



Airtime



The Monthly Magazine of the

Southdown Amateur Radio Society

APRS

Automatic Packet Reporting System

by

Bob Clinton G0BUX

Founded 1967

G3WQK

G1KAR

Affiliated to :-
The Radio Society of Great Britain

Twinned with the
Radio Club de Normandie

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Club Frequencies

20m-14.315 MHz (+/-) - 1230 UTC Monday/Wednesday/Friday (with EA5/M0AOM)
2m-145.300MHz 0830 UTC Wednesday
2m - 145.300 MHz 2030 UTC Thursday (if busy 145.275 MHz)

CW Schedules *12 wpm (or slower or faster)*

Monday and Thursday 1000 hrs clock time GB 7.028 (40m) - G3AGF, G3DQY, G4BJP

Shacks

BHRS Please enquire for use to Steve M3EVM
Redoubt Please enquire for use to Steve M3EVM
Hailsham Open first Wednesday of the month from 1030 - Weds 1st May

Editors Report

Hi Everyone,

Here is another Airtime packed full of articles and information about recent events. It seems that the club is busier than ever and that our public profile as a result, has not been as high for many a long year.



The website continues to expand and is a great way for members to keep abreast of current and forthcoming events if you are so inclined.

Once again we have a contribution from our Cretan buddy and an informative article about making your own QSL cards from Peter G4 URT. I have been very pleased with the steady stream of articles, quiz questions and other input to the Airtime, from members, since I took on the magazine and would like to say thank you for all your support.

73's

Hilary M1HLG

The U.K. Amateur Radio HF Frequency Allocation

Current [2012] RSGB Band Plans

160m (1.81- 2.0) shared (SSB mainly LSB) (1920s)
80m (3.5 - 3.8) shared (SSB mainly LSB) (1920s)
60m (5.1 - 5.405) various arrangements worldwide since 2002
40m (7.0 - 7.1) primary (SSB mainly LSB) (1920s)
& (7.1 - 7.2) primary (SSB mainly LSB) (WRC-03. Shared from 31.oct.2004
primary 29.mar.2009)
30m (10.1 - 10.15) shared (SSB not recommended) (WARC 1979)
20m (14.0 - 14.35) primary (1920s)
16.5m (18.068-18.168) primary (WARC 1979)
15m (21.0 - 21.45) primary (1940s)
12m (24.89- 24.99) primary (WARC 1979)
10m (28.0 - 29.7) primary (1920s)

**Deadline for articles to be included in the
July Airtime is
20th June 2013**

National Mills Day

11th/12th May 2013



Polegate GB2PW

Call Sign	Location
GB1DGW	Bromesgrove
GB1WW	Wilton
GB2GGW	Blackwood, Cardiff
GB2EM	Elstead
GB0HPM	Holton, Postmill
GB0BM	Somerset, Cornmill
GB2MW	Nutley Windmill
GB5HW	Heage, Derby
GB1WM	North Norfolk
GB0BM	Wookey, Somerset
GB2UW	Upminster
GB0HSM	High Salvington, Worthing
GB2WBM	West Blatchington, Hove
G3WQK/P	Windmill Hill
GB2WWW	Norwich
GB2MMW	Blackpool
GB0KLM	Alston
GB0JAJ	Clayton Mill
GB2 TMI	Leeds
GB0LSM	Warrington

Other stations contacted

20 metres	40 metres	15 metres
SM7UBF	PD1CW	SV3GLL
I2DRR	EI5DD	SX5KLS
SQ9SHR/M	F4GHB	
17 metres	12 metres	
CT7/EI5GM	S53OO	
ER3ZZZ		

The conditions were fairly good with good radio propagation throughout, in particular long and short skip covering the country and ground hop propagation to near stations.

Thanks to all at Polegate Windmill for their help and assistance. The Morris men's entertainment and the Windmill sweeps turning were a bonus on the day.

John Vaughan G3DQY

National Mills Day, Sunday 12th May 2013

Windmill Hill, Post Mill, TQ61

Call sign	Location
GB0LSM	Warwickshire.
GB2NW	Nutley Windmill, East Sussex.
GB0BM	Burcott Mill, Wells.
GB1WW	Wilton Windmill.
GB1WM	Weybourne Mill.
GB0HPM	Holton Post Mill.
GB2PW	Polegate Windmill,
GB2UW	Upminster Mill.
GB5HW	Hease Windmill, Derby.
GB2WMS	Shephed Water Mill, Nottingham.
GB2GG	Greens Mill, Nottingham.
GB0JAJ	Jack and Jill, East Sussex.
GB2WPM	Wrowby Post Mill, Lincolnshire.
GB2EM	Elsted Mill, Farnham, Surrey.
GB1WW	Wilton Windmill, Marlborough.
GX4ZFR/P	Woodbridge Tidal mill, Suffolk.
GB0KLM	Killoll Lead Mine Water mill.
GB0HSM	High Salvington Mill.



Other stations contacted that were not Mills.

G3LWJ	St. Neotts.
G8AXZ	Derbyshire.
MW0UAA	Braken.
GB100RSGB	Fort Purborough, Portsmouth.
G00AI	Louth, Lincolnshire.

All stations were contacted on 40 Metres, the Antenna was a W3DZZ trapped Dipole and the station was operated by Tony G3ZQB and Steve M3EVM.

We were made most welcome by the members of the Mill team and enjoyed the other events going on during the day.

The station was set up at short notice when the usual operator couldn't make it, because of illness.

Tony Seabrook, G3ZQB

QSL Cards – the easy way

With the 2m EME coming along nicely I began to experience a phenomena that I had never experienced before – the receipt of QSL cards direct from other stations. I had never had any QSL cards printed before so thought that I'd better have some printed to return the favour. However, after looking at various commercial sites all the examples given were either not appropriate or just plain boring.

I downloaded a few QSL card DIY programs from the internet and gave them a try. However, all the ones I tried were either far too complicated or very unsatisfactory in the way that they presented the blanks and invited you to customize them for your own requirements. This was still bugging me when perusing the Moon-Net digest, someone mentioned that they had used PowerPoint to construct the card masters.

What a revelation. MS Office routinely comes with new computers nowadays and PowerPoint is one the programs on it. It is very easy to use after you have mastered the basics and if you are stuck there are lots of help sites and books out there to assist you. Basically, just get the background that you want from any of the free picture sites on the Web and import it onto the card that you are designing. I designed the front to reflect my radio interests by simply manipulating the text as follows:



The rear of card was designed the same way but took much longer due to the amount / type of information that I wanted to convey to the other station. Being primarily for VHF modes I would say that most of the generic card designs that I had come across cater purely for HF operators so it took some time to get it right.



As you can see from the above I've tried to make it as efficient as possible for VHF modes and reporting convention (the -dB is for EME reporting). The other stations callsign will go in the light blue space between the 2 logos.

Having completed the rough draft of the card it was time to find someone to print them for me. Looking at the back of Radcom there is an advert from www.QSLers.co.uk for card printing. The chap who runs it is called Colin and he has been excellent. I sent the rough drafts to him only to be told by email return that he couldn't do anything with them as I had saved them to PowerPoint and not in a form that he could use them which is either jpeg, gif or tif formats. Having sorted that out I re-sent them and he played with them.

They were sent back and I had another play. Actually fine tuning the detail is very easy once the initial format of the card has been set out. This went on over a couple of days until we were both happy with the designs and I had sent him £47 via PayPal for a 1000 full colour double sided cards. This works out at under 5p per card. Printing took a couple of weeks but the result has been excellent.

So, for the first time in 30 years of amateur radio I now have some QSL cards printed. What would have been a real fag then is now very easy with PowerPoint and quite reasonable in cost as well. Now all I have to do is actually work some stations.....

Peter G4URT

RSGB Contests for April 2013

These contests are operated by the RGSB Contest Committee. Our Club has past history of being regulars in many contests throughout the year.

Why not get together with other interested members with a view of entering a club station into some of these contests. For the full details/rules of these contests please have a look at <http://www.rsgbcc.org> .

There are of course many other International contests throughout the month, information of these can be found on the web on sites like, <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest>



Date	Time	Contest Name	Sections	Notes/Special Rules
1 & 2 June	1500-1500	NFD		
3 June	1900-2030	80m	CC DATA	
12 June	1900-2030	80m	CC CW	
20 June	1900-2030	80m	CC SSB	

VHF

Every 1st Tuesday 2000-2230 (Local) 144MHz UK Activity Contest
Every 2nd Tuesday 2000-2230 (Local) 432MHz UK Activity Contest
Every 3rd Tuesday 2000-2230 (Local) 1.3GHz UK Activity Contest
Every 4th Tuesday 2000-2230 (Local) 50MHz UK Activity Contest

Videos of Club Events

Vince G1FBH has recently shot some videos of the clubs activities. One covers the clubs day at the Enterprise Shopping Centre in Eastbourne, meeting members of the public and displaying radio equipment. This can be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/62907353>.

The second video just finished, is about the clubs two special event stations set up for "Windmills on the Air". This video can be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/66460523>. It is hoped soon to have these videos available on the clubs own website.

V J Bobin. G1FBH

From our Cretan correspondent SVØXBN

With the WX here warming up nicely, a couple of days after this hits your screens, we are returning to the UK for a few days to attend a wedding. I know you always want it fine and dry for a wedding, but if it rains, for us it will make a very nice change, thank you!

Quite a good month over here radio-wise. I played a couple of times with the special call, J49C, that the local Club were issued with to celebrate Crete becoming part of Greece 100 years ago. As my CW is not that fast (see next paragraph) and I have no means of receiving and sending a reply in the expected 35 milliseconds, I stuck to PSK, while those with more skill and power played with the call on CW and SSB. PSK63 was ok but PSK31 is far too slow, especially when you have a number of stations calling and a lot of people just send their normal Macro about their name, rig, inside leg measurement etc. Still, we gave a new prefix to a few of the deserving and I may get to use the call again after our return from Blighty.

A few contacts in the SP DX RTTY shindig yielded all continents workable late in the evening on 20m (My only band at the moment) and I had a few slow CW QSOs in the EUCW QRS Week. If you are new to CW, or just rusty on the mode, this is a really good week to play on the bands. Those involved send at no more than 14 WPM (my kinda speed) and tend to have nice, proper QSOs rather than the '599 Pse QSL' variety.

Even outside QRS week, if you want some slower CW, look around the QRP frequencies where CW tends to be slower and QSOs more detailed.

This past month we had a visit from Serge, UA9CSA, and his XYL, Irini. They visited a couple of years ago and it was good to see them again and catch up on things. Serge is a member of the Ural Contest Group who use the call RF9C from Ekaterinburg (Sverdlovskaya Oblast), SV-03 for all you RDA fans out there, and it is nice to get an extra 'dit dit' when working them in a contest if Serge is on the key. Serge brought over some 'proper' Russian Vodka as well as some excellent Brandy again and we have an open invite to visit UA9. He recommends that we visit in Winter so we can all go skiing. I think not!

Unfortunately my UK trip in June does not coincide with a SARS meeting but I hope to return to the UK at the end of September for a visit to the National Hamfest in Newark where I may bump into some of you then, we will see . . .

Off now for a quick dip down at a local beach.

Yammas!

Dick. SVØXBN/9

April Quiz - The missing Answer

Last month we published the answers to the April Quiz. However, the answer to the question below proved beyond the reach of the researchers. Jim G4DRV has provided the answer.

Who were the MD1, MD3, MD5 callsign prefixes issued to?

Immediately after WWII much of Europe was badly damaged. The allied forces of several countries were located in Europe to assist clearing some the debris and to distribute food and water. The callsigns MD1xxx, MD3xxx or MD5xxx series were issued to British servicemen holding UK amateur licence holders working on the recovery

Sometimes the country behind the port, had forces of various countries in separate areas and were treated almost as individual countries or sectors. For example Germany was divided into three areas; the Russian, America and UK zones. Berlin itself was divided into the three sectors This enabled materials to be unloaded from ships without the usual formalities and the dockside workers to move freely in the areas common to the forces of different nations. Without these buffer zones facility, the operation would have failed. 'Red rape' would have bogged down activity when there was a desperate need for freedom of movement of the supplies to be let through.

This common sense solution allowed comparatively smooth crossing of the pseudo international national boundaries. The areas concerned were Berlin, Trieste (a major port on the borders between Italy and Yugoslavia). The third one was on the north coast of Africa and is believed to have been Tripoli.

Jim G4DRV

Strange callsigns

A surprised UK operator had a reply to a 2metre CQ from the very dubious sounding WG2JFK.

Their operator explained that it was based upon Runnymede (of Magna Carta fame) island in the middle of the Thames. He went on to say that the Tx was actually resting on the John F Kennedy's statute on the island and that this block of stone is deemed to be USA territory!. The callsign was allegedly approved jointly by the UK Licensing Authority and the American FCC.

Jim G4DRV

SOUTHDOWN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 15th April 2013

PRESENT

CHAIRMAN	STEVE BURNAND	M3EVM
VICE CHAIRMAN	TONY LUNN	GOEYE
TREASURER	PETER MARTIN	G6GVM
SECRETARY	IRIS MARTIN	G6ZNO

Also HILARY M1HLG; BRIAN G7PMY; TONY G3ZQB and JANE 2E1PJJ.

APOLOGIES

Were received from JIM G4DRV.

AMMENDMENTS

Amendments are to be made to the Last Minutes to include RCN which was discussed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

M3EVM

There have been several visits to the Redoubt Shack including one from Gareth Davies M6CQX who has just passed his Foundation Licence. Beachy Head is looking good. Tony G3ZQB has given Steve M3EVM some Literature about the change over at Bletchley Park. We hope to arrange a visit for the club in the near future. We need a Written Agreement for the Redoubt Shack from the management.

TREASURER'S REPORT

G6GVM

The accounts are now being produced on a new system designed by John Case G4JHD. We currently have 37 members signed up for this year. The members who have not rejoined will no longer receive a Newsletter until they do. I have taken £560 in Subscriptions. The RSGB third party Insurance is for RSGB members only. Otherwise cover should be made privately.

CURRENT ACCOUNT	1,769.77
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	54.00
PETTY CASH	<u>80.00</u>
TOTAL	1,904.55

We must congratulate GARETH DAVIES on passing his Foundation Licence and having his first QSO from the Redoubt Shack.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

G6ZNO

I have received another e-mail from Carol Rasmussen who organised the Hobbies Exhibition at the Enterprise Centre, asking if we would like to have a table at next year's Exhibition. (This was discussed and it was agreed that we would like to take part. I will e-mail her to say that we are willing).

I have also received an e-mail from Jim G4DRV re the opening of the Redoubt Shack and another from G3LFZ re RCN saying that RCN is on the 13/15 September this year. He also pointed out that if anyone wants to take part in this year's visit he needs to know as soon as possible as France virtually shuts down for June and July.

PROGRAMMES

MAY 13 th	AMATEUR RADIO IN CYPRUS DURING THE 50'S RAY G3AGF
JUNE 3 rd	APRS by BOB CLINTON G0BUX (Automatic packet reporting system)
JULY 1 st	MAGNETISM & FREE ENERGY DEMONSTRATION (member participation required).
JULY	ANNUAL BBQ – DATE & VENUE TO BE DECIDED.
AUGUST 5 th	COILS TO CAPACITORS by PETER MARTIN G6GVM
SEPTEMBER 6 th	SPECTACLE LENSES to the HUBBLE TELESCOPE (practical demonstration).
NOVEMBER 4 th	SOCIAL EVENING (to Natter about 2014).
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DINNER Date & Venue to be decided.

EVENTS

M3EVM

RAILWAYS ON THE AIR 21st/23rd September – The venue is already booked to someone else. See if we can find an alternative venue. Contact Caro Rasmussen about using the Enterprise Centre. Peter G4BLS proposed that we move the monthly meeting to Hailsham. It was discussed and we will look at the Venue before deciding as there may be trouble to find sufficient parking.

SHACKS

M3EVM

A Shack Procedure List has been written and laminated to go up on the wall at the Redoubt. The Co-ax cable at the Redoubt was full of water, so it is going to be replaced . Mick G1RMN donated a lot of equipment to the club; it will be put in display at the Redoubt. A log book for equipment removed was given to Tony G0EYE.

AIRTIME

M1HLG

Hilary has received an e-mail from Alex Wickham offering to help with the production of Airtime.

WEB SITE

M3EVM

A new section is to be added giving instruction on how to do various things. There will also be a Section on the Redoubt and Beachy Head.

A.O.B.

QSL cards for the Redoubt could be a photograph of the Redoubt preferably from the Council.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on the 20th May 2013 at 7.30 p.m. at 45, St Anthony's Avenue, Eastbourne

