

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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RSGB Online Exams

In a move by the RSGB to reduce the backlog of exams due to Coronavirus, Belinda M6JNX and Mark M0IEO are two of nine RSGB trained and authorised online invigilators. Between them they cover up to five exam slots a day, seven days a week, with up to two candidates on each exam. Mark and Belinda often do two exams a day. A considerable commitment by the two of them.

So far Mark and Belinda have provided invigilation to all over the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).



Morse Code

Chair of Essex CW, Dean G4WQI, (right in photo) runs a Morse Code class 8pm Thurs on 144.185MHz. It is in 3 parts: a chat on FM, then change to CW-USB for dictation, then back to FM for feedback.



Friday Night Net



The TARG net via GB3DA at 8pm is now a weekly feature during lock down. It has become the regular meeting place for TARG members and visitors.

We are delighted to add four new Controllers, shown together in this chance photograph,

1. Mike G8EFG
2. Oscar 2E1WHE
3. Gary M5YRG
4. Jo M0JOZ

They bring an individual style as diverse as their call signs. Oscar even had a mystery guest, the Chair of Essex Repeater Group. This brings the total number of TARG Controllers to eleven.

An innovation is to have the TARG Channel on Zello running in the background. This acts as a handy chat room for comments and links can be sent via text message. This has been helpful in allowing extra information to be shared without waiting for the next round by which time the topic may have moved on.

Lockdown Projects

Vice-Chair, John M0LFX, has been busy. Top photo shows a BITX radio under repair. Bitx is an easily assembled SSB transceiver that helps amateurs understand the components of a radio.

Other projects include a portable solar panel to keep batteries topped up, which are themselves a back up emergency power supply.

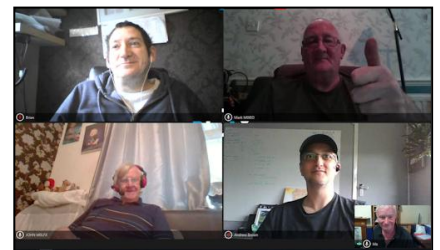


Also, adjusting an antenna array. Photo shows a 2 band X30 for 2m, a tri-band Comet C16 (50/145/70 MHz), a vertical 4BTV for HF and a 2 band mini-beam (145/70 MHz).



Immediate Future

The committee met via a Video Conference hosted by Andrew M0ONH who also provides IT support for the TARG website.



Here are some bullet points:

- Outdoor Events may resume before meetings at the Hall.
- Revised leaflet approved.
- Social Media Strategy agreed and will be launched when club meetings resume.
- Two presentations by RSGB reps on different subjects to be arranged.
- Training still on hold
- Members safety comes first