

TDARS

# Newsletter

Issue 246

[www.TDARS.org.uk](http://www.TDARS.org.uk)

## Programme

May 2011

[www.telfordhamfest.co.uk](http://www.telfordhamfest.co.uk)

- May 11** "Made in Minutes" - Simple antennas and other ideas. G0UFE et al
- May 18** Surplus equipment sale. All the old gags and more. m/c Martyn G3UKV
- May 25** 2m walking DF hunt #2 . LWVH ; first transmission 19:30 BST 144.6 MHz +/-
- June 1** Committee Meeting. HQ LWVH closed. Net around 3657KHz or 144.6 MHz
- June 8** GUEST SPEAKER—David Wilson, M0OBW, President of RSGB
- June 14 (Tues)** Hamfest Committee meeting. Stafford Park 12
- June 15** Papua New Guinea Expedition. Illustrated talk by G3JKX & G3UKV
- June 22** VHF NFD Preparation
- June 29** 2m DF hunt #3. LWVH from 19:30 BST 144.6 MHz +/-
- July 2/3 (weekend)** VHF NFD. Long Mynd. Sat from 10:15 am on site.G3ZME/P
- July 6** Committee Meeting & HF/VHF on air. LWVH open as usual.
- July (Tues) 12** Hamfest Committee @ Stafford Park 12
- July 13** VHF NFD Debrief, scores etc. Informal evening.
- July 20** Build / Fly a Kite. LWVH Field. (Quiz at HQ if bad weather).
- July 27** Guernsey Trip preparation. Oscilloscopes in Practice. (Bring one along!)

Thanks contributions from: Mike G3JKX, Rob M0TOY, David M0YDH, Don M0FHM, Simon M3SET, Dave G8VZT

**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 Simon M3SET**

**Radio Amateur Exams: Latest News: [www.tdars.org.uk/html/trainingFoundation.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/trainingFoundation.html)**

**G3ZME** *Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. Founded 1969* **G6ZME**  
*Village Hall, Malthouse Bank, Little Wenlock, Telford. Shropshire. TF6 5BG*



# 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. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM**

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After rather disappointing support in last year's **2 metre DF hunts**, we hoped for more entrants in 2011. The first hunt took place on 20th April, and a small number went out to find Dave 'VZT' who was the Fox. He was DF'd successfully by Dave G4EIX, Norman G0ASP and Rob M0TOY (still 2E0RAV at that time!). There will be at least 2 more such hunts, programmed for May 25 and June 29, and we can only hope there will be more support. As a way to encourage more participation, it is intended to build 4 yagi antennas and offset-oscillator modules for any Member to borrow on these dates. Thus all you will need is a 2 metre handheld receiver. As the fox will be in walking range of the Club HQ, you don't even really need a local map—just walk towards the signal! DF experience is helpful, but luck plays a part too, and anyone could be first to find the Fox next time. Good exercise and fresh air too.



The use of **Special Contest Callsign G3Z** is always welcome. It was used recently by Dave G0CER (BARTG contest) and from Brown Clee (432 and up contest gang.) Please note that eligible contests for May to July include May 28-29 WPX CW, June 18-19 50MHz Trophy, July 9-10 IARU HF all-mode, July 30-31 RSGB IOTA. Let me know if you would like to use G3Z on any of these dates, please. Simon G0UFE is organising the 6m Trophy once again. (June)

**Annual Subs** are due at this time—please note the **current** rates are £28, or £22 non-earners, £14 full time students. These rates are un-changed from 2010/11.

The planned **mini Expedition to Guernsey** is taking place August 19th to 24th. A dozen or more Members have signed up to go. Non-radio activities: Superb beaches, walks and coves. Explore old German defences and local history. Sleep under canvas or in a 4-star hotel! Choice & variety for all the family! Let me know if you would like to join us—it's not too late.....

**UKAC 2011** – (UK Activity Contests) have got going, and once again David M0EMM and Dave G0CER are doing us proud on 6m and up (or put another way, where are the rest of you?). TDARS placings 50MHz 21st out of 42; 70MHz 10th of 23; 144MHz 29th of 60; 432MHz 21st of 45; 1296MHz 19th of 22. Dave M0EMM has entered all these bands except 6m, and is placed 12th, 146th, 59th and 10th respectively, whilst Dave G0CER has been 25th, 38th, 48th and 40th respectively, with the exception of 23cm. The rules and results of these Tuesday evening events are available from the 'Sport Radio. > 'VHF' section of the RSGB website, and include results up to the end of April. There is also a similar series aimed at 80m for you HF types ....



## Mike's Piece

Having been out in P29 for a month and busy before that, this is my first piece for a while. Going through some old papers I found a few websites which you should find interesting. 1<sup>st</sup>, Toronto University.....

1. [www.upscale.utoronto.com](http://www.upscale.utoronto.com)

Here you will find nice animations of aerial propagation and other interesting subjects.

2. [www.astrosurf.com/lombry/qs1-audiofiles.htm](http://www.astrosurf.com/lombry/qs1-audiofiles.htm)

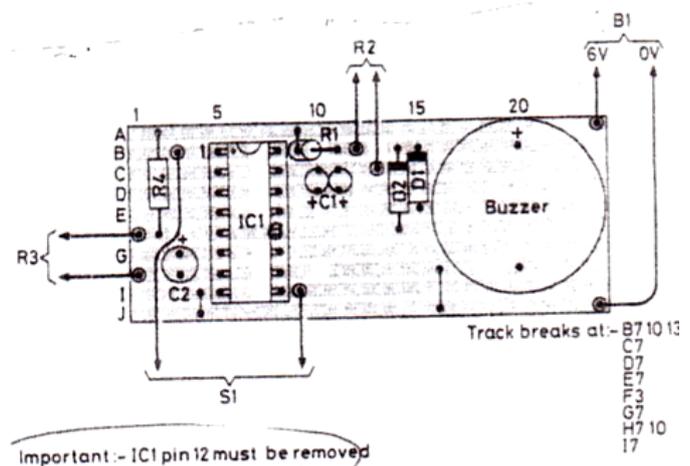
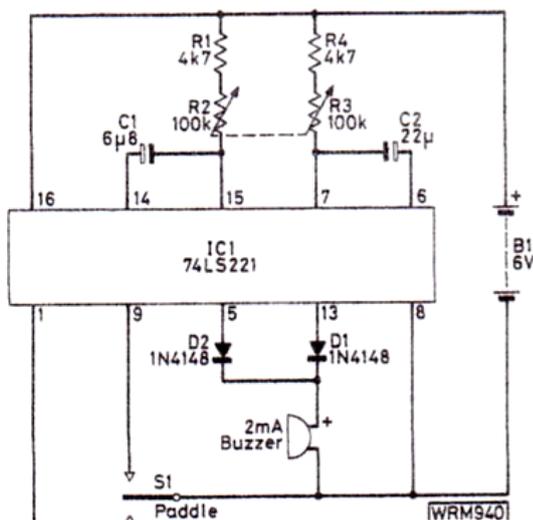
Lots of interesting audio clips of the various modes and radio conditions to be heard on the air. There's EME and aurora for a start. Some historical items too.

3. Want to learn morse code ? Look up [www.pcpractice.com/cw/](http://www.pcpractice.com/cw/)  
Speeds from 5 to 40 WPM are catered for.

Also see [www.learnmorsecode.com](http://www.learnmorsecode.com)

Speaking of CW, below is a very simple morse code machine for a single paddle which will produce automatic dots and dashes. It is from an old Practical Wireless and you can still get all the parts. The author used a flexible metal nail file as his paddle to contact two gold veropins! You can progress to a professional key later.

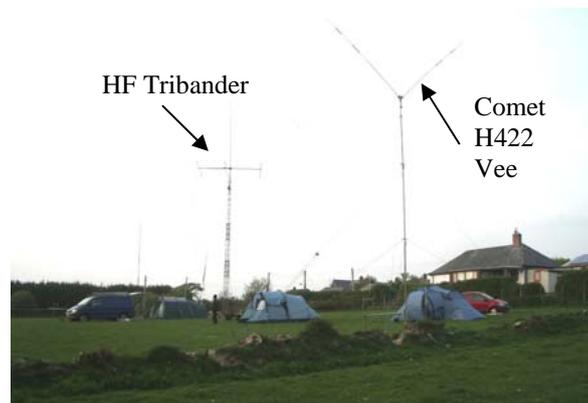
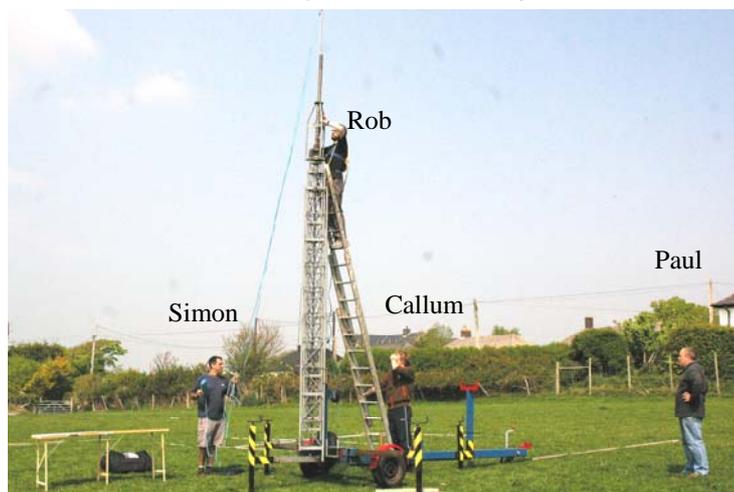
73 Mike G3JKX



## Trials, Tribulations and a Whole heap of Fun at Tywyn! By Simon Taylor. M3SET

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, in a determined effort to avoid the Royal Wedding, four club members Rob M0TOY (congratulations on the new call Rob!), Dave G8VZT, Paul M0PNN and myself M3SET, plus two guests David 2W0ZJA and Callum M6XCM set off towards Tywyn for this year's International Marconi Day operation. Callum and I were running ahead of schedule, so decided to stop in Aberdyfi for a nice cuppa and a walk along the beach. Despite being warm and gloriously sunny, it was exceptionally windy on the beach with coarse sand beating our faces. Little did I know then, but the wind played an important role in the weekend's events!

After arrival at our usual site, greetings were exchanged and we commented on how calm the weather was compared to Aberdyfi. Little did we know then what was to come later, perhaps if we had of known we may just have turned around and gone straight home. After a brief chat with Jean, our unique provider of electric and water, we briefly reviewed Rob's plans for the aerial farm and got to work.



In the centre of the field we placed one of the club's mobile masts, upon which we put Rob's tri band 3 element yagi. To the side of this we placed a strong arm mast, with a Comet H422 inverted V rotatable dipole which we planned to use on 40 metres. This mast was also to support one leg of the doublet. At the opposite end of the field we placed a third mast, which was used to support the other leg of the 135ft doublet, which we intended to use on 80 metres. Rob had come up with an ingenious plan to position the doublet above the tri band beam on the centre mast, using a Sota telescopic pole, thus placing the centre of the doublet at approximately 17 metres above ground level. This worked well and allowed the beam to rotate safely without getting tangled with the doublet. Three tents were erected, one for the 40 metre station, the club tent to house the transceiver and controls for the tri band beam and my own tent for the 80 metre set up using the club's own IC756. All of this was eventually tested on the Friday evening after much needed Cod and Chips and we were all looking forward to International Marconi Day on the Saturday.



Callum M6XCM, who at just 15 years of age, has only recently gained his foundation licence, having attended a course at Ludlow Air Cadets, where the instructors were the esteemed Mike G3JKX and Rich M0RKY. Callum had not operated since his exam and was feeling a little nervous about doing so. He did not need to worry though, as David 2W0ZJA guided him through a QSOs on 7mhz. Callum did really well and was soon at ease and enjoying the experience. Thanks David.

By late Friday evening, Paul and David were rather tired, so retired to their beds and planned to start operating on 7Mhz early the following morning. Rob, Callum and I decided to start operating at 00:00 GMT. By this time, we had noticed that the wind had started to pick up.

At 00:00 GMT Callum and I settled into our chairs and started to call CQ on 3.5Mhz, after just two QSOs, Rob rushed in looking rather flustered, telling us to stop transmitting immediately. The high winds had caused the Sota pole which was supporting the doublet above the beam to snap in two and an element of the doublet was now caught on an element of the beam! In increasingly high winds, I tried to hold a torch beam steady as Rob tried to launch a line over the boom of the beam, which we could use to free the doublet. This was successful on just our second attempt, the doublet was then secured beneath the beam and I could return to calling CQ and Callum went off to bed.

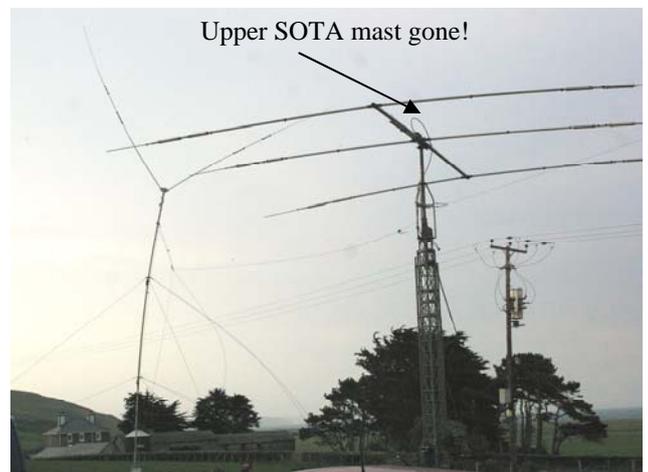


A few minutes later Rob reappeared looking even more stern faced than before. The high winds had caused the club tent to collapse, breaking a couple of poles in the process.

I offered to come and help Rob, but he said there was no need as he had already secured the remains of the tent to the ground and the equipment inside it was secure. We continued

to operate on 3.5Mhz having some interesting QSOs into the east coast of the USA and Canada, a first for me on 80 metres. I also had an enjoyable QSO with Norman G4USB, who is one of the founders of IMD and was operating the Cornish Radio Amateur Clubs special call GB4IMD. I explained to Norman our difficulties and I think that his laughing was in reality sympathy for our predicament! I eventually went to bed around 03:40 GMT.

Saturday morning came around all too soon and the wind continued to gust up to 40 – 50 mph. Having assessed that the club tent was terminal, yet safely pinned to the ground and waited down with various pieces of non essential kit, we all decided to leave well alone and get operating. Paul and David on 40 metres and Callum and I on 80 metres. Rob set about rescuing the transceiver and rotator control from the club tent and set about establishing the tri band beam station from the back of his very useful van.



Both the 7Mhz station and the 3.5Mhz station were soon very busy with pile ups to be worked through. However, it soon became apparent that the 3.5Mhz station was being troubled with S9+ of co-interference from the rotary dipole being used on 7Mhz. Dave VZT, decided there was only one course of action to solve this problem, move the doublet away from the offending rotary dipole. So off we set, dropping the far mast in high winds and placing it further away from the centre, thus allowing the doublet to be moved further away from the errant rotary dipole. We were now using our third aerial configuration in less than 24 hours! Lunchtime saw the arrival of Peter 2E0ZSU and our friend Nigel G1GZZ. Pete finally broke his non operating stance and was seen hammering out CQ on a straight key on 20 metres. Mr Marconi would have been very pleased to note that CW is still alive and kicking within the TDARs ranks! We were also visited by two local amateurs, 12 year old Ricky MW6GWR and his father Kevin MW3RNI. They were both really impressed with what they saw and duly took pictures of various aspects of the site for a local website.

