

Thames Amateur Radio Group

www.ThamesARG.org.uk
Twitter: @ThamesARG || Find us on Facebook



September Presentation

It was good to be back at Jubilee Hall for our first live presentation after lockdown. A lot of planning and preparation had gone into making the hall COVID-safe.



We rolled out the big guns with a talk and demonstration of the ultra-modern system of amateur radio capable of international communications that uses only low power and available to Foundation Licence holders. It is a system called Analogue Gateways and ticked all the boxes in terms of feedback from members. The specific gateway operated by Oscar is call sign "MB7ISX"

Oscar 2E1HWE brought the kit, gave the talk and explained how it all worked. There was also a scheduled Super Raffle with a hand held transceiver as the top prize so the lucky winner would use it to tune into the Gateway set up by Oscar for the next scheduled transmission.



Knowing this would be a popular subject, so as an experimental first for TARG we planned to live-stream the show for the benefit of those that were unable to attend in person. The event was advertised in the newsletter, on Twitter, on the Website and in a plug at the previous week's TARG net, where, incidentally, Oscar was also the Controller.

That was the plan. But, things didn't work out as expected for which TARG apologises, especially to Oscar and those who were hoping to watch via the internet.

There was a technical issue which meant the live-stream didn't work out. We identified the cause but it was too late to fix it and communicate a new link to members. At least we know "why" and now have a contingency to prevent the same problem happening again.

So the good news is that the presentation will be rescheduled at the September Committee Meeting so there will be the opportunity to see what you missed.

TARG Camping

According to the news reports, it's been the hottest summer ever due to Climate Change. So the TARG Team packed sun cream and set off for the Annual Operating sojourn, this time at a new camp site near Battlesbridge with better facilities than the previous location.



Yes, there was operating on all bands including calling in to the Friday Night TARG net to say a quick hello and get the call sign into the log.

Intended for those who were staying overnight to benefit from the variations in propagation from the Grey Line and the bands that only open after dark. And there was always Beer as an alternative.

The only bit of kit that didn't operate too well, and will be replaced, was the WX App.

What's Coming up TARG

It turned out only a small number of people attended Jubilee Hall in person for the first presentation of the year. This was rather disappointing and the Committee will need to reflect on why that was the case. At the AGM we received encouraging feedback on the way forward and had anticipated a good turn out.

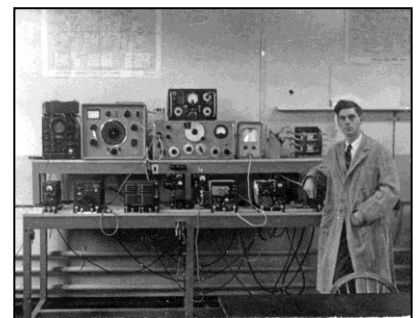
So, the first post lockdown TARG Nite – due to be 17th Sept has been cancelled, so please don't attend. This is to facilitate a Committee meeting. Keep an eye on the website for a revised diary for 2021.

TARG in RadCom

Whoo Hoo.... TARG got into the September issue of RadCom. Twice! On page 58 there is a whole page spread of the Field Operating Day at Southend Airport under the call sign "GB2VUL", and on page 91 was a report on the first TARG field Day post lockdown. Many thanks to Maggie M7LCF who wrote the articles and promoted TARG in the process.

The Vulcan article has excellent photos of the aircraft and of John M0LFX and Mark M0IEO on the radio which gave it an eye catching appeal. Eye catching indeed as the article was seen by (Revd Canon) Roger Davis G3IUZ, who contacted us:

"I was very interested to read your article particularly your reference to "onboard radio systems include MOD HF and VHF 1950's pieces of equipment". I was the first RAF Service Instructor on this then state-of-the-art equipment. I wrote the teaching handbooks on it and spent most of my three years in the RAF (1954-1957) as a mere acting-Corporal teaching V-bomber aircrew from Wing Commanders downwards converting from Lancasters etc (with their ancient R1155/T1154 Rx/Tx)!!"



I was based at RAF Yatesbury, No2 Radio School, in Wiltshire just as the three V-Bombers came into service. I equipped two new labs each with six sets of fully working STR18's - here is one set on the lower bench (with a rather younger me - now 85) and associated test equipment above as was expected to be supplied to all Maintenance Units at operational airfields".

