

TDARS NewsLetter

Issue 242

www.TDARS.org

Programme

August 2010

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- July 28** 'Hafren' boat Trip. R. Severn; board at Dale End, Ironbridge (so long as river levels OK. Cost: £5 per person on the night)
- August 4** Committee Meeting @ Heath Hill . LW HQ closed.
- August 11** Debrief VHF NFD and G3Z, + 50MHz Trophy & Microwave contests. Bring piccies ! (hard copy or memory stick)
- August 18** HamFest Preparation Evening. Jobs for the Lads and Lasses.
- August 25** Final 2010 DF Hunt. 144.6 MHz, on foot. Start at rear of Telford Town Park—free car parking at Rugby Club field. Hinksay Road, off Finger Road, Dawley. (past the old Ever Ready factory site).
- September 1** HamFest - final prep. Night. + Committee (if time).
- September 4-5** TELFORD HAMFEST WEEKEND.— Set-up Sat. pm. ENGINUITY.
- September 8** New Club Project : Thoughts: Ideas ?
- September 15** Video Evening. Nick Miers & Enigma Presentation (hopefully).
- September 22** Nostalgic Microwaves. Wideband FM, MCW etc. G8VZT et al.
- September 29** The Club's New PicoScope (oscilloscope using USB on a PC.)
- October 6** Open Evening / Station on Air / Committee Meeting (all at once ?) Little Wenlock venue.

**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 Ricky M0RKY or Norman G0ASP**

REMINDER: Paid up Members are welcome to borrow items of Club Equipment, so long as they're returned the following week and the usual "signing out" process is followed strictly. That's a privilege of TDARS Membership. If you can't return it on time, please find someone else who can, or don't borrow it that week! Curator: Ricky M0RKY

G3ZME

Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. Founded 1969
Dawley bank Community Centre, Bank Road, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire. TF4 2AZ

G6ZME

QTC? News & Information

Thanks to the majority who have **renewed their annual subs** to TDARS since the AGM and a reminder to others—Full £28, or £22 non-earners, £14 full time student. Jim's your man



Special Contest Callsign G3Z The Islands on the Air event planned for July 24/25 unfortunately couldn't take place as it clashed with a microwave event involving the same club members. So we would welcome all offers of help and support to run a different event this year. How about the WAE (Europe) SSB (Sept.11/12) CQ WW RTTY (Sept 25/26) or WAE DX RTTY (Nov. 15) ? There are still about 11 qualifying contests left this year, which will help us to retain the G3Z special call after 2010.

Congratulations to another 5 successful Intermediate level candidates recently, bringing the total to 12 this year. Hope we shall hear some new callsigns shortly on the bands. Please let Jim G8UGL know of any changes to callsigns, addresses, e-mail addresses or phone numbers. Keeping the TDARS database held by Jim upto date is very helpful—especially when posting Newsletters etc !

The support for the Summer Season **2 metre DF hunts** has suddenly dipped this year. There were just 3 entrants in June and 2 entrants in July. The DF hunt planned for August 25 is a last chance to redeem yourself this year. For a change, we are returning to the Telford Town Park, but starting from the other side to normal. This is approached from Finger Road (old Dawley to Madeley road). Take L/H turn onto Hinksay Road, by the petrol station. Follow right down this road which turns into Dark Lane (past the old Ever Ready factory site). The Rugby Club has its ground here, and there's plenty of free car parking space. As usual, first transmission is at 19:30 hrs, on 144.600 MHz , +/- any QRM. The 'fox' will be in walking range within the Town Park from here. I suspect many will later end up in the old Station Inn watering hole in Station Road.

Many thanks to Derek 'EYX for the **excellent BBQ food and drink** at the end of June "in the park". There were several **G4HJW 10 GHz working kits** there, and using just the original satellite LNB horn antennas, both Wolverhampton and Cleeve Hill (Glos) beacons were audible, once alignment was correct. Stability is remarkable too. If you bought a kit, and need help in building or alignment, please let us know. Experienced builders now include G8VZT, G8UGL, M0ECM-M0EMM and 2E0RAV. Just ask !

The visit to **RAF Shawbury** was a great success. S/L Neil Hope really knew his stuff, answering a barrage of varied questions. We were all surprised that still and movie cameras were freely allowed, even in the cockpits of current operational aircraft., so here's a couple of shots.



Inside a rebuilt WW II glider
(one-way ticket only)



Inside the Control Tower



Hawk fighter made an un-scheduled landing whilst we were there—possibly due to a bird strike....

Trickier than a FT817's menu to fly

GB3TF Personality File by Jim G8UGL

The control system of GB3TF was originally developed specifically for the Lake District Repeater Group. The heart of the system is the microcontroller, a PIC 16C74A it offers all the capacity required with pins to spare. The PIC runs at 4MHz.

The repeater has a range of DTMF remote control facilities most of which will never be used, the most noteworthy of these are Remote "Pause" and Raynet Mode. Other DTMF commands are available for diagnostic use when on site.

Remote pause puts the repeater into a standby state and it behaves, for all practical purposes, as though it has been switched off. Pause mode can be cancelled remotely, obviating the need for a site visit to restart.

Raynet mode makes the repeater behave as a carrier operated system. All access requirements are ignored and any carrier will get talk-through. Whilst in Raynet mode the repeater will not send any CW idents or pips. Talk-through hang-time is the same as carrier validation time 1.6 seconds.

Repeater Operation

Mode 1 – Standby

The transmitter is turned off and the receiver squelch is closed.

Beacons are transmitted at 5 minute intervals at the medium tone frequency of 1200Hz and at high deviation. CTCSS is not sent with mode 1 beacons.

N.B. Non-CTCSS transmissions cannot access the repeater during standby mode beacons. Any attempts to use 1750Hz to access during this time are ignored.

Mode 2 – Talkthrough

Access to mode 2 is gained by the user transmitting a carrier plus a tone-burst of not less than 200ms. After the tone-burst has ended the carrier must remain for a further 100ms. Alternatively CTCSS at 103.5Hz will gain immediate talk-through. If these criteria are met, the transmitter is turned on and talk-through is enabled. The ensuing transmission must last for at least a total of 1.6 seconds in the following three seconds. If the carrier has not been present for this length of time, the repeater will close down without sending any signalling tones ("pip" etc.) There are no facilities for the detection of audio; therefore audio access control is not available. ((unlike the requirement on the old 'TF—Ed)

If the access criteria are satisfied and mode 2 is entered, timing of the over length begins. The timer counts down in 1 second increments towards zero. (Currently set at 256 seconds, or just over 4 minutes—Ed) If the over ends more than 20 seconds from the time out, the pre-set End –Of-Over (EOO) signal is sent at the medium tone frequency (1200 Hz), followed by a "pip" 3 seconds later. Shortly after this second pip, the transmitter is turned off. If the user is employing CTCSS, the first EOO will normally be a "T". The second EOO is always a pip. (At present, the first EOO is a "B", or dah di di di—Ed)

Once in mode 2, CTCSS operates as follows:

CTCSS is switched on as soon as access is validated and remains on until just after the first EOO is sent. After being switched off, CTCSS is re-enabled as soon as the receiver squelch is opened by another signal.

VHF NFD 3/4 July 2010



Half an Hour to Go



Phil 2E0GIZ....Richard G0VXG & Simon M3SET
(I think. No one looking at camera !!)
2 metre station tent. Spot the sandwich ?

There was a bit of a panic soon after most had arrived on the Field Day site when we realised that we were one tent short, and two vital antenna struts left behind. Fortunately, our admirable Chairman (Derek, G0EYX) returned to Stafford (over 100 mile round trip....) and collected the necessary, and we still started on time at 14:00 hours UTC. The group picture above doesn't include various other members who supported the Team throughout the weekend, but arrived a bit later. Lots more excellent FD photos are worth looking at on the TDARS web-site.

FOR SALE:

This really is a bit special— a **60ft (18 metres) fibre glass antenna pole**. 12 section mast , weighing just 7.5 Kg (16 pounds) and folding down to 1.71 metres long. (5' 7"). Lowest section 73.6 mm diameter, with wall thickness 2.2 mm. Top section 11.6 mm diam and 1.3 mm wall thickness. Brand new.

It comes with rubber sleeving and hose-pipe type clamps for semi-permanent installation (at each joint), plus a small instruction booklet. Two nylon slip collars to attach the halyards also supplied.— but not the actual halyards. Strong carrier and shoulder sling for portable use.

I ordered this one from www.hams4hams.com (a Dutch group of amateurs) in March, but they took so long, and could not assure me of a delivery date even in June, that I cancelled the order and got a refund. They still sent it, and it arrived today. I'd rather not send it back, but just pay (a second time!) the £141 (incl. delivery) if someone would like to purchase it from me at that price. Obviously, it's brand new, un-used and quite some pole.....

This could be JUST WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTEDand you won't have to wait 4 months plus for delivery! It's a real beaut. (or brute). First come gets it. (Martyn G3UKV 01952 255416 or ukv@ukv.me.uk).

FOR SALE: From Bill Duckett G8BKF. Long list of 'goodies'. See Website. FT1000 Mk 5, VX5R, MFJ 969 ATU, Cushcraft A3S 3 ele HF beam, 6m 4 ele beam, GAP Titan DX all band vertical etc etc.