

RadCom

THE RADIO SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN'S
MEMBERS' MAGAZINE

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The online *RadCom* is at www.rsgb.org/radcom/



News and Reports

- 6 RSGB Matters**
Including how the RSGB represents your interests, Committee and Volunteer spotlights, AGM details, VDSL interference investigation, QSL Matters, Congratulations and Welcome
- 12 An open letter to the RSGB from GOVRM**
Answered by Board member Steve Hartley, GOFUW
- 13 News**
All the amateur radio news
- 56 New Products**
The latest news from the amateur and technical market
- 82 Around Your Region**
Our regular round-up of club diaries and news reports

Reviews

- 16 Kenwood TS-590SG HF & 50MHz transceiver**
Peter Hart, G3SJX is favourably impressed by the updates to the TS-590S
- 23 Gemini 4**
A 250-300W amplifier for 6m and 4m with an integral PSU is put through its paces by Peter Hart, G3SJX
- 46 Elad FDM-DUO multi use SDR transceiver**
Mike Richards, G4WNC looks at the new SDR transceiver that doesn't have to tie you to a PC
- 59 Book review**
Tales of Fort Bridgewoods enjoyed by Giles Read, G1MFG

Features

- 44 Youngsters on the Air**
Mike Jones, 2EOMLJ reports on some of the events that took place getting youngsters on the air last December
- 54 The GB2CW Project**
A service that helps amateurs practice receiving Morse is looking for more volunteers says Roger Cooke, G3LDI
- 68 Activating Mauritius**
Robert Rawson, MORCX describes his one-man DXpedition to this lovely island



G4CPE running reduced bandwidth ATV, P42



Cover image: The Elad FDM-DUO multi use SDR transceiver.

Photo courtesy of G4WNC

Technical Features

- 18 The Raspberry Pi in your shack**
Based on the RSGB Convention talk, Mike Richards, G4WNC continues his series with a look at the newest Raspberry Pi and how it makes operating datamodes much quicker
- 26 Making a 7 or 14MHz mini-quad**
Steve Ireland, VK6VZ describes the construction and tuning of an efficient antenna that's smaller than you would think
- 38 Homebrew**
More work on the 10m transceiver project by Eamon Skelton, EI9GQ
- 76 Design Notes**
Building a 10GHz helical antenna is amongst the ideas discussed this month by Andy Talbot, G4JNT
- 78 Moving On**
John Welsh, GONVZ describes an RF sniffer box and its uses



MORCX mounts one-man DXpedition to Mauritius, P68

Regulars

- 91 Advertisers index**
- 36 Antennas**, Peter Dodd, G3LDO
- 74 ARDF**, Bob Titterington, G3ORY
- 42 ATV**, Dave Mann, G8ADM
- 66 GHz Bands**, Dr John Worsnop, G4BAO
- 60 HF**, Martin Atherton, G3ZAY
- 92 Members' Ads, Rallies & Events, Silent Keys, Special Event Stations**
- 95 Propagation**, Gwyn Williams, G4KFH
- 72 Sport Radio**, Steve White, G3ZVW
- 96 The Last Word**
- 64 VHF/UHF**, Richard Staples, G4HGI

The RSGB Representing Your Interests

John, G3WKL, RSGB President, attended a four-day preparatory meeting in mid January for the World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC15, being held in November this year. RSGB is normally represented as part of the UK Delegation led by Ofcom.

The meeting was held in Budapest and attended by around 70 delegates from administrations (equivalent to Ofcom) from Europe, Scandinavia and the Russian Federation that comprise the CEPT member states. Of interest to the amateur community in this particular meeting group is the consideration of an amateur allocation around 5MHz and the possible sharing of our allocation on a part of the 76GHz band with automotive radar. The RSGB has made significant contributions at this series of meetings and the related meetings in the ITU, however there is opposition from some administrations to an amateur band around 5MHz so further work is needed if we are

to start WRC15 with a supportive position from CEPT.

Representing our Members at professional radio communication meetings is one of the functions of the RSGB. Apart from the formal business John along with Hans, PB2T Past-President IARU Region 1 and Uli, DK4VW, IARU Region 1 HF Committee Chairman, who were also attending the meeting, visited the MOM Radio Club, HA5KfV, which is situated near to the centre of Budapest. Laci, HA5EA the Hungarian Amateur Radio Society (MRASZ) IARU Liaison Officer had kindly arranged the visit. The club has meeting facilities and a basement shack in a smart local cultural building on the site



Photo: Left to right Hans, PB2T, Laci, HA5EA, Jenci, HA5FA MOM RC President, John, G3WKL, Uli, DK4VW and Miklos, HA5VZ. Attila, HA5JA was not in the photo that was taken by Gabor, HA5UZ.

of a former optical factory (MOM). It was not a club night when they visited the club, however Jenci, HA5FA, ex-President of the club and four of his senior club members provided typical Hungarian hospitality that included Pálinka, champagne and fine coffee later in the evening.

Supporting our Members

The draft financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 show that the Society has more than adequate cash reserves for normal operations. Whilst the Board keeps how the Society's surplus cash is invested under regular review, the Board has asked me to form a small group to explore how we could use some of our reserves to work more for the Society's Members. The focus would be to deliver some additional Membership benefits, whilst retaining the principle that the Society breaks even on its day to day operations.

Recent work by the Leadership Team has come up with a number of interesting suggestions for projects that would benefit Members and the wider amateur community. This needs to be reviewed and developed along with any fresh ideas and recommendations formed.

I am therefore looking for some volunteers to form this small group. For continuity, I plan to draw a few volunteers from the Leadership Team but I would also like a small number of other Members to volunteer, so that we have some balance between those working with the Society and the wider Membership. The work will be mostly virtual (by e-mail or Skype), but we may need a face-to-face workshop at some stage. My intention is that the group would complete its work by end-May 2015.

Any Members interested in being considered for the working group should contact me by e-mail to g3wkl@rsgb.org.uk or post (QTHR or via HQ). I will contact the Leadership Team separately.
John Gould, G3WKL
RSGB President

New RSGB Contest Award

Harwell ARS has kindly offered to donate a contest award in memory of the late G4DEZ. It has now been agreed by the Contest Committee that this will be called the Bryn Llewellyn G4DEZ award and it will be awarded annually to the leading single operator station in the UK Activity Contests. It will be awarded for the first time for the 2014 UKAC series, and presented at the RSGB Convention in October. You can find all the contest related news in the Contest Committee Newsletter. To sign up to the contest committee newsletter, go to www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/subscribe.pl?subtype=news

RSGB & Facebook

The Society is delighted to announce the launch of its new Facebook Page.

Do 'Like' our Page (www.facebook.com/theRSGB) so that you can get up-to-date news as well as information about events and Member offers in your newsfeeds. You'll also be able to see photos and videos and receive updates about SES, contests and much more. We know many Members have been looking forward to this Page that will provide an additional way to communicate with the Society. All other news and information services will continue unchanged.



RSGB Book Editors Wanted

The RSGB is looking to update a number of its existing book titles and is seeking editors to take on this task. The work will involve bringing up to date existing material, commissioning new work where appropriate and producing a manuscript in a given timeframe. We are particularly looking for those with experience of VHF and microwaves to update the *VHF/UHF Manual* and *Microwave Handbook*. We are also looking for people to take on two potential new books *Rebuilding Old Radios* and *ATV Workshop*. The editors of these two books may also need to be more hands on with the writing. DTP skills would be advantageous but are not essential. If you would like to be considered for these positions please send an e-mail to authors@rsgb.org.uk for more information.

Committee Spotlight

ETCC. The Emerging Technology Committee consists of nine members with me as chairman doubling up as the Northern Ireland member.

The ETCC has been around in various guises for many years but our present title was adopted in 2007 when the Datacomms Committee and the Repeater Management Committee were merged.

Why 'Emerging' you may well ask? Perhaps it was a bit of a misnomer until recently when all sorts of digital voice and video technology literally emerged. In voice it was firstly D-Star, then DMR and now System Fusion, while in the world of amateur television great progress has been made in the digitisation of video transmission with a consequent saving in occupied bandwidth that makes the Primary Users of our bands very happy!

Perhaps the largest task undertaken in recent times was the complete renewal of all repeater Notices of Variation. The deadline was rather tight as we were requested by Ofcom to start the renewals process with just about one month left before all NoVs expired! With a lot of effort by all but especially GM8LBC the renewals system successfully came on line. By the end of April we had processed more than 400 repeaters and 100 beacons, which was quite a feat when it was realised that much of the data on older installations was missing and had to be collated and entered into the database.

We make every effort to support and guide Repeater Keepers through the licensing process, which can be a long and winding road. I am sure a huge sigh of relief was breathed by all when we finally achieved a breakthrough at the end of 2014 in gaining approval for proposals that had been in the system for many months and in one instance years.

John McCullagh, G14BWM
Chairman ETCC



Had A Mains Earth Failure?

An article is in preparation on Earthing for the Amateur. We would like to hear from anyone who has ever had a mains supply neutral/earth failure on a property with a PME or conventional supply. What happened? Was there any damage? Please send any details to John Woodhouse, G6GPF, by e-mail to john@askwoodhouse.com

RSGB 2015 AGM

The RSGB 2015 AGM will be held in London on 25 April 2015 at the Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG. The main business will take place between 12 noon and approximately 1pm and will include the presentation of various awards and trophies and the President's Round-up of the year. After lunch there will be a time for questions and further presentations.

Volunteer Spotlight Annick Morris

LIFE AS A BLIND NEWSREADER.

At the beginning of July 2004 I was approached by a member of the North West news-reading team and asked if I would like to become a reader on 2m and 70cm bands on a Sunday morning and/or evening. I agreed to do this as I thought that it would be a great opportunity for me to gain confidence in public speaking and also I knew that I would be an extra body on the team, so this would take the pressure off the existing 3 team members and allow for them to be more flexible as to when they read the news.

As I am totally blind I read the news in a different way from all the other readers in that I read using the Braille display on my Braille computer. This computer also has a speech program built into it but I turn it off when reading the news, as I do not require the speech.

Each time I read the news there are a few hours of preparation that I need to do beforehand. First, I download the news from the RSGB website onto my laptop computer, then I edit it accordingly, omitting all the irrelevant information that relates to events outside of the North West region and, finally, I download the news onto my compact flash card and insert this into my Braille computer, which then enables me to read it.

I very much enjoy reading the news as I feel that it is important to provide the service for those people who do not have a computer. Over the years my audience has decreased, which I believe is due to the fact that the news is accessed via the internet as more and more people have internet access. When I have spoken to the other team members they have informed me that they have also found this to be the case. We therefore decided to only read the news on 2 and 4m as these are the bands where the best audiences are.

The North West news team has now increased to 5, which means that we do each have some Sundays when we are not required to read the news. The news is read at 10.30am and 9pm.



CONGRATULATIONS

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

60 Years

Mr J V Hoban, G3EGC
Mr R Bray, G3KEL

Mr R K Hemmings, G3VCT
Fareham & DARS, G3VEF
Mr G Macnaught, G3WOV

50 Years

Mr G F Brown, G2BJK
Salop ARS, G3SRT

Mr K A M Fisher, G3WSN
Mr P J Bradshaw, G4CTE
Mr D Ross, G4LOO

Apologies

In the last issue we listed M Ryall's callsign wrongly, it should have been 2WOLBE – our apologies to him. Also in the Honour Roll, two names were missing: D C Mainhood, G3HZW joined the Society in 1948 and Dr David Wardlow, VK3ADW joined in 1949. Our apologies for the omission and the Society would like to record their long-time support of the RSGB.

UK Events Planner

The RSGB is pleased to announce a new way to find out about, and post, amateur radio events in your area. It's called UK Events Planner and displays upcoming radio events as markers on a map of the UK on the RSGB's website. You can search by postcode or place and you can set distances from five miles to 100 miles.

The UK Events Planner can be accessed by everyone – just go to www.rsgb.org/eventsplanner to try it out.

When you log into your RSGB Membership Services portal you will find a custom link to UK Events Planner that displays all the events within 50 miles of your postcode – you can alter the location and distance if you want to look elsewhere.

If you are an RSGB affiliated amateur radio club you can post events directly on to the UK Events Planner. This also sends details of your event to the *RadCom* editorial desk for inclusion in the next available edition. All clubs are encouraged to use this facility to share details of their activities.

Propagation Experiment

The RSGB Propagation Studies Committee (PSC) is keen to encourage radio amateurs to take part in an experiment during the partial solar eclipse taking place on Friday 20 March. The path of totality will pass north of us, over the Faroe Islands, but the UK will experience up to 89% totality (depending upon where you live).

This is a great opportunity to try some simple experiments to see how the sun's ultraviolet output affects our ionosphere and how some radio waves are propagated.

On the morning of Friday 20 March, the D layer above the UK may not be as strong due to the eclipse and you may be able to hear stations on the lower bands – 1.8 MHz, 3.5 MHz and perhaps 7MHz that would otherwise be inaudible during the day. For example, if you listen for a medium wave radio station that is more than 250-300 miles away during the day you may not hear it – it is too far away for its ground wave signal to reach us, and any sky wave signal is absorbed by the D layer of the ionosphere. But at night its sky

wave signals are not absorbed as there is no D layer and they are free to be reflected back to earth from the higher E/F layers.

This is why you can hear distant medium wave stations on a radio at night, but they aren't there during the day. You get a similar effect on Top Band and, to a lesser extent, 80m/40m.

The exact details of the experiments for amateurs were still being prepared at the time of writing, but you can find out more at the RSGB Radio Propagation Questions forum at <http://forums.thersgb.org>

PSC has also devised a simple experiment for schools to undertake using portable medium wave radios. A flyer about the experiment is available on the forum mentioned above or at www.gOkya.blogspot.com

The information we gather will also be shared with the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Harwell.

The partial eclipse starts in the Midlands at about 0825UTC on Friday 20 March and ends at 1041UTC. Maximum eclipse will be at about 0930UTC.

QSL Matters

"Do you have any cards for me?" This is a common question received at the RSGB's QSL bureau. With around a million plus cards a year passing through our doors, with the best will in the world, it's nearly impossible for us to know. The best place to check is *always* your sub manager. The RSGB policy is to send all cards waiting for you each quarter (and so no delivery means no cards waiting) but it may just be that you haven't sent any collection envelopes. Sub-managers only hold onto your waiting cards for 3 months before re-cycling them, so please make sure that they always have an envelope with your name, address and a stamp on it.

SURCHARGES. Every month we receive payment request cards from the Post Office to cover underpayment charges on letters and packages, typically between £1 and £3. Last month, we were notified of a £17.85 underpayment for a single parcel! Underpaid packages are rejected and, where possible, returned by the Post Office, so please be vigilant in checking the size and weight of what you send to the bureau. Placing your package in the post box and hoping for the best is a likely recipe for disappointment.

For smaller packets, a 'pricing in proportion ruler' (see photo) is a good investment. As weight is also important, if you're unsure check the current Royal Mail rates online or at your post office – don't chance it!

MM SERIES. An apology to our new MM series manager, Steve Gill, for getting his callsign wrong. He is the proud owner of MMO5GQ, sorry Steve.

ABBREVIATED CONTEST CALLS. We now have a replacement volunteer to handle the QSL cards for the single letter contest calls. Graham, MOAXO is unable to continue and we thank him for his service to the amateur community. Details next month.



RCF Supports the Arkwright Trust



Every year the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF) supports two scholars through the Arkwright Trust using funds generously donated by radio amateurs. The Trust's scholarships are widely respected and aim to encourage young engineers and to promote home-grown talent. The Trust also provides money to the STEM department at the scholars' schools. The Trust's staff help the RCF to seek out scholars with radio-related interests to ensure that RCF support goes to the right places.

In 2014 one of the RCF scholars was unable to attend the formal presentation ceremony at the Mermaid Theatre in London so RCF Trustee Steve Hartley, GOFUW, visited Theo Brown's school to make the presentation there. Theo is an A-level student at Colyton Grammar School in Devon where he achieved no fewer than 12 A* grades in GCSE subjects. He has programmed his own radio controlled car using a Raspberry Pi and some off-the-shelf RF modules and hopes to move on to quad-copters using GPS flight control this year. Not only is he a budding radio engineer, he is an accomplished saxophone player and promotes jazz amongst young people. He hopes to study electronics at Cambridge in due course.

Further information about the Arkwright Trust can be found at www.arkwright.org.uk/ and if you would like to make a donation to the RCF, see www.commsfoundation.org/donations/

EMC Committee VDSL Investigation



The EMC Committee is carrying out an investigation of the significance of interference to amateur radio from VDSL broadband (Very-high-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line). Where emissions occur from a normally working VDSL system the noise is continuous 24/7 and sounds like white noise. Occasionally when the VDSL system is faulty or

disturbed by large external signals, different emissions may be observed as the system attempts to 're-train'. A request for information has been posted on the RSGB EMC Forum under *Investigations New Technology*. Please visit the forum and post observations there or alternatively by email to emc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk

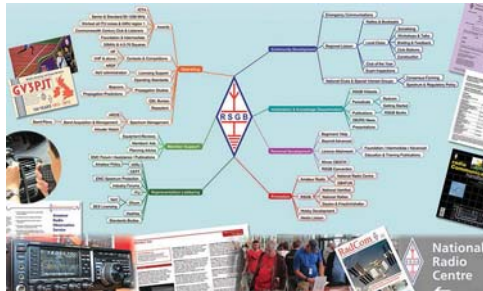
The intention of the investigation is to get a general picture of how often emissions occur so please reports emissions even if they don't affect your particular amateur activity. Interference can occur whether or not you have VDSL broadband in your own home.

IDENTIFYING VDSL EMISSIONS. In the UK, VDSL2 covers frequencies up to 17.66MHz. The downstream and upstream bands alternate and the easiest way to detect VDSL is to look for the change in noise level at the band transitions. These are nominally 3.75MHz, 5.2MHz, 8.5MHz and 12MHz. The band utilisation depends on distance of the house from the street cabinet.

To check for VDSL emissions, tune about 75kHz either side of the nominal transition frequencies. Ignore off-air signals and local incidental noise. Tuning around these frequencies and listening while watching the S-meter will show a noise step if there is VDSL interference. If an SDR is available the step will be clearly seen and the 4.3125kHz patterning of the VDSL signal should also be visible on a waterfall display.

RSGB Services Map

The RSGB is pleased to announce a new feature on the Society's website. The Services Map provides an overview of every service the RSGB offers on a single page. You can find out more about each service by hovering your mouse over its name. So if you ever wondered about NoV Administration (Notice of Variation) or the Club of the Year competition, the Services Map can be found at www.rsgb.org/service-map



HF Propagation Presentation

Steve Nichols, GOKYA, chairman of the RSGB's Propagation Studies Committee, has produced a 40-minute movie presentation for clubs entitled Understanding HF Propagation. This has been produced in response to requests for propagation talks, but where the distances needed to deliver the talk have proved a stumbling block.

The presentation looks at the Sun, sunspots, solar flares, coronal mass ejections and their effects on HF. It also looks at propagation prediction programs and where amateurs can get solar information.

Steve says that the plan is for clubs to show the presentation (which includes movies and audio) with the option of a 20-30 minute Q&A session with Steve conducted via Skype.

The presentation is available as an M4V file, either downloaded or sent on CD-ROM, or as a DVD. Any club interested can contact Steve at psc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk

Train the Trainers

The recent pilot of the RSGB's Train the Trainers course was well received by those who attended. The organisers received comments like, "the trainers were great and really passionate about delivering quality training" and "the interesting, interactive training - loads of ideas to take back to my club". Further events are planned for Cardiff, Norwich and a venue in Yorkshire. Other comments can be found on the RSGB's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/theRSGB)

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

Mr A Baloglu, DCOED
Mr P Arnold, G4CFG
Mr N Trollope, G4FAT
Mr P Aust, G4YBI
Mr I Fields, G7IGF
Mr B Case, K4BSC
Mr M Haverstock, K8MSH
Mr P Anderson, KC9FYD
Mr Lengrand, KE4MDC
Bracknell ARCG, MOBRA
Mr A C Reason, MOHNNH
Mr G Lloyd, M6EKI
Miss L Richardson, M6HLR

Mr M Harris, M6VNL
Mrs C Archer, M6ZCA
Mr G Irving, MM6EZO
Mr A Williams, MW0UPH
Mr B Jordan, MW6FBJ
Mr Roels, PA7RL
Mr C Humphries, RS302667
Mr J Slater, RS302668
Mr J Mount, RS302669
Colburn & Richmondshire DARC,
RS302673
Mr A Ash, RS302755
Miss R Ash, RS302756

Mr B J Smith, RS302758
Mr D Mutonga, RS302799
Mr M Dias, RS302800
Mr S Wood, RS302949
Ms L Greenaway, RS302953
Mr M Ross, RS302970
Mr G McCaffery, RS302973
Mr D Ellison, VE6ELD
Mr R Arndt, VE6SPK
Mr E Antczak, W8XW
Mr J Duffy Beischel, WB8NUT

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

Mr W D Andrew, GW2DHM
Mr T Jones, G8DVF
Mr J Phelps, G6DFM
Mr P Giraudeau, F6HMP
Mr R Williamson, G0GDY

Mr W Woodcock, MOAWW
Mr M R Swift, M0CQG
Mr M F Swift, G4MJA
Mr J Koekkoek, RS162716
Mr M Forster, M1MSF

Mr S Richards, MOPAV
Mrs G Whitehead, G3YLL
Mr P Hunter, G0GSZ

An open letter from Andy Russell, GOVRM Answers from Steve Hartley, G0FUW, RSGB Board Member

Nerds who will change the world

I'm sure that many of us watched the recent Royal Institution Christmas Lecture "Sparks Will Fly", presented by Danielle George, the Professor of RF Engineering at Manchester University with great anticipation. Over the course of three hours, she instilled into her young audience into thinking about "How the spark of your imagination and some twenty-first century tinkering can change the world".

I have followed these lectures for many years, and cannot think of any that have had more relevance to amateur radio, and after reading the article in the *Guardian* newspaper back on 19 August 2014 that described the series that promised to usher in a "new era of home experimentation", I was expecting to see some amateur radio involvement and content in the lectures.

I was very surprised to see that there was no mention of the series in *RadCom* or on the RSGB website in the lead up to Christmas, and was somewhat dismayed when there was no amateur radio content whatsoever. This was evident when she opened her second lecture on communications with the question "With the ability to make video calls to anyone, anywhere, where could I possibly call that would amaze you?", and then showed a staged contact with the International Space Station using her iPhone!

I therefore feel that I must ask the question if anyone from the RSGB knew about these lectures and attempted to get involved?

The article in the Guardian was not spotted by any of the Board and no-one drew our attention to it. Maybe if someone had drawn our attention to the article in August we might have been able to do something. We now have a part-time Communications Officer, Heather Parsons, who keeps her ear to the ground looking for opportunities to showcase amateur radio in appropriate surroundings. You will no doubt have seen reports in RadCom of Heather's work in trying to co-ordinate RSGB activities during British Science Week.

If not, then this is particularly worrying when the Board has selected 'Youth' as its focus for the future, and involvement in such a high-profile event would have kick-started any planned activities.

A high profile platform would have been very useful, but we need to take care in saying Youth is our 'focus'. We have certainly taken steps to address the absence of any specific activities for our

young Members through participation in IARU YOTA events and in the formation of a Youth Committee, but that does not mean that other Members are 'not in focus'; newcomers of all ages are to be encouraged.

And more so, does this also indicate that today's amateur radio is no longer relevant to University Science and Engineering Departments?

Amateur radio may not enjoy as high a profile in Universities as it used to but it is certainly still seen as relevant in some Universities. For example, we have seen the rise of a very active group at Aberystwyth University. Dr Catherine Mitchell at Bath University is very keen to engage with radio amateurs and has hinted at some joint research; she is speaking about her propagation studies at the RSGB Bristol Group in May. We also have links to the Arkwright Trust through the RCF. Every year the RCF sponsors two scholars who have specific interest in radio and electronics. Having attended one of the presentation ceremonies in 2014 there is clearly a wide interest in the subject and lots of research going on.

This brings me onto the subject of "tinkering" mentioned in the lecture series. As many of you are aware, there is currently a peak in the public interest in coding on such platforms as the Raspberry Pi and Arduino through the Maker movement, with many of the entry level projects in magazines involving the use of radio technology, such as RFID and ZigBee, to control home appliances. I must ask two further questions? Why aren't we promoting amateur radio as the enabling technology for schools STEM projects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) such as High Altitude Balloons, and where is our equivalent of the Raspberry Pi that encourages these people to tinker with amateur radio?

The RSGB Promotion Plan set out in 2012/13 included specific mention of engagements with the STEM community. However, it is fair to say that not all elements of the Plan have moved as fast as the authors envisaged. That is not to say things have been completely static, we did work with the Raspberry Pi people at the Centenary Day and the 2014 Convention. The winning construction project was driven by a Raspberry Pi. The RSGB is 20,000 strong, and RadCom would love to hear from more Members

who can write up their latest Pi (or Arduino) project.

The current Board have taken steps to re-energise the Promotion Plan, including the appointment of a new Director to focus on the subject, we also now have a Youth Committee to help get the messages out there.

One of the objectives of the Youth Committee is to reach out and forge links with like-minded groups, like the Maker/Hackspace communities. We have work going on to make more of British Science Week and there is a plan to attend the Maker Faire in London later this year.

Meanwhile the RSGB recently expressed its desire in its long term-plan that Members should "not be seen as nerds" and completely misses the zeitgeist for young people with scientific interests, who see this as a badge of honour, and may well become our future engineers and scientists.

We need to take care with terminology, are we talking about nerds or geeks? There has been talk about celebrating the geeky nature of our hobby, and maybe we should be seeing slogans like 'release your inner geek!' I am not sure being seen as a nerd has quite the same ring to it, or the 'reverse psychology' kudos.

Whilst I can see that refocussing its strategy might present problems with the business model of the society, as it would then have to look beyond its consumer electronics focus and the revenue it brings from advertising, and enter the world described by Professor George, who ironically sees us as "coming through the period where everything was a black box, and people are starting to tinker again like the old ham radio enthusiasts"...

I therefore must ask the final question: Who is going to represent the technical future of our hobby?

The answer to that is simple; the RSGB will represent the technical future of our hobby, but the Board and HQ need volunteers to help deliver the Society's strategies. It feels a bit old fashioned, but the old Kitchener WW1 poster feels very apt: your Society needs you! There are lots of opportunities to volunteer your services and we welcome new people with fresh ideas. If you feel you can contribute, please get in touch with the General Manager, or click the button on your Membership profile to signal your desire to help us take amateur radio into the future.

ML&S at new premises

Martin Lynch & Sons has finished all the fitting out of the new premises in Staines, Middlesex. With 6,000 square feet of superstore, Martin was delighted to open the doors on this new phase of ML&S at the end of January 2015. After ten years in Chertsey, the move to the new address of Wessex House, Drake Avenue, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AP has proved to be hard work, but rewarding.



GB0SGS on air for British Science Week

GB0SGS will be on air on 16 and 17 March from St Georges School, Wrotham Kent as part of British Science Week. The station will be run by Kevin, GOPEK along with 9 year old Lauren, M6HLR who has been given permission from her own school to assist in the event. The two days will be split into two sessions of two hours each and have a theme of 'how far can we instantly send a message?' During the sessions, they will be looking at various aspects of communication from plain speech, semaphore, flags, telegraphy, Morse and wireless. They plan to use PMR446 around the school field before moving on to 145MHz, 7MHz and 14MHz. They may also briefly look at WSPR as well. To round off the activities, they have sorted a geocaching course where the children will collect radio facts that will lead into a short review quiz.

Over the two days, they will be working with 120 children in 4 different year classes so they will need to be a little creative with some of the sessions, however, they expect to be sending many greetings messages. Lauren will be keeping a diary of the event and reporting back to her own school who have also expressed an interest in running a similar project in the near future.

Airfields on the Air

RAF Air Cadets from No 2 Welsh Wing will have two stations operating on this year's RAF-ARS Airfields On The Air. GB6RAF will be active on various dates between 20 and 29 March from RAF Hawarden in Flintshire using the 10 to 40m bands, 2m FM and 70cm FM. Then, GB6RAF will be active on various dates between 30 March and 26 April from RAF Rednal in Shropshire using the 10 to 40m bands. Further information can be found at www.qsl.net/g4dqp/Activations.html

Celebrating 90 years of IARU

In 2015, Romanian radio amateurs are celebrating 77 years of IARU membership, whilst the IARU is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Romania will be active with four special event stations: YO90IARU, YP90IARU, YQ90IARU and YR90IARU. The stations will be active on all bands and modes until 31 December 2015. For further information, please e-mail frr@hamradio.ro

These stations count towards the IARU-90 diploma and you can read more about the qualifying conditions at www.dxawards.com/inet2015.htm You can send requests for the diploma to IARU-90@hamradio.ro until the deadline of 15 January 2016. The electronic diploma is free of charge and the printed diploma will cost 5 euro.

OZ90IARU will be on the air from Denmark until 31 December 2015 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the IARU. It will be operating on all bands, including WARC bands, and all modes except cross-mode, cross-band contacts and contacts via repeater and Echolink. Please do *not* QSL this station. All QSOs will be verified via Logbook of The World and eQSL. Paper QSL may be requested via www.clublog.org/logsearch/OZ90IAR, please click on "Request QSL card" after you have searched the log. You may have a QSL via the bureau free of charge or you can pay to get it direct via postal mail. Please send an SAE and include 1 new IRC or US\$3 to cover return postage. Please give details with callsign, date, UTC, band and mode and send your request to QSL manager OZ0J. An award associated with this callsign will be available, see www.dxawards.com/inet2015.htm for details.

Get-Together for RAOA

RAOA – the Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association – is restarting its annual Get-Together in Derby. It will be held on Saturday 16 May from 12 noon to 4pm at the Brunswick Inn near Derby railway station. The venue is easy to reach by train, bus and car and the room is on the ground floor of the Inn.

These Get-Togethers are informal events for RAOA members to meet and chat. Members are welcome to bring their spouse and/or potential members. Food will be available at a modest charge.

To help with catering arrangements and to avoid overcrowding, attending members must book places in advance before Friday 8 May (or earlier if all the places have been booked).

For more information please visit www.raota.org/events.htm or contact Ian Brothwell, G4EAN via GenSec@RAOTA.org

Membership of RAOA is open to anyone (licensed or listener) active in amateur radio. Full membership is open to anyone who has been actively involved in amateur radio for 25 years or more. Associate membership is open to anyone that has not yet been actively involved in amateur radio for 25 years.

Repeater delivery

In January, the East Yorkshire Repeater Group took delivery of a Yaesu Fusion DR-1XE repeater, kindly sponsored by LAM Communications of Barnsley. This will be used to upgrade GB3HS on 145.65MHz with an improved analogue and a new digital Fusion service for the coverage area of East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and large chunks of West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. The recent change of site and antennas for GB3HS now enables a 5W handheld to be used in the centre of Hull and in Grimsby. The photograph shows (l-r) Richard, G4YTV (EYRG Committee), Clive, G3GJA (EYRG Chairman) accepting the repeater from Lee, MOLAM (Lam Communications).



HRH The Princess Royal visit

On Wednesday 14 January, HRH The Princess Royal visited the 61st Annual London Boat Show. Among the exhibitors stands that she visited was Icom UK where its team, led by Managing Director, Bob Stockley were on hand to answer questions about the company and range of radio products. Icom UK has been attending the Boat Show for over twenty years and were delighted to have Her Royal Highness visit the stand at the end of their 40th Anniversary year.

At the show, Icom showcased its large range of award winning marine radio and navigational equipment. The company launched two new fixed marine VHF radios to the boating media including new models called the IC-M323 and IC-M423 models, which feature integrated GPS receivers.



Polish virtual club

Stan, SQ8PDP/G6HHP is part of a small group of RSGB Members in Poland trying to form a virtual radio club so as they can keep in touch. If anyone in Poland or any Polish radio amateurs living in the UK, or who have a connection with Poland are interested, send an e-mail to radcom@rsgb.org.uk Please mark the e-mail RSGB-PL for SQ8PDP.

Science Week Convention

The Five Bridges Cluster is holding a Science Week Convention on 14 March from 2pm to 6pm at St John the Baptist Church, Grainger Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne. The theme is Amateur Radio in the Era of Social Media and Instant Communication and the lecturers will look at why amateur radio continues to endure and attract in an age of Twitter, Facebook and smart phones? The Sheffield amateur radio demonstration vehicle will be on site all day and visitors will be able to try their hand at the various activities

There will be a number of speakers throughout the day including John Gould, G3WKL the RSGB President and Chi Onwurah MP for Newcastle Central, formerly of Ofcom Broadband department. Activities will include a D-Star demonstration, an aerial farm, SDR and Echolink.

GB4AOA

Riviera ARC in South Devon will be using GB4AOA as part of the Airfield's on the Air activities. This is a national event co-ordinated through the RAF ARS. GB4AOA will be running from a site very close to the ex RAF airfield at Haldon just outside Teignmouth in South Devon on 28 and 29 March. The old runways are still visible on Google Maps.

The station will comprise a Kenwood TS-590S and an offset Carolina Windom concentrating mainly on 40m SSB and 2m FM although other bands may be used if conditions change. Special QSLs are available and contacts are valid to count towards awards from RAFARS for this event.

Six News

The UK Six Metre Group has a new Yahoo Group to keep up with the latest happenings on 6m. They encourage anyone who is interested in 6m to join. Further details are on <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/UKSMG/info>

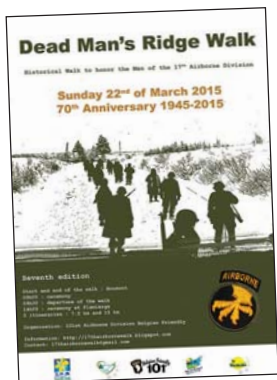
OT70BULGE on the air

On 16 December 1944 the Battle for the Bulge in the Belgian Ardennes began. On 24 March 1945 a huge airborne landing called Operation Varsity and Operation Plunder started to cross the Rhine in Wesel Germany.

On 22 March 2015, American veterans and many of their sons and daughters and other relatives will come to Bastogne and Wesel to walk in their fathers' footsteps and remember the 70th anniversary of these battles and the loss of so many

people. To commemorate this event, on 22 March, an amateur radio station with the callsign OT70BULGE will be on the air and will confirm every contact with a special QSL card. The station will start around 10am local time and will work in SSB and CW on the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 metre bands.

For more information, e-mail Joe Somers, PAOSOM, via paOsom@veron.nl



Bletchley Park Debs Lecture

Bestselling author Michael Smith will talk about his new book *The Debs of Bletchley Park* on Sunday 15 March. At the peak of Bletchley Park's success, more than eight thousand people worked there, with women outnumbering men by around three to one. These included a former ballerina who helped to crack the Enigma Code, a debutante working for the Admiralty with a direct line to Churchill, the convent girl who operated Bombe machines and the German literature student whose codebreaking saved countless lives on D-Day. More information at www.bletchleypark.org.uk

GB1BST

Woody's Top Youth Hostel in Lincolnshire will be the venue for the 2015 GB1BST Special Event Station, celebrating the start of British Summer Time. The station will be on the air from 27 to 29 March. Situated on the Greenwich Meridian between Louth and Horncastle (WAB TF37), Woody's Top is a rather remote and quiet location in the southern part of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Radio operations are scheduled to start late on 27th March with test transmissions on the 40m, 20m, 17m and 2m bands which will be used during the weekend event.

GB1BST has been organised by the Youth Hostels Amateur Radio Group and the Phoenix Radio Group with help from several clubs in the region. Local radio amateurs are invited to visit the station and to help run it over the weekend. Overnight accommodation may be available to *bona fide* volunteers, courtesy of the YHA (England & Wales).

Supporting the GB1BST event, the YHARG club callsign MXOYHA will be used by Kevin, MOXLT between 15 and 30 March at Gargrave near Skipton, which is approximately 6 miles from the YHA youth hostels at Malham and Earby in the Yorkshire Dales

Further information about GB1BST and the YHARG is available at www.YHARG.org.uk

Please send news reports to radcom@rsgb.org.uk. To get future events listed here and put on GB2RS, e-mail details of your meetings as early as possible to radcom@RSGB.org.uk and we'll do the rest. We need to know your club name, RSGB Region number, contact name & phone number, date of meeting and detail of meeting. Example: Fraser Road Radio Club, Region 9, Graham, GONBI, 01234 832 700, 29 Oct, On the Air. It's that simple. Please note that we don't normally print 'closed', 'TBA' or 'every Tuesday'-type submissions. The deadline for the April edition is 23 February and for the May issue it's 23 March. For GB2RS, the deadline is 10am on the Thursday of the week of broadcast.

INTERNATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

AMSAT-UK

<http://amsat-uk.org/>

Weekly net every Sunday 10am, 3.780MHz
Civil Service Amateur Radio Society,
Weekly net every Tuesday, 8pm, 3.763MHz

REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

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

Ayr ARG

John, GM0EPO, aargsec2014@gmail.com
4 Communications satellites, Steve,
2MOSCG of Clyde Space
18 SkywarnUK, Marcus, MMOZIF

Border ARS

Alex, GM8BDX, 01890 830 607
13 Club night

Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC

Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723
5, 12, 26 Morse training
6 Normal club night
11 On-air activity day

Livingston & DARS

Cathie, MM6MSN, catherine_197@msn.com
3 Talk/presentation on oscilloscopes
10, 24 Training
17 Morse training and operating

Stirling & DARS

John, gm0fsv@gm6nx.com
1, 8, 15, 22, 28 Construction, training,
projects & operating, 10.30am till late
afternoon

Wigtownshire ARC

Ellis, GM0HPK, www.gm4riv.org
5, 12, 26 Normal club night
19 R1155/T1154 demo from Lancaster
bomber, Russell Rixon

In December **Mid Lanark ARS** held a Foundation exam and congratulations to (l-r) Bill Guy, Graham Irving, David McLeod and Raymond Adams on passing. Well done from all at the club. In January, the club's youngest member, David Chisholm (12), passed his Foundation exam. Congratulations from all at the club. He



can now pester his dad Steve, 2M0EVS to use his transceiver. Thanks to Kevin, 2M0KVM and Tom, GM3ZLC for invigilating the exam, Dennis, MM0DNX for arranging the exam and tutor Martin, MM0MOB.
www.mlars.org.uk



REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

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

Aberdeen ARS

Fred, MM00DL, 01975 651 365
5 Junk sale
12 Video evening
19 Quiz night, Ian Fraser, GM8MHU
26 Construction and on the air

Glenrothes & DRC

Tam, MM0TGB, 0775 3526 498
4 QRP kits
11 Under the lid, Bob, MM0TIE
18 DVD night
25 JOVE Radio, Jim, GM4NNH

REGION 3: NORTH WEST

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

Chester & DRS

Bruce, M0CVP, 01244 343 825
3 Meteor scatter, Lyndon, GW8JLY
10 Committee meeting
17 Guest speaker
24 Bring and Tell evening
31 Operating evening

Fleetwood RAG

John, M0JFE, 07940 815 659
3 Natter night
17 Construction projects
31 Morse training night

Mid-Cheshire ARS

Peter, G8HAV, 01606 553 401
4 Contest operating
11 Small talk: aircraft simulators
18 Committee meeting
25 Forthcoming NARSA rally

South Manchester R&CC

Ron, G3SVW, 01619 693 999
5 RAF National Service, Bill, G4EDM
12 Alternative Frequency Measurement,
Ged, G8RSI
19 Nomograms and slide rules,
Dave, G4UGM
23 Monday technical forum
26 Technical topics discussion

Stockport RS

Heather, 07506 904 422
2, 9 Intermediate course
3, 17 Society meeting
12 On air from home
16 Intermediate exam

17 meeting
24 Skills night from HQ

Thornton Cleveleys ARS

John, G4FRK, 01253 862 810
2 Natter night club on the air
9 Sun & HF propagation, Paul, G3OSR
16 Practical evening
23 Digital modes, John, G4FRK
30 NARSA

It was very sad for **Stockport Radio Society** to hear the passing of their president, Harry, G3LX.

He had been president of the society for more years than anyone cared to remember. Whilst relatively inactive from a radio point of view – and being well into his 90s – Harry continued to support the Society and its activities, albeit from afar. For many years, members had benefited from Harry's wealth of knowledge regarding all things radio, as well as being entertained by stories of his times in the RAF and working for Hawker Siddeley at Woodford Aerodrome.

Harry was a Member of the RSGB and was entered in the 'Old Timers' Honour list in the February 2013 issue of *RadCom* for a continuous 77 years membership. The club website is at www.g8srs.co.uk

The club has appointed a new President, Alan, GOROW and has a revised committee, now chaired by Tony, MOSAV. The club would like to say a big thank you to Nigel, GORXA, the chairman for the last 18 years, for all his hard work.



January club meetings for **Furness ARS** included a demonstration of datamodes by G3IZD, as well as a talk and subsequent construction of 80m ARDF beacon kits that included custom made PCBs and components, all produced by MOKOH. Once the weather improves club members will again be taking up ARDF activities in the Furness area. Advanced notice now of an exciting event later in the year for the club. In June, Furness ARS will look to commemorate the issuing of the Magna Carta 800 years ago, in 1215, with a special callsign GB8CMC (8 Centuries Magna Carta).

REGION 4: NORTH EAST

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

Angel of the North ARC

Nancy, G7UUR, 01914 770 036

- 2 On the air; Advanced course continues
- 7 Advanced Exam
- 9 On the air; planning for Science Week
- 14 Science Week Convention, 2-6pm
- 16 AGM, 7.30pm
- 23, 30 On the air; Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced classes continue

Denby Dale RC

Darran, GOBWB, 07974 423 227

- 2 80m CC DATA
- 4 Surplus auction – refreshments and licenced bar
- 11 Net 145.575MHz, 7.30pm, plus 80m CC CW
- 15 WAB 3.5MHz Contest
- 16-22 GB0SW for British Science Week
- 18 Constructors competition
- 19 80m CC SSB
- 25 Net 145.575MHz, 7.30pm

Halifax & DARS

Martin, MOGQB, 01422 341 317

- 4, 11, 18, 25 Open net, 145.400MHz, 7.30pm
- 17 Radio Experiences in the Royal Navy, Peter, G3VNH

Hornsea ARC

Gordon, G3WOV, 01377 240 573

- 4 Committee meeting
- 11 80m CW and DVD
- 18 Table top sale
- 25 Quiz plus fish and chips

Ripon & DARS

David, G3UNA, 01423 860 778

- 5, 12, 19, 26 Club Night

Sheffield & DWS

Krystyna, 2EOKSH, 07884 065 375

- 4 Log4OM logging software demo
- 18 Show and Tell evening

Sheffield ARC

David, G6DCT, littlewood20@btinternet.com

- 2 Echolink, IRLP, System Fusion, D-Star and DMR repeater systems, Steve, M1ERS
- 9, 23 Club night
- 16 Shack night operating MORCU
- 30 Raspberry Pi re-visited David G6DCT



In December, the new Yaesu Fusion repeater GB3TS on 70cm for the North East of England was switched on, operating on 433.175/434.775MHz with a CTCSS tone of 118.8. There are no plans to internet link it and reports are welcome to g7mfn@hotmail.co.uk. The group would like to thank all involved in the project including Ian, G7MFM, Barry, GOSCI, William, MOXGR and **Bob, G3VVT**.

In December, **Wearside EARS** held Advanced and Foundation exam resulting in 3 passes for the Advanced exam and two for the Foundation. Congratulations to all. In the photos you can see George, MOIAS, William, MOXGR, Steve, MOHTI, Beverley, M6YBV and Conner, MOTXB.



A new radio club, **North Durham RC**, held its first meeting in January at Annfield Plain Scout Hut, Teesdale Terrace, Stanley DH9 7TU. Everyone is welcome to attend any meeting. Contact ianmOclD@yahoo.co.uk

Bishop Auckland RAC offers all the training required to become a radio amateur Thursday evenings from 7.30pm, provided by Tim, M0ACV and Bob, G0OCB. Based on an 'as and when' policy, enquiries by phone please to Tim on 01388 832 948 or via email to g4tff@yahoo.co.uk.

Halifax & DARS would like to congratulate the four most recent Foundation exam successes: George, M6GFI, Jeanette, M6MLF, Deb, M6EZU and Keith, M6EZV.

Five Bridges Cluster is holding a Science Week Convention on 14 March from 2 to 6pm at St John the Baptist Church, Grainger Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne. The theme for the day is 'Amateur radio in the era of social media and instant communication'. The former GB4 FUN vehicle will be on site all day and there are a number of speakers including the RSGB President John, G3WKL. More information from Nancy, G7UUR on 07990 760 920.

The two photos show a night at **Wearside EARS** with plenty going on. You can see Bill, MOXGR building a WSPR unit and Barry, GOSCI repairing an Icom HF transceiver.



REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

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

Aldridge & Barr Beacon ARC

Albert, GOKFS, 01922 614 169

- 16 On air HF/2m

Bromsgrove & DARC

Dave, M6DKT, on 07584 025 156

- 4, 11, 18, 25 Data night
- 6, 13, 20, 27 Club night

Central Radio Amateur Circle

Martin, G1TYV, 07906 905 071

- 3 UKAC 2m Contest, Barr Beacon, 7pm
- 5, 21 Group meeting
- 8 Wythall Radio Rally

Cheltenham ARA

Derek, G3NKS, 01242 241 099

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Slow CW 8pm

3540-3550kHz

- 17 Lunch

- 19 Constructors' exhibition

Coventry ARS

John, G8SEQ, 07958 777 363

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club net at 8pm

145.375MHz & 7.16MHz

- 6 The history of Caludon Castle or Spion Kop

- 13, 20 Construction night

- 27 President's night

Gloucester AR&ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime

- 2 Visit to Police HQ (pre-booking required)

- 9 HF show and tell then HF operating

- 16 Informal evening

- 23 VHF show and tell then VHF operating

- 30 Club net (club building closed)

Malvern Hills RAC

Dave, G4IDF, 01905 351 568

- 10 Antenna measurement workshop

Midland ARS

Norman, G8BHE, 07808 078 003

- 4, 25 Open meeting, on the air & training classes

- 5 Contests review, training classes

- 8 Visit to Wythall Radio Rally

- 11 Committee meeting and training classes

Mid-Warwickshire ARS

Don, G4CYG, 01926 424 465

- 10 Annual general meeting

- 24 Used equipment & book sale/exchange

Nuneaton & District ARC

Neil, 2EONEI, info@ndarc.co.uk

- 5, 12, 19, 26 Club net, 21:30,

145.475MHz, 9.30pm

- 6 Social meet

- 20 Talk on RAYNET past & present

Rugby ATS

Steve, G8LYB, 01788 578 940

- 3 UKAC 144MHz, radio operation and projects

- 7 Advanced exam

- 10 UKAC 432MHz, radio operation and projects

- 14 PowerPoles DC connections,

Steve, G8LYB

- 17 UKAC 1296MHz, radio operation and projects

- 21 A video about vintage electronics by

Mike, G8CTJ

- 28 UKAC 50MHz, radio operation and projects

- 31 UKAC 70MHz, radio operation and projects

Salop ARS

salopamateurradio@gmail.com
5 Natter night / committee meeting

South Birmingham RS

Gemma, M6GKG,
gemmagordon.m6gkg@gmail.com
2 Sorting stock for Wythall Radio Rally
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Coffee morning in the shack, 11am to 1 pm visitors welcome
5 Training classes with Dave Murphy G8OWL
6 Loading trailer for Wythall Radio Rally
8 Club stand at Wythall Radio Rally
9 Rally debrief and possible committee meeting
12, 19, 26 Training classes with Dave Murphy, G8OWL
14, 27 Work in the shack
23 Contests and equipment review

Sutton Coldfield ARS

Robert Bird, spirit.guide@hotmail.co.uk
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open net 50.135MHz SSB, 8.30pm
2, 16, 30 Open net on 145.250MHz, 7.30pm
8 Attending Wythall Radio Rally
9, 23 Club meeting
10 Open net 70.475MHz FM, 7.30pm

Telford & DARS

John, MOJZH, 07824 737 716,
m0jzh@yahoo.co.uk
2, 9, 16 4m net, 70.425MHz, 7pm
4 Committee meeting and GX3ZME OTA HF
11 Construction competition
18 Digimodes live demo
25 AGM

Wythall Radio Club

Chris, GOEYO, 07710 412 819
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Club net 145.225 or GB3WL, 8pm
2 RSGB 80m Club Champs DATA, 8pm, plus Foundation exam
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 7.45pm Morse Class
3 Final rally preparation evening/144MHz UKAC Contest, 8.15pm
6, 13, 20, 27 Nibbles night in the shack, 7.30pm
7 Rally preparation day, noon
8 30th Wythall Radio Club Rally
10 Committee meeting,
17 Having fun with QRP CW, Barry, MODGQ
19 RSGB 80m Club Championship SSB contest, 8pm
24 Could you still pass your ham exam? Chris, GOEYO
28-20 All day CQ WPX SSB Contest
30 Curry night at the Monsoon, 6.30pm
31 Easter contest preparation evening, 8.30pm

Following three Foundation licence courses with over thirty passes over the last eighteen months, **Hereford ARS** ran its first Intermediate course in November. Training sessions were spread over three Saturdays and a final weekend based on a schedule from the NW Training Group in Warrington courtesy of Dave, MOOBW. PowerPoint slides were from Chelmsford ARS. All four students passed and received their new call signs before Christmas. Congratulations to the students and the course team for their efforts. Special thanks must go to Geoff, G8BPN for the use of his premises and for being able to supply, at the drop of a hat, all the electronic components required for all the practical assessments; his

hospitality does not stop there, as tea and coffee appeared to be on tap! The next (fully-subscribed) Foundation course is planned for February and includes six teenage Air Training Corps cadets from Hereford, 124 and Ludlow, 333 squadrons as well as other adults.

The HARS training team is Rod, MOJLA (exam secretary), Bob, G3IXZ, Nigel, G4XTF, Dave, MORNI (chief invigilator), Rich, G4FAD (Morse), Dave, G4OYX (training coordinator), Matt, G8XYJ, Sandy (special needs reader) and Geoff Wilkerson, G8BPN.



Midland ARS has had more exam success with three Intermediate passes. Left to right is Steve (tutor), Mark (100% pass mark), Andrew, Dave, & Paul (lead tutor).



The members of **Wythall Radio Club** are especially looking forward to their annual rally on 8 March as this year sees a special anniversary – the 30th consecutive event. It will be marked by a change in venue and a return to the original 1985 location at Wythall House. Visitors are asked to make sure they know the new address, which is Silver Street, Wythall B47 6LZ. The rally opens at 10am. Amongst the traders attending is RadioWorld. Dave Hayward and his wife Annette have been attending for more years now that some of us care to remember!



Cheltenham ARA regrets to announce the sudden death in early January of Doug, G4IGN; until recently the club's Chairman and, earlier, Deputy Chairman and Secretary. For many years he had been a driving force within the club, organising special event stations, working parties, lunches and constructional projects, to name just a few of his numerous achievements. He was very approachable, very helpful and a great friend to many. He will be much missed. Heartfelt sympathies are expressed to his widow, Norma, and her extended family.



REGION 6: NORTH WALES

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

Dragon ARC

Stewart, GWOETF, 07833 620 733
2 How to set up and run a special event station
16 History of the Marconi Long Wave Station near Caernarfon, Alun Guest-Rowlands, 2WOCYM

North Wales RS

Ceri, 2WOLJC, 2w0ljc@mail.com
5 General meeting
12 Technical topics
19 Data Modes, Mark Harper, MW1MDH
26 Natter night

Seven members of the **Portable Operating Group** (POG) will be operating around Anglesey from 7 to 14 March using MCOPOG. Operating all bands using CW, SSB and digital modes from a base camp in North Anglesey, the group will be experimenting with antennas and working QRP. The more energetic members of the group will be operating SOTA and pedestrian HF mobile. Full details can be found on QRZ.com.



Roger Johnson, GW4UJT suffered a fatal heart attack in December. He was a long standing and valued member of Porthmadog & DARS. He leaves a wife, Audrey, and family.

REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

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

Aberystwyth & DARS

Ray, GW7AGG, 01970 611 853
12 Receivers on board, Bruce, GW4XXF
26 Club net, 145.500 then 145.550MHz

Llanelli ARS

Craig, MWOMXT, 01269 845 773
2, 9, 16 GB4SDD OTA (Special Event for St David's Day)
9 Club raffle
23 Social evening & DVD night
30 Junk sale & club raffle

DEADLINES

The deadline for the April
Around Your Region is
23 February
so send your news NOW!
E-mail radcom@rsgb.org.uk

REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

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

Bangor & DARC
Norman, G13YMY, 02891 462 225
5 Test equipment for the amateur

December's talk at **Bangor & DARS** was on the VHF/UHF and higher frequency aerials given by Richard, G14DOH and Norman, G13YMY. The talk also involved the connection problems such aerials occasionally present. Additionally club members heard something of the origins of the Yagi aerial and looked at some of the more unusual aerial types – helical, slot, parabolic dish, etc. The March talk will be on test equipment for the radio amateur and April will be the annual constructor's contest. Alan Prichard, the resident engineering expert has made some superb Morse keys.



REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

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

Bracknell ARC
Andy, MOHAK, andy@m0hak.co.uk
4, 18, 25 Club net, 145.375MHz, 8pm
11 Club nigh

Burnham Beeches RC
Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720
2 AGM + wine and nibbles

GB2CW Morse class
Dr M Williams, G0EGA, 01986 782 444, evenings only
14 Start of new GB2CW Morse class, 145.250MHz, 8pm, covering Norwich, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and surrounding areas

Echelford ARS
John, G4GSC, 01784 451 898
12 Construction contest
26 How valves work, David Smith, MOSXD

Edgware & DRS
Mike, G4RNW, 02089 500 658
12 How does a computer work?
Godfrey, G4GLM

Harwell ARS
Malcolm, G8NRP, 01235 524 844
10 The Role of Radio Amateurs in World War One, Dr Elizabeth Bruton

Newbury & DARS
Rob, G4LMW, 01635 862 737
25 Intro to digital television, Ray, G4FON

Radio Society of Harrow
Linda, G7RJL, 0208 386 8586
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Informal meeting

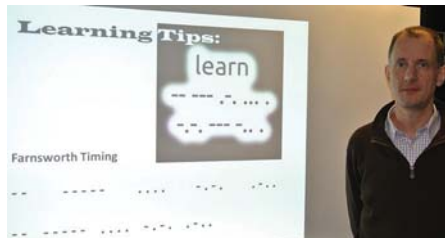
6 New venue: The Northwick Room at Harrow District Masonic Centre, HA3 OEL
20 AGM
20-22 RSH & WOLAS astronomy outreach event

Shefford & District ARS
John, 2E0OAK, 07860 804 793
5 AGM
12 Building a successful remotely operated station, John, G4SWX
19 Utility listening live demo by Don, G4LOO
26 Ken's key, Ken, G4YRF

Southgate ARC
Mr K Mendum, G8RPA, g8rpa@arrl.net
11 Spring surplus/junk sale

Verulam ARC
Peter, G4HSO, g3v@btinternet.com
12 Social with GB3VH Repeater Group, 7.30pm
17 Homebrew beams, David, G4HHJ

Verulam ARC's January club meeting attracted nearly a record number of members to hear a talk by Alex, MOHCL on Morse code looking at the history, development of use and why it has been, and still is, a very effective operating mode for radio amateurs; now greatly assisted with the use of computer software tools such as CW Skimmer. VARC operates a CW practise net on Sunday evenings on 2m, organised by club member Bob, G4PVB using text from *RadCom*. All are welcome. Details are given on the club's website www.radioclubs.net/verulam



REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

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

Basingstoke ARC
Peter, G0KQA, 01256 414 454
16 The development of the mini-beam antenna, Mike, GOJMI

Brede Steam ARS
Dan, MOHOW, 01424 882 008
4, 11, 18, 25 At the shack

Bromley & DARS
Andy, G4WGZ, 01689 878 089
8 Intermediate course final day
17 High altitude ballooning

Coulsdon ATS
Steve, G3WZK, 01883 620 730
9 FUNcube and Saudi Sat, Mike, GOJMI

Crawley ARC
John, G3VLH, 01342 714 402
25 DC to light, part 2, Chris Saunders, G4ZCS, visitors welcome

Cray Valley RS
Richard, G7GLW, 07831 715 797
5 Construction evening, Chris, GOFDZ
19 David Kirkaldy's 1874 Testing Works in Southwark, Hugh MacGillivray

Darenth Valley RS
Mike, G8AXA, 01689 856 935
11 Radio on the air
25 Linux by Mark, G8PHM

Dorking & DRS
Garth, G3NPC, 01737 359 472
24 Radio SuSy (Sussex and Surrey), John, G8MNY

Eastbourne E&RC
Peter, g4urt@btinternet.com,
9 D-Star workshop
23 Building 23cm Alford Slot ATV antenna

Hastings E&RC
Gordon, 01424 431 909
25 Celebration of Morse, Richard, GOILN

Hilderstone R&EC
Chrissie Turner, hilderstoneclub@gmail.com
12 Activities and Intermediate training
13 Start of British Science Week activities
15 Dover Rally
22 Intermediate training
26 Antenna DIY, by Erwin, G4LQI

Hordean & DARC
Stuart, G0FYX, 02392 472 846
5 Natter night/social evening
19 Hampshire and Berkshire 4 x 4 Response team, Andy Cunningham, MOHAK

Horsham ARC
Adrian, G4LRP, 07714 664 957
5 Club night - junk sale
26 Social, The Sussex Oak, Warnham

Itchen Valley ARC
Quintin, M1ENU, 023 8078 7799
13 Using an oscilloscope, Colin, G4GBP
27 AGM

Mid-Sussex ARS
Sue, G6YPY, 01273 845 103
6 Surplus equipment Sale
13 The society's website, Tony, G3XQM
20 Radio night
27 Radio night and table top sale

Surrey Radio Contact Club
John, G3MCX, 020 8688 3322
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Top Band net, 1905kHz, 9.30am
2 Surplus equipment Sale
6, 13, 20, 27 2m net, 145.350MHz ±25kHz, 9pm
16 Chat and fix-it, John, G8MNY

Sutton & Cheam RS
John, G0BWW, 020 8644 9945
19 How valves work, David, MOSXD

Swindon & DARC
Jonathan, M0ZGB, m0zgb@btinternet.com
5 Construction contest
12 CW keys talk, Dennis, G3LLZ
19, 26 Activity Night

West Kent ARS
Keith, G4JED, info@wkars.org.uk
9 Surplus sale run by Dave, G40TV, 10% to club funds

Wimbledon & DARS
Kim, G6JXA, 07812 735 507
13 Construction evening with G4ADM / G4WYJ
27 Building an 80m transceiver kit by Eric, G0KRT

Worthing & DARC
Gordon, 2E0GTG, 07801 599 470
1 Sunday breakfast, 9am
3 Advanced course, 8pm
4 Home construction part 2, Ron Bravery, G3SKI, 8pm

- 7 Advanced exam, 1.45
- 11 Discussion evening, 8pm
- 18 bhi - new advancements in noise cancelation, Graham, M3ZGS, 8pm
- 25 G3WOR on the air, 8pm

Farnborough & DRS is celebrating half a century of support and promotion of amateur radio. G50FRS will be operating until 30 November. The club runs nets every Monday (1995kHz, 2000UTC) and Friday (144.675MHz, 2000UTC) and welcomes anyone to call in. For more information visit www.farnboroughradio.org.uk/

From 1 to 5 January, **Bredhurst RATS** put on GB8HMC, a special event station to commemorate eight hundred years since King John's signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede. The station was at Nigel, GOGDA's QTH using a FT-3000 and Windom dipole, to the youngest member, Lauren, aged just 9 years, used to maximum effect. She made contacts from Australia in the east to Vermont and Tennessee in the west. The picture is of Lauren on the mic with her dad, Kevin, GOPEK, logging her calls. At the end of the day Lauren, M6HLR went home a very 'happy little radioham' as her callsign denotes.



Hilderstone RC started the year with a Foundation training programme with four keen learners under the guidance of Clive, G1WCR. Lyne Smith is aiming for her licence in honour of her father Arthur Milham (better known as Buster), G3OPL, who died recently. The club is making plans for its participation in the SOS Radio Week at the Margate Lifeboat Station. Ian, GOPDZ and John, G7OHO had a look around the station and were pleasantly surprised to see that it was in the capable hands of manager Paul, G1DRX. There is plenty of room to set up three transmitters and they are hoping the Turner Contemporary Gallery will send visitors around the corner to visit.

DEADLINES

The deadlines for April
& May RadCom are

23 February

23 March

REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLANDS

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

Appledore & DARC
Alan, M6CCH, 01237 422 833
15 AGM

Bristol RSGB Group
Robin, G3TKF, robin@g3tkf.co.uk
30 An RSGB Evening with Heather Parsons (Communications Manager) and Steve Hartley, GOFUW (Board member)

Callington ARS
John, G4PBN, 01822 835 834
4 Natter night and rally prep
29 Callington Rally

Cornish RAC
Steve, G7VOH, 01209 844 939
4 Committee meeting
5 Club meeting
19 Club evening

Mid-Somerset ARC
David, G8BFV, 01749 670 085,
10 Talk by Ian, G3KZR

Poole Radio Society
Bill, G4ERV, 01202 246 515
4, 11, 18, 25 2m FM net, 8pm
6, 20, 27 Activity night / Advanced
13 Worked All Britain, Steve G6TEL

Riviera ARC
rivieraarc@gmail.com
4, 11, 18, 25 2m net on 145.425MHz, 8pm
5, 19 Club night

Saltash & DARC
Mark, 2E0MGC, 01752 215 546
5 Meal out with wives, Notter Bridge Inn
19 Look at test gear with Brian, MOBHG and others

Thornbury & South Gloucestershire ARC
John, M0HFH, 07743 697 063
4, 25 On the air
11 Electronics project night
18 Kite supported antennas, Roger, G4ROJ
28 Antenna maintenance, Andrew, GORVM

Torbay ARS
Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk
27 Presentation and buffet evening

Yeovil ARC
Rodney, M0RGE, 01935 825 791
5 Radio noise by G3MYM
12 Talk by G7AHP
19 Morse practice by G3MYM
26 Station on the air

Riviera ARC meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at the Acorn Community Centre, Lummaton Cross, Torquay TQ2 8ET. The Acorn Centre has level access entry and is disabled friendly with ample parking on site. The club welcomes all comers to the hobby, both new licensees and old hands equally. It is a busy club, keen to operate HF and VHF and also run special events as well. Foundation training and exams are available with Morse training available by arrangement with the club secretary. A weekly 2m net is held on Wednesdays at 8pm on 145.425MHz. See www.rivieraARC.org.uk

In January, the **Flight Refuelling ARS** training team, led by Alan, MOVLT, travelled to the Norman

Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth, Devon, to run a Foundation course for ten members there. Great fun was had over the two days and the Observatory were great hosts. The result was nine passes out of ten, the only casualty being an emergency plumber who sadly was called to work on the Saturday and missed much of the training. In return, the training team were treated to a show in the planetarium as well as some high definition views of Jupiter and its moons, the Orion Nebula – a star-making region in the Orion constellation and the craters on our moon.



In January, **Saltash & DARC** had pleasant presentation and talk by Michael Jones about the RSGB headed The Younger Generation. Saltash is a small friendly club with older members willing to share their knowledge to others and, like most clubs, they always welcome anyone who is interested in amateur radio. The club has an Icom IC-718 that was obtained last year with help from the local council, an ideal radio for newcomers to the hobby.



Riviera ARC has an NoV to run a special event at the end of March to celebrate Airfields on the Air (AOTA). This is a national event co-ordinated through the RAF ARS. They will be running AOTA from a site very close to the ex RAF airfield at Haldon just outside Teignmouth in South Devon. The old runways are still visible on Google Maps. They will be using GB4AOA on 28 and 29 March. The station will comprise a Kenwood TS-590S and an offset Carolina Windom. The intention is to concentrate mainly on 40m SSB and 2m FM although other bands may be used if conditions change. Special QSLs are available and contacts are valid to count towards awards from RAFARS for this event.

In January, **Yeovil ARC** were visited by Luigi, IZ8VKW from Italy. Together with friends



Salvatori and Louis, he was made most welcome and provided a very interesting evening.

REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

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

Braintree & DARS

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 947
2 Sausage and mash evening meal
16 Amateur Moonbounce,
John Regnault, RSGB

Cambridge & DARC

David, M0ZEB, 01353 778 093
13 100 Years of Amateur Aerials,
Colin, G8TMV
27 Tx Factor 3 video, Foundation course,
shack evening

Chelmsford ARS

secretary@g0mwt.org.uk
3 The GB3VHF Story, Chris, G0FDZ
5, 11, 19, 26 Training course & Morse class
12 Intermediate course
16 Skills workshop

Norfolk ARC

Chris, G0DWV, 01603 898 678
4 Construction competition
11 Informal/round table/Morse in the
back room
18 Table top sale
25 Informal/Bright Sparks/Morse in the
back room

South Essex ARS

Terry, G1FBW, 07986 070 040
10 Canals by Vic, G6BHE

Thames ARG

Mark, M0IEO, 07940 579 116
6 Number Stations, Tom, 2E0TNC

Contesting can be fun as the **Camb Hams** found as they took part in the AFS SSB contest. The photo shows Martin, G3ZAY and Lawrence, M0LCM minutes before the start of the contest at the G3PJT QTH.



Braintree & DARS held two meetings in December. The first was a natter night, which also included a viewing of TX Factor 2 including a



visit to Bletchley Park. During the film the RSGB National Radio Centre was highlighted with a guided tour. There was also a demonstration of a live data download from the FUNcube. Club members always enjoy the TX Factor films, which are the source of good information. The Christmas Party was held on the 15th when committee members set up and prepared the food

and festivities. Entertainment was provided by the members. The raffle top prize of a Baofeng UV5R hand held was won by Eddy, M6RHA, and this was one of many donated prizes. The whole evening was fun with good food, good company and a musical quiz provided by Dave, G0DEC. A good time was had by all.

Then, with the last vestiges of turkey and Christmas pud

digested, the first meeting of 2015 was another natter night and the showing of TX Factor 3. This episode highlights the use of kites for hanging wire antennas in the sky. Roger, G4ROG explains in detail which kite is best for different antennas in various wind conditions and the way to set them up. Also in this episode is a visit to the Military Wireless Museum at Kidderminster, a private collection that has been built up over years and is worth a visit. Also in January was an evening devoted to pac testing in preparation for the new season of Special Events and public displays.



Essex Ham's popular weekly net is now in its fourth year with 20 amateurs taking part on 12 January. In 2014, over 140 callsigns were logged with over half being Foundation or Intermediate licence holders. Last year saw several amateurs making their first on-air contact over the net, and lots of help and support being given to newcomers to the hobby. The net takes place on a Monday evening on the GB3DA repeater, taking a break once a month for the team to support the local Skills Night. The Essex Ham net features a busy internet chatroom and a live audio stream (kindly supplied by Nick, 2E0DVX) for those outside the footprint of the repeater. Details at www.essexham.net



The **Chelmsford ARS** Skills Night in Danbury returned after a Christmas break in January, attracting a record-breaking 72 people. Each Skills Night is different, with a variety of activities and demonstrations. This time around, visitors could try out a range of test equipment brought along by Chris, M6EDF, learn more about operating on 4 metres with Selim, M0XTA's live station, have their radios programmed with local

repeaters and get a personalised callsign badge engraved. Carl, G3PEM and Peter, G0DZB were on hand to offer advice on setting up and HF antennas, the Essex CW Club demonstrated some Morse tools and Charlie, M0PZT brought along some Arduino-based amateur radio projects.



Chelmsford ARS were one of the 24 stations taking part in SOS Radio Week in January. Helping to raise money and awareness for the RNLI, CARS were operating from the Marconi Sailing Club in Steeple, on the bank of Essex's River Blackwater. Around twenty amateurs visited during the two-day activation, with three stations operating voice and CW on HF, plus a 2 metre station. Peter, G3SUY took the opportunity to operate using his kite antenna over the bright-but-breezy weekend, whilst others stayed in the warm making contact with other SOS Radio Week stations, and amateurs keep to support the vital work of the RNLI.



South Essex ARS wrapped up 2014 with their Christmas social event. The evening was well-attended and included a short talk by Steve, 2E0UEH on the subject of Foundation training, which the club is set to start running from early 2015. The evening marked the end of a very positive year for SEARS, which has included a move to a new more accessible venue in Thundersley, a schools contact with the International Space Station, a JOTA station, a busy Canvey Rally and events to commemorate the start of World War I and the downing of a US bomber off the Essex coast in World War II.



The first meeting in 2015 of the **Thurrock Acorns ARC** did not start as planned. The meeting date had to be changed, then the planned speaker had to withdraw due to work commitments. However, local amateur Steve Simmons agreed to visit and show the club members two pieces of test equipment that he had built. He demonstrated how they worked then opened up the boxes so that members could explore the inside. The first piece of equipment is designed to test components to see if they are faulty. Steve had brought a selection of both good and faulty components so that club members could see how the test equipment indicated the difference. The second item was an antenna analyser. For this he erected a temporary antenna then proceeded to explain how to ensure that an antenna is matched correctly to a radio set. As a result of the demonstration some members have already indicated they will be embarking on the construction of the projects.



Chelmsford ARS will operate GXOMWT on 22 March for Science Day, a public event at the Museum of Power, Maldon, CM9 6QA. Operations will run from 10am to 4pm.

South Essex ARS is starting Foundation training in the spring, with the course running on 17 & 24 April, 1, 15, 22 and 29 May. If you are interested, e-mail training@southessex-ars.co.uk

Following a very successful project building day in 2014, **Thames ARG** has launched TARGeT Nite in keeping with member requests. This extra club night, held on the 3rd Friday each month, mentors in amateur radio practice and

encourages the art of homebrew. These events cater for all ages and skill levels. Leading construction enthusiasts Huw, 2EOHTL and Lez, 2EOLEZ will be ably supported by the rest of the Group's successful training team, who collectively have decades of experience in the electronics, radar and communication industries. Full details are at www.thamesarg.org.uk/target-nite/



REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

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

Hucknall Rolls Royce ARC
Neil, MONJJ, neilm0njj@gmail.com
6 Talk by Nigel
13 Talk on history of analogue computers by Kevin, 2EOCID

Lincoln Short-Wave Club
Pam, G4STO, 01427 788 356
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 UK Club Contests
4, 11, 21, 28 Shack activities and G5FZ on the air
5 Repeater net, GB3LM, 8pm
7 Saturday brunch, bacon and sausage butties for sale in the shack
12, 26 Simplex net, 145.375MHz, 8pm
14 Saturday surgery
16 Committee meeting
18 Formal meeting
19 Repeater net, GB3LS, 8pm
25 Talk by Peter Richmond of the RCF

Loughborough & DARC
Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319
3 Open forum on test equipment use
10 QSL cards & QSLing
17 Old computers again, bring something along
24 Crystal sets, can you hear something?
31 Practical evening

Melton Mowbray ARS
Brian, M0YBX, 07772 659 622
20 Transformer testing and other measurements

Nunsfield House ARG
Ken, G3OCA, 01332 720 976
6 Committee meeting
13 3D printing
20 GPS
27 Surplus sale

RAF Waddington ARC
Bob, G3VCA, 07971 166 250
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club net, 145.325MHz 8pm
12 Activating and Chasing for SOTA, Mike, 2EOYYY

South Kesteven ARS
Nigel, M0CVO, 01476 402 550
4, 18 Informal

South Normanton Alfreton & DARC
A Lawrence, 2EOBQS, 0115 930 7322
2 Talk by Ray Drink
9, 23, 30 Club meeting
16 Junk Sale

Spalding & DARS
Graham, G8NWC, 01775 760 832
20 Talk and presentation by Ian, G4EVK, RCE Standards Manager

Welland Valley ARS
Peter, G4XEX, 01858 432 105
2 Club net on 145.275MHz
16 Design/construct a HF antenna for the club

Worksop ARS
Paul, M0PJA, 07890 626 684
5 Oliver Lodge: history and demo of basic tuned circuits by Roy, G4WPW
19 How to make the most of the VHF and UHF bands by Steve, G0EAK

Eric Young, G4MZX, Northamptonshire's RAYNET county controller for over 30 years and President of Northampton Radio Club passed away peacefully in January. He was incredibly knowledgeable about radio and always willing to help anyone who asked for assistance, quick to loan anyone his gear and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Thoughts are with his family and friends.