

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Incorporating Derby Wireless Club (1911)

EVENTS RECENT AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 2013

3rd	Junk Sale
10th	Committee Meeting
17th	Fish & Chips Supper
24th	No meeting
24th	2m net 2.30 pm 145.45 MHz
25th	Happy Christmas
31st	2m net 2.30 pm 145.45 MHz

JANUARY 2014

7th	Junk Sale
14th	Committee Meeting
21th	Technical Topics
29th	Night on the Air

FEBRUARY 2014

4th	Junk Sale
10th	Committee Meeting

More Stuff Coming

Don't forget the 2m club net on 145.45 MHz on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

We seem to hold nets intermittently throughout the year. If any member wants to run a club net at any other time, please let the secretary know and an email can be sent out to all the membership.

We could hold a net on LF/HF bands if anyone is interested? Can people get on 160/80 m? Please let the Committee know if you are interested.

DADARS Newsletter
December 2013

INTRODUCTION

Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and welcome to the December 2013 issue of the Derby and District Amateur Radio Society newsletter.

Club Talks

During the last few months, club members were treated to a full program including three talks on a wide range of topics. The Club asked John Hastings-Thomson to give a talk on the 'Patriot' railway locomotive to be named the "Unknown Warrior" on Tuesday 15th October in the clubroom. This was well received and proved very interesting.

The following week, Richard G3VGW gave an interesting presentation on practical aspects of aerials and feeder reflecting on his experience as a broadcast engineer and a long standing radio amateur.



During November, Martin G3SZJ, performed an illustrated and auditory enhanced presentation on the islands of Hawaii. The imagery of short Hawaii grass skirts left a long lasting impression!

National Ham Fest

The club supported the National Ham Fest at Newark on 26th - 28th September and moved significant amounts of surplus equipment. Overall it was a good event although support was rather thin on the ground on the Saturday.

Club Bonfire

This is not a radio event but a club activity all the same. This year it was held on Saturday 2nd November in the club grounds. Attendance was lower than usual but those in attendance agreed it was a good evening.



Dave G1VAB Manning the club trade stand at the Newark Ham Fest 2013



FUTURE RADIO EVENTS 2014

The club organises a number of events to support national amateur radio activities and provide the option for members to come along and have a go. Usually, it is the same few people who organise the event and do most of the operating. Some people come along, enjoy a day out, and support the activity by turning up and saying hello, which is fine. For this reason, the activities are similar each year and are usually held at similar locations. If anyone in the club can think of an interesting location or different event to support, please let the committee know. The planned events for 2014 are still fairly sketchy but our current guess is:

- **May 10th & 11th:** National Mills Weekend. As in previous years, we hope to assist Nunsfield House Amateur Radio Group (NHARG) at Heage Windmill (?) using the call sign GB5HW.
- **May 24th, 25th & 26th:** Wirksworth Carnival Weekend. We plan to operate from a 'Guards Van' sat at the platform end of Duffield Station on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. We will use the call G2DJ.
- **June 8th:** Support the Junction 28/QRP Rally at Alfreton Leisure Centre and run a trade stand. We have boxes of junk to move and will require volunteers.
- **June 14th & 15th also 21st & 22nd:** International Museum Weekends. The location is yet to be decided. We are looking for interesting locations - any ideas?
- **September 13th & PM only on 14th:** Churches on the Air. The station will operate from St. Osmund's Church on London Road, Derby just next to Wickes store. We plan to use the call GB1SOC.
- **September 25th, 26th, and 27th:** National Ham Fest, Newark (25th=Set-up; Sales days=26th & 27th). We plan to run a trade stand all being well. Again volunteers are required.
- **September 27th & 28th:** Railways on the air weekend. As usual, we plan to operate from the 'West Shed' at Swanwick using the call sign GB2WS. Note: this weekend overlaps with the National Ham Fest that runs on Friday and Saturday. Railways on the air is Saturday and Sunday.
- **October 18th & 19th:** Jamboree on the Air supporting Belper Scout HQ. This may include operating overnight. More details will be available nearer the time.
- **November 1st:** Bonfire in the Car Park. Combustible items required mid-afternoon for an 18:00 local lighting of the bonfire. This is a good chance to clear out the garage and burn all that rubbish.

TECHNICAL TOPICS-BOOK SWAP

The members of the committee are always looking for fresh subjects for the program. An idea that we have been talking about for a few months is a 'book swap' evening perhaps incorporated into the '*Technical Topics*' evening which we have from time to time.

The general idea is to both 'lend out' various technical books between members and maybe swop or sell old unwanted copies of the various radio magazines i.e. RadCom, Short Wave magazine, Practical Wireless, Radio Constructor, QST, QRP magazine etc.

To help the committee plan this, it would be nice if members interested could email Colin with their views or comments on the idea (For or against)!



EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

The club has accumulated copious amounts of second hand equipment! These items are surplus to requirements and are available for sale to '**Club Members Only**' on a '**Sold As Seen**' basis. Please remember that some of these items are for sale on behalf of third parties and the others belong to the club so offers must be sensible and commensurate with market rates.

Yaesu FT 101ZD



Yaesu FT 990



Yaesu TS 700G



Yaesu FT 290



Yaesu ATU-FC902 9 Band



ICOM IC 706 MK2



Kenwood TS 140S



Twin Paddle Keyer

The above items are just some of major items we hold. We also hold boxes full of stuff including an electronic Keyer, MFJ items and other delights. If you are interested in any of the above items, please let Martin G3SZJ know.

CLUB SUBS

No this is not a reference to U-boats but is the annual club subscription. The committee discussed the issue and arrived at the following charges for 2014:

- General Adult Membership: £5.00
- Under 16 Membership: £2.50

Subs are due on 1st January 2014 and should be sent to the Society's Treasurer to be in time.

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

The club held the annual Christmas social event in the club room on Tuesday 17th December.

This year it was a sophisticated 'festive' meal complete with Champaign served by a waiter.

Actually, it turned out to be a fish and chip supper served in paper bags with a cup of brew and a tub of mushy peas handed out by Dave G1VAB. It was a very nice evening enjoyed by all (despite the heart burn).

I took a photo but it was not very complementary!



RAILWAYS ON THE AIR, 2013

Saturday 21st September saw three of us from the Derby & DARS setting up aials and the operating desk at the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust (PCRLT) at the West Shed located on the Midland Railway – Butterley site at Swanwick here in Derbyshire (SK45 / IO93HB). The doors opened at 10:00 to the public and we were straight into our first contact. It took a cup of tea to get the voice-box working though! We'd decided that 'hunting' on 40m was the best idea so we could work as many RotA stations as possible, but there were lots of signals coming in from mainland Europe as well as 'tuners' and other miscellaneous noises (SSTV, RTTY/digital, etc.) none of which helped matters and just made life difficult. We were also us-

we had a pile-up which stayed all day, working about 100 or so until we had to close down at 16:17 to give us time to de-rig and stack gear outside ready to load into the car. We'd worked a further 5 or 6 RotA stations too which was good. Signals generally were much better than the Saturday with a majority of them being 59+ or even 59++ on our Society's FT897 which was run at 100W. Regrettably there seemed to be many stations who we just couldn't get around to contacting, such is the penalty of operating in a welcoming location (the duty volunteers keeping our back teeth awash with copious amounts of tea all the time we were there!) which doesn't open until 10:00 and closes at 16:30. Hopefully we'll do even better next year.



Nice Photograph of the Duchess of Sutherland (West Shed)

ing a half-wave 80m dipole so we could look for any activity there as well but nothing doing there so back to 40m. As a result, the signals sent and also received weren't as strong as we'd have liked so when we closed down at about 16:15 we changed the aerial for a 40m half-wave dipole ready for the Sunday. Saturday had netted us about 16 different RotA stations and a few non RotA's. Slow, but worthwhile doing.

Sunday was gorgeous weather with blue skies and temperatures of about 23deg C outside West Shed, and about 20 inside. Still a fair amount of EU-based traffic on 40m but everything seemed louder now, whether that was the change of aerial or the conditions the jury is still out. This time we decided to sit on one frequency that seemed clear and we worked everything that came our way. It started off with a reasonably gentle trickle, the suddenly the dam burst and

Aerials taken down and wrapped up, the portable masts removed and loaded, site checked to ensure everything was accounted for and the place left tidy, and we were leaving the premises by 17:10. We were all pleased with the results, but sad we couldn't work everyone who called. A great pity to be sure, but nothing could be done.

Thanks to the Bishop Auckland Radio Club for organising this event, and to the members of DADARS (David Sager and Clive Stevens) who came to assist with the operating and logging, then helping with the aerials and masts.

All being well GB2WS will – subject to Ofcom's approval and the OK to use West Shed as a base of operations - be back for next year's "Railways on the Air".

Dave, G1VAB (Chairman – Derby & District ARS)



CHURCHES AND CHAPELS ON THE AIR - 2013

Members of the Derby & District ARS arrived at the Church Hall of St. Osmund's Church in the Wilmorton area of Derby on Saturday 14th September.

Dave G1VAB was the first on site and the first job was - no, not a cuppa, but to put up a mast for the 40m dipole. The RF up the coax would be coming from the Society's FT990, and a further mast was put up with a dual-band collinear where we generated RF from the

Good PR and that's part of what we should be doing anyway. What was needed really was someone with the sole task of talking to visitors. Something for the next 'equipment list' update!

The VHF desk was collecting the odd station that popped up on 2m but these were very few and far between so Dave G1VAB wasn't too stretched in putting them in the log – then just before we closed the station



Photograph of GB1SOC (CHOTA station - 2013)

Society's FT897. Clive 2E1HVZ and David G8QZ turned up and set about sorting the station inside the Church Hall, removing trip hazards etc., to ensure safety. After putting the station together Clive got the kettle on and THEN we had a cuppa – a decent one too! We were on air for 09:00GMT but things were a bit slow on HF (another cuppa? Yes please Clive) but by hunting up and down the 40m band we started to pick up stations, first up on the north coast of Scotland, the next being Cornwall (well if you insist, Clive another cuppa would be great!) with closer contacts not being heard until later in the day. We bagged 17 contacts on HF, not a big figure by any stretch of the imagination (Thanks Clive, just what I wanted. Erm – where's the you-know-what? Ah. Thanks!) but then we had visitors with who we enjoyed talking to regarding the station, what we were doing, what CHOTA is and so on.

we had a veritable pile-up – four stations one after the other! Wow!

But the question is: Did we enjoy ourselves? Despite the many cups of tea – or maybe because of – we all agreed that it had been worthwhile getting the station on the air even though there were only 23 stations in the log. We'd enjoyed ourselves that's for sure. Next time, more milk for the tea – and a mashing rota so Clive has a rest from tea-bag drowning!

Thanks to John G3XYF for organising the event on behalf of WACRAL, to the people of St. Osmund's Church who readily host GB1SOC each year, and to members of DADARS for their support.

Dave, G1VAB.

**WORD SEARCH**

Something to do when the TV channels are full of rubbish (most of the time?). In the matrix below you will find all but one word listed. Best of luck finding it. This puzzle first appeared in July 1996 DADARS newsletter and credit for the design goes to Denis G8BAV.

T	R	O	T	I	C	A	P	A	C	W	I	R	E	S
S	R	O	T	A	U	N	E	T	T	A	P	E	S	E
H	E	A	S	J	A	N	N	E	T	N	A	X	G	X
C	T	X	N	S	A	S	O	C	K	E	T	I	O	O
N	T	R	X	S	E	M	H	I	D	H	U	M	Y	B
E	I	R	A	R	V	C	P	S	D	X	N	K	C	O
B	M	P	E	E	N	E	O	L	L	A	E	C	N	O
A	S	W	I	T	C	H	R	R	I	A	R	A	E	K
U	N	Y	R	N	U	Q	C	T	P	F	I	P	U	S
D	A	L	E	I	S	P	I	B	E	O	I	R	Q	X
I	R	E	D	R	O	C	M	A	C	R	S	E	E	V
O	T	A	L	P	E	I	R	O	N	M	G	W	R	A
N	T	D	O	W	E	L	B	A	C	E	U	O	F	S
A	U	S	S	Y	X	R	A	C	K	R	L	P	U	M
K	I	T	S	T	E	E	F	Y	F	Y	P	Y	P	T

Aerials
Amplifiers
Antenna
Attenuators
Audio
Bench
Books
Boxes
Cable
Camcorder

Capacitor
Coax
Computer
Data
Earth
Feet
Former
Frequency
Iron
Kits

Leads
Microphone
Mixer
Pins
Plugs
Powerpack
Printer
Processor
Rack
Radio

Relay
Socket
Solder
Switch
TNC
Tapes
Transmitter
Transverter
Tuner
Wire

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The next newsletter will be out around March/April 2014. I am looking for construction projects or technical topics for inclusion. If you have any good ideas or material that needs developing, please let me know.

Regards Chris G4AKE