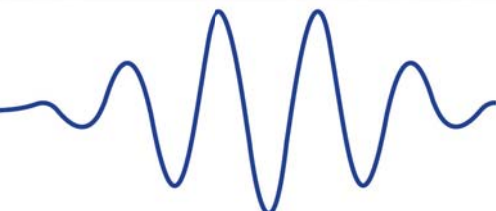




Radio Society of Great Britain

Advancing amateur radio since 1913



Affiliated Clubs Newsletter

March 2018



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
Post your event on the RSGB website by logging in at rsgb.org/members

National Club of the Year 2017 and the RSGB Strategy



This year the RSGB has decided to change the theme of the National Club of the Year competition to fit more closely with its strategic goals. The theme of “*Mentoring and Retention*” sits right at the heart of the Society’s main goal of having “an active and thriving amateur radio community” and sends a two-fold challenge to us all:

- How can we ensure that new licensees don’t get discouraged and drift away?
- How do we provide the right environment and opportunities for radio amateurs to keep trying new things, developing their skills and knowledge whilst participating actively in all that our diverse hobby has to offer?

Growth, Participation and Diversity within the hobby are just three of the eight strategic priorities we recognised as being important to ensure that the amateur radio community continues to thrive in the future. By putting these at the centre of our club competition we know that we will shine a light on the great work that clubs are doing to answer the challenges posed above.

Last year the RSGB President invited clubs to share with him their ideas for organising clubs and events in different ways in order to excite and develop enthusiasm for amateur radio. He also visited large numbers of clubs across the country and this research culminated in a presentation at the RSGB Convention, followed by a very lively discussion! It demonstrated that there are a wide range of traditional and non-traditional club setups, activities and ideas that are being used to mentor and encourage radio amateurs, far wider than perhaps any of us could have imagined. We will be bringing some of those ideas together on our website in the coming weeks to inspire others, spark discussion and create a resource of tried-and-tested activities that every club can use.

“shine a light on the great work that clubs are doing”

Has your club participated in the research? Are you thinking of entering the Club of the Year competition? We all should have a desire and a responsibility to ensure the continued success of amateur radio and one aspect of that is to share what we do as individuals, or as clubs, and also to be willing to step out of our comfort zone and try new ideas.

How does your club help to motivate people in their first years of being licensed or as they achieve the next licence level? What activities do you offer to help them try out different areas of amateur radio and to develop their knowledge and skills? How do you encourage sustained practical enjoyment of amateur radio? These are the areas that the judges will be looking at in the competition but they are important questions for your club – and for amateur radio – whether you enter Club of the Year or not.

You can read more about the competition on our website (www.rsgb.org/coty) but the question at the heart of it remains a challenge for all of us – what are we doing to help encourage new radio amateurs and how are we developing our own skills as well as enabling others to do the same?

Steve Thomas, M1ACB

RSGB General Manager

Club presentations on HF and VHF propagation

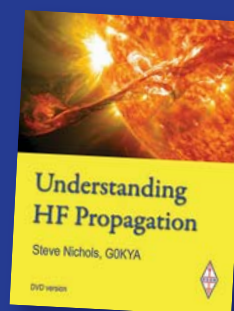
The Propagation Studies Committee (PSC) would like to remind clubs that it has two downloadable, narrated video presentations for club evenings.

- 1 *Understanding HF Propagation* is 40 minutes long and is available as a 180MB .m4v file so it can be played on most computers with appropriate software, such as the free VLC media player. It first looks at the Sun, sunspots, solar flares and coronal mass ejections and their effects on HF propagation. It then looks at other terms such as maximum usable frequency, critical frequency and near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation. The last section looks at how you can use propagation predictions programs and online resources.
- 2 *Radio Propagation – VHF and higher* looks at the spectrum above 28MHz. The 20-minute 89.7MB presentation looks at tropospheric propagation, aurora, rain scatter, Sporadic-E and other modes, with real-life examples of each. It shows that VHF is really far more than just “line of sight”.

Each presentation comes with show notes with useful URLs and the option of a Skype-based Question and Answer session after the presentation with a member of the Propagation Studies Committee.

So far more than 91 clubs have used the HF presentation and 41 have shown the VHF version, with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

To book the use of either presentation, contact the PSC Chairman Steve Nichols, G0KYA, via email to psc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk. You will then be sent a download link and the show notes. You can decide if you want to book a Skype-based Q&A for your evening or you may wish to hold a Q&A session among club members. The PSC recommends using only one of the presentations per evening.



GR2HQ HQ station

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) HF Championship takes place on 14-15 July. RSGB HQ station GR2HQ will once again be active from various places around the UK. If you’d like to be part of the team or host one of the stations please contact Nick, G4FAL via email to nick@totterdell.co.uk

RSGB live news page

Have you seen our live news page?

It brings together our main news feed as well as our regular updates on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in one easy-to-find place. You don’t need a social media account to see it. Take a look at www.rsgb.org/live

National Radio Centre volunteers

Run by the RSGB, the National Radio Centre is a showcase for radio communications technology. The centre provides the opportunity to discover the history and development of radio from its outset through to modern communication methods. Visitors will also find a wealth of activities including a short film, interactive displays, hands-on experiments and the opportunity to see the GB3RS amateur radio station in communication with radio enthusiasts around the world.

The Society is seeking additional volunteers to help with the staffing of the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park. Presently the NRC is open Wednesday through to Sunday, but we are looking for volunteers to assist opening on a Monday and Tuesday.

As a volunteer at the NRC you will enjoy the benefits provided by Bletchley Park for all its volunteers and have the satisfaction of helping to run one of the leading radio communication display areas in Europe.

We seek people living within reasonable travelling distance of Bletchley Park, who are confident HF radio operators, who are prepared to adopt the 'house style' of operating, and are comfortable representing amateur radio and radio communications to members of the public visiting the centre.

You should be willing to offer one day per fortnight to this role but more if you can.

Please apply in the first instance to nrc.support@rsgb.org.uk or gm.dept@rsgb.org.uk to discuss the role.

Alternatively, visit the NRC and ask to speak with Martyn Baker, G0GMB, NRC Coordinator.



TX Factor

The latest episode of TX Factor is available to view now on YouTube or at its home, www.txfactor.co.uk.

Episode 20 of the only UK TV show dedicated to amateur radio is packed with news of must-have new additions for your shack.

Richard Newstead, G3CWI tells us about a handy gadget for Icom IC-7300 owners, the SOTA Click to Tune. Graham Sommerville, M3ZGS, from bhi tells us about the Para Pro EQ20 and how it can help you shape the audio from your radio to exactly suit your ears and if you are thinking about dipping your toes in to the world of SDR this is the show to get you started! We meet Jon Hudson from SDRplay who tells us about his approach to designing SDR radios and we give you the chance to win an RSP1A wideband full featured SDR. Our lucky winner will also get a copy of the hugely popular new book from the RSGB, *Software Designed Radio* by Andrew Barron, ZL3DW. This book covers everything from SDR theory to the range of commercial gear now on the market.

We will also be showing you the cheapest way to get a flavour of what SDR is all about as Bob McCreadie, G0FGX delves in to the world of the cheapo dongle, telling you how you can start decoding digital voice modes with one of these low price DTV dongles, and some free to download software.

When the TX Factor team were filming at the National Hamfest they were intrigued to see that Yaesu were showing off their latest fusion repeaters. They asked Yaesu's Karl Brazier, G7AFT to explain the latest chapter in the Fusion story and show us what these new repeaters can do.

Episode 20 of is something of a milestone for the TX Factor team, marking four years since the show first hit your screens, so in case you haven't managed to catch up on all the previous episodes there is a round up of some of the many radio related topics they have covered so far.

The latest TX Factor – and all the previous shows – are available at www.txfactor.co.uk and it is free to watch on all platforms and smart TVs. The TX Factor team also provides a weekly podcast of the GB2RS news from the RSGB.

TX Factor is sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain and Martin Lynch & Sons, and is also supported by viewer donations.

March 2018

Convention videos

RSGB has published two more lectures from the RSGB 2017 Convention on our website:

- 1 *M1N-the-Middle*, a flexible hardware control add-on for your K3 by James Patterson, M1DST. A fascinating insight by an innovative, yet practical, experimenter and builder. He dealt with several of his projects from a monitor for a commercial GPS Standard, through 12V distribution boards for Power Poles to challenging what was involved in a separate rotary tuning knob for certain rigs – particularly financially. Hence he designed his own device, M1N-the-middle, including using a 3D printer for the box and control knob.
- 2 *Antenna selection for the 6G DXpeditions* by Mike Chamberlain, G3WPH. The UK based 6Gs DXpedition team have made three trips to Pacific Islands. For each DXpedition the antenna system has been different. This presentation looks at how computer simulation was used to optimise antennas for each location and discusses comparative data that will assist other teams in antenna selection.

Both presentations are available in the Convention lectures section of the RSGB online video portal, see www.rsgb.org/video

YOTA 2018

The RSGB Board has agreed to a Youth Committee proposal to send a UK team to YOTA 2018 in South Africa. Further details, including how to apply, will be available in due course.

Microwave Log Periodic correction

In the 6cm Amateur TV article in February 2018, reference was incorrectly made to W1GHZ as a source of suitable log periodic antennas. The reference should have been to WA5VJB, whose antennas are stocked by G4DDK and are also directly available from <http://wa5vjb.com/products1.html>

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, SK



Photo Credit: Hilary, G4JKS

10 May 1940 – 14 January 2018

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Sunday 14 January. Licensed for almost 60 years his contribution to amateur radio will be a fitting legacy to a great DXer, DXpeditioner and mentor. As a DXer he had over 370 DXCCs and over 1,025 IOTAs confirmed, but it was as a leader of DXpeditions that he will be remembered by many.

Taking early retirement from a senior role in a global management consultancy in the early 1990s, Neville turned his energies to pursuing the hobby of amateur radio, which he enjoyed so much. He became a vigorous supporter of IOTA and played a significant part in the programme's development.

In 1998, he and a group of CDXC members mounted the 9MOC DXpedition to Spratly Islands. Following that, Neville formed the Five Star DXers Association and delivered four more world-beating DXpeditions: D68C (Comoros, 2001), 3B9C (Rodrigues, 2004), 3B7C (Saint Brandon, 2007) and T32C (Kiritimati, 2011). The T32C DXpedition broke 11 world records and still holds the record for the most QSOs made from any DXpedition. More significantly, these five DXpeditions involved almost 100 different operators from a dozen countries. For many it was their first DXpedition experience and they have since gone on to join and lead other DXpeditions themselves. Neville's organisational skills and attention to detail were documented in

the DXpeditioning manual he co-authored: *DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes*.

Neville was Chairman of CDXC: The UK DX Foundation for seven years and President for 14, finally standing down in 2015 – whereupon he was made an Honorary Life Member of the club. During his time on the committee, Neville grew the club into the internationally recognised organisation that it now is. Neville and Trish hosted the AGM and Summer Social for eight years at their home 'Lower Withers Barns' in the Herefordshire countryside and, prior to that, at their previous home in Hertfordshire. Many have recalled those great 'garden parties' and the superb hospitality provided by Trish.

As if all of this was not enough, Neville was a Director of IREF, a Member of RSGB, ARRL, INDEXA, NCDXF, RRC and held honorary memberships of the Southern California DX Club and the Southeastern DX Club. He was a former member of RSGB Council and RSGB Management Committee, former Chairman of RSGB HF Committee and organised the HF Convention in its 'Beaumont days'. In 2004 he received the prestigious ROTAB trophy for *Outstanding and Consistent DX Work*. In recognition of his contribution to amateur radio DXing he was admitted to the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2009.

Neville and Trish sold Lower Withers Barns last year and moved to a new home in the South Hams region of Devon, where Neville intended to take up sea fishing, travel more widely and watch cricket. Alas it was not to be. He is survived by Trish and his three sons.

Written by Chris Duckling, G3SVL (Chairman CDXC) and Don Beattie, G3BJ (President R1 IARU)

QSL Matters

For almost 10 years, the bureau has recycled/re-used as much paper and card as possible from the large quantities that arrive, almost daily. It also recovers postage stamps, both UK and foreign, from many operators that QSL direct to the UK. Stamps are donated directly to various charities, who are able to sell them on in bulk, with foreign stamps being worth slightly more than UK stamps, for obvious reasons. Currently, the bureau is supporting the hospice movement. Members can also help by donating clean, used, stamps they receive. Simply trim the backing paper to around 5mm from the edge and include them with outgoing QSL cards sent to the bureau.



Kosovo Z6 has been on the list of Postal and Telecommunications CEPT countries for some time, but until now not recognised for DXCC country award purposes. This has changed and there are currently high levels of interest on all bands. At present, there is no IARU recognised Society and no QSL bureau in Z6. In the short term, many operations from Z6 are likely to be from visitors. Members are advised to check all QSL details for Z6 online, before posting cards to the bureau. We are currently able to forward *some* cards, primarily intended for the small number of resident amateurs, but cannot guarantee all will be received at their intended destination.

EMCC Chair vacancy

The EMC Committee (EMCC) helps and advises Members who have EMC problems, lobbies regulators and guides standards to protect the spectrum. It also investigates emerging EMC threats and updates Members on these and other EMC matters.

The EMCC Chair has a committee of volunteers who are expected to play an active role in addressing these matters.

The current chair, John Rogers, MOJAV is stepping down from the role after seven years' invaluable service. We are looking for a volunteer, who must be an RSGB Member, to fill the vacancy.

The position of Chair of the EMC Committee is offered for an initial period of up to three years. To find out more about the role or to apply, please send details of your amateur radio experience to RSGB Board Director Philip Willis, MOPHI, via email to mOphi@rsgb.org.uk

Further information about the EMCC can be found on the RSGB's website <http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/committees/electromagnetic-compatibility-committee/>

Technical Forum vacancies

The Technical Forum is the RSGB committee with responsibility for vetting published articles for *RadCom* and is the focus for technical debate, scrutiny and technological gatekeeping within the Society. We have vacancies for several new members on the committee and are looking especially for people with expertise in all the modern and upcoming techniques; digital electronics, SDR, data modes, software as well as in all the traditional technical areas of amateur radio, particularly antennas. We are an 'online' committee and seldom hold physical meetings, so travelling will rarely be required. If you are an RSGB Member, feel you could assist in this area and wish to be considered for membership of the Technical Forum please contact the Chair of the RSGB Technical Forum, Andy Talbot, G4JNT, via email to tech.chair@rsgb.org.uk

National Club of the Year 2017

The theme of this year's competition is Mentoring and Retention, and the judges want to learn about how your club helps to motivate people in their first years of being licensed, or as they achieve the next licence level. The entry form, which must be sent to your Regional Manager by 28 February 2018, is at www.rsgb.org/coty
We are again indebted to Waters and Stanton for their generous sponsorship of this competition.

New Contesting log upload test facility

The RSGB Contest Support Committee has produced a facility to enable entrants to practice uploading logs for HF and VHF contests to the RSGB Contesting Committee's website. This facility accepts logs formatted for the 80m Club Championship Contest and UK Activity Contest (UKAC).

The practice facility uses the same robot that is used for all RSGB HF and VHF contests and provides a very realistic experience, including giving feedback on any errors found in the 'dummy' log. This facility is accessed via the Information page on the RSGBCC website, <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/information/information.shtml> – use the Log Test Facility link.

There are two information pages, one for the HF Log Upload Test facility and the other for the VHF Log Upload Test facility. The Log Upload Test facility can also be accessed directly from the HF and VHF Log Upload links on the front page of the RSGBCC website, <http://www.rsgbcc.org/>

Congratulations

To the following Members whom our records show as having reached 70, 60 or 50 years' continuous Membership of the RSGB.

70 years

Mr B M Collings RS17032

60 years

Southport & DARC G2OA
Dr T G Langdon G3MHV
C L Desborough G3NNG
Mr D Young G8TVW
Mr W J M Hume RS26142

50 years

Burnham Beeches Radio Club G3WIR
Colchester ARS G3CO
Dr P L Lowenstein RS31144
Mr A J Pullen VE3MEV

MW and 2W QSL sub-manager wanted

Volunteer Simon, MWOTBI is stepping down as sub manager for the busy combined group MW and 2W. The RSGB would like to thank him for his long and valued service. The bureau is seeking a replacement for these active groups to support fellow Members in Wales. If you have time, some space and basic spreadsheet skills to handle around 20k of cards per year, please email the bureau via qsl@rsgb.org.uk. Bureau volunteers verify current memberships, record, sort, weigh and send cards to those providing C5 SAEs. MOB callsign holders should aware that their callsign is now part of a re-allocation of sub groups in the first half of the MO series.

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 P Willetts, 2EODGP	Mr W Moon, KE8BZM	Mr K McCafferty, M6LZV	Mr A Marshall, N1ADM	Mr R Crawford, RS315783
Mr R Sutton, 2EODUI	Mr S Bloom, KL7SB	Mr J Evans, M6MQW	Mr R Paleski, N2EYK	Mrs E Jarvis, RS315870
Mr P Kearney, 2EOIFV	Miss C Wagner, KN4GZI	Mr B Turnball, M6MTQ	Mr L Carter, N2MLH	Mr P Alcobia, RS315887
Mr M Sadler, 2EOMEY	Miss E Wagner, KN4GZJ	Mrs C Fenton, M6MUH	Mr B Wagner, N4BEW	Mr J Moore, RS315900
Mr G James, 2EOPSN	Miss M Wagner, KN4HKH	Mr C Cromie, M6MWQ	Mr R Wright, N7ZO	Mr A Keane, RS315913
Mr D Pullen, 2EOPUL	Mr L R Fiske, LA2EL	Mr D Burrows, M6MPX	Mr A Buysse, ON1CGB	Mr R James, RS315915
Mr R Hinde, 2EOSPZ	Mr T Wilf, MODVU	Mr J Othen, M6MYU	Mr P Morris, RS201764	Mr J Green, RS315917
Mrs W Jones, 2EOWKQ	Mr G Trofa, M0HGB	Mr H Parsons, M6NDL	Mr R Goldsack, RS315163	Mr P Reynolds, RS315929
Mr J Yearly, 2MOJHY	Mr E Melikyan, MOIJO	Mr M Flower, M6OMF	Mr D Newton, RS315197	Mr J Ward, RS315930
Mr E Jones, 2WQJEV	Mr R Carswell, MOITR	Mr N Payne, M6OTY	Mr P Percival, RS315616	Mr A Marsh, RS315932
Mr U Kreiser, DH1UK	Mr A Andreyev, MOLUX	Miss R Wells, M6REW	Mr J Graff, RS315630	Mr D Nicholls, RS315984
Mr A Lee, G0EDK	Mr D Sawyer, MOLXD	Mr S Posner, M6SQY	Mr P Yates, RS315657	Mr B Hadley, RS316022
Mr P Brown, G3RAS	Mr P Stevenson, MOPSP	Mr T Idiculla, M6TJU	Mr K Mbachu, RS315668	Mr J Rymell, RS316040
Dr S Cook, G3UBW	Hammersmith Amateur Radio Society, M0XHS	Mr N Cochrane, M6TRM	Mr S Thompson, RS315703	Mr R Seville, RS316043
Mr C Pescod, G4BMW	Mrs C Wells, M1FEX	Mr A Dukes, M6WZP	Mr C Staples, RS315704	Mr M Cook, RS316050
Mr R Pridham, G4WKX	Mr D English, M3PMG	Mr J Morris, M6XMO	Mr D James, RS315705	Mr R Parton, RS316061
Mrs A Holme, G6JSB	Miss R Wells, M3RDW	Mr C Bent, M6XWM	Ms A Amos, RS315708	Mr O Bagling, SMORFL
Mr A Back, G7JKB	Mr P D France, M6HPE	Mr C Simpson, M6YCS	Mr P Kitching, RS315726	Mr M Beniuk, VA6MB
Mr R Hartland, G8IVO	Mr J Howe, M6JOQ	Mr D Turner, M6YSS	Mr I Hall, RS315727	Mr Y L Chan, VR2ZIG
Mr C Jarvis, G8YJT	Mr J Wilkins, M6KVP	Mr D Hughes, M6DNT	Mr W Borg, RS315728	Mr D Harmon, WA9YKK
Mr R Johnston, G16WFX	Miss T Jones, M6KYU	Mr H Percival, MM0MHP	Mrs P Borg, RS315729	Mr R Laguardia, WW2RL
Mr P Dicken, GW1PCD	Mr L Hulse, M6LHN	Association of Scottish Radio Amateurs, MM0YSC	Mr C Dace, RS315749	Mr L Konosonoks, YL3GEG
Mr R Steenrod, KC1EAN	Mr A Potten, M6LKZ	Mr S Doonan, MM6MQO	Mr N Haddy, RS315751	Mr J Moolman, ZS6AWL
Mr J Greusel, KC9OJV	Mr J Marshall, M6LZN	Mr D Wilson, MM6MVX	Mr M Pittas, RS315769	
Mr J Potts, KD9AMP			Mrs L Crawford, RS315782	

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

Mr M Placidi, 2EOBJL	Mr C P Harrap, G1SWX	Mr M Schonborn, G7IDJ	Mr R Bryce, GM3JOB	Mr M Mitchell, MM0BQA
Mr M Nicholson, 2EOMJN	Mr K Bates, G1UZZ	Mr J F Hawkins, G8CPN	Mr P A Blakey, KK7WM	Mr E Crawford, MM0VIK
Mr A Vickers, 2E1HIB	Mr T Robinson, G3KOA	Mr P Bennett, G8DDN	Mr A Bellamy, M0AQP	Mr R V Ferrey Jr, N3DOK
Mr I McMullan, E14DP	Mr F S Gemmell, G4GGR	Mr R Phillips, G8PVI	Mr K A Peeling, M0BBP	Mr J Reed, N4BFR
Mr D E Kemp, G0POQ	Mr R Jones, G4SWH	Mr D Evans, G8VJ	Mr M Palmer, M1EHV	Mr P Verbrakel, ON5VP
Mr D Green, G0SZI	Mr E J Holme, G4YYB	Mr K Bones, G14ERM	Mr J H Green, M1JHG	Mr F Boot, PA0FBR
Mr G Daker-White, G0TMY	Mr G Higgs, G6BSS	Mr J Pinkerton, G16GIE	Mr K Nye, M3NYK	Mr A Hagerly, W4JHU
Mr T W Scott, G1GXF	Mr M Greenow, G6PTY	Mr R Redpath, GM0LQY	Mr M Cressey, M5DJC	
Mr T Ferguson, G1OST	Mr C Hayes, G7ACN	Mr M Ogg, GM1AIH	Mr E Hammond, M6GVU	



New VHF-UHF competition

The GMDX Group is sponsoring a new annual competition to promote VHF-UHF DX and contesting activity in the North and West of the geographical British. The competition is based on the GMDX Celtic Knot Award, which is for working stations in GM, GI, GD, GW, Cornwall and EI (see graphic). The Celtic Knot VHF-UHF Competition takes advantage of the activity created by the RSGB VHF-UHF UK Activity Contests on 50, 70, 144, 432 and 1296MHz and will last for the full calendar year.

There will be two separate categories: Celtic Knot Stations category, for stations within those 'Celtic areas'; and a Celtic Knot Supporters category, to encourage everyone else to look for and work those areas. Scoring will be based on the published UKAC results and Open Logs data; but GMDX will set its own rules, publish its own monthly progress ladders and award its own trophies and certificates. Entry for the Celtic Knot VHF-UHF Competition will be automatic. Simply operate each UKAC in the normal way, submit a log (or checklog) and GMDX will do the rest.

Full details, rules, a FAQ and the first update of the monthly progress ladders are already online. You can find them at <https://gmdxvhf.wordpress.com>

IET Lifetime Achievement Award for G3HTF

Congratulations to Les Barclay OBE, G3HTF who has received an IET Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in radio wave propagation. He started his career as an apprentice at E K Cole Ltd in their Radio Development Laboratories at the same time as obtaining an external degree. In 1956 he embarked on a career in radio wave propagation research. In 1977 he joined the Civil Service in what became the Radiocommunications Agency (now Ofcom). He managed the Agency's research programme where he oversaw the National Radio Propagation Research Programme, which included the internationally recognised group at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. He has also contributed substantially to radio wave propagation education. He led and taught a series of IEE residential courses on radio wave propagation, which ran from the 1990s until the mid-2000s. These were extremely popular and helped to fill the gap left by academic courses on radio wave propagation for an entire generation of propagation engineers both in academia and industry. The course still features in the IET book on the *Propagation of Radiowaves*, which is now in its third edition – as the standard textbook on propagation – attracting thousands of citations over the years.

He has been awarded the OBE and the Polar Medal, and is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Full details may be read at <https://tinyurl.com/ybeo7lfr>

Test Equipment at SOTABEAMS

SOTABEAMS has started stocking the Peak Electronics range of test equipment. With six instruments to choose from they are suitable for use in the radio shack or lab. SOTABEAMS particularly commends the LCR45 automatic LCR meter as they use one every day in their factory. This handy unit has a whole host of uses including measuring toroid inductance and characterising variable capacitors. www.sotabeams.co.uk/test-equipment/



LAMCO-sponsored repeaters

Adam, MOYRK can be seen above collecting the new LAMCO sponsored Yaesu System Fusion repeater for GB3HG in North Yorkshire. NoV holder Arthur, G8IMZ was delighted with the news on behalf of York Radio Club repeater. LAMCO are sponsoring a number of Yaesu System Fusion repeaters: on 2m there's GB3DG, GB3TW, GB3CD, GB3HS, GB3HS plus GB3HG, and on 70cm they sponsor GB7KE, GB7BP and GB7SF.

32% Increase for online course

Essex Ham saw a 32% take-up in its free online Foundation course. In 2017, 385 candidates from around the UK enrolled. Candidates for the internet-based course are typically aged from 45 to 55 years old and, as the course tests learning throughout the course, it gives candidates a good indication as to whether they're likely to pass the Foundation exam prior to committing to the practicals and actual exam. You can find out more at www.hamtrain.co.uk

Canadian Government thanks Poldhu Amateur Radio Club



2017 marked a 150 years since formation of the Canadian Confederation. Memorable events were held throughout the year. One of the celebratory events was the C 150 Global Odyssey (C150GO) when Bob and Steven Dengler together with Rob 'Dugal' MacDuff flew a Canadian-made Bell 429 Global Ranger helicopter round the world, stopping off or overflying famous historic Canadian landmarks. On 12 December 1901 Guglielmo Marconi was at Signal Hill near St Johns, Newfoundland when he received the first transatlantic signal sent by wireless. It was the letter S in Morse code. Not only did C150GO overfly Signal Hill but they met members of the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland in St John's and agreed to carry a brick from the building Marconi used to receive the signal sent from Poldhu in Cornwall and deliver it to Poldhu ARC for display in the Marconi Centre. It was received by Keith, GOWYS (above).

The CWops Award

CWops is now accepting nominations for the 2018 CWops award. The purpose is to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code and is not limited to amateur radio operators and organisations. Nominations may be made by anyone and should be emailed to awards@cwops.org with a copy to secretary@cwops.org

Nominations must be received by 12 April 2018 and full details of what to include can be found at www.cwops.org/advancing-the-art-of-cw.html A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention. If the recipient(s) is/are not present, it will be sent to them.

Special event callsigns *HMS Belfast's 80th*

In Ireland, they traditionally celebrate St Patrick's Day on 17 March. But with amateur radio they go worldwide by getting on air following the time zones as people celebrate across the globe from 12 noon on 16 March till 12 noon on the 18th. You can take part in a fun e-award and for more information go to <http://stpatrickaward.webs.com/>

A St Patrick Award Station will be on the air from 12pm on the 16th until 12pm on the 18th from Kircubbin, County Down BT22 2RP.

GB1SPD will be on the air on the 17th and 18th from 10am to 5pm each day from the Ulster American Folk Park, 2 Mellon Road, Omagh BT78 5QU.

HMS Belfast is the most significant surviving Second World War Royal Navy warship. She is open daily to visitors and turns 80 in 2018. There's going to be a 'special special' callsign, GB80GGCN, running for three months to celebrate this milestone. Now moored on the River Thames between London Bridge and Tower Bridge, visitors can journey through nine decks and discover what life was like on board, through the real-life stories of the people who served on the ship. IWM welcomes visitors to come on board *HMS Belfast* for its anniversary weekend (17-18 March) to discover more from the ship's fascinating 80-year life.

News in Brief

Chris Lambert, G4PCN SK

Long time radio amateurs will be saddened to learn that Chris, G4PCN, a previous PMR Manager at Icom UK, is now silent key. All at Icom UK and those that remember him send their deepest sympathy to his family and friends at this difficult time.

Essex RAYNET events

9 March County Hall Communications Test; 10 April Kelvedon Park Communications Test; 22 April Tendring & Clacton Rally, 11 May County Hall Communications Test. 13 May Baddow Races and 20 May Farleigh Hospice Walk for Life.

Barcelona talks to the ISS

The University of Salle in Barcelona used GOKSC designed, and InnovAntennas produced, an X-POL LFA Yagi to contact the International Space Station. The full contact and details can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm3ER8ewr5k&feature=youtu.be

RAOTA diamond jubilee

2018 is the diamond jubilee year for the Radio Amateurs Old Timers Association. GB600T will be used at various times, see full details on the GB600T QRZ.com page.

Worthing & DARC new venue

Worthing & District ARC now meets at Lions Hall, 21 Roberts Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8AR. Doors should be open around 7pm. Meeting time is 8 -10pm.

70th birthday for West Kent ARS

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the West Kent ARS. Formed in 1948, the Society was led for many years by a committee headed by Bert Allen MBE, G2UJ, a former member of the RSGB Council. The society was the winner of the Affiliated Societies contest in 1950 and, whilst it has probably not actually won any contest since, it has always been active in many RSGB contests, using the club calls G3WKS and G1WKS. To celebrate 70 years of uninterrupted operation, the society is holding a gala dinner at the Spa Hotel in Tunbridge Wells on 19 May. The guest of honour will be RSGB past-president, John Gould, G3WKL. The society would welcome any amateurs who would like to attend including all present and past members. Further information is available from vice-chairman Dave Green, G4OTV, who can be contacted via dave.w.green@btinternet.com

Continued on page 15

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 Meerkat Farming, 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 April issue is 21 February and for May it's 28 March. For GB2RS, the deadline is 10am Thursday on the week of broadcast.

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

INTERNATIONAL

Pafos Radio Club, Cyprus
Richard, 5B4AJG, 00 357 97 857 891,
5b4ajg@gmail.com www.cyhams.org
Meets 3rd Thursday at DT's Bar. Visitors and
holidaymakers 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 and Camping Club
membership@arcc.org.uk, www.arcc.org.uk
Caravan rally: Spalding, Lincs

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

British Railways Amateur Radio Society
membership@brars.info, www.brars.info
Nets Tue 7pm on 3.68MHz, Fri 4pm on 3.685MHz

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

CDXC – The UK DX Foundation
Welcomes all interested in HF DX and
contesting. www.cdxc.org.uk

Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association
MemSec@RAOTA.org, www.RAOTA.org
Diamond Jubilee year. Nets: Wed 3.763MHz
1000, 1.963MHz 2100 Thurs 7.163MHz,
1100, 3.763MHz 1930. Sun 3.763MHz 1000

REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

Regional Manager: Anthony Miles, MM0TMZ
RM1@rsgb.org.uk

Ayr ARG
Derek, MM0OVD, 0744 793 1941
2, 16, 30 Club night

Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC
Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723
2 Club night
16 Construction night

Livingston & District ARS
Cathie, 2MODIB, 01506 433 846
6, 20, 27 Training / operating
13 Talk

Lothians RS
Mike, MM0MLB,
secretary@lothiansradiosociety.com
14 Microwave antenna test ranges,
John McCormick
28 Club night

REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

Regional Manager: Andrew Burns, MM0CXA
RM2@rsgb.org.uk

Aberdeen ARS
Fred, GM3ALZ, 01975 651 365
1 Junk sale
8 Grampian Repeater Group AGM
15 Beginners' guide to contesting
22 RSGB 80m CC
29 Construction and on the air

Dundee ARC
Martin, 2M0KAU, 0776 370 8933
6 VHF contest
13, 20 Construction / tuition / club night
27 Satellite talk, Peter, GM1CMF

Glenrothes & District RC
Doug, MM6KNR, dougie@digitalmaker.co.uk
7 Talk on Dave's shack
14 Club night
21 Talk on fishing rods and their uses
28 Video night

REGION 3: NORTH WEST

Regional Manager: Kath Wilson, M1CNY,
RM3@rsgb.org.uk

Bolton Wireless Club
boltonwireless@gmail.com
12 Visual and radio aurora, Evan, MOTJU
26 Waterfalls, Richard, G4HGI

Chester & District RS
Bruce, M0CVP, 01244 343 825
4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 8.30am, 50.220MHz USB
6, 13, 20, 27 QRS CW, 3540-3550kHz, 8pm

Macclesfield & District RS
Greg, M0TXX, info@gx4mws.com
5 Shack on the air
12 Film night
19 Talk: droning on & on
26 Club maintenance night

Mid-Cheshire ARS
Peter, G8HAV, 0791 931 5547
7 Feeding dipoles for multiband use
14 Committee meeting
21 Set up and test 70cm, 6m & 4m
28 Set up and test 2m & 23cm

South Manchester R&CC
Ron, G3SVW, 01619 693 999
1 PC clinic, Dave, G4UGM
8 Activities for the shack
15 Spring equinox and greyline propagation,
G3SVW
22 Equinox Christmas party
29 Airing the IC-7300

Stockport Radio Society
Heather, M6HNS, 07506 904 422
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Net, 2pm, 433.525MHz FM
5, 12, 19 Intermediate course / exam
6 C4FM Fusion talk
13 Net, 7.30pm, 51.550MHz FM
15, 28 Net, 7.30pm, 145.375MHz FM
20 NARSA prep night
24-25 WPX SSB 48hr contest
27 Skills night

Thornton Cleveleys ARS
John, G4FRK, 01253 862 810
5 Natter night & on the air
12 History of TCARS
19 NARSA rally planning

REGION 4: NORTH EAST

Regional Manager: Ian Douglas, G7MFN,
RM4@rsgb.org.uk

Hartlepool ARC
Anthony, MOVED, 0792 699 8014
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club night
7, 14, 21, 28 Club net, 145.575MHz

Hull & District ARS
Tony, G0WJK, 01430 423 837
1, 8, 15, 29 Club night & on the air
22 Data modes talk & demo, Jeremy,
2EOEGS

Sheffield & District Wireless Society
Krystyna, 2E0KSH, 0788 406 5375
14 Training and social night
28 Technical and training evening

Sheffield ARC
David, G6DCT, littlewood20@btinternet.com
5, 19 Shack night, GX3RCM OTA
12 Antennas, David, G6DCT
26 Club night

Spen Valley ARS
Russell, G0FOI, 01274 875 038
1 Special events discussion and on the air

Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club
www.G0NWM.com
2 Special event calls
9, 23 Club night
16 Mobile set up and operating
30 AGM

REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

Regional Manager: Martyn Vincent, G3UKV
RM5@rsgb.org.uk

Bromsgrove & District ARC
John, G4OJS, 0788 9678 303
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club night

Burton ARC
Mike, M0XXM, 0785 068 5961
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 7.30pm, 145.575MHz
4, 11, 18, 25 Club net, 10am, 145.575MHz
7, 14, 21, 28 Shack night
27 Coffee morning at Dunelms Café

Cheltenham ARA
Derek, G3NKS, 01242 241 099,
4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 8.30am, 50.220MHz USB
6, 13, 20, 27 QRS CW, 3540-3550 8pm
15 Constructors' exhibition
20 Lunch

Coventry ARS
John, G8SEQ, 0795 877 7363
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open net, 8pm, 50.175MHz SSB
5, 12, 19, 26 Open net, 8pm, 145.375MHz FM
and/or 7.16MHz ± QRM SSB
16 Digital radio workshop
23 Radio workshop
30 No meeting; net on 145.375MHz instead

**Next deadlines: April: 21 Feb;
May: 28 Mar; Jun: 25 April**

Dudley & District ARS

Graham, 2E0GIJ, 0783 120 1407
6, 13, 20, 27 Club night

Gloucester AR&ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime
1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30Net, 7.30pm, 145.475MHz
FM, moving to 80m SSB
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Net, 7.30pm 432.220MHz USB
5 BBC micro:bit, Mark Tanner, MOMTT
7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 7.30pm, 145.475MHz FM
12, 19, 26 Informal and operating evening

Malvern Hills RAC

Dave, G4IDF, 01905 351 568
7, 14, 21, 28 Club net, 8pm, 145.350MHz FM
13 Getting going with Microwaves, G8XYJ and
G4OYX
27 Informal

Midland ARS

Norman, G8BHE, 07808 078 003
7 Open meeting, ragchew, training
14 Committee meeting, training
21 General meeting, OTA, training
25 Visit to Wythall Radio Rally
28 Discussion on Rally visit, purchases; training

Mid-Warwickshire ARS

Don, G4CYG, 01926 424 465
14 Used equipment and book sale
28 AGM

Rugby ARS

Steve, G8LYB, 01788 578 940
3 RSGB Rep visit; HF & VHF OTA & projects
4 Hut management committee meeting
6 13, 20 UKAC, CW practice, OTA & projects
10 SWR and Return Loss, Steve, G8LYB
17 HF & VHF OTA & projects
22 Curry night & drinks, 7pm, Seven Stars
24 Talk/natter night; OTA & projects
27 CW practice, OTA & projects

Solihull ARS

Roger, G4BBT, 0121 743 7277
1, 8, 22, 29 Net, 8pm, 145.450MHz
15 Club night

South Birmingham RS

Gemma, M6GKG, gemmagordon.m6gkg@gmail.com
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Training classes, Dave, G8OWL
2, 9 Sorting rally stock
6, 13, 20, 27 Coffee morning, 11am to 1 pm
12, 19 Checking equipment for field day event
23, 26 Loading / unloading trailer for Rally
25 Club stand at Wythall Radio Rally
30 Closed

Sutton Coldfield ARS

Robert, rob2e0zap@gmail.com
5, 19 Open net, 7.30pm, 145.250MHz
12, 26 Club meeting
13 Open net, 7.30pm, 70.475MHz
27 DMR open net, 7.30pm, GB7FW slot/local 2

Telford & District ARS

John, M0JZH, 07824 737 716
7 Committee meeting, GX3ZME OTA
14 Main construction competition
21 RSGB President Nick Henwood, G3RWF
28 AGM

Wythall ARC

4, 11, 18, 25 Net 145.225MHz or GB3WL 8pm
6, 13, 20 Morse Class and Hamfest Preparation
25 Wythall Hamfest
27 Morse Class and Post Rally Review

REGION 6: NORTH WALES

Regional Manager: Ceri Lloyd Jones, 2W0LJC
RM6@rsgb.org.uk

North Wales Radio Society

Liz, GW0ETU, 0776 019 0355
1, 8 General/ Technical meeting
15 AGM
22 Visit to the Police HQ in St Asaph
29 Exam changes, Dave Wilson, MOOBW

Porthmadog & District ARS

Peter, GW0DFK, 0773 177 1319
15 Surplus equipment sale

Wrexham ARS

steven.bobby20@yahoo.co.uk
6 AGM
20 2m DX, Mike Bryant, GW6NLP

REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

Regional Manager: Glyn Jones, GW0ANA,
RM7@rsgb.org.uk

Aberystwyth & District ARS

Ray, GW7AGG, 01970 611 853,
8 Running a preservation railway, MWORCZ
29 On the Air on 145.500 then 145.550MHz

Carmarthen ARS

Andy, GW0JLX, 0776 828 2880
6 Update on the 10GHz beacon project
20 Operating SOTA, club night, social & OTA

Llanelli ARS

Craig, MW0MXT, 0738 833 8987
1 GB4SDD for St David's Day
12 On air night & club raffle
26 Junk sale & club raffle

REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

Regional Manager: Philip Hosey, M10MSO
RM8@rsgb.org.uk

Bangor & District ARS

Harry, G14JTF, 0289 042 2762
1 QSL bureau, LotW and Clublog, G14JTF
3-4 Foundation course

REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

Regional Manager: Tom O'Reilly, G0NSY
RM9@rsgb.org.uk

Aylesbury Vale RS

vic@rakewell.com
14 AGM

Burnham Beeches RC

Charles, G0SKA, 01753 647 101
19 AGM, drinks and nibbles

Edgware & District RS

Mike, G4RNV, 02089 500 658
8 Alternative uses for Facebook, Steve, GOPQB
22 Ham Radio Deluxe – the very basics, G4RNV

Milton Keynes ARS

Phil, G4FVZ, 07802 636 998
5 A £50 homebrew/kit SSB transceiver, G4FVZ
19 What's on your workbench – discussion

Newbury & District ARS

Rob, G4LMW, 0797 088 5614
28 Construction contest winners' presentation

Radio Society of Harrow

Linda, G7RJL, lcasey100@outlook.com
2 Quiz night
4, 11, 18, 25 Club net, 1938kHz LSB, noon
5, 12, 19, 26 Net, 145.5/145.35MHz FM, 8.15pm
16 AGM

Reading & District ARC

Laurence, G2DD, 0758 470 6625
3 Foundation course (part 2)
8 Evolution of the 'death ray', Peter Butcher
22 Junk sale
30 Maidenhead Easter 10k (Berkshire RAYNET)

Shefford & District ARS

David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757
1 SOTA
8 Arduino, Don, G4LOO
15 How good is your PSU – discussion
22 AGM
29 Closed

Southgate ARC

Keith, G8RPA, g8rpa@arri.net
14 Surplus / junk sale

Verulam ARC

Greg, M0PPG, 01582 413 345
20 Television, Dr Roger Bleaney, MORBK

REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

Regional Manager: Michael Senior, G4EFO
RM10@rsgb.org.uk

Basingstoke ARC

Peter, G0KQA, 01256 414 454
19 Digital modes discussion, Alan, G3UQW

Bredhurst R&TS

Nicky, secretary@brats-qth.org
1 Rally debrief
3 Coffee morning at shack
8 Kent Search and Rescue, Philip Morris
15, 29 Club night
22 Club meal

Bromley & District ARS

Andy, G4WGZ, 01689 878 089
7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 145.400MHz 9pm
11, 18 Intermediate course/exam
20 Club night
27 Club meal

Crawley ARC

Richard, G3ZII, 01342 843 545
28 Space weather effects on HF propagation,
Dr Colin Forsyth

Cray Valley RS

Dave Lee, G8ZZK, 0773 954 9822
1 Construction contest
15 Recollections for a life in radio,
Colin, G3SPJ

Crystal Palace R&EC

Bob, G30OU, 01737 552 170
2 Club projects
7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 8pm, 145.525MHz ±QRM

Darenth Valley RS

Mike, G8AXA, 0788 415 7776
14 Morse night with G4FAA
28 On the air/natter night

Dorking & District RS

David, M6DJB, djb.abraxas@btinternet.com
27 One route through product design, G30OU

Dover RC

Aaron, 2E0FQR, 0771 465 4267
1 Quiz night
29 Logger32 introduction

Fort Purbrook ARC

Chris, G3WIE, g3wie@fparc.org.uk
5, 12, 19, 26 Open net, 8pm, 144.275MHz
23 Studying the shape of our galaxy, G4NNS

**Next deadlines: April: 21 Feb;
May: 28 Mar; Jun: 25 April**

Hastings E&RC

Gordon, 01424 431 909
4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 144.575MHz, 11am
28 Hubble, 15 years of discovery (ESA DVD)

Hilderstone R&EC

Ian, 2E0DUE, secretary@g0hrs.org
3-4 RSGB 2m/70cm contest
8 Club night
22 Visit by RSGB President, DXing in Africa

Horndean & District ARC

Stuart, G0FYX, 02392 472 846
2 Natter night
16 History and language by Bryan Jerrard

Mid-Sussex ARS

Peter, G4AKG, 01444 239 371
2, 16 On the air / Natter night
9 Computer logging by G4UDU
23 Radio night and table top sale
30 Closed

North Kent RS

Stephen, G8JZT, secretary@nkr.info
6 Natter night and club station on the air
13, 27 Club net, 8pm, 145.500MHz then QSY
20 Introducing the committee & general forum

Southdown ARS

John, G3DQY, 01424 424 319
3-4 VHF Championship Contest with BHRS
5 AGM, 8pm
7 Hailsham shack meeting, 10.30am
7, 14, 21, 28 FM net, 145.275MHz, 8.30am,
cafe 12.30pm, CW net 144.060MHz, 7pm

Surrey Radio Contact Club

John, G3MCX, 020 8688 3322
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 70.300MHz, 8pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Net, 145.350MHz, 8pm
4, 11, 18, 25 Net, 1905kHz, 9.30am
5 Surplus equipment sale
19 Chat and fix-it, John, G8MNY

Trowbridge & District ARC

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698
7 Goonhilly: to the moon and back, G4LDR
(£2 for non members)

REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLES

Regional Manager: Pam Helliwell, G7SME
RM11@rsgb.org.uk

Appledore & District ARC

Alan, M6CCH, 01237 422 833
19 AGM

Burnham on Sea ARC

Brian, 01278 683 645
7, 21 Club night

Callington ARS

John, G4PBN, 01822 835 834
7 Club night & rally prep

Gordano ARG

Malcolm, G4KPM, mal@g4kpm.co.uk
28 Club night

Mid-Somerset ARC

David, G8BFV, 01749 670 085
12 Club night
26 Afternoon social meeting

Newquay & District ARS

Terry, 2E0XTM, 01841 540 142
1, 15, 29 Club night

South Bristol ARC

Andrew, G7KNA, 07838 695 471
1 FT-991 firmware and memories, Gary, 2E0HCC
8 Cheese and wine evening
15 Table top sale
22 Open house and on air night
29 Canals, waterways and narrowboats, Mark,
MOSKV

Torbay ARS

John, G4VUD@tars.org.uk
2, 9, 16 Club night (9th with business meeting)
23 Presentation night
30 Closed

Weston Super Mare RS

Martin, G7UWI, 01934 613 094
5 Construction, operating & natter night

Yeovil ARC

Rodney, M0RGE, 01935 825 791
1 Mini talks
2, 16 Construction and on-air at Sparkford
8 Britain to New Zealand on QRP in 1925,
Rob, G3MYM
22 Morse practice, G3MYM
29 Problem solving and committee

REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

Regional Manager: Keith Haynes, G3WRO
RM12@rsgb.org.uk

Braintree & District ARS

Edwin, G0LPO, 01376 324 031
6, 20 Club net, 8pm, 145.375MHz
13 Rig clinic / equipment checking
27 Digital voice presentation

Cambridge & District ARC

Richard, G4AWP, 0770 229 5300
9 Constructors' 10-minute talks
23 Introduction to club remote station, G4AWP

Essex Ham

Pete, M0PSX, news@essexham.co.uk
3 Essex YL Net on GB3DA, 8pm
4 Online Foundation course
5, 12, 19, 26 Net on GB3DA, 8pm

Felixstowe & District ARS

Paul, G4YQC, pjw@btinternet.com
12 Natter night
24-25, 31-32 Intermediate course
weekends 1 & 2
26 Felixstowe and offshore radio,

Harwich ARIG

Kevan, 2E0WMG, 0749 352 1049
14 Internet freedom & safety, Jonathan, G0DVJ

Huntingdonshire ARS

David, M0VTG, secretary@hunts-hams.co.uk
8 AGM
22 Antennas, David Sylvester, G3RED

Leiston ARC

John, G4XVE, secretary@larc.org.uk
13 Talk on vintage radio, Iain Moffatt, G0OZS

Loughton & Epping Forest ARS

Dave, M0MBD, 0798 016 5172
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 144.725MHz, 8pm
2, 16 Club meeting
10 Intermediate practical assessment and exam
30 Closed

Norfolk ARC

Chris, G0DWV, 01603 898 308
7 Understanding and using propagation
predictions with Carl Luetzelschwab via Skype
14 Informal
21 Table top sale
28 Informal + Bright Sparks

Peterborough & District ARC

Alan Ralph, secretary@padarc.co.uk
5, 12, 19, 26 Net, 1.980MHz, 8pm
6, 20 Net, 145.400MHz, 8pm
14 Equipment familiarisation + restoring
vintage gear

Thames ARG

Patrick, G8JLM, 01621 855 461,
patrick.higham@virgin.net
2 Club meeting
9, 23, 30 Net, 7.30pm, 144.250MHz,
CW then GB3DA, 8pm
16 Practical radio projects TARGnet night

REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

Regional Manager: Jim Stevenson, G0EJQ
RM13@rsgb.org.uk

Kettering & District ARS

Ed O'Neill, M0TZX@yahoo.com
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 7pm, 145.300MHz FM
30 New band plans discussion, 7pm to 9pm

Loughborough & District ARC

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319
6 Albert's engine
13 Crystal radio sets – part 1
20 Annual dinner at The Horse, Shepshed, 7.30pm
27 Practical evening

Melton Mowbray ARS

Phil, G4LWB, 01664 567 972
16 Radars and microwaves Part 2 by Howard,
G6KQP

Nunsfield House ARG

Paul Gamble, G1SGZ, pr@nharg.org.uk
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Club net, 145.325MHz, 8pm
2 FT8 digital mode
5, 9, 12, 19, 26 Shack night (9th: committee meeting)
16 Surplus sale
23 The S-meter explained
30 Club night

RAF Waddington ARC

Bob, G3VCA, 0797 116 6250
2 Club night
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Shack extension and refurb
5, 12, 19, 26 Club net, 145.325MHz, 8pm
9, 16, 23, 30 Club night
30 GB6BK RAF Binbrook (until 1 April)

South Kesteven ARS

Andrew, M0NRD, 0796 906 2859
2, 16 Club meeting
7, 14, 21, 28 Club net on GB3GR from 8pm

South Normanton Alfreton & District ARC

A Lawrence, 2E0BQS, 01246 456 625
5 Talk
12, 26 Natter night
19 Junk sale

Spalding & District ARS

Graham, G8NWC, 0775 461 9701
2, 9, 23, 30 Club night
16 Construction contest

Welland Valley ARS

Peter, G4XEX, 01858 432 105
2-20 GBOGW special event station
5 Club net, 8pm, 145.275MHz then QSY 70cm
19 Talk on PSK

Workshop ARS

0789 062 6684, info@g3rcw.org.uk
1, 8, 15, 29 Technical night
6, 13, 20, 27 Club night
6, 8, 13, 15, 20 UKAC and FMAC
22 Vintage radios by 2E0KSH

INTERNATIONAL

A number of Pafos Radio Club members in Cyprus have recently formed a DMR group. A 70cm repeater has been installed at the QTH of 5B4AIE with a transmit frequency of 438.600MHz and a receive frequency of 431.000MHz. Visitors are encouraged to bring their DMR radios for island-wide and international coverage. The photo shows the Digi Group at a recent meeting.



REGION 3: NORTH WEST

The Red Rose Rally was held in Manchester in January. One of the stands was a joint display between the South Manchester Radio Club and the RSGB Propagation Studies Committee (PSC) (see left). The photo shows two members of the club (left) Ron, G3SVW, a member of PSC and (right) Dave, G3YBD. The stand display showed photos and information about propagation and the work of South Manchester Radio Club and the PSC.

Following the Rochdale & District ARS AGM in December, the elected officers are Robert, MONVQ, Chairperson, Philip MOKPH, Secretary and David, G7UCP, Treasurer

REGION 4: NORTH EAST

Hartlepool ARC is starting its second year with four planned special events stations. Thinking Day On The Air with Hartlepool Brownies is the first in February and then Museums On The Air, Lighthouses On The Air and, finally, JOTA in October are the other stations being planned. Foundation and Intermediate licence courses will be run for anyone wanting to gain a licence or advance in the hobby. A Morse course on 2m is also being planned.

Bishop Auckland RAC meets at 7pm on Thursday evenings when those studying for the Foundation, Intermediate and Full licences will have training classes.

REGION 6: NORTH WALES

In 2017 Wrexham ARS celebrated three Foundation passes, Mark, MW6LQW, Andrew, MW6MQI and Peter, MW6LZK; three Intermediate passes, Mike, 2WOWMW, Eifion, 2WOENA and Darren Haywood, and a Full licence pass for Chris, MW0IKH. Congratulations to all.

REGION 8: NORTHERN ISLAND

Bangor & District ARS will be running their annual Foundation weekend licence course on the 3rd and 4th of March. Places are limited so if you are interested, please contact the club soon. The club will also be holding their annual constructors' contest on the 5th of April. For more details go to www.bdars.com

REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

At Verulam ARC's January meeting, members watched the RSGB's video *Radio Propagation-VHF and higher*. This was produced by Dr John Worsnop, G4BAO (*RadCom* GHz bands columnist) and Steve Nichols, G0KYA (Chairman, RSGB Propagation Studies Committee). The video's encouraging message was that due to the phenomena of Refraction, Reflection, Diffraction and Scattering, successful long distance propagation is possible at these frequencies and you are *not* limited to just 'line of sight plus a bit'. It was clear from the ensuing conversations that several members had been inspired by the video's message to embark on some antenna projects to explore these higher frequencies. A good start to the year! See page 6 of this edition for details on how to download the video.



REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

At Trowbridge & District ARC, the Ivan Rosevear, G3GKC Memorial Trophy is awarded to a club member nominated by fellow club members. The reasons for nomination are not defined in the trophy rules but members must say why they feel the trophy should be awarded, eg a personal achievement within the hobby; for service to the club, etc. The 2017 recipient was Hazel, G7RGI (see right) who has been a T&DARC member for many years, in particular the VHF NFD team camping out in all winds and weathers when she is key to organising the teas and coffees and refreshments during the event. Hazel is also a BYLARA member and has travelled to various rallies to wave the BYLARA flag. For these efforts the nomination was well deserved.

Worthing & District ARC now meets at Lions Hall, 21 Roberts Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8AR. Doors should be open around 7pm. Meeting time is as usual 8 to 10pm.



REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

Bittern DX has a new meeting venue, Aylsham & District Ex-Servicemens Social Club, 64 Hungate Street, Norwich NR11 6AA.



Members of Essex Ham met for their first official event of the year in January, both inside and outside a pub in Galleywood, near Chelmsford (see above). Despite the chilly weather, four HF stations were set up, whilst the less brave took up residence in the pub to plan for the year's activities, program up a DMR handheld and review the group's member survey (a valuable tool to help a club plan how best to serve its members).



Always looking for new ways to promote the hobby, four members of Essex Ham were recently invited to visit Southend Digital Professionals, an informal event for the tech-savvy in South Essex. Ed, G8FAX and Pete, MOPSX gave short radio-related talks covering space comms, low-power data modes, SDRs and supporting the community with RAYNET. Andy, G7TKK (see left) followed up with an impromptu demo of a £10 SDR in action. Events like this help to raise awareness for the hobby with other tech-minded groups and individuals.



Thurrock Acorns ARC's club night in January was on the subject of radio propagation. Dave, M5ABP and Gordon, MOWJL gave an excellent talk based on a presentation prepared for the 2011 US Hamvention, prepared by Rueben, W8GUC and Frank, WS8B.



Thames Amateur Radio Group (based in Canvey Island, Essex) met in Hadleigh Country Park on 30 December for their fourth and final Field Day of the year. In addition to the usual display of operating HF and VHF, they established a downlink with the passing satellite A091 courtesy of John, MOJRW (extreme right, holding aerial) who brought a suitable Yagi antenna. The photo shows two members of the six who passed their Advanced exam at the club a few weeks previously. On the left is Mel, MOKMD and in the middle is Bejoy, MOIKN.

REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

Two Nunsfield House ARG candidates were successful in their Foundation exam in January – Michael French and Stuart Jones. They are now looking forward to taking the Intermediate exam later on this year. Thanks to course tutor Adrian, M00JR, invigilators Brian, G1CUH and Steve, 2E0FGM and to Ken, G3OCA for organising the course.

Following the AGM in January there were changes to the South Kesteven ARS committee. Konrad, M0KVF is now the club secretary and Steve, M6TTZ is now the club treasurer. Andrew, M0NRD remains the chairman. SKARS has a new venue: the 9th Grantham (St Anne's) Scout Hall, Harrowby Road, Grantham NG31 9ED. Meetings are still the first and third Friday evening in the month from 7.30pm. See www.skars.co.uk for club information.

RAF Waddington ARC members have embarked on a significant expansion and improvements of their club shack/meeting room. Membership is at an all-time high and the current facilities are no longer adequate. A small kitchen and separate radio room are planned within an extended shack. A separate storage area has already been built to store the special event station equipment and other items. Members recently met in the partially demolished shack to discuss progress and to 'volunteer' their services.



DEADLINES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR – SEND YOUR NEWS TO US AT RADCOM@RSGB.ORG.UK BEFORE THESE DATES!

Cover Date	Editorial copy deadline	Cover Date	Editorial copy deadline
April 2018	21 February	September 2018	25 July
May 2018	28 March	October 2018	22 August
June 2018	25 April	November 2018	26 September
July 2018	23 May	December 2018	24 October
August 2018	20 June	January 2019	21 November