

TDARS

Newsletter

Issue 243
www.TDARS.org

Programme

October 2010
www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- October 13** Society Projects follow-up. (G3JKX, 2E0RAV, G0VXG) See Pg 3
- October 20** SWR and Return Loss. Meaning and measurement— G3UKV
- October 27** The TDARS Website (600+ hits in Sept)—what's on it; + Derek's Soup.
- November 3** VHF/HF on the air. Committee Meeting LWWH venue
- November 6** G3Z in 144 MHz contest. Op Mike G3JKX. Pse try to work him !
- November 10** The TDARS Library to view, and suggest additions, perhaps.
- November 13 (Sat.)** Club Calls 160m Contest. 8-11pm. G3ZME. A second station? (P3)
- November 17** Surplus Equipment Sale. Jim 'UGL M/C
- November 24** Quiz Night—Jim G8UGL presiding.
- December 1** Committee Meeting at /A venue (Stafford Park 12) LWWH closed.
- December 8** Echolink & Echolink Repeaters: Vaughan M0VRR, our newly seconded RSGB Regional Manager for the West Midlands
- December 15** Annual Christmas Dinner at The Duck at Allscott.
- December 22** Mince Pies & Mulled Wine @ HQ. Story telling !
- December 25 (Sat.)** TDARS nets at 0900 and/or 2100 hrs 144.600MHz +/-
- December 29** On-the-Air and informal evening at LWWH HQ.
- January 5, 2011** G3ZME on Air and Committee Meeting. LWWH
- January 12** Club Projects 'Show and Tell' evening.
- 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 Norman G0ASP

REMINDER: Paid up Members are welcome to borrow items of Club Equipment, so long as they're returned the following week and the usual "signing out" process is followed strictly. That's a privilege of TDARS Membership. If you can't return it on time, please find someone else who can, or don't borrow it that week! Curator: Ricky M0RKY

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

QJC? News & Information

As usual at this time of year, we are looking for suitable **new Club Projects** for the winter construction months. At a meeting in September, a huge selection of ideas was put forward (thanks mainly to Rob 'RAV'), and three items surfaced as favourites. A 20+ watt, 50 ohm dummy load (led by Mike G3JKX, and already under way), an 'intelligent' battery charger that helps re-chargeable battery cells last longer (Rob 2E0RAV coordinator) and something called a "Scope Match Antenna Analyser" that basically is a simple sampling widget used with an oscilloscope to look at feeder phasing match to an HF antenna. This one is being led by Richard G0VXG. Some other members have also decided to 'do their own thing' from the wide range of ideas on offer.



As most of you know, TDARS was second in the Mix & Match Section of **VHF Field Day** in July. As usual, some points were lost in the process of adjudication, and 6 metres took a bit of a bashing with almost 13% of points deducted. Relative to 1000 points for the top scorer on each band and section, we achieved 474 on 6m, 802 on 4m, 1000 on 2m (ie TOP Scorer!) and 654 on the 23cm band. Rochdale Club (G0ROC/P) pipped us to the post this year.

Band by Band results:- 6 metres 8th 106 QSOs, 45950 pts.: 4m 6th 91 QSOs, 30129 pts. : 2metres 1st 278 QSOs, 65993 pts. : 23cm 3rd 56 QSOs 8398 pts. Congrats to all.

Another contest result that came out (rather belatedly) was the **160 metre 'Club Calls'** which took place last November. We came 21st out of 105 for this contest, using the special club GX3ZME call. We had 79 QSOs, giving us a score of 1197. Richard 'VXG' passes his thanks to those who logged and operated. In such a short contest (just 3 hours), it is impractical to have many operators, but some other clubs have a second and even third station. GX6ZME could be activated this year (Saturday Nov. 13, 20-2300 hrs) from another location. A minimum space of about 130 ft length is needed to put up a suitable aerial. Anyone game for this one ?

The **final 2010 2 metre local 'Foxhunt'** took place on a very wet evening in August. A couple of us found Mike 'JKX' fairly quickly, once again squatting amongst shrubs and trees, this time in Telford Town Park. I suspect he was secretly making a hemp rope from foliage between transmissions, ready to swing from tree to tree in any future Direction Finding events.

The **'Enigma' video** made by Bob M0RJS, with Don's (M0FHM) assistance at the Telford HamFest went down well recently. The presenter, Nick Miers, who conducts tours at Bletchley Park, spoke at an amazing pace, without any visible notes for over an hour. Despite the poor light in the Enginuity 'gallery', our new projector and pull-down screen, with Bob's editing skills, made the best of the presentation. The DVD is available for individual TDARS Members to borrow, but due to our agreement with Nick, should **not** be copied or publicly screened at all. At the same meeting, Martin's (2E0TRO) video of our trip down the R. Severn at Ironbridge on the **Hafren boat** with about 24 members and families, was also greatly enjoyed.

It is intended to **visit the Code and Cipher Centre in Bletchley Park** next year, where the RSGB's new National Radio Centre is also being established. Rob recommended this excellent web site—<http://www.colindaylinks.com/bletchley/bletchley1.html>—and I can confirm it really helps you to get a 'broader picture' of the overall Bletchley story, and the photographs are particularly good. It is in 12 parts, and takes about 20 minutes to read. A really good read - thanks Rob. (2E0RAV).

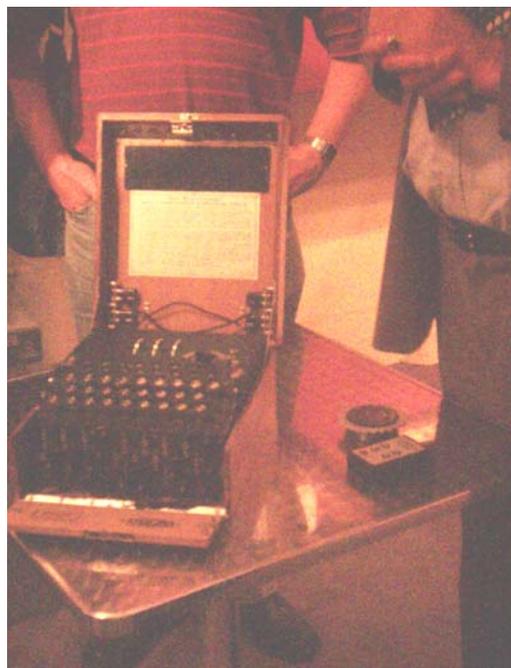
The annual **TDARS Christmas meal** is once again taking place at the Allscott Inn, north-west of Telford, renamed The Duck at Allscott. Cost held at last year's price of £16 per person. Menus and Booking Form will not be included in the Newsletter this year, but will shortly be available at the weekly club meetings, or from the TDARS Website. **Date:** Wed. 15th December



Photos: G8UPF

... and inside the box, all is revealed >>>>

Telford Hamfest presentation by Nick Miers, September 5th—featuring Enigma coding machine—but remember, CW (morse) characters were used by the WW11 Enigma operators !



No-nonsense Guardian of the Box (Mike, G4NKC) >>>>



The G3Z Special Contest Call (SCC) Saga by Martyn G3UKV

As most members know, we have been entering a number of selected contests this year to try and retain the use of the special contest call **G3Z for TDARS** after the end of 2010. It was first issued and used in 2005 when a TDARS expedition to Slieve Croob in N. Ireland was made by Members in an attempt to win the 50 MHz Trophy which our Society donated to the RSGB some years previously. A superb effort was made, and we finished 5th overall. However, the criteria to be awarded (or continue to hold), a SCC is very anomalous—in fact, down-right crazy. We have to earn **5 ‘points’** by the end of this year, and each ‘point’ is earned by being well-placed in the results table of any of 26 specified contests, which range from the Russian DX contest to the BARTG RTTY contest, plus several RSGB ones. However, to gain each magic ‘point’, you have to have at least **one-third of the number of QSOs** (not score) of the leading station. I wrote to the Chairman of the RSGB Contest Committee (Ed Taylor GW3SQX), and pointed out that despite being 2nd in the results table for the May 432MHz-240 GHz contest, we did not qualify for a single ‘point’, as the Northern Lights Contest group, operating from the Is. of Man, had many more QSOs, as they focused on the lower UHF bands, whereas we scored best on the microwave bands where activity is far lower. I also pointed out that despite having 292 QSOs in the March BARTG RTTY contest, (thanks to Dave G0CER’s efforts), this was less than a fifth of the world-wide table leader’s score in QSOs; thus, presumably, no ‘points’ again !

Well fortunately, Ed GW3SQX wrote back and allayed our fears, somewhat. For the microwave contest he said ***“In the May UHF contest, the scoring is not really amenable to the QSO interpretation.”***, and suggested we used the final scores instead, which gives us a ‘point’. Then for the RTTY contest, he said ***“In the BARTG contest, your 292 QSOs are to be compared with the top G station, MWOCRI, with 768 QSOs, so you again have over one third”***, and comparison with just UK stations in HF contests is all that is required. We also gained a point in this year’s 50 MHz Trophy contest (thanks Simon et al) - so things are looking brighter. Paul M0PNN and his brother gave GW3Z a good airing in the September 144MHz & IARU 2metre contest from within Wales (awaiting results, and we may even earn 2 points!), but we still are short of a point or two, so our entry on 6th November 144MHz Marconi contest (Mike JKX using G3Z) is crucial—every QSO will help towards a magic ‘point’. Finally, Ed wrote ***“I would guess that you will qualify for your G3Z renewal, and am glad you are becoming more active with the call.”*** (contin >>>>)

