

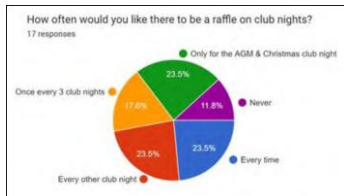
Thames Amateur Radio Group

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And our Survey said...

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



The results were emailed to every TARG member last week. Interesting divergence of views on some topics, 50-50 split on others, and a clear majority in favour of some things and not others.

The Committee is meeting in April to look at it in detail.

Don't Look Up

The Radio Active Night in March was a practical demonstration of operating a handheld amateur radio (available to every level of radio ham licence) to communicate via Satellites.

What made it so helpful to was see Andy M0IXY pointing his "arrow" antenna at the sky having used a Phone App called "Heavens Above" to predict the time and direction the next satellites would appear above the horizon.

When the International Space Station flew overhead, they had made a special pass just for us (!) Andy made APRS contacts as far away as Spain, Belgium and Norway all via VHF 145.825MHz, APRS Freq for the ISS. In contrast, as you know from the Friday Night Net, VHF can only travel a short distance in comparison when going from point to point at ground level.



All this excitement was streamed live online and so extra visual clues were given like the fact that one of the Satellites didn't go right overhead. It became visible at one point on the horizon and disappeared at another point on the horizon but the entire trajectory was obscured behind the sports hall building.

Also, seeing the antenna being rotated to find a better reception of circular polarisation. The online chat facility had viewers asking questions as the evening progressed.

Time to hand over

Belinda M6JNX joined the Committee in Sept 2011 and became Treasurer in Nov 2013. She has been a stalwart of the club in so many other capacities too, like providing refreshments at meetings and weekend training and helping arrange field days. At the AGM this Nov she will hand over to someone else – you ☺. Who will step up?



Treasure's role involves:

- Collecting membership and issuing receipts
- Supplying refreshments
- Maintaining the membership database
- Managing the bank account, and paying expenses
- Producing annual report for the AGM
- Attending Committee Meetings

March Club Night

Tune into 144.800MHz FM (in UK) and you'll hear a short burst of data, the sound of Automatic Packet Reporting System. It also confirms you are within range of someone using APRS. How to decode the packet of data, or encode your own; was demonstrated at the Club meeting on 3rd March, which was also live-streamed to TARG members.



Top Two Events in April's Diary

- 7th April: Pleased to welcome top speaker Steve Shorey G3ZPS who will bring historical radio kit to demonstrate how the Emergency Services Comms have evolved and improved with changes in new technology.
- 23rd April: Special Event Station at Muggeridge Farm, Maltings Rd, Battlesbridge SS11 7RF – more info nearer the time. The poll suggested field days were wanted, so turn up or call in on St. George's Day.

Membership Renewals

Post-COVID, as hams began to resume visiting their clubs, TARG responded with fresh ideas to engage our members. The number of regular club meetings has now resumed to pre-COVID levels, the style is to be more practical than theoretical as well as social, and the big bonus is to put our meetings online. Our Fri Night nets are often in double figures.

All this and more for the bargain subscription of £20 per year. Fees are due in April either in cash at the Club on 7th April or via BACS (add call sign in reference) and must be paid within 28 days.