

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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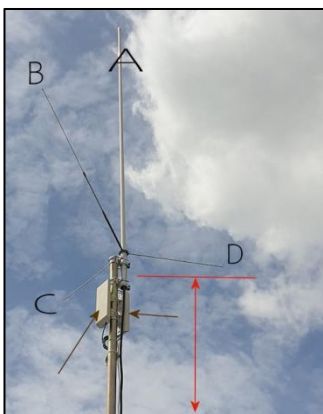
Heard on the Net

The TARG Fri Net, 8pm GB2DA, is great for news. Here is more info about topics that we discussed:

(1) John M0LFX spoke about three features of his antenna mast. The white stick (A) is made by a company called Comet. It operates on 3 bands; 6m, 2m, 70cm so has three rigid radials (B,C,D) each a 1/4 wavelength.

(2) UK Mesh is an independent internet operated by Radio Amateurs. They use a "node" box as an antenna. John has two nodes, shown by the brown arrows, pointing in opposite directions. They work on 5GHz.

(3) With VHF and above, height is everything. John added 3m to his mast so now has a clear signal from Canvey Island to Ockendon whereas before it was unreadable.



(4) Nigel M0ICH, spoke about adapting a CB antenna (27MHz) to the Amateur Band (28MHz). The CB whip is a vertical so needs a ground plane. Rather than rigid radials these are flexible lengths of wire. One radial would do, as it is only one band, but to be efficient in all directions 8 radials are used. To adjust from 27MHz to 28MHz he used an ATU. It was suggested the antenna be cut to the right size for a permanent feature.



(5) Andrew M0ONH found his Anytone 868 and the newer 878 are the same radio with different software, so decided to upgrade the firmware himself. Always a risk of breaking it; but that has never put him off before! The 1st attempt resulted in an error and the 2nd attempt didn't have the correct icons. Back to the website to download a different file and try again. It worked! The point is: upgrading an electronic device is a bit like asking for directions. If you turn right where it says turn left, you go wrong. If the directions are wrong then you ask someone else. Approach upgrades like directions; verify the source, check advice, follow logic one step at a time. Read full story at:

<https://onewham.uk/anytone-868-upgrade/>

(6) Can't advertise on the Net so here are 2 links to useful bits of kit:

- The 2M Slim Jim Kits
<https://hamtronics.uk/product/2m-slimjim-kit/>
- The Adaptor Kit
<https://hamtronics.uk/product/rf-adaptors/>

(7) TARG Vice-Chair John M0LFX has privileged access to a Vulcan Bomber where he is upgrading the 1960's radio sets to work with modern equipment.



Chair's Message

"The committee are working on our Return Strategy. We are hoping to promote socially-distanced outdoor events as soon as possible; subject to planning and obtaining permission. The first of these may be in July at Hadleigh Country Park for Satellite and DX day(s). In the interim, it has been a great time to dust off dormant radio projects and check out 'unvisited' bands or at least those you have not tried for a while. I have worked 10m contacts in Europe this month for the first time". Ken M0XKG

Ken endorses Zello

"This is a voice PTT service like DMR, though does not need any antennas and is easy to set up (no code plugs needed!). It's not Radio and was never intended to be.

QR code for
TARG Zello
Channel



It is suitable for home or mobile QTHs were antennas cannot be installed. It runs as a simple application on Android phones and dedicated radios. We follow the same protocol as Ham transmissions with our call signs. Often used for WX and propagation reports. It has excellent call quality. This makes it a really helpful "talkback" channel. TARG members have used Zello as a type of net while testing their amateur radio and asking for signal reports". Ken M0XKG