



Founded 1969

# T.D.A.R.S.

Telford & District Amateur Radio Society

## News Letter

G3ZME G6ZME

Issue 218 Date July.2006

Dawley Bank Community Centre, Bank Road, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire. TF4 2AZ

# Forthcoming programme

- June 28** Data Modes in Amateur Radio—Talk by Dave Harris G0CER
- July 1/2 (weekend)** VHF NFD from Long Mynd. On site from 10:15am Saturday
- July 5** Open Evening, G3ZME on air, Committee meeting
- July 12** Dayton Hamfest 2006—Report and Pictures from Ohio by the gang who went.
- July 19** Quiz vs Salop ARS @ HQ. G3JKX in the Chair.
- July 26** B-B-Q in HQ Garden (indoors if wet). £1.50 Members, £3 non-members
- Aug 2** open Evening / OTA / Committee meeting
- August 9** Portable In Telford Town Park (behind Focus D. I. Y). Club HQ closed
- August 16** Doctors' Surgery! Any problems or questions? Perhaps get it sorted...
- August 23** Digital Photography Picture Manipulation, with Bob M0RJS
- Sept. 6** First-in-the-month G3ZME on air & Committee meeting
- Sept 9 (Saturday)** Visit to Museum of History of Science, Oxford, to see the special exhibition "Wireless World—Marconi and the making of Radio" (Provisional Date) (details on Pg 4)
- Sept. 13** Telford Hamfest 2006 Preparation night. Please support this one.
- Sept. 20** TDARS Debate around the theme: "Is SDR the future of Amateur Radio ?"

**CLUB MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT Bank Road Community Centre,  
Bank Road, Dawley Bank. Rooms available from 7:30 pm.  
ALL WELCOME. COME AND MEET EVERYONE !**

For Foundation & Intermediate training, contact Mike G3JKX tel: 01952 299677, mjstreetg3jkk@aol.com. Advanced course contact Eric M0KZB tel: 01743 240286, or Mike G3JKX.





# Ephemera: Club News

- ☐ This is an item from GB2RS about the museum we are planning to visit on Sept 9. “Marconi's grandson Guglielmo and his daughter Princess Elettra will attend the opening of a major new **Marconi exhibition at the Museum of History of Science** in Oxford on 24 April. The exhibition – called *Wireless World: Marconi and the making of radio* – covers the history of radio from Marconi's early demonstrations in the 1880s to the beginning of regular public broadcasts in the 1920s. Original equipment and documents from those pioneering days of radio will be on display, including apparatus from Marconi's very first demonstrations, Marconigram messages sent by the stricken Titanic just before it sank and the microphone used by Nellie Melba to deliver the first ever life public entertainment broadcast on 15 June 1920.” There's a bit more info on page 11 of the June edition of RadCom or try [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/)
- ☐ **NOTE:** If you haven't already renewed, **TDARS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006-07 NOW OVERDUE**—Contact Jim G8UGL ASAP, £29 normal, £15 Full-time student, £23 Concessionary non-earners.
- ☐ **The Club station,** using the IC756, is now permanently available in its secure bench mounting location. The 2m/70cm rig will also shortly join its HF partner, since the dual-band collinear is now repaired and re-installed on the roof. One or two extra keys will be cut so that authorised use is readily available to Members.
- ☐ A new order for **TDARS polo and sweatshirts** is just about to be placed. You can have them with just the club logo (Phoenix), or logo plus callsign. Contact Eric M0KZB immediately for further information or to place an order. Money up front, please. Tel 01743 240286. Other TDARS **memorabilia and souvenir items** have been ordered by Richard M1RKH from the States on a trial basis. Richard's tel 01952 505800
- G3ZME**  
**T.D.A.R.S.**  
**G6ZME**
- ☐ You may have noticed the **“Club of the Month” entry in RadCom** for the past year or so. Not knowing how, when or if an entry is published, the Committee have decided to submit an item under this heading to RSGB on behalf of TDARS. Richard 'RKH has done the bizz, which has been circulated to the committee and slightly amended. A photo of our 2005 expedition to N. Ireland is also being attached, so hopefully the Editor will see fit to publish our contribution some time in the next few months.
- ☐ A **TDARS Lottery licence** has been purchased from the local Borough Council (T&W), so a regular Club “49 squares” flutter is a step nearer. The final name and details are not yet finalised, but will be announced shortly. Probably a quid a go.

# TDARS PLC (by Richard G0VXG)

(This subject arose from an 'Open Forum' meeting held at the Club on Wed. 17th May)

## From Richard 'RKH

Dear Wilkinson Management Consultancy– here's my bulleted points for consideration under our IPO this Summer. I hope the market for Amateur Radios remains as buoyant as it is now and we have a good offering price.

I think Bob had the good sense to attach revenue to his ideas. Maybe we could do the same here and see where it leads.

### Objectives

- Produce a stimulating plan for every Wednesday that is interesting, different, varied and interactive.
- Cater for all abilities, novice to pro
- Make sure we keep a radio focus as much as possible
- Always run events at cost or better at profit

Eric also made the comment about everyone not using call signs anymore.

### Business Plan

- Extend Tea Swindle to snack and cake nights at extra charge.
- Use voluntary donations at subs time and also donations for special projects (a bit like a benevolent fund)
- Hire quality external speakers, not necessarily in radio, charge entrance, hire venue, and have broader range of invited people (relatives, relations, non radio people, other clubs)
- Merchandise: in addition to mugs etc also provide more radio essentials like connectors and coax
- Have weekly small money things like raffle and lucky number square
- Hold a Hamfest twice a year
- Make best use of junk sales and unwanted or donated equipment
- Repeat successful old visits and implement new and further away events
- Keep an informal weekly head count – know what is successful
- Spread the word locally and improve awareness
- Accept, nurture, talk to newcomers, make the effort to find out what they want.

Further discussions indicated that most people see this as a social meeting venue that also has radio. It was the interaction side that people come for. Comments on the friendly nature of the club. We spoke about the options of adding a weekly fee and also covering all costs in yearly subs.

## From Bob 'RJS

The brief included 'Funding', 'Objectives' and 'Advertising Material'

This group (chaired by M0RJS - members not recorded) decided that funding was the only area worth investigating. The rationale being that without a financially secure future other matters are irrelevant.

Nine headings were discussed; the feasibility of each considered and the potential contribution to increased revenue was estimated.

1 Could a small weekly charge be made to club members who attended the meeting over and above the annual subscription?

This was considered to be impractical due to the difficulty and reliability of collecting the cash.

It was considered to be unfair on the most regular attendees - those usually being the 'doers' in the club and therefore vital to its well being. i.e not the ones to penalise!

This method of collecting cash had been used many years ago and was discarded then due to its lack of efficiency and efficacy.

**Revenue £0.00**



Peter Blakeborough G3PYB explained to us how simple parts from old satellite receivers and burglar alarms and traffic detectors could be used to operate at 10GHz for both audio and video. You often see these so called Solfan heads on sale cheaply at rallies. These are essentially Doppler units that operate at 10GHz, using a Gunn diode to do the oscillating. The receiving end is made from old satellite LNB's, modified slightly to bring them into the correct band and when linked with an old analogue Set Top Box can be used to receive and transmit analogue video and voice. The cost of the component parts would easily be in the 20 to 30 pounds range. Many of them falling out of skips. This whole system of wide band FM was once popular in the dark days when the current club microwavers had hair (**...just wotchit—Ed**) but has long been forgotten, it does however make a great entry point into microwave operation and is slowly building up some momentum again.

Barry Chambers G8AGN described how transmitters and receivers fit together in microwaves and the day was rounded off with a talk on antennas from Gordon Fiander G0EWN who described some of the multitude of dishes, horns etc that can be purchased and constructed.

We finished the day on the car park doing some operation with the 10GHz WBFM gear and then departed - a day well spent.

Membership of the UKuG is cheap at £12, and like the G-QRP magazine is great value for money - these are two publications I just love to receive and I always find some great examples of ingenuity amongst the stuff I can't understand. And I guess this is the point - there is so much I don't understand about these areas that I just can't help trying to learn more and more.

A CD was produced with the days proceedings on and many other useful folders of information. If you want one then please drop me an e-mail (if you tell me face to face I will forget).

And one last thing, I am going to try and get a set-up going for wideband FM over the next few months. If anyone wants to join me and build some kit, I'd be grateful of the fellow operators and someone to bounce ideas off. Drop me an e-mail.



(These hair challenged ol' microwavers can still manage a surprise or two ...)

