

RADIO SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY WHICH
REPRESENTS UK RADIO AMATEURS

Founded in 1913 incorporated 1926.
Limited by guarantee
Member society of the
International Amateur Radio Union

Patron: HRH Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT

Membership is open to all those with an active interest in
radio experimentation and communication as a hobby.
Applications for membership should be made to the
Subscriptions Department from which full details of Society
services may also be obtained.

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Details of the Society's volunteer officers can be found in
the RSGB Yearbook 2008

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www.rsgb.org/membersonly Use your callsign in lower
case as the user name, and your membership number (see
RadCom address label) as the password.

Where has the year gone?



It's about this time every year when we all start saying "where has this year gone?" and "doesn't time fly?". Well, for the staff here at Abbey Court, this year has certainly flown by. We started the year wondering if

all the plans to move away from Lambda House would come to fruition. We had just accepted a bid for our old HQ and made an offer on our new offices here at Abbey Court. The news from the financial markets took a down turn just about then and to say we were just a little nervous that our plans would not materialise is very true. Thankfully, everything went ahead and we finally moved at the end of April.

Life at Abbey Court is certainly different from life at Lambda House. The offices are modern, the heating works and we don't have the constant noise of heavy goods vehicles driving up and down the road. That part of the plan has worked very well. I think we are all a little disappointed that the move to Bletchley Park and the establishment of the National Amateur Radio Centre has not moved forward quite as fast as we would have liked. However, the good news is that we are at last making progress and I would expect that the centre will be open by the summer of 2009.

Our other big plan this year was to replace GB4FUN and this we have managed to achieve. You will see further on in this edition the new GB4FUN and I think you will agree that it is a quantum leap up from GB4FUN(1). We wanted to create a "WOW" factor with the vehicle and, if the reaction from visitors to the Leicester Show last month is anything to go by, we have certainly done that.

Over the year, it has been fairly quiet on the amateur radio front. That is apart from the area of PLT and interference from 'Home Plug' devices. The Society has been very active in bringing to the attention of Ofcom and the government the interference that these devices are causing to the HF bands. At times, the RSGB has been a lone voice but we will continue to take the battle right into the heart of the government departments responsible for the import of these devices and for ensuring they meet the required EU standards.

I have had the pleasure of being invited and visiting a number of clubs throughout the year and I am pleased to report that the club scene appears to be buoyant. Certainly the clubs that I visited had a full programme of activities and training courses. It is also pleasing to report that the numbers taking the Foundation licence has maintained the level of previous years. Foundation licence holders are increasingly moving up through the Intermediate licence to

the Advance licence. I am sure the numbers migrating up would increase further if clubs offered more Intermediate and Advanced courses, that has to be one of the challenges for 2009.

The News these days is full of doom and gloom about recession and I have no doubt that all of us will be touched in having to tighten our belts a little bit. However, we all have a wonderful hobby to take our minds off what is going on around us albeit for a few hours in the shack talking to our friends and colleagues on the bands, or taking part in contests or just doing what your particular interest in amateur radio may be.

Recessions come and go but amateur radio will, I'm sure, weather the storm and continue to be the vibrant hobby it has been for many years.

In 2009 we all face many challenges, I'm looking forward to it and I hope you are to.

Thank you all for your support over the last twelve months and beyond it is greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

Peter Kirby, GOTWW
RSGB General Manager

Front Cover

Paul Reiter, WY7I, lives in Colorado at 8300ft elevation in the shadow of the San Juan Mountains. He has installed a US Towers HDX-572 72ft tower with a Cushcraft 2-el 40m beam and a 4-el SteppIR beam. The cover shows the tower and antennas a few months after installation – it turned out to be the hardest winter locals can remember. Paul says the installation has proved to be an excellent system for working DX.

RAYNET Insurance

A new and much improved Personal Accident Insurance scheme will come into being for RSGB RAYNET groups on 1 January 2009.

It relies on Controllers sending in the following information: The name of each Group; name, callsign and contact details for the Controller; and a list of members (full names, gender and age group – whether <16yrs, 16 – 75 yrs, or 75 – 90 yrs). Send to: RAYNET Insurance, RSGB, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Bedford MK44 3WH or, preferably, by e-mail to raynetinsurance@rsgb.org.uk.



Planning

The RSGB's Planning Advisory Committee and panel exists to assist members with planning related matters associated with amateur radio antennas and masts. The Planning Panel currently has vacancies for Planning Panel Members in the London and South East England areas, North East England and North East Scotland.

Planning Panel members are not expected to prepare planning applications on behalf of members but are expected to provide members with advice on Planning Applications, Appeals and Enforcement Notices related to amateur radio masts and antennas by phone, e-mail and/or in writing.

Planning Panel members need not be planning professionals but must have a good working knowledge of the planning system as it applies to amateur radio antennas and masts.

If you can assist with this valuable service to members or know someone who can, please contact Len Paget, GMOONX on 01563 534383 or by e-mail at PAC.chairman@rsgb.org.uk and is QTHR.

GB4FUN mkII takes to the road

The new GB4FUN trailer had its first outing at the RSGB HF Convention in October. A good proportion of the Convention delegates dropped by to have a look. Although most of the internal work had been done, the exterior had not yet had its graphics applied.



Although still in plain clothes, GB4FUN was shown off at the HF Convention.

The public launch was at the Leicester Amateur Radio Show on 24 & 25 October. Unlike previous years, where its predecessor was outside in the flea market, this time organisers decided to feature GB4FUN as a centrepiece of the RSGB presence. Now sporting its eye-catching new graphics, the trailer again attracted huge numbers of visitors. GB4FUN co-ordinator Carlos Eavis, G0AKI, was busy from the moment the show opened until well after closing time. Indeed, it was so popular that

at the end of the second day he had difficulty closing up because some people had left their visit too late!

But, of course, the trailer didn't fit itself out by itself overnight. Carlos Eavis, G0AKI, fitted out the trailer over a period of some ten days full time, assisted by several volunteers. He would like to thank those amateurs who generously gave so much of their time and energy helping get the trailer ready. Bill, G8IAY gave up five days (and a few nights!) of his time, often going home to fetch bits and pieces such as relays and connectors from his personal stock every time they were needed. Other helpers were Howard, G6LVB, Graham, G3VZV and Hugh, G7UOD who all helped fit out the inside of the trailer – mainly involving crawling under the bench and working upside down in cramped locations to fit various cables and connectors. The result of all this hard effort is a state of the art mobile demonstration unit that will carry the magic of amateur radio to classrooms up and down the country.

None of this would have been possible without generous donations. Much of the equipment inside the vehicle has been donated or loaned by the major equipment suppliers including Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu. AMSAT-UK has donated an amateur satellite Earth station, and there have been numerous other valuable donations from other manufacturers, suppliers, groups and individuals. But the trailer



The eye-catching graphics on GB4FUN. Unfortunately the lighting at the Leicester rally wasn't sufficient to photograph its full glory.

itself could not have been purchased without the support of the Radio Communications Foundation – which is itself funded by individual donations from amateurs like you and me who want to make sure that future generations are introduced to the magic of amateur radio.

To learn more about the RCF, or to make a donation using Gift Aid (so the Foundation gets tax money back from the Government), please visit the RCF website at www.commsfoundation.org. If you don't have internet access then a Gift Aid form is available on request from RSGB HQ, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WH.

Past Presidents HFC 08



L-R: RSGB past Presidents Peter Chadwick, G3RZP (1993), Hilary Clayton-Smith, G4JKS (1999), Don F. Beattie, G3BJ (2000 – 2001), Bob Whelan, G3PJT (2002 – 2003) and Angus Annan, MM1CCR (2006 – 2007) and current President Colin Thomas, G3PSM (2008-2009).

The visitors to the HF Convention included no fewer than five RSGB past presidents. They enjoyed many of the lectures during the day. Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, as well as delivering his own lecture on Receiver Phase Noise, Intermodulation and Dynamic range also sat in on Analogue and Mixed Function Chip Design – Radio on a Chip? by Peter Saul, G8EUX. This is what G3RZP had to say about the lecture, “Peter introduced the subject of analogue and mixed function IC design with a view to exploring the possibilities of single chip radio receivers and transmitters. He introduced the two basic architectures available – the classical superheterodyne and the direct conversion approach and pointed out the inherent design problems in the latter. Local oscillator architectures using DDS and NCO approaches were introduced, Consideration was then given to the requirements of Digital-Analogue Converters in DDS, and Analogue – Digital converters in the signal path for signal processing. After defining some of the terms used in IC technology, he proceeded to describe the simplest CMOS RF amplifier (a CMOS inverter). It was then illustrated how the basic amplifier cells could be paralleled for lower noise and higher signal handling.

The next set of results were the inclusion of a mixer, producing a sub 1dB noise figure, -25dBm third order intercept receiver front end. The difficulties of using very small geometries was discussed (because of the very low allowable voltages), and a description of various filters and other analogue circuitry followed, including an analogue Hilbert transformer for SSB generation using the phasing method. An interesting highly linear low noise UHF VCO using a ring oscillator was introduced, showing noise performance of -90dBc/Hz at 5kHz offset on a 1GHz oscillator.

Finally, there was further discussion on problems in DDS design, especially with regard to spurious outputs. This was an interesting and informative talk from one of the leading researchers in the field.

The HF Convention took place in October at Wyboston Lakes. It was the biggest and best Convention yet with the lectures being more popular than ever – there was standing room only in several instances. Particularly popular were the Contest University stream and the VP6DX Ducie Island DXpedition talk. Fortunately, Eric Scace, K3NA repeated his talk on Ducie Island again on the Sunday, so many of those who couldn't squeeze into the room were able to watch the presentation later. The IOTA stream had a succession of overseas visitors presenting different lectures as well as many of the well-known IOTA names in the UK.



Ian Lockyer from Icom (UK) Ltd hands over the first prize to RSGB President, Colin Thomas.

One of the highlights of the weekend is the draw for the RSGB HF DXpedition Fund raffle

with prizes like a IC-7200, Yaesu FT-950 and Kenwood HS-5 headphones as the top prizes (the prizes were kindly donated by Icom UK, MLS & Yaesu and Kenwood UK).

The prizes were won by Rob Ferguson, GM3YTS; Colin Wilson, G3VCQ and Kevin Earl, G8VJU respectively.

Dave, MOOBW, the Chairman of the organising committee, would like to thank all the lecturers for their great presentations, the volunteers that helped for their hard work, all the members of the organising committee and most of all you that attended – without any of you the event would not have been as successful as it was. Make a note in your diary for next year's event – 9-11 October – and watch the website for news (www.rsgb.org/hfc).

Misinterpretation of Callsigns

The RSGB QSL bureau is seeing an alarming increase in the number cards for individual UK callsign holders, mistakenly using the prefixes reserved for club stations, shown on page 14 of the licence schedule.

England: X Guernsey: P Isle of Man: T Jersey: H N. Ireland: N Scotland: S Wales: C

What initially was just an isolated incident now appears to involve hundreds of stations, from time to time, mistakenly using the wrong prefix list, some from a fixed location but particularly when operating on holiday, in contests or at club events.

Presumably hearing such use on the air is

serving only to encourage others to do the same.

The prefix list is intended for use with callsigns solely allocated for permanent, club callsign use only, dating back to the introduction of, 'greetings messages' sent under supervision by non licensed persons.

The correct identifiers for personal licence holders are shown on Page 4 of the licence schedule, section 2(2) and should always be used by individuals, whatever their circumstances. Guernsey: U Isle of Man: D Jersey: J N. Ireland: I Scotland: M Wales: W England: No Regional Secondary Locator Richard, G3UGF, QSL Manager.

Do you want to circle the world?

That is a dream for most people, but in reality very few of us achieve it. Second best I guess, would be in a position to be able to influence and achieve the activation of some of the remotest islands on the planet as part of the RSGB's Islands on the Air Programme (IOTA). IOTA is probably the most exciting awards programme in Amateur Radio. Enjoying generous sponsorship from ICOM, the IOTA programme has as its participants some of the keenest and most adventurous Amateur Radio operators in the world.

We currently have a vacancy for a new **IOTA Committee Chairman** and we are looking for a dynamic, energetic leader to take on this role and to drive the programme forward to new heights.

If you feel you have what it takes to make the programme a world beater, then in the first instance contact RSGB General Manager by Email on GM.Dept@rsgb.org.uk

IOTA
ISLANDS ON THE AIR

IOTA is proudly sponsored by **ICOM**

ISS SSTV



On 18 October, during the 1133UTC UK pass, David Barber, G8OQW had an SSTV QSO with astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ/NA1SS on the International Space Station (ISS). He was able to pass greetings and wished him well for his remaining few days in the ISS. David said, "Richard Garriott and the team have done wonders. I received some superb quality images over the last few days".

Richard, W5KWQ, landed in Kazakhstan on 24 October and was met there by his father Owen, W5LFL. They became the first American 'second generation' father/son combination to have both flown in space and the first cosmonaut/astronaut-trained pair in the world. Richard said, "On my recent flight I had the great opportunity to speak directly with and trade call signs with hundreds of hams around the globe. For me it was an unexpected joy to find so many enthusiastic hams, who were so well informed and interested in my activities in orbit... Throughout the bulk of my 10 days on the ISS, I tried to be speaking by voice or transmitting SSTV images whenever possible... On the last days I was very moved when sent many 'soft landing' messages from individuals and classrooms full of children as I passed by. The ham community has added greatly to my personal feelings of success on my flight. I can only hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did. Thanks so much and 73, Richard, W5KWQ".

New website

The www.Radio-Electronics.com website, edited by Ian Poole, the author of several RSGB books, has now been enhanced and improved with several new sections so that it now provides a resource for the electronics and radio communications industries. The site already has an extensive reference and tutorials section and, in recent months, further sections including news, jobs area and an exhibitions calendar have been added. Now, the most recent addition is a 'magazine' section where articles written by leading industry technologists can be found. Articles about technology trends, the latest technologies, exhibition reports and case studies will all be able to be found here. Although the website is primarily intended for the electronics industry, there is a wealth of information which will be of use to those interested in any aspect of radio communications and electronics.

Scouts and ISS SSTV



Scouts in Cawston received images from the ISS as part of Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). The ISS transmitted the pictures as it passed over the UK. The scouts received images showing the outside of the space station and the astronauts at work inside using slow scan television (SSTV).

Scout leader Chris Rolph, G7HXW said, "The scouts were very impressed. We were lucky enough to make voice contact with the ISS a few years ago so this was the icing on the cake." The Cawston Scouts, using GB0CAW, were able to talk to scout troops around the UK, and as far afield as Poland, Sweden, Germany, Mauritius, Australia and the USA.

Watson Winner

In the October issue, we ran a competition to win a Watson W-8682 weather station, kindly donated by Waters and Stanton. The correct entry from the editorial biscuit tin was from Steve Cook, G4ANA, who correctly answered that the W-8682 operates on the 868MHz band, it was reviewed in the September issue and that it doesn't measure earthquakes (unless the indoor unit falls off the shelf, he added).

SOS Radio Week

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is asking radio amateurs to lend their support to this charity by taking part in SOS Week 2009. It starts at 0000 on 24 January and ends at 2359 on 30 January. To take part all you need to do is decide whether you want to operate as a team or on your own and get as many sponsors as you can in the lead up to the event. During the event make as many contacts as you can and, after the event, convert the sponsors and contacts made into money.

Registrations from groups, or individuals, for a fun week of operating can be made on the RNLI website at www.sosradioweek.org.uk. You decide when you can operate and for how long, be it a couple of hours a day, a whole day, a weekend, or even all week – the choice is yours.

Everybody taking part will receive a commemorative certificate with special certificates being awarded to the youth (under 16), adult and group that make the most contacts and which raises the most money.

GB4BLC

GB4BLC will be on the air as many days as possible during January as part of Bedworth Lions Club Awareness Month. Brian, G8GMU, President of the Bedworth Lions, open his home to the public to show the work of Lions Clubs both locally and internationally. Part of this is done through amateur radio, which is also demonstrated. They plan to use 2m FM as well as the HF bands from 80 through to 10m. The official opening by the Mayor of Nuneaton & Bedworth is on the 2 January at 11am. www.bedworthlionsclub.co.uk.

News in Brief

- The First Class CW Operators Club have devised a CW activity period for Saturday 3 January that any CW operators are welcome to join in. This event is for operators using the traditional 'pump' or straight key and the mechanical 'bug' key. CW operators are invited to operate on the 80, 40, and 30m bands with your straight key, bug key or any other mechanical keying device. The event will start at 0000Z and finish at 2359Z. Please send your log by e-mail to g3vtt@aol.com or post to G3VTT, QTHR.
- Tetra Communications Ltd has told us that they raised £515 for Macmillan at the Leicester Show with their tea and coffee refreshment stand. They would like to thank all the amateurs and other visitors for their generous donations.
- Vine Antennas have been appointed as exclusive European retailer for the G3TXQ Broad Band Hexagonal Beams kits from WI4USA. With a turning radius of only 10.7 feet and coverage of all bands from 20m to 6m, the Hexbeam could be popular for UK radio amateurs. www.vinecom.co.uk.

- G4TPH, the inventor of the portable QRP Mag-loop antenna, showed the new 100 watt version of the ML-40 QRP antenna at the September Kempton Park Rally. The New ML-40HP will handle 100 watts, weighs only 1.2kgs, tunes 40m through to 20m and is fully portable. G4TPH originally developed the QRP portable Mag-loop antennas for his own use at a holiday apartment in Spain. The QRP Mag-loop antennas use a ferrite ring inductance loading unit. This was found not to be suitable for the higher power antenna thus the new ML-40HP uses gamma match loading. The tuning of the ML-40HP is very critical, so a tuning LED has been incorporated into the new design. When the LED lights the antenna is resonant on the transmitted frequency with a 1.5:1 or better SWR. The LED will not light if the SWR is higher than 2:1. The new antenna does not need an ATU, counterpoise or ground.

60th Anniversary



The Shefford and District Amateur Radio Society hosted a special reception on 25 September as part of their celebrations marking sixty years of continuous activities in the hobby of amateur radio and electronics. Guests included the Mayor of Shefford, Councillor P F J Mackin, the Deputy Mayor, Mrs J M Harrison, RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, G0TWW, Rob Mannion, G3XFD/EI5IW and Mark Francis, of Waters & Stanton.

Mark presented the top draw prize, a Yaesu FT7800 transceiver, to Alan Smith, GOWAS. Mark is due to return to Shefford on 20 November to give members an overview and demonstration of the latest technology, an evening to which all local amateurs and short wave listeners are also invited. Among further 'goodies' kindly donated for the draw were an all band HF mobile aerial by Moonraker and an FM/AM radio by Martin Lynch & Sons.

SADARS meets every Thursday evening at 7.30 for 8pm at the Shefford Community Hall and welcomes visitors.

Lottery Funding



Pictured are L-R Phil, G3MGQ, Antony, G4CUS, Jim, G4DRV, Paul, G4NER, Mike, G8OGO, Tony, G4KLF, Stephen, 2E0PSK and son, Steve, M0SSR.

Brede Steam ARS (BSARS) have been awarded lottery funding under the Awards for all Scheme. This will allow the club to purchase new equipment including training manuals and computers.

The club are currently working with the 1st Brede Scout group in helping them gain their communications badge and other related projects. They also wish to start on the road of amateur radio by taking their Foundation exam.

The club believe that by sowing the seed now in youngsters they will eventually come back to the hobby when the rest of their compulsory education has finished, thus keeping amateur radio alive for the future.

G6HL revived



Bill Ward, G4NRE, operating the G6HL station.

The impressive 1950s G6HL home-made station housed at the Muckleburgh Collection military museum in Norfolk came back on the air on 4 October after Ofcom authorised North Norfolk Amateur Radio Group to use its maker's original callsign.

Having been on static display at the museum for the last seven years it was brought back to life last December by the Group using its regular callsign, GB2MC. The station was built by the late Wing Commander Ieuan Edward Hill who held the callsign G6HL from 1928 until his death in 1997. It was donated to the radio group in 2000 by his daughter, Mrs Rosemary Cox, who visited Muckleburgh to hear her father's callsign put back on the air for the first time in over 10 years.

The Group offers its apologies to those stations looking for G6HL on the pre-advertised frequency of 3.650MHz. Last minute problems resulted in 80m being abandoned and the station came on air on 40m instead.

Raising Awareness



L - R: Ricky, M0CGO, Paul, M0PBN, David, G0VZV, Colin, M0GUN and Brian, G1YXG.

It has been another busy summer season for Brickfields Amateur Radio Society on the Isle of Wight. Their long run of Special Event Stations was supposed to finish in late August and early September with a pair of two-day events. Club members agreed to man another stall a month later at Age Concern's annual Celebrating Age Festival in Newport. This event was devised to offer people aged 50 and over a range of activities for free or at affordable prices with a view to taking up a new hobby or perhaps rediscovering a past passion. It presented an opportunity to club members to promote amateur radio as a means by which lonely or disabled people can keep in touch with the outside world within their area (and beyond if they wish) at minimal cost, whilst making new friends.

JOTA



On Saturday 18 October, South Essex Amateur Radio Society joined Scout Master Richard Lotz and his 1st Canvey

Island Sea Scouts at their Canvey Heights venue to set up GB2CIS.

The station made many contacts using various modes, including speech and typed digital messages. It also received SSTV images directly from the International Space Station as it passed overhead. Contacts included Bosnia, Holland, Jersey, South Korea and many throughout the UK. The day was a great success and will be repeated next year.

Generous donation



Paul Bigwood, G3WYW, from Yaesu UK and Chris Taylor, G0WTZ,

from ML&S joined Simon Greenish, the Bletchley Park chief executive, and members of the Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society for their regular Monday Club night. Yaesu UK and ML&S donated a Yaesu FT-950 transceiver to the club for their activities, such as putting GB2BP on the air every weekend for the last 13 years to promote amateur radio at Bletchley Park. Almost 70 of the 105 members of the club were there to see David White, G3ZPA, accept the donation with Simon Greenish. The club intends to place a plaque next to the transceiver to commemorate the event.

Bletchley Park is the historic site of secret British code breaking activities during WWII and birthplace of the modern computer. The Museum and park is open every day except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Check out the website for full details: www.bletchleypark.org.uk.

News in Brief

- A new radio club is being established in The New Forest at the Lymington Community Centre. The Lymington Community Association Radio Club, MOLCC, will start by offering a Foundation Course on Friday evenings 19.00 - 21.30. From January 2009 Intermediate and Advanced level courses will also be available. Additionally from January it is planned that the club will meet regularly for talks and social events. Further details can be obtained from Keith Cromar, G8MZF, on 01590 672337 during office hours or e-mail to lymcomass@aol.com.

Telford Hamfest



Telford and District Amateur Radio Society ran the third Telford Hamfest this year located at Engenuity, which is part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums complex. This year, special guest Adrian Bennett from JetPower bought along one of his modified Bedford Vans. He has strapped a Provost engine to the back of the van and it is all fully functioning and controlled from the front of the van. He can then dramatically improve his 0-60 time and be first off at the lights. The RSGB regional team supported the event with the bookstall.

The organisers would like to say a big thank you to all traders and amateurs who attended.

They group feel the Hamfest was a success, much to the credit of the committee members who did the hard work in the background.

Amateur Radio in Jersey



The Jersey Amateur Radio Society had their AGM on 10 October with 17 club members in attendance. A review of the last year was given by President Mike Turner GJOPDJ, finances were reviewed by club treasurer Claus-Dieter Paland, MJ1CYD and club secretary Rob Luscombe, 2J0RZD gave an update on the club website and the quarterly newsletter. Michael Brown, MJ3SZI was welcomed as a new committee member. A proposal was favourably voted on to reinstate the currently inoperative Jersey 2 metre repeater GB3GJ. A sub-committee and working party has been set up for the repeater group as part of the Jersey Amateur Radio Society, which it is hoped will see the repeater equipment replaced, re-sited and back on the air within the next 12 months.

Any enquiries or for more information about amateur radio in Jersey please see the club website.

Hospital Help



L-R: John Owen, MOMWB, Dawn Homer (Unit Manager of the Neonatal Unit at Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital) and Tony Baker from the Charlie Delta ARC.

Unit at Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital. Thanks to the work of the radio club, which took place at the Wolverhampton Steam Fair, the Neonatal Unit at Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital, which provides intensive and special care for ill or premature newborn infants, was presented with a cheque for £650. This represented £400 raised from the marathon broadcast and an additional £250 donated by NatWest to support their staff member John MOMWB's role in the fundraising.

New callsign



that he is very proud to become an amateur radio operator at last.

Mexborough & District Amateur Radio Society would like to congratulate David Bentley on passing his Foundation Exam on 3 October. David's callsign is M6DBG and he commented

Assistance Given



for his tower, help was needed to erect it as Keith is now blind. Spalding and District Amateur Radio Society (SDARS) came to the rescue and offered their help and, over a weekend, prepared and installed a concrete base for the tower. A subsequent Saturday was spent erecting and assembling the aerial and tower and winching it up into a vertical position. After the occasional problem, the aerial and tower were raised and are working perfectly.

SDARS were only too happy to help Keith whose only hobby is amateur radio and hope that his improved aerial system will give him many happy hours on HF with lots of DX contacts.

Recently, the Charlie Delta Amateur Radio Club undertook a marathon world broadcast to raise funds for the Neonatal

Foundation Success



L-R: Allen Henderson, Iain Smith, Ross Ewing (10 years old), Keith White and Simon Alderson.

Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club have achieved more success with their Foundation Exam course. The radio club runs a full training program covering all the amateur licences. Full details of all their courses can be obtained and downloaded from the club's website.

Appreciation



Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club member Graham Errington, MOGAE, presenting the photograph to the Life Brigade Chairman.

framed photograph that shows Emergency Services utilised at the coast (Life Brigade members were in the photograph), as a token of appreciation for their hospitality.

Following a visit to the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade by the Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club, members of the club presented the TVLB with a

News in Brief

- The Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club will be running a Foundation Course on Saturday 17 January from 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 21 January 6pm to 7.30pm with the exam on Wednesday 28 January 2009 at 6pm. The course and examination will be held at Lancing Parish Hall, South Street, Lancing, BN15 8AJ. The total cost of the course including course book, examination and refreshments is £45. For further information please contact the Training Manager, Steve Glew, MOSFG, on 01903 856147 or email training@wadarc.org.uk.
- The Plymouth Training Team is planning a Foundation course in the New Year. Starting date will depend on demand. The course will be run for six or seven weeks on Monday evenings. Full details can be obtained from www.radioclubs.net/plymradiotraining where e-mail and phone contacts can also be found.
- South Essex Amateur Radio Society will change their meeting venue from January 2009. They will meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month at South Benfleet Primary School, High Rd, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 5HA.

Getting listed here and on GB2RS is easy. E-mail details of your meetings as early as possible to GB2RS@RSGB.org.uk and we'll do the rest. We need to know your club name, RSGB Region number, contact name & phone number, date of meeting and detail of meeting. Example: South Bristol ARS, Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282, 29 October, On the Air. It's that simple.

The deadline for RadCom is the 1st of the month before the cover month (so for this December issue it was 1 November), while for GB2RS it's 10am on the Tuesday for the week of broadcast.

1 Scotland South & Western Isles

Regional Rep: Gordon Hunter,
GM3ULP, gm3ulp@rsgb.org.uk

AYR ARC

John, GM3CSO, 01292 443 580,
gm3cso@gm0ayr.org

- 3 Dealing with corrosion in the amateur station by Dennis Cram, GM3NIG
- 10 Committee Meeting
- 17 Festive Quiz and Fun Night

COCKENZIE & PORT SETON ARC

Bob, GM4UYZ, 01875 811 723

- 5 Normal Club Night
- 6 Club Christmas Night

LIVINGSTON & DARS

Norman, 0131 449 7641,
uk.groups.yahoo/group/ms0liv

- 9 Operating Evening
- 16 Club Evening
- 23 Morse Code Practice

LOTHIANS RS

Colin, GM4HWO,
enquiries@lothiansradiosociety.com

- 10 Christmas Meal

PAISLEY (YMCA) ARC

Bill Anderson, 2MOBZZ, 01505 613633,
bill@3bis.co.uk

- 10 Christmas Social
- 24 Christmas Break

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARS

Fred Coombes, 2MOBIN, 01415715512,
fred.coombes1@ntlworld.com

- 5 Bright Sparks Quiz + Club Night incl. Stan's Quiz 12
- 12 Construction Competition + Stan's Quiz
- 18 Annual Christmas Party
- 26 No Meeting

WIGTOWNSHIRE ARC

Ellis Gaston, GM0HPK, 01776 820413

- 4 Natter/On Air Night PSK31
- 11 Natter/On Air Night PSK31
- 18 Christmas Dinner at the Bruce Hotel Newton Stewart Jim, GM3UWX

2 Scotland North & Northern Isles

Regional Rep: Denny Morrison,
GM1BAN, gm1ban@rsgb.org.uk

ABERDEEN ARS

Lewis, GM4AJR, 01224 575 663,
www.aars.freesevice.co.uk

- 4 Junk Sale
- 11 Construction Bits and Pieces
- 18 Christmas Party
- 25 Christmas Holiday

MORAY FIRTH ARS

Jim, MMOSMD, 01340 820 134

- 4 Show and Tell Evening

3 North West

Regional Rep: Kath Wilson,
M1CNY, m1cny@rsgb.org.uk

BOLTON WIRELESS CLUB

info@boltonwireless.org.uk

- 10 Joint Christmas Party with Greater Manchester RAYNET

CHESTER & DARS

Barbara Green, 0151 339 9183,
www.chesterdars.org.uk

- 2 SOE Experiments and Inventions by Lisa Mossop
- 16 Construction Contest

MID-CHESHIRE ARS

Peter Paul Fox, G8HAV, 01606553401

- 3 A Small Talk
- 10 Cheese and Wine + Christmas Quiz
- 17 Radioactive Planning Meeting
- 24 Closed
- 31 Informal On-Air Evening

SOUTH MANCHESTER R & CC

Ron, G3SVW, 0161 969 3999

- 5 DX Wine Testing by all Members
- 12 Dave's PC Clinic with G4UGM
- 19 Club's Christmas Party
- 22 Monthly Technical Forum
- 26 Club Closed

STOCKPORT RS

David, M1ANT, 0161 456 7832

- 2 Annual General Meeting
- 16 Christmas Social

WARRINGTON ARC

Roger, MODWQ, 01925 813 558,
m0dwq@warc.org.uk

- 2 Building an Elecraft K3 by Keith G8MKO
- 9 It's Christmas by John GORPG
- 16 Testing an Elecraft K3 by George G3OGQ
- 18 Noise, Decibels, Figures and Factors by Dave G8KBB

4 North East

Regional Rep: Harold Scrivens,
G0UGE, g0uge@rsgb.org.uk

HORNSEA ARC

Sue, G6UQA, 01482 668 041,
www.hornseararc.co.uk

- 3 Committee Meeting - open to all
- 10 Activity Night
- 17 Christmas Party
- 18 Closed, re-opens 9th Jan 09

NORTH WAKEFIELD RC

Jim Thornton, G3YDL, g3ydl@ntlworld.com

- 4 Harold Scrivens RSGB Regional Manager visit

- 5 NWRC Christmas Dinner (TBC)
- 11 Expedition to Holy Island EU-124 by Richard MORBG
- 18 NWRC Family Christmas Party
- 25 No Meeting

PONTEFRAC DARS

07594 596 040,
info@pontefractradioclub.org,

- 18 Christmas Fuddle
- 25 No Meeting

SHEFFIELD ARC

www.sheffieldarc.org.uk

- 1 Talk from Another Club
- 8 Video Evening
- 15 Xmas Meal
- 22 HF Night - Work Santa
- 29 Club Open as Usual

5 West Midlands

Regional Rep:
Trevor Bailey, M0KMB,
m0kmb@rsgb.org.uk

CHELTENHAM ARA

Pat, G3IKR, 01386 792 542

- 5 AGM

COVENTRY ARS

John, G8SEQ, 07958 7773635

- 5 Visit By RSGB President G3PSM
- 12 Pub Games Night
- 19 Curry Night
- 26 No Meeting

GLOUCESTER AR & ES

Anne, 2E1GKY, 01452 548478, daytime,
www.g4aym.org.uk

- 1 Illustrated talk on Lundy Operating in Difficult Conditions
- 8 Informal Evening.
- 15 Annual Buffet

MIDLAND ARS

Norman, G8BHE, QTHR, 01214 229 787

- 3 Committee Meeting
- 10 Training classes
- 17 Christmas Gathering, Coffee and Mince Pies
- 24 No meeting
- 31 Training classes

SANDWELL ARC

Dave, G4JSR, 0121 552 1820,
david.stocker@tesco.net

- 1 How to Work DX Stations by Dave, G4JSR
- 8 Natter Night
- 13 Christmas Party / Disco
- 15 Working Party / Clean Up

TAMWORTH ARS

Colin Marks, G4ZPJ, 01827 700 893,
colin.marks2@ntlworld.com

- 4 Club Xmas Event
- 11 Shack Night
- 18 Talk

TELFORD & DARS

Mike, G3JKX, 01952 299 677,
mjtstreetg3jxx@blueyonder.co.uk

- 3 Open House/Committee (away venue)
- 10 Mince Pies and Mulled Wine Social + Derek's Follies
- 17 Xmas Dinner. Venue TBD.
- 24 HQ Closed. Net on TF at 0930
- 31 HQ Closed. Net on TF at 0930

WORCESTER RAA

Leslie Newth, 01905 726320,
l.newth@sky.com

- 7 RSGB AFS 2m Contest, HQ On The Air
- 9 Intermediate Course & General Meeting
- 23 General Social, Nibbles & Giggles

6 North Wales

Regional Rep:
Mark Harper, MW1MDH,
mw1mdh@rsgb.org.uk

CONWY VALLEY ARC

Wynne, GW6PMC, 01745 855 068

- 3 Model Aircraft, Their Construction, Controls etc. John Charles from Bethesda
- 2 Xmas Dinner at The Moors, Bwlchgwyn.
- 16 No Meeting

7 South Wales

Regional Rep: Gareth Price,
GW3MPP, gw3mpp@rsgb.org.uk

CWMBRAN & DARS

www.mc0yad.co.uk

- 13 Talk by the local RAYNET

8 Northern Ireland

Regional Rep: Peter Lowrie,
MI5JYK, mi5jyk@rsgb.org.uk

BANGOR & DARC

Mike, G14XSF, 028 4277 2 383

- 4 Television by Gordon, G18SKR

9 London and Thames Valley

Regional Rep: Alison Johnston,
G8ROG, g8rog@rsgb.org.uk

AYLESBURY VALE RS

Roger, G3MEH, 01442 826 651,
roger@g3meh.com

- 10 Christmas Party with Chesham Club

BURNHAM BEECHES RC

Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720

- 1 Christmas Dinner
- 15 Video Evening, Review of Club Year

CHESHAM & DARS

Terry, G0VFW, 01442 831 491,
terry.g0vfw@ntlworld.com

- 3 General Meeting + AFS Contest Planning Evening
- 7 AFS 144MHz SSB Contest 0900-1700
- 10 Xmas Party with Aylesbury Club at G3MEH QTH Wigginton
- 17 Xmas Drinks in the WHC Bar
- 24 Club Closed
- 31 Club Closed

COULSDON ATS

Andy, G8JAC, g8jac@btinternet.com

- 8 Annual General Meeting

CRYSTAL PALACE R & EC

Bob, G300U, 01737 552 170

- 5 Christmas Social

MAIDENHEAD & DARC

John, G8RYW, 01628 628 463,
g8ryw@tesco.net

- 4 Informal Meeting
- 16 Christmas Quiz & Construction Contest

NEWBURY & DARS

Richard, G3ZGC, 01635 46241,
richard.jolliffe@vodafone.com

- 6 Christmas Social

SHEFFORD & DARS

David, G8UOD, 01234 742 757

- 11 Mince Pie Evening

SOUTHGATE ARCDavid Sharp, MOXDS,
david.sharp1@tesco.net.

- 10 AGM

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Ray, G4FFY, 020 8644 7589

- 1 Servicing a Watch by Maurice G4DDY

SUTTON & CHEAM RSJohn, G0BWW, 020 8644 9945,
info@scrs.org.uk

- 11 Christmas Junk Sale

VERULAM RCRalph, G1BSZ, 01923 265572,
g1bsz@aol.com

- 2 Annual Dinner
- 16 Club Night - Annual Bun Fight

WEY VALLEY ARG

www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk

- 5 Christmas Jolly with Friends
- 19 Club Night

WIMBLEDON & DARSJim, MOCON, 020 8874 7456,
www.gx3wim.org.uk

- 12 Christmas Social

10 South & South EastRegional Rep: Gavin Keegan,
G6DGK, g6dgk@rsgb.org.uk**BREDE STEAM ARS**

Steve, 0142 720815, m0nuc@aol.com

- 6 Operating from the Bunker

HORNDEAN & DARCStuart, GOFYX, 023 9247 2846,
www.hdarc.co.uk

- 2 Natter Night/Social Evening.
- 23 No Meeting

HORSHAM ARC

www.harc.org.uk

- 4 Annual General Meeting
- 6 HARC Christmas Dinner
- 18 Social

ITCHEN VALLEY ARCQuintin, M1ENU, 023 8078799,
qq2@soton.ac.uk

- 12 Christmas Social and Judging of the Construction Competition

MID-SUSSEX ARSSue, G6YPY, 01273 845 103,
sue@figgerit.co.uk

- 5 Radio Night
- 12 Christmas Dinner at The Thatched Inn

- 19 Christmas Quiz and Mince Pies
- 26 Shut

SOUTHDOWN ARSJohn, G3DQY, 01424 424 319,
vaughdqy@aol.com

- 1 Christmas Social at Chaseley
- 3 Operating at Hailsham Shack

SWINDON & DARCDen, MOACM, 07810 317750,
www.sdarc.net

- 4 Fun Quiz
- 11 Club Christmas Dinner
- 18 Natter Night

TROWBRIDGE & DARC

Ian, G0GRI, 01225 864 698, E/W

- 3 25th Birthday Party Christmas Social, Buffet and Presentation
- 17 Final Meeting of 2008

WORTHING & DARC

Roy, G4GPX, 01903 753 893

- 10 Quiz Night
- 17 Christmas Party and Annual Awards

11 South West & Channel IslandsRegional Rep: Pam Helliwell,
G7SME, g7sme@rsgb.org.uk**APPLEDORE & DARC**Brian Jewell, MOBRB, 01237 473251,
brian.jewell@ic24.net

- 15 Christmas Party

CORNISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Ian, 01872 561 058

- 3 Combined Christmas Party

EXETER ARS

Paul, 2EOEXR, pchesh-29@hotmail.co.uk

- 15 Christmas Get Together

EXMOUTH ARC

Mike, G1GZG, 01395 2741723

- 3 DRM - what is it? by Dean, G0UIL
- 17 Christmas party

GUERNSEY ARS

Phil, GUOSUP

- 12 Christmas Gathering

SOUTH BRISTOL ARC

Len, G4RZY, 01275 834 282

- 3 Workshop on Amateur Radio Software
- 10 Christmas Greetings from GX4WAW
- 17 Christmas Social
- 24 Club Closed
- 28 OTA
- 31 Club Closed

TAUNTON & DARCWilliam, G3WNI, 01823 666 234,
g3wni@btinternet.com

- 3 Quiz
- 10 Operating Club Station & Morse Class.
- 17 Club Evening - Mince Pies
- 24 No Meeting
- 31 Old Year's Night No Meeting

THORNBURY & SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARC

Tony, G0WMB, tonytsgarc@sky.com

- 3 Slideshow - Along the Silk Road by Stan, GORYM
- 10 On the Air Night
- 17 Chairman's Quiz and Social
- 24 No Meeting
- 31 No Meeting

TORBAY ARS

Dave, G6FSP, g6fsp@tars.org.uk

- 5 Natter Night
- 12 Christmas Party and Quiz
- 19 Operating Night
- 26 Boxing Day Net

YEOVIL ARC

Gary, 2E0BFJ, g.swain@tesco.net

- 4 My First 50 years by G3ICO
- 11 Chairman's Evening MOWOB
- 18 Mince Pies evening

12 East and East AngliaRegional Rep: Phillip Brooks,
G4NZQ, g4nzzq@rsgb.org.uk**BRAINTREE & DARS**

John, M5AJB, 01787 460 9471

- 1 Construction Project Planning for 2009
- 15 Club Social

CAMBRIDGE & DARC

David Leary, G8JKV on 01223 355254

- 5 Informal Evening
- 12 Mince Pie Evening
- 19 No Meeting - College Closed
- 26 No Meeting - College Closed

CHELMSFORD ARS

Martyr, G1EFL, 01245 469 008

- 2 Amateur Satellites on a Shoestring by Andy Tyler, G1GKN
- 6 Christmas Lunch

DOVER RC

Brian, G4SAU, g4sau@darf.org.uk

- 5 Special Events for 2009 Discussion
- 10 Operating & Natter Night
- 17 Christmas Social
- 24 Christmas Net on GB3KS 1930, M1CMN Net Controller

FELIXSTOWE & DARS

Paul, G4YQC, paul.whiting@bt.com

- 8 Christmas Noggng: Video & Mince Pies
- 22 No Meeting

**KING'S LYNN ARC**Ray, G3RSV, ral-g3rsv@supanet.com,
www.klarc.org.uk

- 4 Committee Meeting and Club Night
- 11 IOTA by Mike Atherton
- 18 Christmas Club Night
- 25 No Meeting

NORFOLK ARCMark Taylor, G0LGJ, 01362 691099,
narc@g0lgj.co.uk

- 3 Radio and Space by Stuart, G7KBF (Venue TBC)
- 10 Informal
- 17 Christmas Party

13 East MidlandsRegional Rep: Jim Stevenson,
G0EJQ, g0ejq@rsgb.org.uk**EAGLE RG**

Terry, G0SWS, 01507 478590

- 9 Review of the ERG year 2008 and Election of Officers for 2009

LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC

Chris, G1ETZ, 01509 504 319

- 2 "Unusual electronic item" Bring Something Along.
- 9 Dominoes Night.
- 16 Paper Airplane Competition.
- 23 Christmas Drink at the Pied Bull.
- 30 No meeting, a chance to rest from the festivities.

MELTON MOWBRAY ARSGeoff, G3STG, 01664 480 733,
g3stg@btinternet.com

- 19 Christmas Meeting, Society Raffle and Buffet Supper.

STENIGOT CHAIN HOME ARCSteve Burke, M5ZZZ,
m5zzz@btinternet.com,

- 19 Christmas Social

WELLAND VALLEY ARSSimon G8PAN, 07977 266643 e-mail
swd@phasor-design.uk.com,

- 15 Xmas Dinner at the Union Inn Hotel

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