

STARLITE

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



**G6OI
G6SRS**



ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2022



G4CVK

**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**

Does Anyone Read Me??

RSGB AFFILIATED SOCIETY

STARLITE

Telephone Enquiries to:-

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John Clarke M1EJG
[01562] 700513

Or by Email to:-

honsec@g6oi.org.uk
johnclarke.m1ejg@btinternet.com

All correspondence/enquiries should
be addressed to the Hon Secretary at:-

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c/o The Mill House
21 Mill Lane
Blakedown
Kidderminster
DY10 3ND

StARS Website URLs:-

www.g6oi.org.uk

StARS Facebook Page:-

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

Forthcoming Meetings

February 7 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
February 14 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
February 21 st	Constructors' Competition ? 8pm
February 28 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
March 7 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
March 14 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
March 21 st	Annual General Meeting ? 8pm
March 28 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
April 4 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
April 11 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
April 18 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
April 25 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
May 2 nd	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
May 9 th	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm

Editor's Comment

[Editor: g4xom@g6oi.org.uk]

On the front cover, I asked the question *Does Anyone Read Me??*

Why did I ask this question? Simply because I receive **no** information from the Committee, regarding activity within the Society, nor do I receive any feedback from the membership. It appears to me that the Society is only interested in those members who attend the meetings in person and those who don't or can't are inconsequential. I hope that I am wrong in this assumption!

So, I would ask the following questions:

- Are the dates and meeting place correct?
- Does the Committee resolve or agree any issues at their meetings?
- Are there any future plans for talks or presentations via Zoom?

If I receive information from these three questions, I may resume our listing in RadCom.

- Do you read *Starlite*?
- Do you find the content in *Starlite* interesting or useful?
- Have you any suggestions for *Starlite* content?

I would appreciate your feedback, which may help me to continue (and improve) *Starlite*.

Foundations of Amateur Radio

The diversity of our hobby is breathtaking

You've heard me say that amateur radio is a thousand hobbies in one. It's not my idea, but it speaks to me in ways that are hard to articulate. Today I found a way that might give you an inkling just how vast this community is.

One place where our community gathers is on-air, but it's not the only place. There are clubs, websites, email lists, video channels and other outlets all catering for different amateur radio users and their interests. One such place is the social media site Reddit. In the so-called amateurradio sub with currently over 88 thousand members, there is a lively community discussing many of the different aspects of our hobby.

Over the past 24 hours, 23 posts were made in that single community.

"Thanks, K-2722 hunters", was a photo about activating Carolina Beach State Park, as part of an activity called Parks on the Air, or POTA. To participate you can either go to a park, set-up your station and make contacts, or you can stay at home and listen out for people who are doing that.

"It's not high-high, it's hee-hee", a meme around the sound that the Morse Code generates when you send the letter H followed by the letter I, commonly considered laughter.

"Why don't scanners have FM radio?", a discussion around the perceived lack of FM mode on scanners.

"Help with TYT MD-380 CPS", a question from an amateur who purchased a new radio and is looking for software to program it.

"Portable on the Space Coast. QRP on a speaker wire antenna.", a video of an amateur making an activation in Florida and showing off their set-up.

"Could not hit DMR repeater", an amateur sharing that they figured out that they couldn't hit a repeater because they had their radio set to low power and wanted to share that with the community.

"Antenna advice part 2", asking about how to set-up antennas for dual use, how to amplify the signal, use rotators and what kind of coax to use.

"ISS SSTV Aug 6-7 145.800 MHz FM", linking to a news item announcing slow scan television coming from the International Space station in August.

"FT-3DR APRS message question", exploring the specifics on how Automatic Packet Reporting System or APRS messages are sent. Think of it as global distributed SMS via amateur radio.

"Is it okay to leave a handheld radio on while it's on its battery charger 24/7?", with answers to the question that's puzzling one owner of a radio.

"Extra test question", asking about how to learn for the test and wondering if the techniques needed are different when compared with obtaining the "tech" exam.

"Just got my first radio! Now to prep for the test, but first a question about saving time after I pass it...", asking about how to register before the test to speed things along.

And that's just over half way there.

"Maldol TMH-21 / TMH-71 handhelds - any info?", asking about a new to them radio from around 2007.

"2021 Berryville, VA (US) Hamfest - any reddit community members going?", looking for others going to the first hamfest in their region for a long time.

"CB Radio is Going FM! Why is the FCC Doing It?", linking to a video that discusses the changes on how CB radio is getting another mode.

"What is the 'right' way to learn morse?", the age-old question, one that I'm still am working through.

"Sidetone distorted on QCX mini? How do I fix this? It gets better or worse when I move the radio around, but the problem doesn't go away. Anyone else's QCX do this?", with a video showing the issue.

"Aluminium roof trim + HF dipole", with a question on what kind of effects might happen as a result of the combination of the two.

"Never owned a Radio be for please help lol. I got 2 of these on the way any tips for beginners? [sic]", excited new owner looking for advice.

"I finally got my qsl cards printed!", with pictures to show the artistic prowess involved.

"Legality of transmitting digital data over FM audio", asking about the specifics on how data may or may not be transmitted in the United States.

"It's no pie plate on a kayak, but you gotta work with what you have, right?", showing off a frying pan as a magnetic base. If it works, it's not silly at all.

"Very New Here", asking about how to explore radio waves.

Those 23 different posts are all about amateur radio, from one single community, on one day. Each post from someone finding their way in the community, discussing something that's important to them, sharing their experience and contributing to that community. Reddit alone has at least a dozen amateur related communities, covering electronics, specific radios, amateur software development and more.

The thing about this hobby is that it's different things to different people. For some it's about getting on air and making noise, for others it's learning about whatever comes their way. This hobby is so vast because it touches so many aspects of life, it innovates, leads and contributes in ways that are often invisible and that's why it's so engrossing.

What's your latest interest in this hobby and what keeps you coming back for more?

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*

- *If you'd like to join a weekly radio net for new and returning amateurs, check out the details at <http://ftroop.vk6flab.com/>, the net runs every week on Saturday, from 00:00 to 01:00 UTC on Echolink, IRLP, AllStar Link, Brandmeister and 2m FM via various repeaters, all are welcome.*

Ofcom release amateur radio callsign database

In response to a Freedom of Information (Fol) request Ofcom have released the database of 149,483 Amateur Radio callsigns for the UK and Crown Dependencies for December 2021

The database of Allocated and Reserved callsigns can be useful for people wanting to apply for a specific call sign as it shows calls which are not available for issue. The Reserved callsign may specify the date when the call will be available for re-issue. Note: Regional Secondary Locators (RSL's) are not specified in the database. This means the callsign MU0WLV appears as M0WLV and 2E0HXE appears as 20HXE.

Download the December 2021 Callsigns Database from

<https://whatdotheyknow.com/request/812088/response/1942948/attach/10/Amateur%20Radio%20call%20signs.xlsx>

The accompanying Ofcom Fol response letter is at

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/812088/response/1942948/attach/9/Amateur%20Radio%20call%20signs.pdf>

To determine which callsigns might be available in addition to the database of issued callsigns you should also use the Ofcom database of Forbidden Suffixes at

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/file/0026/165734/allocated-reserved-forbidden-call-sign.csv

Those who've passed the RSGB Full exam have the option of applying for callsigns from the G and M call blocks including G2, G3, G4, G5 and M5. Details of how to apply for specific callsigns are at

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/november/g-callsigns-for-those-passing-full-exam.htm>

For those selecting a Foundation or Intermediate callsign the database can be used to see which calls are available in the M3, M6, M7 or 2*0, 2*1 call blocks.

You can submit a Freedom of Information request to Ofcom online at

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/new/ofcom>

Ofcom: Radio regulation enforcement

Since Ofcom was created in December 2003 there seems to have been a decrease in the amount of enforcement action for breaches of the radio spectrum regulations

Page 12 of the October 1985 edition of the UK's Ham Radio Today magazine shows the high level of prosecutions that used to take place when communications regulation was carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In 1984 there were 1281 convictions relating to the illegal use of Wireless Telegraphy equipment and just the first three months of 1985 showed 242 convictions, see <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/Ham-Radio-Today/80s/HRT-1985-10.pdf>

In 2010 Ofcom stopped the annual publication of their Prosecution/Formal Warning Statistics and removed the historic prosecution statistics from their website. This action made it harder to determine if Ofcom were still carrying out any radio spectrum enforcement action.

You can still see some of the historic prosecution figures in the Internet Archive at <https://web.archive.org/web/20100608131503/http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/enforcement/pstats/>

Hadrian's Wall Special Event Station

We have just had the callsigns issued for two Special Event Stations to commemorate 1900 years since Hadrian's Wall was built, the northern frontier of the mighty Roman Empire and which was the inspiration for the Wall in George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones...

There will be two special event stations GB1900HA and GB1900HW running throughout the year 2022 to commemorate 1900 years since the building of Hadrian's Wall.

Austin Vaughan, M0MNE in South Shields, Tyneside, England and Roy Nicholson, M0TKF in Hexham, Northumberland, England will be operating the stations from near the Wall and will be active throughout the year on the HF and VHF bands in voice, CW and digital modes. The special event station will officially be part of the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival where hundreds of events and activities will be taking place in a yearlong festival across Hadrian's Wall. #hw1900 #hadrianswall

QSL Via Logbook of the World and Club Log OQRS.

See QRZ.com for more info on GB1900HA and GB1900HW

Further info at: <https://1900.hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/events/hadrians-wall-1900-special-event-amateur-radio-station/>

Email us: hw1900radio@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Austin and Roy

M0MNE and M0TKF

Ham radio station in Antarctica back on QO-100

AMSAT-DL report the new antennas for the QO-100 geostationary satellite transponders have arrived in Antarctica and the DP0GVN ground station is now back on the air

On December 29, 2021, our new QO-100 SatCom ground station antenna for DP0GVN arrived intact in Antarctica at Neumayer Station III, and as of January 9, 2022, DP0GVN is again reachable via QO-100. This should continue to ensure future radio operations for the upcoming 2022/2023 wintering crew after the old antenna was rendered unusable by an exceptionally strong storm in August 2021.

Since the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 over-wintering team, radio contacts with Antarctica via the first amateur geostationary radio satellite Qatar-OSCAR 100 / QO-100 (Es'hail-2) enjoy the greatest popularity. AMSAT-DL provided the appropriate radio equipment for DP0GVN at Neumayer Station III, covering all costs for setup and provision of the required radio equipment and antenna.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and friends of AMSAT who have made this possible through their membership fees and donations. Also, this would not have been possible without our team of volunteers. Please continue to support our charitable work through your membership or donations.

While amateur radio operations mostly take place during free time, contacts with schools have also been arranged on a regular basis. Similar to ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), such contacts in Antarctica are also something very special for the students. This will certainly also arouse interest in scientific or technical professions and, last but not least, amateur radio.

Read the full story at

<https://amsat-dl.org/en/new-qo-100-satellite-antenna-for-dp0gvn/>

RSGB arranges special RSL for Queen's Jubilee celebrations

Ofcom has kindly agreed to an RSGB request that radio amateurs licensed by Ofcom may celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen by using the special RSL 'Q'.

This will be available for use throughout June 2022 and will require a Notice of Variation that will be available via our website shortly.

The Society is also working on other events and activities that it hopes will appeal to a wide range of people.

[Further details will be released over the coming w](#)

Belgian special event

The Belgian IARU society UBA is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022. To celebrate this event, 64 different special event stations will be active from January 1st through February 28th, 2022. Each special event station will be using the prefix ON75 followed by a three letter suffix.

The stations participating in the event are:

ON75AAA, ON75ACC, ON75ALT, ON75ARA, ON75AST, ON75ATH, ON75ATO, ON75BDX, ON75BTS, ON75BXE, ON75CDZ, ON75CLR, ON75CRD, ON75DST, ON75EKO, ON75GBN, ON75GBX, ON75GDV, ON75GNT, ON75GTM, ON75HCC, ON75IPR, ON75KSD, ON75KTK, ON75LGE, ON75LIR, ON75LLV, ON75LUS, ON75LVN, ON75MCL, ON75MLB, ON75MWV, ON75NBT, ON75NNV, ON75NOK, ON75NOL, ON75ODE, ON75ONZ, ON75ORA, ON75OSA, ON75OSB, ON75OST, ON75PHI, ON75RAF, ON75RAM, ON75RAT, ON75RCA, ON75RCN, ON75REM, ON75RST, ON75RSX, ON75SNW, ON75TLS, ON75TRA, ON75TRC, ON75TWS, ON75WLD, ON75WRA, ON75WRC, ON75WTO and ON75ZTM.

Also mentioned are: ON75DIG = UBA Award Friends DIG station ON75UBA = National UBA station ON75YLC = Club Station YL UBA

Awards for working both a specific number of different ON75 stations and/or working ON75 stations in various band/mode slots are available via this link: (link will be published at the start of the event).

Paper QSL cards will only be sent exclusively using OQRS (Online QSL request) via Clublog, either via Bureau or direct. For more details and updates, see:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/ON75LGE>

<https://www.qrz.com/db/ON75RAT>

Junction 28 Radio Rally is back

Although we have missed a couple of years, **South Normanton, Alfreton and District ARC** are very pleased to announce the return of **Junction 28 Radio Rally** on Sunday 12th June. Alfreton Leisure Centre, Church St. DE55 7BD. 10 min from M1 Jct28.

Last time saw over 100 tables used by 45 traders, including dealers, manufacturers, large and small suppliers providing new and used equipment from vintage and military to the latest technology including: SDR; TV; DX; HF; VHF; Microwave. With lots of components, tools and accessories from tiny capacitors through chips, cables and connectors to antenna masts plus books and magazines.

Local and national or specialist clubs were represented, RSGB, RAIBS, G-QRP, BR ARS, etc. so something intended for everybody.

Everything is indoors with Meeting Room, Bar, Refreshments and full Café onsite.

Opening at 10:15, traders will have access from 08:00.

Tables £10, admission £3. See www.snadarc.com for booking form.

Alan Jones M0OLT secretary @snadarc.com 01332 679913

St. Patrick's Day weekend Flora and Fauna activity event

WWFF, World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio is a long standing award scheme internationally and has more than 26,000 Protected Flora and Fauna (PFF) areas worldwide which are registered in the WWFF Directory.

The EI Flora and Fauna Award scheme, which is affiliated to the international scheme, has been active since January 1st this year led by coordinator and awards manager Jer EI3HGB and Declan EI9HQ Log Manager.

There are over 250 areas defined by the National Parks and Wildlife service and you can find all the necessary information on eiffirl.wordpress.com. Planning is underway for an activity over the four day St. Patrick's Day weekend and amateurs are asked to consider getting out and putting one of their local flora and fauna areas on the air.

Certificates will be available for both activators and chasers for this event. Please advise Declan EI9HQ of your plans so duplication can be avoided. Contact Declan by email at [eifflogs /at/ gmail.com](mailto:eifflogs/at/gmail.com)

St Patrick's Day Award

The organisers of the Saint Patrick's Day Award are excited to announce the launch of a new web page where visitors can learn everything they need to know about the Saint Patrick's day award.

On the new webpage, you will also find the simple registration form to be completed by all participants in this year's festivities which will be running from the 16th-18th March 2022. Previous years have seen over 100 amateurs register to participate and we are hopeful that this will continue to grow.

The award is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to celebrate Saint Patrick's day and turn the airwaves green. The new page can be accessed at www.stpatricksaward.com

We look forward to celebrating with you all.

Philip Hosey, MIOMSO

Regional Representative for Region 8

Radio Society of Great Britain

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rsgb.org

Elon Musk SpaceX rocket on collision course with moon

BBC News report a rocket launched by Elon Musk's space exploration company is on course to crash into the moon and explode

The Falcon 9 booster was launched in 2015 but after completing its mission, it did not have enough fuel to return towards Earth and instead remained in space.

Astronomer Jonathan McDowell told BBC News it will be the first known uncontrolled rocket collision with the moon.

But the effects will be minor, he says.

The rocket was abandoned in high orbit seven years ago after it completed a mission to send a space weather satellite on a million-mile journey.

It was part of Mr Musk's space exploration programme SpaceX, a commercial company that ultimately aims to get humans living on other planets.

Since 2015 the rocket has been pulled by different gravitational forces of the earth, moon and sun, making its path somewhat "chaotic", explains Prof McDowell from the US-based Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

"It's been dead - just following the laws of gravity."

It's joined millions of other pieces of space junk - machinery discarded in space after completing missions without enough energy to return to earth.

"Over the decades there have been maybe 50 large objects that we've totally lost track of. This may have happened a bunch of times before, we just didn't notice. This would be the first confirmed case," Prof McDowell says.

Read the full BBC News article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-60148543>

Register now for free Foundation Online amateur radio training course

The next free amateur radio Foundation Online training course run by volunteers from Essex Ham starts on February 6 - Register Now

The RSGB's introduction of online exams that can be taken at home has led to a surge in demand for free online amateur radio training courses such as that run by Essex Ham.

You can find out more about online training and register to join a course at <https://www.essexham.co.uk/train/foundation-online/>

Essex Ham

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/EssexHam>

RSGB to remove Services Map

The RSGB have announced the Services Map on their website is to be removed

In a tweet dated January 28, 2022, the Society said:

"Whilst it was appreciated by members as a useful tool when it was launched, we have been aware for a while that the Services Map is out of date. Today the Board Chair has agreed it can be removed from the website, so that will happen shortly."

Source <https://twitter.com/theRSGB/status/1487079419906863116>

The shortcut for the Services Map was <https://rsgb.org/services-map> which translated to <https://rsgb.org/main/sitemap/>

The Services Map was originally announced in February 2015, see <https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/rsgb-notice/2015/02/09/new-services-map-rsgb-website/>

Follow the RSGB on Twitter at

<https://twitter.com/theRSGB>

Svalbard QO-100 Satellite DXpedition

The very first Svalbard QO-100 Satellite DX-Pedition will take place April 22-24, 2022 from Kapp Linné – Isfjord Radio at 78° North.

They will operate two QO-100 satellite stations under the callsigns JW0W and JW100QO, while JW0X will be used by another team for contacts on shortwave.

With QO-100 only 3° above the horizon, Kap Linné was the only suitable place in the area with Svalbard at the edge of the satellite footprint. Looking for a suitable location to stay and getting there, is one of the biggest challenges and cost drivers for the team.

More information at <https://amsat-dl.org/en/svalbard-qo-100-satellite-dx-pedition/>

Launch of a wooden satellite still pending

Two spacecraft comprised of wood or using wooden framing are hoping to launch this year and next. One will carry an amateur radio payload.

WISA Woodsat, a Finnish spacecraft that planned to include an amateur radio payload, was forced to postpone its announced launch target from 2021 to 2022 after the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Amateur Satellite Frequency Coordination system turned away its request to use amateur radio frequencies.

“I regret to inform you that IARU is not in a position to support the WISA Woodsat Coordination request,” the coordinator said. “The main reason is that the primary mission doesn’t seem to be an amateur mission.”

As announced last year, WISA Woodsat was designed to accommodate multiple missions — from materials science, space education, and awareness to promoting and facilitating amateur radio communication with and via satellites. No transponder was on board, but the satellite’s sponsors said they had the support of Finland’s IARU member-society, SRAL, to use amateur radio frequencies. They are now reworking the spacecraft to use commercial radio frequencies.

“To our great disappointment, we can’t serve the radio amateur community with the LoRa-repeater mission as we had hoped and planned. We will continue to share the pictures and data online, but the technical aspect has been diminished due to this decision,” said WISA Woodsat’s Chief Engineer Samuli Nyman of Arctic Astronautics.

Meanwhile, LignoSat, a 1U-sized CubeSat with an outside structure mainly composed of wood, has applied for IARU frequency coordination and hopes to launch from the ISS in 2023. Built by students at Japan’s Kyoto University, LignoSat includes a unique amateur radio payload but not a transponder.

The LignoSat application for IARU Satellite Frequency Coordination in December said the CubeSat would carry amateur radio equipment that will extract call signs of amateur radio stations from uplinked FM packet signals and respond to them via the CW downlink and the sender’s call signs to convey thank you messages. The plan proposes UHF downlinks for CW and FM.

The satellite’s development team, comprised of Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry Company, said it’s aiming to harness the environmental friendliness and the economy of wood in spacecraft development. They say a satellite with a wooden exterior would burn up upon re-entering Earth’s atmosphere at the end of its mission, lessening its burden on the environment. The wooden framework also will permit the satellite’s antennas to be inside the spacecraft. A plan is under way to use an experimental apparatus on the International Space Station to hold wooden sheets of varying hardness, taken from several tree species, attached. These would remain exposed to the space environment for about 9 months to determine their deterioration.

The team is headed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Tako Doi. Now a Kyoto University professor, Doi was the first JAXA astronaut to take part in spacewalks from the shuttle Columbia in 1997. He said the concept, if successful, could lead the way to “allowing even children who are interested in space to make a satellite.” LignoSat would be deployed from the ISS in July 2023.

YOUR COMMITTEE



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