

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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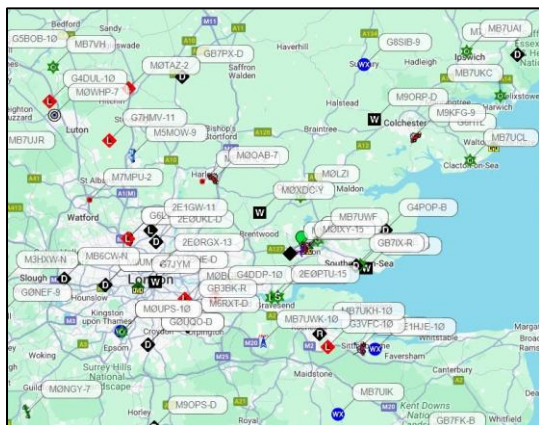


Bluesky member [@gx0trg.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/gx0trg.bsky.social) | non-member <https://bsky.app/profile/gx0trg.bsky.social>

July In-Person Meeting

This was held at our Wickford Premises and proved to be very enlightening for two reasons: (1) The subject being presented, and (2) The attendees.

Attendees: In addition to the people in the room we live streamed the meeting and had online viewers from Essex, Suffolk, Devon and Spain. This aspect of the club has really taken off and options on how to further enhance this benefit are under discussion.



The July topic was APRS (a location tracking facility used by Radio Amateurs but originally developed for the military), and LORA (Long Range Low Power) which, like APRS, can track and send short text messages. Why would we need this when a mobile phone does the same? Because mobile phones don't work everywhere and, like all internet-based systems, can be turned off at any time. The map shows examples of live APRS transmissions from Radio Hams.



Some handheld Amateur Radios have APRS already built in, or there are stand-alone models available. There is even a phone App. The value of the live presentation was the ability to ask questions and get guidance from radio hams who are very familiar with how it all works.

The text feature (rather like the old pagers) can handle up to 256 characters and can be used for WX reports or free text.

July and August

Every Friday evening, except for the 5th Friday of the month – we hold a Radio Net via GB3DA or DMR. The value of these nets is that they are an encouragement to use live radio and practice radio etiquette. Sometimes the nets have a technical focus but always with a valuable social aspect too.

These nets will continue over the summer, but there is no August face-to-face meeting. Time for our summer break.

Top Class Face-to-Face Training

Not too late to recommend your friends for the TARG intensive Foundation Weekend Training Course on 25 & 26 July at our Wickford venue. It's a day and a half of intensive teaching by knowledgeable and experienced TARG trainers leading up to the exam on the afternoon of the last day. Timings for instruction 09:00 to 17:00 Saturday. And, 09:00 to 15:00 on Sunday. The Exam will start at 15:30 and last for 60 mins. The cost is £60.

Questions & enquiries to
<https://thamesarg.org.uk/contact>

<https://thamesarg.org.uk/training>

Field Event: Rettendon



TARG will be returning to the *Echoes of History Show* over the weekend of **18/19 July** at

Whitehouse Farm,
The Living Memorial,
Rettendon, Essex, CM3 8DL.

There won't be a fixed TARG stall but our members will be operating military equipment on Amateur Radio bands. You can even have a go yourself under supervision. Just ask for a demo.

The military re-enactors at this spectacular event can't use real military guns, but radio amateur can use real military radio. Well worth a visit. Entry ticket required.

<https://www.echoesofhistoryshow.com/>