

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

Issue 325

May to July 2026

- May 6 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- May 7 TDARS Operating Forum (Webex)
- May 13 Foxhunt no. 1
- May 20 Chairman's question time
- May 27 Portable on Little Wenlock village field

- June 3 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- June 4 TDARS Operating Forum (Webex)
- June 10 Foxhunt no.2
- June 17 BBQ indoor at Little Wenlock Village Hall.
- June 24 Criggion visit, John M0XJA for info.

- July 1 Committee Meeting & Hamfest 7.30pm (Webex) + 2m ragchew 7:30pm
- July 2 TDARS Operating Forum (Webex)
- July 8 Foxhunt no.3
- July 15 Callum DX Commander event TBC
- July 22 M0TZM talk on operating abroad (may be swapped with above)
- July 29 Portable operations on Little Wenlock village field.



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society

Meetings are at Little Wenlock Village Hall, Wednesdays 7:30pm for 8 start.

See <http://www.tdars.org.uk> or @telfordhams on Facebook

Join in the FM club net on 144.6^(+/- qrm) 8pm Sunday evenings

Editorial

TDARS Committee changes for 2026-7

On March 25 the annual AGM took place and we had some changes, votes were taken on members volunteering for responsible positions.

Firstly a huge thanks to the out-going secretary, **Graham G7LFM** who decided to retire from the role after many years of faithful service to TDARS. Graham made sure we did things correctly, responded to requirements in a legal manner, created documents to help run the club and was central point of communication for club business. Thank you Graham we all hope your Wednesday nights run well from now on!

Tony M0TZM volunteered from afar (on holiday! via video) to become secretary and was voted in on the evening. Tony will be hitting the ground running as is said.



Another change is the retirement of **Paul M0PLA** as treasurer, who also worked very hard for the club where financial services for the small organisation shrink or disappear. Paul changed how we pay for things to suit the new environment, minimising charges by banks and clarifying the position of the club funds held with the tax office, so they do not tax us. The club funds are in a healthy position, thanks to Paul's guidance and skills. **Paul volunteered and was voted in to the position of vice-secretary** and have responsibilities to organising the Hamfest especially with the university as he visits and works there often.

Also thank you to **Don M0TBQ** has retired from being the curator, another who held this position for many years somehow keeping control and track of the club equipment given that huge amount leave and come back after events and contests. Also advising on the disposal of gear that just didn't ever get used. Don recently inputted the gear into the online system for people to book out. **At the AGM Martin G1DZP volunteered and was voted to take the position as curator** and will be getting to grips with the position over coming months.

Lily M1HPS volunteered and was voted to become the new treasurer. The skills in this field that she holds from her profession will enable a continuity of solid guardianship of club finances. Additionally Lily's programming skills are going to work towards bringing more efficient systems as a whole to the club. Lily already began this by offering to set up an online system for curating all the equipment the club hold.

Graham, Paul and Don have offered to support those taking their places

Those retaining positions held are **Simon G0UFE** our astute chairman, **Dave G0CER**, newsletter web & PR, **John M0XJA** training and **Martin M8TRO** our brave liaison officer who communicate with Little Wenlock Village Hall Committee.

April 2026 to March 2027 Committee (as voted for at 25/3/26 AGM)

For committee contacts please go via secretary **Tony Menzies** via secretary@tdars.org.uk

G0UFE - Simon Bird – Chairman

M0TZM - Tony Menzies – Secretary

M0PLA - Paul Athersmith – Vice-Chairman

M1HPS - Lily Hopkins – Treasurer

G1DZP - Martin Bishop – Curator

M0XJA - John Alexander - Training

G0CER - Dave Harris - Newsletter, web & PR

M8TRO - Martin Tromans – LWVH Liaison

Qtc: News & Information

Committee news also following the AGM **Club Constitution**

This document which we currently operate by was written in 1969 and time has come to update it. Graham, the outgoing secretary, has updated the document and the committee reviewed and agreed to it. To actually replace the old one an EGM (extraordinary General Meeting) must be called for all members to vote on it. This will be programmed into the normal TDARS calendar ASAP. Copies of it will be distributed for review. The EGM may be added as part of a normal talk evening when members are likely to be there anyway and webex is available. Once completed normal meeting will take place.

Some Documents agreed at the AGM

TDARS Equality and Diversity Policy

TDARS Grievance Policy

TDARS Social media and communications Policy

Currently these are available on request to secretary@tdars.org.uk but will soon be incorporated into the members-only section of the website in the same way as booking a piece of equipment is done.

What happens at monthly committee meetings?

Note:

7:30pm During May meeting until August first 30mins are Hamfest discussion

Normal meeting 8pm onwards

1. Events for the next 3 months of meetings & events are planned / discussed / long term list made
2. Minutes, last months minutes are discussed, what actions members took, or need more work
3. Officers report on relevant items to their position (example: treasurer report club finances).
4. Other Business. Each member is asked if they have any points they need to mention—**nb this may soon done at same time as point 3.**

If you have anything you want to ask at a committee meeting please talk to Tony MOTZM or email secretary@tdars.org.uk

TDARS Membership

A reminder that membership was due, please contact Lily M1HPS to pay and preference is for bank transfer
Lily will provide details, the cost £35 annually (£30 non-earners)

TDARS Social media - a reminder

TDARS members can access **Whatsapp** for general chat & DX spotting.
[TDARS General—members only]



<<<< **TDARS General & TDARS Spots & Alerts**
Also Facebook look for **Telfordhams** >>>>



Qtc: News & Information 2



TDARS MEET WEDNESDAY EVENING Normally at Little Wenlock Village Hall and Online (Webex) where possible. Members will be sent a link for the online service.

Please note: A current membership is required to borrow TDARS equipment and returning equipment promptly
The online booking system is via members area on website

THE G3UKV UKAC AWARD In memory of Martyn Vincent G3UKV SK

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 2m & 70cm bands.

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, 2m & 70cm.
- 5 Modes FM, SSB and CW.
- 6 Members can enter either the **OPEN, LOW POWER or RESTRICTED** 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.



This is running now - [Check RSGB v/uhf contest website calendar on this link](#)

Join in with the online operating forum, Mick M1CKD

On the first Thursday evening of the month Mike invites all club members for a discussion about operating procedures.

Each month has a theme and the discussion. While guided, follows a path of interest to those there at the time. If you have a question or a suggestion for the evening come along. Look out for information on next one from Mike.

**Mike sends Webex links ready for next forum
1st Thursday @ 7:30pm for 8pm start**



**Thanks for Newsletter input this time:
Tony M0TZM, Lily M1HPS, John M0XJA, Mike M1CKD
Dave G0CER, Mark M0XIC, Paul M0PLA, Simon G0UFE**

**Deadline for next edition is 15 July 2026
Contact Dave G0CER on davekh@gmail.com to send contributions**

Qtc: News & Information 3

145-Alive: Developments on this growing activity

Extract from Statement by Mark M0XIC and John M0XJA

As you know the interest in 145 Alive has grown exponentially and a few months ago we put out a request to build a website to help us handle some of the administration of 145 Alive, as it consuming ever increasing amounts of our time and energy.

I'm pleased to say the G5STU [Stationmaster] came forward with an offer of help. He's an experienced web developer. Since then G5STU has been working with us to develop the site. The goal is to reduce some of our time spent on administration.

You will be able to use the site to register Nets, upload pictures and videos, produce maps and lists of Nets, etc etc for each event. It will be initially developmental, in that it will undoubtedly not be the finished article from the outset and will need tweaking and developing as we go along. I want to reassure you all that there are no financial arrangements in place between 145 Alive and G5STU.

Finally, we will continue to use the 145 Alive Facebook Group to develop interest and promote forthcoming events. But I'm sure you'll agree, FB is not the most efficient way to run such an event-based scheme. The website will help us to handle some of the administrative tasks and help it run more smoothly.

This development had to happen as the interest in 145 Alive expanded, and also in response to being asked numerous times, 'is there a website?' The website is ready the link is <https://145alive.com/> this is the only official 145 Alive website. Please register yourself and your intended Net, its simple and free.

We will also continue to use 145aliveuk@gmail.com to respond to enquiries and answer questions. John and myself remain the sole organisers of 145 Alive. G5STU will help maintain and develop the site.

The complete post can be read on 145 Alive group on [Facebook at this link](#)

NEXT 145-Alive

July 12 2026 12:00-3pm local time FM and SSB nets

The record for contact is now 122 in 3 hours during 145 Alive!



John M0XJA at Random farm nr Clee in the April 145-Alive

Qtc: News & Information 4

Best wishes for return of good health to John MOJZH

TDARS member and past Vice Secretary and repeater manager, John is currently, at time of writing, in hospital with health problems and we wish to send John a wish to be healthy again and return to his hobbies of radio, RC aircraft and of course back out on the road on his motorbike.

Radios in Aviation, a talk by Lily M1HPS

In February Lily gave us a talk about how radios are used when flying and from experience ran through the procedures, language and codes used.

Getting up in the air:

Basics are the need for a PPL (private pilot licence) which needs 45 hours of flying experience and 9 multiple-choice exams to pass first. These days a flight simulator is very valuable to place your mind into what and where things are until you can book a trial flight - as Lily said hooked!

Radio operating:

Principally 108-137MHz AM plus other specialised -use frequencies. Lily pointed out the many locations of aeriels on different types of aircraft.

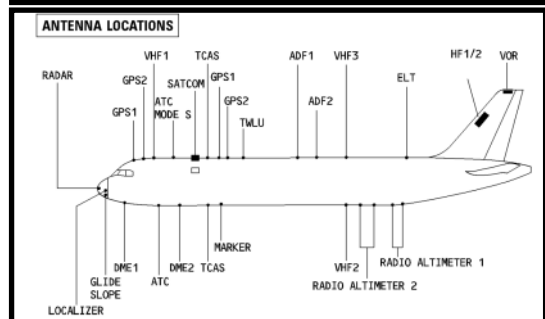
Communications are based around permissions for a pilot to do something or request some action. ATC (Air Traffic Control) direct approach, landing and take off in respect of the runway.

There are other services who advise and for aerodrome where no ATC services are pilots must inform others of their intent.

Lily also told us about identification eg the G-CALL type id is for the plane and used in communications but not every time. Each run way has a map which pilots need to refer to for instructions from ATC. An example below. Also Lily has put the whole presentation on the net - use the QR Code below or

<https://radios-in-aviation-presentation.hpkn.uk/>

A very interesting talk, given the loosening of restrictions for pilots with an amateur radio licence to use (albeit 500mW) radios. Lily has tried running APRS but space and practicality is still a problem, that makes it difficult. There is a regular pilot who many of the club have worked - hopefully one day we will work Lily M1HPS in-flight.



Qtc: News & Information 5

Members activities—last three months

The Secret Bunker rally came around again in February and members had a had a morning there, bought a few things. Mostly green. It is coming back from a low a few years ago when it looked a bit terminal but traders inside and out usual faces but plenty of junk and good stuff to sort through.



March saw the **Nantwich RadioActive rally** and plenty of members met up for the usual Nantwich town hall event. It's lively as ever with Canny Components being the main commercial trader there. Their hourly prize draw is always popular. The food, as always was good and queus as long as ever—also seating. A good local rally to go to—no photos.

April some members went up to the **NARSA rally at Blackpool**—a big rally with multiple commercial traders and plenty of club stands mainly north, Scotland and Ireland. Food is good there and we spoke to some who stayed at the hotel.



John M0XJA and Mark M0XIC operating at Hope Bowdler in March, Keeping warm in the car



Lily M1HPS, John M0XJA & Scott M7WUK on the Long Mynd in May Testing aerial builds



Qtc: News & Information 6

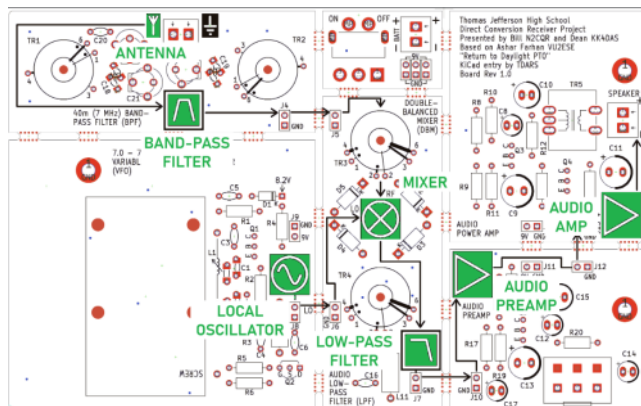
Early 2026 continued

Dave MOYDH had for the second time his gear featured on the front of CQ-TV magazine. Dave's build of Portsdown 4 ATV unit is very professional—good one D Dave.



Receiver build project—Shabaz M7YSZ

There's a simple, discrete-component amateur radio receiver project out there, which (as I understand) started life as a design by an amateur radio enthusiast called Ashar Farhan VU2ESE, and then it was further developed and evolved into a Thomas Jefferson High School project, and then it was further popularised by a YouTube presenter by the handle of SolderSmoke. I'm not too familiar with all this history, but [Problemchild](#) is more aware of it than I am.



The receiver is intended to be tuned to a band at around 7 MHz; this is a popular licensed band for amateur radio enthusiasts.

Hundreds (thousands?) of people built the various iterations of the project over time; they were mostly DIY'd onto sheets of copper-clad board. Some of the results look amazing; it takes lots of care and dedication to assemble like that and get it all working. As part of a radio group that I'm a member of, it was decided to port the design into a KiCad project and try to build from there. Admittedly, some of the charm will be lost when assembling from a printed circuit board (PCB), but KiCad is what I'm familiar with, so, for me at least, I wanted to use it.

[Link to full document online on Element14 website with updates](#)

Qtc: News & Information 7

GB3TF—work to return to air

As you may know, the Telford Repeater GB3TF has been out of action for a while now. We have had issues with old equipment and legacy kit which has seen better days – despite the Amateur being very resourceful, there comes a time when we need a technical refresh.

As part of this, we have invested in a new repeater and are in the process of buying additional equipment to support it (the phrase- don't spoil the ship for a ha'peth of tar comes into mind!).

There will be a phased approach to replacement of items and I will be updating the members with progress as we install/replace bits of kit. There will be a gradual increase in capability as we go, with C4FM on the cards in the near term. Repeater keeper John (MOJZH) applied for a 5 Mhz spacing between Rx and Tx and that is complete, so expect changes on the GB3TF web page in due course. Hopefully soon we'll be able to hold the Sunday club net on GB3TF. As we go along the journey, members are invited to use the repeater and provide coverage feedback and signal reports. This will help us understand it's performance as we go. Many thanks for your patience.



Jared G5JFJ Plans SES for EMF

I have applied for a special event station for EMF camp, running as GB26EMF. Plan is to run for around 6 hours each day during the event Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We will have HF for sure and maybe some access to QO-100 to fit into the space theme of the event.

If anyone who is attending is keen to operate a slot let me know and I can fit you in, I think six hours each day between a few operators mean we can actually attend talks and enjoy it

TDARS members out and about

Despite cold weather during the last three months members have been active. More coverage later in the magazine.



Qtc: News & Information 8

Amgueddfa Gwefr heb Wifrau / Wireless in Wales Museum

Something noticed in last month is a radio museum in Denbigh, North Wales while not specifically about amateur radio but maybe be an interesting visit. I've no idea how big and how much gear there is on show but their website at <https://www.gwefrhebhwifrau.cymru/en/>



The Museum is open every Saturday 11:00 - 16:00 until the end of September. To visit at any other time, contact: gwybod@gwefrhebhwifrau.cymru

Wireless in Wales Museum, Canolfan Iaith Clwyd, Pwll y Grawysm Denbigh LL16 3LG

A talk by Heather M0HMO on beacons in amateur radio

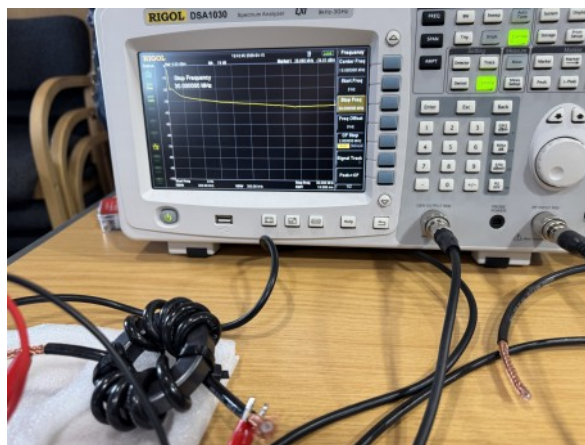
In April Heather gave an informative talk on the beacons in our hobby, more specifically how and why they are used.

Beacons are on air from HF thru-mm-wavelengths and Heather reminded how as references they are always the same output from the same place so we can use them to check something we are building or setting up. They are useful before an vhf and up contest when checking for propagation in directions we may be looking for DX. There are 3 beacons in the loft at LWVH which carry the GB3ZME managed by Paul G8AQA and more [information on this link](#).



Practical evening building common mode filters—led by John M0XJA

John led the building evening of common mode filters which were quick and easy to build



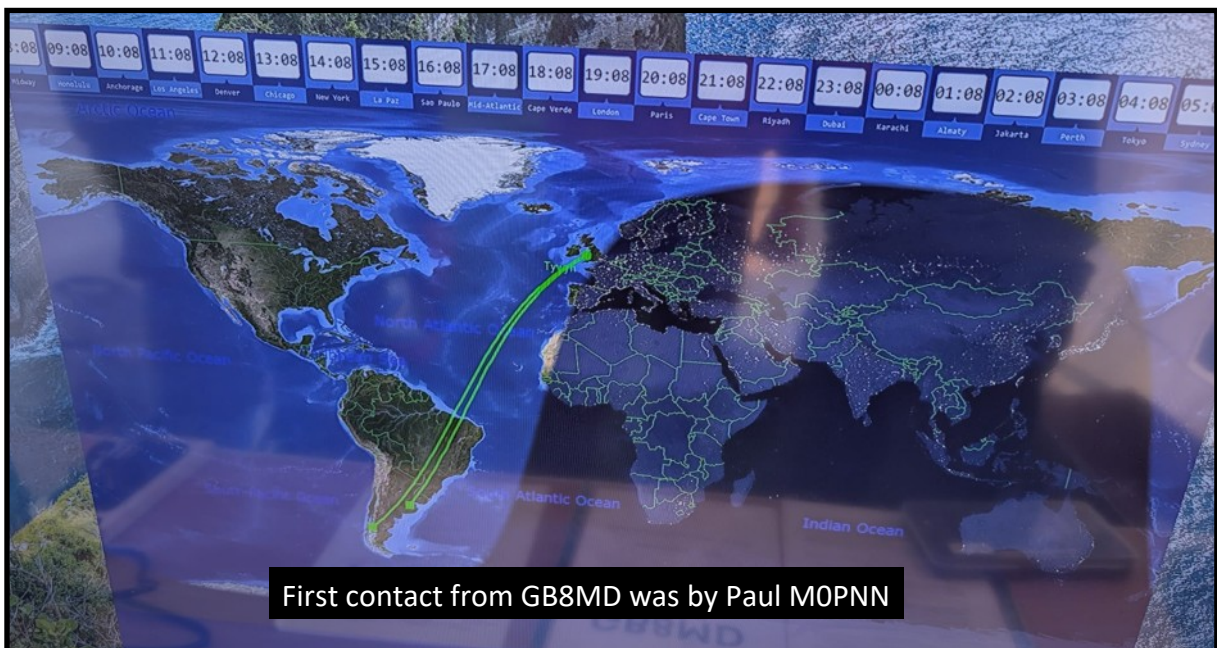
having the parts supplied (by John) with connectors already fitted and cut the right length. These including the type 43 ferrite rings. 10 members built them and John tested them using his Rigol DSA 1030 injecting 30Mhz across the outer and showing the reduction on its scope. This filters out the current often reflected back from a compromised HF antenna, which most people have to live with. This is good for reducing disruption of a pc connected to a radio. They're fitted in-line with the HF connection and work best at base of antenna.

Qrv:—Marconi day

2026 Marconi Day—weekend!

One of the prime club activities is our visit to Tywyn to run a station as part of the international Marconi's birthday. We have GB8MD call again and operate from a field next to the buildings which were part of the Marconi receiving station. The buildings are now inhabited cottages and one of the residents, Jean, helps us with a supply of mains electricity for station transmitters and fresh water. The club makes a gift as thanks.

Weather is always a risk and we have had some extremes, but thankfully 2026 was perfect. Members met up on Friday before to drive up, some came and went as they were able too. The weekend weather was sunny and warm a very memorable year for laughs and contacts.



Qrv:—Marconi day

The field was clear and dry and the sun was shining a memorable weekend



Mick M1CKD



Meet up point on the way to Tywyn



Thanks Tony M0TZM—fresh hot food



Seems to be something on the loose!

Qrv:—Marconi day

Marconi photos—continued



Andy M7HJC making got everyone laughing



Pete Gough G3PWG posted:

Whilst I only completed half of the Marconi weekend I really enjoyed it, great people, great banter and superb organisation. Whilst we all played some part in setting up and taking down the event

I would personally like to thank Mick and Tony for the organisation and setting up. Furthermore a big thank you to the same two for the addition of burgers and bacon butties supplied and cooked at their costs. Oh... The weather was pretty good too.



Portable on Tywyn beach

Scott M(W)7WUK and John M(W)0XJA got up early on the Saturday and went portable on the beach nearby— Scott had his G-90 transceiver and a JPC-12 antenna.

They had Hawaii and many VK stations showing the excellence of operating near to the sea. These were Anzac SES stations.

John was operating on 2m FM for some SOTA contacts.



Comet H-422 faithful trapped dipole



John & Scott out for burger & chips after portable work

Qrv:—club activities

HAPPY 152nd BIRTHDAY GUGLIELMO MARCONI

Mike, M1CKD the organiser made this statement following the event:

TDARS returned to Tywyn for International Marconi Day 2026, marking the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi (25 April 1874) with another superb IMD activation. Tywyn remains our go-to spot for its RF-quiet coastline, great take-off, long-standing club tradition and significance to Marconi's pioneering RF communication work.

Across the weekend we logged 379 QSOs,

These are broken down as:

80m: 4 contacts
40m: 185 contacts
20m: 162 contacts
15m: 2 contacts
10m: 3 contacts
2m: 6 contacts
13cm: (QO-100): 17



Paul M0PNN brought his QO-100 kit this year a very good additional band to spread the message about Marconi via satellite.

Operator feedback was unanimously glowing — described in three-word bursts such as Fun in a field, Great teamwork – friendly, Educational and enjoyable, Very ***** enjoyable, and Super smashing great. A solid 5-star weekend. (See Pete's response on previous page).

Plans are already underway to make TDARS Tywyn 2027 bigger and better



GB8MD - Marconi event is over - looking forward to 2027

Qrv:—club activities

TDARS in CQ WPX RTTY 2026 – First RTTY Contest in Years

TDARS made a strong return to digital contesting with CQ WPX RTTY 2026, our first RTTY contest in many years. A team of 11 operators — including several complete RTTY first-timers — took part and quickly settled into the rhythm of macros, prefixes and fast-paced exchanges.

Across the weekend we logged 463 QSOs into 60 countries, an excellent result for a mixed-experience team rediscovering the mode. Although the official results are still pending, the raw scores currently place TDARS 16th in the World, 9th in Europe and 1st in England - a superb achievement.



Andy M7HJC operating in the contest

A huge thank you goes to Paul, M0PLA, for generously allowing TDARS to use his premises for the event. His support made the activation possible and hugely enjoyable.

Members taking part and helping included:

**M0TZM M1CKD M0PLA M8PJZ G3PWG M1HPS
G8WDZ M7WUK 2E0KGK M7HJC M7HJG M0XJA**

Jared M5JFJ's Welsh SOTA tour on the way to Tywyn

Jared has been activating SOTA all over the place, some on the way to the Marconi day and a holiday in Scotland with some amazing views sent back to us and very useful plans via the TDARS spots whatsapp group, so members can try and work him on 2m and 70cm.

On Marconi day Jared had a 5:30am start and recorded 3 SOTAs on the way:

GW/NW-057 - Foel cae'r berllan
GW/NW-065 Gamallt

Finally

GW/NW-063 - Ffridd Cocyn where he sent this photo from. SOTA people get the best views!



GW/NW-063 - Ffridd Cocyn

Jared operated as GW5JFJ and has written up a report which can be accessed on this link:

<https://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/the-one-pointers-of-the-dysynni-valley/40740>

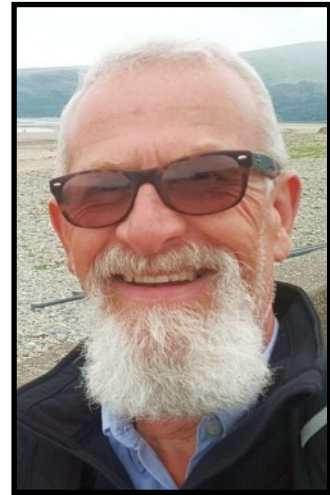
Jared's adventures in Scotland began in May and will feature in next edition.

QRZ: Member's bios

TDARS Member Bio—Mark MOXIC

My amateur radio journey is a peculiar one (or maybe not ??). I first became interested in amateur radio in 1976 at the age of 16. I attended my local School where they were running the City and Guilds Radio Examination Course (RAE) on a Tuesday evening. After a few weeks the organiser asked me if I'd like to take home a spare receiver and have a play, which I did, almost!

Well, it all went significantly downhill from there. My mother greeted my return from the course that night with, 'well that thing is not coming onto this house', and that was the end of the radio hobby, before it had even started! The interest however remained dormant for many years, when in early 2021, some 45 years later, I decided to study for my Foundation Exam, which I passed, quickly followed in the same year, by my Intermediate and Full Licences.



Between that night in 1976 and 2021, I worked in Local Government, and for 20 years before I took early retirement, I worked as a Senior Manager in a University responsible for Teaching and Learning and had two lovely girls. Life got in the way!

Shortly after completing my full licence, I took over (with a friend, MOXJA) the organisation of 145 Alive and almost at the same time became one of the founder members of the management team helping to design and launch the United Kingdom Bunkers on the Air Scheme (UKBOTA) and Worldwide Bunkers on the Air (WWBOTA). I remain on the management team as the Award Manager for BOTA Organisations.

I'm pleased to say that 145 Alive has grown exponentially since then, with each event (of which there are 4/5 per year) running up to 60 simultaneous nets across the UK and



Mark MOXIC & John MOXJA representing the RSGB at Callum's open day

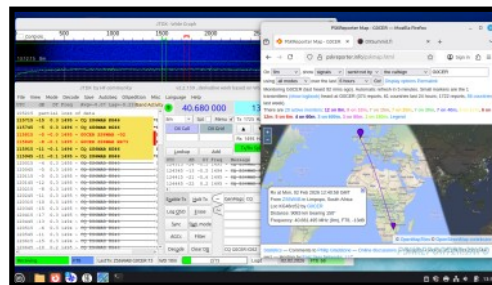
Q&A: Worthwhile Interruptions

Last part of Linux introduction: Amateur Radio Applications

There are many radio programs that are equivalent or originally on Linux
All are free as is the OS.

Digital modes:

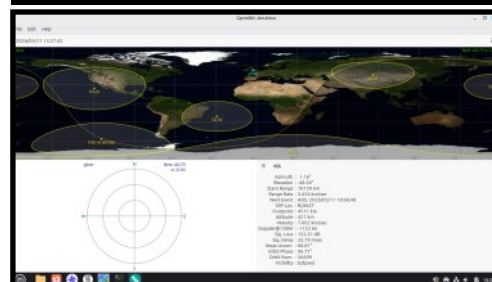
- WSJTX Looks same/works same.
- MSDV Looks/works same
- JTDX Looks/work same
- FLDIGI family Looks/works same
- JS8Call Looks/works same
- QSSTV Works better than Win equiv.
- FreeDV Looks/works same
- Gridtracker Looks/acts same



JTDX & PSKReporter on the web

Satellite Tracking and APRS

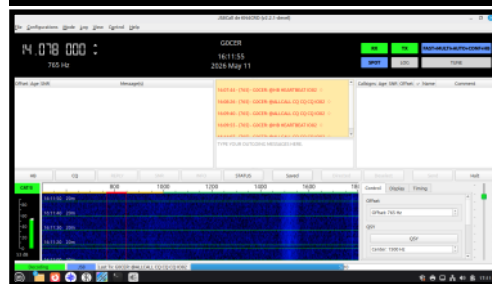
- GPredict Track many sats, clear & easy view
- Xastir Long developed APRS client



Gpredict satellite tracking

Logging applications

- CQR Log full feature logging
- Xlog Well developed log in rig control
- QLog Another logger



JS8call chat with ft8

CAT Control

- Hamlib Same rigs as windows version
- Flrig Part of FLDIGI family, same
- Nano-VNA Saver. Assists with antenna/circuit work

SDR

- Gqrx SDR Open source rx use RTL-SDRs
- SDR++ Same as other versions
- GNU radio Dev framework for signal processing
- CubicSDR Its own version

Others—and many not mentioned.

- TQSL Upload logs to LOTW works same
- XDX DX Cluster—direct from online feeds
- Direwolf Provides AX25 to link to other applications

Programs are installed mainly using Linux itself an application you can choose from. *Some like fldigi can be downloaded and installed from their website.*



If you need Linux specific help there is a local user group—SLUG!
Don't forget that friendly bunch of rebels [Shropshire Linux Users Group](#)