

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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It's Good to Talk

Radio is all about communication. A good way to have communication between local radio amateur clubs is to meet up – so that is why we put out an invitation and were delighted to welcome representatives from Essex CW and CARS (Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society) to the TARG October meeting.

We were privileged that Essex CW sent two of their top Morse Code operators and we have enjoyed our inter-club friendship for many years. In July, Essex CW provided us with trainers and special equipment for an evening of Morse Code tuition for which we were grateful.

Words Without Wires



GB4WWW was our Special Event Call sign for this field day on 19 September.

Stow Maries is a WW1 airfield in Essex. They hosted a military comms and re-enactment display with items from heliographs to encryption.

The museum is tucked away along a country road, but has comprehensive information boards and original huts with WW1 items.

Very atmospheric and educational.

TARG had three representatives present. John M0LFX brought along some of his collection of WW2 Lancaster Bomber radios – and immediately struck up a good rapport with adjacent displays.

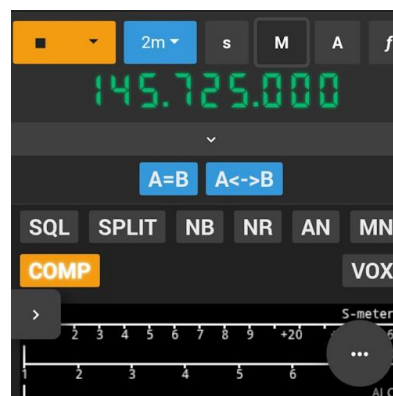
Our newest member was there too, M7YMG, who brought a digital handheld and had communications with the local repeater, GB3DA, and on the S20 calling channel. It was an amazing contrast of the old and new ways of sending words without wires.

Remote Control

One of the challenges that faces many newly qualified radio hams is not having their own top-of-the-range radios. In the old days the radio club might have a set they could use once a month. We've moved on since then. TARG members have the ability, via the internet, operate a VHF/HF radio via the website.

It doesn't stop there. We regularly hold a VHF net via GB3DA which has a good range around Essex and into some of the neighbouring counties like North Kent and South Suffolk.

So how was it a TARG member joined in from Canada?



Our Secretary, Andy M0IXY, has set up his home ICOM transceiver so that it can be operated remotely over the internet. He may have been in Canada, but the radio was in Basildon and he was able to operate his radio as if he was sitting in front of it. Clever stuff.

JOTA

Jamboree on the Air is where scouts learn about radio communications. With our track record of training cadets to Foundation Licence level, we jumped at this chance to introduce amateur radio to the scouts. TARG are helping out over three days in October.

Remember, Remember, the 6th Nov

AGM time again, but this one will be especially important. This edition of the newsletter demonstrates how TARG is moving with the times. Back in the day, clubs didn't mix and SSB and CTCSS was a technical as it got. Nowadays radio has evolved into DMR, hotspots and the internet. But, importantly, TARG has not forgotten our roots in Morse Code and field events for HF "real radio".

The AGM aims to elect a new committee with a new constitution so that TARG can continue to serve the current and next generation of radio amateurs. Exciting times. Participation is the key. See you there.