

STARLITE

The Newsletter for Members and Friends of

Stourbridge & District Amateur Radio Society

Incorporating

Old Swinford Hospital Radio Club

G4CVK

1969

G6OI

1938

G6SRS

1938



Diary Dates

MAY	Mon 27th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available (free)
JUNE	Mon 3rd	BANK HOLIDAY - SHACK CLOSED
	Mon 10th	Open Shack night - Committee Meeting - Tea/Coffee available (free)
	Mon 17th	Main Meeting # to be confirmed
	Mon 24th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available (free)

Produced by G8JTL



JUNE 2002



RSGB Affiliated Society

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June 2002

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Editorial

Well another month rolls on and with it the need to once again put finger to keys. From the comments made by the membership the new format has been well received and I thank all those who took the time to express their support. You will note that the interval between the May and June issues has been shorter than usual! This is due to my target to make the following month's newsletter available at each main meeting, this being the meeting with the highest attendance. **One change I need to point out is the inclusion of a formal talk on the First Monday of July. This was the only date available and it was decided, on this occasion, to deviate from the normal Third Monday so as not to miss the opportunity, as Rosemary's talk is one not to be missed.** Well that's it from me except to say that there was a lot of content, which needed to be included, hence the bumper issue of 12 pages instead of the normal 8.

73's de G8JTL Malcolm

Our Own Roving Reporter

Well half way through the year and only one rally to attend this month Alvaston on the 9th. But as a run up to the first large rally of the year, Drayton Manor [which will be over by the time this report as been read in the newsletter] to get the car used to the run in that direction over Barr Beacon I was at the Aldridge Radio Rally on Sun 28th April. Even though it was not so big as Wythall there were a number of traders there and plenty of items of interest to be purchased. I also had chance to chat to several people, some of which were club members of both Stars and the Computer Club. So it was a good small rally and at 50p entrance fee it suited my pocket. Unlike Drayton Manor at £6 each, at the time of writing this report I am still undecided as to whether or not be I'll be going. I some times think I have enough equipment and its mostly old by present day standards. There is however Elvaston at £5 a car. While at the Aldridge Rally I had chance to have a chat to RSGB reps about the 50 yr badge I should be receiving. I also cross checked with a fellow organ enthusiast, GFS and Uke Soc of Gt Britain member, John G8NPK who used to engrave the RSGB badges. I also had an interesting conversation with Dave G8EPR who is looking out for any PYE radio TX/rx to add to the collection he has in His museum at Bewdley. I have seen photos of the museum and its most impressive; the PYE reporters were much sought after in the am days of amateur radio. I also had a chat with Bill G3CAQ about the book He is writing documenting the history of radio in the Midlands. On Tuesday 7th May I had a visit from Bill to find other items of interest from the past about STARS to feature in the book. I have read the previous publication the history of Wolverhampton Radio society. With all my interests I still never seem to get back to amateur radio like I did in the early days. Computers, gardening, visiting exhibitions, Severn Valley Railway, GFS and cinema organs all seem to take over. Sometimes they do come together like on sun 12th May at the Buttermarket. In the audience were Doug G3ZLJ of the Wolverhampton radio society and His XYL, Gerald (SWL) and His XYL from Upper Gornal. I read in the Express&Star that the deputy head of OHS was held to ransom in a fund raising stunt for the Mary Stevens Hospice and a long standing colleague of mine, Black Country Town Crier Percy Simmonds was at the school to read the terms of the fine to secure his release. Former STARS member Derek Pearson G3ZOM and his XYL were in the area from his QTH in Guernsey, for His father in law's funeral on Fri 11th May. Derek was a director of Jandeck, a business He founded a few yrs ago manufacturing TX/rx radio equipment.

That's all for now Best 73s Your Roving Reporter Malcolm



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Club Meeting Reports

At the April Main meeting a very interesting talk, on Internet linking, with particular emphasis on the system written by Paul, M0ZPD. The talk was well attended and included a live demonstration of the system with Paul on a dial-up link and Wayne on his hand-held.

A short description and sample screenshots of the system are reproduced below for those unfortunate enough not to attend.

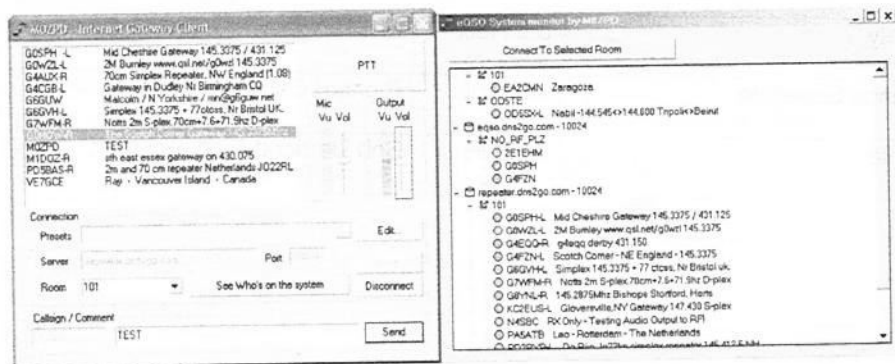


Introduction

eQSO is a complete dedicated ham radio Internet gateway and server system. It is intended for use by RF gateways and PC users connected to the Internet. For more details of RF linking see Adrian's web page <http://www.g7wfm.co.uk/>

Paul, M0ZPD, designed **eQSO** and it works like a large radio net. The Internet term for this is a "conference room". **eQSO** gateways meet up in a conference room, and transmissions from any one of the gateways are relayed to all the other gateways in the same room. A server can support several conference rooms. There is a "hard core" of UK gateway stations (see example below) who sit in the main conference room (Room 101), and other gateways and overseas amateurs join it. Individual amateurs may also join the conference room using computers only (without radio), and they are able to see the call signs of the gateways and other stations in that conference room.

Screen shots of the PC Client (for those connecting from their PC directly).



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FOUNDATION LICENCE

The Foundation License course to be run by the club will now commence on Sunday 19th, May and continue on 26th May, 16th June and 23rd June.

As of this date twelve persons have applied to take the course.

An examination will take place at the Shack on completion of the course and successful students can then apply for a Foundation License.

Basic Course Schedule

Technical Basics	1 Hour	James French
Transmitters & Receivers	1 Hour	
Antennas	1 Hour	Tony Price
Propagation	0.5 Hour	Malcolm Davies
Licence Conditions	1.5 Hours	Richard Carroll
Operating Practices & Procedures	2 Hours	Wayne Mocroft
Electromagnetic Compatibility	1 Hour	Malcolm Davies
Safety	0.5 Hour	Eric Hickman
Licence Schedule	0.5 Hour	Richard Carroll
Morse	3 Hours	Bob Derricott /Eric Hickman



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The above schedule has been split into Four – 3 Hour sessions each being carried out on a Sunday Morning.

Session 1 – 15th May 2002

Technical Basics	1 Hour	James French
Transmitters & Receivers	1 Hour	
Safety	0.5 Hour	Eric Hickman
Morse	0.5 Hour	Bob Derricott
Course Admin		John Clarke

Session 2 – 26th May 2002

Antennas	1 Hour	Tony Price
Operating Practices & Procedures	1 Hour	Wayne Mocroft
Propagation	0.5 Hour	Malcolm Davies
Morse	0.5 Hour	Bob Derricott/Eric Hickman
Course Admin		John Clarke

Session 3 – 16th June 2002

Operating Practices & Procedures	1 Hour	Wayne Mocroft
Licence Conditions	1.5 Hours	Richard Carroll
Morse	0.5 Hour	Bob Derricott/A.N.Other
Course Admin		John Clarke

Session 4 – 23rd Jun 2002

Electromagnetic Compatibility	1 Hour	Malcolm Davies
Licence Schedule	0.5 Hour	Eric Hickman
Morse	1 Hour	Bob Derricott/Wayne Mocroft
Course Admin		John Clarke



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FOCUS ON – PACKET

Report from Packet Conference of 13 April 2002

Those who look at Packet Bulletins and Inet Amateur newsgroups will have seen reference to this conference. It was held at the Marconi Sports & Social Club in Coventry and 40-50 people attended.

This conference had been arranged for anyone interested in Packet Radio, not just Sysops as in the past and I am please to report that it was a most enjoyable day.

There were a number of presentations and talks as well as time to meet others and talk about common interests.

Jim Andrews, G1HUL, gave the first presentation on APRS, giving an overview, components of APRS, mapping, the Internet, real world users and resources. It was interesting to note how APRS can be use to monitor propagation.

Paula Dowie, G8PZT, gave two presentations on her XROUTER network infrastructure detailing the main components, reasons for the development, features and benefits, compatibility and typical uses. This software also gives TCP/IP access. The seconded on her PZT AX25/IP BBS software took a similar format.

Roger Harris, G3ZFR, gave his presentation on AX25/IP integration experiences. Roger has written software for a TNC which makes the TNC "look like a modem" whereby you can set up a "Dial up Network" to access the TNC for TCP/IP packet routing. Using this protocol allows users to use programs such as Outlook Express for sending and receiving packet mail and Internet Explorer for browsing where TCP/IP access exists. Further enhancements will include USB port for use with PC that are now provided with Com ports.

Robin Gilks, G8ECJ, from the Thames Valley IP group gave an illustrated talk on some of there projects, such as their G4XYW 9k6 modem, regen controller, Full duplex linking and 4 port controller. He also had a quantity on motherboards from a particular previous usage that had 8 ports available that could be used for packet, which were being given away.

Chris Roberts, G0CNG and Joe Jacobs, G4VYA, from MAXPAK gave a talk on their local area network and the MAX02 packet modem. This modem is based on the YAM and can be used for 1200baud and 9k6baud.

Mike Wager, G7RAZ, who had been taking comprehensive notes of the conference, gave details of the instructions he had written for Using AGWPE's TCP/IP driver for RF packet operation and had copies to give out. This is a very useful document for anyone who wishes to try out this mode and is easy to follow.

Many thanks to all involved with the organisation of the excellent event that had been sponsored by the RSGB DCC.

Minutes and further are being posted on the Packet Network and on the Internet at www.marcov.co.uk/packet

Richard Newton, G0EWH



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In The Shack

Monday 22nd April: Attended by **9** members. All those that attended were involved in the delivery of the Foundation Course. The night was thrown over to confirming the arrangements and assigning tasks to all those that had agreed to provide the appropriate support over the 4 weekends involved.

Monday 29th April: Attended by **8** members. Tony had to resort to the use of Headphones whilst listening on HF whilst Wayne filled the shack with bangs, whistles and all manner of strange noises, not to mention what was happening on the computer display, as he demonstrating a piece of!! Windows!! Software that was capable of decoding all manner of digital transmissions.

In the adjoining room a heated debate was heard as a team of 'experienced' amateurs answered a set of sample questions for the Foundation Licence.

Finally two 'keen' members made a start on clearing some of the junk, sorry surplus, equipment from the shack.

(All names have been suppressed from this report to prevent praise being given to the guilty or punishment to the innocent)

Monday 13th May Attended by **12** members. There was a lot of activity tonight. As the final preparations were made for the first weekend of the Foundation Course. This involved removing all surplus items from the shack and attempting to shoe-horn it all into the available cupboard space. *There was, of course, no truth in the rumour that a number of members were seen skulking in the flowerbeds and shrubbery.* However I can confirm that the rumour regarding two of the members being seen wielding an ancient 'Hoover' and 'duster & polish' is true, but MY lips are sealed and you can't fail to be impressed next time your in the shack.

Reminders

On Tues 28th May it's the West Midlands Amateur Computer Club Surplus Auction held at The Robin Woods Community Centre, Scott's Road Stourbridge
Visitors Welcome - Commencing at 8pm.

YOUR newsletter wants YOU
(Or more to the Point your INPUT)
Send To:

Starlite Editor:

(01384) 894019

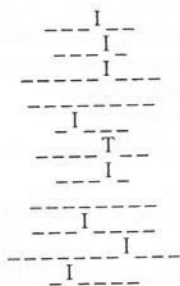
editor@starlitenews.btinternet.co.uk

Malcolm Davies - G8JTL
25 Walker Avenue
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Brierley Hill
DY5 2LY



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COFFEE TIME



R	E	V	I	E	C	S	N	A	R	T
P	R	F	X	R	A	D	I	O	B	R
A	K	D	K	Y	L	L	H	N	C	E
B	E	K	M	A	B	C	R	R	A	S
C	N	R	U	Y	R	F	K	E	P	I
Q	I	S	I	A	N	N	E	T	A	S
T	I	S	E	A	D	F	T	U	C	T
V	H	S	A	I	L	C	D	P	I	O
F	E	B	O	B	M	R	A	M	T	R
R	X	D	N	D	L	D	E	O	O	N
X	E	J	T	Z	J	D	L	C	R	D

Find all the hidden words, which have a Radio or Computer flavour, I've even given you a starT.
Solution to be found in the next edition -- maybe

Wireless in the Midlands

Would you like your station, or that of a friend or an Old Timer, or Relation recorded in my next and final record? You may have seen the two previous booklets produced on behalf of the Wolverhampton Amateur Radio Society. 1972 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary 1997 for the 75th anniversary.

In both issues Amateur Stations and Old time Operators of Shrewsbury - Stoke - Cannock - Stourbridge - Coventry - Dudley - West Bromwich and Wolverhampton were featured.

I am making an appeal for photographs - stories and descriptions of Stations, so that this issue can be better than ever. Sixty or so pictures dating from c1908 to the present day are already on file. Later in the year, a picture and slide presentation will be offered to clubs by arrangement. The completed book, or CD, will be available at cost to those interested.

Please contact me as soon as possible (preferably by e-mail or letter), describe briefly what information - pictures or documents that you have. All pictures and documents offered on loan will be carefully handled and returned.

Bill Moorwood G3CAQ
bill@g3caq.swinternet.co.uk
44 Station Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton. WV8 1DA
01902 843873



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I have reproduced the Contents and an Extract below from the 1997 Issue, Perhaps a similar entry can be prepared for STARS?

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Dudley Amateur Radio Society

The first meeting of the Dudley Club took place on 18th August 1961; there had been several attempts previously to form a group. Donald Pratt G3MHS convened a meeting at his house and about 19 amateurs attended. It was decided to hold ordinary meetings in the Dudley Art Gallery and committee meetings at G3MHS. The entrance fee was fixed at £1, with an annual renewal of 10/-, half these amounts for juniors. By the time the meeting concluded at 10.00pm the following appointments had been made and others registered as members.

President	A.C. Bevington	G5KS
Vice President	S.E. Pluntree	G3OSP
Vice President	H. Wheatley	SWL
Hon Secretary	D.H.W. Pratt	G3MHS
Hon Treasurer	K.G. Salter	G3LFY
Prog. Secretary	G. Hall	G3LZT
Juniors Representative	R. Bowater	SWL

Elected members -: S. Whitehouse G3OHN, S. Hemmings G8SR, K. Hillman BRS 2680, D. Hancock G3OMY, B. Fisher A1404 (G3PWJ), J. Anderson SWL (Taffy).

John Anderson (Taffy) lived in Ivy House Lane, Coseley, just off the Birmingham New Road. An avid Short Wave Listener who could repeat each day the previous nights conversations on the 160m band, together with others had tried several times to get a local club started, due to the problem of travel to Wolverhampton or Stourbridge, for those without motor cars. One of these attempts was with



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George Jones, the founding secretary of the 1922 Wolverhampton Amateur Wireless Society. George who in the early 1900's held the call sign 2WB, had been out of Amateur Radio since the middle 30's, and was unable to master the post war exam requirements. Although then in advanced age he was a keen SWL, and had inserted a request for club members in Practical Wireless.

Also present at this first meeting were - F.J Armstrong G3JRL, Arthur Goode G2DTQ of Shreshill, J. Jones, G. Dunn, and A. Porthouse.

Membership increased over the next few meetings and a total of 33 made up a party to visit Elmdon Airport at the end of October 1961. This visit was arranged by Stan Hemming G8SR. At Christmas of that year a dinner was held at the Britannia Inn in Upper Gornal.

Whilst the meeting room in the Art Gallery was warm and very tidy, it was not very comfortable sitting around the huge polished table, more like a works conference. Also the curator was ever present, sitting at a little table near the one door, at least he was when your writer was attending. With more than 15 present, seating became a problem. Furthermore it was difficult to bring equipment to demonstrate, and a permanent "Station" was out of the question.

Without access to Committee Minutes and Club Newsletters it is difficult to add more detail of this period, I am aware that Bob Fisher G3PWJ, was an officer, like John Birch G3YZP who was chairman for a number of years, during the time of the meetings at the Art Gallery at least.

In 1962, when attendance at meetings had increased by 50%, more spacious accommodation was needed, and an approach was made to the Civil Defence Club, because there had been a suggestion that they would allow a permanent "Station" to be installed. About this time the club was Affiliated to the RSGB, and the club was able to take advantage of a bulk purchase of Ex W.D. equipment arranged by the National Society. With the help of G3LN, a T1131 (RAF vhf transmitter) was obtained, and it was also decided to purchase an AR 88 receiver. The club Newsletter "The Local Oscillator" started about this time, and was to continue, through several Editors until about 1993. In 1962 a club transmitting license G3RXK, was obtained, this was later changed to G4DAR, (Dudley Amateur Radio), in time for a display in the Library in support of Dudley Council Leisure committee.

During the early part of 1963 it was decided to replace the Club President, due to his non-attendance at meetings since being elected. Also it was reported by a previous writer that 2 members were suspended for 'bad behaviour' during this period!! The arrangement with the Civil Defence Club worked quite well, whilst the original committee and Officers supported the CD requirement that at least 10 Radio Club members were members of the Civil Defence, and were actively engaged in CD exercises. This latter point became a burden on several members however, and eventually a decision was made to "Opt out" and locate to alternative accommodation.

After much discussion in committee it was decided to confirm a provisional booking at the Art Gallery, (this being the best Town Centre venue available) and put the Club Station into store. This move took place just before the 1963 AGM. Two members who were recorded as very active with the club at this time were G3PUD and G3SIO.

In 1964 the club entered two RSGB VHF contests, operating from a portable site on the Clent Hills. It was reported at this time that the average attendance at meetings had reduced to about 16 members.

Searches continued for a site with facilities for a permanent station, and in the late 1960's accommodation was secured on the top floor of the old Ruiton Wind Mill. Once it had been made



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habitable a station was installed at this excellent VHF site. The premises were shared with other hobby organisations, one of which was the leaseholder.

The electricity supply was charged in total and shared out between the various groups. For a time this was satisfactory, and the room proved to be an ideal HQ and meeting place. However a problem arose in the early 1970's, when electricity consumption increased alarmingly one quarter, it was traced to a particular reason which was difficult to resolve. DARS felt that they could not continue to support the use of Electricity by others, so had no alternative than to find other accommodation. The club made arrangements to return again to the meeting room in the Art Gallery, at this time average attendance was about 18. In the mid

1970's, membership was again on the increase and a further move was made to Dudley Library which offered a larger room, however no possibility of a "Station". The library was to be the meeting place for many years.

In the late 80's and early 90's, successful demonstrations were held at Himley Hall in conjunction with The Dudley Show Committee. Membership was still good and the committee through their contacts with the Leisure committee of the Dudley Council were able to rent a room over the Allied Centre, Greenman Alley, off Tower Street. This was a much larger room, it had good car parking facilities, but was only available one night each week, and with no prospect of a permanent station. However it was not necessary to vacate the room quite so early. After further contacts the Council offered the exclusive use of a top floor room at the old Priory Hall. Very soon the club had a Station installed, complete with roof top aerials. Membership at this time was soaring, it was even suggested by some, that the membership should be closed at 100 members.

However in the early 90's, it is said that when the "Dreaded Poll Tax" started, the Society was obliged to leave the Priory Hall, to make way for a Council Finance Department. It was a "Ring of Roses" arrangement actually, the Finance dept moved into one office, which displaced the Registry Office, they were given the Priory Hall accommodation which was said to be more appropriate as an ideal "Photo" location for the Wedding Groups was just outside.

Following the loss of the accommodation at the Priory Hall, membership declined, then the Council, through financial restrictions started to release rented accommodation; as a result the club were forced to vacate the Allied Centre. The committee then decided to seek accommodation again at the Library, but with membership falling and room hire charges escalating, meetings to be spaced monthly instead of twice per month. In 1996/7 frequencies of meetings were again reduced to balance the income from the clubs current subscriptions. Commencing in 1996 only 8 or 9 meetings are now held each year. It is possible that these brief notes may provoke discussion and result in more information being forthcoming.

Officer for contact. 1997 Chairman. Tony Lucas, G4LVA. (01384) 277925

Your Committee

Hon President	Wayne	G7LLT	
Vice President	Tony	M1CZH	
Hon Treasurer	John	G8UAE	
Hon Secretary	John	M1EJG	
Committee	Malcolm	G8JTL	(Newsletter Editor)
	Bob	G4VPE	
	Richard	M1DBC	
	James	G7HEZ	
	Eric	G7JWJ	(Co-Opted)
	Alan	G6UYJ	(Co-Opted)



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All correspondence/enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary:
(01562) 700513

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Stars WebPages

www.stars60.swinternet.co.uk

WAP enabled?? - try

www.qsl.net/g6oi/wap/index.wml

The club holds its full meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each Month at: -

Old Swinford Hospital School,
Heath Lane, Stourbridge.
(8.00pm)

MEETINGS

	Mon 1 st	On Air / Natter night
	Mon 22 nd	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 29 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
MAY	Mon 6 th	BANK HOLIDAY - SHACK CLOSED
	Mon 13 th	On Air / Natter night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 20 th	Windows XP - 7 th Back from London Computing
	Mon 27 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
JUNE	Mon 3 rd	BANK HOLIDAY - SHACK CLOSED
	Mon 10 th	Open Shack night - Committee Meeting - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 17 th	Main Meeting # to be confirmed
	Mon 24 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
JULY	Mon 1 st	Rosemary Lyman - Enigma Codes
	Mon 8 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 15 th	Main Meeting
	Mon 22 nd	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 29 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
AUGUST	Mon 5 th	Sheepwalks Outing - Weather Permitting
	Mon 12 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 19 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 26 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
SEPTEMBER	Mon 2 nd	On Air / Natter night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 9 th	Open Shack night - Committee Meeting - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 16 th	Main Meeting
	Mon 23 rd	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
OCTOBER	Mon 7 th	On Air / Natter night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 14 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
	Mon 21 st	Main Meeting
	Mon 28 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available
NOVEMBER	Mon 4 th	Open Shack night - Tea/Coffee available

Any ideas for future talks?? Can you please contact Tony M1CZH or any Committee Member with offers and suggestions!

