work. Finally Terry gave quick rundown of his LF band antennas, which consists of verticals together with a K9AY listening antenna. With this setup Terry can put a good signal into the Pacific on 160m and 80m. A most entertaining evening.



Members of Poldhu ARC commemorated the end of the First World War by operating a special station from the Marconi Centre at Poldhu between 9 and 12 November. GB100MPD was used, as 'MPD' was the callsign used by the station at Poldhu during WW1. The wireless station at Poldhu used the callsign ZZ until the outbreak of the war when the Admiralty took over the running of the station. The day war broke out, the station sent a signal to all British ships that hostilities had begun and the ships were not to enter German ports. MPD was the callsign used throughout the war and on 11 November 1918, Marshal Foch sent a signal from Paris stating that hostilities had ended. This message was transmitted to all the British ships from Poldhu again using the callsign MPD. Nearly 300 members of the Marconi Company lost their lives in the conflict, many aboard ships as radio operators. Now their lives have been commemorated by the radio amateurs at Poldhu. The event proved to be very successful with stations contacted all over Europe and Asia and also into North America using voice and Morse code. On the Friday, a BBC reporter, Jen Smith, and a cameraman came to Poldhu to film the operation and interview some of the members. The piece was broadcast on local BBC Spotlight at 6.30pm. Poldhu ARC ran two stations. On HF an IC-7300 drove a linear with a hex beam antenna. The 40m SSB station used a FT-950D, also with a linear amplifier into a 40m dipole. Nearly 2,000 QSOs went into both logs. Most QSOs were SSB and CW but 70+ were on PSK63. Operators were G3PLE, G0DBW, G3UCQ and G3UYN.

## REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

The November talk at Thurrock Acorns (Grays in Essex) was by founder member, Nick, G4HCK, on his experience of MMSSTV, ie sending pictures via SSB, FM and repeaters. "I've no idea what all the buttons do, but it works!" he said to encouraged those who might have been overwhelmed by all the settings. This is the value of club meetings, Nick showed how easy it is to send and receive pictures (visual medium) over the radio (audio medium) using free MMSSTV software and he instantly answered questions that might have taken ages to look up in the manual.





In the closing weeks of 2018, Essex Ham ventured out to a very cold Shoebury East Beach for a field event in support of the Thurrock Acorns 2m Activity Day. This activity day takes place twice a year to help encourage more activity on the 2m band, and over a dozen Essex Ham members turned up in support. Special thanks to Geoff, G0DDX and Linda, G0TPX who travelled from Cambridge for a few chilly hours on the Essex coast, and to Nick, M0NFE and Majbritt, M6YAX for bringing along their two-week old harmonic to meet the Essex Ham team. Several contacts were made on 2m FM and SSB from the warmth of vehicles to avoid the River Thames chill.

**Colchester Radio Amateurs** has improved its position in the CC contests from 10th to 4th in 2017/18 and overall in their standings from 56th to 10th in the 2017/18 AFS Super League. After consultation with the committee, a new HF contest team was formed within the group to engage in and promote activity in future contests, the first of which saw five operators taking part in the recent CQWW DX competition making a creditable 525 QSOs despite having to shut down for nine hours due to local bad weather. Currently the main group members, Garry, M0MGP, Mark, M0LTG, Herbie, G6XOU and Caroline, 2E0SXH are encouraging other members of the club to join the team and take part in the various RSGB contests with Jonathan, G0DVJ, acting as mentor to the team. The team are planning for the 2019 contests with a view to gaining their Short Contest Call for the club. At the same time a purpose built trailer will be transformed into a mobile shack complete with 60ft pump up mast, two radio positions, monitoring station and more. This will also be used for Special Event days when displays will be put on for members of the public so that they can engage with them and inform them about the hobby. Their last two special events saw five people enter and pass the Fast Track Foundation training. One of the newest Foundation successes, Nic, M6XTN, has already joined the contest group and made his mark in the recent contest, taking to the operators chair like he was born to do it.

### REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

Steve Marsh, 2E0WCG, gave a talk to the members of **South Kesteven ARS** on FT8 and the experimental JS8Call modes. A total of 186 reception reports were made on 40m and 80m as well as several QSOs that were logged whilst the presentation was underway. The ATV presentation at the previous meeting prompted Alan Moriss, G4ENS, to dig into his archive where he found some of his display cards from the 1970s when he was active on VHF TV. He also found a map from his involvement with the UHF repeater committee showing the allocations of the then-new UHF repeaters to a grid map to make sure that they weren't too close to each other. It is quite noticeable that the only repeaters at that time were in the South East! Andrew Garratt, M0NRD gave a very interesting talk to the club on his experimentation with amateur television, demonstrating his setup and kit he had built including small bowtie antennas and repurposing 2.4GHz high gain Wi-Fi antennas to work on 5GHz (right) to help with DX QSOs in the UK. Sadly, his attempts to make a successful QSOs to date have been unsuccessful either due to equipment failure or the other party forgetting to turn up, but he plans to keep going! He also explained how he hoped to make use of the new Es'hail-2 satellite and club members look forward to hearing about the next instalment.

**Nunsfield House ARG** had five successful candidates in their Intermediate exam on 3 November. They were John Raybould, Ronald Jones, Christopher Emery, James Woodcock and Vipin Ajayakumar. Special thanks to the course tutor Steve, M0OSI, exam invigilators Ken, G0JKC and Richard, 2E0ZDY as well as Ken, G3OCA for organising the course.

