

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club. Newsletter.

B&DARC Friday Night Meeting Notes for 9th April 2021.

As Secretary I was unable to join the Zoom meeting until 20.30hrs, yet again Zoom does not like me! (and I don't like Zoom either !!) despite having the details of how to access provided by Graeme from WhatsApp, it was not until Graeme had resent the access details via email (not WhatsApp!) that I could join the meeting!!

In the meantime rather than wasting my time I joined the Club Net on 145.400 where we had 8 members join, including myself, thanks goes to Alan Kelly G4LVK for managing the net. Members on air were: Alan G4LVK, Ken G4AHO, John G4PKW, Geoff (1) G4LXI, Chris M0BQE, Geoff(2) G0WIS, Colin M0CUU & myself, John G8SH, a motley crew!

By now I had received the access detail of the clubs Zoom meeting so closed my station at 20.15 & joined the Zoom group at 20.20hrs.

Zoom Meeting, from 20.20hrs.

6 members were in line although I was informed that I had missed some others who had left. Thanks to Graeme for organising the meeting.

As a result I had missed the main theme of the meeting although I gather that it had included issues which some members have encountered with the 'memory battery' in the Icom IC-7300 & other Icom radios, whereby if the radio is left switched off & the power supply is also turned off (usual safety procedure) the battery, which is supporting the clock, memories stored, some settings etc runs down & the settings, clock & date lost until power supply & radio are turned on again & reset. Barrie & Mark H had been discussing this & that various retailers were not so willing to replace the battery in question.

I was not able to stay on & left at 20.50hrs.

During this week in the clubs WhatsApp Group discussions Graeme hoped that during lockdown that we all have had the time to learn or improve our morse/cw.

He recommends the following to assist:

Zen & the art of Radiotelegraphy.

The art & skill of radio telegraphy by N0HFF.

And the G4FON, Koch training method.

All are available via some 'search engine'!

Graeme has also set up this Fridays Zoom Meeting using the following:

Meeting I.D. 791 104 7603

Passcode: Jme9Qe (case sensitive!)

That's all for now, see & hear some of you later.

Regards,

John Storey, G8SH,

B&DARC Secretary,

07759370544.

Club Net.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. 7.30 local time. 145.400MHz FM.
All welcome.

Gmail Issues.

I appear to be having issues receiving emails from people with Gmail accounts.
If you use a Gmail user, could I ask that you use this email address for me:
akelly@britishlegion.org.uk

Random Radio News.

On 7th April 2021 at 1030 UTC a new British 122 GHz distance record was made over 35.925 kms by Roger G8CUB/P and Chris G0FDZ/P, between Danbury in Essex and Minster on the Isle of Sheppey.

ARRL News.

For those of you who may have missed the article by ARRL, here it is. Thanks to Brian G4GIM for the heads up.

Updated Radio Frequency Exposure Rules Become Effective on May 3
04/12/2021

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 Report and Order governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

“In the RF Report and Order, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward,” the FCC said in an April 2 Public Notice. “It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules.”

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

“For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation,” said Greg Lapin, N9GL, chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

“Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service,” Lapin said. The December 2019 RF Report and Order changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The R&O also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure. Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

The ARRL Laboratory staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL’s RF Exposure and You book, explained it this way. “The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations,” he said. “The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights.” Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.”

RF Exposure and You is available for free download from ARRL. ARRL also has an RF Safety page on its website.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC’s aids for following human exposure rules — OET Bulletin 65 and OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs. In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments.

South Birmingham Radio Society News.

Their newsletter is attached in .pdf format. If you would like a paper copy, please let me know.

As always, any articles to me please for future newsletters.

Kind regards,

Alan G4LVK.