

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 7th February 2010

The news headlines

- **RSGB responds to Ofcom WRC consultation**
- **Long time GB2RS newsreader retires**
- **Norman Fitch, G3FPK, silent key**

The RSGB has responded to Ofcom's consultation on World Radiocommunication Conference by submitting a detailed response; see the spectrum forum section of the RSGB website. This has been a combined effort by the three spectrum managers, Murray Niman, G6JYB, David Butler, G4ASR and John Gould, G3WKL, with some specialist input by RSGB Technical Consultant Peter Chadwick, G3RZP. This was followed by careful scrutiny by the RSGB Spectrum Forum and, of course, approval from the Board. The purpose of the response is to protect existing allocations, support the agenda item for an amateur allocation near to 500kHz and give indication to Ofcom of the range of issues that we would like covered at future Conferences. The consultation has to be seen as a formal exercise that supports an already good working relationship in this area with Ofcom, whereby the Society enjoys occasional membership of the UK delegation to various international working groups that are engaged in preparatory work for WRC-12.

Last Sunday, 31st January, Jim Grieve, G4ARZ read the GB2RS News on 80 metres for the last time. He has decided to stand down now for health reasons. The Society would like to thank him for his dedication to the news service. He has been reading for the South East since June 1973, and used to be the standby news reader for Arthur Milne, G2MI. From now on Don, G3WDY and Philip, G3WUZ will read the news on 3640kHz at 0900hours for the South East and South West, whilst Philip, G4NZQ and Mike, G4DYC will read for East Anglia on the same frequency at 0930hours.

Sad news now. RadCom VHF UHF columnist Norman Fitch, G3FPK died at his home on Friday 29th January. Norman starting writing a VHF UHF column in RadCom back in 1989 when he took over from Ken Willis, G8VR. He has written that column in every issue of RadCom since and his input will be greatly missed. An active amateur in the early mobile scene, Norman was the honorary secretary of the Amateur Radio Mobile Society back in the 1960s and was a regular attendee of the VHF Convention. Those who knew G3FPK have described him as a true professional in his work and a gentleman in his private life. Staff at the RSGB, Members who regularly corresponded with him and his friends on the sked he kept every day send their condolences to family and friends.

The RSGB Spectrum Defence Fund has reached its first milestone, having received over £10,000 of donations from concerned amateurs. However, this is still well short of what the RSGB has already spent in seeking legal advice on the PLA issue. The Fund is still desperately in need of your donations, which can be posted to RSGB HQ or you can donate online at www.rsgb.org. If you would like more details on the noise from these PLA devices, visit the UKQRM website where you will find a wealth of information including sound files. The RSGB would like to thank the UKQRM group for maintaining this website with up to date information.

The QSL sub manager for the G2 series of callsigns would like to encourage those amateurs to think about getting envelopes and stamps to him as soon as possible. He has a number of QSL cards waiting to be sent

on to G2 callsigns but few envelopes to achieve this. Details for John Godfrey, M0JOH can be found in the 2010 Yearbook or on the RSGB website.

New D-Star digital repeater node GB7NE at Lynemouth in Northumberland has now been connected via the Internet to the D-Star network. The repeater operates using digital voice GMSK modulation with its output on 439.450MHz. The equipment at Lynemouth is fully homebrew and is based on the GB7MH design described in the February 2010 RadCom. GB7NE is the third non-Icom D-Star repeater node in the country. For more information, have a look at the Northumbria Repeater Group website, gb7ne.org.uk.

The forthcoming 3C0C DXpedition to Annobon is looking for support for the DXpedition. Any help is always appreciated. For full details on the DXpedition may be found on their website at www.3c0c-annobon.com/.

A photo & video report of the MM0DGR/P DXpedition to GMFF-015 is available at www.srars.org/wff-reports/gmff-015.htm. The operators would like to thank everyone who contacted them.

Horndean & District ARC will shortly be running Foundation and Intermediate licence classes and exams. Please contact club secretary Stuart on 023-9247-2846 or by e-mail to stuart.swain@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in taking part.

Whitton Amateur Radio Group has a Foundation course starting on 17 February. The course normally runs on a Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Contact Ian, G0OFN on 0870 760 5082 or by e-mail to g0ofn@msn.com if you are interested in the course.

The Bury Radio Society is running a Foundation course starting on the 16 March. Anyone interested please contact Norman, G1HHU on 07525 932729 or by e-mail to g1hhu.norman@googlemail.com for further details.

And now for the details of rallies and events for the coming week

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Northern Cross Rally, due to be held on Sunday 14 February at Ossett School hosted by Wakefield and District Radio Society, has had to be postponed. It is hoped that a new date can be agreed with the venue for later on this year.

Today, 7 February, the 25th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally takes place at 'The Paddocks', Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £2.

Ballymena Amateur Radio Club, G13FFF, will be holding its annual Winter Bring and Buy sale on Friday 12 February from 6.30pm onwards at the new Ahoghill Community Centre, in the same hall as last year. For directions and map go to <http://G13FFF.synthasite.com> or for any other information contact Hugh Kernohan, G10JEV on 02825871481 or by e-mail to HKernohan@aol.com.

On 14 February, the Harwell Radio and Computing Rally will take place in the Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot OX11 8AY. There will be free car parking and admission is £2 with accompanied under 12 visitors admitted free. Doors open at 10.30 with disabled visitors gaining access at 10.15am. More details are available on 01235 816379.

Now for the news of special events

Special event station GG100WD for Wilton Division Guides will be operating in Batley on the weekend of 20 and 21 February. The station will be operational on HF, 2m and 70cm from 11am on Saturday to 2pm on Sunday. The organisers would appreciate any offers of help to operate the station. Please contact Tony, G4LMS on 01924 467612 for details.

GG100RE will operate from Eltham in south-east London on Saturday 20 February for Thinking Day on the Air, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Guide movement. Two stations will be active throughout the day, with Guides of all ages passing greetings messages on 80, 40 and 20m. The station will be operated by Cray Valley RS, full details on qrz.com.

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group, GB50ATG will be operated by John, GW4SKA from 8 February. Lots of QSOs have been made throughout the time that the special callsign has been operated in different parts of the country but they are always looking for more. If you would like to win a certificate or plaque, take a look at the rules for the BARTG Golden Jubilee Award on the BARTG web site, www.bartg.org.uk.

In a joint even venture between the Northampton Radio Club & the Coventry Amateur Radio Society to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Daventry Experiment, GB75RDF & GB0RDF will be operating from the Ex BBC site at Borough Hill, Daventry during February. GB4RDF will be operating from the Birth of RADAR Memorial from 18 February until 17 March. Details can be found on QRZ.COM or contact Brian, G8GMU on 07801 86 26 86.

And now the HF DX news compiled from 425 DX News and other sources.

Until 10 February, W6HFP, W3FF, NE1RD, WZ1P, WG0AT, KC4VG, N7UN, KB9AVO and K8EAB will sign J6/homecall from St Lucia. They will be using all bands and modes. More information at <http://sites.google.com/site/caribbeanbuddies/>.

N7I will be operating in Honolulu, Hawaii, until 10 February, mainly on 28.460 and 14.260MHz. QSL via KL7JR.

N7MSU will be operating as V31SU from Belize until 23 February in his spare time using the 40 and 20m bands with CW and SSB. QSL via N7MSU or see QRZ.com.

XR9JA will be the callsign of the forth coming Greenwich Island operation. The operators will be there until 28 February using CW, SSB, and PSK-31 on 160 to 6 metres. They also plan satellite operation using AO-51. QSL via CE5JA either direct or via the bureau.

Now the contest news

10 February sees the data leg of this month's 80m Club Championship take place from 2000 to 2130UTC. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

The 432MHz UK Activity Contest takes place on 9 February between 2000 and 2230 using all modes. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The first 1.8MHz contest takes place on 13 and 14 February. There should be plenty of UK and Continental European stations to work in this one, plus some longer DX if you have a sufficiently competitive station. Times are between 2100 and 0100UTC using CW and the exchange is signal report, serial number and district.

Internationally, the Dutch National Society VERON PACC Contest takes place on 13 and 14 February between 1200 and 1200. For non-Dutch entrants there are sections for various combinations of power level, mode and single- or multi-band. Send a report and serial number, but expect to receive a report and a 2-letter Province code.

The CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest also takes place over the entire 48 hours of the weekend 13 and 14 February. This is one of the biggest RTTY events of the year. For single-op stations there are sections for low- and high-power (but not QRP), and single- and multi-band. For multi-op stations, its all-band and high-power only, with Multi-one for a single transmitter, Multi-two for two transmitters and Multi-multi for anything greater. Please bear in mind that Multi-multi stations send separate serial numbers per band, so you may receive a lower number when you work a multi-multi station on a second or subsequent band.

Now the solar factual data for the period from the 25th to the 31st of January, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 1st of February.

The active group that was mentioned in last weeks report that produced the M class solar flares remained visible even though it decreased in size every day until it disappeared on the 31st. The group never produced any more flares and solar activity was very low every day. Meanwhile, elsewhere on the solar disc a group emerged on the 30th and grew in size rapidly. Growth slowed on the 31st. Likewise, this group as so far remained quiet. Solar flux levels declined from 81 units on the 25th to 73 by the 29th. The average was 77. The 90 day solar flux average on the 31st was also 77 units. That's the same level as last week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet everyday. The most disturbed day was the 30th with an Ap index of only 4 units. The average was Ap 3 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds vary between 320 and 450 kilometres per second. Particle densities were low except for the 28th and the 30th which increased to 15 and 19 particles per cubic centimetre respectively. Bz fluctuated no more than minus and plus 7 nanoTeslas for the period.

And finally the solar forecast. A lot will depend this week on if any sunspot groups appear. Solar activity is expected to be very low. There will be a slight chance of activity increasing to low. Solar flux levels are expected to be into the 80s if spots do appear or the 70s if the solar disc is spotless. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet levels everyday. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes are expected to be about 23MHz for the south and 20MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows should be around 8MHz. Paths this week to Japan should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 19MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 15MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 0800 and 1100 UTC.

And that's all for this week from the propagation team.

Next, the Local News:

Please note that details of all RSGB-affiliated clubs and societies can be found on the RSGB website, including e-mail addresses and website links where known.

[Note to newsreaders: Please read the local news items appropriate to the service area of your transmission.]

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH-EAST and EAST ANGLIA

On Sunday 7 February Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is at the Canvey Island Rally from 10 to 4pm. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Sunday 7 February South Essex Amateur Radio Society is running the 25th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally at The Paddocks, Canvey Island. Contact Norman, M0FZW, on 01268 692776.

On Sunday 7 February Waterlooville Amateur Radio Club is running its exam course. Details from Rich, G4IBW, on 02392 680852.

On Monday 8 February Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society is having a talk by Terry, G4CDY, entitled how to lose your SMD virginity. More information from Andy, G8JAC, by email to g8jac@btinternet.com.

On Monday 8 February Felixtowe & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on EME by Sam, G4DDK. More information from Paul, G4YQC, by email to pjw@btinternet.com.

On Monday 8 February Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on the 4m band and conversion of ex-PMR radios. For more information go to www.mkars.org.uk.

On Tuesday 9 February Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720815.

On Tuesday 9 February Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a club net night. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 9 February Harwell Amateur Radio Society is holding its construction contest. Contact Malcolm, G8NRP, on 01235 524844.

On Wednesday 10 February Aylesbury Vale Radio Society is having a discussion evening. Details from Roger, G3MEH, on 01442 826 651.

On Wednesday 10 February Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a committee meeting at Danbury. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Wednesday 10 February Dover Radio Club is watching a video of the 100th Anniversary of the first channel crossing by aircraft, with Brian, G8ZYZ. For more information contact Brian, G4SAU, by email to g4sau@darco.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 February Farnborough & District Radio Society is having a talk on virtual radar by Chris, G0WTZ. Details from Derek, G3OFA, by email to mail@farnboroughradio.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 February Harwich Amateur Radio Interest Group is having a talk on RF-ID by James, M0ZZO. Details from Kevan, 2E0WMG, on 07766 543784.

On Wednesday 10 February Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is having an informal evening. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 419204.

On Wednesday 10 February South Essex Amateur Radio Society is having a talk and presentation by Peter, G4OAD. Contact Norman, M0FZW, on 01268 692776.

On Wednesday 10 February Southgate Amateur Radio Club is having a RadCom evening, when Graeme Wilkes will bring four PCs and CDs of all the back issues of RadCom. Contact David Sharp, M0XDS, by email to david.sharp1@tesco.net.

On Wednesday 10 February Waterlooville Amateur Radio Club is having a CW night. Details from Rich, G4IBW, on 02392 680852.

On Wednesday 10 February Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is having an explanation of the D-Star system and its operation by David Lake, G4ULF. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Thursday 11 February Bittern DX Group is having an informal evening. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 404154.

On Thursday 11 February Edgware & District Radio Society is having a talk by John, G3SJE, entitled Amplitude Modulation, nothing beats me! More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 0208 950 0658.

On Thursday 11 February King's Lynn Amateur Radio Club is having a club night and 2m club net. Contact Ray, G3RSV, by email to ral-g3rsv@supanet.com.

On Thursday 11 February Reading & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on the magic of six metres by Don Field, G3XTT. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

On Thursday 11 February Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by its construction competition winner. Details from David, G8UOD, on 01234 742 757.

On Friday 12 February Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club is having a general social chat & shack evening. Details from Lawrence, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Friday 12 February Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club is having a members evening. Contact Charlie, M0WYM, on 02380 439560.

On Friday 12 February Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a radio night. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 12 February Radio Society of Harrow is having a discussion and hands on, practical workshop on soldering techniques. Members are invited to bring along their construction projects, tools and soldering irons, for advice. More information from Linda, G7RJL, on 0208 386 8586.

On Friday 12 February Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society is on the air and having a construction evening. Contact Jim, M0CON, on 020 8874 7456.

On Sunday 14 February Reading & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on HV power distribution to railways by Richard O'Keeffe, G0FFL. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH-WEST

On Monday 8 February Cornish Amateur Radio Club Computer Section is having part four of the talk by Peter, G3WKP, on music and computers. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844939.

On Tuesday 9 February Blackmoor Vale Amateur Radio Society is watching the Russian Alaskan Islands video. Contact Tony, G0GFL, on 01258 860741.

On Tuesday 9 February Poldhu Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by David Barlow, G3PLE, on Minnehaha, the Bishop and the Lizard. Details from Keith Matthew, G0WYS, by email to vickeith@globalnet.co.uk.

On Wednesday 10 February Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club is operating the club station & holding a Morse class. Contact William, G3WNI, on 01823 666 234 for more information.

On Wednesday 10 February Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is on the air. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417048.

On Thursday 11 February South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having a technical topics evening with Len, G4ZRY. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 11 February Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club is having a natter night. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317750.

On Thursday 11 February Yeovil Amateur Radio Club is holding its construction competition. Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to steve@g7ahp.co.uk.

On Friday 12 February Saltash & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on loop aerials by Jules, M1AGY on Loop aerials. Contact Brian, M0BHG, on 01752 844321.

On Friday 12 February Torbay Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to g6fsp@tars.org.uk.

NEWS FOR THE MIDLANDS

On Monday 8 February Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is operating the club equipment. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 8 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a rally planning evening. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 8 February Stratford Upon Avon District Radio Society is having a talk on the computer control of receivers by G8UKT. Contact G0CHO, on 01608 664488.

On Tuesday 9 February Eagle Radio Group is having a talk on planning permission for radio amateurs by Jim, G0EJQ. Details from Terry, G0SWS, on 01507 478590.

On Tuesday 9 February Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on the AirNav Radar Box by Brian, G8BUB. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Tuesday 9 February Mid-Warwickshire Amateur Radio Society is having a meet your fellow members night at the Emscote HQ. Details from Bernard, M1AUK, on 01926 420 913.

On Wednesday 10 February Bolsover Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. For details, send an email to postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 February Hinkley Amateur Radio Society is having an antenna workshop on the DBJ1/2 portable VHF/UHF antenna by John Rogers, M0JAV. Details from John, M0JAV, on 07836 731544.

On Wednesday 10 February Lincoln Short-Wave Club is discussing ideas for the club's future activities. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Wednesday 10 February Midland Amateur Radio Society is having a committee meeting and holding training classes. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Wednesday 10 February South Notts Amateur Radio Club is on the air and using Morse. Details from Terry, M0RIA, via the web at www.radioclubs.net/snarc.

On Wednesday 10 February Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is having an under £5 construction competition. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 11 February RAF Waddington Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on contesting and VHF DX by Bryn Llewellyn, G4DEZ. Details from Judy Rowlands on 07544 456422.

On Friday 12 February Coventry Amateur Radio Society is having its construction competition. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

On Friday 12 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a construction evening. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 8 February Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is on the air and having a natter night. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 0191 477 0036.

On Monday 8 February Bolton Wireless Club is having a talk on digital amateur television by Darren, G7LWT. For details, send an email to boltonwireless@gmail.com.

On Monday 8 February Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by Peter, G3PHO on simple wire directional antennas for the suburban QTH. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by email to trevorwood6@yahoo.co.uk.

On Tuesday 9 February Otley Amateur Radio Society starts its Foundation Course. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Tuesday 9 February Warrington Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on mobile power by Steve, 2E0BUI. Contact Roger, M0DWQ, on 07868 000 705.

On Wednesday 10 February Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is having an activity night, taking part in the CW 80m CC Data. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Thursday 11 February South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society is having the second part of the talk on oscilloscopes by Dave G8DHQ. Contact Chris Wiseman, G0RDK, on 01782 773185.

On Thursday 11 February South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a talk by Ron, G3SVW / VP8LK entitled Antarctica - 40 years on. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 0161 969 3999.

On Friday 12 February East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

On Tuesday 9 February Kilmarnock & Loudoun Amateur Radio Club is having a club night. Contact Graham, MM3GDC, by email to mm3gdc@btinternet.com.

On Tuesday 9 February Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is having an operating evening. For more information contact Norman, on 07740 946192.

On Wednesday 10 February Kingdom Amateur Radio Society is having a shack night. Details from Brian, MM0XBD, on 01383 738905.

On Wednesday 10 February Lothians Radio Society is having a talk on microelectronics technology by Professor Tom Stevenson of the University of Edinburgh. Contact Andy Sinclair, by email to lrs_secretary@moosedata.com.

On Wednesday 10 February Paisley YMCA Amateur Radio Club is having a training evening. Contact Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, on 01505 613633.

On Thursday 11 February Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is having a construction and on the air evening. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

NEWS FOR WALES

On Tuesday 9 February Marches Amateur Radio Society is having a junk sale at the meeting. Please feel free to bring any items you wish to sell. For more information contact Dave, MW0AYM, on 01691 777242.

On Friday 12 February Newport Amateur Radio Society is on the air and running its Intermediate class. Details from Gareth Price, on 01633 880081.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

On Wednesday 10 February Lough Erne ARC is hosting a talk and equipment demonstration led by John McCullough G14BWM, Chairman of the RSGB Emerging Technology Coordinating Committee. The Keepers of Sligo, West Tyrone and Fermanagh repeaters are among a strong attendance expected. The agenda includes giving those who use repeaters an opportunity to thank those who do all the hard work of providing them, and to encourage more use and variety of enjoyment of repeaters. The event starts at 7pm sharp so it can finish in time to let away those with a distance to drive home. The venue is SHARE in Co Fermanagh, which is also the venue for the Club's traditional April Rally, which will be held on Sunday 11 April this year. All radio amateurs and experimenters are welcome, as are the 18 students on the Club's Foundation course. Likewise welcome are questions and suggestions before, at and after the event. Details from Michael Clarke, M15MTC, by e-mail to mi5mtc@learc.eu or telephone 028 6862 1436.

**And that's the end of this week's GB2RS news broadcast,
prepared by the Radio Society of Great Britain.**