



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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January 2023

EDITORIAL

First on behalf of your Committee may I wish everyone a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

This month's Meeting on **January 16th** is intended to be our **Open Meeting** ie family and friends are welcome. **Nick Arnold** has offered to give a talk on the **'Battle of Northam'** which should be most interesting.

However, John (G3JKL) as Club Secretary has tried several times to contact Nick to **confirm that the talk will go ahead but at the time of writing nothing has been heard.**

As a result, your Committee can only apologise for the confusion and suggest that if the talk doesn't take place, then **a pleasant general ragchew evening over a cuppa and a biscuit will be on offer.**

The **February Meeting** will be a Bring & Buy so sort out what gear you no longer need and start a shopping list!
Terry (G4CHD)



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 (G3JKL) - see front panel for contact details.

Date	Topic
Jan 16 th 2023	Open Meeting - 'Battle of Northam' by Nick Arnold/Natter Night
Feb 20 th	Bring & Buy
Mch 20 th	AGM

LOCAL NETS

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

2m Elevenses 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)

ITEMS FOR SALE

Steve (M3KWS) has the following items for sale - if interested contact **Steve on 07735 828115**

Icom IC7400 HF/6m/2m Transceiver	£500
Icom SM 30 Desk Mike	£50
MFJ 974B Balanced Manual ATU	£100
Heil IC Microphone (for Icom rigs only)	£32
Boom Mike Holder	£8
Speaker	£10

REPORT ON OUR DECEMBER MEETING

Club Christmas Party

A different approach was tried this time namely for members to bring their own food. In this way the Committee felt that members' individual dietary requirements would be met. Coffee/tea was kindly provided by Dave (G0PGK).

The Club provided approx £60 worth of Raffle Prizes and some members also brought prizes.

John (G3JKL) organised the background Christmas music and Dave (G0PGK) did his entertaining Christmas Quiz.

On the whole it appeared that everyone enjoyed themselves and got members into the Christmas spirit.

Many thanks to those that helped behind the scenes to make the evening such a success.

LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

2m Stibb Cross Repeater (GB3DN)

<http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm>

User: Listen 145.6375 MHz - Transmit 145.0375 MHz.

Access 1750 Hz Tone or 77 Hz CTCSS

Repeater keeper is Tony (G1BHM)

Fusion/C4FM/WiresX Gateway (MB6DT)

Frequency 144.8125 MHz.

Gateway Keeper Darren (2E0LVC)

Fusion/C4FM/WiresX Gateway (MB6DN)

Frequency 144.825 MHz.

Gateway Keeper Drew (M0MFS)

HEADSETS FOR USE WITH HF RIGS

by Terry (G4CHD)

I was very fortunate that Father Xmas brought me a Heil Pro Set IC Headset and Heil FS3 footswitch for use with my Icom IC7300 which I mainly use for /P work.

The hope is that this will enable me to operate hands free



and do electronic logging. An adaptor cable Heil AD-1-IC8 was included with the Headset.

The adaptor plugs into the normal rig microphone socket and provides a both a 3.5mm socket into which the grey 3.5mm plug from the Headset is inserted and a 1/4" socket into which the footswitch is plugged. Finally the black 3.5mm plug from the Headset is plugged into the Icom's external speaker socket.

Interestingly no changes were needed to the Icom's audio settings or microphone drive level. I think this is because the microphone insert in the Icom's hand mike is a Heil electret insert. The adaptor cable is specific for the Icom

which supplies the dc bias for the electret microphone and hence the adaptor must have NO blocking capacitor.

I have had a few QSOs with the Headset and the audio reports have been very complementary.

Since then John G3JKL and I have been in conversation re Headsets and the possible benefits it would offer when using the Club Icom IC7410 at special events where the ambient noise level can make copying callsigns etc and logging difficult. A splitter cable (preferably amplified rather than passive) would be needed for the external speaker rig socket to feed both the Headset and Headphones/external amplified speakers for the logger/public.

However, the cost of using Heil products would be difficult to justify - the total cost for the Heil Headset, Adaptor cable and Footswitch comes to approx £230 !

Hence the Googling to find a cheaper (but no doubt less well made but still worth considering) alternative.

I came across several recommendations for a Koss equivalent namely the Koss SB45 Headset which presently is on offer from Amazon for approx £36 and has an Electret insert and twin 3.5mm plugs. An equivalent adaptor and Footswitch are available from Technofix for a total of approx £40. Hence it appears possible to get the Headset, Adaptor and Footswitch for under £80 !!



This in turn got me thinking as to whether there was a Koss Headset which would be suitable for my Yaesu FTDX10

which unlike Icom, uses a dynamic mike. The simple answer is yes - the Koss SB40 which is a little dearer from Amazon costing approx £48. A PC Headset Adaptor can be got from Technofix for approx £25. The Footswitch (£15) works with any rig. Hence a Headset, Adaptor and Footswitch for my Yaesu FTDX10 would cost just under £90.



I have subsequently purchased the Koss SB40 for the Yaesu FTDX10 and reports again have been most favourable. I made no changes to the audio settings but found the microphone gain needed increasing from 40 to 50. I am still waiting for a Footswitch to be delivered from Technofix but hopefully it will live up to expectations.

Hopefully some members may have found this article useful and be tempted to try a Headset also. At least now I can use the radio without shutting doors etc to keep the loudspeaker noise down - so it's big thumbs up from me.

Once again, a Happy Healthy New Year to you all

Best 73s Terry G4CHD