

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 14th February 2010

The news headlines

- **RSGB Convention moves to a new venue**
- **Antarctic Activity Week**
- **George Dobbs to appear at Lough Erne Rally**

The RSGB Convention is moving to a bigger venue for 2010. Taking place between 8 and 10 October, the Convention will be at Horwood House, near Milton Keynes. This new venue provides the RSGB Convention with new purpose-built meeting rooms, comfortable lounges and bars, delightful country surroundings and 182 en-suite bedrooms. All bedrooms are within the complex and have easy access to the lecture rooms that we will be using. It is just a short distance from Bletchley and Milton Keynes stations and easily accessible from the M1 motorway. The Convention programme will be announced soon and it planned to further expand the popular lectures and increase the activities for the visitors. Details will appear on the RSGB website and in *RadCom* in due course.

The 7th annual Antarctic Activity Week to celebrate Antarctica takes place from 22 and 28 February. The organisers say that this year's event could be better than previous years with many more stations participating. More information on this event is online at www.waponline.it.

QRP author George Dobbs, G3RJV will be attending a QRP display at the Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club Rally on Sunday 11 April. Graham Firth, G3MFJ, who is another listed in the International QRP Hall of Fame, is bringing the entire G-QRP Club stall, with lots of interest for low-power radio amateurs, and those intrigued by building their own rigs. On a second QRP table, Dom Baines, M1KTA will display home-built kits, receivers, transmitters and accessories, similar to his very popular exhibition at the recent GQRP Convention. A third display will be set up by Brendan Minish, EI6IZ, from the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network. His will feature top quality Elecraft QRP kits from the USA. Further details may be obtained from Michael Clarke, MI5MTC, on 028 6862 1436 or by e-mail to mi5mtc@learc.eu.

MM0DFV has a photo and video report on his trip to Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve at www.srars.org/wff-reports/gmff-046.htm. The QSL-card for this activity has been already designed and printed. All who made a QSO will receive this card via the QSL bureau. Jurij would like to thank everyone who supported him during this World Flora and Fauna activation.

On 4 February the Arfon Repeater Group's amateur TV repeater GB3TM, located on the north coast of Anglesey in North Wales, had modifications made to its transmission mode. A digital transmitter was installed and is now operational on 1316MHz. It is planed that GB3TM will transmit on both analogue and digital modes, but not both at the same time. The analogue mode will be the normal mode, with the digital system being called up by DTMF tones by the user. Further information can be seen on the Arfon Repeater Group's website at www.arfon.info. Reports would be welcomed on the new mode by the repeater keeper, David GW8PBX. A link is available on the website

Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club will be running an Intermediate course with the registration night held on Friday 19 February at Place Initiative, 1b Address Park, Portadown BT62 3TP, from 7pm till 9pm. The course has limited places so attendance at the registration is essential for interested persons. Any more information can be found at www.muarc.com, or by contacting the exam secretary on 02838 348 451.

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 today, 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, 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 10.30am with disabled visitors gaining access at 10.15am. More details are available on 01235 816379.

The Radio Active Rally will take place on 21 February at Civic Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5DG. Doors open at 10.30am and there will be trade stands, a Bring & Buy and catering on site. Details from Simon Chettle, G8ATB, on 01270 841506.

Also on 21 February, the Swansea ARS Rally will be at a new venue. Following the major fire at the Afan Lido the show has now re-located to the Court Herbert Sports Centre, Neath Abbey SA10 7BE, 2 miles from M4 J43 via A465. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £2.50. There is a free car park and plenty of tradestands, a Bring & Buy as well as special interest groups. Details from Roger, GW4HSH, on 01792 404422.

Now for the news of special events

There will be a special event station GG100WD for Wilton Division Guides 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 Radio Society. Full details are on qrz.com.

On Saturday 20 February the Caterham Radio Group are again running a Thinking Day On The Air Station using the callsign GX0SCR for the 25th time from Caterham Surrey on behalf of the Caterham Guide Groups. This is the 14th year the Caterham Radio Group has worked with the 9th Caterham Guide Leader running their Radio Communication Day Event. It is expected licensed Guides with M3 call will be assisting with the operating on 2 metres and LF/HF bands. The Caterham Radio Group team would very much appreciate your calls on 2 metres and the LF and HF bands to assist in the passing of greeting messages to and from the young ladies and making it another successful event.

Coulsdon ATS will have a Thinking Day on the Air station on the air on 21 February. Starting at 8.30am, GB4SUN will be on the air with the South and Upper Norwood Guides.

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

Phil, G3SWH and Jim, G3RTE will be active from Christmas Island, IOTA reference OC-002, between 20 and 27 February. Both Phil & Jim will use the callsign VK9X/G6AY with activity on CW only using all bands between 80 and 10 meters. No 160m activity is planned. Propagation permitting, they plan to have two stations on air for as many hours every day as possible. QSL via G3SWH.

N7MSU will be on the air as V31SU from Belize between 4 and 23 February in his spare time on 40 and 20m using CW and SSB. QSL via N7MSU. See QRZ.com for more details.

G3TBK will be reactivating J88DR in St. Vincent from 18 February to 15 March. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. This will include an entry in the Commonwealth Contest. QSL via G3TBK, either via the RSGB Bureau or direct.

Now the contest news

16 February sees the UHF UK Activity Contest between 2000 and 2230UTC using all modes on the 1.3 and 2.3GHz bands. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The 80m Club Championships CW leg take place on 18 February between 2000 and 2130UTC. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

The CW leg of the ARRL International Contest takes place over the entire 48-hours of the weekend 20 and 21 February. There are sections for various power levels from QRP to QRO, single- and multi-op stations and single- and multi-band entries. Those outside of North America should work American and Canadian stations only. Send a signal report and your transmitter output power, but expect to receive a 2-letter State or 3-letter Province code.

Now the solar factual data for the period from the 1st to the 7th of February, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 8th of February.

The solar disc had spots visible every day, however, from the 2nd to the 4th it was only a single spot. On the 6th a sunspot group emerged and grew rapidly and within a day had produced 3 M class solar flares. The largest was a M6/1N during the early morning of the 7th which increased solar activity to high. Solar flux levels increased from 74 units to 90 by the 7th. The average was 79 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 7th was 78, that's one unit up on last week. X-ray flux levels increased from A2.8 units to B2.2. The average was A5.4 units. Geomagnetic activity was quiet everyday, though only just, the 2nd and the 3rd saw the Ap index at 9 units. The average was Ap 5 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw wind speeds increased to 590 kilometres per second on the 3rd but then decline to 330 by the 6th. Particle densities were low except for a brief increase to 14 particles per cubic centimetre on the 6th. Bz varied no more than minus 8 and plus 7 nanoTeslas during the period.

And finally the solar forecast. As happened in recent weeks, active sunspot regions can appear with no notice at all, if this happens then solar activity could increase to moderate levels. However, more likely is that activity will be very low to low. Solar flux levels with a spotless Sun should be in the high 70's, but if spots do

appear then could be into the 80's. Geomagnetic activity is expected start at quiet levels but by Tuesday activity could increase due to a recurring coronal hole. Activity should then decline to quiet levels again before next weekend. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 22MHz for the south and 19MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows are expected to be about 8MHz. Paths this week to the east coast of North America should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 20MHz. 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 1400 and 1800 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 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.

On Monday 15 February Basingstoke Amateur Radio Club is seeing how to make your own Morse code key. Details from Clive, G4ODM, on 01256 326050.

On Monday 15 February Braintree & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on portable mini DXpeditions and back packing operating by Mark, M0MJH. For more information contact John, M5AJB, on 01787 460 947.

On Monday 15 February Burnham Beeches Radio Club is having a talk on RAYNET by 2E0PTM. Contact Dave, G4XDU, on 01628 625 720.

On Monday 15 February Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society is having a shack open night. For more information go to www.mkars.org.uk.

On Monday 15 February Surrey Radio Contact Club is having a fix-it and natter night. For more information contact Ray, G4FFY, on 020 8644 7589.

On Tuesday 16 February Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720815.

On Tuesday 16 February Bromley & District Amateur Radio Society is planning its programme. Details from Andy, G4WGZ, on 01689 878089.

On Tuesday 16 February Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by the winner of its Constructor's Contest. Details from Lawrence Micallef, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Tuesday 16 February Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a net night. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 16 February Verulam Amateur Radio Club is holding the AGM. Details from Ralph, on 01923 265572.

On Wednesday 17 February Dover Radio Club is closed for the school holiday so will be having a net on GB3KS instead. For more information contact Brian, G4SAU, by email to g4sau@dar.org.uk.

On Wednesday 17 February Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is having a presentation on D-Star by Gavin, M1BXF. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 419204.

On Wednesday 17 February Whitton Amateur Radio Group starts its Foundation Course. Details at www.warg.info.

On Wednesday 17 February Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is meeting at Lancing Parish Hall. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Thursday 18 February Cray Valley Radio Society is having a natter night with a focus on CW, including operation in the RSGB 80m club championship contest. Details from Bob, 2E0RCV, on 020 8265 7735 after 8pm.

On Thursday 18 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 18 February Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society Club is having a project testing evening. Details from David, G8UOD, on 01234 742 757.

On Thursday 18 February Sutton & Cheam Radio Society is having an introduction to military communications by Mike O'Bierne, G8MOB. More information from John, G0BWV, on 020 8644 9945.

On Friday 19 February Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Eddie Wilson on Newhaven Fort Museum. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 19 February Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group is having a talk on the history of sound recording by John Weller, G0GNA. Details on the web at www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk.

On Saturday 20 February Burnham Beeches Radio Club commences its weekend operating GG100PGG for Thinking Day on the Air. Contact Dave, G4XDU, on 01628 625 720.

On Sunday 21 February Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club has its G2XV annual dinner. Details from Lawrence Micallef, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Sunday 21 February Norfolk Amateur Radio Club commences its Thinking day on the Air weekend. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 419204.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH-WEST

On Monday 15 February Appledore & District Amateur Radio Club is having part 3 of the talk by Laurence, G4XHK, on life under the waves. Contact Brian Jewell, M0BRB, on 01237 473251 for more information.

On Tuesday 16 February Blackmoor Vale Amateur Radio Society is having an HF evening in the club shack. Contact Tony, G0GFL, on 01258 860741.

On Tuesday 16 February West Devon Radio Club is having an antenna construction night, looking at wire antennas for beginners. There will also be natter, tea and coffee as usual. Further information from Jules Cuddy, M1AGY, on 01752 291588.

On Wednesday 17 February Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk about YouTube video by Peter, G0EYR. Contact William, G3WNI, on 01823 666 234 for more information.

On Wednesday 17 February Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is having a video night. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417048.

On Wednesday 17 February Trowbridge & District Amateur Radio Club is testing the contest equipment. Details from Ian, G0GRI, on 01225 864 698, evenings and weekends.

On Thursday 18 February South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having its midwinter table top sale, organised by Len, G4RZY. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 18 February Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317750.

On Thursday 18 February Yeovil Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on radar by G4DCH. Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to steve@g7ahp.co.uk.

On Friday 19 February North Bristol Amateur Radio Club is holding an operating evening & chat. Details from Dick on 01454 218362.

On Friday 19 February Torbay Amateur Radio Society is having an operating night. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to g6fsp@tars.org.uk.

NEWS FOR THE MIDLANDS

On Monday 15 February Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is having a talk by a club member. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 15 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a committee meeting. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 15 February Welland Valley Amateur Radio Society is having an operating evening and constructing a balun for the 2010 club project. For more information contact Peter D Rivers, G4XEX, on 01858 432105.

On Tuesday 16 February Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having an open forum on wire aeriels. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Wednesday 17 February Bolsover Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on Power Supplies by Colin, G0RXT. For details, send an email to postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk.

On Wednesday 17 February Hinkley Amateur Radio Society is having a radar re-enactment by Brian, G8GMU. Details from John, M0JAV, on 07836 731544.

On Wednesday 17 February Lincoln Short-Wave Club is having a shack activity and natter night. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Wednesday 17 February Midland Amateur Radio Society is on the air and holding training classes. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Wednesday 17 February South Notts Amateur Radio Club is sorting out the Blue Box. Details from Terry, M0RIA, via the web at www.radioclubs.net/snarc.

On Wednesday 17 February Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is making a DF antenna offset oscillator with attenuator. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 18 February Brigg & District Amateur Radio Club is having a program planning evening and natter night. Contact Fred, G0AOJ on 01652 618213.

On Friday 19 February Coventry Amateur Radio Society introduces its 2010 project. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

On Friday 19 February Melton Mowbray Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on experiences with the Islander multi-band antenna. For more information contact Geoff, G3STG, on 01664 480 733.

On Friday 19 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a construction evening. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Saturday 20 February Welland Valley Amateur Radio Society commences its Thinking Day On The Air weekend station at Market Harborough Guide HQ. For more information contact Peter D Rivers, G4XEX, on 01858 432105.

On Sunday 21 February Spalding & District Amateur Radio Society is having a junk sale at Bromley Hall. For more information get in touch with Graham Boor, G8NWC, on 07947 76448.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 15 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 15 February Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by Trevor, M0TWS, on limited space antennas. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by email to trevorwood6@yahoo.co.uk.

On Monday 15 February Thornton Cleveleys Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on SBS radar reception by Rod, G1NGR. Details from John Foster, 2E0EZY, on 01253 399377.

On Tuesday 16 February Chester & District Amateur Radio Society is having a bring and tell evening. Details from Barbara Green on 07957 870770.

On Tuesday 16 February Halifax & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on the workings of the QSL Bureau by Richard, G3UGF. Contact Anthony Vinters, on 01422 822636.

On Tuesday 16 February Otley Amateur Radio Society is having a shack night. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Tuesday 16 February Warrington Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on the huff & puff stabiliser by Jim, G3NFB. Contact Roger, M0DWQ, on 07868 000 705.

On Wednesday 17 February Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on military radio wireless sets 19 and 62 by G3WOV. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Wednesday 17 February Otley Amateur Radio Society continues its Foundation course. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Thursday 18 February South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society has no meeting but will operate a club net on 145.350MHz. Contact Chris Wiseman, G0RDK, on 01782 773185.

On Thursday 18 February South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a talk on Volta's piles by Ged, G8RSI. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 0161 969 3999.

On Friday 19 February East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is holding a technical forum. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

On Tuesday 16 February Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is having a club evening. For more information contact Norman, on 07740 946192.

On Wednesday 17 February Ayr Amateur Radio Group is having a talk by a guest speaker. Contact Charlie, MM0GNS, on 01563 551704.

On Wednesday 17 February Kingdom Amateur Radio Society GM4WZG will demonstrate remote operation across the internet of an HF/VHF radio. Details from Brian, MM0XBD, on 01383 738905.

On Thursday 18 February Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Graham, GM8FFX. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

On Friday 19 February Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club is having a radio check night with John, MM0JXI. More information from Bob, GM4UYZ, on 01875 811 723.

On Sunday 21 February Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is helping the Aboyne Guides with their Communication Badges. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

NEWS FOR WALES

On Monday 15 February Dragon Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on PSK31 by Stan Hulme, GW3SRM. More information from Stewart Rolfe, GW0ETF, on 01248 362229.

On Tuesday 16 February Wrexham Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on contesting. For more information contact Glyn, MW0BNB, via the web at www.qsl.net/wars.

On Thursday 18 February Porthmadog and District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk. Details from Glyn, MW5CAD, on 01286 830078.

On Friday 19 February Newport Amateur Radio Society is having a progress report on GB4RC and continuing its training. Details from Gareth Price, on 01633 880081.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

On Monday 15 February Greenisland Electronics Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Richard Gi4DOH on Morse Runner, and why you need it. Details from MI5JYK, by e-mail to mi5jyk@rsgb.org.uk.

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