

# TDARS News Letter

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)

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## Programme

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

- July 24 Home brew Plastic Parts —Brian G6UDX. Now that's different !
- July 31 The Portable Season 2013 in Review. Bring pictures, notes etc to share with Members.
- August 7 GX3ZME on the Air. Test new doublet Antenna. Committee Meeting 7:30pm
- August 14 Beginners' Practical Project proposals. Share your ideas
- August 21 HamFest Preparation. Let us know your availability for this major event
- August 28 4th 2m Walking DF Hunt. Start 7:30pm. More entries, please, than in July
- Sat/Sun Aug 31 / Sept 1. HAMFEST SET-UP AND HAMFEST ITSELF. Doors open 10:15 Sunday.
- September 4 Usual first-in-the-month. Un-wind, GX3ZME ota, Committee Meeting 8pm.
- September 11 HamFest debrief and update.
- September 18 Forgotten TDARS equipment and its uses/applications.
- September 25 G100RSGB centenary station: preparation and manning. (16 Oct and 26/27 Oct)
- October 2 GX3ZME on VHF/HF. Committee Meeting 8pm
- October 9 Ten Minute Topics. Members' participation invited
- October 16 T.B.A.
- October 23 T.B.A.

***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 Simon 2E0CHV or Kevin G8UPF***

**[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 return borrowed equipment promptly**

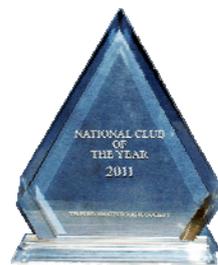
**VHF NFD portable site** on top of the Long Mynd (IO82NN) has come and gone! There were no problems with our friends at the Nat. Trust, and the weather was perfect. The equipment all worked fine, and the new club genny ran without a hiccup. A support leg on one mobile mast hit a lump of ground on the way out and partly came away, so will need some TLC before it's used again. Although there were less members on site this year (about 15-18 in total), the esprit de corps was as high as ever, and I suspect we'll be back again in 2014. A major change for TDARS was the dropping of 4 metres, and the re-introduction of 70cm (432 MHz) in its place. The entries have been sent in, and claimed scores are as follows:-

- 50 MHz: 131 QSOs, 24415 pts, Best DX F4WBN in IN93HL at 1016 Km. (Restricted 8 hrs)
- 144MHz: 378 QSOs, 127322 pts, Best DX OK6T in JO80BJ at 1334 Km. (Restricted 24hrs)
- 432 MHz: 89 QSOs, 23083 pts, Best DX SN7L in JO70SS at 1282Km (Low Pwr 16 hr)
- 1296 MHz: 42 QSOs, 10433 pts, Best DX TM7G in IN93HG at 1039 Km (Low Pwr 16 hrs).

Entries are accepted up until July 30, so you can compare Claimed Scores per section & band on the RSGB Sport Radio web pages until then. Our entry looks very promising overall. Well done to all concerned, especially after the washout of 2012, when TDARS cancelled NFD (and 50 MHz Trophy) due to the water-logged state of the Long Mynd. Results usually published in about 3-4 months, and we will be in the 'Mix and Match' section of the results tables.

**The visit to the Military Wireless Museum in Kidderminster** in May was greatly enjoyed by all 10 members who went. It was unfortunate that it was a bank-holiday weekend, and some members had prior family commitments. I shall always remember the 25 (or so) Eddystone receivers that covered one wall of this amazing collection of radio equipment. Our thanks to Ben Nock G4BXD.

**Equally successful was the "Blitz Hill" event at Blists Hill** in Madeley (June 22), which recalled the 'Home Front' aspects of the 1940s. Hundreds of people, mostly in period costume, turned up for the event. Our contribution, although quite small, attracted a steady stream of inquisitive visitors to the Salvation Army hut, both young and old. The AR88 receiver boomed out (a mixture of Radio 3 and overseas SW stations), the retro crystal set receiver tweeted away, and morse code was sent in great profusion, mainly by school-age operators in 'QSO' across an old wooden table. A date has already been agreed for a repeat in 2014 (June 7th). A good piece of PR by the Club. (photos lower Pg 2)



The proposed Boat Trip on the Severn at Ironbridge was cancelled due to lack of support, but about 15 members came to the LW Village Field for some **Centenary (RSGB) frolics**: (photos MORJS)



Richard 'VXG' throws...



Ricky 'RKY' follows suit ...



Simon 'CHV' Splats a Rat ...



Gordon 'WKH' wins the Bucket Ball 100 game ...

## ISLANDS ON THE AIR (IOTA) Contest Primer—By Dave G0CER

### IOTA Contest



The end of July is **IOTA** contest – a fine chance to work some interesting and island DX stations you may not get chance to work for the rest of the year. Here is some information to help you get into understanding what is going on and hopefully take part – a simple setup will certainly get some new country QSOs – there are so many people activating islands let alone DX-expeditions sometimes just for this contest!

**IOTA** is in its 49<sup>th</sup> year and originally conceived by SWL Geoff Watts (BRS-3129) as a way to boost activity and widen the choice of DX around at a low point in the cycle. It is a global list of islands to work that has changed over the years with politics and geography (Anglesey is no longer separate IOTA now having a bridge). The contest focuses **IOTA** operations over one weekend but IOTA stations operate from rare and unusual islands all year around. (see IOTA website in links section for collecting IOTA stations and awards).

### What is is the IOTA contest and how to take part?

It is a 24 hour HF contest from 12:00GMT Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to 12:00GMT Sunday, 28 July. You should at least look through the rules here: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/riota.shtml>

Bands are 80 to 10m (not WARC bands) contest where you can work any stations but get more points for working an **IOTA** classed station. The UK is all **IOTA** rated (the mainland is EU-005) and so you will be popular. (Experience your first pile-up!) I will not go into depth in this primer (see the link above for full info) but the exchange you need to give and receive would be; **CALL + RS(T) + Serial + IOTA (none-IOTA stations just send CALL+RS(T) + Serial)**

#### Example of imagined fast contest exchange (with g3zme/p calling CQ)

“CQ IOTA contest G3ZME/P”	reply station “G3ZME/P this is 7S5A”
“7S5A your report 59 005 EU005 G3ZME/P”	reply station “G3ZME/P your report 59 010 EU177 QSL?”
“QSL 7S5A thanks, QRZ IOTA G3ZME/P ?”	

Stations other than **IOTA** stations are *world stations* – like Germany, Latvia, America – eg landlocked.

**Points.** An **IOTA** station gets 5 points for a world station and 15points for **IOTA** stations (only 5pts for other with same **IOTA** ref).

**Entry types** – single operator 24hour mixed mode / single mode (CW/SSB) –QRP, low , high power (5w/100w/full licence allowed) but again read the rules for full information. You can enter for 12 hours or 24hours.

**Final scores?** number (QSO points for all bands) x (individual total of IOTA references worked)

**Software** Use one you know and don’t have to think about too much if it is able to do **IOTA** contesting. **SDI** is endorsed by IOTA themselves and **NIMM** (I’ve use for some years now) there are probably plenty of others. **See links section at end**

### So – I want to take part what do I need to think about ?

Is your HF station operating ok – do you have antennas suitable for the 80 to 10m bands? (wire dipoles can be put up just for that weekend – you’ll have great fun even if only on one band). Stick to the IARU frequencies in the rules!

When will it be good to operate? Choose bands to suit time of day – it starts at 12:00 so check out the bands not long before. 20m will probably be open most of the 24hours. 10m will have a lot of stations on it and surprise you where from. As long as we don’t get the HF bands wiped out after an Aurora it will be a weekend to get those rare and interesting island calls in the log.

Export your log to Cabrillo and email it to [iota](mailto:iota) (see rules for guidance) – make sure you have the categorys set correctly! Send in by end of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**Results...** The website has a nice tool to find out where you came in the contest – work 200-400 and your in the running. So for example your author (G0CER) in the “IOTA FIXED” “Single-Op unassisted” “SSB” “24H” “low-power” came 6<sup>th</sup> with only 238 QSOs last year. Found using the IOTA result webpage and setting the filter. (see links below).

It’s a nice contest and plenty of islands/calls you may never work through the year and all your IOTA logs can be uploaded into the IOTA organisations website to also count towards IOTA awards.







**VHF NFD 2013 from  
the Long Mynd.  
G3ZME/P  
July 6-7**



50 MHz Station. (G0EYX, G3JKX)



144 MHz Station. (G0UFE)



432 MHz Station (M0JZH, 2E0CHV)



1296 MHz Station (G4NKC, G8UPF)



4 tents  
4 masts  
4 beams  
4 stations  
  
Many ops  
and loggers:  
  
[more than  
shown  
above!]



Some tents can  
have a mind of  
their own ....  
  
Paul M0PNN  
attempts Hang  
Gliding on the  
Mynd  
(and why not?)

**Thanks for Newsletter i/p from Mike G3JKX, Brian G6UDX, Dave G0CER, Bob M0RJS, David M0YDH, Richard G0VXG. Items always welcome. Next Newsletter mid September onwards.**