

Repeater News.

It is reported the GB3VM has been relocated to a new site, and coverage is much improved in the Bromsgrove and Worcestershire area.

Downlink: 145.61250

Uplink: 145.01250

Offset: -0.6 MHz

Uplink Tone: 103.5

Thanks to Colin M0CUU

Zoom meeting report.

B&DARC Club Friday Night Zoom Meeting for 12th March 2021.

Members Present: Brian Capewell M7GCF, Barrie Palin G4AHK, John Storey G8SH, Janet Poole M0JMP, Andy Hudson 2E0VAZ, Pete Wilkins G4LRL, Greame Coultas, Roy Adams G6NYG, Nigel Mann,

Apologies: Alan Kelly G4LVK & Mark Harden G8UEP.

Barrie started the evening by giving feedback on his visit to see his mother, the first this year as she lived in a care home. He confirmed that she did recognise him, after a short time.

Members compared the number of 'steps' which they were recording as part of their daily exercise routine, Barrie said that on occasions he was up to 9K per day whilst out & about. However, Janet says that she is still enjoying some of her 'isolation' as she still has lots of things to do.

John G8SH, (as RSGB local rep, DR52), he explained some of the issues which he was having with RSGB policy's or procedures around when to use, (or not to use) his RSGB designated reference of DR52!

OFCOM EMC & enforcement issues were discussed, this, it was felt was a very heavy handed approach.

It was felt that we are all in a similar 'imprisonment' during this 'lockdown' & we were all becoming more self sufficient.

Janet was very happy that some people can be willing to help make a difference by just volunteering to help, in her case to fit two blinds which had been 'outstanding jobs'!

Brian has decided not to buy the club Trio TS-120v, but is looking at either an Icom IC-7300 or an IC-705.

He has reported that the 120 has a continuous carrier on the 10m band, this was noted as a 'known' fault & can be corrected but may also be down to the PSU voltage. Various positive comments were made about both radios as several members are using these. Other types & makes of radios are available hi hi!

Greame joined & gave us details of his Covid inoculation, with the side effects he encountered. He was made aware of Brian's choices of radio with the note that Brian is currently limited to 10watts in accordance with his license conditions.

Greame suggested that Brian should buy a radio which in the future would give him maximum power, but to turn the power down. In some radios this can be done a 'preset' on the internal menu's & changed later as Brian's license conditions change.

He was also give sage advise as to which bands are more popular to use.

Roy Adams joined.

Janet now has a much better & more stable wifi, this was seen as her background pictures are also more stable. She also reports that she now has a 'Doris' installed to allow her to control both her lights & music just by asking!

The subject of the club's Annual Subscriptions was raised, Pete Treasure G4LRL said that he may now raise this both with the membership & at committee.

(he has since sent out a circular to members via the Secretary on this subject).

Nigel Mann rejoined.

Peter LRL, advise that the club was up to date with all payments to Avoncroft.

As the clubs income has reduced for this year there may be a request for donations to help club funds.

Greame asked if the club could stand the annual running costs without members paying their subs?

It was noted that the next AGM is expected to be May 2021.

Committee is to consider asking members for subs to cover 2021-2022, this would ensure the 'voting rights' of paid up members at any future AGM or EGM.

Members may also be asked for donations & fund raising, to maintain our current situation of a shack & aerials etc at Avoncroft.

Peter G4LRL Treasurer has asked that there be NO MAJOR EXPENDITURE this year.

He will produce a 'Flier' for distribution to members, regarding the club accounts.

Barrie explained that as we are 'long term tenants' at Avoncroft, with a stable background of regular support to them, that we sit well for any future negotiations which may be necessary.

Chris Margetts M0BQE joined at 20.17hrs after being on the club net on 145.400.

We should continue to support Avoncroft as much as possible.

Roy G6NYG, gave details of a possible increase in shack use in the light of the proposed OFCOM EMC information, which is to become a 'License Condition'.

There is a Mk2 of the OFCOM spreadsheet & Barrie is impressed by the RSGB spreadsheet.

Brian's future radio choices also depend on the depth of his pocket (laughter from all!!)

Various Yaesu models were also discussed

Possible future 'projects' were discussed, either at home or in the future at Club on Fridays.

Various members reminisced on the many & various jobs which they had done whilst in (gainful??) employment some hilarity was enjoyed here!!

Barrie gave information on & sun spots recorded this week.

It was noted that there have been more Meteors this year than previous years & they were more visible & in some cases louder, with alleged sonic booms being given off! Whilst on space topics, Janet gave us all information on the topic of Black Holes colliding & how do scientists know the length of time which these meteors have travelled! Famous Astrophysics & Astronomers were mentioned in discussions.

John G8SH left the meeting at 20.40 handing over to Barrie.

Next B&DARC Club Zoom Meeting will be Friday 19th March 2021 @ 19.30 hrs.

My life and Radio.

John G4PKW.

Chapter 1.

Being the true story of how my involvement with radio affected the course of my life. I was introduced to the fascinating world of radio as a young lad in the early 1930s. It was the era of the crystal radio, when for the price of several week's wages, one could purchase a small shiny box with a hinged lid containing an ebonite panel with four brass terminals, a large black circular knob for tuning, and a weird device called a detector which consisted of a glass tube containing a natural crystal and a springy steel wire known as the "cats whisker". With a long piece of wire connected to a pole in the garden and a short piece connected to an earth rod it only remained to connect a pair or pairs of headphones in order to receive one of the local radio transmitters broadcasting news, music, plays and talks etc which could be enjoyed by all of the family.

Chapter 2.

This part of the story describes the reason for my further involvement with radio. In Burton on Trent I had an uncle, he like many others of his time, was a radio enthusiast who in the days before mass produced domestic radios built their own from components available from a variety of famously named firms, many of whom still exist today. Before the days of wire ended components for soldering connections, all components had screw terminals which were connected with square section tinned copped wire, making it easy to make loops for connections. My uncle gave me a large box of radio bits and pieces and a huge bundle of radio magazines of the era, long before the advent of the Practical Series by F. J. Camb. So, it was a very happy lad who went home with his load of radio bits. As I was still at school, I could not afford batteries to run valve radios, so I had to be content with constructing crystal sets which needed no power. So, each night it was early to bed to listen to my crystal set and read uncle's magazines.

To be continued.

Thank you, John for this fascinating article. Alan G4LVK.

As always, please let me have your articles and news for future newsletters.

Alan G4LVK