

TDARS

# Newsletter

Issue 237

Oct. 2009

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

## Programme

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

- September 23** *Introduction To Microwaves. Talk by Martyn G3UKV*
- September 30** *Social Evening (Salop ARS invited) and short video*
- October 7** *HQ Closed. Meeting at The Huntsman. Usual first-in-the-Month*
- October 14** *Data Modes. Introduction by Dave G0CER. Head-count for club projects construction kits by Members*
- October 21** *HF on Air. Some antenna tuning checks and tests*
- October 28** *The new Society Construction Project(s). Details and costs etc.*
- November 4** *Open House / On the Air / Committee. LW HQ*
- November 11** *Quiz Night M/C Tony M0TAW*
- November 18** *Members' Construction Projects (contin.)*
- November 25** *Surplus Equipment Sale*
- December 2** *Club HQ closed. CM at The Huntsman*
- December 9** *Competition Time. Small teams make a something...(TBD)*
- December 16** *TDARS Christmas Dinner @ The Duck at Allscott (aka The Allscott Inn)*
- December 23** *Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Social at LW HQ*
- December 25 (Friday)** *Xmas Day Net at 09:00 UTC. 144.600 MHz +/-*
- December 30** *Informal Meeting at LW HQ. (To be Confirmed)*

**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 Richy M0RKY**

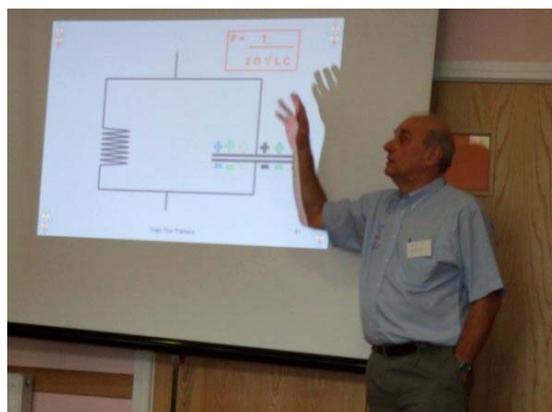
**G3ZME** *Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. Founded 1969* **G6ZME**  
*Little Wenlock Village Hall, Malthouse Bank, Little Wenlock, Telford. Shropshire. TF6 5BG*





# QJC? News & Information

The second Telford **“Train the Trainers”** event has taken place at the Club HQ in Little Wenlock. The last local one took place in 2003 at the Priorslee Campus of the University of Wolverhampton. The idea is to give guidance and updates to existing or would-be amateur radio examination instructors at all levels (Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced). It was a busy, full day (Saturday) event which was well supported and valuable, and should help all candidates receive a sound training, from more confidence instructors.



The **results of VHF NFD 2009** have come out in record time. Usually, we have to wait until the end of the year, but the long-promised improvement in adjudication and publishing speed has finally arrived.

G3ZME/P has come **top of the Mix and Match Section** of the event, with a total normalised score of 2646 points. The highlights of our success were a) greatly improved 6m result (from 11th placing in 2008 to 6th) and b) the 2m station was easily 1st out of 29 entries in their Restricted Section. An excellent result.

We have been ‘runners up’ in each of the previous two years’ NFD events.

Normalised scores (ie score out of 1000, which is awarded to the top station in a particular band and section. All other entries then receive a pro rata score) and section position.

(2008 in brackets for comparison):-

50 MHz 555 (274) 6th (11th)  
70 MHz 726 (623) 4th (2nd)  
144 MHz 1000 (951) 1st (3rd)  
1296 MHz 365 (622) 5th (4th)

Band number of QSOs and scores, adjudicated. (2008 in brackets)

50 MHz 147 (96) 108933 (33963)  
70 MHz 80 (73) 13993 (17659)  
144 MHz 313 (224) 70962 (47033)  
1296 MHz 38 (37) 5691 (6409)

Adjudication losses (ie claimed QSOs and Scores with percentage deductions).

Ideally, we aim to lose less than 5%, but as points are deducted from BOTH ends of a QSO if the adjudicator finds a mis-match in either side of a QSO, it is not totally under our control.

50 MHz 155, 114570. Loss 4.92%  
70 MHz 86, 15095. Loss 7.3%  
144 MHz 322, 73057. Loss 2.87 %  
1296 MHz 42, 6413. Loss 11.26%

So the final result is TDARS being awarded the **RSGB G5BY Trophy for the sixth time!** (2002-2006 inclusive and now 2009. We also won the Restricted Section Trophy in 1995) CONGRATULATIONS to all involved in this year’s event on the Mynd.



As noted previously (Pg 2), the **TDARS 4th HamFest** was a very successful event, which passed off with no major problems. At the feedback meeting (Sept. 9th), all aspects of the event were covered, and the general opinion was that the event had gone very smoothly and successfully, with an improved profit (over 2008) for club funds. Most traders and visitors gave the thumbs-up for a repeat next year. Francis Bell of the GEO (Group for Earth Observation) gave two excellent talks to about 30 people, and the room which Enginuity provided was ideal. The loss of the speaker's laptop somewhere between the hotel room in which he stayed and the HamFest venue was a shocker. Hopefully Francis had 'all risks' insurance. We had about 600 visitors, and about 20 of them took advantage of the 30% entrance discount to Enginuity. For 2010, we will look yet again at a suitable date (first Sunday in September; the 5th ?) and the overall charging strategy, viz a viz Visitors—Exhibitors. It is highly likely that another group or individual will be invited (persuaded ?) to give a suitable presentation in the 'gallery'. The re-instated entrance guide was reckoned to be a worthwhile 'plus'. A meeting of midland rally organisers during the winter, as used to happen regularly in Derby in bygone years, was felt to be a possible way of avoiding the date shambles of this year—but it really needs the full co-operation of all parties, including the RSGB's events calendar author.

This year's **2 metre Foxhunts** have come and gone. (Apr 29, July 22, Aug 19), but the overall winner has not yet been announced. There was good weather on each occasion, but finding Jim hidden behind a tree in the Town Park may well have aroused the suspicions of the ever-watchful Park Wardens. Whispering into a covert walkie-talkie, he could easily have been arrested by this PC group, under the guidelines provided by local administrators .... (Blokes on their own, possibly preying on an un-suspecting victim....)

Derek G0EYX has done a fine job of completing the **loft entrance safety railing**. Someone suggested we should now choose a suitable matching wallpaper for the room upstairs, to match the eloquence of the new woodwork. It is quite easily removable if an oversize object needs to pass through the loft opening.

A **fourth microwave GB3ZME beacon** for the 13cm (2300 MHz) band is now almost complete. There has been a licensing delay, not helped by a local (non TDARS) radio amateur with his own agenda. Meanwhile, the 3.4GHz beacon has a slight problem that has not yet been resolved due to pressure of holidays (!) and other priorities (such as getting a Newsletter out...). Finally, **GB3TF repeater** has also been playing up at times, (bursts of white noise, even during ID transmissions with no through-traffic in evidence), but it is likely the Committee will authorise the replacement of the old logic control circuitry (early 1980s vintage) with a current PIC based unit in the coming months. Jim G8UGL has his eye on sorting this one out.

We still hope to eventually install an **improved HF antenna at the LW HQ**. At present there is a LF loop, loaned to us by Simon G0UFE, as well as a 20m dipole pinned to a roof truss. A long wire, loop or even doublet could be placed almost invisibly in the spacious roof area, or maybe a stealth wire to existing poles outside for better propagation, perhaps using the auto ATU just inside the building for remote tuning. A dual band vertical **VHF/UHF indoor antenna** (2m/70cm) is also envisaged. The Village Hall Committee has been approached with a view to installing a small, inconspicuous feeder (coax or balanced) connection and control box at the rear of the kitchen shutter for 'Night on the Air' sessions.

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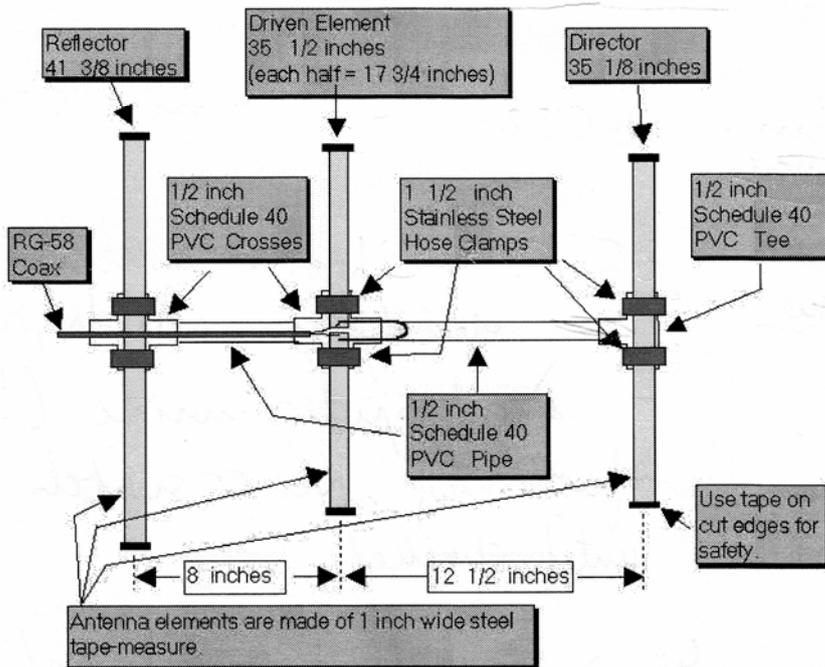
TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.

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





# Tape Measure ARDF Antenna



A reminder of the main construction details of Dave G4EIX's 2 metre DF antenna. It uses a 'hairpin' match, using enamelled 18 swg wire, or similar.

It is likely that this nifty yagi, together with Dave's offset 4MHz oscillator cum attenuator circuit (see TDARS website) will be the alternative Society Project for the coming months.



Don 'FHM demos D-Star



What's under the Bring & Buy stand ?



Happy Trader's Draw wine winner

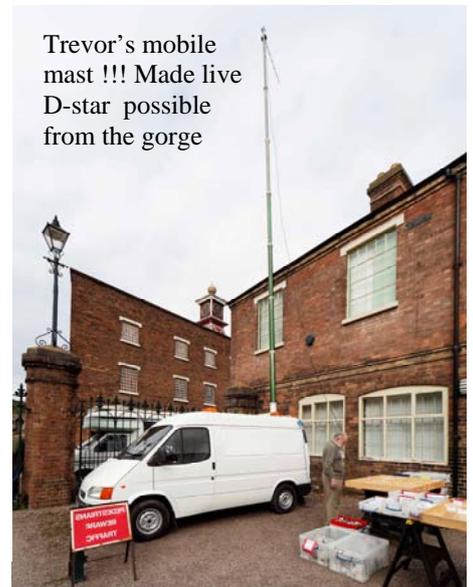
**TELFORD HAMFEST.  
6 SEPTEMBER  
2009**



A steady flow of visitors all day ...



Henry Westlake wins a long-service loyalty bottle of wine from Derek 'EYX.



Trevor's mobile mast !!! Made live D-star possible from the gorge