

STARLITE

THE JOURNAL FOR THE STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT A.R.S.



**G6OI
G6SRS**



ISSUE: OCTOBER 2022



G4CVH

**STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
INCORPORATING
OLDSWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL RADIO CLUB**

MEETINGS NORMALLY HELD AT

**OLDSWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL
HEATH LANE
STOURBRIDGE
[8:00 TO 10:00 PM]**

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

**DURING COVID, THE SOCIETY HOLDS ITS MEETINGS
EVERY MONDAY AT NORTON SOCIAL CLUB,
OSMASTON ROAD, STOURBRIDGE**

RSGB AFFILIATED SOCIETY

STARLITE

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Kidderminster
DY10 3ND

StARS Website URLs:-

www.g6oi.org.uk

StARS Facebook Page:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stourbridge.ars/>

Forthcoming Meetings

October 3 rd	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
October 10 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
October 17 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
October 24 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
October 31 st	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
November 7 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
November 14 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
November 21 st	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
November 28 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
December 5 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
December 12 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
December 19 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
December 26 th	Boxing Day
January 2 nd 2023	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm

Once again, so close to publication date, I have received no news or comments from the Committee or the membership in general.

We are now half way through the StARS year and I am surprised to see that a few of you (including long time members) have not renewed their membership. Also, a couple have been contributors to these pages. It would be a great shame to lose you, but I regret to inform that this MAY be the final issue of Starlite you receive.

Updated RSGB EMF Calculator

The RSGB have released an updated version of their online EMF Calculator to enable radio amateurs to check EMF exposure limits

Version v2.0.1 is available as a web app at <https://rsgb.org/emfcalculator>

RSGB EMF page <https://rsgb.org/emf>

Remote examination invigilators wanted

The RSGB is looking for more volunteers to act as remote examination invigilators

Remote invigilation and online examinations have been a huge success due to the efforts of the team of invigilators.

If you have not previously invigilated an online examination using the TestReach system, and would like more information on joining the team, please email eqam@rsgb.org.uk

Source RSGB <https://rsgb.org/main/>

How to build a ham radio HF dipole antenna

Electronics Notes describes how to build an HF dipole antenna for the amateur radio bands

It is easy to build, construct and erect a dipole antenna for the HF bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 metres, etc using a few simple components at a minimal cost and get great results.

Read the article at

<https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/antennas-propagation/dipole-antenna/hf-ham-band-dipole-construction-80-40-20-15-10-meters.php>

Follow Electronics Notes on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ElecNotes>

Foundations of Amateur Radio

The inherent redundancy of a compromise antenna

For an activity that's seeped in the art of communication, amateur radio is a diverse collection of people, joined by a common interest and kept together using imperfect language describing an intrinsically complex science in the hope that we can learn from each other to get on air and make noise.

In this cooperative endeavour, language is important.

Let me start with a limerick by Arthur Frackenpohl:

*There was a young fellow of Perth
Who was born on the day of his birth
He married, they say
On his wife's wedding day
And died when he quitted the earth*

Stay with me.

In this day and age, first and foremost, let me give you a short summary, cobbled together from bits and pieces of a new invention, conceived whilst watching the evening sunset in close proximity to the beach.

What this cornucopia of tautologies has to do with our hobby might not be obvious, but let me illustrate.

Consider the phrase: "a compromise antenna", as-in, "Oh, I'd never use that antenna, it's a compromise antenna."

If you've been in this community for any time at all, you'll have heard that phrase and unless someone pointed it out, you might not have realised that it's essentially unhelpful.

Why?

Because as I've said many times before, all antennas are a compromise, by definition. This is true at several levels.

At a fundamental level, an isotropic antenna is a theoretical antenna that radiates equally in all directions - horizontally and vertically with the same intensity. It's infinitely small and operates on all frequencies with infinite bandwidth. It should be obvious, but this antenna cannot physically exist, so every built antenna represents a collection of trade-offs or compromises and no antenna can radiate more total power than an isotropic antenna.

Beyond that, within the physical constraints of antenna building there are many more compromises. Now this might not be immediately obvious, so let me elaborate.

Consider a 28 MHz, seven element Yagi antenna. With a 12m boom, a 5.3m reflector element, a turning circle of 7.5m and weighing in at 53 kilo. At 20m above the ground it has a gain of 17.5 dBi and handles 1.5 kW. It's physically capable of withstanding 180 km/h winds. It's a lovely piece of kit and if you have the space, it's absolutely something you might want to receive for your birthday and bolt to a mast somewhere near your radio.

If all antennas are a compromise, you might ask yourself, how is this beautiful 10m Yagi a compromise?

For starters, its total radiated power is less than an isotropic antenna. It works between 28

and 29 MHz, but nowhere else. It radiates signals really well in one direction, but not in any other. It requires lots of open space and as a fixed installation, it must be on a heavy duty rotator clamped to a tall mast. To actually acquire and install requires more funds than I've spent on all my radios to date.

Some of what I've mentioned might be acceptable to you, some not. For example, if you're always portable, this antenna makes no sense. You make choices to select an antenna that's best suited to the job and in doing so, you are introducing compromises.

Additionally, there are amateurs who would have you believe that a compromise antenna is one with high loss.

High loss in comparison to what?

If you live in an apartment block, there's no way that you can fit that 10m Yagi inside your bedroom, so you compromise and use a magnetic loop antenna instead. If you're on the top of a mountain, there's no opportunity to erect a structure, so you use a self-supporting vertical. If you're in a car, you cannot erect a horizontal dipole and drive down the highway, so you bolt a whip to your jalopy.

All of the choices you make to fit a purpose, an environment, a budget and available material will combine into an antenna that hopefully gets you on air making noise.

When someone tells you that an antenna is a compromise antenna, what they're really saying is that you made compromises that they're unwilling to make. That's easy to say if you have infinite space, money, experience and opportunity. In other words, they're just blowing hot air.

The whole point of antenna building is to find a particular set of compromises that suits your situation at the time that you're doing it. The intent of this hobby is to learn what the impact of a particular choice is and how it affects the operation of an antenna in a specific situation.

Next time you hear the redundant phrase "that's a compromise antenna", ask what compromises they are describing that they don't accept and decide for yourself if they are compatible with what you're attempting to achieve within the resources available to you.

I'm Onno VK6FLAB

• *This article is the transcript of the weekly 'Foundations of Amateur Radio' podcast, produced by Onno Benschop, VK6FLAB who was licensed as radio amateur in Perth, Western Australia in 2010. For other episodes, visit <http://vk6flab.com/>. Feel free to get in touch directly via email: cq@vk6flab.com*

The RST Reporting System

While roaming around the upper part of the 40 meter Ham Band in the LSB MODE, I recently overheard a conversation between a roundtable group. I listened for a few moments and then heard one of the Hams who was most likely new to Ham Radio, ask one of the others in the group to give him a signal report.

The report he got back from the other station was, "You're 59". Silence was heard for a few moments and then the "new" ham said, "I did not want you to guess my age....how do you hear me?"

The reply was again, "You're 59". "What do you mean?" The new Ham said. Then another station in the roundtable began a very lengthy dissertation to try to explain the RST reporting method to him that no one could have understood.

He started talking about power levels, dB's, S meters, propagation, antenna theory, brand names, receiver sensitivity and on and on for a good five minutes! When the new ham started to ask questions, another station spoke up and totally confused the situation even more! Then another station started with his 'two cents' worth. After a couple more questions with no clear answers.....The new ham finally said "I still don't understand how well you are hearing me.....I hear the phone ringing....got to go!", and he signed off. He sounded very disgusted to me when he left the air abruptly!

In my opinion, in answering his question...."How do you hear me?"....it would have been much better in this case to just say "loud and clear" since the new ham had obviously not studied the RST system of signal reporting and none of the roundtable station operators could explain RST to him in simple terms....they just seemed to want to dazzle him with as much "info" as possible! It seemed to me that they were trying to help in their own way, but did not want to admit their lack of a "good" explanation. They could have suggested that he study the RST reporting system on the internet or wherever he could find the information.

To help the "New" hams and lots of you old timers who know nothing about giving or receiving signal reports using the RST method...read on!

THE RST REPORTING SYSTEM IN A NUTSHELL!

RST Reports: An RST report is a report from a receiving station on the quality and strength of the transmitted signal. Using shorthand in the form of numbers to represent the tone of a CW signal or voice transmission of a transmitting station's signal at the receiving station's location (QTH).

Here is what it means:

R - Readability - Understanding what is said and how well. On a scale of 1 to 5, the readability of your signal with a "5" being perfect with no difficulty. In other words the ability of the other operator to understand what you are saying. A "1" is unreadable....a "5" is perfectly readable.

S - Strength - On a scale of 1 to 9, indicates how strong your stations signal is. A "1" is a very faint signal. A "9" is an extremely strong signal.

T - Used for morse code signal reports. Indicates on a scale of 1 to 9 the quality of the tone of the morse code "dits and dahs". From a "60 cycle harsh tone" a (1).... To a "very pure tone", a (9).

Example #1 A CW REPORT: If you got a report of "599" on CW, it means the following: The five means your signal is very easy to understand with absolutely no difficulty. The first nine means your signal registers a very strong reading on your S meter, usually 3/4 scale or more. The second nine means your CW tone has a nice pure clear tone or sound.

Example #2 A VOICE REPORT: If you get a 5 5 (sometimes said 5 by 5)....Your signal is perfectly readable with a fairly good signal strength.

In some cases people may tell you: your signal is five nine plus twenty dB... In this case the twenty db part indicates that your signal is so strong that it goes off the standard 1 through 9 signal strength S meter dial by twenty decibels as indicated on the meter readout. (See note below) This would mean that you are putting out a REALLY strong signal!

NOTE:

The RST System of Signal Reporting was established roughly in 1934 as a quick method of reporting Readability, Signal Strength and the Tone of CW. For voice contacts only the "R" and "S" are used. The "S" component is usually not the same as your S-Meter reading as most S-Meters aren't calibrated to track the RST System. The RST is also reported on QSL Cards and must be filled in correctly.

For example a "569" report for a *voice contact* is NOT valid. Remember that the 3rd number from the left is for "Tone" in CW. Note that many DX operations and contest stations merely report "599" as a convenience to avoid having to log each of the real reports. This is a questionable practice but is used most of the time in DX'ing/Contesting. Would you give a 599 for a station you could barely hear? Would you appreciate it if this was your report from someone that could barely hear you? Be honest with your reports!

The RST report system works well, can be used for troubleshooting problems with your station and has been used by Hams worldwide for many years and also is used by the military with slight modifications in their reporting of transmissions.

There is a great deal of "averaging all factors" when giving a signal report to another station.

There is a lot of difference between a voice report of 59 and one of 52.....but the most important thing to me would be readability! I have heard hundreds of stations perfectly clear on voice and CW that were not moving the S Meter! (Yes...it does work!) So their report might have been an R5, S1 or 2.....to my ears!.....

Study this information below to help you with giving out accurate reports. Feel free to copy any or all of this information if it would be helpful to you!

R = READABILITY

- 1 -- Unreadable
- 2 -- Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
- 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 -- Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 -- Perfectly readable

S = SIGNAL STRENGTH

- 1 -- Faint signals, barely perceptible
- 2 -- Very weak signals
- 3 -- Weak signals
- 4 -- Fair signals

- 5 -- Fairly good signals
- 6 -- Good signals
- 7 -- Moderately strong signals
- 8 -- Strong signals
- 9 -- Extremely strong signals

T = TONE

- 1 -- Sixty cycle a.c. or less, very rough and broad
- 2 -- Very rough a.c. , very harsh and broad
- 3 -- Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
- 4 -- Rough note, some trace of filtering
- 5 -- Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated
- 6 -- Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
- 7 -- Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
- 8 -- Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
- 9 -- Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

Hope this helps some of you! 73

Update of RSGB exam syllabus and sample questions

The RSGB Examinations and Syllabus Review Group (ESRG) has just completed an editing and checking exercise for all the v1.5 syllabus content on the RSGB website

The Group has also been working on the sample examination papers and sample questions on the RSGB website in order to bring them into line with v 1.5. As the majority of candidates will now be taking examinations online (as opposed to paper-based exams) the front sheets of the sample papers have been adapted to reflect this transition. The sample questions are now shown using an Excel spreadsheet rather than being a PDF.

Read the full announcement at

<https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/rsgb-notice/2022/08/31/exam-syllabus-and-sample-question-updates/>

New syllabuses

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/for-trainers/syllabus-2019/>

Mock exams

<https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/training-resources/mock-exams/>

LX9S Jamboree On The Air

LX9S will be on the air from Luxembourg as part of the 65th Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) on October 14-16

A translation of an SSA post reads:

As you all know, the JOTA 2022 will take place next month. This is the opportunity to present our hobby to a large public.

Here in Luxembourg we are once again representing the WOSM, the World Scouts Office Europe.

The call sign is again LX9S and we are not alone in this task. Radio amateurs from the Netherlands, Switzerland, France will travel to Luxembourg City.

I think we will have around 20-25 radio amateurs present, 2-3 IT staff, 6 kitchen staff and 4 scout leaders.

Preparations are in full swing I just wanted to let you guys know and the LX9S Team 2022 will do whatever it takes to put on a good show again. Hi.

Watch LX9S JOTA-JOTI preview 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aI2H-O9KOFQc>

Source SSA <https://tinyurl.com/IARU-Sweden>

The OTHR noise on 10 Meters

The 10 meters band is opening for the last 10 days as the sunspots are above 100. I am sure you all are Dxing on 10. I am logging more than 100 stations per opening, but the noise of 'Over The Horizon Radar' is disturbing/ blocking the QSO's.

The noise of OTHR is all from 28100 kHz to 29000 Khz. All the DXers around the world are worried about this noise. I request all the 10-meter Fans to report this to ARSI and request the ARSI to report it to the world organization so somehow, this noise creators will stop this on 10 meters. I know the military powers are doing this and they are least bothered about amateur radio, but what to do? We only can do what I mentioned above.

This was also the case during the 24 Solar Cycle, but now at the beginning of this 25 Cycle, the OTHR noise is just blocking QSOs on 10 meters. During the cold war years, there was noise known as "Woodpeckers" radars.

My recent contacts on 10 meters:

Sep 19, 2022 -- 157. Sep 23, -- 54. Sep 24 - 107. Sep 25 -- 146.
Sep 26, -- 26.

Regards, hoping 10 meters band will be without the OTHR noise soon. 73.

DATTA VU2DSI

Yes, amateur radio is still a thing: Here's why

Electronics 360 have published an article by Seth Price N3MRA describing amateur radio

The article says:

In the earlier days of amateur radio, it was a way to communicate with the rest of the world. Before the internet and smartphones, talking with people at the opposite side of the country or even in different countries was difficult. Amateur radio solved this problem by allowing for long distance communication for reasons like current events, geographical exploration and cultural study.

In amateur radio parlance, homebrewing refers to DIY setups and equipment, as amateur radio's early days were filled with experimenters. Because radio was a new science, amateur radio operators were constantly pushing the technological envelope with new antenna designs, filters and other hardware, as well as communication protocols. Even during its mature age, software packages for modulating communication modes, logging contacts, programming radios and the like were developed by tinkerers and experimenters. Many ham radio operators still use homebrew equipment.

Homebrewing is one of the fastest growing fields in amateur radio. In the early days, radio experts built antennas and hardware. Many of today's homebrewers still do so, but there is a rise in microcontrollers and programming as well. Microcontrollers like Arduino, or small computers – Raspberry Pi being the most notable – have been used to make programmable keyers for Morse Code, automatic position reporting system trackers for tracking a mobile station's location, modulators for various communication modes, power monitoring devices and a host of other projects.

Read the full article at

<https://electronics360.globalspec.com/article/18575/yes-amateur-radio-is-still-a-thing-here-s-why>

Coastal Waves and Wires

The Coastal Waves and Wires YouTube Channel looks at the current state of Amateur Radio social media

Walt K4OGO expresses his disappointment at the behavior of some radio amateurs in a Facebook group.

Watch Ham Radio and Social Media - Let's Get Real For a Moment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgGCTAg_JKo

The channel provides a selection of amateur radio videos covering topics like a No Radial HF Antenna, the easy to build uBITX V6 HF transceiver kit, and Beach QRP with the M1ECC vertical end fed half wave for 20m. See the videos at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/COASTALWAVESWIRES/videos>

JOTA Advanced Notice 14th - 16th of October 2022

Advanced notice for the forthcoming Scouts Jamboree On The Air which is an excellent opportunity for local Radio clubs and Groups to introduce amateur radio to the younger generation. If you have a local Scouts troop near you, why not introduce yourself and offer the facilities of your club station for the JOTA weekend.

Jamboree on the Air - Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA-JOTI) promotes a Scout's sense of belonging to the worldwide Scout Movement and builds cultural awareness, develops tolerance, advocates sharing and collaboration as well as demonstrates teamwork. It provides exciting opportunities for young people to explore technology and to develop technical skills including fostering innovation and creativity through communicating with other Scouts. A wide range of activities using communication technology are the chief methods of attaining these goals.

JOTA-JOTI strives for a meaningful engagement of as many young people from as many parts of the world as possible annually on the third weekend in October. This weekend is also an occasion to celebrate Scouting and to generate positive energy to support the development of the Scout Movement.

The event seeks to promote quality Scouting in a manner faithful to the purpose, principles and method of Scouting and consistent with the needs and aspirations of young people in today's world. The JOTA-JOTI programme shall be a reflection of the Promise, Law, Principles and Method of Scouting, as defined by the WOSM Constitution, and shall also reflect the most up-to-date policies and initiatives of WOSM relating to youth programme for all ages.

JOTA-JOTI is an annual event that takes place the third weekend of October. Future dates are: - **14th to 16th of October 2022.**

For more information please visit the event website:

www.world-jotajoti.info

Saint Malo Radio Club Special Event

Members of the Saint Malo Radio Club will activate special event station, TM8R, during the 'Route du Rhum', a sailing ship race from Saint-Malo (France) to Pointe-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe Island).

The activity will take place between October 27th and November 6th. The team will be active on all bands, all modes.

For more information, see the "Association des radios amateurs de la côte d'Emeraude" (ARACE) Web site at (<http://www.arace.fr/>) as well as (<http://www.routedurhum.com/fr>) page.

QSL via F5BNJ, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog or LoTW. An online log will be available at: <http://clublog.org/logsearch/TM8R>

TO5A Martinique Island

TO5A Team will be active from Martinique Island, IOTA NA - 107, in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 29 - 30 October 2022.

Team - F5VHJ, FM5BH, W6NV

They will operate in MO Category.

QSL information:

For USA amateur radio stations via WA6WPG.

For others QSL via F5VHJ, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

Address for direct QSL:

THOMAS A THOMAS, 1149 GENTLE DR, CORONA, CA 92880, USA.

For others via F5VHJ, ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.

Address for direct QSL:

ALBERT CRESPO, LIMOUSIN, 47120 ST. ASTIER DE DURAS, France

TY0RU Benin

TY0RU Team will be active from Benin, 10 - 25 October 2022.

Team - RA1ZZ, R7AL, R9LR, RT2O, RW9JZ, RW8A all members of the Russian DXPedition Team.

They will operate on 160, 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6 m, CW, SSB, FT-8 (Normal mode, Fox mode WSJT-X 2.0 software) and also QO-100 satellite.

QSL via R7AL, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

D60AE Comoro Islands

D60AE Team will be active from Comoro Islands, IOTA AF - 007, 5 - 17 October 2022.

Team - Members of the F6KOP Radio Club, F4AJQ, F1ULQ, F2DX, F4AZF, F4ESV, F5AGB, F5NTZ, F8AVK, F8EFU, F8GGV, DL3GA, HB9GWJ, ON7RN.

They will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4 and also QO-100 Satellite.

DX Pediction dedicated to memory of F5NQL, F1HRE.

J28MD Djibouti

J28MD Team will be active from Djibouti, 29 October - 7 November 2022.

They will operate on HF Bands.

QSL via IK2VUC.

CY0S Sable Island

CY0S Team will be active from Sable Island, IOTA NA - 063, October - November 2022. Team -WA4DAN, N2IEN, K4ZLE, K5YY, K4UEE, WW2DX, N2TU, W4DKS, W0GJ.

They will operate on All Bands, CW, SSB, FT8, EME, Sat.

QSL via WA4DAN, ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.

Earlier planned they will use CY0C call sign.

CY0S Sable Island News 14 May 2022

As announced previously, the 2022 Sable Island CY0S DXpedition has been formally approved for this October/November. As soon as the exact dates are determined by Parks Canada, we will release them to the DX community. Parks Canada is extremely busy with maintenance projects which have priority. Environment Canada completely automated their Sable weather station in 2019 so they no longer have personnel on the island. As planning continues, the CY0S team faces significant costs. This is by far the most expensive CY0DXpedition ever. The budget for this DXpedition is \$65,000. The team will charter the Sable Aviation fixed wing aircraft as well as the Vision Air Sikorsky SK76 helicopter. The team will require two round trip flights with Sable Aviation and two round trip flights with Vision Air. These charters are at a very significant cost. Additionally, Parks Canada charges for the use of the Visitor Quarters next to the Sable Station. The team members have committed to paying a minimum of 50% of the cost of the DXpedition. Currently, our fund raising is just starting to ramp up. We encourage DX'ers worldwide who need Sable Island to support our efforts. It's been a long six years with trying to make this DXpedition a reality. The team has had to overcome many obstacles.

CR2B Graciosa Island

Miguel, EA1BP will be active from Graciosa Island, IOTA EU - 175, in CQ WW DX SSB Contest 29 - 30 October 2022, as CR2B.

Outside of the contest he will operate as CT8/EA1BP.

QSL via home call.

Address for direct QSL:

Miguel Angel Devora, c/ Canadelo Alto, 55 - 2ºB, 36206, Vigo (Pontevedra), Spain.

DXCC Country - Azores Islands.

JX/LB4MI Olonkin, Jan Mayen

Helge, JX/LB4MI will be active from Olonkin, Jan Mayen Island, IOTA EU - 022, until October 2022.

He will operate on HF Bands, SSB, CW.

QSL via LB4MI buro, LOTW, eQSL, ClubLog OQRS, HamQTH, QRZ com Log Book.

Madagascar

Operators Ron/PA3EWP, Guenter/DL2AWG, Erno/DK2AMM and Gerben/PG5M will be active as 5R8WP, 5R8WG, 5R8MM and 5R8CG, respectively, from Nosy Be Island (AF-057), Madagascar, between October 11-22nd.

They will operate with two stations simultaneously and on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. Each station consists of an Elecraft K3 with SPE Expert 1.3K-FA amplifier. The spare radios are SunSDR2 PRO and IC7300. The antennas will be Hexbeam for 20-6m, DX Commander for 40-10m, 30m vertical with elevated radials, a 80m vertical and 160m vertical.

Depending on internet availability, they will update their records on ClubLog daily. QSL 5R8WP, 5R8WG and 5R8MM via DL2AWG, ClubLog and LoTW (later). QSL 5R8CG via PG5M, ClubLog and LoTW (later).

Ham radio: You never know who's on the other side

The Puget Sound Repeater Group membership includes a large contingent of Seattle tech workers — engineers, coders, product designers and more — who share a common preoccupation: Obsessive tinkering with science and technology

Geek Wire reports:

When was the last time a total stranger, or even an acquaintance, gave you three minutes — three whole minutes — to share whatever was on your mind?

In the age of social media, we all have bigger and more powerful megaphones than ever. But attention spans are shorter than ever, and the reality is our friends, family and colleagues are likely to doomscroll right past what we've shared on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram — especially if it's a read that takes three minutes or more.

Yet, a group of Puget Sound-area amateur radio enthusiasts are finding a way to be heard — and taking the time to hear each other

Each day, the Puget Sound Repeater Group, an organization of local ham radio enthusiasts that celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, take to the airwaves for three broadcasts, known as “nets” — once at 9 a.m., again at noon and again at 9 p.m.

The chats can include more than 50 people. Most are from the Seattle area, but voices can appear from as far away as Europe, South America and Australia.

Late-night hours are perfect for reaching other radio users on far-off continents because the ionosphere's composition changes when it's untouched by the sun's energy. Under these conditions, short-wave and AM radio signals are endowed with strength they wouldn't have in the daylight and can reach thousands of miles.

“At night it really opens up and you get to talk around the world,” Caudron said, adding that he recently connected with a man who had spent decades “building a nice little radio station” in Japan, not far from Mount Fuji.

“It sounded very peaceful,” Caudron said. “You never know who's on the other side.”

Read the full Geek Wire story at

<https://www.geekwire.com/2022/you-never-know-whos-on-the-other-side-amateur-radio-enthusiasts-use-old-school-tech-to-connect/>

How to assemble a narrow cw filter

QRPer.com readers know that I'm a big fan of the venerable Yaesu FT-817 and FT-818 series transceiver. So much so, I own two FT-817NDs—I purchased a second unit last year primarily for full duplex satellite work.

As I mentioned in a previous post, the one gotcha with the FT-817 and FT-818 is narrow CW filter availability. The YF-122C 500 Hz and YF-122CF 300 Hz Collins filter boards are no longer produced. Neither are the Inrad equivalents.

With the renaissance of CW we're experiencing along with the growth of POTA, WWFF and SOTA, narrow CW filters for the FT-817/818 are very difficult to find and come at a premium when you do find them. I saw one sell recently for \$250 US—over double what I paid two years ago.

In addition, this same filter not only fits the FT-817/818, but I believe it also fits the popular FT-857 and FT-897 series transceivers (please correct me if I'm wrong about this).

The Problem: I wanted another narrow CW filter

One of my FT-817NDs is loaded with a Collins 500 Hz mechanical filter that I purchased from my buddy Steve (WG0AT) nearly two years ago.

The second FT-817ND had a narrow Inrad 2 kHz SSB filter that came with the radio when I purchased it used (see image above). Initially, I had no intention of buying yet another narrow CW filter because I'd only planned to use the second unit for FM and SSB satellite work.

Then, during field day this year, I decided it might be fun to build a quick-to-deploy portable HF station with something like an Armolox TPA-817 pack frame. That thought experiment made me realize that I should simply bite the bullet and get a narrow CW filter for the second FT-817ND.

I started searching in late June and was simply not willing to pay the price for the very few filters that have shown up on the used market.

The Solution? Assemble one!

I owe QRPer reader, Petr (OK1RP), for this tip. Thank you, Petr!

The process of assembling your own narrow filter is actually quite simple and affordable. If you have even the most basic soldering skills, you'll be able to manage this easy project. If interested, keep reading and I'll show you how you can assemble your own...

Contact Artur (SP6AB) and ask to purchase one of his FT-817 filter boards

<https://qrper.com/2022/09/how-to-assemble-a-narrow-cw-filter-for-your-yaesu-ft-817-ft-818-ft-857-ft-897-an-affordable-yf-122c-equivalent/>

WinRfCalc

WinRfCalc free RF calculator now has a website

To keep users informed about the capabilities of WinRfCalc, a website is launched on <https://rfcalculator.com/> where current and future calculation tools are shown.

More African countries arrive on 60 m

Word has just arrived via the South African Radio League (SARL) that three new African countries have joined the ranks of 5 MHz / 60 m operators.

They are Botswana, Lesotho and eSwatini (formerly known as Swaziland).

Each has the new WRC-15 Amateur Secondary Allocation of 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz

This makes a total of 89 countries now on the band worldwide.

Thanks ZS4BS, SARL



5 MHz allocations in Southern Africa

SARL News reports Namibia, eSwatini, Mozambique and Zimbabwe all have the WRC-15 5 MHz band allocation, while Kenya has 5275-5450 kHz

The SARL news story says:

Radio amateurs are requested to take note of the various 60 metre allocations in Southern Africa.

South Africa has an allocation of 5350 kHz to 5450 kHz and 5290 kHz for WSPR beacons. Namibia, eSwatini, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have the WRC-15 allocation of 5351.5 kHz to 5366.5 kHz using 15 W EIRP.

Kenya has 5275 kHz to 5450 kHz on a secondary basis. Dennis, ZS4BS has requested official confirmation from Botswana, Lesotho, Angola, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania on their 60 metre allocations.

SK7RN – Total Defense Day on Öland

Sweden's SSA reports the Öland Island Amateur Radio Society SK7RN will be promoting the hobby at this year's Total Defense Day on Harvest Festival Saturday, October 1

A translation of the SSA post reads:

SK7RN has, as earlier this year, an important role to play as a mediator of radio traffic between air and ground management during the big Total Defense Day on Öland during the harvest festival here.

This year, SK7RN has been further commissioned by the management of the Total Defense Day to inform the audience about amateur radio in general and what it can mean for society in a situation of crisis in particular. In addition, we will show our emergency radio system where the island's repeaters are connected to others in the rest of Sweden via, among other things, SVXLINK.

In addition, we will, of course, demonstrate shortwave radio communication with speech and telegraphy. SK7RN will be located together with police, emergency services and home guards.

This year, the harvest festival is October 1, 2022.

SK7RN site <https://www.sk7rn.se/>

Source SSA <https://tinyurl.com/IARU-Sweden>

104-year-old radio ham is on the air

ARRL report one of their members, Oscar Norris W4OXH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, will turn 105 on September 25, 2022, and he is still on the air

ARRL say:

Norris lost his sight when he was 24 in 1942, and it was his blindness that led him to amateur radio. He earned his license in 1949, and has been on the air for 73 years.

Tony Jones, N4ATJ, has known Norris since he was 14 and remembers the first time he met Norris. It was at a bicycle shop and Norris, blind, was still able to tear down a wheel, replace the spokes, and spin the wheel until it was balanced. Several years later, Norris gave Jones a book on how to earn an amateur radio license.

"Over the years, the book got misplaced," said Jones. "I would give anything to find that book today." Jones continued, "Oscar has the personality of one of the kindest people you would ever want to meet, and he never has an unkind word for anyone."

Norris communicates mostly using digital mobile radio (DMR) on a handheld radio, and he has been a member of the Gaston County Amateur Radio Society (GCARS), an ARRL Affiliated Club, since 1979.

In honor of his 105th birthday, GCARS members will be operating the special event station N1O from 00:01 UTC on September 20 through 20:00 UTC on October 1. Operations will be on the HF bands, 2 meters, 1.25 meters, and 70 centimeters. Modes used will be CW, SSB, FT4, FT8, DMR, and D-STAR.

Source ARRL Letter Sept 15, 2022 <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

Ofcom to probe cloud, messenger and smart-device markets

Ofcom is to examine the position of Amazon, Microsoft and Google in cloud services, as part of a new programme of work to ensure that digital communications markets are working well for people and businesses in the UK.

Cloud market study

In the coming weeks, Ofcom will launch a market study under the Enterprise Act 2002 into the UK's cloud sector. The largest providers of cloud services – known as 'hyperscalers' – are Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft and Google. Collectively, these three firms generate around 81% of revenues in the UK public cloud infrastructure services market.

Our study will formally assess how well this market is working. We will examine the strength of competition in cloud services generally and the position the three hyperscalers hold in the market. We will also consider any market features that might limit innovation and growth in this sector by making it difficult for other companies to enter the market and expand their share.

When we launch the market study, we will invite initial views on the UK cloud market from interested or affected parties. We plan to consult on our interim findings and publish a final report – including any concerns or proposed recommendations – within twelve months.

WhatsApp, Zoom and smart speakers

Over the next year, Ofcom will also start a broader programme of work to examine other digital markets, including online personal communication apps and devices for accessing audiovisual content.

We are interested in how services such as WhatsApp, FaceTime and Zoom are affecting the role of traditional calling and messaging, and how competition and innovation in these markets may evolve over the coming years. We also want to understand whether any limitations on their ability to interact with each other raises potential concerns.

Another future area of focus for Ofcom is the nature and intensity of competition among digital personal assistants and audiovisual 'gateways' – such as connected televisions and smart speakers – through which people access traditional TV and radio, as well as online content.

Visit [Ofcom's news centre](#) to find out more

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