



Derby & District Amateur Radio Society

(Inc. Derby Wireless Club, 1911)

Affiliated to the R.S.G.B.

Call signs: G2DJ G3ERD

Newsletter - July 2012

The last couple of months have been very busy with the Jubilee weekend celebrations, European championship football, the Olympic flame activities and now Wimbledon. I thought the best part was the extra Bank holiday - although, for those of you retired, I suppose a Bank holiday is just another day! Anyway, I extend a warm welcome to all club members and to anyone else who finds this on the internet.

In recent weeks we were treated to a couple of excellent talks at the club room. On April 17th, Roy G4WPW gave a first-rate talk on 'The development of the Telegraph during the 1700s to 1900s'. Also included was a demonstration of vintage telegraph sounders and a chance for members to try a collection of new and old Morse keys. Later in May, Fred Tagg gave an excellent talk on 'The Glenn Miller wartime broadcasts' - talk and audio memories', which went down very well.

The last few months have been busy for members who have activated G2DJ at weekend events and entered a contest for the first time in years. Details of these events are posted on the DADARS web site.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway at Duffield Junction - Radio Station Easter 2012

To celebrate the first anniversary of the re-opening of the railway line from Wirksworth to Duffield, the people of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway allowed us to put up our Club gazebo at the end of their platform.

There we put up dipoles for 40m and 20m and a collinear for 2m FM and GX2DJ went on the air.

We did not do too badly on Saturday, not forgetting we are there to also publicise amateur radio and not just to work stations and ignore the public. Regrettably we weren't able to operate on the Sunday due to a lack of operators, but we were able to put the station back together again on the Monday - accompanied by almost incessant rain.

Bands were suffering badly so our using an end-fed aerial wasn't able to be fully appreciated.

As the railway lock their station and facilities as soon as the last train leaves to return to Wirksworth we had to have everything packed away 'PDQ' having worked 26



The photograph shows the club gazebo on the platform. To the right behind the green railings is the mainline. The train on the left (just in shot) belongs to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway.

stations over the two days of operation. Given the fact that our waterproof gazebo wasn't and we had mains electricity in there as well as radios, we did well to work that number due to having to move equipment about to get away from the drips! What a rotten day.

Thanks go to the folks who turned up to assist, and especially the folks of the EVR for making the weekend unforgettable. (Thanks to G1VAB for writing this article)

More photographs are available on the website http://www.dadars.org.uk/duffield_junction.htm

National Mills Weekend - May 2012

There's only one stone windmill with 6 sails working in the UK and that's at Heage near the town of Belper in Derbyshire. Nunsfield House ARG has operated from that site for several years using GB5HW and once more DADARS were invited to go and assist. Once the tent was up, mains connected, kettle on, mast extended with the 80/40 dipole and the Cushcraft R5 vertical aerials connected to the Groups radio by about 10:45 - after a coffee of course!

With quite restrictive opening times we tried what we could to work as many other Mills stations as possible and over both days with yet again awful band conditions 38 stations on 40m, 5 on 80m, 10 on 20m, 1 on 15m and 2 on 17m.

We could hear stations in East Coast USA, Japan, Greenland, Canada, etc., but just couldn't work them. However, there were visitors asking what it was all

about so a bit of 'public enlightenment' was the order of the day. Thanks to NHARG for asking us to assist once more and it is good that two clubs can work together.

(Thanks to G1VAB for writing this article)



The photograph above is Geoff Pendrick (M5GAC), a member of NHARG operating on 40m. Other operators include Dave G8AXZ and Dave G1VAB from DADARS.

Olympic Torch (June)

Our plans to support the Olympic torch celebrations were dashed last month due to refusal by Derby City Council to accommodate us at Darley Park or other official venues on 29th and 30th June 2012. It seems all decisions must go through LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games), who on this occasion, expressed concern about the "amount of radio frequencies in use and, consequently, possible interference with broadcasts by the local event organisers, LOCOG and the emergency services".

We planned the position of our radio station well away from the main activities and crowds so interference was highly unlikely. However, as a club, we must respect Derby City Council's arbitrary decision and avoid occupying revenue-making space. As such, we abandoned the event, which is a shame.

Club Trip 2012

Still nothing heard from anyone on this although we discussed it again at a recent committee meeting. We talk about it but no one seems willing to pick up the lead - is anyone interested?

Places suggested:

1. Duxford IWM
2. National Radio Centre

Maybe the best way to organise this is in small groups. If multiples of four people are interested then arrangements can be made to travel by car. This may be easier than trying to organise a minibus.

Beefstock Music Festival 2012

Last year Derby and District Amateur Radio Society supported the Beefstock music festival and a good time was had by all who attended. At that time, the charity supported was "*When You Wish Upon a Star*", which is a wonderful organisation that helps children suffering from life threatening illnesses.

This year the charity is '*Derbyshire Childrens Holiday Centre*', another wonderful organisation that provides holidays for disadvantaged children from Derbyshire.

As well as supporting excellent charities, it is a good excuse to sit around, drink beer, eat burgers and listen to good music – oh, and operate a radio station!



Martin has confirmed that the club is invited to put on a station during the weekend 14th July. Volunteers to organise and operate the station are required and should approach Martin as soon as possible if they are available. Access is through invitation only so please contact Martin if you want to help.

I think a sensible precaution this year is to take a pair of wellingtons and a waterproof coat.

Churches on the Air (September)

This will be on Saturday 8th September. Clive, 2E1HVZ, has arranged access to St. Osmund's church on London Road in Derby (not far from Wickes) to operate GB1SOC as we have in the past. Please contact Clive with offers of help. Again, details will appear on the website as soon as they become available. Although not confirmed yet, it may be possible for us to operate on the Sunday afternoon.

Club websites

The new Derby and District Amateur Radio Society (DADARS) web site is up and running and can be found on: <http://www.dadars.org.uk/>. Populating the site has taken time and remains a work in progress. The hard part is the content and knowing what the members want included. I welcome any suggestions, please speak to Chris G4AKE or speak to anyone on the committee. The site should contain up to date information on club activities and events. The Derby Wireless Club web site at <http://www.derbywirelessclub.org.uk/> is now in need of updating. The site emphasis was on our 100 years celebration. However, that is now complete and we need to think about the future and what form we want the website to take. Again, suggestions are welcome.

Club Programme

Thanks to Richard G3VGW for putting together the club programme and including some interesting talks during the last few months.

July

3rd Junk Sale
10th Committee Meeting
17th Video Show
24th Technical Talk
31st Night on the Air

August

6th Junk Sale
13th Committee Meeting

Up to date information is available on the DADARS web site: <http://www.dadars.org.uk/>.

G-QRP and Contests

The club is now affiliated with the G-QRP club. Activity since February has been slow due mainly to people being unavailable for one reason or another. We did intend to support the Valve/Fun Day in April but, unfortunately, we had to cancel it.

The club supported the OK/OL QRP contest on 24th February 2012 from the clubroom using G2DJ. We worked 10 stations on CW and claimed 28 points. Details of the contest are on <http://okgrp.fud.cz/>. The results are out and we did well by not coming last.

Our contest manager Kevin (G4CMZ) is in the process of assessing a potential field day site near Melbourne in Derby. This requires considerable planning and support to make the event successful. Being a realist, Kevin doubts if this will happen this year but something to look forward to in the future. With all the rainfall this year, it may be a good idea to delay it to next year. If we have excess rain this year then next year we should have excess sun - well that is the theory.

Below is a list of contests we are proposing to enter in the coming months. As can be seen the mode is SSB which hopefully will encourage others to come onboard and have fun. The prime aim is to get DADARS and

DWC back on the contest trail after a much too long absence. In Kevin's opinion, the club needs to get back to grass roots level. Many successful clubs regularly enter contests and do well despite having membership sizes similar or less than ours.

Getting back to the proposed contests, the majority are short (1.5 hrs) to very short (1hr). The RSGB 21/28 MHz event could be interesting as we have reasonable antennas in place.

Table 1 - Proposed Contest Activity

Date	Mode	Band	Time	Description	Status
21 st June 2012	SSB	80M	19.00-20.30z	Club Championship	Completed
11 th July 2012	SSB	80M	19.00-20.30z	Club Championship	Possible
23 rd August 2012	SSB	80M	19.00-20.00z	Sprint	Thinking about it
7 th October 2012	MIX	15/10M	07.00-19.00z	Massive annual event	Thinking about it

The Club entered the 80m cumulative contest on 21st June that lasted 90 minutes. This was the first serious club contest in years and it probably showed. I am not a contest fanatic but I must admit it was good fun and I feel enthusiastic about the next.

Dave G1VAB, Kevin G4CMZ and Chris G4AKE took part and we managed a *massive* 54 contacts. That sounds a lot until you realise that other clubs managed 200 or more contacts in the same time! We are hoping to improve the antenna, automate contest logging and improve operating methods by practice. We hope this will make us more competitive!

Hope this has whetted your appetite!

Thanks to Kevin (G4CMZ) for his unbounded enthusiasm and for providing the above information.

SNADARC and G-QRP Rally

The South Normanton, Alfreton & District ARC (that's 'SNADARC' to me) along with the G-QRP Club, held the J28 rally on Sunday 10th June at the Alfreton Leisure Centre. DADARS put on a stand to sell surplus items to help club funds. Support for the event was good and thanks go to Dave G1VAB, Bill 2E0PBB, Colin Baker, Trevor G3VLF and John 2E0OJB for supporting the club and helping to set up the stand. The team shifted a lot of gear and did a good job.

QSL Cards

Dave G1VAB put his artistic talent to work and created a number of QSL card designs for the two club calls. These are really quite good so it seems sensible to put one in newsletter for all to see.

The intention is to fine-tune the cards and then get them professionally printed. We appreciate any '*constructive*' comments or feedback.

