

T News Letter

TDARS

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 313

July-Sept. 2023

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- July 12 BBQ at LWVH Field from ~ 8pm. Bring your own beer (if required)
- July 19 Visit to Criggion Radio Station—thanks to Robert GW6GBY (SY5 9BE)
- July 26 Walking Foxhunt: (final) 7:30pm start LWVH. 144.600MHz FM
- August 2 Committee meeting (Webex) + 2m net (144.600 MHz FM) 8pm.
- August 9 HamFest preparation at LWVH: Please volunteer to Martin 2E0TRO
- August 16 “My portable Operating” - Talks by Mark M0XIC and Martyn G3UKV
- August 23 ‘On the ‘Air’ Contact Paul M0PLA on Euro SOTA trip from LW Village Field
- August 30 Telford HamFest — Final meeting for arrangements. Collect items LWVH.
- September 2-3 TELFORD HAMFEST AT HARPER ADAMS UNI. Shared with G-QRP Buildathon, Buffet and Convention (two day event)**
- September 6 Committee Meeting (Webex) + 2 metre ragchew (8pm, 144.6MHz-FM)
- September 13 HamFest de-briefing—LWVH, 8pm
- September 20 ‘The NanoVNA’ - by John M0XJA explains all. LWVH + Webex online
- September 27 ‘The Rig Expert Antenna Analyser’ - by Paul M0PLA (+Webex)
- October 4 Committee Meeting (Webex) + 2 metre ragchew (8pm, 144.6MHz-FM)
- October 11 John G4IRN Presentation. Topic TBA (+ Webex)
- October 18 JOTA (Scout Jamboree on-the-air) Preparation. LWVH.

For Equipment Loans & Returns contact John M0XJA
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

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING HELD NORMALLY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL WITH SOME ONLINE (Webex) STREAMING OF APPROPRIATE PRESENTATIONS: PLEASE CHECK FRONT PAGE LISTING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

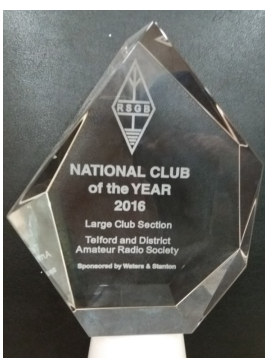
A small update re **visit to Criggion** radio station. Minor correction to the Postcode in the last Newsletter. It is SY5 9BE (thanks Robert)

Results from the **RSGB 50MHz Trophy** have been published. Despite the 3+ hours lost due to the genny problem and its replacement, G3Z came 6th in the Open section with 3.7 million points from 117 QSOs. Simon 'UFE sends 'well done' to all the 6 metre team. On the same theme, TDARS is currently in **9th place overall in the UKAC** series of VHF weekly contests—with several clubs very close above and below on the score table (as of 5th July). 6m 5th// 4m 8th h //2m10th//70cm 8th//23cm 15th and SHF 7th. The series continues until late December. A good place to learn contest skills in a non-pressure environment — and every entrant's scoring QSO counts.

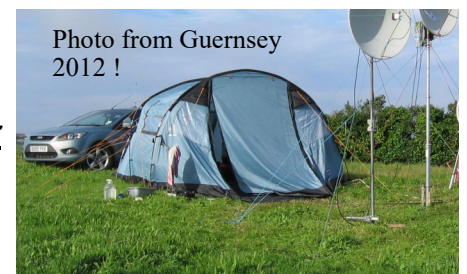
Still with contests in mind:- **TDARS took part in VHF NFD**, despite some tricky station problems this year. A new 5 element 4 metre beam was only made in the days before the event, and several members were not available for various reasons, leaving us short of operators. On **claimed scores** in the relevant Restricted and Low Power sections, G3ZME/P is 3rd on 6m, 1st on 4m, 2nd on 2m and 2nd on 23cm. But of course, these scores have yet to be checked, and some clubs may not have provided a 'claimed score'. More comments & photos to follow (Page 8)



Photos: G7LMF, G3UKV



The Club has operated for scores of years from tents whilst operating portable, from the Outer Hebrides, Northern Ireland down to the Isle of Guernsey. **Two usable tents are available for sale** to a member of tdars. They are a Wynnster Shrike 6 and a Khyam XL Classic. Contact Martyn G3UKV for more details.

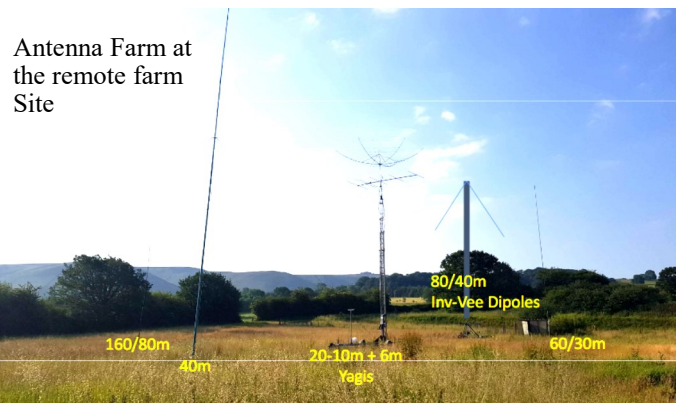
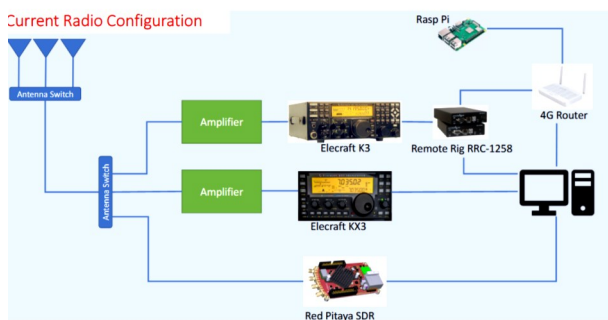


Also 'For Sale' are some unique, attractive "Station LED Plaques" from Paul M0PLA at £16 each, including £1 for TDARS funds.

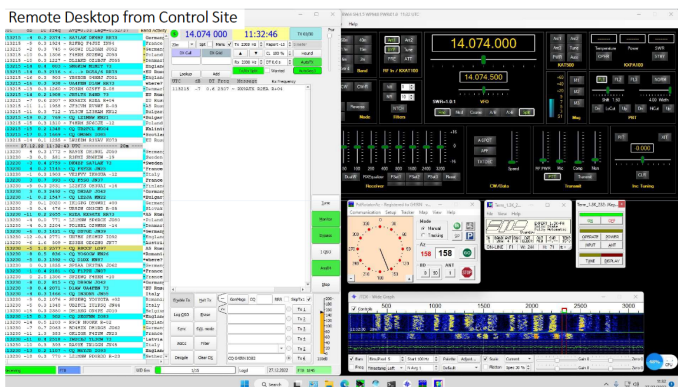


Not forgetting the polo shirts are staying at the same price: £10.99 + vat for shirt with TDARS logo, and £3.50 + vat to add name and call sign. The black baseball caps with the TDARS Logo + your name and call sign is going to be £7.70 + vat. Contact Paul for any orders.

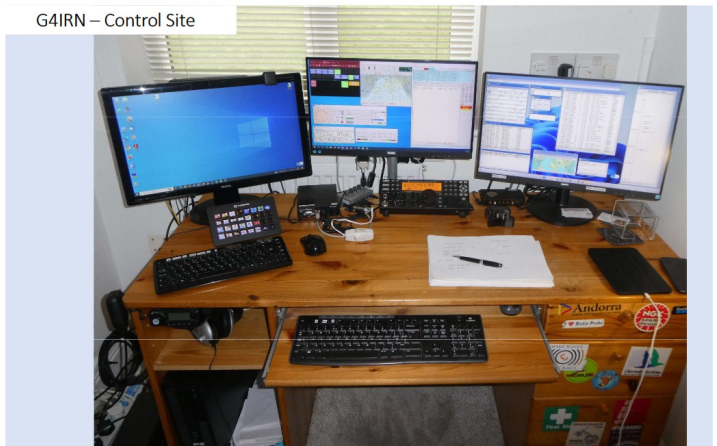
John G4IRN gave an excellent presentation (June 21) describing in detail how he has spent the past two years or more building a Remote Operated Station some distance from his home QTH on rented farmland in south Shropshire. Some slides from John's presentation:-



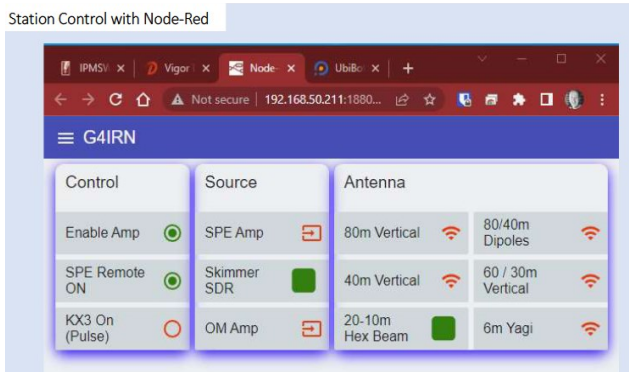
Antenna Farm at the remote farm Site



Remote Desktop from control site (home!)



G4IRN - Control Site



Remote site July 2021



Remote Site Sept. 2021

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

Peter G4URT, John G4IRN, John M0XJA, Paul M0PLA, Jared M7JFJ, Mike G6DFD, Graham G7LMF, Kevin G8UPF, Mick 2E1FQO

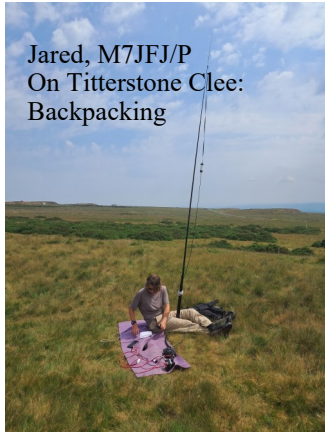
Next edition September / October 2023

Can YOU contribute something?— Results in a better Newsletter !

More /Portable news from John M0XJA:-

“ Myself John (M0XJA) David (M0YDH) and newly qualified Jared(M7JFJ) having a great day operating portable on the Cleve Hills, near Ludlow Shropshire. (Mid June—Ed)

Myself and Jared had an attempt at the Backpackers 2 metre contest despite some technical issues as well as having a good time picking up general FM traffic around about . David (M0YDH) was up on the hill entering the IARU ATV contest with his home constructed equipment shown. Jared picked up several contacts from 50 miles around, including M7 stations taking the hobby seriously, giving excellent reports from afar as Bath ! “ (photos:M0XJA)



Yet another e-mail from John 'XJA—sent to groups.io 6th July:-

“ Firstly thanks to John Cariss G7ACD for organising this for us FOC !!

All invited to "PLAY RADIO" @Eaton Manor Sat 5th August 09:30 ‘til late!
(Postcode SY6 7DH- Ed) Reply to this thread to declare interest!!

What’s on ?? You are on...largely free format bring your gear or stuff you want testing.
Too much QRM/QRN at your QTH ? or just not enough QTH ;-)? try out your HF/VHF/ Microwave ideas here;

Full size (60ft!!) tower available for use as well as a selection of antennas and even a Satellite base station!

Facilities AWESOME!!

Large Car Parking area right next to area

Outdoor Shelter for Radio activities

Indoor area (subject to availability!)

Tea/ Coffee

Self service BBQ (Bring your own grub) “



Whilst on microwave portable G6ZME/P on Brown Cleve (IO82QL) in June,” Kevin G8UPF freehand wrote these lines

“The widespread availability of high-alcohol hand-gel had got me thinking:

BASIC EMERGENCY STOVE —by G8UPF

Take a 200g tin of beans, decant beans for testing finished stove (or for later). Re-cycle lid. Rinse out tin, dry it , remove label, and if necessary file off any rough edges. Drill (or punch with a nail) a ring or two of small holes near the rim, over an arc of about 120-180 deg., and down to about a third of the depth.

In use, face holes away from wind (ideally no wind...). Fill tin to bottom of holes with alcohol gel (70% or higher alcohol). Light stove, use to boil a kettle or small pan (see ‘beans’ above . . .).

Will burn for 10-20 minutes, not very well possibly, sooty; may leave a mushy residuebut it will work.

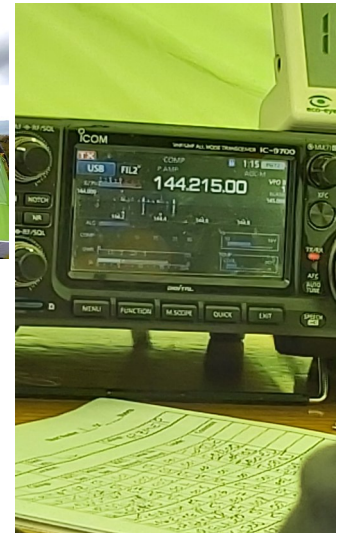
P.S. Stove will also work with meths or solid-fuel tablets. “ 73 Kevin



[Whatever next ?—Ed]

VHF NFD 2/3 July 2023, G3ZME/P — further comments & photos

“ Last year, and now this year, Paul and I made a list of things that can be improved for next time (on the 23cm station). As with many such list of things to do, we did a few of last year's tasks in the first couple of weeks after the contest (2022), forgot about the list for 11 months and then did some more things in the week before this year's contest (2023). As a result we never really tested out the changes we made and, inevitably, some things never got done at all. Consequently on this year's list is a task "do better with the 'to do better' list " —Heather M0HMO



“ Criticism is always welcome. It is a good way to improve. We should always try to improve. “ — Paul G8AQA

“ If you want a decent key, the large ex RAF one I use is the biz. Great big contacts and heavy enough so it won't move about when being used. More to the point, they are easy to adjust and a joy to use. “ — Mike G3JKX

“ Others may disagree, but I would advise anyone setting out to learn CW to do so from the get-go with a twin paddle iambic keyer - if you're serious about CW you'll drop the up/down key when you get to higher speeds, so you might as well learn Iambic CW from the start. As I say, it's a very subjective area. “ — John G4IRN

“ I'll follow and say generally the setup was great, without a parrot (problem parrot on 23cm – Ed) was a bit more challenging but we made do.

For enthusiasm, I'd say maybe having a map of GB/Ireland and putting pins on as contacts come through might be a bit inspiring, and keeps up morale.

Also might be worth working in pairs (good for company), with agreed shifts (e.g. 2h on 2h off) with at least one person proficient in Morse if the need arises, and the pair feel comfortable working the equipment (both PC and radio).” — Jared M7JFJ

“ My real point is that there are station and operating automations that are really easy to implement and learn which are widely used in HF, but rarely adopted in VHF contesting, at least in the UK. Whether you're making 2 Qs/Hr or 250Qs/Hr they are just as appropriate and useful, provide a more user friendly interface than Minos or paper and help increase accuracy and rate. “ — John G4IRN

“ There are some MINOS features that are useful: Partial lookups, either by callsign or locator, Bandscope - shows where stations are that you have already worked, Memories - so you can go back and see if conditions have improved to work a station that you heard calling CQ earlier, Past log lookups, QRZ lookups, Automatic logging of the rig's frequency via CAT control - also stores 2 Run frequencies so you can quickly return to your run frequency after a session of hunt and pouncing, Voice recording - so you can record the entire contest and review any contacts that you think may be incorrectly logged. Rotator control - automatically steering the rotator to the correct location and rotator pre-sets, DX Cluster, KST chat ” — Robin M1MHU

One of the final contributions came from Mick, 2E1FQO:

“ While I appreciate there will always be aspects of an event which could be improved on and reflection is key to improvement, from my experience of this year's VHF NFD there is one factor which doesn't appear to have been discussed in as much detail as “*what I would have done had I been there*” or “*why do we do this when we should be doing that*”..... and that's bums on seats!! Just to clarify, some points raised I feel have been very informative and I've enjoyed reading and learning from the posts in this thread, but the simple fact remains..... without people to operate, log, help set-up and dismantle the station then most of the points raised here are quite irrelevant (in my personal opinion).

So, to try and put a positive comment in the mix during the dissection of this years VHF NFD, rather than seeing so many of the posts bitch and moan about this - that and the other, I'd like to give credit and praise those who were able to give their time to plan, prepare and attend the event to get TDARS on the scoreboard – regardless of the results, the club made the effort to put on a number of great stations and I wholeheartedly enjoyed the weekend – even if I was knackered at the end. “ — Jared 2E1FQO

