

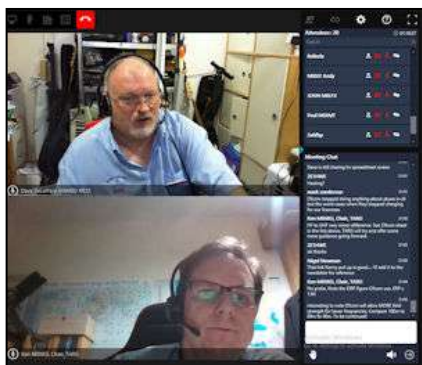
Thames Amateur Radio Group

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Nov Webinar

On Fri 6th Nov our guest was David De-La-Haye, M0MBD. He is the RSGB Representative for Region 12 (that includes us!). He covered a range of topics which, as promised, are referenced in this newsletter and attachment.



Screenshot shows David (top) and TARG Chair, Kenny M0XKG (bottom) with questions appearing in the chat box on the right.

TARG Beyond Exams

David explained that the RSGB have set up a scheme to motivate and inspire radio amateurs to progress in the hobby. The scheme is delivered by accredited clubs (of which TARG is one) and administered by the club Beyond Exams co-ordinator.

The TARG coordinator is **Andy M0IXY** (right)



He has written a two page introduction to the scheme and how it will work in TARG.

[This is attached to this newsletter.](#) Please read it and make contact with Andy to ask questions and register with the scheme.

Measuring Radiation

The webinar then touched on how to calculate the radiation coming out of your antenna. This has suddenly become a big issue as it is now part of our licence conditions. Unfortunately, that topic is not covered until page 86 of the Full Licence Manual

ERP = power to aerial × gain of aerial

For gains quoted with reference to a dipole (dBd), the formula is:

$$\text{Field strength (V/m)} = \frac{7 \times \sqrt{\text{ERP}}}{d}$$

where d is the distance to the antenna in meters and the ERP is the power fed to the antenna multiplied by the antenna gain.

Example:

At a distance of 30 metres from a 50W transmitter, and an antenna gain of 6dBd (4 times) the field strength will be:

$$\frac{7 \times \sqrt{50 \times 4}}{30} = \frac{7 \times 14 \cdot 14}{30}$$

= 3.3 Volts/metre.

However, help is at hand because Ofcom have published an interactive Excel spreadsheet, where you enter Power and Frequency and it calculates the minimum safe distance for you:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/file/0022/204529/emf-calculator-v0.1.1.xlsx

But, "It is important to understand that the Ofcom calculator is conservatively designed first and foremost to avoid false indications of compliance, so if that first screening gives discouraging results, that does NOT mean an automatic "fail"! It only means we need to take the assessment to the next level of detail, and repeat it using more accurate methods. We (RSGB) are working on a flowchart to guide amateurs through this process."

Confused? We'll keep you posted.

After Webinar Chat



The free mobile phone App called "Zello" has a text & conference call facility. TARG has its own channel. It is used often during the Fri net to pass info rather than waiting for your next over. Our channel burst into action after the Webinar for about 20mins of follow up with 7 people in the group contributing or listening. It is also used during the week for helpful updates of when certain bands are open.

18th Dec at 8pm

Our next Webinar is rather special as we have no guest, no speaker, no agenda and it promises to be rather confused and a load of fun. It's our Christmas Special. There will be a quiz and possibly a prize.

Before then, if you can, please join in the Friday Nets which has been a mainstay for TARG in the absence of meeting. Last week it was hosted by Oscar 2E1HWE, and this week it is hosted by the Happiest Ham, Dorothy M0LMR.

ISS Repeater

A phone app points you to the right bit of the sky as the international space station passes overhead.



VHF FM Uplink (to talk) 145.990 MHz & CTCSS 67Hz: UHF FM Downlink (to listen) 437.800 MHz