

B&DARC Newsletter.

B&DARC Club Zoom Meeting Notes for Friday 5th March 2021.

Present via Zoom: John Storey G8SH, Barrie Palin G4AHK, Mark Harden G8UEP, Geoff Swann G4LXI, Andy Hudson, Nigel Mann, Brian Capewell, Janet Poole, Greame Coultas, Terry Stack, Roy Adams, Chris Margetts (from the Clubs FM net 145.400).

Apologies: Alan Kelly G4LVK.

Shack costs at Avoncroft for 2021/2022 were discussed, it seems likely that these will remain fairly constant at this time.

Future club sales of either redundant or under used equipment was raised.

Specifically the Swan HF linear & the DMR radio.

It is very likely that these will be offered for sale towards club funds, no committee or members agreement has been made on this yet.

Terry Shack, raised the question regarding the email that all licenced members should have received regarding the Ofcom EMC directive. He explained that some emails had gone into either 'junk' or 'spam' folders & we should all look for them.

It was suggested that failure to comply could lead to 'enforcement' & prosecutions, but as there had only been 2 cases in the last 2 years that this was doubtful.

Members were directed to the RSGB web site where there is a pro-forma form which could be completed to check one's own 'compliance'!!

Nigel reports that he is now connected to BT & has working WiFi. Although he had to assist the 'engineer' with the installation! The 'engineer' was not allowed to put the new box internally & drill a hole to allow the feed cable to the outside connection, Nigel did this bit for him!! He is now making full use of his Talk-Talk package.

Janet also reports better WiFi following the installation of a new 'router' box.

Both have better background pictures for us all to view.....

Janet's car is now repaired & back with her, the repairs look good & the car had a full valet before being returned.

John nipped off to get a coffee so missed a bit!

Nigel was discussing his connection with BT & Talk-Talk, chatting about the various Call Centre accents which we come across when trying to have things done!

The question was asked as to what TV programmes people were watching before joining the Zoom group.

Various banter & chat on what plastic surgery members might have done to improve the picture quality on Zoom, lots of laughter ensued.

Terry raised the question of a recent Meteor Shower over the Kidderminster area, one which was loud enough for a local sonic boom to have been heard.

Again the question of backgrounds came up as Terry was still in the Himalayas.

Microphone pick-up was discussed, via Zoom & the setting up on one's PC was discussed as John G8SH was noted to be 'quiet', so he set about re-calibrating on his PC which improved other members reception.

The Ofcom Calculator for EMC was discussed, with various options & opinions voiced. It was felt that these restrictions could have a great impact on Special Event Stations, where the

general public could visit & on Field Days/Contests in a Portable setting. It was felt that none of these could generally go ahead without completing a full set of these 'forms' together with a 'risk assessment' for each event.

Barrie gave details, in detail, of how this may all work.

Members should attempt to do the calculations for: each band with a 'duty cycle' of RX & TX noted again for each band, a note should also be made as to the 'power output' of the radio, again per band.

It seems as previously stated, that SES which are 'open to the public' will have to stop, so possibly no more GXxxxx stations!

However, be honest in your calculations.

QRP operations were also mentioned, as their low power output may fall outside the needs for any calculations to be undertaken.

It seems that we could be back to recording all 'tests' in a paper log book to be able to prove that you have under taken these test just to comply & provide clear evidence of such tests.....

Look at the MW0MWZ calculator as well as the Ofcom & RSGB ones.

It was felt that now was the time for aerial manufacturers to provide accurate 'data' about their aerials regarding any 'gain' figures to assist in completing these calculations.

Commercial radio users, BBC, BT, etc have been completing these forms for years.

It now seems that this has progressed down to the Amateur Radio fraternity.

Past types of 'test gear' was mentioned, including: Dip meters, Crystal Oscillators & 'Field Strength Meters'.

Geoff(1) recalled the high risks of RF burns, retelling the story of when he burnt his finger, testing to see if a 100w transistor was getting warm!! It was.....

The RSGB thoughts on: Direct access to a Full License, was generally accepted.

The question of how 'land based stations' e.g. Droitwich (BBC) & their outputs could comply with the Ofcom directive was discussed. Mentions of H&S & Industrial Injury were mentioned

Chris Margetts gave details of a friend in Germany who had had his outputs measured. But could not reduce them to 'acceptable levels', so had to have his mast relocated to be on a mountain, with remote operations!

It was noted that all overhead wires suspended from pylons operating at 50Hz also radiate a magnetic field.

The question was asked if CB operators also have to comply? Also where do 'Free Banders' fit in?

With Covid restrictions being slowly eased Barrie has advised that he will soon be able to see & visit his mother as he has been made her 'Designated Visitor' at the home where she lives. He still had to complete all the correct forms & he will only be able to visit after 'testing on site' for temperature etc.

We all wished him well in this.

Meeting Ended 21.00hrs.

John Storey G8SH,

B&DARC Club Secretary,

07759370544,

For Sale.

Jaybeam TB3 Triband HF beam.

Contact John G8SH.

Elecraft KX3, with internal filter, ATU, RTC board 2M module and other accessories.

Contact John G4OJS.

Pal star AT1500 roller coaster ATU £350

Diawa 304 30 amp PSU £75

Icom ic765 hf base radio £375

Yaesu ft818nd with accessories £550

Contact Colin M0CUU.

As always, I am looking for more articles, news etc for next week's newsletter.

Kind regards,

Alan G4LVK