



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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October 2024

EDITORIAL

Our **Club Meeting this month is on Monday, October 21st** which will be a general Natter Night and as always a chance to catch up with everyone's news.

The Railways On The Air (ROTA) weekend special event at East The Water was a great success with 159 stations worked on 40m of which 16 were with other ROTA stations. Considering operating was only on the Saturday with only 5 operators ie roughly a contact every 2.5 mins, then everyone who came and helped is to be applauded and greatly thanked. With the relatively few members who were able to come and help on the day (and we appreciate that some members were unable to come for various personal reasons), it does beg the question as to whether the Club can truly justify spending £1000+ on a new HF rig which may only be used a couple of times a year. It would be interesting to hear from members as to their thoughts on this subject.

On several past AGMs, I have indicated that it may be time for someone else to take over the Editor role for the Club and bring fresh ideas to the table. In the past, this has not resulted in anyone coming forward. However, after having been Editor for over 15 years and coming up to my 84th birthday, I now finally think it is definitely time to give my keyboard a rest!

I therefore will definitely be standing down as Editor at next year's AGM and if anyone feels that between now and the AGM they would like to take up the role as 5&9 Editor, then I am more than happy to give them any help if it's needed.

I'm delighted to include in this Newsletter another 'Personal Radio Biography' this time from our Club Secretary John (G3JKL) which I'm sure will make fascinating reading.

If any Club member would like theirs to be included then don't hesitate and send it in to me - the more the merrier. Finally, it will soon be Christmas and your Committee



intend to have a Meeting soon to discuss whether our Christmas Party should take on a different format. Again, please let your Committee know your thoughts on this topic.

So that's this month's Editorial - hope you enjoy the read and don't hesitate if you have an article you would like included

Terry (G4CHD)

LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

Frequencies relate to **Repeater TX & RX**

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 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)

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 SEPTEMBER MEETING

Everyone seemed to enjoy a good old natter over a cuppa served by Dave (G0PGK) to whom we are truly grateful for all his hard work keeping our thirsts quenched.

Such meetings also provide an opportunity for any member to bring along any radio gear they wish to sell and in a similar way for bargains to be had.

HOLSWORTHY RADIO RALLY - November 3rd

The annual Holsworthy Radio Rally will take place on Sunday 3rd November 2024 at the **Holsworthy Leisure Centre**. This is a great opportunity to pick up a bargain or clear out your shack, meet up with friends over a bacon roll.



This years traders include:-

Expert Audio who specialise in electronics tools, electronic components, electronics modules for RF, microcomputers and audio and STEM products as well as an extensive range of radio power supply cables.

Kevin and Margaret Kelly: Amateur radio equipment, connectors, cables and RF bits and pieces.

Luke M3VHV: Vintage radio items.

RSGB: Books and membership services

Worsley Communications: Second hand equipment, aerials and accessories.

There will be free parking and catering by Linda.

Admission just £3 per person

Setting-up will start at 8 am and the **public will be admitted from 10 am. Finish time will be 2 p.m.**

If you have unwanted items to sell, why not reserve a pitch at only £1.50 per linear foot (sellers must provide their own tables). Click here for easy online booking for sellers or via the club website:

<https://www.qsl.net/m0omc/holsrally24.htm>

or contact Chris M0KNF on 07579 038322 with any enquiries.

Finally, John's (G3JKL) Personal Radio Biography follows.

So that's it for this month - enjoy the read - Terry (G4CHD)

How I got started in Amateur radio by John (G3JKL)

I'd wanted to get an amateur radio licence for a very long time (after a fantastic demo of Jeff G4SOF's shack many moons ago), but it seemed out of my reach.

I remember seeing an advert in the Bideford Gazette for the City and Guilds Amateur radio licence evening class, but I was a little intimidated



at the thought, and put it off. When I finally decide to go for it, the adverts never appeared again (and it didn't occur to me to ask Jeff!) and pre internet, it wasn't so easy to find out more.

In 2010, I became carer to my Dad and realised I would be home an awful lot, and have a bit of time on my hands. I Googled "Amateur Radio License", read up on the new exam format, and discovered a weekend course in Newton Abbot including taking the Foundation exam. I got in contact with them, and it turned out it was run by the Torbay Club. The fee was paid, and my B&B was booked for the weekend.

After a few good reads through the Exam booklet, the weekend of the exam arrived and I drove to Newton Abbot on the 5th of November, and found my lovely B&B on the hillside, overlooking the town. I strolled into town for veggie burger and chips and took them back to the B&B to eat on the balcony and watch the fireworks. It turned out to be a superb vantage point and you had a perfect view of the pyrotechnics for miles around. Even better, I was discovered by the lovely family who owned the B&B and they joined me with a bottle of wine and cake!

Next morning, I found the Scout Hall and we started our intensive weekend course. I teamed up with Tony Barret, (now M0RIF) as we hit it off, but he had obviously studied a little harder than me! I wasn't concerned with how well I did, as long as I passed. How quickly that changed, as Tony and I got a bit competitive!

We sat the exam, then the invigilator read out our scores. Tony, he got every single question right.... Me, one wrong! I went from not caring, to livid! Especially as I knew the correct answer to that one question (an apparently notorious "within 100km radius of Charing Cross" question), but ticked the wrong box. Never mind.

I splashed out and bought a Kenwood TS590, strung up a ½ size G5RV and was away! I racked up over 100 DXCC very quickly. Next, I got a very good deal on a 3 element, 3 band TGM mini beam, rotator and coax. I then decided to look into the Intermediate Exam and took the plunge and contacted the Appledore Club, where I met Brian (M0BRB) and was invited to the Club. Little did I know then that over the years I would end up on the Committee as Exam Secretary, QSL Manager, Website Manager, Vice Chairman, Chairman, and now Secretary!

I went from Foundation to Full License in 10 months, and it would've been sooner if I hadn't been a bit lazy about building something for my Intermediate practical.

Originally, I was going to build an MKARS 80 until I realised the bar was much lower, and that something with 30 solder joints was acceptable! The Intermediate Exam was fine - I just got 2 questions wrong - but I could live with that. Full steam ahead for the Full Licence. When the pass certificate came through, I was ecstatic, I'd worked really hard for that one, and thankfully it paid off.

My current setup is a Flexradio 6300 and a Cushcraft A3s or an inverted L end fed.

SSB is my mode of choice along with CW. I have around 240 DXCC now and that is what excites me most about Amateur Radio, but it's a great hobby with something to suit everyone. In the end, we all have a love of radio!

John (G3JKL)
