

# Thames Amateur Radio Group

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## New TARG Net

On the 3rd Friday of every month at 8pm TARG are going to hold a DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) Net. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday being our FM Net via GB3DA).

Why DMR? TARG, along with many other Radio Clubs, is evolving. We have already embraced the live-stream for those who live too far away to physically attend the club, and now we are making our Nets go further too. Our November DMR net was joined by TARG Club Member, Jo, using the call sign:



VK2 / M0JOZ / P  
VK, is Australia.

DMR is another option in the Radio Amateur's tool kit. And one convenient thing about it is, you don't even need a specialist DMR radio. Check the Diary Page of the Website for way to join in. TARG are using Brandmeister Talk Group 2356141.

## Club Meeting on 01 Dec

How easy it is to set up DMR? The December meeting had two presentations to explain:

TARG Chair, M0LHT, explained what a code plug is (an Excel type file of call signs and repeaters). You need to download this from the web into your radio:

- Download the file onto your computer
- Download a programme that can read the file
- Add some extra bits like your call sign and DMR ID
- Transfer the info into your radio from your computer

Gary, M5YRG, demonstrated a range of hot spots that connect your radio to the internet making DMR comms international.



Picture shows the camera for the live stream zooming in on one of the hot spots being held for demo purposes. You can also spot the home made mince pies and cream in the background, a treat reserved for those who were able to attend in person. Thank you Maggie.

## Free to a Good Home



Some years ago I was given a 30m length of Heliac cable to run from my shack at the front of the house, around the side of the house, past the garage, down through tubes under the lawn and reappear at the far end of the garden for a VHF Yagi on a rotator. Heliac is very efficient for VHF frequencies, hence the N-type plug (photo). Now it is my turn to pass the favour on. If you have a genuine use for it, and can collect from Uppingham – it's all yours.

I'm keeping the rotator for my HF antenna which has a single rigid radial for each frequency, that makes it very directional so the rotator can be used to swivel it to get the best reception. The same principle of the article below...

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## Spot the Antenna

TARG Vice-Chair John M0LFX got up close and personal to this aircraft at Southend Airport and noted the vertical antenna. Being very directional in its propagation, radio communication directly ahead would be in a null.



## TARG Xmas Meal

If you've booked but not paid, then please settle up a.s.a.p with our Treasurer, as we have paid a hefty deposit for the table and don't want to be out of pocket on the day.

## Exciting Stuff

After the DMR presentations, there was a committee meeting where we discussed an outline for 2024:

- More field days, especially over the summer
- Possible new schedule of club nights
- Canvey Rally

Some of these plans may be at short notice, and while members will receive an email invitation, if you have yet to join TARG but would like to attend then keep an eye on the Diary page of the website or join in one of our Friday night nets.