



# BARSCOM



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## Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society



All ready for a  
bargain?

November  
2015



JOTA Week-end Site

Monday 5th October was set aside for JOTA planning, followed by a showing of TXfactor 7.

This year, JOTA will take place at Castle Heddingham Scout hut. After a sight visit or two the planned station is HF plus VHF SSB and VHF/UHF fm station.

Unfortunately, once again, only the usual few put their hands up when volunteers were asked for.

## Meeting Reports

Tony, GØIAG

Planning completed, the rest of the evening was dedicated to TXfactor-7. This episode covered a report from the RSGB youth committee and their plans to help promote the hobby in schools. They also mentioned in the film their intention to resurrect GB4FUN.

There was a report from the 2014 IOTA convention. This aspect of the hobby, though popular, is rather limited to the wealthier people in our hobby regarding exotic DX islands.

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The product review of the INOV Antennas quad VHF antenna showed it to have impressive specs. I wonder just how good it is. As always, these films are very interesting.



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**J**OTA this year was hosted by Hedingham Scouts at their Castle Hedingham Scout hut. Setting up was done on Friday 16th Oct by the usual few.

## JOTA 2015

*Tony, GØIAG*

The club's Trap Dipole was attached to the IC746 and the Comm's Trailer and mast supported 2/70 FM and SSB was attached to FT 897. The main operating day was Saturday 17th with approx. 50 scouts coming and going during the day, about 35 if they were camping over the weekend.

Contacts were made to other JOTA stations and the Scouts passed greetings messages by Radio and also by joining in on the JOTA network. At times using the radio

## TWEET

The Webmaster, Colin M6NCU, has created a Twitter account @G6BRH for the club.

A link to it is on the club's website, [www.badars.co.uk](http://www.badars.co.uk).

## To All Members.

Geoff GØBYH, has at last moved to the Milton Keynes area. As most of you know his move has been on and off for months. It came together very suddenly and they moved on the 9th Oct.

John M5AJB has Geoff's QTH details for those who don't already have them. On behalf of all the Club members, I would like to wish Geoff and his wife happiness in their new home.

Tony, GØIAG

was very difficult due to the noise being made by many youngsters in a confined space. However, we all enjoyed ourselves and we were very well looked after with food and drink by the Scouts.

On Sunday Morning the Scouts presented B&D ARS with £50 to say thank you for all our efforts.

Thanks must go to Colin M6NCU and Neil MØNAS for organising JOTA this year and to Melvin, John, Edwin and Jim for putting things together. If I have missed any one my apologies, I was only there on the Saturday and then I forgot my camera.

UKube-1, the UK Space Agency's first national spacecraft, has now completed its nominal mission following more than 14 months of operation. Although the USKA-supported mission phase has ended, discussions are underway with AMSAT-UK about the possibility of its taking over UKube-1 operations to continue the spacecraft's educational and outreach activities.

## UKube-1

*AMSAT-UK*

Launched in July 2014 from Kazakhstan, UKube-1 hosts FUNcube-2 — actually a set of FUNcube boards flying as a subsystem of the 3U UKube-1. The FUNcube project has been intended to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives now under way with a target audience of primary and secondary school students.

A 3U CubeSat, UKube-1 carries a FUNcube subsystem 400 mW inverting Amateur Radio SSB/CW linear transponder, with an uplink of 435.080-435.060 MHz, and a downlink of 145.930-145.950 MHz,

also a beacon on 145.915 and transmits telemetry on 145.840 MHz. The mission has achieved a range of milestones including successful testing of onboard camera technology.

Outside of of Amateur Radio, UKube-1 was a technology demonstration mission aimed, at attracting and training future generations of engineers, fast-tracking space technology development, and engaging with students. More than 60 CubeSats now are planned through production in Glasgow over the next 18 months.

Ofcom is to start cancelling Amateur Radio licenses that have not been “revalidated” by the holder in an effort to clear dead wood from the agency's databases. Amateur Radio licenses must be revalidated every 5 years, but until Ofcom goes through the process of revoking the license, it remains valid.

## Licence Revocations

*OFCOM*

The first batch to be revoked were those due for revalidation between September 2012 and January 2013.



*Voice of America Transmitter  
Control Centre*

During our stay at my wife's relatives in Cincinnati, in the American mid-west, they suggested that we could visit the VOA Museum of Broadcasting, about 45 minutes from the city. We found out that the museum was on one of its rare open days that particular Sunday in autumn, so we

## **VoA Museum and Transmitter Site Visit**

*Howard, G6LXK*

set off to find it. Approaching, we could see the art deco styling, although just the main transmitter building remained, no sign of any aerial networks around it.

On signing in at reception, they asked if I had a license, which is always a good sign, as I had already spotted an HF beam on the roof. Also in reception was a 1950s Hallicrafters radio on a shelf. We

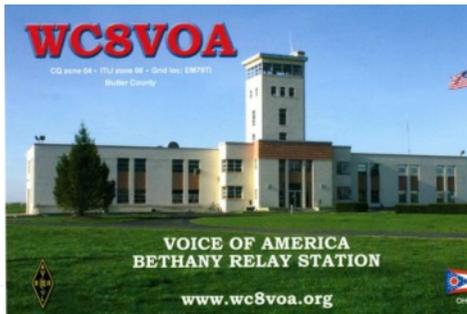
passed into a presentation room to be shown a short video of the site's history. Constructed in 1944 to counter the Nazi propaganda broadcasts, it then went on to provide a valuable service during the cold war. The facility was closed down in 1994, when new types of broadcasting technologies were starting to take over.

We then walked into the next section and a decision was needed as to whether we should go into the Media Heritage Section, or the site's amateur radio station. Well, I visited WC8VOA, with its number of operators from West Chester Amateur Radio Society using HF voice and digi modes. They were a chatty, friendly lot, and quite startled to meet an English operator. They even tried to



*Antenna switching matrix remains intact*

put me behind the microphone, although I was aware that we only had a couple of hours to view the rest of the exhibition. One of the HF stations was doing some JOTA operating, as the operator and his son were both scouters, speaking with other scout groups in the USA and Canada.



The rest of the exhibition was showing the history of broadcast technology, with the original VOA control room, and Collins transmitter (one of six of the most powerful transmitters on earth in its time). There is a radio receiver museum, with plenty of Hallicrafters, Collins and other radios on show behind glass. We had a very pleasant visit.



September's antenna table had two errors relating to power handling. The corrections to which are below.

**Antenna Costs - 3**  
*Ian, G8MKN*

| Manufacturer<br>2m | ID       | El | Gain<br>DBi | Wt<br>(kg) | Boom<br>m | Power<br>W | Cost<br>£ |
|--------------------|----------|----|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Diamond            | A144S10R | 10 | 11.69       | 1.1        | 2.1       | 100        | £69.95    |
| Moonraker          | YG8-2    | 8  | 14.15       | -          | 3.12      | 500        | £79.96    |

## Club Meetings and Nets

### November

- 2 Construction evening and natter night
- 9 Club Net
- 16 TX factor evening and natter night
- 23 Club Net
- 30 Club Net

### December

- 7 Christmas party with food and entertainment
- 14 Club Net
- 21 Christmas natter night
- 28 Club Net

### 2016

### January

- 4 TBA
- 11 Club Net

### 2016

Could you do a talk for the club?

We are always looking -out for topics whether they are technical or not.

Contact John to arrange a date.

## Contests

### HF

#### Nov

- 11 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint SSB
- 14 2000-2300 Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS)
- 21-22 2100-0100 2nd 1.8MHz Contest
- 26 2000-2100 80m Club Sprint CW

### VHF

#### Nov

- 7-8 1400-1400 144MHz CW Marconi VHF CW Championship

#### Dec.

- 6 1000-1600 144MHz AFS Super League
- 26-29 1400-1600 50/70/144/432MHz Christmas Cumulatives Contest

## Rallies

8 NOVEMBER

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW (Kempton Rally) – Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ. OT 9.50/10am. Paul, MØCJX, 08451 650 351, [info@radiofairs.co.uk](mailto:info@radiofairs.co.uk). [[www.radiofairs.co.uk](http://www.radiofairs.co.uk)].

15 NOVEMBER NEW VENUE

CATS RADIO & ELECTRONICS BAZAAR – Coulsdon Community Centre, Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BE. Limited on site parking (50), street parking available. Nearest bus stop Coniston Rd on the 166 bus route. OT 10am-2pm, £1 including a complimentary tea or coffee, B&B, C, DIS. Glenn, G4FVL, [bazaar@catsradio.org](mailto:bazaar@catsradio.org).

15 NOVEMBER

PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB RALLY – Harewood House, The Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AS. CP, TI, OT 10am, £2, TS, C. Sheila Hart, 2E0YSH, 07815 542 477, [sheo@fsmail.net](mailto:sheo@fsmail.net).

21 NOVEMBER

ROCHDALE & DISTRICT ARS TRADITIONAL RADIO RALLY – St Vincent de Paul's, Caldershaw Rd, off Edenfield Rd (A680),

Norden, Rochdale OL12 6BU. OT 10.15/10.30, £2.50 (concessions U12 & seniors), TI S22, C. Pitches £5. Dave, G0PUD, 0161 285 1600, [dave.shaw1@sky.com](mailto:dave.shaw1@sky.com). [[www.radars.me.uk](http://www.radars.me.uk)].

5 DECEMBER

SOUTH LANC'S WINTER RALLY – Bickershaw Labour Club, Bickershaw Lane, Bickershaw, Wigan WN2 5TE. OT 9am, traders 7.30am. £2.50, B&B, C, DIS, CP, SIG, DF, TS, LB. Jason, 01942 735 828.

6 DECEMBER

BISHOP AUCKLAND RADIO AMATEURS CLUB RALLY – Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Co Durham DL16 6DB. CP, TI S22 (V44), OT 10.15 /10.30, £2 (U14 free). TS, B&B, C, LB, DF, FAM. John, G4LRG, 01388 606 396.

*<http://rsgb.org/main/news/rallies/>*

## Club Equipment

You can borrow the club's Aerial Analyser for only £1/day and the Morse Tutor (Less Battery) for 50p/2-week session.

Ask one of the Committee for information

## BADARS Club Library

We hold a collection of books and DVDs that feature electronic construction, operation, the history of radio, shortwave listening and other forms of technology to do with radio, including the 'Secret' work carried-out by amateurs during the war years.

Most hires are 20p per session.

## Committee

### Chairman:

Tony King GØIAG 07972 850232 01733 718276  
[Tony.g0iag@hotmail.com](mailto:Tony.g0iag@hotmail.com)

### Secretary/Membership Secretary:

John M5AJB 01787 460947 1 Ross Cottage, Southey Green

### Treasurer:

Neville G8CDG

### Ordinary Members:

Geoff G1WRH 01376 323223 07745 569564  
Melvin GØEMK

## Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

The club meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Braintree Hockey Club, Church Street, Bocking. Doors open at 7.30 pm, meetings run from 8 pm to 10 pm.

Membership is £16 annually; Senior members (State Retirement age) and Junior members, under 18, pay £10. A door fee of £1 is also payable at each meeting by members and visitors.

BARSCOM is sent to members by e-mail on the first of the month; paper copies are available at the first meeting of the month (plus postage if appropriate). The usual

deadline for copy is the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. Members may sell or exchange equipment etc. before the start of each meeting, during the tea/coffee break and may advertise in BARSCOM free of charge.

Some members have had problems with UHF and BZ access, and as a result the Club Net will now operate on 2 metres only. This should make it easier for all members to remember the frequency, and for non-members to find the net. The net will use V30 (S15) 145.375 MHz, starting 20.00 hrs local time on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month.

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Items will be published in the first available edition subject to space availability.

For more information and pictures of events and projects see our Web Site at [www.badars.co.uk](http://www.badars.co.uk)

Please contact our Chairman for details about commercial adverts.

BARSCOM Editor (Ian, G8MKN)) © BADARS 2015 - E. & O.E.

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