

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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Club Meeting Part 1, Kite Antennas



Used in the First World War for hoisting antennas, and more recently for aerial photography, kites are still an option used by amateurs today; mostly for longer wavelengths as they are long antennas. But, these are not toy kites. These are much larger, far more stable and designed for the purpose.

Dave Cutts M0TAZ (our guest as the club meeting on 4 Aug) explained the precautions needed especially as the pull, on the size of the kite required, can be very strong. A special technique is required to bring it back down as you can't simply wind in the rope by hand. There some legal issues too. For example, the maximum vertical height is 60m from the ground and not within a certain distance of an airfield.

Club Meeting Part 2, Q&A

Dave is the RSGB Regional Rep so was able to take questions on the OfCom Consultation. By way of example,

- Q: "Why the increase in power levels?"
- A: Dave thought the 20W Foundation & Intermediate 100W new limits would be useful, but thought the new Full 1KW limit would be impracticable for all but a few operators. He noted it might be useful for contest operators as it place us on more of a level with other countries power limits

As usual, TARG members were able to watch at home via their computer (screen shot below) with a clear picture and audio.



Not This Year

We were getting all prepared for our second field day of the year (the first one having been rained-off) but, for unforeseen reasons, it has been necessary to cancel the TARG presence at the Military Show this weekend where we were hoping to operate from a tank. Not worry, always next year.

New Style Net

The Friday Night net is proving to be very popular, often in double figures, and a lively meeting place for TARG members and guests. We've had a review and decided that there will be a Net on the Second and Fourth Friday of each month. The 3rd Friday (and the 5th Fri is there is one) will be a night off.

AGM

How times flies, and we are already thinking about the AGM on Fri 3rd November.

There are some important topics to discuss and some important decisions to be made:

Firstly, we need a new Treasurer. Unless someone steps up the club will have to close down.

Secondly, clubs are evolving or being left behind. There are some innovative ideas up for discussion. For example, do we want to have physical meeting every month, or only in the summer? Should we be limited to Canvey Island or would it be better served if we hired venues on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

DMR

On the one of nets we found that several members had an interest in DMR (Digital Mobile Radio). These were popular a few years ago, and there is a resurgence of interest now.

They are an education in themselves as you need to learn about time-slots, colours (!) and code-plugs. It sounds complicated but, like many things in radio, once the penny drops it all very straight forward. One of the club members, Gary M5YRG, is willing to offer help and advice on the topic. A fine example of what being a member of a club is all about – helping each other.



Next Month's Meeting

1st Sept 8pm at Jubilee Hall. Pleased to welcome guest speaker, Andrew Thomas on the subject of UK Radio Astronomy. www.ukraa.com