

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Issue 319

Programme

Nov - Jan 2025

NOTE: THIS LIST MAY CHANGE AND CHANGES ANNOUNCED VIA TDARS 'GROUPS.IO'

- Nov. 6 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Nov. 13 Surplus Sale—time to reduce your gear and buy more!
- Nov. 20 Operator Participation, a talk by Mark M0XIC
- Nov. 27 Projects and kits, a talk by HansSummer
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- Dec. 4 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Dec. 11 Christmas dinner—7:30pm for 8 at Grazing Cow Lawley.
- Dec. 18 10 minute topics with bring your own mince pies and mulled wine
- Dec. 25 No Meeting
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- Jan. 1 No Meeting
- Jan. 8 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- Jan. 15 Winter Project
- Jan. 22 SOTA Brittany & Europe 2024—Paul M0PLA
- Jan. 29 Under a Fiver competition (Brickworks Activity).

Newsletter Contents

- Editorial, News & Highlights,
- Events, Photos, Contests & Activities
- Tech articles & Useful websites

Tony M0TZM's holiday and portable operations

My recent trip to Calpe in Spain allowed me to operate abroad using the CEPT scheme for the first time. Since getting my full licence in 2022 I've wanted to try operating in a different country and finally got my opportunity. Taking the 5w Yaesu FT-817 with a resonant $\frac{1}{4}$ wave telescopic whip for 20m kept things simple and lightweight. I decided to rely on the radio's internal battery not forgetting to take a suitable charger for it's overnight charging. Oh and a copy of my licence for customs.

Radio time was kept to the mornings (around 7-8am) to avoid the heat and allowed time to get back to the Hotel for breakfast with the family. My call sign was EA5/M0TZM/P. On the first day I operated from some brush/forest area overlooking the sea, but soon regretted it as the flies and mozzies were a nightmare. subsequent days were spent on a bench overlooking the sea. Far more civilised. Listening to the long path VK and ZL come in around this time was great and despite my best efforts my humble 5w didn't allow any serious DX. The contacts did come though and worked into France, Greece, Scotland, Cambridge, Germany, Italy and Guernsey. Logging was done with the HAMRS app.

So what did I learn?

- If your going to Calpe, bring some basic hiking gear as there's a SOTA summit on your doorstep!
- The FT-817 worked really well and proves you can have fun with 5w. I will bring an extra battery next time for extended use.
- The Ali-Express Telescopic whip antenna was excellent and really easy to tune up. I've got the 40m loading coil now and will use next time.
- Bring a basic stool/chair and don't forget the bug spray.



Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

**Tony M0TZM, John M0XJA, Paul G8AQA, Heather M0HMO,
Dave G0CER, Shabaz M7YSZ, Jared 2E0JFJ**

**Deadline for Next edition is October 20th 2024
Contact Dave G0CER on davekh@gmail.com to send contributions**

The RSGB Convention 2024 TDARS members attended and presented!

Once again the RSGB Convention was a grand weekend away at Kents Hill hotel in Milton Keynes on this annual event.

TDARS members involved and visiting. Eric M0KZB promoting Morse training, Mark M0XIC and John M0XJA on the 145 Alive/UKBOTA table and giving a talk on how the project works. John and Mark got interviewed about the 145 Alive by the RSGB and it is online now as part of the RSGB's coverage for the day. Mark 'XIC gave a talk on 145 Alive & UKBOTA to the convention ably supported by John 'XJA.



Paul G8AQA was on the UKuG Microwave stand and Heather M0HMO was one of the speakers in the AMSAT stream of lectures/ Unfortunately Heather's "Getting started in satellites" talk was billed same time as Marks.



The event itself is a great way to meet up people you may chat to and never normally meet. Also to see a range of interesting and enlightening talks, a choice of 5 (inc Amsat stream) at anytime.



Latest 145 Alive event John M0XJA

This took place on the 29th of September, it was busy as usual with over 40 Nets across the UK and Ireland despite the weather forecast.

John Alexander M0XJA ran a net on the Clee hills with Jared Forte 2E0JFJ attending close by. We were trialing a new Sunday format with 3 hours of non-stop Net style operation with 50 QSOs in that period. Jared 2E0JFJ pictured with the mast setup.



NEXT 145-ALIVE
26 JANUARY 2025



Telford Hamfest 2024



Telford Hamfest 2024 in the new main hall at Harper Adams University. Winners of the program draw with Simon G0UFE and John M0JZH







TDARS on Little Wenlock Village field

Members spent a pleasant evening getting a variety of stations running on the LWVH—the weather behaved for once this year. Don't forget if you want to use the field for radio, it's a good big resource but you **must contact Martin 2E0TRO first**—so he can let those who are responsible for it - Martin will confirm if its available for use



Exam Techniques: A Bakers-dozen Tips—Shabaz M7YSZ

Having sat the Foundation Exam and then the Intermediate Exam, I decided it could be worth mentioning what few tips & tricks I've learned so far.

1. Really try to understand things! It's easier to remember stuff if you know what that stuff means. This isn't always possible as a beginner, but worth aiming for.
2. Sometimes it helps to use formulas even though they might not be essential for the exams. For instance, a 6 dB loss can be considered as a 3 dB loss (half) followed by another 3 dB loss, resulting in a quarter of the signal. But you could also just remember it as $10^{-(\text{dB}/10)}$, which would be $10^{-0.6}$ which is 0.25. If you're uncomfortable with maths, that's OK; you'll soon memorize these formulae, and let the calculator do the hard work.
3. I try to find patterns. For instance I remember that 10 W EIRP is equal to 6.1 W ERP, and not vice-versa, by observing that EIRP has four characters whereas ERP only has three characters. 10W is larger than 6.1W, which corresponds to more characters in the abbreviation! Silly, but it works for me.
4. Don't over-do it. Personally, I can only concentrate for up to an hour, and then I might want an hour break. I find I can absorb stuff if I go to sleep thinking over the last few difficult-to-remember items.
5. Definitely use the Exam Secrets book, either on the day before the exam, or (if you like flying by the seat of your pants) on the morning of the exam. Don't underestimate how long it takes to go through the Exam Secrets book; it can take a up most of the day, so plan your exam for late afternoon if possible.
6. Pee freely, pee frequently before the exam, and then stay hydrated throughout! Keep two bottles of water :) If you have butterflies, then eating some chocolate before the exam helps to line the stomach.
7. Get used to your scientific calculator. Personally, I really like the Sharp EL-501T – it has all the best functions, and has old-school Casio calculator operation style where you type the number and then press the function key.
8. During the exam, keep an eye out for trick questions. For some reason, RSGB seem to like such questions. If you've done the Exam Secrets, then you know what I mean, and you'll know the kinds of things to look out for.
9. Definitely make notes as you revise, in a book, not sheets of paper which will be lost. The writing process cements the knowledge in your brain. For the intermediate exam, I wrote about six pages of notes.
10. Use a clipboard to organize your papers. Nothing worse than having to keep sorting out your printouts and scraps of paper during the exam when you should be focussed on the questions and not on the stationary!



11. When writing notes, try summarizing in diagrams or in a few short lines. Split things out if you can. It's easier to remember two list of three items than one list of five! Need to remember Q-codes? Split them up into groups!
12. If you find you're doubting yourself when reviewing your answers, if you were initially confident on a question, and if you have no rational reason to want to change it, then don't second-guess yourself.

Continued over

