

TDARS



Newsletter



Issue 238

Nov. 2009

www.TDARS.org

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- November 18* Members' Construction Project. Digital Modes Interface.
- November 25* Surplus Equipment Sale. M/C G8UGL
- December 2* Club HQ closed. CM at The Huntsman
- December 9* Competition Time. Small teams make a something...(hush, hush)
- December 16* TDARS Christmas Dinner @ The Duck at Allscott (aka The Allscott Inn)
Booking Form enclosed. Return by Wed. 9th December latest.
- December 23* Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Social at LW HQ. A bit of recession cheer...
- December 25 (Friday)* Xmas Day Net at 09:00 UTC. 144.600 MHz +/-
- December 30* Informal Meeting at LW HQ. New Year's Resolutions, perhaps ?
- January 1* New Year's Day net 144.6 and 3.657 MHz +/- bands @ 09:00 hrs
- January 6* Open House / HF on Air / Committee (LW Village Hall)
- January 13* Transceiver Functions Explained. Just what are all those buttons for?
- January 20* "Share a Circuit"- bring along your favourite circuits. Copier available
- January 27* Make a 2 metre yagi night. (a la G4EIX design—cost a quid or two...)
- February 3* Committee Meeting at the Huntsman.
- February 10* Annual 'Under a Fiver' Construction Competition.
- February 17* TBA

**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 Kevin G8UPF**

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

QJC? News & Information

The last few weeks have been very busy in the **TDARS antenna department**, and a bit “hairy” at times. Martin 2E0TRO, as our Rep. on the Village Hall Committee has been negotiating for some extra facilities. So, we have gained permission for a small control and antenna outlet box in the kitchen annex area, which has now been installed (thanks Chris M0ECM) and partially cabled. We also got permission to put up a ‘white stick’ antenna on the west gable end for 2m/70cm. However, just as the necessary hardware was being raised up a ladder by Chris & Co one recent Saturday morning, a local neighbour took matters into her own hands and ‘went ballistic’. No way were we going to put it up as it was visible from her house. To avoid an International Incident, it was decided to halt proceedings and return to Committee for guidance. TDARS Committee decided to hold fire for the time being, as friendly neighbourhood relationships are vital to us, and the ‘incident’ is to be reported to the V.H. committee at their next meeting, since it was quite aggressive and unpleasant for those on the receiving end.

For the time being, this new **dual-band antenna** has been installed in the loft area, together with a **132ft doublet** of sorts, for HF activities. We all know that indoor antennas are inefficient, and can give rise to EMC issues at times—but that is the compromise for the present. It is likely the 2/70 antenna will be re-positioned outside on the south side of the building some time in the new year, on a separate tilt-over mast if permission is received. Meanwhile, there have been **problems with one of the microwave beacon** waveguide antennas. Peculiar effects and a high SWR had been noted on the 3400 MHz beacon (9cm band). To our amazement, the outer sheath was found to be open circuit—and this wasn’t RG58 lightweight stuff!. It was half-inch, solid copper shielded LDF4-50 heliax coax, fitted with proper connectors etc. Water ingress was found to be the culprit, which had collected within an in-line N type connector, despite being supposedly totally water tight. Once again, this has been fixed (G3UKV & M0ECM) and now radiates an even louder GB3ZME signal. Obviously the problem had been developing over a long period. The final **proposed GB3ZME beacon on 2320 MHz** (13cm band) still has not been forwarded to OfCOM, even though the electronic paperwork was complete and sent to RSGB (via their reputable microwave representative) last February. Hopes for this fourth and final microwave propagation beacon from the Club being operational by Christmas seem to be receding. As they say, it’s out of our hands

As reported last Newsletter, this year’s **2 metre foxhunt winner** had not been declared. I can now reveal that Dave G8VZT and Norman G0ASP are joint winners, working as a team. The DF Trophy will be presented at an appropriate time at a future TDARS meeting. Well done lads, but keep an eye on the opposition in 2010

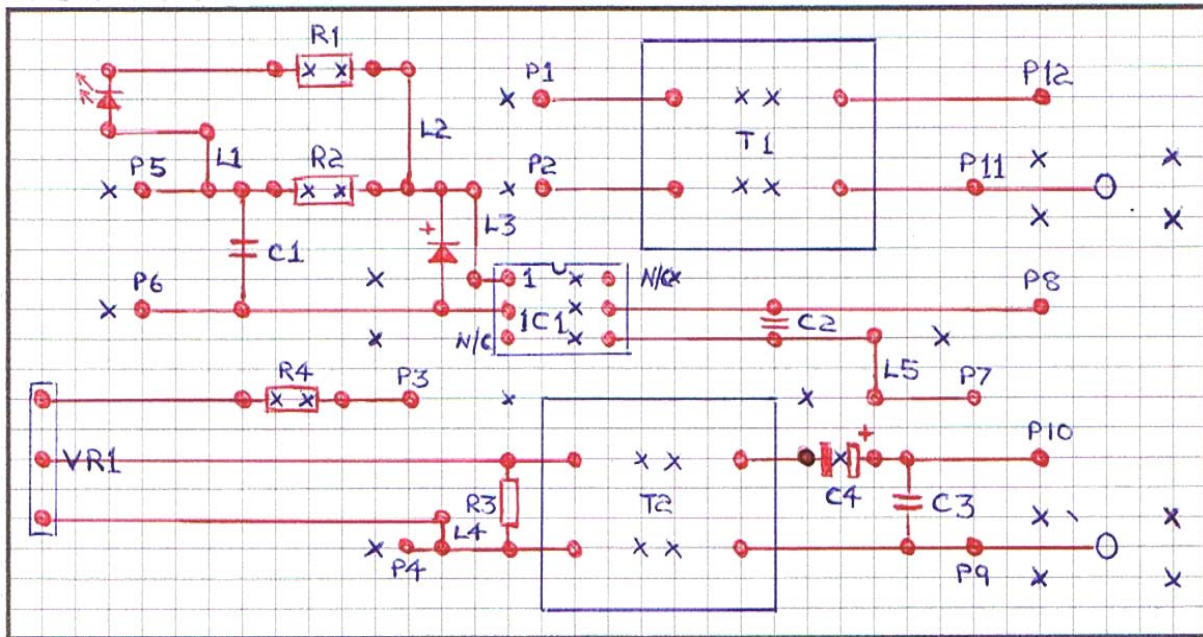


The proposed **visit to Bletchley Park** has been postponed until next year. The large government sourced grant announced a few weeks ago means the future is bright for this extraordinary place, and a ‘Must’ for TDARS to visit. Also being arranged behind the scenes is a visit (or two !) to **RAF Shawbury** to see their state-of-the-art flying training simulators and other features. Watch the front page

Thanks to Tony M0TAW for an excellent **Quiz Night**. At this time, the results are not known since there was insufficient time on-the-night to mark the entries. Working in pairs was an interesting format, but we must wait for the outcome with bated breath ...

And then there’s the TDARS **40th anniversary mugs**... 2009 may have to be extended :

TDARS Digital Interface Project information—by Derek G0EYX



View of component side
Tracks
Underneath view

PC Connections

P1= Line-in or Mic In
 P2= Ground
 P3= Line out or Speaker out
 P4= Ground
 P5= To Com. port, pin 7
 P6= To Com. port, pin 5

Transceiver Connections

P7= Ground)
 P8= PTT)
 P9= Ground) via Acc skt.
 P10= Mic)
 P11= Ground)
 P12= Speaker)

Components and Assessories

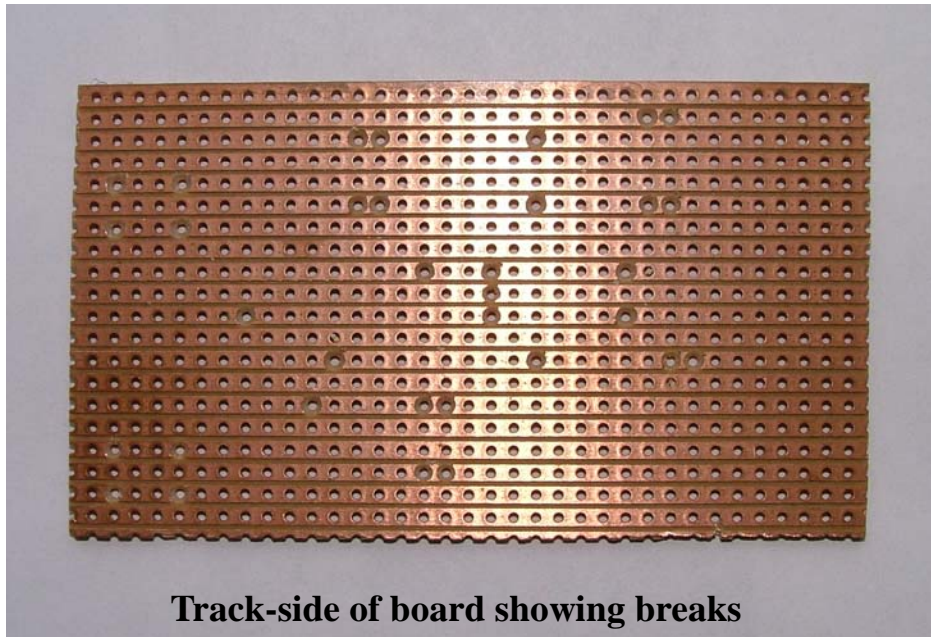
R1-R2-R3. 1K ¼ watt. Resistor
 R4 1K2 ¼ watt Resistor
 VR1 1K Potentiometer Linear.
 C1—C3 0.01µF Ceramic capacitor
 C4 2.2µF 50V electrolytic capacitor
 IC1 Opto-coupler 4N25
 D1 1N4148 diode
 T1 –T2 600ohm transformers, type 9000, 1:1
 L1—L5. wire links
 2*3.5mm Stereo Plugs
 1*9pin'D' plug, Com1 or 2 and cover
 2 mtr Single core screened audio cable
 1 mtr 4 core screened audio cable
 Project box 65*100*50, W*D* H.
 LED High sensitivity type.
 Perforated board , 91* 52mm. (Tracks run the length).
'X' = Break in tracks on underside

Note:

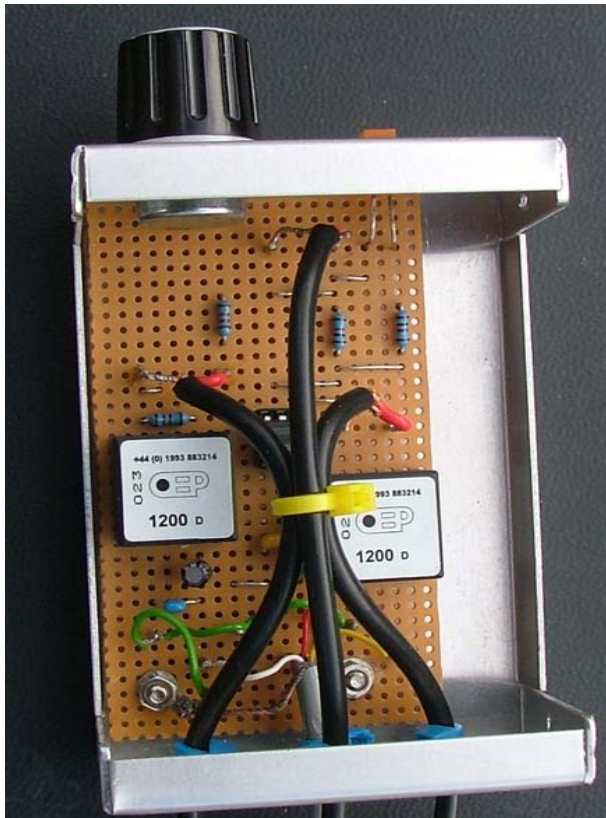
Ensure that PC and Transceiver Ground connections are kept separate.

Enlarged holes on right-hand side(2) for 'stand-offs' to case and Trevr. ground.

Stereo plug connections: P1 connects to tip. P2 connects to body. Ring NOT used
 P3 connects to tip. P4 connects to body. Ring NOT used.

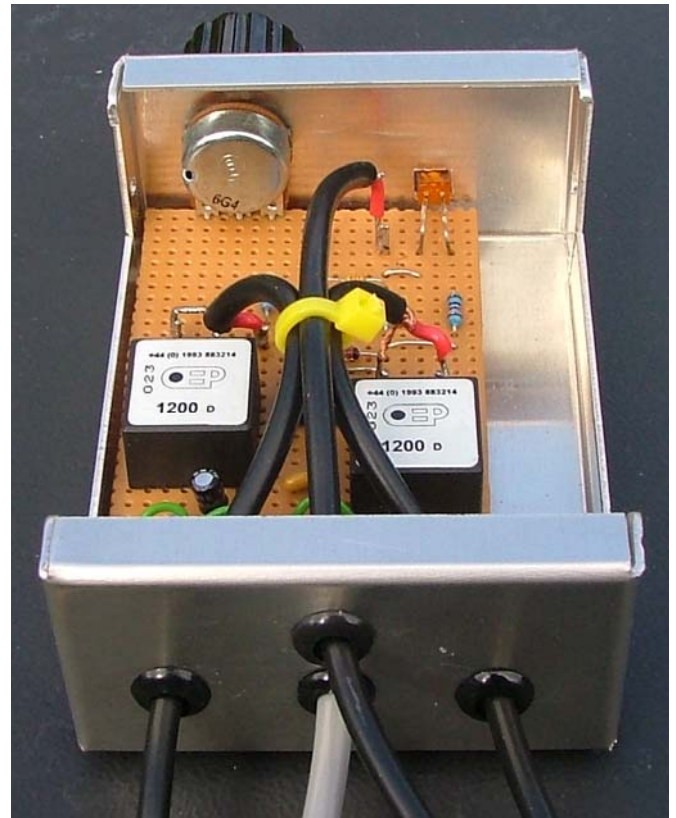


Track-side of board showing breaks



Inside view 'A'.

Board is supported at the rear with 2* 3mm screws with 'stand-offs between board and case. Front of board is supported by variable resistor shaft mounting.



View of cable exit points.

Drill 6.5mm hole for black cables to achieve a 'snug fit' on cables. Grey cable drill 7mm hole.

**All transceiver 'earth' points connect via green wire to left hand screw.
Tie wraps fitted close to each cable exit and around all at mid-point (yellow tie-wrap), to reduce cable strain**

Problems With My Loop— by Paul M0PNN

After passing the foundation in late 2006 and spending quite some time planning my HF setup, a window for 10-40 metres and a loop antenna for 80 metres was decided upon after consultation with the station manager.

After measuring the available space I was 5 to 10 metres short of a full wave on 80 Metres. A loop antenna as the name implies should be loop shaped, but this on my small plot of land is not possible. There's vertical and horizontal sections and the height varies between 4 metres and 10 metres. The loop sits inside my window antenna and I use the wire of the loop to guy the scaffold pole to which one end of the window is attached. The loop is joined with a dipole centre and 450 ohm twin feeder is brought through the shack wall to an MFJ 969 with built in 4:1 balun.

How well does it work? it's a cloud warmer on 80, which is what I hoped for. As an M3 I was putting out a great signal inter-G with my 10 watts. I have worked 44 DXCC on 80 including the USA and Canada. The loop even out-performs the window on 15 and 10 at times depending on the angle of the skip.

Everything was going fine with the loop until I passed my Full Licence and started using the full power of my FT857D 100 watts. RF was getting into my FT857D I tried many types of balun 4:1, a coax choke balun, direct feeding with RG213, short length of 450 ohm into 4:1 on roof then RG 213 through shack wall. I even buried a 6 ft 2 inch solid copper rod for an earth, but still the radio re-set. The dummy load showed no problems with the radio re-setting on full power.

Though the 857d is prone to this problem, the situation culminated with my FT857D getting RF into the main cpu and frying it; I was tuning on 80 using 5 watts at the time.

Morale after this event suffered, and resulted in the Station Manager insisting a new radio was purchased and the old one sent for repair.

I posted my problem on junksale and after swapping posts with Steve G3TXQ (Mr Hex beam) he modelled the antenna for me and suggested 450 twin to a 1:1 current (choke balun) on outside wall of shack then coax to tuner.

The Balun Was Constructed So

FT240-61 Torroid <http://www.2i0nie.com/>

RG 316 low loss coax <http://www.wifi-antennas.co.uk/>

Suitable weather proof box H 11cm L 11cm D 5.5cm

2x terminal posts <http://www.maplin.co.uk/> N51AQ

1x SO239 suitable for PL259 plug <http://www.maplin.co.uk/> BW85G

Bolts with nuts screws for SO239

A picture says a thousand words > > > >



Annual TDARS Christmas Dinner at The Duck at Allscott Inn
Wed. 16th December 2009



Booking Form: Please return by Wed. Dec. 9th latest:

Please use this page to make your Booking ASAP, or by Wednesday 9 th December at the very latest. Pass it, e-mail or post it to Martyn G3UKV. The cost is £15.95 per person, payable on the night. Late cancellations may have to be paid for.

NAME:

7.30 FOR 8PM.

| MENU | NUMBER REQUIRED |
|--|-----------------|
| Tomato & Chive Soup with warm rustic bread | |
| Crispy filo basket with creamy garlic mushrooms & side salad | |
| Grilled Trout Fillet on mixed salad with honey + mustard dressing | |
| Smooth Duck & Orange Pate served with chutney & rustic bread | |
| King Prawns on mixed leaves with rose marie sauce | |
| Smoked Mackerel Fishcake with sweet chilli dip | |
| ***** | ***** |
| Shropshire Turkey with pigs in blankets and a lemon & thyme stuffing | |
| Roast Shropshire Beef with Yorkshire pudding | |
| Chicken Breast butterflied in a creamy mushroom & white wine sauce | |
| Scottish Salmon Supreme, oven baked with lemon & dill sauce | |
| Caramelised Red Onion & Sage Tart with red pesto & grilled goats cheese (vegetarian) | |
| 10 oz Ribeye Steak (cooked to your liking,) served with mushrooms, tomatoes & onion rings - chips optional. (£2 extra) | |
| ***** | ***** |
| Traditional Christmas Pudding topped with brandy sauce | |
| Apple, Pear and Raspberry Crumble | |
| Mega Chocolate Fudge Cake served warm with ice-cream | |
| Strawberry Sundae | |
| Lemon Meringue Roulade served with cream | |
| Vanilla Cheesecake with Butterscotch sauce. | |

Coffee or Tea with mints served afterwards.

The Duck at Allscott Inn (tel: 01952 248484) is located on the B4394 Road, right next to the closed sugar beet factory site, about 3 miles west of Wellington. **Partner, Friend & Family WELCOME !**