

## **Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club Newsletter.**

### **B&DARC Friday Flier for Zoom Meeting 14th May 2021.**

Present: Graeme, Mark, John, Roy, Brian, Janet, Barrie, Chris, Geoff (2), Geoff (1), Nigel. Geoff (1) joined for the first time in a while, all felt it was great to see him, even from his recumbent position at home! He expressed the problems as he had been 'hit by the meds'! But that he was now receiving help from his daughter (Michelle) & nurses.

He says that he is now on morphine so no 'nips of scotch'! It was also noted that he had had hair cut & trim & was feeling much better for it.

Michelle was welcomed to the group by all present.

Geoff did not stay on for long, but all wished him a good night.

John Club Secretary had issued a 'Notice of AGM' to members in the week for 25th June in the Garden Room at Avoncroft Arts Centre.

Mark made the suggestion that the AGM could be held in the garden to be in fresh air, rather than we all be in an enclosed space. John confirmed that he would check with Tim at Avoncroft as to the availability of both the Garden Room, (for teas, coffees & toilet facilities) & the garden for the AGM, (or even the grassed area by the car park!).

Barrie expressed concerns about the access to the garden as he understood that this area was 'sacrosanct' & excluded from general use.

John again agreed to check this when emailing Tim for a clear reply.

Members had noted that the Bands were open even up to 10Mhz although largely into Europe.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of 'metalized' insulation boards in loft areas to enhance the performance of loft-based antennas & to provide an emf screen to people in the dwelling below giving a Faraday Cage Effect.

Noted that foil insulation on plasterboard in modern homes also effectively stops the signals for 4g, 5g, mobile phones in general & DAB radios!

BT Open Reach seem to have an understanding of this issue & are offering 'Boxes' to give houses a 'wider coverage'!!

All new homes seem to have this metalized 'lagging also in their wall cavities!

Good weather today but wet weather is expected for tomorrow, Saturday.

Barrie reports that he has now fitted an 'intelligent' battery 'split charge' system to his Camper. This is a digital system which monitors the output of the alternator, which has a wide range of (& variable) voltage outputs, which if not correctly monitored can 'kill' a leisure battery.

Graeme & Barrie are looking to use solar cells (18volt output!!) to charge car batteries, but the 'charge monitoring side was extremely RF noisy!!

Roy also has one but does not have any issues. Barry does a daily assessment on the voltages etc. as even his fridge uses the system.

Gel cell rather than lead/acid batteries are now the norm & various voltage levels via solar panels need to be monitored. Geoff (1) & Barrie discussed use of 'inverter' to run 240v equipment from the 12v system & the voltage drops over long cable runs.

Discussions on suitable ATU's for mark to use as he has Icom products the following product numbers were mentioned: AH-\$, AT-150 or 180.

Also, various none Icom atu's were mentioned. Mark was concerned about how they would operate i.e. via a linked actuator cable for switching, but he was reassured that most are now also RF sensed to activate them.

Kits or ready built options like the N7DDC ATU kits were mentioned, although small they were capable of handling 100 watts.

It was mentioned that they are largely SMD components & that ready built kits might be better, although more costly!! Various options were available on eBay.

Geoff Demonstrated his Earth tuner/balance device.

EMF was again discussed; some members are not 'rushing' into undertaking these calculations unless they are advised to do so should an 'inspection visit' (which has to be a booked appointment!) be imminent. Only then would the calculations be done & logged in Station Logbook!!

It was mentioned that no one can predict the 'stray' person coming close to ones antennas. Low Bands seem to be the current area of concern. Lower frequencies seem to be more of a 'nerve' stimulant that the 2m & 70cms bands/frequencies & the antennas for these bands are very often located up high.

Rules & Regulations for future club meetings, including Hand Sanitisation, masks, social distancing & the possibility of restricting numbers of members to meeting may have to be considered in the future at Avoncroft, John G8SH, Secretary to pursue this with Avoncroft Arts Centre.

Caution must be the bye word.

John left the zoom meeting at 20.30hrs.

### **From the Secretary.**

Following a very recent Club Net two questions were raised by Ken G4AHO.

Firstly, following the break in & vandalism at the Avoncroft Museum, should the club not make a financial donation to them to assist in their regeneration.

He suggested two figures, one of £500 or one of £100.

Kens suggestions were discussed both in Committee on Monday 10th May 2021, where the proposal was considered but as we are tenants of Avoncroft Arts Centre not the Museum & that the club has run at a deficit for the last financial year that currently we could not afford it & the proposal was not supported by committee members present.

However, as the Museum does seem to have received donations & is looking into 'crowd funding' to support its repairs & regeneration we may reconsider some assistance later in the year.

It was noted from the Friday Zoom meetings that the Museum may be, in future, looking for replacement period ceramic artefacts, pictures etc to augment its displays.

Secondly, Ken has heard via his wife that the Garden Room was currently being used by an 'arts group' & had been for most of the lockdown period.

As your Secretary, I had previously pursued this with Tim at Avoncroft (to see when, or if, we could return to face to face meetings) & he had advised me that they had allowed the art group to continue under very strict guidelines. The artists set ups (work stations) etc had remained in place at all times, (not stored away) they only used one area for their work, they were socially distanced at all times & they only ever had 6 or 8 people there at one time. Lastly, I am currently negotiating with Tim at Avoncroft Arts Centre to hold the club's Annual General Meeting in either the Garden Room or in the garden adjacent, on the 25th June from 19.30hrs with a prompt start for 20.00hrs. Please add this date to your diaries.

### **B&DARC DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes 10th May 2021.**

1/. Present: John G8SH, Nigel G1BXL, Barrie G4AHK, Peter G4LRL, Brian M7GFC, Pete M1FHL.

2/. Apologies: Alan G4AHK, Roy G4NYG.

3/. Minutes of Last Meeting:

Accepted & Proposed by: Brian.

Seconder: Barrie.

4/. Matters Arising, (not already Agenda items):

G4IVJ, Shield proposal, quote from The Bromsgrove Cobbler is £29.99 for the smaller shield, be accepted, but no purchase to be made at this time. A purchase to be made later in the year. With the shield, be retained in the shack but a certificate be awarded to the recipient to keep permanently.

5/. Treasurers Report:

The club has £7,071.03p in the bank.

Barrie & Terry have seen & audited the annual accounts for the future AGM.

Over the year the club has Deficit of £563.30p over the year 2020-2021.

Peter LRL has confirmed that the clubs Insurance has been paid.

Thanks go to Roy & Brian for all their work at the Shack undertaking a full audit of clubs equipment in there & completing a detailed list of shack stores as well. In future, should members wish to purchase items from stocks they can do so but all 'sales' will be recorded & the stock list reduced accordingly. Any monies from these 'sales' will be classed by the Treasurer as either sales or donations.

It was noted that for record purposes, we will now have to detail the antennas & coax together with photographs.

Roy & Brian have also been tidying up the Shed & have not found the clubs Yaesu HF trap di-pole. They have agreed to take another look. It was noted that it may be faulty after the di-pole had taken a fall into the garden.

EMF issues were raised by Barrie, it was noted that these can/should be addresses in the future when club has full access to the buildings after lockdown.

6/. Club Revised Constitution, ongoing meeting.

7/. Shack Visits Update:

Roy & Brian are undertaking on going, weekly? Visits.

Roy & Barrie are to meet to sort out shack keys.

8/. Club Net:

These will continue on Monday, Wednesday & Fridays on 145.400mhz from around 19.30hrs.

It is hoped that these will continue post lockdown on Mondays & Wednesdays with the possibility of Fridays from the shack in the future.

9/. Call Book Submission:

This has been submitted, it is similar to last year but with the addition of the Wednesday morning coffee meeting.

10/. Proposed Date for 2021 AGM:

It is proposed that the 2021 AGM be held on Friday 25th June 2021 at 20.00hrs in the Garden Room, subject to Avoncroft Arts Centre approval & no change to the current Governments Road Map.

11/. Any Other Business:

a/. Pete Coates has confirmed that the G3VGG call sign has been revalidated for a further 5 years.

b/. Ken G4AHO, has raised the following question: should the club not make a donation to Avoncroft Museum following their recent vandalism event. He had suggested a donation of either £500 or £100.

The suggestion was considered in detail but as we are not tenants of the Museum but of the Arts Centre & that the club was currently in deficit, it was felt not appropriate to assist them. However, as they have in the past been good enough to allow the club to hold SES event in their buildings that we could contact them in the future to see if there was any other way in which the club could assist.

It was noted from the Friday Zoom Meetings that they may be in future need of 'period' artefacts' to display in the buildings once repaired. Crockery, pictures & figurines were mentioned.

c/. Committee were advised that Mark Mearns may have now moved to take up his new post on the IoW, Secretary to email to confirm.

12/. Proposed date of next Committee Meeting: 7th June 2021 @ 19.30hrs via Zoom.

John Storey G8SH,  
B&DARC Secretary,  
07759370544.

## **TRBL.**

As part of the centenary celebrations of The Royal British Legion, I have a limited quantity of enamel pin badges. The suggested donation for these is £4.00. As I know our members have supported the Poppy Appeal in the past, and that we are unable to meet at present, I am offering to post these out to members and will cover the postage cost personally.



**Wanted.**

I'm after either a long (18"+) tee or kay bracket one will do.  
Or a length of 'Dexion' angle (with holes) to make one up.  
It's to provide a wall 'stand-off' at the base of my mast pole.

Cheers. John. G8SH.

As always, articles for the next newsletter to me please.

Alan G4LVK.