

T News Letter **TDARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 284

June/August 2018

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- June 20** Annual B-B-Q on the LW Village Field (behind the Huntsman)
- June 27** Second 2m DF (direction Finding) on 144.600 MHz. Start LWVH 7:30pm
- July 4** VHF NFD Preparations (note: this is first Wednesday in the month)
July 7-8 (Sat-Sun) VHF NFD from Long Mynd IO82NN. Setup from 10:30 hrs.
- July 11** Committee Meeting 7:30pm. GX3ZME on-the-air
- July 18** Working the Amateur Satellites—practical demo & talk. G0UFE
- July 25** Third 2m DF (direction Finding) on 144.600 MHz. Start LWVH 7:30pm
- August 1** Committee Meeting 7:30pm. GX3ZME on-the-air
- August 8** HamFest preparations. PLEASE ATTEND IF POSSIBLE! + video if time
- August 15** Family and Friends Social evening, with refreshments
- August 22** QRP radio on the LWV Field
- August 29** Final Telford G-QRP Buildathon & HamFest preparations and checks
- September 1 (Sat.)** G-QRP mini convention & Buildathon—Park Inn Hotel: opens 7pm
September 2 (Sun.) Telford HamFest. Enginuity, Coalbrookdale. Helpers from 7:30am
- September 5** Committee Meeting 8:00pm. GX3ZME on-the-air
- September 12** HamFest Debrief
- September 19** Baluns and Ununs for HF and VHF
- September 26** Bring along and share a favourite shack item

**For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.**

Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html

Editorial

Club members have been out and about activating the bands since April. It started with the Marconi Day at Tywyn (April 21—GB8MD) on the Welsh coast (see Eric's photos later) and continued the following day, Sunday, at Telford Centre Park with 'Spring into the Park' and GB50TEL. Three weeks later (May 12/13) was the 'Kite and Balloon Festival' from that same site, with TDARS presentation improved as we learned from experience. One of the people-carrying size balloons carried a tracking device developed by Heather 'HMO, which encapsulated several sensors and TX in a pop bottle! (photo by Simon 'UFE below). It was recovered safely and further data was extracted. All clever, technological stuff. The use of a large monitor linked to a SDR at the Telford Park display caught the attention of many visitors, and of course GB50TEL had many QSOs on HF and 2 metres. More to follow.

Our 2 metre summer Direction Finding series got started in May, with Martin 'TRO hidden away in the Parish Church grounds, just a stone's throw from the starting point at LWVH. It was a chance for the Hamsters, as well as other club members, to experience the joys (?) of ignoring the dodgy clues provided by Martin. As far as I know, everyone found him within an hour or so. Two more sessions to go—June 27 and July 25; always good for a laugh, as well as a curse or two.

Digital ATV and microwaves were the focus for Brown Clee mountaineers (June 10th), both of which suffered from lack of stations within range on the 70cm, 23cm and 12mm bands respectively—but it was a warm, pleasant day, and we had many curious visitors.

And finally, as I write this, we have just returned from a 50MHz Trophy Contest that took place over the weekend (June 16/17). It was a hard, and at times wet, slog from our usual Long Mynd site. 6 metres had been alive for several weeks prior to the contest. Much planning and innovation (thanks to Paul 'AQA, Heather 'HMO and John 'ACD) had gone into the event, but propagation had the last word. Whereas last year we had 464 QSOs, with 186 multipliers, this year we had just 200 QSOs with less than 60 multipliers.

More to follow

MIV

Pop bottle balloon project—M0HMO style



It goes with him everywhere—
Speedy (2E0KLS)



Live satellite images at GB50TEL, Telford

TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY : 2018-19

CHAIRMAN: Eric Arkinstall M0KZB (01743 240286)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

SECRETARY: John Humphreys M0JZH (07824 737716)

TREASURER: Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)

CURATOR : Don Nicholls M0TBQ (01952 411680)



NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

PUBLICITY/WEBMASTER : Dave G0CER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

Committee: Simon G0UFE; Brian G6UDX; Paul M0PLA; Graham G7LMF; Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO. QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist Curator: Chris 2E0EOH; Trophies/Certs: Martyn G3UKV.

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM.

If Junior Hamsters group meeting, please do not enter before 7:45pm MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2018-19 are OVERDUE from a substantial number of members. £30, or £24 (non earners' concession). Foundation trainees with Mike 'JKX and Hamsters automatically become members of TDARS until the next AGM (March 2019). If Jim 'UGL is not available, please pass your sub (payable to "TDARS") to either Eric (M0KZB) or Martyn (G3UKV).

The **Main Construction competition** took place in March, and was easily won by David's (M0YDH) superb Digital ATV station, which is still a 'work in progress' project. Other entries included an all band receiver with 10GHz Es'Hail satellite receiver, a panadaptor, mini-Tioune DATV receiver, constant current/voltage PSU and an antenna.

The Under-a-Fiver Construction competition followed in April. The winner was Paul's (M0PLA) weather-proof ("tuppaware") 9:1 Balun to use with end fed HF antennas. Other entries included a 'Pico Trap' HF project (M0PLA), a 2m/70cm dual band satellite yagi antenna (G0UFE), a 12v to 5v Veroboard regulated PSU (G3UKV), a modified hands-free mic. with indicator LED for mobile use (M0JZH). Well done all entrants!



VHF NFD takes place over the weekend July 7-8. G3ZME/P will again operate from the Long Mynd (IO82NN) on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm. We need to start setting up no later than 10:30 local time to be ready for the contest to start at 14:00 (UTC/GMT). Logging with Minos software, plus paper log sheets for later cross-checks. In recent years, fewer members have appeared on site, although results have continued to place TDARS in the 1st/2nd places of the Mix 'n Match section of the results table. A good turn-out encourages and motivates the regular operators and loggers—so please try and come along at some stage during that weekend, and lend a hand.

Simon 'UFE having satellite QSO at GB50TEL



Morse demo at GB50TEL
Martin 2E0TRO & Paul M0PLA



David M0YDH/P on Brown Clee IO82QL with his Digital ATV gear.



TDARS Reflector chat from Heather M0HMO and Brian G6UDX. (18/05/2018)

“Hi All (and especially Brian),

I have a 12v LiPo battery from China (one of the blue slab DC12400 ones). Been in a drawer for ages and now it won't charge. I seem to remember Brian saying that is a common problem and that there is a way of recovering them by putting a normal 12V DC power supply across them for a while to get them started.

Do I remember correctly and if so what current should I use etc? Don't want to have a minor explosion in the shack! It claims to be 4000mAh, so worth recovering if I can get it working again. “



“Hi Heather

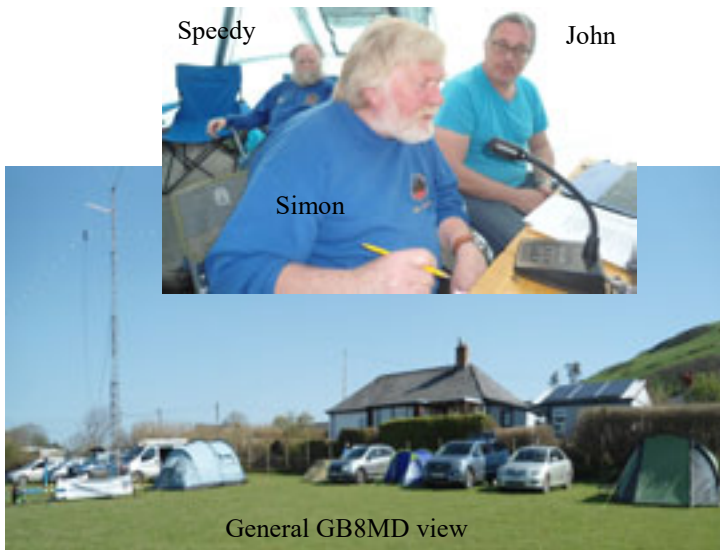
Firstly, the idea of charging using a regular PSU is only to "wake-up" a brand new "virgin" NiMh battery. LiPo batteries need to be treated with a bit more care, previously abused LiPos a lot more care. Firstly, is it showing any voltage with a multimeter? If zero the chances are it is dead, deceased, no more (a bit like the Monty Python parrot) but worth a try for giggles.

If it shows a hint of voltage, Say, 3 volts or more; you may be in with a better chance. I'm assuming that a "12v" battery is really a 3 x 3.7v battery. What type of charger do you have? I have a clone iMax B6.

SAFETY NOTE

Do this on a fire-proof surface outdoors if possible just in case the battery decides it doesn't want to play. I would try setting the charger to NiMh with the balance lead disconnected at the lowest current possible and see if it will come up to about 3.2v - 3.3v/cell. If it does this without complaint. Stop the charger. Reset it to LiPo. Reconnect the balance lead and check each cell has about the same voltage. If one shows zero the battery is a gonna.

Assuming all is well apply a really slow charge (10 hour rate) until each cell comes up to about 3.7v. Leave to rest for a few hours.. Then do a discharge/charge sequence to get some idea of the capacity. If the capacity is below 60% of the 4000mAH claimed I would buy a new one and not pursue things any further. If it has more than 60% its capacity use normally with a note to yourself to never let it go below, say, 10v ever again.”



Shots from Marconi GB8MD—Tywyn, Wales. June 20-22. Photos: M0KZB

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

Mike G3JKX, Eric M0KZB, Heather M0HMO, Brian G6UDX, Mike G3JKX, Simon G0UFE, Graham G7LMF, Paul G8AQA, Paul M0PLA.

Omitted last Newsletter: Martin 'TRO and error in the article text (Pg. 5/6. apologies) Next edition mid August : Please keep it coming-contributors make the difference!



I think that most of you will be aware of Summits On The Air (better known as SOTA) through the exploits of our very own Paul (M0PLA) amongst others.

Well for those who yearn for the great outdoors but don't fancy lugging your radio equipment up a mountain there is an alternative awards programme.

The **WWFF** program was set up to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna. In this spirit amateur radio operators set up and operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas – generating attention for these areas whilst giving the ham radio community an interesting activity to contact. **WWFF** is an international and non-commercial program run by the National coordinators of a large number of national Flora and Fauna programs.

The Flora and Fauna movement within amateur radio commenced in 2008, and was initiated by the Russian Robinson Club as World Flora and Fauna (WFF). In November 2012 the program was relaunched as WWFF.

Participants

Much the same as SOTA, the WWFF program is open to the following participants:-

- Activators
- Hunters
- Short Wave Listeners (SWL)

Activators are those amateurs who operate portable from within a designated WWFF reference area.

Hunters are those amateurs who make contact with Activators who are operating portable from within a designated WWFF reference area.

Short Wave Listeners are those who hear and log the activities of Activators operating portable within a designated WWFF reference area

Hunters and Activators can apply for colorful awards, globally and national.



Forty four (44) QSOs required

For all WWFF activations, a minimum of 44 QSOs are required for the WWFF activation to be valid.

The 44 QSOs can be accrued over multiple activations. They do not have to be attained during one activation. e.g. activate a WWFF reference area today and attain 22 QSOs. Then return a week later and attain a further 22 QSOs. You have now qualified the WWFF reference area.

Log must be submitted to claim the reference

For the accreditation of a WWFF area as an Activator, you are required to submit an electronic log (ADIF file or CSV template) of all QSOs made.

The log has to be submitted to the relevant National coordinator or Log manager who in turn will upload the log to Logsearch. Activators do not upload their own logs.



WWFF in the UK

GxFF – Flora & Fauna in the UK

GxFF is the United Kingdom's contribution to the World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio awards program (WWFF) – it includes the four nations of the United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) plus the three Crown Dependencies.

GxFF is used to represent the various call-sign prefixes, while FF is the indicator of a *flora and fauna* reference, e.g. GWFF are WWFF areas in Wales.

What is a WWFF area?

WWFF areas include National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Natura 2000 areas, areas with RAMSAR Designation, National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Importance, Other International and UK Designations such as Local Nature Reserves and Country Parks.

So what are you waiting for? Get out there into the great wide open and get some fresh air. More than 20,000 nature parks worldwide are already registered in the **WWFF Directory**.

The map shows some of the ones local to Telford and you may not have heard of the one closest to Telford - Aqualate Mere NNR which is situated 3 kilometers to the east of Newport, at the heart of a private estate, centered on Aqualate Mere - the largest natural lake in the West Midlands.

Further details of rules and maps of the areas can be found at <http://wwff.co/>



73 Graham G7LMF

(Due to the detail on this map, it's probably better to view on the TDARS website version of the Newsletter. This also applies to many of the photographs in the Newsletter — Ed)



E-mail from Eric M0KZB (21/5/18)



"I couldn't help but titter at this award I was given, back in '93.

It is interesting to note, my car was stolen from outside my house, while I was sorting out "stuff" for Cosford (the culprit had a large sharp knife and a suicide note), made his getaway toward Shrewsbury on a Saturday (silly Billy). The police stopped him outside Shrewsbury railway station, the first thing the Chief Constable handed me was this award saying, 'Yours, I believe', Whoopsss."



Ten Commandments for Electronic Technicians:

- I - Beware the lightning that lurketh in the undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to bounce on the buttocks in a most un-technician like manner.
- II - Cause thou the switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, that they days in this earthly veil of tears may be long.
- III - Prove to theysel that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou workest are grounded and thusly tagged, lest they lift thee to radio frequency and cause thee to make a like a radiator.
- IV - Tarry not among those fools who engageth in intentional shocks, for they are surely unbelievers and are not long for this earth.
- V - Take care that thou useth the proper method when thou taked the measure of a high voltage circuit, lest thou incinerate both thyself and they meter. For verily, though thou hast no account number and be easily surveyed, thy test meter doth have one and, as a consequence, bringeth much woe on the supply department.
- VI - Take care that thou tampereth not with safety devices and interlocks, for this incurreth the wrath of they supervisor and bringeth the fury of thy safety inspector down upon they head.

- VII - Work thou not on energized equipment , for if thou dost, thy fellow workers will surely buy beers for they widowed spouse and console her in other ways.
- VIII - Service thou not equipment for electrical cooking. It is a slothful process and thou might sizzle in thine own fat for hours upon a hot circuit before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery.
- IX - Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug, and thy spouse have no further use for thee except thy wages.
- X - Thou shalt not make unauthorized modifications to equipment, but cause thee to record all field changes and modifications made by thee, lest thy successor tear his hair out and go slowly mad in his attempt to decide what manner of creature hath made a nest in the wiring of such equipment.

Posted by Brian G6UDX. (18/04/2018)