

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 7th November 2010

The news headlines

- **Ofcom to automatically renew Short Contest Callsigns**
- **RSGB Museum Surplus Equipment**
- **4th Bath Buildathon announced**

At the Ofcom and RSGB Forum on 19 October it was agreed that, exceptionally, holders of individual Short Contest Call signs would not be required to re-apply and go through the assessment process at the end of this year. The assessment at the end of the year would also not be applied to clubs holding SCCs. Instead Ofcom will automatically renew all SCCs for a further 3 years. Any individuals or clubs holding SCCs that they will not want to renew should inform the Amateur and Maritime Team at Ofcom as soon as possible. All are reminded that the assessment criteria remains, and that individuals or clubs that envisage requiring SCCs after 2014 should appraise themselves of, and work toward, meeting the criteria. Ofcom has a detailed explanation of the criteria for Short Contest Call signs on their website.

The first RSGB Museum Surplus Sale closed last Sunday and the initial items all sold. Several hundred people registered as watchers of the items and eight lucky people walked away with bargains including an IC-720 and a Hallicrafters Skyrider SX23. Proceeds of all the sales will be going towards the costs of the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park. This week over 20 items have been put up for sale and the auction ends this evening, 7th November. Several hundred people are watching these items too. In the first few days it was obvious that the Microwave Modules linear amplifier and the Eddystone 960 are on the most-wanted list. For details of the surplus equipment check out the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org/auction.

The date of the 4th Bath Buildathon has been confirmed as Saturday 8 January 2011. For those that are not familiar with the concept, the basic idea is for a group of radio enthusiasts to lock themselves in a room for a day and build a radio project under the watchful eye of a few experienced mentors. These events are ideal for Intermediate students or licensed amateurs who has never raised solder smoke in anger before. This year the event will cost £55 to include a 20m SSB superhet receiver kit, room hire, tea, coffee, etc. The Bath Buildathon Crew will be providing all tools and test equipment required and no previous experience is needed, just a bucket load of enthusiasm! Booking forms for the Buildathon are available on request from g0fuw@tiscali.co.uk or by post. Steve is QTHR in the Yearbook and on QRZ.com.

On 1 October, at the National Hamfest in Newark, a new Amateur Radio Society was launched for lifeboat enthusiasts. Called the Lifeboat Amateur Radio Society, membership is open to everyone for a flat membership fee of just £10 per year for those aged 16 and above; under-16s are free. Clubs may affiliate themselves with the society for only £40 per year. The club's website is at www.lifeboat-amateur-radio.org.uk. The next SOS Day will take place on 28 January 2011 and the Lifeboat Amateur Radio Society will, once again, be organising SOS Radio Week to coincide with it. Taking part is easy, you simply register on the event website at www.sosradioweek.org.uk.

A short wave station on the African continent is refusing to leave the amateur-only portion of 40 metres even after notification from the government. Radio Uganda continues to operate on the amateur radio frequency of 7.195MHz. Uganda radio amateurs have been authorised by Uganda Communications Commission to use the band 7.1 to 7.2MHz.

Many UK amateurs who operate on 501 - 504kHz have reported over the past month reception of an wideband signal between 498 and 502kHz. The RSGB is investigating the matter, but it is possible that it is an early trial of a so called e-Navigation MFSK system that the maritime service is proposing for this part of the spectrum at WRC-12 preparation meetings.

Lubomir, OK2BVG has been given permission to operate between 501-504kHz with maximum power of 20W ERP. This permission is valid until the 1 September 2011. Lubomir would like to thank the executive staff of the Czech Telecommunications Office and OK1HH of the Czech Radio Club for their assistance. This means that 11 countries in Region 1 are now known to be authorised in this part of the 500kHz band and more information can be found on the IARU Region 1 website.

Whitton Amateur Radio Group is planning a six week Intermediate course starting 10 November and a Foundation course early in the New Year. Whitton Amateur Radio Group can be contacted on 0870 760 5082 or by e-mail to g0ofn@msn.com.

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

Today, 7 November, the Kempton Rally is taking place at Kempton Park racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 5AQ. There will be a talk-in station on 145.550MHz using the callsign GB2KRT. Doors open at 10am and there will be trade stands, lectures and an RSGB bookstand. Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society will be running a Bring and Buy stand. Details from Paul, M0CJX, on 0845 165 0351.

Also today, 7 November, the Foyle & District ARC Annual Rally is being held at the Best Western White Horse Hotel, 68 Clooney Road, Derry BT47 3PA. Doors open at 12 noon and there will be trade stands, special interest groups and RSGB representation.

On Saturday 13 November, the Rochdale & District RS Traditional Radio Rally will take place at St Vincent's Church Hall, Caldershaw Road, Rochdale OL12 7QL. Note that this is a Saturday rally. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £2.50 with concessions for under 12s and seniors. There will be a Bring & Buy. More details from Dave, G0PUD, on 07710 243 107.

Now for the news of special events

From 9 November GB2AD will be on the air from Lurgan in County Armagh for Armistice Day.

Coventry Amateur Radio Society will be operating GB70CBC for the Coventry Blitz Commemoration from Coventry Cathedral during November. Operation will be on an 'as available basis' on 2m and the HF bands between 80 and 10m. Further information from G8GMU on 0247636 4235 or by e-mail to info@andrewphotgraphic.co.uk.

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

DL5MFL, DL4MAQ and DF9MV are planning to be active from Senegal from 8 to 18 November. The group will be guests of 6W7RV at the Le Calao resort and will operate dedicated holiday style. A 6V7 callsign has been requested. QSL via DE0MST.

The low band operation at 5R8X in Madagascar is now under way. 160, 80, 40 and 30m will be activated during the dark hours every night. Activity will run for 8 days, until 9 November. They plan to use 1822.5, 3505.5, 3525, 7005.5 and 7025 and 10105.5kHz, almost exclusively CW.

Ulli, DL2AH is on Tristan da Cunha, IOTA reference AF-029, and will operate as ZD9AH until 6 December. This is not a DXpedition and he plans to operate mainly SSB on 40, 20, 17, 12 and 10 metres with some RTTY activity during the last two weeks of November. QSL via DL2AH, direct or via the bureau.

Sigi, DL7DF, will lead 9U0A operations from Burundi until 11 November. One station will be full time on digital modes. QSL to DL7DF direct or to the German DARC Bureau.

HA5UK and HA5AO will be on Efata Island, OC-035, Vanuatu, until 15 November, signing YJ0HA, all bands and modes, including SSTV. QSL via HA5UK direct and LoTW.

Now the contest news

The first event this week is the 432MHz UK Activity Contest on 9 November from 2000 to 2230UTC. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The SSB leg of the 80m Club Sprints on Thursday 11th. The event takes place between 2000 and 2130UTC and the exchange is serial number and name.

On Saturday 13 November, between 2000 and 2300UTC, we have the annual Club Calls Contest on 160m. This event often sees clubs making a special effort to get new operators to take part under supervision. Exchange a report, a serial number and, if you are a member of an RSGB affiliated society, the full official name of your club and the word 'member'. For those using a club's own callsign, say 'club station' instead of 'member'. Some clubs have very long names, so there's a list on the Contest Committee website at www.rsgbcc.org/hf/clubcalls.xls of over 100 approved abbreviations for club names to be given in submitted logs. You still need to give the full name during each QSO. Something important for the contest managers of clubs to do is ensure that all the members who partake give exactly the same club name. This can be done by

giving everyone a cue card to place in a prominent place on their station while the contest is running. A log-keeping tip for participants is to key in 'M' for Member, 'CS' for Club Station and 'NC' for No Club while QSOs are taking place, and expand the abbreviations to the full words afterwards.

16 November sees the UHF UK Activity Contest from 2000 to 2230UTC. Using the 1.3 and 2.3GHz bands the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The RTTY leg of the Worked All Europe DX Contest takes place over the weekend 13 and 14 November from 0000 to 2359UTC. Unlike the CW leg held in August and SSB leg held in September, in the RTTY leg everybody works everybody. Single op stations are limited to 36 hours out of 48. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

And now the solar factual data for the period from the 25th to the 31st of October, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 1st of November.

The solar disc had sunspots visible every day. Solar activity increased to low on four days when in total six C class solar flares occurred. The largest was a C5 which took place early on the 31st. Several coronal mass ejections also took place but had very little effect. Solar flux levels varied little day to day and averaged 85 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 31st remained at 81 units for another week. X-ray flux levels also varied little and averaged A9.9 units. Geomagnetic activity was quiet every day. The average was Ap 4 units. The most disturbed day was the 26th with an Ap of 8. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds decline from 670 kilometres per second on the 26th to 330 by the 320 by the 31st. Particle densities were very low with only 2 particles per cubic centimetre except for the 31st when around midday there was a brief increase to 10 particles per cubic centimetre. Bz never varied more than minus 5 and plus 8 nanoTeslas during the period.

And now the solar forecast. Later this week the more active side of the Sun is expected to rotate into view. Solar activity could increase after midweek. Solar flux levels should increase and by next weekend be in the mid 80's, or even higher. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet every day. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 26MHz for the south and 23MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows should be about 9MHz. Paths this week to the Middle East should have a maximum usable frequency of around 25MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 19MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 0900 and 1400 hours.

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 MIDLANDS

Do you know anyone who wants to take the Foundation Course? Nunsfield House Amateur Radio Group is enrolling now for new courses in Derby. If you know anyone who is interested in taking any of the courses or exams, please direct them to www.frankcom.plus.com/nun_courses.html.

On Sunday 7 November South Birmingham Radio Society is attending the Martlesham Microwave Round Table. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 8 November Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is having a DF Hunt. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 8 November Leicester Radio Society is having a bring and share BBQ. Contact Alex, G8FCQ, on 0753 120 1640.

On Monday 8 November South Birmingham Radio Society is having an equipment dismantling evening for the next rally. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 8 November Stratford Upon Avon District Radio Society is holding a surplus equipment sale, hosted by G8HJS. Contact G0CHO, on 01608 664488.

On Monday 8 November Wythall Radio Club continues its Advanced course. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by email to g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

On Tuesday 9 November Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on the RSGB by RSGB Deputy Regional Manager John Rogers, M0JAV. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Tuesday 9 November Mid-Warwickshire Amateur Radio Society is having a video or DVD evening. Details from Don, G4CYG, on 019 2642 4465.

On Tuesday 9 November Wythall Radio Club is having a committee meeting. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by email to g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

On Wednesday 10 November Bolsover Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on IOTA by Keith, G0THF. Bolsover Town Social Club 8pm. For details, send an email to postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 November Lincoln Short-Wave Club is watching the DVD of Grantham Amateur Radio Club's DXpedition to Denmark. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

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

On Wednesday 10 November Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is examining the club library. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 11 November Brigg & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on operating from the Caribbean by Graham, M0AEP. Details from John, 2E0III, on 01652 632938.

On Thursday 11 November Salop Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. Details on the club website at www.salop-ars.org.uk.

On Thursday 11 November South Birmingham Radio Society is having Foundation training classes with G8OWL. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Friday 12 November Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club invites members to try their radios on the club antenna. Contact Chris, M0BQE on 01905 776 869.

On Friday 12 November Coventry Amateur Radio Society is holding a Great Egg Race. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

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

On Saturday 13 November Leicester Radio Society is taking part in the Club Calls 160 metre contest. Contact Alex, G8FCQ, on 0753 120 1640.

On Saturday 13 November Lincoln Short-Wave Club is putting G5FZ on the air. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Saturday 13 November Wythall Radio Club continues its Advanced Course. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by email to g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 8 November 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 November Bolton Wireless Club is having a talk on HF digimode operation, including the new APSK mode, by Chris, G4HYG et al. For details, send an email to boltonwireless@gmail.com.

On Monday 8 November Macclesfield & District Radio Society is having an introduction to VHF contesting. More information from Roger Bell, M0GMG, on 0771 258 9163.

On Monday 8 November Scarborough Amateur Radio Society is watching the Red Arrows 1983 American tour Classic Manoeuvres DVD. More information from Jerry Scarr, G6LBL, on 01751 476601.

On Monday 8 November Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a demo of the dip and loading tuning technique. More information from Peter Day, G3PHO, by email to sarc@g3pho.org.uk.

On Monday 8 November Workington and District Radio and IT Group has its monthly meeting and is in the air. For more information get in touch with Barry Easdon, G0RZI, on 01946 812092.

On Tuesday 9 November Halifax & District Amateur Radio Society continues its Foundation and Intermediate training, looking at PSK31 interfaces, using the club's rig and Morse practice. Contact Martin, M0GQB, on 01422 341317.

On Wednesday 10 November Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on audio recording by G4YTV. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Wednesday 10 November Maltby & District Amateur Radio Society is on the air. Contact Keith, G1PQW, on 07701 156 678.

On Wednesday 10 November Mid-Cheshire Amateur Radio Society is etching circuit boards for the frequency counter project. Contact Peter Paul Fox, G8HAV, on 01606 553401.

On Thursday 11 November Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is participating in the 80m Sprint, Home stations. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Thursday 11 November Preston Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on 4m and 6m DX by Neil, G0JHC. Contact Richard, M0RDZ, on 0785 587 3566.

On Thursday 11 November Ripon & District Amateur Radio Society Club is on the air. Details from Rob Hall, M0RBY, on 0787 608 5631.

On Thursday 11 November Wakefield & District Radio Society is having a talk and slide show by John Carter, G7JTH, entitled When I Was At Sea. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563117.

On Friday 12 November East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club has its technical forum. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Saturday 13 November Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is taking part in the Top Band Club Calls contest, Home stations. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Saturday 13 November Wakefield & District Radio Society continues its Foundation and Advanced courses. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563117.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

No news items have been received for Northern Ireland this week.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

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

On Tuesday 9 November Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society Operating Evening. Contact Norman, on 07740 946192.

On Wednesday 10 November Lothians Radio Society is having an historical evening with John Macdonald, GM4XZN, looking at GPO vans in the queerest of places. Contact Andy Sinclair, by email to lrs_secretary@moosedata.com.

On Wednesday 10 November Paisley YMCA Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on how to do simple repairs on your rig by GM3UWX. Contact Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, on 01505 613633.

On Wednesday 10 November West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is having construction projects and licence training by the Solder Group. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

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

On Friday 12 November Borders Amateur Radio Society is having a talk and demonstration on PSK31 and Slow Scan TV by Landles, GM4XZZ. More information from Ray, GM0CDV, on 01573 228730.

On Friday 12 November West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is having presentations, guest speakers, a quiz and a raffle. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH EAST and EAST ANGLIA

On Monday 8 November Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society is having a talk on D-Star by Chris, 2E0CTH. More information from Andy, G8JAC, by email to g8jac@btinternet.com.

On Monday 8 November Southdown Amateur Radio Society is having its annual dinner at the Toby Carvery, Eastbourne. Details from John, G3DQY, on 01424 424 319.

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

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

On Tuesday 9 November Harwell Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Martin Ditter of the European Space Agency. Contact Malcolm, G8NRP, on 01235 524844.

On Wednesday 10 November Aylesbury Vale Radio Society is having a quiz with Chesham club at the Doghouse. Details from Roger, G3MEH, on 01442 826 651.

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

On Wednesday 10 November Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society is having its annual quiz with Aylesbury Club at Chesham WHC. More details from Terry, G0VFW, on 01442 831 491.

On Wednesday 10 November Darenth Valley Radio Society is having a natter night is on the air. For more information send an email to Ray, G0FDU@G0KDV.com.

On Wednesday 10 November Harwich Amateur Radio Interest Group is having two short tales by Arthur, M1FFU. Details from Kevan, 2E0WMG, on 07766 543784.

On Wednesday 10 November Havering & District Amateur Radio Club is having an informal evening. Contact John, M0UKD, on 07817 365354.

On Wednesday 10 November Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is having an informal, construction and workshop evening. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898678.

On Wednesday 10 November South Essex Amateur Radio Society is holding its AGM. Contact Norman, M0FZW, on 01268 692776.

On Wednesday 10 November Southgate Amateur Radio Club has its autumn junk sale. Contact David Sharp, M0XDS, by email to david.sharp1@tesco.net.

On Wednesday 10 November Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is having a discussion evening. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

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

On Thursday 11 November Echelford Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Roger Western, G3SXW, on his whirlwind tour of Central America. Contact John, G4GSC, on 01784 451898.

On Thursday 11 November Edgware & District Radio Society is having a talk on sundials by Julian, G4ZOD. More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 0208 950 0658.

On Thursday 11 November Lowestoft & District Amateur Radio Club is having a club night at the shack. Details from Phil, G0JSG, on 01502 585448.

On Thursday 11 November Reading & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on 23cm by Professor Colin Bayliss, G3WKZ. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

On Thursday 11 November Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society is holding a quiz night. Details from David, G8UOD, on 01234 742 757.

On Friday 12 November Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club is looking at Morse for all abilities. Details from Lawrence Micallef, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Friday 12 November Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club is having a talk by Colin, M0XED, Bob, G3OOU and Victor, G1PKSHF on VHF Aerials, feeders and ATUs. Please note that the date has been changed for this week only to avoid bonfire night. Contact Bob, G3OOU, on 01737 552 170.

On Friday 12 November Harlow & District Amateur Radio Society is having a club night. Details from Mark Haynes, M0DXR, on 07917 223870.

On Friday 12 November Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on valve linears by Peter, G4AKG. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 12 November Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society is having a discussion on the Foundation licence led by Andrew, G4ADM. Contact Jim, M0CON, on 020 8874 7456.

On Saturday 13 November Verulam Amateur Radio Club is taking part in the Club Calls contest. Details from Ralph, on 01923 265572.

On Saturday 13 November Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is taking part in the RSGB 160m Club Calls contest. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Sunday 14 November Bittern DX Group continues its Foundation course. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 404154.

On Sunday 14 November Horsham Amateur Radio Club has its morning Fox Hunt. Details are on the web at www.harc.org.uk.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

On Monday 8 November Exeter Amateur Radio Society is having a club night. Contact Phil Jays, 2E0PCJ, on 01392 877413.

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

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

On Thursday 11 November South Bristol Amateur Radio Club starts its Christmas Raffle. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 11 November Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club natter night. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317750.

On Thursday 11 November Yeovil Amateur Radio Club is in the shack with M1FFP. Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to steve@g7ahp.co.uk.

On Friday 12 November North Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having a history of NBARC in pictures by John, G3IZM. Details from Dick on 01454 218362.

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

NEWS FOR WALES

On Monday 8 November Llanelli Amateur Radio Society is having a raffle. Contact Craig, MW0MXT, on 01269 840292.

On Tuesday 9 November Marches Amateur Radio Society is on the air and having a natter night. It is hoped that the Construction Group will resume its activities. For more information contact Dave, MW0AYM, on 01691 777242.

On Thursday 11 November Aberystwyth & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Wyn, GW4TUD, on the Royal Observer Corps Underground Monitoring Posts. Details from Ray, GW7AGG, on 01970 611853.