

# Thames Amateur Radio Group

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## Spring Field Days



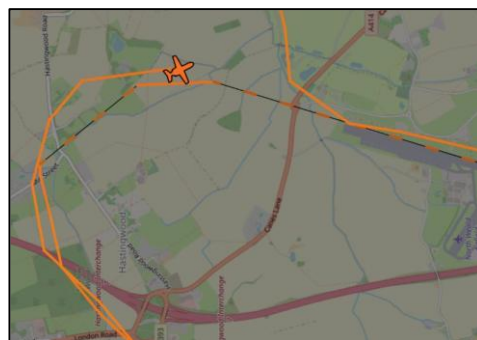
AOTA is another reason to get on air. This is where Amateur Radio Operators will pitch up at or near an Airfield and call CQ on VHF, HF and other modes (but not repeaters) giving contestants the chance reply, note the AOTA callsign and add it to the log. Certificates are awarded with a Bronze for 5 contacts, 25 for Silver and 50 for Gold.

AOTA comes with a good pedigree as it is part of RAFARS – the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society (hence the airfields connection).

To help promote the hobby TARG where at North Weald (famous WW2 airfield) operating under callsign: GB0NWA. Look carefully at the photo and you'll see the HF and VHF/UHF antennas.



Twenty-nine contacts on Saturday and 34 on Sunday. As an unexpected bonus, the TARG team got the see and hear a Jet Provost take-off, fly circuits and land while tracking it on Flight Radar 24.



Next weekend (11-12 April), we do it all again for AOTA at Southend Airport using call sign, MX0VUL. The best way you can support the members on the ground is to keep an eye on the TARG Facebook page which will give updates on operating frequencies, and our own club “session” Ap.

## Networking

Don't forget the TARG nets on a Friday night. We operate on FM, DMR and CW. These are more than use a chin-wag: there are often some very useful technical tips and no such thing as a silly question.

## Subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again. The annual TARG subscription is a bargain at £20 and due on 1 April. This year we are collecting payment in two parts; £10 due now with the remainder to be paid after the AGM. These can be paid via BACS (preferred) or in cash at any of the in-person meetings at Wickford.

The subscriptions are to pay for our club insurance, affiliation with the RSGB, and hire of the meeting room and the enviable cost of running any club.

From a members' point of view, a mere £10 opens the door to so much that TARG has to offer and all you have to do is take part.