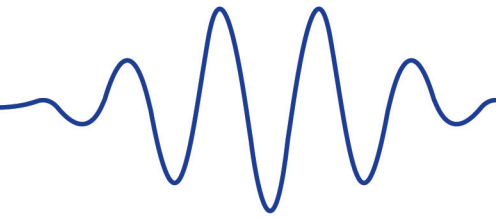




Radio Society of Great Britain

Advancing amateur radio since 1913



Affiliated Clubs Newsletter

January 2024



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](https://www.rsgb.org/members)

RSGB strategic priorities – update from the Board Chair and President

As previously announced, the RSGB Board has chosen four strategic priorities to focus on until the 2024 AGM. These are: growth of amateur radio; membership of the RSGB; spectrum and licensing; and ensuring the continued financial stability of the Society.

To develop our strategic plans, we will hold several workshops with a small targeted cross-section of the Board, staff, volunteers and the wider membership. The first one of these will focus on the growth of amateur radio, which we expect to hold early in 2024.

At its recent meeting, the Board approved a proposal from RSGB Awards Manager, Lindsay Pennell, G8PMA to introduce SWL awards. This is a step towards recognising, once again, that listening to radio transmissions is an entry point to amateur radio. This supports the growth strategic priority.

Director, Ben Lloyd, GW4BML proposed the creation of additional youth representative roles, to support new and existing activities aimed at younger audiences. The Board readily accepted his proposal as an activity that contributes to the growth of amateur radio. The Board also welcomed the initiative of the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF) to fund 60 Foundation exams for young people in 2024, removing a barrier to taking the exam for some candidates. The Board is spending much time working on the RSGB budget for 2024, an important component of steering the Society back to a small funding surplus. We will report more on this in due course. One of the most significant costs is travel and meetings. To that end, we are proposing that the 2024 AGM will be an online event. However, we recognise that members miss the opportunity to interact with the Board during the meeting and so we are investigating suitable conferencing technologies to allow spoken interaction.

Finally, we must note that the RSGB is funding Spectrum Manager, Murray Niman, G6JYB to attend the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) in Dubai to lobby for our interests in this crucial international treaty meeting. Murray is providing updates via the WRC-23 blog – see rsgb.org/wrc-23

We thank Murray for volunteering so much of his annual leave to attend this conference in addition to the recent IARU regional meeting. These activities support our spectrum and licensing strategic priority.

RSGB Board Chair Stewart Bryant, G3YSX

RSGB President John McCullagh, G14BWM



Growth



Spectrum

RSGB 2024 elections

The RSGB is a company limited by guarantee and it is run by its members for its members and for the wider amateur radio community.

The Society's year starts and ends at the AGM and we are seeking members who would like to be considered for an elected or nominated role within the Society.

Board Director: we are looking to find three Board Directors – one is an Elected Director, elected by the membership, and two are Nominated Directors.

Regional Representatives: eight posts are available for nominations – Region 2 (Scotland North and Northern Isles), Region 3 (England North West), Region 5 (England West Midlands), Region 6 (North Wales), Region 7 (South Wales), Region 11 (SW England and the Channel Islands), Region 12 (England East and East Anglia) and Region 13 (East Midlands).

Closing dates: Nominated Director – 3 January 2024; Elected Director and Regional Representatives – 31 January 2024.

Process: full details and candidate forms can be found at: rsgb.org/agm

The Nominated Directors will be selected by the RSGB Nominations Committee and the successful candidate will be offered for endorsement by member ballot. For the elected roles (Director, Regional Representative) where there are more candidates than vacancies, a ballot will be held.

Could this be a role for you but are unsure?

Please read the information set out on the elections web page and an informal discussion can be arranged – email RSGB Company Secretary Stephen Purser, GW4SHF at company.secretary@rsgb.org.uk

If you know someone who could potentially help us – then please invite them to consider applying.

Tonight@8 2024 programme



We have a great programme of live webinars lined up for the spring of 2024. We begin on Monday 15 January with an update on WRTC 2026 UK. Chairman and Project Manager Mark Haynes, MODXR, and other members of the WRTC 2026 team, will join us live for

this presentation. They will explain what WRTC is about and provide an overview of what the UK's Organising Committee is planning for the 2026 event.

Find out how you can be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event – either as a spectator, volunteer, competitor or referee. If you saw Mark's RSGB 2023 Convention presentation, this Tonight@8 webinar will tell you what has been happening since!

Find out more about this and the other webinars in the spring programme on the RSGB website at rsgb.org/webinars

RSGB Archivist

The RSGB is delighted to welcome Elaine Richards, G4LFM as the new volunteer RSGB Archivist. Elaine is a former *RadCom* Managing Editor and was keen to continue to oversee the RSGB archives when she retired from her *RadCom* role last year. If you would like more information about an old amateur radio photo or document, or want to check something in the RSGB archives, you can contact Elaine via archivist@rsgb.org.uk



Volunteers

2023 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference



With over 4,000 attendees, the 2023 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (20 November to 15 December) has seen discussions get underway on a wide variety of agenda items. Notably for amateur radio, IARU Region 1 reports that new ITU Recommendation M.2164 on guidance for amateur and amateur satellite usage in the 1240 to 1300MHz range has now been published online. The IARU has also published an accompanying guide on its website – to read it visit tinyurl.com/IARU2023. The recommendation is the culmination of a challenging four-year development period. It now forms a key component of the WRC-23 discussions, which are ongoing, relating to WRC-23 agenda item 9.1b.

IARU lead for 23cm Barry Lewis, G4SJH is pictured here commenting on some challenging proposals at the ITU Radio Assembly. To read more, visit rsgb.org/wrc-23. The event has included an ITU interview with IARU President, Tim Ellam, VE6SH which can be seen online at tinyurl.com/ITU-TE.

The RSGB special focus web page has regular reports and background on both 23cm and other frequency bands.

Ofcom licence review and revalidation

As *RadCom* went to press, it was expected that Ofcom's ongoing assessment of the recent licence consultation would result in a formal statement ahead of Christmas. This will set out its conclusions on updates to licence conditions and wider policy issues. Ofcom will also provide an updated timescale for implementation, starting with a notice period ahead of the current licence terms being varied to the new ones early in 2024. Updates will be provided at rsgb.org/licence-review

Revalidation: this is also an important time to ensure that you have a valid postal and email addresses associated with your Ofcom online licensing account, and have recently revalidated your licence, so that Ofcom communications and the eventual migration to their new licensing system goes smoothly.

The RSGB has a web page with further guidance on revalidation and FAQs at rsgb.org/revalidate-licence

RSGB 2023 Convention presentations



The Society has released the keynote speech and four other presentations from its 2023 Convention that relate to the RSGB's strategic priorities of growth, membership and spectrum/licensing. In his keynote speech, Colonel John Doody talks about his life in the RF Spectrum during the last 60

years and asks *Is this a life for you?*

The RSGB President, John McCullagh, G14BWM, talks about his experience of 50 years of RSGB membership and explains the wide range of services that are offered to members. He finishes with an overview of the four strategic priorities that the RSGB Board has set until the 2024 AGM.

The *Discussion with the Board* session was hosted by former RSGB and former IARU Region 1 President, Don Beattie, G3BJ. It builds on the four strategic priorities, includes questions from those attending this discussion forum and answers from the Board Directors and members of HQ staff.

Taking amateur radio into schools is a great presentation by three radio amateurs who each chose a different way to achieve that goal: Lyall Smith, GM4XID; Chris Leviston, MOKPW; and Simon Harris, G4WQG. They share their experiences of inspiring school pupils to explore and have fun with amateur radio, whether that be in a school club, an afterschool club, or through links with a local amateur radio club. The presentation shows how individual radio amateurs and clubs can make positive and productive links with schools and will give you tips and encouragement for getting involved with your local schools.

In his presentation *Ofcom and beyond*, RSGB Spectrum Forum Chair Murray Niman, G6JYB provides another informative session on the Ofcom Consultation. He also looks ahead to other changes in prospect across HF to microwaves from the IARU and the ITU World Radio Conference this autumn. He outlines the RSGB's response to the Consultation and takes questions about the next steps.

These presentations have already been welcomed by those at the Convention and by radio amateurs watching them online. You can catch up with them all in the RSGB 2023 Convention playlist on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/theRSGB

RadCom wrapping

UK members will have noticed that *RadCom* has arrived in a different style of wrapping this month. This is a trial of a paper-based material rather than the compostable wrap we have used previously. This is part of our continued push to a greener version of *RadCom*. Paper is more widely recycled than other forms of magazine wrapping, and this format also uses less ink than has been used in the past. We hope, if the trial is successful, to move to this style of wrapping on a permanent basis in the UK and, potentially, it could be rolled out internationally in due course.

National Radio Centre seasonal closures

The RSGB National Radio Centre (NRC) at Bletchley Park will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. There will be reduced hours on New Year's Eve when the Centre will be closing at 2pm. Following the seasonal closures, the NRC will also be closed for essential maintenance works between 2 and 5 January 2024. Outside of these times, volunteers look forward to welcoming visitors as usual. Remember that RSGB members can download a free entry voucher for Bletchley Park from the RSGB website at rsgb.org/bpvoucher



The next issue of *RadCom Basics* will be available in January 2024. There are more topics to help newcomers and those looking to brush-up their skills and knowledge. These

will include articles on:

- Building an HF multiband vertical antenna
- The third part of the series on demystifying the dipole antenna
- Antenna options on 160/80m for small gardens and limited space

To help find topics covered in previous editions, the index of *RadCom Basics* articles will be updated.

RSGB members can read previous editions of *RadCom Basics* by going to rsgb.org/radcom-basics. You can register to receive notification of subsequent issues as they become available at the same address. Each edition of *RadCom Basics* explores key aspects of amateur radio in a straightforward way. *RadCom Basics* is sent as an email alert to subscribers when each edition is published. This email provides a list of contents and a link to the articles on the RSGB website.

Brickworks update

We have been pleased to see that the Brickworks Programme has been growing in popularity and I'm happy to announce that this month I've received updates from Carmarthen ARS and the Hinckley Amateur Radio and Electronics Society.

Hinckley Amateur radio and Electronics Society

In recent months, four members of the Society were awarded a Bronze Award for completing three activities successfully. Recently, several members activated Titterstone Clee Hill to as part of the Summits on the air scheme.

Carmarthen ARS

On 7 November the Society made two presentations, under the Brickworks scheme, to David Medlin, MW7KAX who has achieved both the Bronze and Silver awards.

Unfortunately, we haven't received any other updates from other clubs. Please can I request that when clubs are taking part in the Brickworks scheme they send me a brief update so we can share good news stories with you all.

This could be something as simple as awarding club members a certificate or taking part in a contest.

Discovery Scheme announcement

The original Individual Scheme has been running for many years now alongside the Brickworks programme. The Learning Team has been receiving feedback from the community that the scheme has been lacking in popularity and having looked into the causes, several reasons have come to light.

In summary, feedback showed that the scheme is too long, long-winded and complicated.

Having reviewed the feedback our Learning Team has created a new set of programme principles to address these issues including:

having fewer requirements, getting straight to the point and developing a simple-to-follow programme.

Our goal is to produce a fun, easy-to-follow, interesting programme that helps community members discover new aspects of the hobby.

By listening to the community, and talking with existing groups within the hobby, we are pleased to announce that we will be working together with established, popular programmes to help members of the hobby discover new ways of enjoying the hobby with the guidance and support of well-proven, fun and exciting organisations.

This new scheme will be a rolling programme so the team can adjust and improve the process as time goes on with the excellent input from the community. Yes, we would like suggestions and ideas from you!

We would also like to widen the groups included in the plan so, if you enjoy being a part of the hobby we have not included yet, then please get in touch and let us know!

To start off we will be working with: Parks On The Air (POTA), Bunkers On The Air (BOTA), Summits On The Air (SOTA), Worked All Britain (WAB) and RSGB Awards.

Our goal is to release the programme starting in January 2024 with three difficulty levels: Explorer, Adventurer and Master.

We will be rolling out the starter Explorer level which will run from January to March 2024 and will be looking for feedback from participants which will then be incorporated into the programme ready for the Adventurer level which will run from April to June 2024. The Master level will run from July to December 2024.

Our Learning Team will strive to improve the ongoing programme including changes from year to year to keep the challenge interesting and different.

We hope this programme will not only entertain but also enrich the participants' knowledge and experience in the hobby. Stay Tuned!

Beyond Exams Coordinator Mark Burrows, 2E0SBM.

QSL Matters

This month we'd like to share with you a tip sent to us by John, GWORAD, that might just help members save money when sending cards to the bureau or, as some do, direct to other bureaux overseas.

On average, more than ten IARU/RSGB standard cards (140mm x 90mm, 3g average) placed in a C5 envelope will exceed the dreaded 5mm height/thickness postal slot limit, when using a standard second-class stamp. Attempting to stack them side by side and placing them in sideways doesn't work. If they move and bunch together, the postal slot rejects the package.

Since the recent price increases, we have seen a small increase in the number of Royal Mail requests for the bureau to pay excess charges. In fairness to all members, this is something we cannot do.

This month's photograph shows cards held in place by the lower half of a used envelope. It's been folded and then cut in half. The remaining closed outer edges have then been turned over and taped together to form two pockets, preventing the cards from moving in transit. Doing this doubles the number of cards that can be sent to us for the same price. For example, some 20 x 3g cards can now be posted in a C5 envelope – well under Royal Mail's 100g maximum, using a standard-value stamp. The pocket not only keeps the cards in place but helps to stop the envelope folding in half or tearing – something we have seen using other methods. Thanks John!

This tip is suggested for member's use when send cards. Sadly, we cannot ask our volunteer sub-managers to do this when distributing

cards, 200-300 envelopes at a time. However, as 90% of members usually receive fewer than ten cards, and the bureau operates a send-all-send-any system, we continue to recommend providing collection envelopes with standard second-class stamps only to save money.



M1, M3, M5, M6 and M7: a reminder that that these groups have a new volunteer manager, Ann, M7ERT. Contact details can be found at rsgb.org/qs1

Festivities

The QSL Bureau will be taking its well-earned break from 20 December and will re-open on 8 January 2024. As the postal system will already be overloaded, and things do go missing or get delayed, our recommendation is to avoid posting during the festive season and enjoy more air time!

Richard. J. Constantine G3UGF

RSGB National Radio Centre (NRC) at Bletchley Park

News

Joe, M1MWD volunteers at the NRC. Little did he know that when on duty earlier in the year, he would, by chance, meet



his future wife whilst she was visiting with a friend. Obviously, Joe must have created an impression when Sue visited as, the next day, being the NRC co-ordinator, I took a phone call from an unknown lady (Sue) asking to speak with Joe who she had met the previous day. With Joe not being on duty again until the following month, Sue seemed most disappointed. And, upon being asked, I was unable to pass on Joe's phone number (due to GDPR). Instead, I offered to take her number and pass it to Joe. It seems at first, Joe had no recollection of Sue (that's what he tells us) but he did agree to contact her. Unbeknown to the volunteer team, Joe and Sue arranged to meet a few days later at a garden centre, where it seems romance as well as roses blossom. Some months later, Joe proudly announced that they were to be married. It was with the greatest of pleasure that Nigel, G4RWI (acting as Best Man), Kim, MOKNV (ex-NRC Volunteer) and myself, GOGMB (requested to make a speech to relay the story of that introductory phone call) were able to share the special occasion and be with them to celebrate their marriage. Note that we were asked to wear Bletchley Park ties for the occasion as, without this chance meeting at the NRC, this wonderful romance would never have happened. Many congratulations to Joe and Sue.

Martyn, GOGMB, NRC coordinator

Visitors

In early November, 15 enthusiastic members of Verulam ARC enjoyed a private evening visit to the NRC. The club was treated to an informative talk about the Centre and the history of the site. After splitting into two groups, time was spent looking around the exhibition area and then the radio room. Equipped with many radios, the room also included equipment that was donated to the RSGB by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan that had belonged to JY1, the late King Hussein of Jordan. This was a very worthwhile visit, so our grateful thanks go to all those who made it possible and especially to the volunteers at the Centre.

Matt, G7HMV & Pete, G0OIK



Congratulations

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

60 Years	
Mr D Davison	G3VFX
50 Years	
Mr R Pellett	G3RZC
Mr I Brothwell	G4EAN
Mr J Mc Ilroy	G4EQX
Mr B Owen	G8IXK
Mr W Tweedy	GI4FGH
Mr G McClintock	GM8YUI
Mr R Craven	RS39811

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

Mr M Appleton	2EOEWC	Mr L Baker	M7LCB	Mr S Ely	RS406351
Mr N Silverston	2EOHSV	Mr J Parsons	M7TWL	Mr R Milling	RS406370
Mr M Shepherd	2EOPRY	Mr L Shaw	M7TXL	Mr B Eaglestone	RS406395
Mr A Porter	2IOEVH	Mr M Maxfield	M7XFD	Mr P Cleverly	RS406426
Mr E Broderick	EI2II	Mr J Hunt	M7XJH	Ms B Pearson	RS406428
Mr J Cuthbert	EI7HMB	Mr S Gator	M7XSD	Mr M Rossini	RS406446
Mr G Drew	GOCZE	Mr M Meyer	M7YER	Mr G Henderson	RS406476
Mr M Perrett	GOESY	Mr C Corken	MI7LBW	Mr A Mckenzie	RS406483
Mr D Gilbert	G1MHP	Mr T Campbell	MMOTCQ	Mr R Goodchild	RS406485
Mr A Hart	G1WOV	Mr M Broadbent	MM7OLH	Mr A Lillie	RS406529
Mr R Morey	G4NAK	Dr J Arkinstall	MW3JKB	Mr M Tetlow	RS406547
Mr M Morris	G7CSI	Mr R McNally	N3BOT	Mr C Scaum	RS406565
Mr A Short	G8KKB	Mr M Adams	RS336129	Mr A Webster	RS406566
Mr P Wilkinson	G8SAX	Mr B Irving	RS402921	Mr G Tappenden	RS406567
Mr J Watters	KC9KKO	Mr K Lock	RS405517	Mr P Morgan	RS406581
Mr T Widener	KE2M	Mr R Calbert	RS405718	Mr H Alexander	RS406590
Mr A Stirton	MOOTV	Mr R Calbert	RS405718	Mr S Antony	RS406596
Mr N Cooper	MORNZ	Ms J Booth	RS405955	Mr J McIntyre	RS406597
Mr R Burrow	M3WTD	Mr G Boag	RS406025	Mr A Teague	RS406598
Mr S Savastano	M3ZII	Mr K Barnes	RS406092	Mr M Foxley	RS406599
Mr P Robson	M6VHR	Mr P Blount	RS406111	Mr C Western	RS406600
Mr R Whiteley	M7EGR	Mr D Currey	RS406250	Mr K Taylor	RS406655
Mr J Redman	M7EYH	Mr J Castledine	RS406306	Mr H Maclean Jr	RS406657
Mr D Hampson	M7FBY	Mr I Rickard	RS406321	Mr D McDaniel	W8MHV
Mr M Harman	M7FCQ	Mr C Brown	RS406348	Mr H Bradley	WB7BIU
Mr A Robinson	M7GIW	Miss L Brown	RS406349		
Miss K Capon	M7KTA	Mr J Lancashire	RS406350		

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

Mr M Broyd	2EOLMO	Mr G Fretwell	G2CFC	Mr I Tweedie	M7AMV
Mr A Champkin	2E1LEX	Mr J Robb	G4WMN	Mr R Clark	M7FMR
Mr G Lefebvre	F6AGS	Mr M Izzard	G8XWR	Mr A Van Lieburg	PA1AVL
Mr C Cruddas	GOLKA	Mr M Keenan	GI4SZW	Mr A Eales	RS336938
Dr D Napier MBE	G1LEV	Mr M Smith	MOMTJ		

Ofcom investigation

A recent Ofcom investigation has resulted in the conviction of a man who was deliberately causing interference to amateur radio users in the Hull area. The investigation involved the use of automatic monitoring equipment as well as ground-based engineers who monitored live transmissions. The case went to court and the defendant was found guilty of the unlicensed use of radio equipment, illegal possession of radio apparatus, and causing deliberate interference to wireless telegraphy – all of which are offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. To read more on this story visit tinyurl.com/OFCOM-INV



An FT4 challenge for 2024

Thousands of radio amateurs around the world have been enjoying using FT modes over the past few years. If you are in that number, we challenge you to join in the RSGB FT4 Contest Series which starts in February. How will your operating skills match up to those of others?

Your task is to see how many QSOs you can make using FT4 in 90 minutes on the five bands: 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. Your total score for each event you enter will be the number of your QSOs multiplied by the number of DXCC countries you work on each band.

Top scorers in 2023 were able to make 100 QSOs using a simple 100W or 10W radio, plus complete QSOs with some 40 countries in just 90 minutes. Around 150 UK, plus 150 stations outside the UK, took part, so the bands were busy for the whole period. Good DX is worked in each contest with stations in North America, Asia and Oceania regularly in UK logs.

2024 is the first year that 15m and 10m will be included in these monthly events, which run from February to November with a break in August.

Simple instructions are included on the RSGB HF Contest Website. We provide “Tips and Hints” which explain how you can upload your log without having to use any contesting software – just what you regularly use for FT modes. You certainly don’t need to be a regular contest operator to join in either – all you need are your normal FT mode operating skills.

If you want to take the challenge further, there are suggestions of how you might get two radios working at the same time and theoretically double the number of contacts (or wear out the carpet between your two radios/computers).

Go to rsgbcc.org/hf and look for “RSGB FT4 Contest” for full instructions and rules.

We look forward to working you in the first event – Monday 26 February at 8pm.

Nick Totterdell, G4FAL, RSGB HF Contest Committee Chair

GQRP supports RCF exam funding

When GQRP Club Secretary Dick, GOBPS, heard about the RCF initiative to pay for 60 RSGB Foundation exams taken by young people in full-time education, he asked if the Club could help out. The Club Committee (minus Chairman Steve, GOFUW, who is also an RCF Trustee) agreed to sponsor an additional ten exams.

The RCF now has the funds and awaits applications from young people who would benefit from a little help in getting started in amateur radio.

The GQRP Club is devoted to low power communications and has over 4,000 members, mostly in the UK, but also in pretty much every corner of the world. Further information can be found here: ggrp.com



The Radio Communications Foundation



The Radio Communications Foundation, or RCF, is a small charity that seeks to promote radio engineering and amateur radio. Last year, a number of teachers identified the cost of Foundation exams as a barrier for some young people. The RCF Trustees considered how they might help. Funding exams for every youngster was seen to be unaffordable, and unnecessary, in many cases. As a start, and to help those with greatest need, the Trustees have agreed to fund 60 Foundation exams each year. The funding will be available to anyone who is under the age of 21, in full-time education and needs help with the exam fee. Fifteen exams will be funded every three months. The first batch of 15 exams will be funded in January 2024. If any of the allocated funds are not used, they will be rolled over to the next quarter. No money will change hands as the RCF Trustees will simply make the bookings and pay the RSGB. In time, there will be a simple online form to complete. In the meantime, anyone seeking funding should simply send their details in an email to rcfsecretary@commsfoundation.org along with a short supporting statement from a parent or guardian outlining why they should be supported by an RCF-funded exam. This should include brief details of their interest in amateur radio, and how they have trained, or are training, for the Foundation exam. For someone over 18 in full-time education we will be happy to take a supporting statement from a teacher or tutor. This will help the Trustees make their decisions.” Further details about the RCF, and how to donate, can be found at commsfoundation.org

KW Days 2024

KW Days returns once again in January as a celebration of the UK's largest ever specialist, amateur radio manufacturing company.

Dartford-made equipment, ranging from the 1950s to the 1970s, will be on the air across the UK and overseas on the weekend of 6 and 7 January.

The GB8KW multi-operator station will be again be active from Cray Valley Radio Society's HQ in Eltham, showcasing a wide range of equipment.

Nine special event GB-KW calls have already been issued. Such is the growing interest that many will be operating throughout January, calling CQ-KW on the hour/half hour when active.

KW-Radios@groups.io has achieved some notable firsts in 2023 including the re-manufacture of a limited number of KW2000A transceiver front panels and a replacement for the now unobtainable Kokusai mechanical filter – permitting the restoration of even more KWs.

This active group of collectors and ex-employees continues to provide help and support to those undertaking restorations and an extensive archive of manuals, circuits and associated material continues to be curated.

Vintage KW AM and CW equipment will be found on VMARS or FISTS frequencies.

Classic SSB equipment, in tribute to the famous KW77 Rx, will be using non-WARC frequencies ending in 77kHz ± QRM, primarily 1.877MHz, 3.77MHz, 7.177MHz, 14.177MHz and 14.277MHz, 21.277MHz, 28.377MHz.



Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association

The winter 2023 issue of RAOTA's quarterly magazine *OTNews* will be available soon. For those with limited vision, the audio version will also be available in due course.

As always, the magazine opens with reports from the President, and the Editor, followed by the 'opinions, news and comments' pages.

This issue contains a piece about recent updates to the Hack Green WebSDR, a facility without which (given the levels of local noise experienced by some) some regular SSB nets would be unviable.

A smart front panel always makes for a classy look to homebrew projects and one of the RAOTA members can now make laser-etched front panels to your design, along with illuminated Perspex callsign lights.

The higher bands have been superb of late, so the 6m vertical article by Harold, G8BPU is sure to be of interest, along with the piece about how to avoid the inevitable contest QRM so prevalent at this time of year.

That is followed by the second part of the review of SDR windows apps that can be used with low-cost dongles, and then there is another of G4GQL's Morse keys made entirely from Meccano.

G4JSZ writes about his trials and tribulations when producing his biography of Gerald Marcuse, G2NM, which is now finally complete. His book was produced with the direct assistance of G2NM's descendants so must surely be regarded as the definitive source of one of the founding fathers of our hobby.

There are quite a few other articles in this issue. To find out more about the magazine and the organisation, visit raota.org



UK Six Metre Group Winter Marathon



The UK Six Metre Group Winter Marathon is underway. The objective is to work as many four-digit grid squares as possible, between 0000UTC on 1 December 2023 and 2359UTC on 31 January 2024, on the 6m band. Logs can be submitted until 12 February 2024. For more information visit uksmg.org

NATIONAL CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

AMSAT-UK

<http://amsat-uk.org>

Open net every Sunday, 10am ±3.780MHz and at 10.30am using QO-100 on 10489.780MHz

Blind Veterans UK Amateur Radio Society

Details at MXOSBV on QRZ.com.

Nets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, ±3.715MHz

British Amateur Radio Teledata Group

Datacoms contests and awards www.BARTG.org.uk

British Amateur Television Club

Supporting all aspects of Amateur Television <https://batc.org.uk/>

British Railways ARS

Membership@BRARS.info www.BRARS.info

Nets and magazine: see website.

British Young Ladies Amateur Radio Association

www.bylara.org.uk

Net Thursday, ±3.688MHz, 6.30pm.

CDXC – The UK DX Foundation

For all interested in HF DX and contesting cdxc.org.uk

Essex CW Amateur Radio Club

<https://essexcw.uk/>

Encouraging the use of Morse Code on the amateur bands

FISTS CW Club

<https://fists.co.uk/>

Supports the use, preservation and education of Morse code

GMDX Group

<https://www.gmdx.org.uk/>

The promotion of DX & other competitive amateur radio activity in Scotland & beyond.

G-QRP Club

Dedicated to low power radio communications. <http://www.gqrp.com/>

International Police ARC, G4IPA

www.facebook.com/groups/ipaamateurradio

Sunday night net 2000hrs 3.770MHz

Club is open to all serving and retired Police Officers and Police Staff

RAIBC

The charity working for radio amateurs with disabilities

Join online at www.raibc.org.uk. Helpline 0800 028 8660

NR Zello: RAIBC

Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association

MemSec@RAOTA.org www.RAOTA.org

Nets: see website

Radio Fraternity Lodge No. 8040, G5RFL

Info at radiofraternityinfo@gmail.com

Net 9am Sunday mornings +or- 3.757MHz

Radio Officers Association.

Membership: johnchalmers994@outlook.com

Website www.radioofficers.com

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

www.rsars.org.uk for nets see website

RAYNET-UK

www.raynet-uk.net

Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society

Website: www.rafars.org, membership@rafars.org

Nets: 11am, 7.155MHz +/- 6.30pm 3.715+/- MHz

UK Microwave Group

<https://microwavers.org>

Focused on frequencies above 1GHz; contests,

awards and regular newsletter

UK Six Metre Group

www.uksmg.org

World Assoc of Christian Amateurs & Listeners

Richard Paul, G7KMZ, G7KMZ@wacral.org

Various nets, see www.wacral.org

Worked All Britain Awards Group

www.worked-all-britain.org.uk

Nets most evenings, ±3.760MHz and ±7.160MHz, time variable

If you would like your Special Interest Group to be listed here, send the information to radcom@rsgb.org

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 anteaater breeding, 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 February 2024 is 15 December and for March 2024 it's 21 January.** For GB2RS, the deadline is 10am the Thursday before broadcast.

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

REGION 1: SCOTLAND SOUTH & WESTERN ISLES

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

Ayr ARG

Derek, MM0OVD, 0742 899 4614, derek.secaarg@gmail.com

12, 16 Meeting Prestwick Community Centre, 7.30pm

Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC

Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723

5 Club Night, Thorntree Inn, 7pm

Edinburgh & District ARC

Norman, GM1CNH, 07740 946 192

8, 15, 22, 29 Club net 433.525MHz, 8pm

13 Club meeting and social evening

Kilmarnock & Loudoun ARC

Secretary, GMOADX, klarinfo@gmail.com

7, 14, 21, 28 SSB net on 3720kHz 2pm, quiz 145.475MHz check in 7.45pm

8, 15, 22, 29 Radio Q&A night on Zoom, 7.30pm

9, 23 Formal Meeting at Clubhouse & on Zoom, 7.30pm

16, 30 Natter Night at Clubhouse, 7.30pm

Lothians RS

James Gentles, GM4WZP,

events@lothiansradiosociety.com

3, 17, 31 Net 144.350MHz, 8pm

10 Video night, Edinburgh Cine & Video Society

24 SOTA & the QRP Labs QCX HF Transceiver,

Andy, MM0FMF

31 Wee Bennets Night, Morningside

Mid Lanarkshire ARS

Simon Gray, 2MOLSG,

secretary@mlars.co.uk, mlars.co.uk

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 DMR net, TG23550, 8pm

Stirling and District ARS

Iain, GM5YTT, GM5YTT@outlook.com

Regular nets via club repeater GB3FE

4, 11, 18, 25 Club night, all welcome, 7pm

7, 14, 21, 28 Club meeting all welcome, 10am

West of Scotland ARS

Pat, 2M1CKE,

westofscotlandars@gmail.com, wosars.club

5, 12, 19, 26 Club night, 8pm

REGION 2: SCOTLAND NORTH & NORTHERN ISLES

RR: Jim Campbell, 2M0IAQ, RR2@rsgb.org.uk

Inverness & District ARS

Angus GM6AGC,

invernessRadioSociety@gmail.com

10 Club Meeting, coffee and chat

17 Nets GB3BI 8pm, GB7BI 8.45pm

24 AGM

REGION 3: NORTH WEST

Martyn Bell, M0TEB, RR3@rsgb.org.uk

Chester & District RS

Bruce Sutherland, MOCVP, 01244 343 825,

chesterdars.org.uk

2 No Meeting

9 Committee, Waverton Institute, 8pm

16 Annual Construction Contest

23 Construction Contest reports

30 Surplus sale

Gilmore and North West Morse Radio Club

Heth, M6HNS, 07735 036 267

4 Club night, St Mary's Hall, 7.30pm

7 CW net 3.510MHz, 7.30pm

7, 14, 21, 28 CW net, 144.064MHz, 3pm

14 CW net 50.080MHz, 7.30pm

21 CW net 28.080MHz, 7.30pm

28 C4FM 144.925MHz, 7.30pm

Leyland and District Amateur Radio Club

Phil, 2EODGP, 07867 640 981, ladar.club

1 New Year's Day net, 4pm

Macclesfield & District RS

Greg, MOTXX, info@gx4mws.uk

1 New Year activity

8 Shack on the air

15 POTA prep

22 Shack maintenance

29 The World of Digital

Merseyside ARS

Alan, G4NXG info@marsradio.uk

2 Bank Holiday, no meeting

18 New Year natter night

Quantum AR & TS

Derek, G7LFC, info@quantumtech.club

4 Brickworks - Slow Scan TV

6 Quantum Breakfast Club

18 Project and on-air evening

South Manchester RCC

Dave, G4MVU 07518913300, smrcc.org.uk

2,9,16, 23, 30 Net from 8pm on 145.475 MHz FM

4 Discussion Plan 2024 Activities

11 Discussion RSGB April MGM Contest

18 Discussion Kit antennas

25 Burn's Night celebration

Thornton Cleveleys ARS

Jen, G8YOK, tcars.radio@gmail.com

15 Talk by Paul, G3OSR

22 Natter night and club on the air

29 Brains Trust

Warrington ARC

Dave Roberts G8KBB, secretary@warc.org.uk

2, 16, 23, 30 Meetings, clubroom and Zoom, 8pm

4, 11, 18, 25 Social/coffee morning, 10am

4 Hotspot net - P25 TG 10350/YSF GB-WARC, 8pm

9 AGM, clubroom and Zoom, 8pm

7, 14, 21, 28 Solder Sunday, clubroom and

Zoom, 2pm

REGION 4: NORTH EAST

RR: Ian Bowman, G7ESY, RR4@rsgb.org.uk

Bishop Auckland RAC

barac.org.uk

Anyone wishing to study and/or take their exam's visit barac.org.uk for details.

4, 11, 18, 25 Meet at Stanley Crook village

hall, 7.30pm

Durham & District ARS

Michael, G7TWX, 07826924192

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net 70.375MHz, 7pm

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club meeting, 6pm

6, 13, 20, 27 Net 145.425MHz, 7pm

7, 14, 21, 28 Net 50.575MHz, 7pm

Otley ARS

John, G6MHR, otleyradio.org

5, 12, 19, 26 Net 144.350MHz SSB, 7pm

7, 14, 21, 28 Net 145.450MHz, 7pm

9, 16, 23, 30 Club night, Clifton Village Hall,

7.30pm

Ripon & District ARS

radars-g4sjm.club

4, 11, 18, 25 Meeting at The Bunker, 7.30pm

Spen Valley ARS

Malcolm, 2E0IOX, spenvalleyars@gmail.com

4, 18 Club night, 8pm

11, 25 Net 145.450MHz FM, 8pm

Wearside Electronics and ARS

radio@wears.org.uk

8, 15, 22, 29 Meeting, Herrington 2nd

Scouts, 6pm

York Radio Club

yorkradioclub.uk

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 AM net 144.550MHz,

8.30pm

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net 145.625MHz,

GB3HG, 8pm

4, 11, 18, 25 Club night

REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

RR: Neil Yorke, MONKE, RR5@rsgb.org.uk

Burton ARC,

Barry Hardy, MOISZ, 01283 540570

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club night, the Barley Mow, 7.30pm

4, 11, 18, 25 Open FM Net 145.575MHz, 8pm

7, 14, 21, 28 Open FM Net 145.575MHz, 10am

8, 15, 22, 29 Slow CW exercise 14.055MHz, 11am

Central Radio Amateur Circle

Martin, G1TYV, 0749 684 7642

2 System Fusion, 144.625MHz, 7pm

Dudley and District ARS

Keith, MOWYZ, keithm0wyz@gmail.com

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Meeting, 59 Vale St, DY3 3XF, 6pm

Gloucester AR&ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime

Daily net 145.575MHz FM, 3.30pm

See g4aym.org.uk for details of nets

8 Shack safety with Mike, G6OTP.

22 Informal meeting.

Malvern Hills RAC

Dave, G4IDF, 01905 351 568

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net, 145.350MHz FM, 8pm

9 Antenna modelling, Roger, G4BYV, 7.30pm

23 Informal meeting, 7.30pm

Midland ARS

Norman, G8BHE, 0780 807 8003

3 No meeting

10 Open meeting, new toys

17 General meeting and training classes

24 Open meeting, shack on the air and training

classes.

31 General meeting, projects discussion and

training classes

Rugby ATS

Steve, G8LYB, 01788 578 940

Daily net every Mon to Fri on 144.275MHz USB,

8.30am

1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 Training and

practice CW net, 144.275MHz first USB then

CW, 4.30pm

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Meeting, Boughton Leigh 12th

Rugby Scouts Hut, 8pm

5, 12, 19, 26 Net, 1913kHz, 8pm

6, 13, 20, 27 Meeting, Boughton Leigh 12th

Rugby Scouts Hut, 2pm

Salop ARS, Shrewsbury

Les, M5LMG, salopamateurradio@gmail.com,

salopradiosociety.org

4, 11, 18, 25 Meeting (check website for details)

South Birmingham RS

Gemma Gordon, M6GKG,

gemmagordonm6gkg@gmail.com

Pre-November AGM meeting date to be arranged,

see Facebook

5, 19 Activities in the shack with roger and bob
7, 14, 21, 28 Activities in the attic with bob
9, 16, 23, 30 Coffee morning in the shack,
visitors welcome, 10.30am

Stourbridge & District ARS
John, M1EJG, 01562 700513, www.g6oi.org.uk
8, 15, 22, 29 Meeting at Norton Snooker Club

Sutton Coldfield ARS
Robert Bird, rob2e0zap@gmail.com
1, 15 Open net starting on ±145.250MHz, 7.30pm
8, 22 Club meeting, 8pm

Stafford & District ARS
Nigel, M7ANJ, 07730 161723
Meetings at Wildwood Community Centre, station
usually on the air
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Talks, presentations,
demonstrations, workshops, training
7, 14, 21, 28 Club net, 145.375MHz, 8pm

Telford & District ARS
John, M0JZH, m0jzh@yahoo.co.uk
3 Committee meeting & 2m ragchew, 8pm
10 Resurrecting an old PC with Linux
17 Winter projects construction evening
24 Radio-related Linux
31 Bowls evening with LWWH group

Wolverhampton ARS
Andrew Atkinson, 2E0YEZ, 01902 762603,
secretary@wolverhamptonars.co.uk
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club night
7, 14, 21, 28 Club Net, 145.350MHz, 8pm

Wythall RC
Chris, G3YHF, 0795 839 5904,
wythallradioclub.co.uk
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Meeting, Wythall House and
Zoom, 7.30pm

REGION 6: NORTH WALES

RR: Liz Cabban, GW0ETU, RR6@rsgb.org.uk
01492 830872

Dragon ARC
2W0JYB, mw7mon@gmail.com
1, 15 Meeting Canolfan Esceifiog, Gaerwen,
7pm
4, 11, 18, 25 Net GB3AN and Wires-X Room
86178, 7pm
7, 14, 21, 28 Club Net 145.550MHz, 7pm
8, 22, 29 Zoom Night, 7pm

REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

RR: Brian Jones, GW6ZYI, RR7@rsgb.org.uk

Aberdare & District ARS
aberdareradio.club
5, 19 Meeting, Hirwaun YMCA, 6pm

Barry ARS
Steve, 2W0VOG, 07900 560 080
Club nights at Sully Sports and Social Club
CF64 5SP, 7.30pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net 144.550MHz, 8pm
5, 12, 19, 26 Zoom meeting hosted by Glyn,
GWOANA, 7pm
9 Club New Year meal at the Captains Wife,
Sully, 6.30pm
16 Planning for 2024, 7.30pm
23, 30 Natter Nights, 7.30pm

Carmarthen ARS
Andy, GWOJLX, 0776 828 2880, G0JLX@mail.com
2 New Year social and on-air night
16 Mince pie night

Cwmbran ARC
Gareth, MW6GVR, clubsec@post.com
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net 145.712.5MHz CTCSS
94.8, 600 split, 7.30pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Meeting, Henllys Village Hall,
Cwmbran, 7pm

Highfields ARC
johnathon hodson, MW6HDV,mw6hdv@gmail.com
Rhiwbina Recreation Club Lon Y Dail, Cardiff
CF14 6EA. The club has access for disabled
visitors.

Nets are on GB3WB from 9.30pm to 10.30pm
most nights of the week.
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club meeting, 7pm

Newport ARS
gw4ezw.org.uk/contact-us
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 VHF Net - 145.375MHz, 8pm
4, 11, 18, 2 Clubhouse evenings
7, 14, 21, 28 HF Net 7.100MHz ±qrm, 10am

Rhondda ARS
John GW4BUZ, 01443 432 542. Please leave a
message if we are not in.
Meetings at Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad, 7
to 9pm
9, 16, 23, 30 Activities/ talks

St Tybie ARS
Gareth, GW4JPC, gw4jpc@yahoo.co.nz
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net 3.739MHz, 11am
4, 11, 18, 25 Club meeting, Portacabin adj to
Saron Hall, SA18 3LN, 7pm

REGION 8: NORTHERN IRELAND

Micheal Na bPiob, M10HOZ RR8@rsgb.org.uk
Bangor & District ARS
Gordon McBriar, G16FZI, gi6fzi@yahoo.com
9 Meeting, Marquis Hall, Bangor

Bushvalley ARC
bushvalleyarc.org
25 Meeting, Services Club, Roemill Road,
Limavady, 8pm

Mid Ulster ARC
muarc.secretary@yahoo.co.uk
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net GB3WT, 7.30pm

REGION 9: LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

RR: Ron White, G6LTT, RR9@rsgb.org.uk

Aylesbury Vale RS
avrs.org.uk
17 Annual dinner, 8pm

Bracknell ARC
Colin, MOXCA, 0770 651 2505
7, 14, 21, 28 Net, GB3BN, 5pm

Burnham Beeches RC
Greg, G4EBY, ebytronics@gmail.com
1 Bank holiday, no meeting
7, 14, 21, 28 Club Net 10.30am 145.500MHz,
QSY 145.275MHz
15 Future meetings and DX Picnics, 8pm

Chesham & District ARS
Malcolm, G3ZNU, 01494 890 840
3, 17 Net, GB3TU, 8pm
10 Informal meeting, Golden Eagle pub, Ashley
Green, 8pm
24 Formal meeting Ashley Green Memorial Hall,
8pm
31 AGM via Zoom.

Milton Keynes ARS
Brendan, G8IXK, 07803 192 604
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net on 28.4MHz, 8pm
5, 12, 19, 26 Club coffee chat on Zoom,
10.30am
8 Building a FM voice internet gateway with
Francis, MOUKF
15 Committee meeting
29 DXpeditions with Andrew, G8GNI

Newbury & District ARS
Rob, G4LMW, 07970 885 614,
G4LMW@btconnect.com
26 Surplus equipment and junk sale

Shefford & District ARS
David, G8UOD, davidg8uod@virginmedia.com
11 Welcome Back
18 'British Shortwave Utility Stations' a talk by
Don, G4LOO
25 Video night

Whitton ARG
Ian, G00FN, 0795 620 3495, warg.
dreamhosters.com
5, 12, 19, 26 Club Night - HF / VHF on the air

REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

RR: Keith Bird, G4JED, RR10@rsgb.org.uk
Bromley & District ARS
Andy, G4WGZ, 01689 878 089
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net, start 145.500MHz
then QSY, 9pm

Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society
Glenn, G4FVL, secretary@catsradio.org.uk
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net ± 70.425MHz, 9pm
7, 14, 21, 28 Net ±145.4MHz 11am,
±3.7MHz 5pm
8 Club meeting. See website: catsradio.org.uk

Crawley ARC
carc.org.uk
24 AGM

Cray Valley RS
Dave, G8ZZK, 07739 549 822
18 Planning meeting

Crystal Palace R&E
Damien, 2E0EUI, 07900 242 541
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club net, ±145.525MHz,
8pm
6, 13, 20, 27 Club net, 51.55MHz, 8pm

Dover ARC
darc.online
4 Operating, familiarisation with IC-7300

Farnborough & District RS
Mel, M0JMR, publicity@farnboroughradio.org.uk
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 1.995MHz LSB, 8pm
5, 12, 19, 26 Net, 144.675MHz FM, 8pm
7, 14, 21, 28 Net via GB3FN, 8pm

Fort Purbrook ARC
Chris, G3WIE, secretary@fparc.org.uk
4, 11, 18, 25 7.30pm open net
145.275MHz, QSY GB3SH 8pm
12 Practical evening, Deverell Hall, 7pm
26 Club meeting in room FP-1, 7pm

Hastings E&RC
Vince, G1FBH, herc.hastings@gmail.com
Daily net, 144.575MHz, 10am
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 CW net, 144.575MHz, 8pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Portable operating (see
hastings-electronics-radio-club.com)

Hog's Back ARC
Ray, G4LUA, 0118 981 4174,
hogsback-arc.org.uk
8, 22 Natter night

Hordean & District ARC
hdarc.co.uk
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net 145.375MHz, 7.30pm
5, 19 Club night and Intermediate training, 7pm
7, 14, 21, 28 CW net 9am ±1950kHz; SSB
net 9.30am ±1950kHz; 8pm on
433.450MHz
8, 15, 22, 29 SSB net ±1950kHz, 7.30pm

Itchen Valley ARC
Chris, G7LWV, secretary@ivarc.org.uk
26 Club meeting, 8pm

Mid Sussex ARS
Stella Rogers, M6ZRJ, progsec@
midsussexars.org.uk, midsussexars.org.uk
12 Nag and natter night, 7.30pm
26 On air night, 7.30pm

North Kent RS
Andy, G8MLQ, 0772 332 1005
2 Natter night, 8pm
16 Anne Fribbens talk on Neurology, 8pm

Southdown ARS
Tom, 2E0ONX, sars.club
3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Café meeting 12.15pm,
net GB3ZX, 2pm

5 Monthly Meeting at Old Town Community Centre, Eastbourne, 8pm

Surrey Radio Contact Club

John, G3MCX, 020 8688 3322
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, 3.710MHz LSB, 9am
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Net, 51.55MHz FM, 8pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net, 28.078 JS8, 10am
 4, 11, 18, 25 Net 70.30MHz FM, 8pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Nets, 144.6125MHz D-star, 7.30pm, 145.35MHz FM, 8pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net, 1.905MHz LSB, 9.30am
 8 Show & tell, various speakers, 7.45pm
 22 Chat, Fix-it and Skills, John, G8MNY, St. Pauls, 7.45pm

West Kent ARS

Phil, G3MGQ, secretary@wkars.org.uk
 Daily net, 145.575MHz FM, 9am
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net 145.375MHz, 8pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net 51.51MHz, 8pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net 28.730MHz, 11am
 8 Annual club activity planning

REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLES

Andrew Jenner, G7KNA, RR11@rsgb.org.uk

Appledore & District ARC

John, G3JKL, secretary@adarc.co.uk
 Weekday nets from 4pm on 145.450MHz on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. Wed at 4pm via GB3DN Net via GB3DN, 11am on Mon, Wed and Fri, 11am
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net via GB3DN at 11am & Net 144.260MHz, 8pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Net via GB3DN at 11am & Net 145.450MHz, 8pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net 9.30am on 1.860MHz, Net 144.260MHz at 10.30am
 15 Meeting, 7.30pm

Callington ARS

Peter, G8BCG
 secretary@callingtonradiosociety.org.uk
 Meets first Wednesday of the month, Callington Town Hall, PL17 7BD
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Net, GB3JL repeater, 8pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Lunch, The Engine House Café PL17 8EA, 1.30pm

Gordano ARG

Malcolm, G4KPM 07971 431125
 24 Meeting, The Ship, 310 Down Road, Portishead, 8pm

Mid Somerset ARC

Chris, G6HIQ, christopherlavis3@gmail.com
 8 Meeting at the Baptist Church Rooms, Shepton Mallet, 7.30pm

Riviera ARC

Steve Crask G7AHP, stevecrask@yahoo.com
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Nets 70.475MHz FM 7.20pm, 145.425FM, 8pm
 4, 18 Fish and Chip night, Precinct Centre Torquay, 7.20pm

Saltash & District ARC

Mark Chanter, M0WMB, 07810 548 445
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net via GB3PL, 7.30pm
 16 Meeting, Burraton Centre, 7pm

Thornbury & South Gloucestershire ARC

Terry, MOTJX, secretary@tsgarc.uk, tsgarc.uk
 Club Daily Net GB3ZB, 10.30am
 3, 17, 31 Social, 7.30pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Net 145.450MHz, 8pm
 10 Hot Spots, 7.30pm
 24 SWR, 7.30pm

Torbay ARS

Kerry, M0KRE, 07725 999973, sec@m0kre.net
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nets 3.663MHz 10.30am, 1.982MHz 8pm, 50.155MHz 8.30pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Nets 14.270MHz 9.30am, 3.663MHz 10.30am, GB3TR 7pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Club meeting, 7.30pm, Net 3.663MHz 9.15pm
 6, 13, 20, 27 Net 3.663MHz, 10am
 7, 14, 21, 28 Nets 14.270MHz 9.30am, 145.575MHz 12pm
 12 Business meeting, 7.30pm

Yeovil ARC

Darren Mallinson, 2E0EVU, 07973 663 135, secretary@yeovil-arc.com
 Meetings at Parish Room, Abbey Manor Community Centre, Yeovil
 4 DVD evening
 11 Antenna radiation patterns, G3MYM
 18 Practical projects evening
 25 TBA

REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA

RR: David De La Haye, M0MBD, RR12@rsgb.org.uk

Braintree & District ARS

Geoff, G1GNQ, 01376 563370, secretary@badars.co.uk
 2, 16 Club net 145.375MHz FM from 8pm all welcome
 9 New Year projects natter night virtual meeting via Zoom
 23 Setting up and using N1MM+ video meeting in club house, 8pm
 30 Club net via GB3BZ, 8pm all welcome

Bury St Edmonds ARS

bsears.co.uk
 Club nets every day of the week except Sunday

Chelmsford ARS

secretary@g0mwt.org.uk
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 CW net on 3542kHz from 7.30pm, GB2CW on 3555kHz from 8.15pm, slowing down at 8.30pm for new operators
 4, 11, 18, 15 Skype CW Classes, 7pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 CW net, 144.060MHz, 8pm
 9 Open net, GB3DA, 8pm
 16 Club open net, GB3ER, 8pm
 23 Club open net, 3756kHz, 8pm
 30 160m net

Felixstowe & District ARS

Mark Riley, M5BOP, m5bop@hisimage.co.uk
 1 New Year call-in, GB3IH (plus other bands/modes), 7.30pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 FM Open Net GB3IH, 7.30pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 FDARS Sunday net 145.400MHz 10am
 15 Christmas gift show & tell, Broadway House, 7.30pm
 29 Station Plans 2024, Broadway House, 7.30pm

Harlow & District ARS

Ed, G5EDW, secretary@g6ut.com, g6ut.com
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net 145.425 MHz, 7.30pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Meeting, 8pm, visitors and new members welcome
 9, 16, 23, 30 Technical Tuesdays, visitors welcome

Loughton & Epping Forest ARS

David, M0VID, secretary@lefars.org.uk
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Net DMR Brandmeister TG 23511, 8pm
 4, 11, 18, 25 Net 144.725 MHz FM, 8pm
 5, 19 Zoom meeting, 8pm
 12, 26 Meeting at All Saints House

Lowestoft District & Pye ARC

Sam, M7SKW, secretary@ldparc.co.uk
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Net 145.475MHz, 8pm
 4, 11, 18, 25 Club meeting 7.30pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Net 51.490MHz 8pm
 7, 14, 21, 28 Net 433.575MHz, 8pm
 8, 22 Shack open.7.30pm

Thames ARG

Andrew Atkinson, M0IXY, Secretary@ThamesARG.org.uk, thamesarg.org.uk
 5 Talk: Northumbrian Small Pipes, 8pm
 12, 26 Net, GB3DA or 145.300MHz, 8pm
 19 DMR net, GXOTRG, 8pm

REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS

RR: Bob Hamby, M0HAF, RR13@rsgb.org.uk

Bolsover ARS

G4KSY, 01246 827135,
 Facebook page: @bolsoverars
 2, 16 Meeting, Bainbridge Hall, Bolsover, 8pm

Hinckley AR & ES

Michel Dixon, G4GHJ, hinckleyradiosociety@gmail.com
 2 RSGB 144MHz UK Activity Contest
 9 RSGB 432MHz UK Activity Contest
 10 Social night at the clubhouse
 11 RSGB 50MHz UK Activity Contest
 24 Talk on satellite operation by Tim, GW4VXE

Kettering & District ARS

Les, 2E0MNZ, les@moylehousehold.co.uk
 7, 14, 21, 28 Breakfast meeting, 10am
 9, 16, 23, 30 Meeting, 7pm
 11, 18, 25 Club net, 7pm, 145.300MHz

Northampton Radio Club

Richard, 2E0RKJ, secretary@northamptonradioclub.co.uk
 4, 11, 18, 25 Meeting, Grangewood Club, NN4 OUA, 8pm

Nunsfield House ARG

Paul, G1SGZ, pr@nharg.org.uk
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Shack night & club net 145.300MHz, 8pm
 5 Shack rehash/maintenance
 12 Committee meeting
 19 Intermediate syllabus Pt5
 26 BiWota history

RAF Waddington ARC

Chris Price, 2E0BMA, 07579 775 717, gOraf.co.uk
 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Club Net 145.325MHz, 7.30pm
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 CW practice 144.085MHz, 8pm
 5, 12, 19, 26 Club Meeting at the Pyewipe, 8pm
 12 AGM, Pyewipe Inn, 8pm
 19 Talk by Andy, 2E0VPX: The Wonderful World of Sir Clive Sinclair

South Derbyshire and Ashby Woulds ARG

Richard Harlow, sdawarg.contests@gmail.com
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Club meeting 7-9pm, net 145.4125MHz

South Normanton, Alfreton & Dist. ARC

Alan, M0OLT, secretary@snadarc.com
 1 New Year, no meeting
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Club Net, ±145.450MHz, 7pm
 8 Technical night
 15 Natter night
 22 Junk Sale
 29 Natter night

Welland Valley ARS

Peter, G4XEX, info@wvvars.com
 See wvvars.com for details of nets and meetings

RadCom copy deadlines

Cover date	Editorial deadline
February 2024	15 December 2023
March 2024	21 January 2024
April 2024	19 February 2024
May 2024	19 March 2024
June 2024	21 April 2024
July 2024	20 May 2024
August 2024	21 June 2024
September 2024	18 July 2024
October 2024	22 August 2024
November 2024	19 September 2024
December 2024	17 October 2024
January 2025	15 November 2024

REGION 4: NORTH EAST

Hartlepool ARC joined with Tees Valley North Scouts to run the 2023 JOTA station GBOTVS from the District Scout Centre in Hartlepool over the weekend of 20-22 October.

The station was active on the HF and VHF bands but, operators found band conditions were poor. The poor band conditions, coupled with very strong winds off the tail of storm Babet, restricted the choice of antennas that could be deployed and resulted in fewer contacts than in previous years. However, a total of 105 contacts were made over the weekend using SSB, FM, FT8 and with one contact with SSTV.

The club used its two HF transceivers, one running 200W into an Inverted-V antenna. The second HF rig ran 100W into the Club's long wire antenna. For VHF, a 2m band transceiver running about 25W was fed into the Club's three-band collinear antenna.

No great DX was worked this year but the Club did make contact with a satisfying number of other scout JOTA stations including Germany, Holland, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

A large number of people visited the station over the weekend including, the Scout County Commissioner for Programmes, Ian Railton, the Cleveland Scouts County Commissioner, Andy Woolf, the Mayor of Hartlepool and the Mayor of Stockton on Tees. The Mayor of Stockton showed a lot of interest in the station and was very pleased to pass a greetings message.

All of the beaver, cubs and scouts who attended the event, successfully completed the requirements of the communicator badge. Certificates of participation in the event were given to the children who had sent their name in Morse successfully, had an understanding of the phonetic alphabet and had learned about secret codes.

Although fewer contacts were made this year, and no real DX was worked, members remarked that it was great to be able to run the event again and to be given the opportunity to introduce the scouts to amateur radio.

Members of Hartlepool Amateur Radio Club are grateful to the scout leaders for their participation. Everyone involved with the station had a good time and all look forward to next year's JOTA event.

Read more about Hartlepool ARC via <https://mx0idz.uk>



REGION 5: WEST MIDLANDS

On Wednesday 18 October, at the Queens Head in Wolverley, Phil, G4SPZ gave a talk to **Kidderminster Repeater Group**, entitled 'Trevor Graham Bayliss OBE CBE and his legacy – The Clockwork Radio'. The talk charted the history of Trevor Bayliss and his research and development of various windup clockwork radios. Phil had around a dozen of these radios and torches to display and members were fascinated to hear this story. Phil is a valued volunteer to the Black Country Living History Museum and looks after a workshop that repairs all manner of clocks and vintage radio.

The Kidderminster repeater Group meets every third Wednesday of the month.

You can read more about Kidderminster Repeater Group at krg.club



REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

Aberdare and District ARS (AADARS) was formed in 2009 by a group of local amateur radio enthusiasts who saw a need for a venue which would better serve operators in and around the Cynon Valley/Aberdare area.

Originally, the club met at the Aberdare ATC hut, later moving to its current long-term home at the Hirwaun YMCA, Manchester Place, CF44 9RB. The club callsigns are MCOTTR and GC3ASW.

AADARS is a small and friendly club which currently has around 20 long-term members, though it is seeing new faces on a regular basis, which is good news. The club is well known for its helpful and relaxed attitude. It has members from all walks of life covering a huge range of ability and locations, well outside of its local area, with some attending from Swansea and Cardiff. Like many clubs, the pandemic hit AADARS hard and tragically two members became silent keys during this time. Thanks to the close-knit community within the club, and active use of social media, the group survived and is now starting to grow again.

Facilities: Hirwaun YMCA is in the process of modernising its building and the group has moved around inside the venue a couple of times. Currently, it is based on the ground floor of the venue in a new, modern setting with full disabled access and amenities. The room provides a well-lit, spacious and modern club environment. The club is in the process of moving its radio equipment from its old shack at the rear of the building to a new spot. This will soon be complete and new antennas and equipment will be available for member use and training on club nights.

There is ample parking available to the front of the building, though those without mobility issues are asked to park further up the street to avoid issues with local residents.

Training: AADARS is fortunate to have an excellent tutor as part of the club, so it can offer tutoring at all three licence levels. The club is a registered exam centre and can help to provide a venue if a traditional paper exam is required. Since the introduction of the online exam system for students, the club has seen a 100% move to online exam delivery.

Club meetings usually start with a mix of radio-related chat over refreshments/formalities, with activities then moving on to radio operation using members' or club equipment. Activities often include practical



REGION 7: SOUTH WALES

construction pursuits such as antenna building, chats with club members showing their latest projects and often tutoring taking place in the club room's alcove which creates a quieter environment for students.

Activities: the membership covers a wide spectrum of radio interests, so there is always someone on hand to chat with about everything from QRO, QRP, digital modes, HF, VHF and UHF through to microwave operating. The club has a number of members who actively homebrew devices and construct various pieces of equipment, plus an active SOTA group. Members often widen their activities to include field days and special event stations.

The shack has equipment covering HF, VHF and UHF, as well as digital modes. QRO and QRP can both be catered for. The club has a Western HF10 antenna above the building and VHF/UHF antennas on a pole at the far end. These will shortly be updated along with other club radio equipment to better suit the new meeting room.

The club has an active Facebook presence as well as a website. It can be contacted by email, messenger or phone. If you're in the area and are interested in amateur radio, please drop the club a line or feel free to come along to a club night and say hello.

For more information visit aberdareradio.club



REGION 10: SOUTH & SOUTH EAST

Radio rallies have always been a great place to pick up a bargain, meet old friends and sell off unwanted kit. **Dover ARC** has been trying various initiatives to boost membership and help keep our great hobby alive. With fewer rallies happening in Kent, the Club opened up its doors for a tabletop sale. This was a mini rally on a club night for members and non-members to bring along and part with kit. This has always been a popular night and this year was no exception with people grabbing some fantastic kit at great prices.

The Club made this a free night, not charging for tables and providing tea and coffee – the aim was to keep the Club on the map and members feel that they achieved this.

The club is holding a rally on 24 March 2024. You will be able to get more great bargains there, just don't expect free entry! If you want a table, check out the details via darc.online



Caspar, 2E0KRH is pictured here receiving the Kenwood Trophy from RSGB Board Chair Stewart Bryant, G3YSX. Caspar was awarded the Trophy for his work in helping 25 students from the University of Surrey's Electronics and Amateur Radio Society pass the Foundation licence examination.

Read more about the University of Surrey's Electronics and Amateur Radio Society at: surrey.ac.uk/news/inside-surrey-societies-ears



REGION 11: SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLES

Riviera ARC members, as part of an ongoing autumn and winter series, received a short presentation on the local repeaters GB3TR and GB7TQ. The presentation was given by Bill, G8XST and John, G7HIK.

As part of this presentation, members were treated to a virtual tour of the combined repeater site, which included drone images of the site showing the solar panel array and an antenna-eye-view of the location and surrounding area. Coverage maps of both repeaters displayed the extent of the coverage of these 2m and 70cm repeaters around the South Devon and Lyme Bay coast area.

Views of the various hardware associated with the repeaters and their operation were used to explain the complexity and maintenance requirements to keep the repeaters operational. The explanation on the use and setup of cavity filters provoked an interesting discussion in particular. Remote operation and monitoring of the repeater facilities and functions were also included and illustrated during the presentation.

As part of the presentation, the running costs were described, excluding hardware, which is a point often forgotten by many amateurs who use these facilities – someone or a group needs to fund these valuable resources as well as arrange ongoing regular monitoring.

As GB7TQ is a C4FM-enabled repeater with internet linking, a short discussion was entered into regarding repeater etiquette especially regarding the failure to close rooms after access on the Wires-X system. This prevents other operators from using the repeater in a normal way.

A lively question-and-answer session closed the presentation.

Find out more about Riviera Amateur Radio club by visiting rivieraarc.org.uk



REGION 12: EAST & EAST ANGLIA



Howard, G6LXK, from Braintree and District ARS, started the month off with a fascinating talk about his passion for acquiring and restoring Hallicrafters radios. He brought along two SX28 receivers, one of which he has finished restoring and one of which is still in progress. After a presentation covering the history of Hallicrafters and the SX28 in particular, Howard walked members through the stages of his restoration by pointing out the various components and mechanicals on the upended and stripped down work-in-progress set. One of the challenges Howard shared was the difficulty fitting currently available replacement components, due to their smaller size and lead lengths that won't reach the connection points. The solution for capacitors was to carefully remove the contents of the old metal can ones and fit the new component inside, attached to the existing leads. That truly is a labour of love and ends up with an authentic looking repair.

A photo of the in-progress SX28, which might bring back a few happy memories to readers, is included here.

The Society's website can be found at badars.co.uk



REGION 13: EAST MIDLANDS



South Normanton, Alfreton and District ARC helped the Crich Scout Group leader Bill, G6JNZ set up HF and 2m stations for JOTA 2023 at their scout hut using GB1CSG. In spite of the poor weather, which meant diversions around the major flooding, it was another successful day. For their efforts, the Club thanks Ray, MOTVX; Lyn, G0NNU; Nigel, G6MRN; Dave, 2E0YCF; Brian, G7TYP; Mel, M0RNU (camera). Thanks also go to all the others who popped in to support the crew.

Following the visits by the Derby University sponsored community group MAKE/SHIFT to interview and video members, the Club was extremely proud to hear that they were a winner in the Golden Glue Awards for sticking the community together. Several members were invited as VIPs to the presentation afternoon on 12 November. They were able to demonstrate some of the kit that had caught the attention of the judges. In addition to receiving the trophy, in the shape of a golden glue stick, certificates were awarded to all members involved. Representing the club were Graham, G4UTN; Lynn, G0NNU; Mel, M0RNU and Dave, M0XSH (camera). As well as meeting the other groups involved, the afternoon included entertainment and refreshments making it a very enjoyable experience.

Read more about South Normanton, Alfreton and District ARC at snadarc.com



Authors Wanted

The RSGB is currently seeking people to help produce new books about amateur radio. Not only are we seeking those who could write a book or edit articles into a book but are also looking for technical and copy editors. In addition we are seeking freelancers who have experience of desktop publishing who can help finalise books for print and e-publication. Is any of this you?

If you think you could write for us, then the RSGB has a number of projects it needs authors for and we are happy to discuss these with new book authors and editors. We are particularly looking for those who have something to offer in new technologies and modes. We also need help with VHF/UHF projects and would also like to hear from those with experience in HF, Construction and Antennas. We would also be keen to hear your concept for a new RSGB publication and perhaps commission you to produce it.

Whatever your skills we would like to hear from you. All positions are paid on a project by project basis, so if you would just like to find out more about working with the RSGB books programme or becoming a published author or editor please send an email to authors@rsgb.org.uk and we will send you further information about working for us.

