

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Incorporating Derby Wireless Club (1911)

Events Recent and Future

JUNE

- 9th Committee Meeting
- 16th Video Show
- 23rd Technical Topics
- 30th Night on the air

JULY

- 7th Junk Sale
- 14th Committee Meeting

Meetings start on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

RadCom Plus

Just a quick reminder that members of the RSGB now have access to RadCom Plus that is only available on-line. I read through it recently and can confirm it is a valuable addition to the regular RadCom and is a chance for the RSGB to satisfy the more technical reader without scaring off beginners. If you have not had a look, I thoroughly recommend a good read. I am looking forward to the next issue.

Chris G4AKE

Bletchley Park Outing

The outing to Bletchley Park organised by South Normanton, Alferton, and District Amateur Radio Club on the 27th May 2015 was a no-go and no one from our Society attended. Regrettably Dave G1VAB was unable to attend due to it being his first day at work after illness and no-one else appeared to be available to go either. Probably just as well we did not set up a trip of our own!

DADARS Newsletter
July 2015

Introduction

Welcome to the July 2015 DADARS newsletter. The club supported 'Airfields on the Air' for the first time in April by operating portable from a site near Ashbourne aerodrome. Dave G1VAB submitted an article in this newsletter that includes a blow-by-blow account so I will keep my comments brief. The event was organised by RAFARS and was well supported by licensed RAF and aircraft enthusiasts.

An interesting element of this event was the use of vintage aircraft equipment on the bands. For example, the club worked a station using a Collins 618T aircraft transmitter that



Collins 618T Transmitter on 7 MHz

generated 400 Watts SSB from a pair of 4CX250 valves. It sounded superb.

Similarly, the club supported Railways on the Air during Spring Bank Holiday and our contacts included many licensed heritage railway enthusiast and ex British Rail employees who were very willing to tell us their stories. We only worked a few stations but it was a nice day out.

DADARS President

Tuesday 2nd June 2015 saw the installation of the Society's new President, Jack



Dave, G1VAB handing the Chain of Office to Jack

Anthony G3KQF. Jack followed Denis Bosworth G8BAV who stood down at the DADARS Annual General Meeting in March. Denis is now our President Emeritus.

The photograph shows Dave, G1VAB presenting the 'Chain of Office' to Jack in the Society's Club Room.

We congratulate Jack on his appointment and hope that we can live up to the high expectations he has of us all. In his acceptance speech he said it was a great honour to be approached to take on this role in the Society's long life which in October this year achieves 104 years of existence.

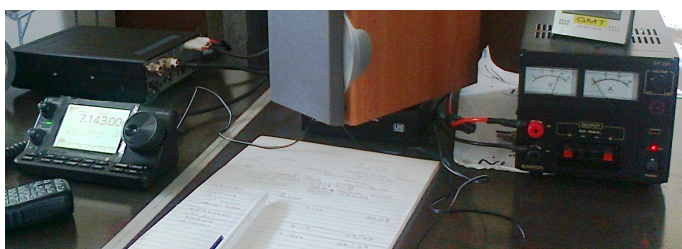
AGM

Following the AGM in March, the committee welcomes back Jack 2E0RLG for a term of duty on the committee.

Club Events and Happenings

Wirksworth Carnival Weekend

Spring Bank Holiday weekend saw a few members of the Society operating with our club callsign of G2DJ from the guards van at the end of the platform at Duffield station. For HF, we erected a dipole for 40m and used our new transmitter the ICOM IC-7100. We received good audio reports de-



Our Operating Position in the Guards Van

spite some drama due to a faulty antenna that interfered with the transmitter causing the transmitter to change bands on peak output! A quick change of antenna sorted that problem out.



Peter MOKEF Operating on 144 MHz

For VHF, we used a dual-band collinear antenna driven with RF generated by a much older ICOM, the IC-207H mobile radio.

We had quite a bit of interest across the three days of our operating but calls were being missed on the VHF / UHF bands due to a lack of operators. Quite a bit of activity on the HF bands once the effects of the recent CME and the Aurora had died down, with Monday seeing us work more than any of the other days.

The weather was nice and a good time was had by all.

Airfields on the Air - RAFARS weekend 2015

Come the morning of Saturday 4th April and Peter MOKEF, Chris G4AKE, Jack 2E0RLG, and I arrived at Darley Moor airfield (about 3 miles South West of Ashbourne on the A515 - WAB SK14 and Locator IO92DX) to set up our station.



Dave G1VAB Operating

Peter was the first on air operating 2m FM whilst the others three of us were busy setting up the HF station and, more importantly, getting the kettle on. Regrettably we were not able to operate indoors although there appeared to be space for us in two or three areas which had power. We operated outside in the cold without protection from the weather. Fortunately it did not rain but there was a decided chill in the air.



Strafing Run on the day by a Sopwith Camel

Regular flyovers from the aircraft on the airfield were kicking up a fair old noise with everything adding to the noise from Sopwith Camel bi-planes with RFC/RAF rounds through to micro-lights flying overhead every few minutes. I suppose it was an airfield!

Club Events and Happenings

The HF station consisted of the Society's FT897 radio with battery power from a 12v Leisure battery (110 Amps) with the RF being fed into a 40m dipole.



We did not detect too many AotA stations so it is doubtful that we will get an award. Across the whole weekend (no activity by us on Sunday and only Jack and I there on Monday 6th April) then maybe we missed most of the activations but then he and I were hopping from HF to 2m and back again.

Over the weekend, or rather the days we were there, we contacted 45 stations (two of them twice) and at times very slow going.

We were fortunate though as Good Friday was the 50th Anniversary that the site became a race circuit for bikes with or without sidecars and also the first Easter where there was no racing so we were fortunate to set up with relative peace and quiet – apart from the aircraft as already mentioned.

As to when there will be an empty weekend again or us to go up there in 2016 for Airfields on the Air, no-one has an idea as yet.

We all seemed to enjoy the weekend which, besides working stations, is the best part. Thanks to Peter, Chris and Jack for giving up what time they could in support of the Society's station, and for Jack G3KQF for allowing us to use the call G3ERD as GX3ERD/P.

Dave Goodwill, G1VAB

Upcoming Events

British Inland Waterways on the Air

Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th, and Monday 31st August. We intend to operate the station from the Stenson Lock Keepers Cottage (now a café so hopefully lots of visitors and lots of cake). If the event is successful then maybe another year we can operate off the mains power but for this year we will have to operate off 12V batteries. The call sign being used will be advised once we have applied for it.

Churches on the Air

The event occurs on Saturday 12th September. By the good grace of the people of St Osmunds Church on London Road in Derby (near Wickes) we should be working HF only from their Church for this event. GB1SOC has been used in the past and we hope to use it again this year.

Railways on the Air

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September. Again, we intend to operate from the West Shed, the home of the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust to celebrate the first steam-hauled passenger train from Darlington to Stockton on 27th September 1825 (That predates our club!). We should be using GB2WS and will need volunteers to operate the station, loggers, and people to speak with visitors who may visit the museum.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Thursday 3rd December. We intend operating from the Club Room throughout the day and using a Club callsign. No doubt the kettle will be on for anyone who wants a drink, operate, log, and talk to any visitors. This is a United Nations supported event, the first being in 1992.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be issued around November or December 2015.

73 Chris G4AKE