

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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We've been Busy

Since last month's newsletter a lot has been happening.



The January Radio Active (3RD Friday) was all about portable antennas. This proved very useful and showed the expertise that exists within the club.

Many different types of VHF and HF antennas were set up inside Jubilee Hall with the benefit of being able to speak with the operators to compare one design with another.

In true TARG style, there were commercial products on display and some innovative homebrew constructions.

At the February Club meeting we were pleased to welcome Dave Cutts M0TAZ, the RSGB representative for our Region. He spoke on two topics – WebSDR and RSGB updates. In line with the new(-ish) policy at TARG, the WebSDR was with a live feed rather than a power point demonstration. This made all the difference as it showed us what anybody was able to achieve by using their home computer to tune into Amateur Radio.



What's more, it gave us the opportunity to test some of new live streaming kit that you can see in this photo – so that people can watch via the internet (the link published on the website on the day). Spot the quality rotating camera facing the screen, the powerful desk microphone to pick up the audience and the radio microphone being worn by the presenter. Out of shot is a lap top to monitor what is seen by those watching the show.

This experiment was in direct response to feedback from club members. In addition there was a Committee Meeting and members giving up their Sunday afternoon to help at the TARG table at Canvey Rally.

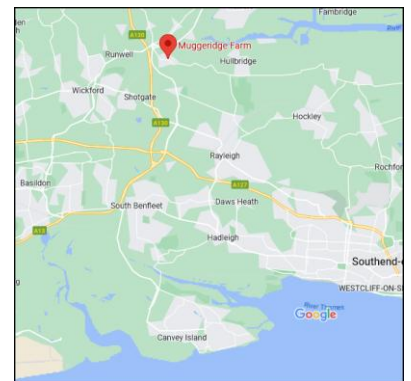


Then, for the Feb Radio Active we focused on CW. This was a real laugh! There were some technical difficulties as the online system had a problem with filtering the CW, and the echo in the room meant the Morse code decoder didn't decipher. But it was all part of the learning and helped us avoid such problems in the future.

What came out of that experience wasn't to focus on what went wrong, but rather the camaraderie and common purpose in sorting it out. Everyone commented on the sense of fun we had using different keys. If you weren't there, you missed a good evening.

Date for Diary: Sun 23 Apr

Again, in response to member's feedback, we have arranged another Field Day under the call sign GB2MFM. This stands for "Muggeridge Farm Meeting". We are returning to the fields behind the antiques village at Battlesbridge. So, lots to do radio wise and the chance to visit the shops and pub in between contacts.



As Promised...

TARG Membership Poll 2023
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As promised by the Committee at the AGM here is the Membership poll for 2023.
Your call signs are asked for checking only the membership can vote and that each member has only one submission taken forward for poll analysis. If more than one submission is made only the latest submission made will be used for analysis.
Your views matter and the Committee strongly urge all members to complete the poll as it will provide the feedback that the committee need to shape the Club & Radioactive right content & arrange activities that will provide interest, entertainment and enhance our members enjoyment of Amateur Radio.
You will notice there is a question about serving on the Committee. Clubs rely on strong committees to be great places to come to. We currently have a vacancy for an ordinary committee member (role not specific) and our Treasurer after many years of exceptional service is stepping down at the next AGM. We also co-opt temporary members to the committee if a particular need arises. So, if you think you have something to offer in helping to make TARG a go to choice for Radio Amateurs in our area please consider joining the committee.
The results of the poll will be published by email.
All multiple choice & the call sign questions as indicated by the red asterisk need to be completed to submit the poll.
nigel.midd@btinternet.com (not shared) [Switch account](#)
* Required
Please enter your call sign *
Your answer
What do you prefer for regular club activity? *
 A club night on the first Friday with a Radioactive on the third Friday of the month
 A club night on the first Friday of the month only
What content would you like to see on club nights? *
 Guest or club member presentations & social time
 Practical demonstrations & social time
 Social time only

At the AGM we promised a Poll seeking feedback to help inform the Committee on the direction of travel for the club.

So far, about a quarter of the existing club members have replied. To properly represent the views of the majority of club members, we would encourage you to complete the Poll if you haven't already done so. A reminder was sent out on 23rd Feb – so please reply asap.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next Club meeting on 4th March at 8pm where the topic is: Automatic Packet Reporting System. Not sure what that is – turn up (or tune in) to find out.