

# T News Letter

# TDARS

G3ZME  
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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

FOUNDED 1969

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

Issue 268

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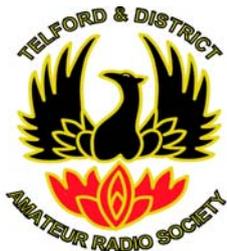
## Programme

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

- April 22 Small processors in radio. Eric M0KZB (Arduino, Raspberry Pi)
- April 24-26 (Fri-Sun) \*\*\*\* GB8MD Marconi Day at Tywyn, Gwynedd \*\*\*\***
- April 29 'Transceivers for All' - bring, show and tell—incl. TDARS own rigs
- May 6 Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air
- May 13 Surplus equipment sale
- May 16-17(weekend) GX6ZME/P LW Village Field: 6m Station & computer logging**
- May 20 Portable stations in Little Wenlock Field (behind the Huntsman)
- May 27 "Aircraft Communications" - guest speaker (tbc)
- June 3 Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air
- June 10 "Morse Keys—my collection" Ray Bullock G0EML
- June 17 "Make your own 3D Printer" - Neil Simmonds M6TVS
- June 20-21 50 MHz Trophy Contest G3Z from Long Mynd. Offers of help to G0UFE**
- June 20 (Saturday) 1940's Evening at Blists Hill Museum ('B.B. Hut')**
- June 24 VHF NFD Preparations.
- July 1 Committee Meeting (7:30pm) and GX3ZME on the air
- July 4-5 VHF NFD from Long Mynd IO82NN. On site from 10:15 onwards**
- July 8 "Shropshire Raynet" - guest speaker with 'Talk-thru' Unit (tbc)

*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 Don M0TBQ or Andy 2E0YVN  
[Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html](http://www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html)*

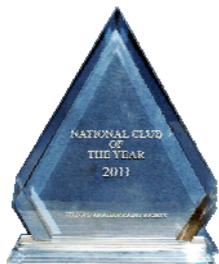
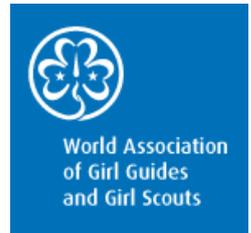
# Qtc: News & Information



**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**

**Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .**

TDARS was invited to the **TDOTA** (Guides' Thinking Day on The Air) and took place in the Telford Town Centre Shopping Malls on a Saturday evening in February. Following similar events in the past, a couple of morse stations were set up, where the girls sent and received slow morse to each other, with guidance from us. A live station was quite impractical from within the malls, and in any case, a 'hands-on' approach tends to be more successful with youngsters. A rapid exit was made at 9pm when Eric 'KZB discovered we were likely to be locked into the Malls for the night for security reasons if we did not leave immediately ! The normal exit charging had to be disabled for us at the barriers. Interesting. The overall organisation by the Guiders was a bit shaky from our point of view, but we shall be better prepared if we are invited again next year.



On the subject of **Morse Code**, Eric M0KZB and Paul M0PNN have been busy on Tuesday and Thursday evenings sending and receiving the original digital mode on 2 metres.. About 10 candidates, both members and non-members have taken up the challenge, and one has been brave enough to request a 'Proficiency Test' in due course at 12 wpm. (well done Martin 'TRO). An attractive **Morse Proficiency Certificate** is available for whatever speed anyone requests. The standard speeds are 5 or 12 words-per-minute, but any speed between 5 and 25 wpm can be arranged, with a choice of "QSO style" content or plain language text from a magazine (or similar). A test takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and 4 sending errors, plus 6 receiving errors are allowed during the session. Usually they take place at LWVH, but other arrangements can be made. Requests to Martyn G3UKV please.

John M0JZH has given a lot of publicity to the idea of Members getting familiar with **computer logging**—usually on a laptop PC. This is essential for contest operating, even if a handwritten log is also kept as a check-log. It reports duplicate QSOs, and takes most of the hard work out of submitting a log after the event.. It is also invaluable to answering requests for QSL cards; this applies also to Special Event Station (GU3ZME/P, GB8MD etc) , which tend to generate a high QSL rate for Paul M0PNN to respond to. John can supply a CD with the current version of Winlog32, or it can be downloaded (free) from [WWW.winlog32.co.uk](http://WWW.winlog32.co.uk).

Our **special Contest call G3Z** is still very much under-used. For some reason, it cannot be used on many RSGB contests, but for almost every overseas contest it can be used. Someone mentioned lack of HF contests in the last Newsletter—so check out the SM3CER Contest website, where you can find links to almost every contest on the planet: For example, April 25-26 Ten-Ten International. May 1 Portugese QRP. May 2-3 Hellenic WW DX PSK63. May 16-17 Aegean RTTY. June 20-21 King of Spain SSB. June 20-21 All Asian DX CW. See [www.sk3bg.se/contest/](http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/) for lots more—although quite a few of the links on this site don't work. If YOU want to use G3Z, please let me (G3UKV) know in advance. It's good fun using the special call, and will help the club retain the special call after 2016 so long as you send in a reasonable entry to the organising entity.

The RSGB are looking for **volunteers to support the EMC** ( Electro Magnetic Comatability—QRM) committee's work. In each Region of the U.K. The group will supply the

equipment and some training. Further information is a bit sketchy at present, but if you're interested, let Martyn G3UKV know, and he will pass on your details. The regular EMC column in RadCom will give you some idea of the scope of this group's work in EMC.

Thanks to Rob M0TOY and Brian G6UDX for their talk and demo of using oscilloscopes in the shack (April 8th). Using the projector, we could follow Rob's every move from the comfort of our seats. It showed just how versatile this piece of test kit can be, and of course club members are welcome to borrow or use the tdars 'scope at any time. John G7ACD and Dave G8VZT also added their experience and two-penny worth to the demonstration.

As mentioned earlier, subs are due following the AGM. £28 for year 2015/16, £22 for 'non-earners', and just £14 for full-time students. They can be paid in installments if requested—speak to Jim G8UGL. Please try to remember your membership card for updating. So far, (as at 15 April), renewals confirmed from 2E0DTB, 2E0KDF, 2E0TRO, G0ASP, G0CER, G0EYX, G0HCT, G3JKX, G3UDA, G3UKV, G4JOW, G4NKC, G6UDX, G8UGL, G8VZT, GM3YEW, M0EAK, M0IRP, M0KZB, M0PNN, M0RJS, M0RKY + Sarah M6..., M0TAW, M0TBQ, M6JAX.

John M6JAX reminds members that they can attend meetings of the Shropshire Linux Group (SLUG). They take place at the Cock Hotel in Wellington, on the last Thursday of each month (ie April 30, May 28 and June 25th etc), from 7:30pm onwards. See <https://shropshirelug.wordpress.com/meetings/> for more information.

As the retiring Chairman at the AGM at the end of March, Derek 'EYX gave his usual 'state of the nation' presentation. He reflected on the successes and minor disappointments of the past year, as well as itemizing the work of individual members of the Committee which is the energy behind much of what happens at TDARS. A full script of Derek's swan song has been circulated to the current committee, and can be passed to anyone on request to a committee member.

Also at the TDARS AGM, following the main business, the various trophies were awarded to warm applause. Construction trophies:- Both the 'Main' and 'Under a Fiver' went to Paul M0PNN, whilst the Beginner's went to John M0JZH for his "Fox40" transceiver. The prestigious Jack Hassall award for services to TDARS over the past year went to John M0JZH, whilst Paul M0PNN picked up a third Trophy, the Syd Poole G3IMP for his outstanding success on the airwaves during the past year, particularly on HF.

The Kippure 'wooden spoon' went to G0... for events on Long Mynd on Field Day last summer- even tho' absent at AGM....



Paul M0PNN receives his third Trophy of the night !  
(Is that a record? - Ed)



John M0JZH receiving the Jack Hassall trophy from Derek G0EYX. (retiring Chairman)







## WORK IN PROGRESS – or the struggle to get mobile on the HF bands.

–by Martyn G3UKV

For quite a while now, I've been thinking about expanding my VHF/UHF mobile activities. Our Repeater (GB3TF) is, unfortunately, very quiet these days, and I do rather less /M than when I was working full time. However, I've always admired Simon's (G0UFE) multi-band mobile activities (but don't tell him or we'll never hear the last of it .....). Furthermore, the sort-of-club-project that Brian G6UDX came up with last autumn (hands-free mobile using cheap Chinese boom microphone and control box) also had me thinking . . .

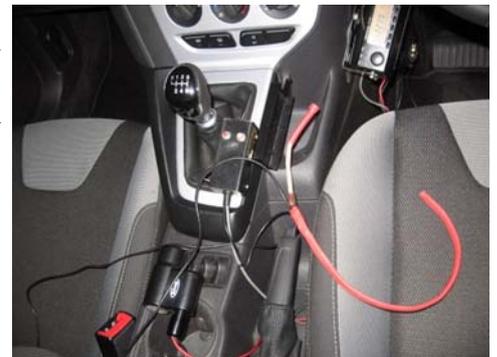
So, I decided that there was nothing for it but to indulge my fantasies of HF mobile operation. In bygone decades, I have been mobile on top band (160m) using an early Yaesu FT101, hand mike, with a gutter mount antenna made up with hundreds of turns of enamel wire on a 1" water pipe, to a two quid whip bought in Wellington market. Analogue readout and three hungry driver/PA valves. Front seat passengers were out of the question as the rig took up the available space. But it worked quite well, and I even once tried CW with a lightweight key strapped just above the knee, whilst driving on a quiet back road near Broseley.



More sensibly and recently I used my Alinco DX-70 TH with a tapped loaded whip made by Sandpiper on 80 and 40 metres mobile. The rig still sat on the passenger seat, but at least it didn't leave its imprint on the covering material. I recall quite a few pleasant QSOs on the way to Tywyn for the Marconi Day event on HF. As the car cigar lighter 12v outlet was likely to blow a fuse if I used 100 watts on HF, I simply placed a separate battery behind the driver's seat, and it held up well for such journeys. But really this was another of those 'UKV bodes. It worked, but it wasn't pretty, and could only be used on a temporary basis when no one else was in the vehicle. Also, I hate using a fist microphone whilst mobile – it is asking for trouble, even if it is just about legal. My vintage vhf/uhf set-up at least really is "hands free", apart from flicking a switch to go to transmit.



So, what about a REAL HF mobile installation? Well, I have a newish set of wheels, and it seems a shame not to drill a few holes here and there in the interior. I still yearn for an HF + VHF/UHF mobile station to widen my horizons. As you can see, rig-mounting space is at a premium. I've installed the vintage Kenwood 2/70cm rig OK, just to the left of the driver's seat (top right). Just visible is the 12v outlet connection (lower, centre) and the control box (centre by gearstick), and of course the headband microphone (pink). Modern cars are simply not suited to my requirements.



Well, I had to start somewhere – and so I got in touch with the guys at Haumond Hill who fitted the tow bar for my caravan. For a very reasonable price, they put in a 30 amp cable direct to the vehicle battery, complete with weather proof in-line fuse (Yes – I do use them occasionally). The Maginot Line has nothing to compare with getting volts from the battery into the modern car: multiple layers of plastic, insulation, engine-guts and much more.

Next – what rig?

I wanted to continue having access to the 2m and 70cm bands as well as HF, all in one box. Don M0TBQ had a fine Yaesu FT897d For Sale (I believe he still has— see tdars website ), which met my requirements of covering all bands from 160m to 70cm – BUT there was no way it would fit anywhere near the driver's driving position. So I decided to splash out on a new Yaesu FT857d which is specifically aimed at portable and mobile all-band users. It comes complete with a 'separation kit' and all the bits, and the price is easily covered by a few years Pensioners' Winter Fuel Allowances. (How else would you spend it?) Naturally, as with all the manufacturers, it's supplied with a totally unsuitable fist mike, but hopefully we can overcome that obstacle for mobile hands-free operation.



