

# News Letter

# TDARS

G3ZME  
G6ZME

Newsletter issue 321

May to July 2025

NOTE CHANGES ANNOUNCED VIA TDARS 'GROUPS.IO'

- May. 7 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- May. 14 Foxhunt meetup :30pm Martin 2E0TRO/fox to find
- May. 21 2 meters MGM DXCC or 50yrs of 2m experience finally comes to fruition  
Peter G4URT
- May 24/5 STEM Cosford event— led by John M0XJA
- May. 28 Construction Night GM3SEK units (est 60-90minutes build time)
- 
- June. 4 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- June. 11 QRM reduction / Filtering units Simon G0UFE/ M0XJA
- June. 18 50MHz Trophy weekend preparation
- June. 25 Club BBQ Little Wenlock Village Green lower entrance
- 
- July. 2 Second club Fox hunt 2E0TRO/fox Martin
- July. 9 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- July. 16 Talk by Callum 'DX Commander ' Aerial building on the village field
- July 23 Operator Participation - by Mark M0XIC
- July 30 TDARS on the village field on air

Marconi 2025



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society

# Editorial

## Club AGM and New Committee

The Annual TDARS AGM took place on 26th March where a near full turn-out (including virtual attendance by members over the 'net) when confirmation of accuracy of minutes from 2023 AGM, reports were made to members by officers of the club and then voting took place for committee officers and members.

See later for photos of presentations made at AGM

This year most committee members offered and were voted back into place. A new member was voted into place Charlotte Wood.

One retirement was John M0JZH who was replaced by Tony M0TZM as Vice-Chair of TDARS.



## A Thank-you to John M0JZH

John has been a member of the committee for many years and very pro-active and in various work roles made excellent use of his contacts and skills. John served as Secretary from 2014 and became Vice-Secretary in 2024.

John's abilities were important to the club with the change of venue of the Hamfest to the Harper Adams University—John was working in the University and was able to communicate what the club needed and smooth the way to the success the Hamfest is.

John said he wants to concentrate on being an ordinary radio amateur and more time to enjoy radio.

John is assisting with the contacts and skills he has to help this years Hamfest organisation.

**Thanks again John - pictured here with Simon G0UFE Chair of TDARS at 2024 Hamfest**



## 2025 to 2026 Committee

**G0UFE** - Simon Bird – Chairman

**M0TZM** - Tony Menzies – Vice Chairman

**G7LMF** - Graham Cowan – Secretary

**M0PLA** - Paul Athersmith – Treasurer

**M0TBQ** - Don Nicholls – Curator

**2E0TRO** - Martin Tromans – LWWH Liaison

**M0XJA** - John Alexander - Training

**G0CER** - Dave Harris - Newsletter, web & PR

**G8AQA** - Paul Nickalls

**M0XIC** - Mark Savage

**G6UDX** - Brian Oldford

Charlotte Wood

**For committee contacts please go via secretary Graham G7LFM on [secretary@tdars.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tdars.org.uk)**

## Notes from the 2025 AGM

Following a report from treasurer Paul M0PLA the members present voted unanimously to increase membership fees for this year.

Paul also reported he has been in contact with the HMRC tax authorities and we are not libel for corporation tax, we have a period now where we will need to report back to them in case of any change which may affect this - although highly unlikely but we need to keep an eye on finances.

**Contact Graham G7LMF if you have any particular questions about the AGM—it will be a year until this occurs again.**

# 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 is required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly**

## **Congratulations to Paul M0PLA**

TDARS congratulates Paul M0PLA who passed the RSGB 18-20 Words per minute Morse Competency test at Shrewsbury club meeting on Thursday 2nd May. The evening was a talk on the history of and demonstration of Morse keys. The test was given by Eric Arkinstall M0KZB TDARS member and ex-Chair in his position as Morse Competency Project Lead at the RSGB.



## **TDARS Training for using club gear**

A reminder from Don M0TBQ for members to use the Tiger App to access lists of the equipment TDARS has bought over the years, reserve it and make use of for limited time. The clubs equipment value is up to thousands pounds value. So in the future we need to make sure members are able to use it safely. Soon Don will be providing training to suit the members knowledge and going through basic practical knowledge before equipment can be taken and used.



## **Recent equipment donation to the club by Arthur Graves**

The club has had a donation of equipment, quite a notable set of gear from Arthur Graves G1KRU from Edgmond. The club sends a big thank you to Arthur, who no longer uses the gear due to poor health although is still able to keep in contact with other licenced friends via internet amateur radio applications. Some years ago George made another donation which still is part of the TDARS library.

### **The gear includes 3 complete stations;**

- A portable setup FT817 transceiver (HF&50Mhz), LDG low power ATU, SOTAbeams antennas and a Superpod portable antenna.
- A homebase setup—An Icom IC-736 multimode mains powered base station HF & 50MHz (100w) and SX-200 SWR/Power meter.
- A deluxe boxed Wouxun dual-band handheld, model KG-UV9D(plus).

### ***Important.***

***All of the above are available for loan to paid-up members please contact Don M0TBQ if you are interested in using any of them—Don may need to give some information and training in the correct use of any club equipment.***



# *Qtc: News & Information 2*

## **Charlotte's report on SOTA on Clee hill with Paul M0PLA**

*"Me and Paul M0PLA went up to Titterstone Hill on Clee hill to do some SOTA.*

*I've never done this before so was an amazing experience even though was very windy up there and kind of cold but it was seriously the best experience of my life as most of you know I'm doing this in memory of my late grandfather.*

*I was shown what to do and set up a SOTA antenna and when operating to get people coming back and confirming that they can hear us from all over was just phenomenal.*

*I would like this experience to encourage young people like myself to get into the hobby and also meet like minded people and it's a change of scenery.*

*I would also like to give a huge thank you to Paul M0PLA for this opportunity and inviting me with you brilliant day! "*



## **"Worked All Greggs" A first in Telford and the world?**

We can get too serious at times in our hobby but members decided to have some fun and invented "Worked All Greggs" possibly a first WAG? A Thursday morning they got mobile.

They all starting at the Donnington Clock tower Greggs and were trying to visit all 16 Telford area Greggs, also working 5 stations from each one.

John M0XJA, Heather M0HMO, Scott M7WUK, Mick M1CKD all drove around and had a lot of fun and laughs and some products were consumed too.

**One wonders if worked all gyms might be the next activity—foot portable of course.**



## **TDARS Membership**

**A reminder that membership was due, please contact Paul M0PLA to pay and please, preference is for bank transfer - Paul will provide details Cost £30 annually (£25 non-earners)**

## **TDARS Social media—a reminder**

TDARS members can access **Whatsapp** for general chat and DX spotting. It is immediate especially when information needs to be spread quickly  
**<<<<<<< Look for *TDARS General* and *TDARS Spots and Alerts***  
The club also uses Facebook look for **Telfordhams >>>>>>**



# Qtc: News & Information 3

## ANNOUNCING - THE G3UKV UKAC AWARD In memory of Martyn Vincent G3UKV

This award is presented to the club member with the highest score in the UKAC competitions and is the combined total points achieved on the 2 Meters and 70 Centimetre bands in the UKAC contests.

### The Rules

- 1 This award is called the **G3UKV UKAC Award**
- 2 This competition runs between January and December each year
- 3 This competition is for TDARS members only
- 4 Only two bands can be used. 2 Meters and 70 Centimeters
- 5 Modes FM, SSB and CW
- 6 Members can enter either the **OPEN, RESTRICTED or LOW POWER** section. See UKAC rules,
- 7 The winner will be the member with the highest number of points at the end of the year
- 8 Members points will be taken from the results issued by the RSGB contest committee
- 9 This award will be given to the winner at the AGM to hold for one year



### Learn tech stuff—latest activities

The Saturday morning group practical sessions at Paul M0PLA's factory unit ABC Security continue. Recently John M0XJA led building, the **Youtube 'Soldersmoke'** channel inspired direct conversion receiver. This is being built as modules over the coming weeks. The aim is to learn construction skills, electronics testing and calibration of the radio receiver.

Following a test Martin and John experimented on another project the GM3SEK filter box looking for possible heat sources when the filter used.

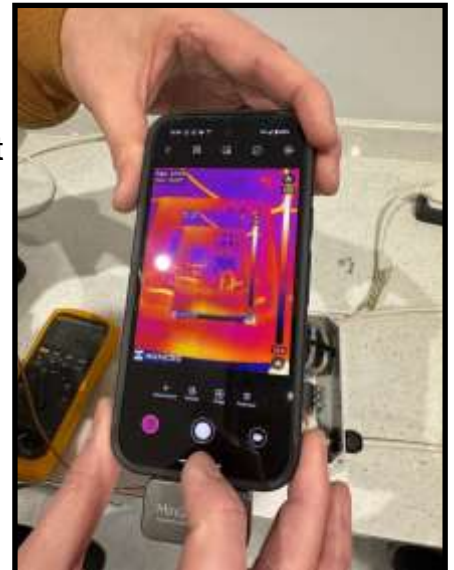
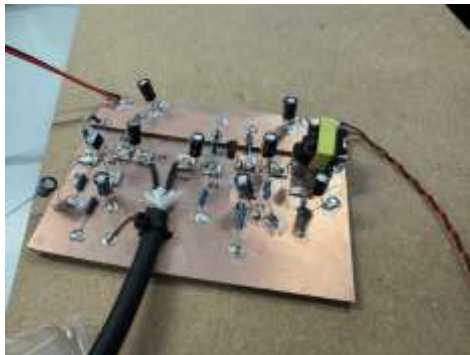
This project is connected to the mains supply to the shack and then on to feed all mains radios, psus or other tech.

Very much a *fit and forget project*.

These are part of the toolset to reduce noise in your shack. Filters on aerials are good but if noise is coming in via the mains you need to filter it out. Around 8 to 10 member took part and are continuing to learn more and more practical.

In discussion a point was brought up was heat generated by currents flowing through the windings on the chokes so John brought along his heat based camera to see where heat was generated while the filter is in-line power.

Advice was taken from Ian GM3SEK who is the source of this project and a lot of knowledge about reducing QRM in the shack.



### TDARS Marconi day—a superb success

One of the key events for TDARS members is the Marconi day at the Marconi bungalows on the Welsh coast . The club has had a variety of experiences but this one has to go down in history as one which nature, good planning and organisation to give everyone there a good time.

Mike M1CKD and Tony M0TZM took on the task supported and advised by Simon G0UFE and John M0JZH.

They set about making a completely joined-up and efficient event. Nothing was left to chance. Planning was well-ahead of the day.

New for 2025 was the use of N1MM logging software, allowing new or experienced operators to customise what information was available to them. Networked stations allowed real-time sharing of frequency in use and instant messaging between tents

Making exceedingly good contacts



John M0XJAs vertical



### Members brought along some wire to air!

A washing line ainer antenna was demonstrated adorned with questionable draws! The antenna had enough wire to tune on HF. Albeit limited—the stealthiness and humour added to the activities of the day—which was not just informing the world about Marconis' receiving station .

**The Tywyn Marconi Experience – from a Newcomer's Perspective. John Carver – M7JCZ**

*“Having passed my Amateur Radio Foundation licence in December 2024, I found myself gripped by both excitement and nerves. The idea of calling CQ on the HF bands was daunting. I had spent time listening to fast-paced European operators rattling off callsigns, exchanging reports, and logging contacts with very fast speed. It all seemed a bit beyond me.*

*Despite buying myself with a hands-free headset and a foot pedal control, I was still very hesitant. The fear of not keeping up, of fumbling the logging or freezing up on air, kept me firmly in the background. That all changed at the TDARS Tywyn Marconi event in April 2025.*

*Initially, I even declined a kind offer to get involved, retreating into the comfort of being a watcher. But it was thanks to Tony, MOTZM, that I finally took the plunge. His encouragement on the day helped push me past the nerves and onto the microphone.*

*I started calling CQ on 20 metres, and that was it. I was hooked. I wasn't the fastest at logging contacts, and I made the odd slip here and there, but none of that mattered. The thrill of making contacts using a special callsign, the excitement of hearing a reply, and even the moment when I had a mini pile-up, what an experience!*

*For a newcomer to the hobby, the Tywyn event was nothing short of amazing. It gave me the confidence I needed to start calling CQ on HF from home.*

*And one thing's for sure, I will be at the Marconi event next year. With any luck, my wife and I will have our little motorhome by then, and I would love to stay overnight and soak up the fullest experience. 73s and see you on the air.”* **John Carver – M7JCZ**

**Results are in.....  
Drum roll, please.. 1,202 qso's!!!**

*\*Breakdown\**

**QO-100**

50 (4x cw, 46x ssb)

FT8 = 61, SSB = 1,091

**40m**

116 qso's all SSB.

**Best DX = Virgin Islands  
6,434km**

**20m**

838 qso's. 838 ssb.

Best DX = New Zealand 18,228km

15m x 114 qso's. (63 ssb. 51 FT8).

**Best DX = Australia 16,438km**

**10m**

84 qso's. (74 ssb. 10 FT8).

**Best DX = Indonesia 12,215km**

**Best DX FT8 = Brazil, 10m, 9,431km**

**Best DX QO-100 = Brazil**

**Best DX SSB = New Zealand, 20m,  
18,228km**

**Best DX = Indonesia 12,215km**



**Marconi day 2025 Paul M0PNN sums it all up**

**What an incredible weekend!**

*A club is only as strong as its members-and this weekend, that strength was on full display. Huge thanks to everyone who came along. For those who couldn't make it, you truly missed a brilliantly organised celebration of Amateur Radio.*

*From Tony's legendary burgers to Jez's rock-solid internet connection, the event ran like clockwork. A special shout-out to Mick for his use of N1MM to showcase each station's log and real-time contacts on a world map via the big screen. It was a real game changer, especially for engaging the public.*

*Throughout the day, we had simultaneous activity on 40m, 20m, QO-100 SSB, and FT8 on 10m thanks to John-and even a touch of CW on QO-100. The QSO count isn't in just yet, but let's just say. it's going to be impressive.*

*Not to repeater myself, but a massive thanks again to Tony and Mick-and to everyone else who made this such a memorable event. See you all next year! Cheers, **Paul M0PNN***



## April 12 2025 members 145-Alive activities



Mark M0XIC running a 145-Alive net from Dudley club QTH



### Lily 2E0HPS report on 145-Alive from The Bog Minsterley

*It isn't always the case that everything goes to plan in life, and that is surely also true in amateur radio. We can prepare as much as possible before an outing, and yet sometimes things just work against us. Sometimes, the joy of the hobby is making a day out of trying!*

*This was certainly the case for myself and my friend Eden (who I am trying to persuade to pursue a license!) when we went out to host a net for 145 Alive. We departed for the Bog early to get everything set up and make sure we were ready to manage a sizable net. [Photo above-right]*

*We waited, the clock struck 12:00, and we put a call out. And another. And another. One very very weak and unreadable response came in (we couldn't even make out a callsign) and that was it. We spent the next three hours alternating between putting out calls and checking equipment – as far as we could tell there were no equipment issues at all!*

*Despite this, we made a day of it – it was nice to be out in nature, we brought a camping stove and made burgers, and on the drive back we found a much more suitable transmitting location (typically), so 145-Alive see you next time!*

### 145 Alive certificates of appreciation to net controllers

Each of the nets across the country needs someone to run them, organise a station on top of a location suitable for the area they're representing and get there early to run it. Also to fend off impatient operators who can't hear the others calling them at the same time.

Map of April's 145-Alive



**The next 145-Alive is on 20 July 2025 Contact Mark M0XIC**

## 10 Minute Talks

In April some Members came forward to give 10 minute talks for an evening meeting. These were on a subject they were interested in. The meeting was drawn in everyone's concentration and it useful and interesting information when what new or a reminder to many

**Paul M0PNN** gave a talk on club QSL cards, his work on TDARS cards and logs.

**Martin M0YFO** Described how corrosion is something important to consider, he gave the club the benefit of his experience and skills gained from the forces.

**Brian G8UDX** gave a talk on valve biasing and development including similar bias techniques in FETs.

**Mike M1CKD** introduced the club members to the interface of N1MM+ logger that was going to be used at the upcoming Marconi day event.

**Dave G8VZT** talked about making a noise generator, a very simple build and a variety of uses. Examples were using the generated fixed signal across broadband of frequencies enabling accurate tuning up of a circuit you are building, peaking up the filtering or gain of an amplifier circuit.

**The evening ended with a buzz in the room that happens when people have learned or were inspired by something.**



G3YA

19, JOHNSTONE ROAD, NEWENT, GLOUCESTER  
(QRA Locator YL08 F. W.A.B. REC.S)

TO RADIO	DATE	GMT	MO	DAY	HR
G3VZ1/A	4. 3. 73	1536	1654		

RSARS 665

F7101  
 GEAR: SOMMERKAMP +7076  
 FLETSOFTX FL1000 LIN  
 FR8800/RX  
 T.W. COMMUNICATOR  
 AERIAL 4-1000 H at 15ft

ANTHONY R. STELLMAN

## Analysing logs using AI using NotebookLM - a starter by Dave G0CER

I've played with AI on home computers, I got it to compare two Yaesu transceiver manuals to tell me which was the highest RF output from the text. It was clunky I wanted simpler and less steps to find things out. This tool uses AI, hopefully you will see potential in it (contest logs, RADCAM reviews, etc). ChatGPT might be preferred but this is something that need very little introduction to get useful answers straight away. **Let me know if you think of something else or other use.**

**NotebookLM** - a Google application. Go to <https://notebooklm.google.com/>

**Example 1 Using ADIF file of my contacts 2009 to date I was interested in analysing to find out things about contacts. Refer to image below**

**First think of the question but it will give a wide scope of answers in extra documents.**

- You feed it with relevant information ('sources') from files eg. PDF, text, Youtube videos, audio files and files uploaded into it or your google drive. Mine was simple single document but you can give it up to 50!
- **Click arrow to send question.** Answers are in middle, on right are addition files it makes and right top are extra tools The greyed parts of the answer are links direct to source document (s) so you can check the it's working-out.

I uploaded a 4.4Mb ADIF file, it recognised file type (!) and my question "What frequency bands and modes are most frequently used for contacts?"

**To use it, you will need a Google log in** (remember its your information on others computers). There is much more to this - I recommend viewing <https://youtu.be/E0mqC3-hznM?si=TIBSiFj0M0wwJIVB>

**AI's can lie to you—it's called hallucinations, keep this in mind.**

**[Making AI be less creative will give you more true answers. Check it's workings.]**

**NOTE: You can upload and generate a Podcast style audio file - quite amusing to listen to it.**

**My example 2**

<https://notebooklm.google.com/>  
Click "+Create new"

- Add your source(s) - uploading, Youtube videos, pdfs, URLs, text etc
- Look in chat box (lower middle)
- Ask the question

**Worked second example**

- I uploaded a railway magazine PDF
- I asked it to tell me about all the workings of a particular class of locomotive recorded in the PDF

**A few minutes later - It did**

**For fun I clicked the button to make an audio discussion - give it a listen, quite something considering its extracted from many pages of text with the information spread all over the magazine.**

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/2adacbb6-7a32-4c58-98a1-f091f31e259f/audio>

The screenshot shows the NotebookLM interface. The chat box contains the question: "What frequency bands and modes are most frequently used for contacts?". The AI response provides a detailed analysis based on the provided sources, listing the most frequently observed frequency bands and modes. The right sidebar shows the "Studio" section with an "Audio Overview" and "Notes" section.

**There is not enough room to give this true introduction—check Youtube for much more info.**

# Q&K: Worthwhile Interruptions

<https://fieldspotter.radio/> A great website that cumulates shows active spots from many programs. Can be customised to suit your interest—just need to have internet access. Good on phones!

## Late News!

**Dave G8VZT** kindly offered a complete 10GHz roaming system for members to try out and learn operating on 10GHZ

**Paul M0PNN** has offered to give training on using it. If you are interested contact Paul at a meeting. **NOTE:10GHz ops needed for contests**

## Dates coming up

CQ WW WPX CW Contest 24/25 May  
[Eric M0KZB RSGB Youtube talk on Morse June 2 8pm local on Youtube click this link](#)  
RSGB 50MHz Trophy Contest 21/26 June  
RSGB IOTA Contest 26/27 July  
BATC Convention August 3  
Rugby Rally (RATS) August 10

**The Humber Fortress DX ARC proudly supports the Men's Health week advocating for men's mental health awareness on a global scale.**

We will be operational from Our headquarters at The Mill House, Patrington Haven Nr Hull HU12 0PS during the weekends;

- May 17th-18th-19th
- June 14th -15th -16th

We will use special callsign **GB0MMH** across all HF bands using SSB and FT8/4 operation.

We are also joined by some well-known UK operators and also youtube content makers. They are very kindly helping us spread this very important message around the globe and are using various GB#MMH callsigns as per the table.

**STRONG SIGNALS STRONGER MINDS**  
MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

Tune in for awareness  
Speak out for strength  
Join us on air to support:  
**MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**  
Amateur Radio Stations operating over two weekends: May 17-18 & June 21-22  
Operating are:  
HFDKARC - GB0MMH    Darren (M0DCX) - GB1MMH  
Jerry (M5JB) - GB2MMH    Pete (G0WXX) - GB3MMH  
Stu (G5STU) - GB4MMH    Reb (M0KPD) - GB6MMH  
Troy (G7LHK) - GB8MMH    Bob (M0RWL) - GB9MMH

**LET'S BREAK THE SILENCE - ONE TRANSMISSION AT A TIME!**

## Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

**Graham G7LFM, Tony M0TZM, John M0XJA, Lily 2E0HPS, Mike M1CKD  
Simon G0UFE, John M7J CZ, Dave G0CER, Mark M0XIC, Charlotte, Paul M0PNN**

**Deadline for next edition is 18 July 2025  
Contact Dave G0CER on [davekh@gmail.com](mailto:davekh@gmail.com) to send contributions**



Oct '75

Oct '75

TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.. G3ZME

Contributions to M. Vincent, 9 Sleaford, Long Lane, Telford. Salop.

EDITORIAL

Several years back, our Chairman, Mike, mooted the notion of sections within the Club; it sounded a good idea:- plans were laid, sections and leaders were decided; there was one for G3ZME on the Air, another for New Members, another for Portable etc. etc.

A year later, the Sections were reviewed, and each had met with varying degrees of success. That was about 18 months ago, and since that time they seem to have been forgotten. Perhaps it sounded good in theory but did not work in practice? - or was it the fault of the leaders? - or lack of support from Members? - or lack of precise goals? - poor premises (then)? -

Another way of looking at it might be to suggest that the sections succeeded, but not in the way anticipated. We DID get G3ZME on the air; We HAVE been portable regularly since 1972; We ARE building the latest Club Project; New Members CONTINUE to be attracted, and so on.. It was interesting to note that at a recent meeting, Members crammed into the Black Hole of Calcutta - sorry Aled, the Amateur Radio Operating Room - but then split up into three smaller groups: one for RAE instruction, the second to discuss the circuit of the Club Project, and the third to operate G3ZME on 2m. - plus of course, the hard core of veteran natterers! each group had a room to itself (I almost said quiet room, but thought better of it), and we hope everyone was satisfied. There was even a sprinkling of the fairer sex (not connected with the Club, alas) which some enthusiastic SWLs wanted to enrol (were they too bashful?) Perhaps they really intended to defect to the girls' woodworking class - shapely carvings, and all that.

Sections are not dead, just metamorphosised.

MIV

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

(Club meetings marked \*\*)

- \*\* 22 October "C.W. as she is spoke" Martyn, G3UKV
- \*\* 29 October "Colour Television", Part 2. Pat, G4AGA
- \*\* 5 November Natternight, G3ZME on the Air.
- \*\* 12 November Outside speaker, on SSB probably. (Provisionally)
- \*\* 19 November Junk Box Swap night. A new idea - bring along Your junk, and take home another lot!!
- \*\* 26 November R.A.E. round up. Work through past papers; revision.
- \*\* 3 December Natternight, G3ZME on the Air.
- \*\* 17 December Club Social. Venue etc. next month.
- \*\* 24 December No formal meeting. Pub crawl?

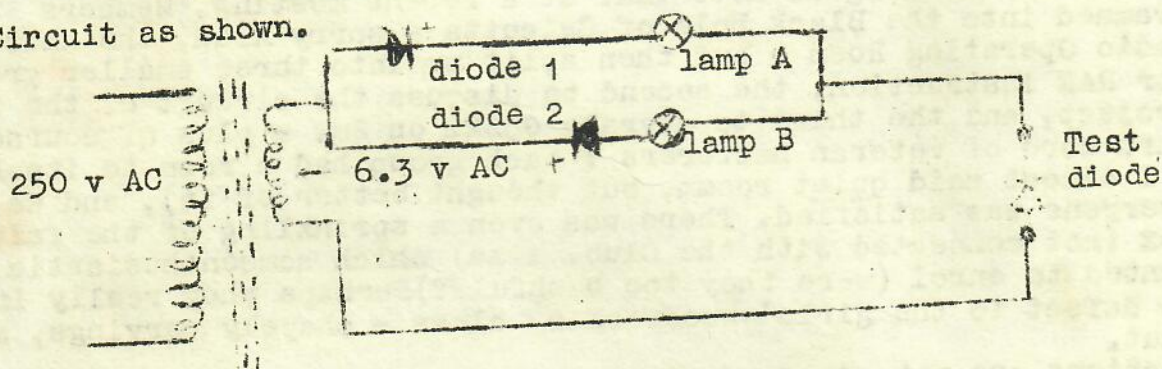
OTHER DATES

October 18-19 7 Mhz CW contest. 1800 Sat - 1800 Sun.  
 October 25-26 CQ World Wide DX contest. 0000Sat - 2400 Sun.  
 1.8 - 30 MHz. (UK in Zone 14)  
 October 26 70 MHz fixed station contest. 0900 - 1500 GMT.  
 October 30, 31 & November 1 Trade exhibition, Granby Halls, Leicester.  
 Thurs, Fri: noon-8 pm.  
 Sat: 10 am - 6 pm. 30p. admission.  
 Seats available in Members' cars - apply at Club.  
 November 1-2 144 MHz ~~fixed~~ station contest - CW. 2000 Sat - 0100 Sun  
 November 1-2 7 MHz 'phone contest. 1800 Sat- 1800 Sun.  
 November 8-9 1.8 MHz CW contest. 2100 sat - 0300 Sun.  
 November 16 432 MHz open contest. 1000-1800 GMT.

Quote of the month, from John 'AXZ, when asked in the Club quiz what an OC71 is:  
 "They're used as confetti for weddings now, aren't they ? "

SIMPLE DIODE TESTER. George Harper.

Circuit as shown.



If lamp A or B light, the diode is serviceable.  
 If both light, the diode is short circuit.  
 If neither light, the diode is open circuit.

This is a novel variation on testing diodes, compared to the conventional use of an ohms' meter.

CLUB PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT.

At the October 8 meeting, Adrian '8FSV brought along the complete 28-30 MHz receiver, and plugged in his 2m converter. Although the club antenna proved to be open circuit cunningly, signals could be resolved comfortably. The previous week, those members building the receiver, and present (!), were shown the complete circuit. However, there's nothing like the real MdCoy. The demonstration ~~xxx~~ proved the electrical, and electro-mechanical stability of the unit beyond doubt - although retuning did prove to be necessary when the case was thumped sufficiently hard. (the brute). All mode operation was excellent, with the squelch unit being used in the FM mode - something that seems to make the mode a little bit more civilised. (only a bit, mind you) (continued, page 5)

ALL BAND RECEPTION REPORT. Norman, A8819

(Not strictly Amateur Radio throughout, but certainly a 'different' report - Ed.)

Contributors to the report: Mark A8550, Dave Harris (the quieter of the two &), Derek Norry, Norman A8819.

## Medium Wave:-

Pennine Radio (Bradford). Started broadcasts on 1277 KHz (235metres), using a power of 300 watts, and on VHF 96.0 MHz with 500 watts.

Victory Radio (Portsmouth). They are testing from 0700-1700 on 1169 KHz (257 m) at a power of 800 watts and on VHF 95.0 MHz at 300 watts.

Beacon Broadcasting (Wolverhampton). Record Mirror & Disc have reported that Beacon will be broadcasting on 557 KHz (539 m) with 500 watts and on 97.2 MHz using 1KW.

Radio Orwell (Ipswich) has been testing on 1169 KHz, 998 KHz and on 1340 KHz (228m). The advertised frequency was 1169 KHz but because of Mi Amigo (Radio Caroline) another frequency is being found.

On Thursday (26/9/75), after 0000 GMT, several USA and Canadian stations were noted:-

CJON	on 930 KHz	(10 KW)
CJCH	on 920 "	"
CKEG	on 1290 "	"
WHAM	on 1180 "	(50 KW)
WCAU	on 1210 "	"
WBNS	on 1190 "	(10 KW)
WNEW	on 1130 "	(50 KW)
CBI	on 1140 "	(10 KW)
WHW	on 1050 "	?
WBZ	on 1130 "	(50 KW)
WBU	on 1110 "	(10 KW)

The "Peace Ship" has started transmission on the 1/8/75 on 1540 KHz (195 m); they broadcast from 0300-2300 GMT; they are 5 miles off Tel Aviv.

The Dutch Radio Veronica closed on the 31/8/75 because of the Marine Offences Act; they have been given permission to transmit from Hilversum for 3 hours a week from 1/1/76, and 1 hour TV.

## Short Wave (broadcast bands)

13 metre band: R. South Africa.  
BBC World Service  
Radio Nederlands  
Paris calling Africa

19 metre band: Radio Budapest  
BBC World Service  
HCJB Voice of the Andes

25 metre band: WYER

31 metre band: Voice of Iran  
SBC - Switzerland

41 metre band: Radio Tirrana

49 metre band: Radio Sweden  
BBC World Service.

(Cor, not a R. Moscow or Peking among the lot - very selective receivers in use. Ed)

## Amateur Bands

- 10 metres: Very poor, no DX. Only station logged PA0CAUL.
- 15 metres: Some very interesting openings on the band. Stations logged OZ3AD, DF2FM, DL9DY, DK6FA, DM5YJO, 8P6FP, OK1AMP, DL2HP, I2KGV, LA1BR.
- 20 metres: Very good DX around this month. 6W8DY (Senegal), 5L2FJ (Liberia), ZP5NA (Paraguay), 9H1DY (Malta), XJ3DDI (?), CN8LP (Morocco), ET3AY (Ethiopia), 9J2V (Zambia), ZB2CD (Gibraltar)
- 40 metres: Would be grateful for any reports for this band.
- 80 metres: Not been very interesting, but noted were: EA3JE, EI2CR, DK1WT, PA0GMW, GI3USK, UA9CBC, EI0CL
- 160 metres: Would appreciate reports for this band.
- 2 metres: Very good during the month. Stations logged on this band during opening 7-9 October GM8BDX, GD8KQF, GC8CEY (Jersey), ON5IW, DC8KT, DJ2KR, F2YY, F1CCP.

Reports for November Newsletter by early November please, to Norman Hartford, A0019., 178, Westbourne, Woodside, Telford, or by hand.

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RAE INSTRUCTION

October: Part 2, Section 7. Low power transmitters. Oscillator circuits, use of quartz crystals to control oscillators, frequency multipliers, power amplifiers; methods of keying transmitters; methods of modulation & types of transmission in current use including SSB and FM.

November: Part 2, Section 10. Measurements. Measurement of frequency, Operation of simple frequency meters, (including Xtal controlled types). Use of verniers & other interpolation methods. Dummy loads & their use in lining up transmitters; Method of measuring power input to the final stage(s) of a transmitter. Measurement of current & voltage at audio & radio frequencies. Use of Cathode ray oscilloscope for the examination & measurement of waveform.

Part 1, Section 1. Licensing conditions. Type of licence available & qualifications required of holders. Conditions, (terms, provisions & limitations) laid down by the Home Office in the Amateur (sound) licence A, including the notes appended & the schedule of classes of emissions & frequency bands.

If this work is covered, and all previous sections of previous months, you can't HELP but pass & These 3 sections complete the syllabus, with the December RAE in mind. The date of the Exam is Monday 1st. December. October 22 is the final date for entrants.

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OTHER NOTES

Wolverhampton A.R.S. have established a Raynet group (RAEN, radio Amateur Emergency Network). Group Controller is Peter G3UBX, and 144.18 MHz has been adopted as Group channel for net exercises, etc. Manuals (cost 20p), registration forms, and identity cards are available from G3UBX; one presumes Telford Hams & SWLs could join their group, as it is the nearest group to us.

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HERE AND THERE: LOCAL NATTERCENTRE.

Heard on the Air - Decca is giving up manufacturing KW Amateur Radio equipment. The G station saying this on 80m. claimed to have visited the Dartford factory recently, where he gathered this info. As it wasn't April, one assumes the story is valid, despite continuing ads. in Radcomm this month. A sad case, but predicted by several 'locals' the same month Decca took over KW electronics. One can only guess at the motivation behind the original purchase a couple of years ago. - perhaps their Dartford factory looked a useful place with other Decca projects in mind? - or just a victim of inflation and Jap. imports?

The new Club Net frequency is 145.190 MHz. In fairness to anyone who may not think this a wise move, it was based on a number of factors, and is the frequency preferred by the active participants in the net:- minimum mods to members' gear: close to well established 'ZME frequency. If the new Band plan had been strictly adhered to, we might face change at any time (it's been changed twice in the last couple of years). Purchasing new Xtals would not automatically ensure any better netting than hitherto.; considerable expense was involved for those with 12 or 24 MHz rocks. However, no sooner had this been decided, after months of dithering, than Dave GM3YEW, our old friend near Perth, dropped a handful of crystals in to Alan, G3WFX, which would come out around 145.33 - smack in the new allocation. So, rather than waste Dave's kind donation, this new frequency will be a "Secondary" channel - perhaps to use if the band-plan changes again, or if the existing net becomes oversized, ~~of~~ (sub-groups during the net). Meanwhile, the new frequency is QRM free to all Members - and it is now worth kitting out that mobile rig with the appropriate crystals. Tuning around the freq. still takes place, untill about 9.3

The Club 70 cm aerial is now aloft, with a SSM 70cm to 2 metre conv. at the bottom of the coax. At present, the GB3SC (Sutton Coldfield) beacon is barely audible at Dawley - so clearly something is amiss! Antennas now include 22el on 70cms, 8 el. on 2m., rotatable trap dipole for 10/15/20 metres, W3DZZ trap dipole for HF bands.

G3ZME/P was not activated for VHF field day. However, not everyone sat at home. Mike G8CMU, Mark A8550 and others from WOLV/Shifnal areas went up Redhill for the duration, and were rewarded with 328 QSOs with Liner 2s and crossed 10 el yagis to help. A multibeam was used on 70cms too.

G8AX/P and G3MWQ/P activated 2 and 4 metres, from Maddock's Hill, near the Wrekin. (920' ASL before the quarrymen got there!). Pete G4AUY and Martyn '3UKV were present some of the time. Some 95 stations were raised on 2m. in about 8 hrs., & 35 on 4 metres.

Those going for the December RAE are reminded entries are due in this month. The Walker Tech. will almost certainly arrange for the exam to be taken there - give them a ring.

Most Members noted our improved score & placing this year in HF field day. (bearing in mind our single band entry). This time we scored 713. Top 14 MHz score was 930, which was one of 7 stations scoring higher than us. Conditions, though poor, favoured a high scoring rate; albeit, we had nearly 100 more QSOs than in 1974.

Going to the exhibition in Leicester? share costs - have a lift, (or give a lift). Ask around at the Club.