



FIVE AND NINE PLUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club Callsigns: G2FKO and GX2FKO
Web Site : www.adarc.co.uk

CLUB'S OFFICERS

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August 2024

EDITORIAL

Well here we are already into August and not much need so far for the sun cream! However to compensate, we have our **Club Meeting on Monday, August 19th** which will be a general Natter Night and as always a chance to catch up with everyone's news.

As you will see in this month's 5&9 Newsletter, I have started what I hope will be an ongoing series where a Club member describes their **journey in amateur radio**.

This month, many thanks to Mike (G3PGA) who has kindly started the ball rolling and hopefully there will further contributions, which can be as brief or as involved as you like, to enable the series to run until at least our next AGM. It will be fascinating to read of other members' experiences.

Terry (G4CHD)



LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

Frequencies relate to **Repeater** and not your radio

GB3DN VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Stibb Cross

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM)
TX 145.6375 RX 145.0375
Keeper Tony G1BHM
Default Digital Connection : Wires-X Southern Fusion
<http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm>

GB3ND UHF DMR Repeater - Holsworthy Beacon

TX 439.7375 RX 430.7375 colour code 1
Slot 1 local RF Slot 2 SW Cluster
Keeper Tony G1BHM

GB7FB UHF DMR Repeater - Bideford

TX 439.475 RX 430.4750 Colour code 5
Slot 1 Local RF/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster
Keeper Drew M0MFS

GB3LZ VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Winkleigh

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM)
TX 145.6625 RX 145.0625
Digital Connection : Wires-X Southern Fusion - fixed
Keeper Simon G4MQQ

GB7LZ UHF DMR Repeater - Winkleigh

TX 430.9125 RX 438.5125 Colour code 1
Slot 1 DMR Southern Fusion Slot 2 Local/CQ UK/DoD
Keeper G4MQQ

MB6DT VHF Fusion Gateway - Barnstaple

Frequency 144.8125 MHz.
Gateway Keeper Darren (2E0LVC)
Operational

GB7TG - UHF DMR Repeater - Wembworthy

TX 430.9750 RX 438.5750 Colour Code 7
Default Connection : Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster
Keeper G7SOJ

GB3NX VHF FM AllStar Repeater- Holsworthy Beacon

Tone 77Hz
Repeater TX 145.5875 RX 144.9875
Connection SW AllStar Network (SWAN)
Keeper G1BHM

GB3BU - UHF DMR Repeater - Bude

TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 Colour Code 1
Default Connection : Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster
Keeper G1BHM

CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the **Appledore Football Social Club** starting at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Visitors always welcome. For further information, please contact the Secretary John. Presently, Meetings take the form of a general Natter Night over a cuppa, however once details are known of any talks etc, an announcement will appear in the Club Newsletter.

LOCAL NETS

- Weekday Zepp FM Net:** Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri :
145.450MHz - 4pm - 5pm
Wed via GB3DN - 4pm - 5pm
Net Control : Len (M0SXY)
- 2m Elevesens FM Net:** Mon/Wed/Fri :
11 - 12.00 noon via GB3DN
Net Control ; Mike (G3PGA)
- Friday Night 2m Net:** Friday : 145.450 FM, 8 - 9pm
- Sunday Top Band Net:** Sunday 1.860 MHz
9.30 - 10.15am
(LSB - 32W pep max)
- 2m SSB Nets:** Wed: 8 - 9pm 144.260MHz
USB SSB (Vertical polarised)
Sun: approx 10.30am (follows
Top Band Net) 144.260MHz
USB SSB (Vertical polarised)
- Sunday FM Net:** Sunday: 11 to noon via GB3DN
Net Control : Chris (G0FJY)

Note :- FM Nets which use GB3DN as shown above will continue despite the recent changes. GB3DN is disconnected from the Wires-X/ Southern Fusion Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net

REPORT ON OUR JULY MEETING

There was a good attendance for the excellent and well prepared talk by Ron (G0HFN) of the North Devon Repeater Group, when a working **70cm DMR Repeater** was demonstrated. Rob also explained the need to **find a 'home' for this Repeater** in the Barnstaple area to greatly improve DMR coverage. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to produce such a presentation and our thanks to Rob and the rest of the North Devon Repeater Group team for all their efforts.

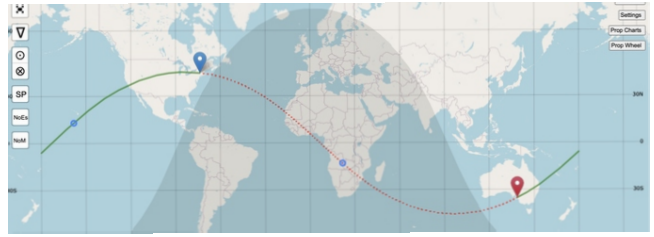
VOACAP PROPAGATION SOFTWARE

VOACAP - Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program is free professional high-frequency (3-30 MHz) propagation prediction software from NTIA/ITS, originally developed for Voice of America (VOA).

I came across a reference to this software in this month's Practical Wireless that my son in law kindly gave me as an annual subscription last Christmas.

It can be used free on line at :-

<https://www.voacap.com/hf/>



The following Youtube video gives an excellent introduction to its use :-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2o6-u3tW2I>

If you want a belt and braces Manual then it's at :-

https://www.voacap.com/2023/documents/VOACAP_Manual.pdf

Why not give it a try, I certainly intend to check it out.

AIDS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED RADIO AMATEUR

I have often wondered how if I were to unfortunately ever be visually impaired, would I cope. Are any of my radios suitable and what is on offer. This is a huge subject - too large to discuss here but the following link started me thinking. Would be interesting to hear from any members as to their thoughts or suggestions.

<http://www.spencerweb.net/Downloads/FT-TS-KX-TalkDemo.mp3>

G3PGA - MIKE - MY LIFE (SO FAR) IN AMATEUR RADIO

As promised, Mike's article follows and look forward to hearing from other members with their stories.

So that's it for this month - articles for inclusion are always welcomed
Enjoy the read

Terry (G4CHD)

My Life (so far) on Amateur Radio. G3PGA Mike



My first interest was listening, as many kids did, to a crystal set at night under the blankets with a piece of wire dangling out of the bedroom window. Not that I knew what I was listening to. Much to the annoyance of my younger brother, who complained it kept him awake, which I usually ignored.

Amateur Radio became of real interest to me on meeting Jim G4NZD (SK) who was a BBC sound engineer. Jim lived on a Gunboat, MV Freelance moored on the River Thames at Teddington Lock. He and I became great friends over his soldering iron exploits and eventually he steered me onto taking the RAE which I did and managed to pass first time December 1981.

At this early time back I was aware of Martin Lynch working for The Amateur Radio Exchange where I bought my first radio the famous Icom IC2E shown opposite. This served me very well for a year or two then expanded my horizons with a Yaesu FT-480R, a ssb two metre multimode. DXing was a new delight working well outside of England with the radio and a nine element Tonna aerial. Great times as there was always someone to natter with.



Like many hams I wanted to do something more interesting, so the satellite scene beckoned me and splashed out on a Yaesu FT-726R and eventually an array of two metre and seventy centimetre crossed Yagis with circular polarisation boosted by a small amplifier. The Oscar satellites were great fun and eventually disposed of it all when moving from Teddington here to Fremington in North Devon. I did however have a small array until it gone blown off the flat roof and smashed.



Moved across the village and soon erected a small wind-up tilt-over mast with a Cushcraft three element triband beam (A3S) with a dual band vertical above. I worked with this for some years until I parted with it in favour of the four element (A4S) version. Various HF radios filled the radio room over the years including most of the Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood stables. Presently it contains a Yaesu FTDX101D shown here, an Acom1010 and a Palstar AT2KD tuner. The lower bands rely on a Doublet in inverted V formation.

I did have a brief return to the satellite scene with the QO100 requiring a pair of dishes and some magic electronic equipment made by my dear friend John Hale (SK). I lost interest and passed the whole station on.

I have always been interested in the digital modes where even early on there was RTTY, PSK and SSTV with various bits of software. Today, of course, there are many more modes of digital operation. The most recent being Yaesu Fusion, DMR and D-Star.

I remain fairly active on the air but as eighty years old fast approaches not so quick off the mark as things to remember slip away too easily.

Lastly I still run the Elevesens Net which I started pre-Covid (no masks needed) on Mon / Wed / Fri at 11 am where all are welcome.

So, the above is a brief history of Mike (G3PGA) with much much more that I simply cannot recall.

Hope you found it of interest.

73 de Mike G3PGA