



Web Edition

BARSCOM



G3XG

GX3XG

G6BRH

DUNMOW

STEBBING

RAYNE

HALSTEAD

COLCHESTER

NOTLEY

WITHAM

BRAINTREE

COGGESHALL

Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

September 2014

Learning how to seemingly be in two
places at once



Running a Remotely Operated Station

Due to the continued poor attendance on the Club Nets, the committee have decided that a change should take place.

CLUB NETS

BADARS

For an experimental period of 3 months, September, October and November, all nets will take place on 2 metres, 145.375 MHz.

Some members have problems with UHF and BZ access, also it will be easier for all members to remember the frequency and for non members to find the net.

This decision will be reviewed in November.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

GBØCVR.

Our annual pilgrimage to the Colne Valley Railway for Railways on the Air takes place 27th/28th Sept. Please turn up and operate if you can. As listed, the planning will take place at the 15th Sept. club meeting.

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* Member's E-dition only	

SPACE COMMUNICATIONS

A lunar flyby with an amateur radio payload transmitting JT65B mode on 145.990 MHz is expected to take place toward the end of this year, giving amateurs the opportunity to receive some other-worldly DX signals as the payload orbits the Moon.

China plans to launch a lunar orbiter known as 4M-LXS, which was developed at LuxSpace. Signals can be decoded using the free WJST software by Joe Taylor, K1JT.
Amsat UK

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Rallies

6 SEPTEMBER

FRISKNEY & EAST
L I N C O L N S H I R E
COMMUNICATIONS CLUB
RALLY – The Friskney Village
Hall, Church Road, Friskney, Lincs
PE22 8RD, 6.5 miles south of
Skegness. OT 8.45, traders 7am, TI
145.550, C, B&B. Details on 070753
4624 559. [www.felcc.com].

6 & 7 SEPTEMBER

BRITISH AMATEUR
TELEVISION CLUB
CONVENTION, CAT14 – The
Everest Academy, Basingstoke,
Hampshire. LEC, demos, surplus
ATV equipment. Also BATC bi-
Annual General Meeting on Sunday
afternoon. [www.batc.org.uk].

14 SEPTEMBER

HALTON & DISTRICT RADIO
AMATEURS RALLY -
CANCELLED

TARS 50th ANNUAL
COMMUNICATIONS FAIR –
Newton Abbot Race Course, Devon
Mike Dixon, 01803 557 941, Info
via rally@tars.org.uk.

14 SEPTEMBER

WEST KENT ARS RADIO AND
ELECTRONICS FAIR – Tunbridge
Wells Grammar School for Boys, St
John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN4 9XB. TI, CP, £2.50, 9.45/10am,
TS, B&B, C, DF, WIN, RSGB
Bookstall. Dave, G4OTV,
rally@wkars.org.uk.
[www.wkars.org.uk].

26 & 27 SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL HAMFEST – brought
to you by the RSGB in association
with the Lincoln Short Wave Club.
George Stephenson Pavilion,
Newark and Nottinghamshire
Showground, Lincoln Road,
Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY
(close to junction of A1/A46/A17).
Free CP, TS, B&B, CB, C, SIG,
Morse proficiency tests on demand,
RSGB book stall, RSGB Services &
Committees, DF, FM.
[www.nationalhamfest.org.uk].

28 SEPTEMBER

PENCOED AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB TABLE TOP SALE –
Pencoed Rugby Football Club, The
Verlands, Felindre Road, Pencoed
CF35 5PB. Tables £5, first come
first served. OT sellers 8.30am,
buyers 9.30am. £2, C, LB. Gerry
Day, 01656 860 761.
[www.mw0prg.co.uk/events.uk]

Somebody asked me the other day, what the signal level of the electrical interference is like at my QTH. I wasn't aware it was a big problem for many hams.

Noise Matters (it certainly does!)

Howard, G6LXX

At my rural location there is very little interference. Usually, and as I write this, it is S0 to S1. Occasionally, when I do get a spike, it is due to one of our own mobile phone chargers plugged in somewhere in the house but not actually charging anything.

However, my household QRM is not as bad as it used to be, helped by the new horizontal loop antenna installed - this array being famous for offering lower noise. The quality of transformer-less chargers seem to have improved as well. We had one previous charger that sang loudest on 40 m when idling - and it carried on 'singing' radio hash for 20 seconds after it was unplugged - capacitive discharge no doubt. I have also removed all those Fluorescent lights and gone over to carefully chosen quiet LED types.

Of course sometimes on the bands, it can be atmospheric/band noise - we can't do much about that. However, this year's very changeable band conditions and the slowly worsening habits of some operators, for example those in mainland Europe only keen to chase DX and calling CQ to 'outside of Europe', the ridiculous pile-ups for fewer African stations, and other countries seemingly able to not hear us English callers, is not encouraging me to press the microphone much.

This maturing hobby, with its commercially produced 'almost professional' radios, with broadcast station power levels, communication is all too easy now and this activity can hardly be described as amateur radio. Without much constructional activity, it's all got very competitive, best described as Hobby radio! Personally, I prefer listening around the radio bands - so my operating logbook remains quite under used. I did dabble with some digital mode QSOs, eg, PSK31, which worked really well, although these generally ended up as very short QSOs, and as I spend all day writing emails for my work, it quickly lost its appeal. I guess all this is a sign of a maturing hobby, with less of an appeal to younger people. How can I be

amongst the youngest in our club, yet be nearly 50 years old?

Other people say, it must be quiet living where you do, on top of a hill, in the sleepy suburbs of Great Maplestead. Definitely not! We have tractors, quad bikes, Chinooks & Apache helicopters, all types of small aircraft, wood pigeons, pheasants, screeching owls, chainsaws, days of clay pigeon

shoots and scrambler bikes, next door's several sheepdogs barking on their walk (before 7 am every morning), the 5.45 am noisy motorbike (I guess he's on the early shift then..), boy racers, grain driers until 8 pm. There are some nice noises: skylarks, warblers and yellowhammers in song, distant buzzards on the wing, spitfire aircraft, the kettle going on...

As you no doubt heard last week on GB2RS, this year the RSGB is joining in the IARU Region 1 YOTA month in December:

http://www.iaru-rl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1237:december-yota-month&catid=73:youth-general&Itemid=219%20

YOTA

Steve Hartley, GØFUW*

We have obtained agreement from Ofcom to allow Clubs/Groups to use the special callsign G14YOTA (and its regional variations, e.g. GM14YOTA) during December. The use of the Callsign will move around in a similar way to how G100RSGB worked. However, December only has 31 days!

Details on how to apply for an NoV to use the special call are at: <http://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/rsgb-notices/2014/08/15/december-iaru-yota-month/>

We hope to have some activations in every RSGB Region.

If you are in need of inspiration as to what youngsters are capable of, take a look at the YOTA 'week in 6 mins' video at:

<http://www.ham-yota.eu/2014/08/>

This is a great opportunity to advertise the hobby to young folk, I hope it works!

**RSGB Training & Education Committee Chair*

Monday August 4th was the Aerial clinic evening. It was nice to see so many members present, plus 3 guests. They were:-Ann M6INE, Andy G1GKN and Tom 2E0TNC. They were made welcome by all members and we hope they will become members themselves.



Dave G0DEC, brought along his test equipment and Melvin G0EMK brought along feeder cables. A portable mast was also on hand if needed, and it was. There were a few aerials to be tested, including a 2/70 beam and a Hustler mobile HF aerial. Those who were not involved with the aerial testing spent the evening chatting.

needed a serious aerial array. He persuaded a fellow amateur with a lot of land, to allow his remote station to be set up there.

John covered the relevant parts of the Amateur Licence regarding remote operation and then moved on to what hardware and software was required to run a remote station. Using slides, John showed how his station is set up and what hardware etc. is needed. His remote station has the aerials, transceiver, linear amp, modem and broadband link and his home QTH, a computer with

Meeting Reports

Tony, G0IAG

Monday 18th August was given over to John Regnault, G4SWX, with a fascinating presentation entitled, Building a Successful Remote Station. John explained that his main station and aerials were 16 km from his home QTH. As his main passion was working as many countries as possible on the VHF bands, a lot of the time using "moon bounce", he



Typical set-up of the remote control equipment

broadband link, radio head unit and software.

He normally uses Ham Radio Deluxe as the main system with other systems to operate the various parts of the remote station.

Having set up an operating station at the club QTH, John used 3G to provide the link, and gave a live demonstration of operating his remote station in Suffolk.

There was a great deal of interest in his presentation followed by a lively Q&A session. What an interesting evening, if you weren't there, you missed a good one.

The West Kent Radio and Electronics Fair

Due to demand from traders and exhibitors a second hall has been taken for the Fair being held on Sunday September 14 at the Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9XB.

Check for the latest news of this event at www.wkars.org.uk under the 'Rally' tab..

Club Meetings and Nets

*Club Net - 08.00 pm local time
2 Meters (145.375 MHz)*

CHANGED
See P2

September

- 1 Junk Sale
- 8 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 15 Railways on the Air Planning
- 22 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 27-28 Railways OTA
- 29 Club Net - 2 Meters

October

- 6 JOTA Planning
- 13 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 17-19 Jamboree OTA Weekend
- 20 TX Factor & Video Evening
- 27 Club Net - 2 Meters

November

- 3 Using Oscilloscopes GØDEC
- 10 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 17 Patch Lead Construction
(Bring your own cable & plugs)
- 24 Club Net - 2 Meters

December

- 1 Natter Night
- 8 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 15 Xmas Party
- 22 Club Net - 2 Meters
- 29 Club Net - 2 Meters

Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society

The club meets every 1st and 3rd 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.

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 problems with UHF and BZ access, and as an experiment the Club Net will 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. From September the net will use V30 (S15) 145.375 MHz, starting 20.00 hrs local time on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Mondays of each of the next three months. The decision will be reviewed in November.

** See Page 2*

For more information and pictures of events and projects see our Web Site at www.badars.co.uk

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 28th of the month.

Please contact our Chairman for details about commercial adverts.

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. Members unable to attend club meetings may lodge S.A.E.s with the Editor for printed copies.

Contests

VHF/UHF

Times are UTC

September

- 2 2000-2230 (Local) 144MHz UKAC
- 6-7 1400-1400 144MHz Trophy Contest
- 7 1100-1500 5th 144MHz Backpackers
- 9 2000-2230 (Local) 432MHz UKAC
- 16 2000-2230 (Local) 1.3GHz UKAC
- 21 0900-1200 Second 70MHz Contest
- 23 2000-2230 (Local) SHF UKAC
- 23 2000-2230 (Local) 50MHz UKAC
- 30 1900-2130 70MHz UKAC

October

- 4 1400-2200 1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy
- 4-5 1400-1400 432MHz-248GHz IARU
- 7 2000-2230 (Local) 144MHz UKAC
- 14 2000-2230 (Local) 432MHz UKAC
- 19 0900-1300 50MHz AFS Contest
- 21 2000-2230 (Local) 1.3GHz UKAC

HF

All times are UTC

September

- 6-7 1300-1300 SSB Field Day
- 10 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint SSB
- 25 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint CW

October

- 5 0700-1900 21/28 MHz Contest HF Championship
- 8 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint CW
- 23 1900-2000 80m Club Sprint

On Tuesday, September 2, Joel Alderman GØURK and Gary Stevens 2EØULA will be giving a talk and demonstration of the digital voice mode D-STAR to the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS).

The meeting is open to all.

The Society meets at the Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street, CM2 9AQ. The doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Car parking and admittance are free and there is a raffle.

On September the 1st 2013, ML&S were appointed a direct factory distributor for Yaesu Musen Japan, a first for a UK retailer. ML&S are now able to liaise direct with the manufacturer on new products, repairs, support and advice. A proud moment in twenty-three years for the World's Favourite Ham Store.



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As reviewed by Peter Hart in January RadCom

The new FTdx3000 HF+50MHz 100 Watt Transceiver is another exciting new product that is certain to capture the hearts of determined DXers and Contesters as well as casual operators looking for solid communications. Using the newest down conversion and sharp edged crystal roofing filter technology, this fabulous radio attains

outstanding receiver performance inherited from Amateur Radio's leading HF radio; our proud FTdx5000. The market has been waiting for a reasonably priced transceiver that takes a major performance leap forward – the FTdx3000 is that feature filled compact radio package.

The Yaesu FTDX3000 transceiver provides ultimate weak signal receiver performance in crowded, strong signal environments.

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For more information see: www.hamradio.co.uk/ftdx3000

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