Programme
www.TDARS.org.uk   www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

January 18	**Workshop session: Build a 49:1 UnUn for your EFHW antenna.**
January 25	**Bowls Club evening at LWVH—main hall. Refreshments for free !**
February 1	**Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM) 8pm.**
February 8	**Under-a- Fiver Construction Competition evening**
February 15	**Heather M0HMO –guest speaker - Amateur Radio Satellites**
February 22	**Surplus Equipment Sale. [10% to club funds]**
March 1	**Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM) 8pm.**
March 8	**Main Construction Competition + Beginners' Construction competition.**
March 15	**Contest & Portable Planning 2023.**
March 29	**TDARS 2023 Annual General Meeting at 8pm, LWVH**
April 5	**Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM) 8pm.**
April 12	**QO-100 Satellite demo—Live with G8VZT, M0PNN and G1OAR (LWVH)**
April 19	**Jim Bacon G0YLA "User guide for working Sporadic-E." 8pm** **Webex streaming and at LWVH**
April 22 (inc Fri-Su) International Marconi Day at Tywyn, mid-Wales.GB xxx requested	
April 26	**Steve Nichols G0KYA "Propagation at HF-what the numbers mean"** **Webex streaming and at LWVH**

For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.
For "RSGB Brickworks" scheme (Club or Individual) —enquiries to Graham G7LMF
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: Contact Graham G7LMF training@tdars.org.uk

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

The Committeeeeeee has been working hard to revive normal TDARS meetings taking place at Little Wenlock Village Hall, where we have met weekly on Wednesdays since about 2008. There has been a steady improvement in recent months, but we are not yet back to "normality". I personally have found that on these dark evenings, I sometimes have to give myself a kick in the backside to get in my car and leave reading of the Shropshire Star until Thursday morning— so that I can get up to the Village Hall on time.

Of course, Webex online streaming has been a great success in some respects: we now invite speakers and presenters from anywhere in the UK (or indeed could be the world!) to join us for an hour or so, and those who only get home from work rather late, or who have mobility/travel restrictions can join in the event from elsewhere. Look at the front page of this Newsletter— Jim Bacon G3YLA and Steve Nichols G0KYA, co-incidentally both from Norfolk, giving presentations in April to our members, with the opportunity for tdars members to talk to them or ask questions via the live link. Great! However, it is equally useful and enjoyable to meet members face-to-face. So, please, give it some thought, and if at all possible return to coming along regularly to LWVH when practical, as some 8-10 members or so have done. The exception, of course, is the monthly Committee Meeting, when a club meeting open to all can take place on 144.600MHz FM from 8pm. As Harold Wilson once said when he was Prime Minister "You know it makes sense".

MIV

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From Dave G0CER, a couple of useful e-mails recently circulated:-

A while back I mentioned that *archive.org* were looking to build an archive of global amateur radio documents - I contacted them and very quickly they downloaded all our newsletters off the TDARS website and would like all of them.

https://archive.org/details/tdars-newsletter

It's quite special for this as it is in effect the global repository of all things internet, film, websites and much more. Lose plenty of hours on there!

It's now the only place many old British magazines can be found like Short Wave Magazine, ETI etc .

It's putting TDARS in the history books effectively and hopefully will be complete. It wouldn't have happened unless someone contacted the archive manager and sent them in, once permission had been given. They're looking to build a history of amateur radio at club level because the national levels aren't short of historical information.

Telfordham

Groups.io

Follow me!

@g3ze

TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY : 2022-23

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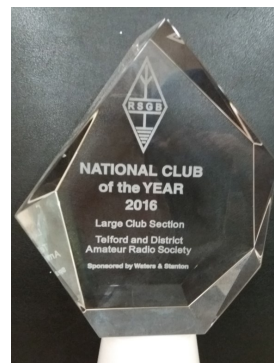
Qtc: News & Information

The 2023 TDARS Annual General Meeting is due on Wed. 29th March.

It will be held at LWV Hall. Last year 24 members came along, the highest number attending a meeting since pre-Covid times. Let's go for it !
The Agenda follows the usual format:-

AGENDA :

1) **Apologies**
2) **Minutes of AGM 320 March 2022 and Matters Arising**
3) **Chairman's Report**
4) **Treasurer's Report & accounts 2022/23. Subs rates 2023/24**
5) **Appointment of Auditors 2023/24**
6) **Election of Society Officers and committee**
7) **Presentation of Awards and Trophies**

Morse Code has raised its profile in January, on BBC Radio 4 and elsewhere including Radio Shropshire. Apparently, January 11th was 'National Learn Your Name In Morse Code Day', which is perhaps a bit bizarre, but we managed to get a little plug for TDARS during an early evening interview with one of their DJs. So a timely reminder that Eric M0KZB continues his Tuesday evening sessions using CW (8pm 145.250MHz FM) and Martyn G3UKV puts out his weekly GB2CW transmissions on 3.605 MHz Thursday 0900 hrs on SSB/CW at speeds up to 12 wpm.

The 2023 series of RSGB UKAC (UK Activity Contests) have already started on VHFand up. Nine tdars members contributed to our **final scores for 2022**, with the pleasant outcome of rising to *9th position overall* in the last month of the year out of 39 'local club' entries.
Individual bands:- *6m* 8th of 29 / *4m* 8th of 25 / *2m* 11th of 34 / *70cm* 7th of 34 / *23cm* 15th of 23 / and *SHF* (13cm and up) 9th of 11 entries.
Perhaps some members might think about more HF contesting in club contests, such as the AFS series on 40/80 metres, or the 'Club Calls' we used to participate in, in November ?

Shropshire Raynet (part of RAEN—Radio Amateurs Emergency Network) has a long history, going back to at least the 1970s. The County controller is Mark Jones M1DQI, and Eric G0GAL (local secretary) came to the club recently to promote the organisation which sadly has very few members within TDARS. Partly due to Covid, and partly due to indifference, the meeting felt that Shropshire Raynet needs to re-activate itself, since in an emergency, radio amateurs can play an invaluable service to the community—particularly if public services like mobile phone networks—collapse. The meeting (Jan.11th) asked Eric to go back to their committee via Mark J and request a TDARS invitation to their long-overdue AGM meeting, with a view to encouraging tdars members to join this important organisation. Recent involvement in the County has included support for the Derwen College Walk in the spring and the Long Mynd Hike in October. Also, occasional regional multi–service exercises take place.

The TDARS Annual Christmas Meal in December took place at the Fallowfield pub in the Hortonwood area of Telford. Simon made all the arrangements, and about 28 club members and their partners or friends came along, and had an excellent meal, with a good range of options. Guest invite was Hazel Wakenell, wife of SK Jim G8UGL She presented a Christmas card and two boxes of biscuits that went down a treat at the following week's final TDARS meeting of 2022 at LWVH.

" I am sending this to wish you and all your families a very happy Christmas and a (hopefully) happy New Year.
It looks like things are slowly getting back to more or less normal, although we still need to be careful.

WEBEX presentations and 'in house talks' have been very good, my thanks to Graham, G7LMF for setting these up and also Jez, M0JXW, for the use of his equipment for these evenings.

The 'Marconi weekend' in April, organised by John M0JZH, was a fantastic weekend with many contacts being made to North and South America on the Friday evening and a pile up to Australia on the Saturday morning.
In June we did the 6 metre contest in which we came fourth and in July the NFD VHF contest: sadly we didn't win this year. September saw the Telford Hamfest which was a great success. In all the club is doing well, but still needs your support.
We have some interesting evenings starting in the New Year and it would be great to see more of the membership returning to club in the new year to participate in these evenings, please see Martyn's, G3UKV, Newsletter for planned events. Surprisingly we have roughly the same number of paid-up members as at March 2019, this includes about 3 or 4 new members.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their support for T D A R S and I hope to see you next year."

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A reminder to all Club members who hold a full licence – ***Contest Call G3Z*** is available for any contest, although the list in the link below helps us qualify for continued renewal 2024-2028. As a point of courtesy/licensing, please let Martyn G3UKV (NoV holder) know if you have an interest to use G3Z in any contest, whether listed or not.

www.rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/online-nov-application/application-for-a-special-contest-call-sign/

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From David M0YDH   [Mail sent to RadCom author Mike G0JMI, Sept. 2022, Pages 16 to 18 — Ed]

Pictured is my quick go at the 436 MHz egg beater antenna from your column in September '22 RadCom
It seems to have come out ok. I used what I had to hand and bought a £1.75 Box from Screwfix.
I butchered a hose coupling nut, drilled the box with a 25 Forstener bit and hot glued the lot together to make the body. 6 strand earth wire bent on a pin board and chopped with tin snips made the elements. RG8 was used for the phasing lines. Horrid stuff.
Resonant around 444MHz. 1.5:1 at 436MHz. A SMA to SO239 set of adaptors will have contributed to the mis-match. Thank you for a reproducible design. I wonder if that will be worth potting inside the box?
On now with the 2m eggbeater.

Amateur Radio meets Geocaching ?   By peter G4URT

One thing I do like to do when I'm out walking or visiting new places is to have a go at Geocaching. This has led me to some very interesting places that I would not have normally visited and also meeting people also hunting the same cache.

For those who do not know what Geocaching is here is a very brief explanation.
I say very brief because it would be like explaining amateur radio briefly – far too many facets to the hobby.

It started out in the USA (no surprise there) as an environmental hobby when handheld GPS devices started to appear. I say 'environmental' as the basis at the time was to go into the wilderness to find a hidden cache and at the same time do some litter picking. It was called 'CITO' – 'Cache in, Trash out'.

Since the early days it is now a worldwide activity which at the time of typing had over 10 million registered geocachers and over 3 million active geocaches. So the idea in a nutshell is to find these caches which can range for being 'virtual' to something the size of an ammo box. There is usually some sort of log to fill in and in the larger caches people put in swops.

Groundspeak (which is the umbrella organisation of geocaching) has some advice on these swops and advises that drugs, explosives or knives are not included! Also they must be accessible in a public place although some are on halfway up a cliff, up a tree or sometimes underwater. However, each log has a description including accessibility, size and difficulty measured on a scale from 1 – 5. The log will usually contain a clue and entries from past finders. An example of a virtual cache could be a type called a Geocache where you go to a geologically interesting site and answer the questions set in the entry. You then submit the answers to the owner of the cache who will credit you with the find provided the questions have been answered correctly. As someone who in the dim and distant past was an oilfield geologist this really appeals to me.

Geocaching can be done for free on your smartphone / GPS device, or if you pay an annual subscription you can get added facets including caches that are hidden from the free service. I pay $20 PA which used to be good value.....

I use my wife's Iphone and also a Garmin GPS handheld device. Both have their advantages / disadvantages. The smartphone way means you can do things 'live' provided of course you have a signal. With the handheld GPS you have to load the caches in advance which is a bit of a faff. Plus of course it is never up to date. However, no phone signal? Not a problem as it relies on the GPS satellite. I say 'no problem' but there are times when you are in a valley or under tree cover when both types of device can have issues.

So, what is the connection with Amateur Radio (apart from attracting people like me)? I was out geocaching the other week near Ross-On-Wye when I found a 'trackable', or as is often called a Travel Bug (TB). This is an item with a tag attached that identifies it using a code issued by Groundspeak. In this case it was in the form of a tiny cup with a picture of a poppy and Flanders Fields on it.
Ironic really as my son lives in Ypres. By looking up the tracking ID, I could see that it was placed in a hide in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium on the 18th of March 2018 and in the intervening period had travelled a total of 9357 miles.   **Continued >>>>>**

This trackable got me thinking about a concept that I had a few years ago, but had forgotten about (finding a trackable is unusual). That is to combine Amateur Radio with Geocaching in the form of a dog tag with my G4URT callsign and a brief explanation engraved on it. I decided to make its 'mission' to visit 100 countries as I have just completed the same milestone but via 2m EME. This will never happen, but it will be interesting to see how many countries it does visit. Then, by attaching a GroundSpeak tag to it you can track it to see where it goes. I have also asked any radio amateurs who find it to endorse the log accordingly.

So, I got a dog tag suitably engraved and purchased a TB from Amazon (yes, I know its cheating but the UK supplier didn't have any left in stock). The photo below shows the Groundspeak Travel Bug tag with the its unique serial and the engraved dog tag which sets the story behind the trackable. When the TB is found, the finder registers the find with Groundspeak and then drops it somewhere else. The TB is then registered at that cache and I will get a notification of its progress.

Having registered the TB with Groundspeak and given an explanation I had to find somewhere to drop it off. As you can see in the picture above the tag has an indentity code on it that enables it to be registered by the finder and to track its progress. On a walk around Haughmond Hill the other day, I dropped the trackable I had found in Ross in the first large enough container that I had came across. However, I soon realised that this cache although on the Shropshire Way from its history wasn't visited very often. I had found another that day just off a footpath at the back of Haughmond Abbey which seemed quite popular so that was the place to launch my trackable into the big wide world. For info this cache is called Mystic Abbey and had been found 267 times since it was activated on the 5th of March 2016 which is quite high. This is probably because 'cachers' visiting the abbey had a look at the same time. And, it is easy to get too being quite close to the road with easy parking.

So now 'G4URT' is off on its travels without the aggro of rail strikes, huge fuel bills, airports, endless queues for security checks or awful sterling exchange rates. I'm quite looking forward to seeing where it goes and if any radio amateur finds it.

For info there are 7 Geocaches within 300 metres of the LWVH with one just outside on the road. If you 'pump' me for further information I may just give you a clue – or have I just given you one? I think I'll 'stop' now....?

Peter G4URT

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Marconi Bungalows, Tywyn, Wales. By Mike G6DFD

(With thanks to Jean Napier, of Tywyn & District History Society. Sources include the National Library of Wales and 'Marconi and his wireless stations in Wales' by Hari Williams, Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 1999)

These wooden bungalows are named after Italian wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. He opened a long-distance receiving station on the hill behind the bungalows in 1913.
Eight bungalows were built to accommodate staff who worked at the station. They are identified as "Marconi Bungalows" on the OS map of 1948. All are still lived in. They were made available to local residents after the station closed in 1923.

The station worked in tandem with Marconi's transmitting station at Waunfawr, near Caernarfon. Messages received in Tywyn from the Marconi company's station in New Brunswick, Canada, went to the company's London office by a special wire. From there they were delivered by the company or handed to the Post Office for distribution via telegraph across Britain.

The Welsh stations were important in the First World War and in peacetime. From 1918, they were even communicating with Australia.
Security around the stations was tight during the war, amid fears of German espionage. Edward Chambers, a tourist from Dudley, West Midlands, was taken to court in 1915 for taking a photo of the Tywyn station. He was a magistrate himself ! His case was thrown out. His photo was confiscated and the public were warned not to take pictures in the vicinity. The old photo of the station was taken by the Marconi Company Ltd.

In 1916 there was a shortage of male telegraphists, so Marconi recruited and trained women to work at the company's receiving stations. Nine were employed at Tywyn. This was seen as a revolutionary development at the time, especially as the women worked a 24-hour shift rota.
The building which housed the main receiving equipment is now two houses, east of the bungalows.
The masts and other equipment were removed after closure. Foundations and tracks remain.

To celebrate Marconi's birthday, each April members of Telford & District Amateur Radio Society set up temporary equipment at the site and talk with fellow amateurs in the UK, Australia, Japan and North and South America, including enthusiasts at over a dozen other Marconi station sites.

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Extract from E-mail from Dave G0CER to the TDARS group- (7 Nov. tdars Groups.io—Ed)

" Hopefully you can get chance to visit a shack of someone who volunteers so you can see how it's done. Personally I'm outside Telford at Tern Hill, however someone nearer you or around Telford may offer to show you the UKAC evening. Remember it's a 10:30pm end.

One of the good things I find with monthly contests is they give you a chance to see where your setup will get you - also any improvements/changes you make will show up (or not!) in the next one. The same stations usually enter from the same locations (given some variation in conditions) you get used to who you expect to work so you know if the changes worked....
The UKAC VHF/UHF contests during the week all through the year where you can enter on your own behalf but also link your entry up to the club's name. There are league tables and we're doing very well for a club which *isn't a contest club* " [9th overall 2022—Ed]

Neil G1NMG's Unun to the same design as described by Geoff G(J)4ICD last summer, and being built by some TDARS members as a simple winter project to feed EFHW antennas.

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On-line Discussion and support Groups By John G4IRN

If you are a member of the TDARS e-mail reflector then you enjoying social media of a type used by most clubs these days.

Members might not be aware that there are many amateur radio related organisations on Groups.io, some of which I'm a member of myself. Being a member doesn't mean you will be inundated with emails, you can chose to receive a 'daily digest' or even just access the forum when you want to, either on-line or via the mobile app. Most of the groups have a 'Files' section where photos and documents can be shared among the members.

I thought I'd list some of the ones I'm a member of in case others are interested:

UK HF Contesting
UK HF Contesting Subgroup:
                    Entry Level Contesting
UK VHF Contesting

Chiltern DX Club - the UK HF DX Foundation (club membership required)

CW Ops - an international group aiming to foster CW activity and camaraderie internationally. (club membership required)

DXLab - General purpose Logging software

DXLog - Contest Logging Software, support group

Easy Rotor Control - Support for ERC hardware and software

Elecraft K3(s) Transceivers - Information share on the K3 transceivers

Elecraft KX User Group - Information share on the Elecraft KX transceivers

Flex Radio & Smart SDR - Information exchange on the Flex transceivers, software and
                    integrations

Yaesu FTdx101 - Information exchange on the Yaesu FTdx101 transceiver

Yaesu FTdx101 Contesting - Information exchange on using the FTdx101 for contesting

Yaesu FTdx10 - Information exchange on the Yaesu FTdx10 transceiver

GR2HQ - the RSGB's operating and support team for the annual IARU contest - members welcome.
Groups.io Group Managers' Forum - For groups.io moderators and admins to share and promote ideas.

Icom IC-7300 - Information share on the IC-7300 transceiver
Icom 7610 - Information share on the IC-7610

MMTTY RTTY Software - RTTY software, support group
N1MM+ - Contest Logging Software, support gp

NanoVNA Users - Pocket VNA support group

NodeRed-Ham Radio - Node Red is an 'Internet of Things' technology that can be used to communi-cate with, and control radio equipment.
RSGB Contest Club - For RSGB members with an interest in contesting.

Daily DX - A subscription service providing emailed daily bulletins on current and planned DX operations.

Kenwood TS-890S - Information exchange on the Kenwood TS-890S transceiver
UK and EI Contest Club - Group information
                    exchange.
UK QRM - Radio Interference in the UK - UKQRM is a group formed of Radio Amateurs, Shortwave radio listeners, Citizens' Band radio us-ers, EMC professionals, and like-minded people, who discuss issues of non-EMC-compliance of electronic equipment and the danger posed to the radio spectrum.
Win - FLDigi - Data Modes software, discussion group.
WSJT-X - JT* and FT*data modes software, sup-port group.