



FIVE AND NINE PLUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club Callsigns: G2FKO and
GX2FKO Web Site :

CLUB'S OFFICERS

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Vice Chairman	David Boyes	2E0KVJ
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Treasurer	Alan Fisher	2E0EUZ

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EDITORIAL

Thanks to all those of you who responded to my first newsletter with some very kind comments. I hope I went somewhere near to meeting Terry's previous standards.

This month's club meeting will on **Monday 17th February** and be a general natter night and possible show and tell along with any practical demonstration anyone would like to bring along.

As the AGM is in March, please be aware there will be committee vacancies for next year as several members have decided to step down. Be warned I will be around during the meeting trying to twist arms for people to serve on the forthcoming committee. The club cannot exist without committee members.

Mike (G4KXQ)

CLUB AGM MARCH 2025

The March meeting will be the Annual General Meeting with the election of the club officials. Club Subscriptions for 2025/26 will be due at the meeting. The committee has proposed that club subscriptions raise from £13 to £15 this year. There has not been any increased in subs for several years, certainly for as long as I've been a member.



REPORT ON OUR JANUARY MEETING

For the January club meeting I gave a practical demonstration on the use of a SDR switching box. This allowed me to use a Software Defined Radio alongside any other rig with synchronisation. I hope the talk was well received. Terry G4CHD has kindly prepared a report which is included below. I know of at least two club members who have purchased the switch unit and hopefully by now are experimenting with an SDR.

SPOTTED FROM THE INTERNET

I recently came across a new configurable color-coded DX cluster map and table.

DO1ZL <https://do1zl.net/dxclustermap/>



It's certainly worth a look.

LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

Frequencies are those transmitted and received by the Repeater

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 on the third Monday of the month at the **Appledore Football Social Club** starting at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Visitors always welcome. For further information, please contact the Secretary, John. At present meetings take the form of a general 'Natter Night' over a cuppa, once details are known of any talks etc, an announcement will appear in the Club Newsletter.

Following the forthcoming AGM the incoming committee will be putting together a programme for 2025-26. If any members have a suggestion or are even prepared to step forward and give a talk/demonstration then please let John JKL or myself know.

LOCAL NETS

Weekday Zepp FM Net: **Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri :**
145.450MHz - 4pm - 5pm
Wed via GB3DN - 4pm - 5pm
Net Control : Len (M0SXY)

2m Elevenes 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)

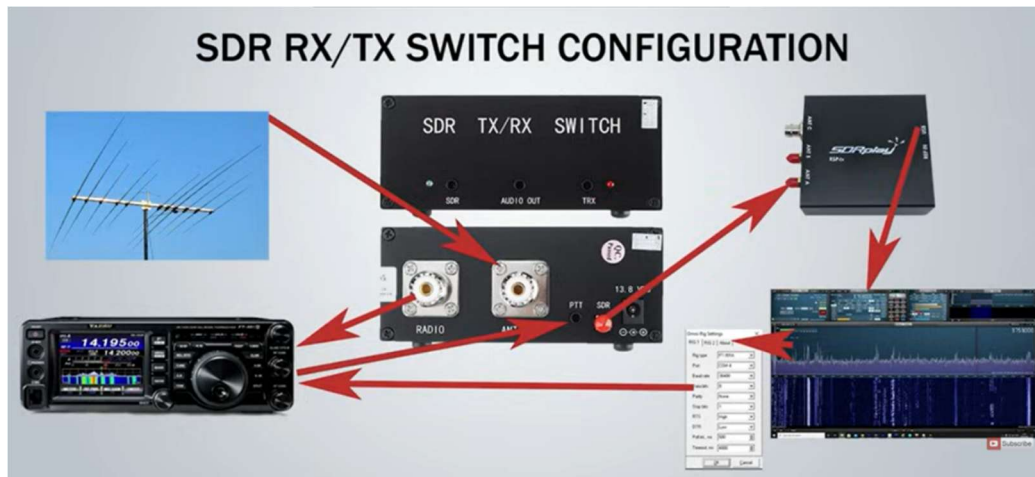
Note :- FM Nets which use GB3DN as shown above will continue despite the recent changes. GB3DN is disconnected from the Wires-X/Southern Fusion Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net

Report on the January 2025 Club Talk - 'Adding Flex Radio SDR type facilities to your legacy rig.'

Mike's talk was as always well researched, very interesting and expertly assisted by a Powerpoint presentation and practical demonstration. The sort of talk that makes you want to go home and have a go yourself – me included!

The talk showed how relatively easy it is to add an interactive waterfall display to many modern and older rigs which don't offer such a facility.

The system Mike demonstrated is summarised below:



It requires a rf sensing 2 way SDR switch, SDR receiver e.g. RSP1A etc. and display software such as SDR Console. Mike did warn that the rf sensing would not be reliable with a QRP rig e.g. FT817.

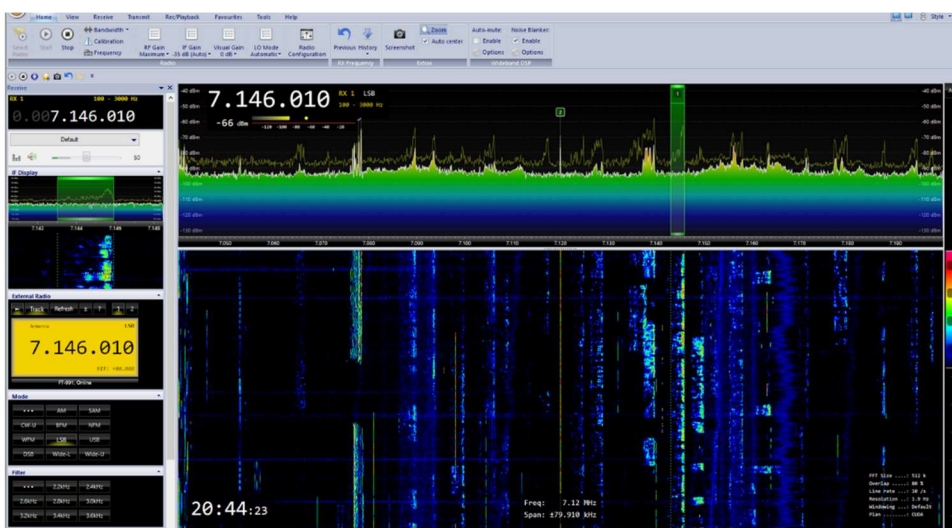
The rig communicates with SDR Console using Omnirig (version 1) - a free download - which enables the rig's COM port to be shared by SDR Console and other compatible software you may want to use such as Log4OM and WSJT-Omnirig works with most rigs but not all software e.g. fldigi and MixW later versions are not supported.

The 2-way switch Mike used he got from Banggood for under £30 but if you prefer, Amazon etc do sell it for about double the price. Although Mike used a RSP1 SDR receiver, there are several others such as the Funcube or cheaper dongles which can be used.

Mike concluded his talk with a most useful practical demo using the Club's Icom IC7410 fed from an external vertical ground mounted 10' whip on both 20 and 40m which was very impressive to see how easy it was to monitor a complete band's activity (or even several bands) and in a single mouse click, switch the rig, SDR receiver, SDR Console and Log4OM to that frequency. The following shows SDR Console in action: -

There then followed a number of interesting questions and discussions and Mike's talk finally concluded with everyone giving him a huge round of applause for a most entertaining and informative evening.

Terry - G4CHD



Contest Calendar Feb March

Weekend Feb 15-16

- ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
- YLRL YL-OM Contest
- Russian PSK WW Contest
- Feld Hell Sprint
- FISTS Sunday Sprint

Weekend Feb 21-23

- CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
- REF Contest, SSB
- UBA DX Contest, CW
- World Wide Patagonia DX Contest

Weekend Mar 1-2

- ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB

Weekend Mar 8-9

- SARL Field Day Contest
- Commonwealth (BERU) Contest
- South America 10 Meter Contest
- EA PSK63 Contest
- AGCW QRP Contest
- Stew Perry Topband Challenge
- TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest
- FIRAC HF Contest

Weekend Mar 15-16

- BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- Russian DX Contest
- F9AA Cup, SSB
- AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest

FINDS FROM THE INTERNET

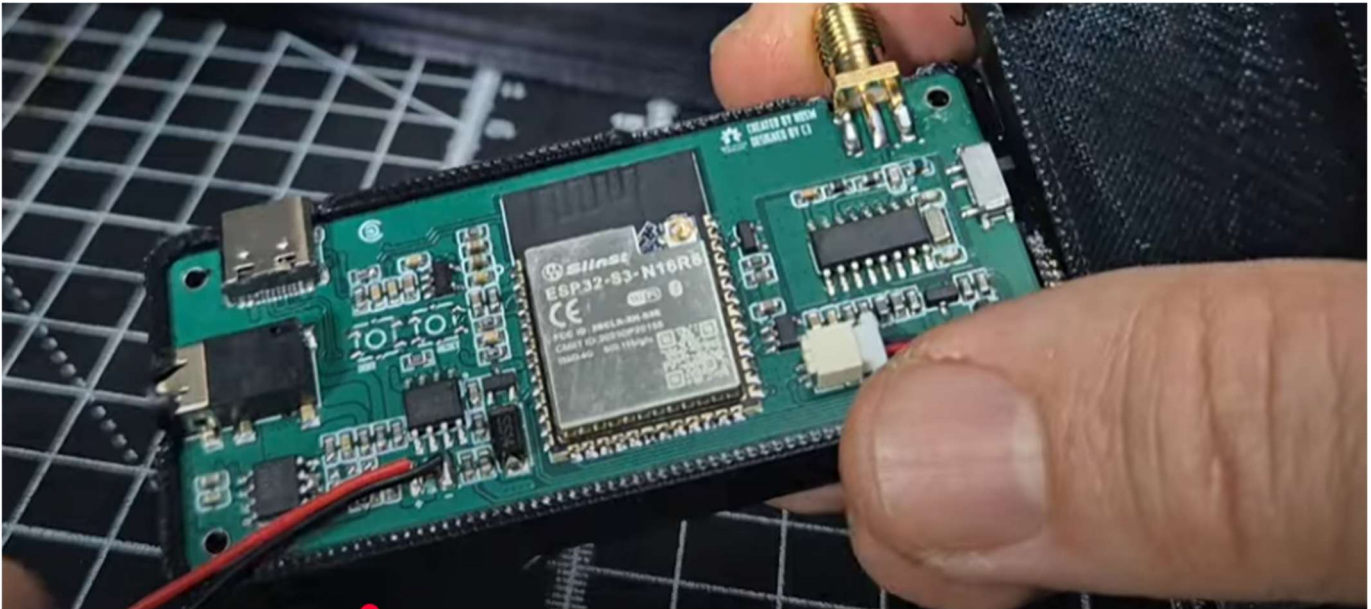
One of the things I like to do is trawl around the internet and especially YouTube for interesting amateur radio articles.

One site that appears in my feed with a regular occurrence is 'HAMTech Radio Scanner' by Andreas Macrides, M0FXB. Andreas seems to spend all his spare time evaluating Ham Radio projects and posting on YouTube. Incredibly he has posted 13 YouTube videos in the last 24 hours.

One of his favorite topics last week was the availability of a very small shortwave radio based around the Si4732 Mini Pocket Radio that costs £26.

This is all-mode, all HF Bands with an internal rechargeable battery and speaker





Andreas posted 10 YouTube videos over the course of 3 days last week introducing the radio and exploring its various features including: Fine Tune, Broadcast Radio performance, what inside and links to a webpage where the developer seems to have shared the source code.

Andreas YouTube channel is well worth a visit if you like Ham radio Tech.
<https://www.youtube.com/@HamTechRadioScannerDrones>

This receiver has also recently been reviewed on the Tech Minds YouTube channel.

‘Amazing Value! SI4732 Pocket Radio Receiver With ESP32-S3 Control’

Please note I will not be responsible for any spending resultant from viewing this YouTube site.

DX News

Quite a lot of DX activations this month probably because of the ARRL DX contest being held the weekend of 1-2 March.

Date	Country	Callsign
Jan 23 – Feb 28	Turks & Caicos	VP5/K2NV
Jan 26 – Mar 01	Guinea Bissau	J52EC
Jan 27 – Feb 15	Rwanda	9X2AW
Jan 30 – Feb 8	Nigeria	5N9DTG
Feb 02 – Feb 28	Senegal	6W7/ON4AVT
Feb 04 – Feb 18	Anguilla	VP2ECV
Feb 04 – Feb 20	Seychelles	S79/VE3BRU
Feb 05– Feb 18	Cape Verde Is	D44OA
Feb 06– Feb 14	Togo	5V0DX
Feb 07– Mar 11	Aruba	P4/KE4TT
Feb 08 – Feb 15	St Helena	ZD7KYD

Feb 09 – Feb 22	Cayman Is	ZF2EZ
Feb 10– Feb 25	Cocos Keeling	VK9/W5EIT
Feb 11 – Feb 23	Marshall Is	V73WW
Feb 12 – Feb 16	Bahamas	C6ADA
Feb 12 - Mar 04	Mali	TZ1CE
Feb 16 - Mar 04	Saint Martin	PJ7/VA3QSL
Feb 16 - Feb 25	St Pierre &	FP/F4HEC
Feb 16 - Mar 04	St Martin	FS/VA3QSL
Feb 18 - Mar 04	Christmas I	VK9XU
Feb 18 - Mar 07	St Martin	FS/DF8AN
Feb 20 - Mar 06	Tanzania	5H3DX
Feb 26 - Mar 06	Maldives	8Q7FL
Mar 01	Antigua &	V26NM
Mar 01-09	Montserrat	VP2MMN
Mar 03 - Apr 01	Turks & Caicos	VP5/W1DED
Mar 4 - Mar 12	Cocos Keeling	VK9CU
Mar 09 - Mar 10	Antigua &	V26NM
Mar 09 – Mar 19	San Andres &	HK0A
Mar 09 - Apr 05	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA
Mar 10 - Mar 11	St Martin	FS By DF8AN
Mar 10 - Mar 25	Andaman Is	VU4AX