

Newsletter

Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society

www.g3mdg.org.uk

September 2021

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Ashley Green Village Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP

Welcome

August is generally classified as the 'holiday' month and as such things are a little quieter all round, we start September (4th and 5th) with our annual SSB Field Day, again at Wiggington, the first time in 2 years due to the intervention of covid-19 last year, let's hope the weather holds out.

My thanks go to Jeremy for his article this month, without which the newsletter would be very thin.

With the winter months approaching our programme for the meetings at Ashley Green village hall is beginning to take shape with a talk months, if there's a particular subject you'd like us to cover, please contact the committee (email address at the bottom of the page).

I've not heard back from Mike Richards yet, I need to check in with him again as I'm sure his Zoom sessions can be informative and interesting.

Bryan M0IHY

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Contact details

Chairman - Jeremy Browne (G3XZG) Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)
Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG) Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY) Angie Page (M6WTL)

All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on cdars-committee@googlegroups.com

Chairman's Ramble

So, that appears to have been our summer, I seem to remember some hot days in July but my purchase of suntan lotion has been largely wasted. Apparently it doesn't keep till next year, though I can't think why, and I can't find any alternative uses, though I guess lubricating sections of pole to make them easier to get apart, might be one of them.

After a creditable result in VHF field-day, considering we were on 3 bands only, operated for a little while on 5 watts on 144 MHz and shut down for a couple of hours on Saturday evening, we are entering SSB field-day again this year, after the inevitable covid gap last September. We will be back at Wigginton though we have been exploring the possibility of using land at Ashley Green. There is some uncertainty there about who owns what of the land around the hall. We had looked at the land to the rear, which is well screened and further from the houses and had been told this was owned by the parish council. It seems though that they may not own some or all of it, as we have been told now that they only maintain it for the county council. Another possibility is a field at the back of the Golden Eagle, with a tempting connecting gate. We have not been able to find out who owns it, but do know that it has been the subject of a failed planning application for housing development.

Wigginton is a good and well-tryed site, but its always useful to have other strings to our bow, so we will continue to explore these.

On a sadder note, we again send our condolences to Stewart Baker, G3RXQ whose wife Marie died this month. Stewart is a longstanding friend of many in the club and also came to give us the benefit of his knowledge and experience with talks before moving up to Cumbria. Dave, G8FMC was able to attend the funeral.

We have also been given a general coverage receiver and power supply, together with a home-made LF converter, by the widow of John Davis, who though a licensed amateur had not been active for some years. We are grateful for this and have sent a thank-you letter.

Thanks to Malcolm's efforts, we were able to put the talk on computer logging on 25th August both on the club YouTube channel and website for those who could not be there. We hope to continue this, at least with the monthly talks over the winter. Any feedback or suggestions for improvements are welcome.

Many thanks again to all those who have helped over the month in many ways and I look forward to seeing you at meetings or on the GB3TU net.

Well, to close, back to the autumnal feel to the weather. I will be staying overnight in the club tent next Saturday, so I just hope its a bit warmer than last year, when even a couple of glasses of Matt's whiskey didn't help much in the end. I must remember to bring a thick sweater.

73's for now, Jeremy.

Editor's Muse

Of all the things you could use suntan lotion for, Jeremy has come up with the ultimate use for 'out of date' lotion! Well done Jeremy, you're probably the only owner of antenna poles that will never get sunburn!!

Thanks to Malcolm (G3ZNU) for his talk on various computer logging programs and their Pro's and Con's at the 2nd club meeting in August, it was recorded so keep an eye on the club website for the link.

As a result of Malcolm's sterling work with his talk I've created a page of various logging software (all free with the exception of one), with URL's to the manuals, downloads and any helpful guides, page counts are also given for those ambitious enough to want to print them!

Bryan M0IHY

Pay it forward...

Yes, it's the title of a film, nothing whatsoever to do with radio, but the principle is the same, it's the story that was inspired by a school assignment, young Trevor comes up with an idea that changes many lives. He decides that instead of returning a favour, he will pay it forward by doing good deeds for three people...

For me, studying for the Full licence was made far easier by the help and encouragement given by the Bath Based Distance Learning team at the time, I certainly wouldn't have done as well without their help, which leads me to the subject of helping others where we can, there's no count on the number of people we can offer help to, that's an indeterminate number, that's what this hobby is all about.

At our first club meeting in August at Ashley Green village hall a question was raised about giving assistance to those who would like help, it was also mentioned that it would be a good idea to put this out to the members email group and get a feel for how many people would like some help, I agreed to put this in the newsletter.

To get a feel for what you want, could you please contact me at bryanpage1@btinternet.com with what licence you're studying for and what subjects you want assistance with, I'm sure we can collectively get our heads together and come up with something to help you. This could simply be a splinter group at a club meeting, or email on an individual basis (as with the Bath Distance Learning group) depending on whether you can attend a club meeting, or not.

At the end of the day this will be driven by what you want, so if you need assistance with your studying, please contact me.

Bryan M0IHY

Bath Based Distance Learning

Having mentioned the Bath Based Distance Learning team above, I suppose I ought give a little more information about them.

The Bath Based Distance Learning team helped nearly 800 students to pass the Advanced (now called the Full Licence) exam under the old syllabus. After reworking their training material, the team are now planning their first course for the Full level exam syllabus. The course will run from March to June this year.

Students will receive weekly work packages via a virtual classroom and will have access to weekly online tutorials. There will be no charge for the training, but applicants will need to work through a pre-course classroom and quiz to be eligible for a place. The deadline for course applications is Wednesday the 17th of February. To request full details and an application form, please e-mail Steve, G0FUW via g0fuw@tiscali.co.uk

Whether they ask for a £30 deposit as a keeper (this is what I had to do), returned if you stay the course (minus the postage for the cheque), or given to charity should you not stay the course, I don't know, it's well worth the effort though. The main difference I can see is the pre-course classroom and quiz, this I didn't do, don't be put off by it though as this would be a marker of your strengths and weaknesses and I assume they would adjust the individuals training accordingly.

If you're looking to train for your Full Licence, why not give it a try, places are limited, so don't leave it too late to apply.

Bryan M0IHY

Computer Logging Programs

No, this is not a redefinition of how to set up various computer logging programs, this in itself becomes a minefield of copyright and other problems, so instead of reinventing the wheel (that was invented in the 4th century BC in Lower Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), where the Sumerian people inserted rotating axles into solid discs of wood. It was only in 2000 BC that the discs began to be hollowed out to make a lighter wheel) I'll point you in the direction of the originators PDF manuals, guides and programs and the platform on which the software runs.

Ham Radio Deluxe is the only chargeable program in the list. If you check out the help manuals you'll find everything you need to know to get you up and running, enjoy...

Bryan M0IHY

FLDigi (Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, FreeBSD)

- Manual (534 pages) - <http://www.w1hkj.com/files/fldigi/fldigi-help.pdf>
- Beginners Guide - <http://www.w1hkj.com/beginners.html>
- Program download - <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi>

DXLab (Windows, Linux, Macintosh - comprises 8 individually linked programs)

- Commander (72 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/Commander/Commander.pdf
- DXView (43 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/DXView/DXView.pdf
- DXKeeper (281 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/DXKeeper/DXKeeper.pdf
- Launcher (22 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/DXLabLauncher/Launcher.pdf
- Pathfinder (12 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/Pathfinder/Pathfinder.pdf
- PropView (13 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/PropView/PropView.pdf
- SpotCollector (98 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/SpotCollector/SpotCollector.pdf
- WinWarbler (125 pages) - www.ambersoft.com/DXLab/Winwarbler/Winwarbler.pdf
- Beginners Guide - <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/dxlabwiki/GettingStarted>
- Program download - <https://www.dxlabsuite.com/download.htm>

Log4OM2 (Windows)

- Manual (230 pages) - https://www.log4om.com/l4ong/usermanual/Log4OMNG_ENU.pdf
- Beginners Guide - <https://www.k0pir.us/new-log4om-2-logging-program-install-and-initial-setup/>
- Program download - <https://www.log4om.com/download/>

N1MM+ (Windows)

- Manual (1029 pages) - <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/mmfiles/n1mmplus-pdf/>
- Beginners Guide - <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/getting-started/>
- Program download - <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/downloads/n1mm-full-install/>

Minos2 (Windows 7 and above)

- Manual (107 pages) - [https://pilotfiber.dl.sourceforge.net/project/minos/Minos V2.3.0 Documentation \(V2.3.0.2a\).pdf](https://pilotfiber.dl.sourceforge.net/project/minos/Minos%20V2.3.0%20Documentation%20(V2.3.0.2a).pdf)
- Beginners Guide - [Within the manual](#)
- Program download - <http://minos.sourceforge.net/download.html>

Ham Radio Deluxe (Windows)

- Manual(s) - <https://support.hamradiodeluxe.com/support/solutions/51000018230>
- Introduction - [5 articles](#)
- Logbook - [35 articles](#)
- Satellite Tracking - [14 articles](#)
- Rig Control - [17 articles](#)
- Digital Master (DM-780) - [12 articles](#)
- Rotator - [9 articles](#)
- Program download - <https://downloads.hamradiodeluxe.com/setup.exe>

CDARS and Field Day

“Are those two poles both supposed to be vertical?”

Q. “Why isn't the rig coming on?”

A. “Ah, its because there's no power supply.”

“Sorry I can't find the foot-switch as its sunk in the mud.”

These phrases are not perhaps a fair reflection of CDARS field-day entries over the years, but they certainly stick in the memory.

For many years now, G3MDG/P has taken part in the September contest, usually SSB field-day, but occasionally we have entered the region 1 144 MHz contest instead.

Looking back over the years, brings back memories of members who have moved away, though we are still in touch with some, one or two ringers such as the Czech diplomat with his own crate of beer, and one or two who are now sadly silent keys.

We have operated from a number of sites and experienced almost everything that the British weather has to throw at us, apart I think from snow. Sites have included a farm at Hastow, a caravan at a member's home on Chalfont Heights, A field by cress beds at Sarrat, and latterly, and most often, the field at Wigginton. Access has sometimes been interesting, in particular Sarrat, which lay at the bottom of a steep and narrow lane, where there always seemed to be a horsebox coming in the opposite direction. I think half my taxi fare to get there one year was caused by having to reverse uphill.

Accommodation and facilities have also varied, from a caravan and portaloo, to the luxury of a campavan with awning owned by a member, Simon, who was last heard of in the West Indies, down to tents. The campavan was the most popular as it provided, sleeping, cooking and coffee-making facilities all in one on site.

As I said, weather has varied. Oddly, unlike the mythical summers of childhood, its not the sun that I remember, but the pouring rain at Wigginton one year, (the footswitch in the mud incident); and the ice on the tents on waking up on Sunday morning at Sarrat, with James' heroic attempts to get the generator going.

Equipment too has varied, from large (and definitely legal of course), linears, to entries as this year in the 100 watt section, with antennas including beams, Windoms, Doublets and dipoles. Usually we have been in a section which enables restricted power but more than one antenna. This has varied as the categories of entry have altered from year to year, but we have always passed any RSGB inspection that has occurred.

Its fair to say that as far as results go, we have always been creditable, without pulling up any trees, (not even to site the antenna), but the main object, given the facilities available to us has been to have an enjoyable weekend with plenty of radio in good company, and I think we have always achieved that.

Let's hope for a good weekend this year.

Jeremy, G3XZG.

Long Grass results



The scoring is quite simple, 5 of a kind (letters, or numbers) gets you 5 points for the QSO, reducing to 2 points for only 2 of a kind. Multiple instances of letters/numbers are allowed. 1 point is given if there is a "G" in the callsign.

The following are the final scores:

	Multiple instances			Longest QSO		Max miles per Watt	
	G3XZG	G3ZNU	M0JCQ				
A	8	10	20	M0JCQ	12,216	M0JCQ	122.17
B	2	0	2	G3XZG	7,034	G3XZG	70.34
C	2	4	2	G3ZNU	2,166	G3ZNU	21.67
D	4	11	6				
E	4	4	10				
F	2	10	4				
G	9	34	41				
H	0	0	4				
I	0	2	6				
J	0	0	0				
K	2	0	4				
L	0	0	6				
M	0	11	2				
N	4	2	2				
O	0	0	6				
P	0	2	8				
Q	0	0	4				
R	0	2	12				
S	0	2	4				
T	0	2	2				
U	0	6	4				
V	0	0	4				
W	0	0	0				
X	2	0	0				
Y	0	2	0				
Z	4	4	2				
	43	108	155				

No multiple instances of numbers took place, interestingly the "G" allocation is quite high, especially from Malcolm and James. "J" and "W" were the only 2 letters not to have multiple instances.

Well done and thank you to those who took part.

Bryan M0IHY

September

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	04-05 Sep	1300-1300	SSB Field Day
Mon	06 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Wed	15 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Thu	23 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Mon	27 Sep	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	04-05 Sep	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest
Sun	05 Sep	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	07 Sep	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Sep	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Sep	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Thu	09 Sep	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	14 Sep	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Sep	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Sep	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Sun	19 Sep	0900-1200	70MHz AFS Contest
Tue	21 Sep	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Tue	28 Sep	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

October

HF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sun	03 Oct	0500-2300	DX Contest
Mon	04 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Wed	13 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Sun	17 Oct	1900-2030	RoLo CW
Mon	18 Oct	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	28 Oct	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB

VHF

Day	Date (2021)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Oct	1400-1400	Oct 432MHz-245GHz Contest
Tue	05 Oct	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Oct	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Oct	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	12 Oct	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Oct	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	14 Oct	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	17 Oct	0900-1300	50MHz AFS Contest
Tue	19 Oct	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Oct	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Oct	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

Welcome back to Air Miles this month James, seems you're back with a vengeance!

So, how have we done this month?

MFSK rules the roost putting FT8 into 2nd place, 20m is the favoured band

(Running totals in red)

General

Most Miles

M0JCQ		489,658	2,931,605	
G3ZNU		75,011	831,759	
G3XZG		69,001	588,683	

Most QSO's

M0JCQ		183	1,894	
G3ZNU		94	823	
G3XZG		54	416	

Longest QSO

M0JCQ		YB8RSE(12216)	YB8RSE(12216)	
G3XZG		YB4IR(7034)	VK4DX(10286)	
G3ZNU		UX0UN(2166)	YB1BML(7316)	

Shortest QSO (miles)

G3ZNU		G4TBG(7)	G4WJS(7)	
M0JCQ		2E0FEH(34)	G3MEH(0)	
G3XZG		GB0SNB(39)	G4UZE(8)	

Average per QSO (miles)

M0JCQ		2,676	1,548	
G3XZG		1,278	1,415	
G3ZNU		798	1,011	

Maidenhead Squares

M0JCQ		183	1,018	
G3ZNU		94	527	
G3XZG		51	358	

QSO Economy Drive

High miles per Watt

M0JCQ		122.17(100)	117.63(100)	
G3XZG		70.34(100)	102.86(100)	
G3ZNU		21.67(100)	73.16(100)	

Low miles per Watt

G3ZNU		0.08(100)	0.07(100)	
M0JCQ		0.34(100)	4.10(100)	
G3XZG		0.39(100)	0.08(100)	

By Band

160m

30m

G3XZG		12	68	
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12m

2m

G3ZNU		61	148	
M0JCQ			373	

80m

20m

M0JCQ		136	820	
G3XZG		16	140	
G3ZNU			35	

10m

70cm

60m

17m

M0JCQ		22	239	
G3XZG		1	12	
G3ZNU			44	

6m

23cm

G3ZNU		33	576	
G3XZG		25	173	
M0JCQ			314	

40m

15m

M0JCQ		25	25	
G3XZG		9		

4m





'Air Miles', how far have we gone? / results

By Mode





CW

G3XZG		54	416	
G3ZNU		5	30	

FT8

G3ZNU		88	707	
M0JCQ		24	642	







SSB

M0JCQ		25	526	
G3ZNU		1	84	

MFSK

M0JCQ		134	697	
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By Country

M0JCQ		40	283	
G3ZNU		18	190	
G3XZG		22	167	

This month's totals

Countries visited	-	48
Most visited Country	-	Germany - 44 times
Total Mileage	-	633,670
Total QSO's	-	331
Average miles per QSO		1,914.41
Total locators visited	-	243
Most visited locator		JO22 9 times

August Bonus Points

	<u>Letters Achieved</u>	<u>Bonus miles</u>
M0JCQ	26	65,176
G3ZNU	26	63,338
G3XZG	25	56,794

The first instance of the letter results in double mileage for that QSO, bonus miles will be tallied at the end of the year.

'Air Miles' theme for September

"Numbers, 0-9" is this month's theme. QSO's containing the numbers 0-9 within the callsign will count towards a bonus, the numbers can be in any position within the callsign and you can have more than 1 number in the callsign.

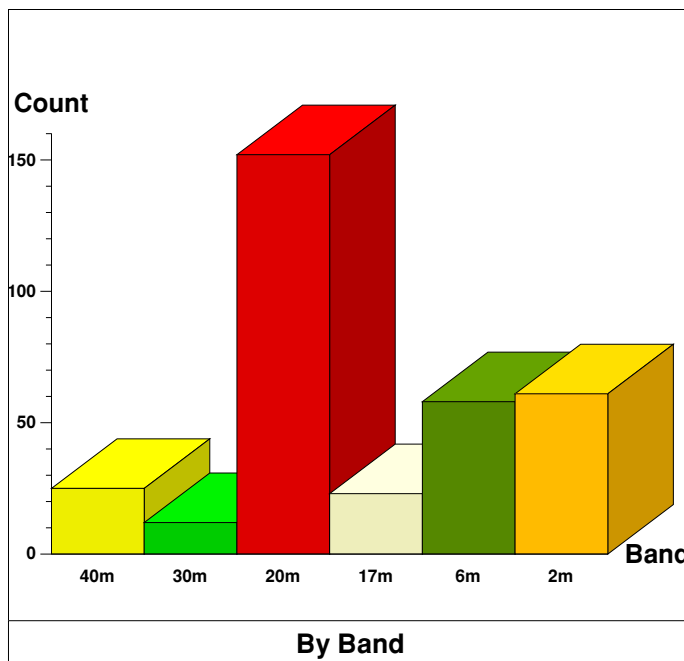
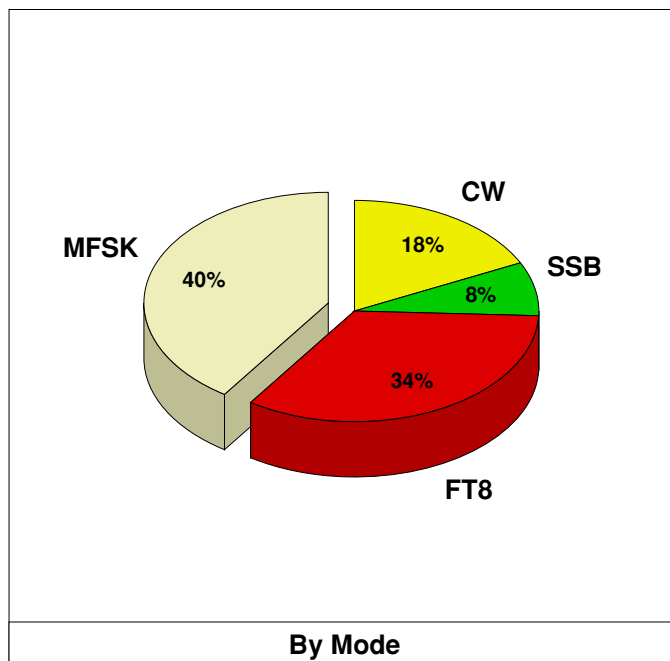
Scoring will be 1 point for each number in the callsign, bonus miles will be decided on the day.

Watch out for more interesting themes for Air Miles.

Bryan M0IHY

'Air Miles', September at a glance

This month at a glance (accumulative)

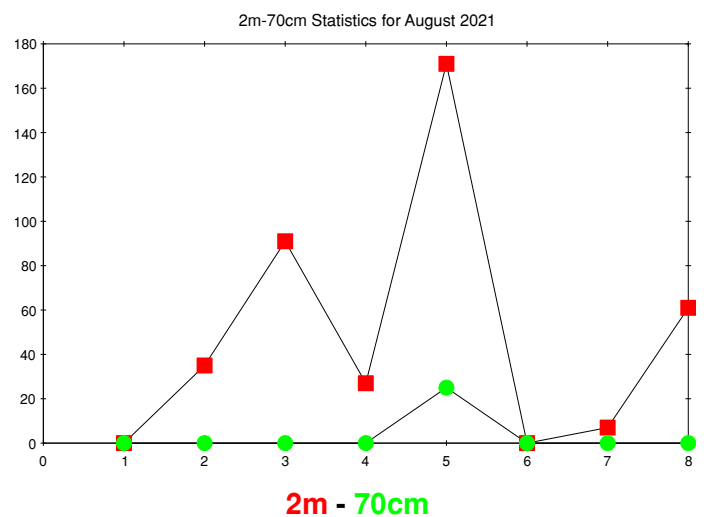
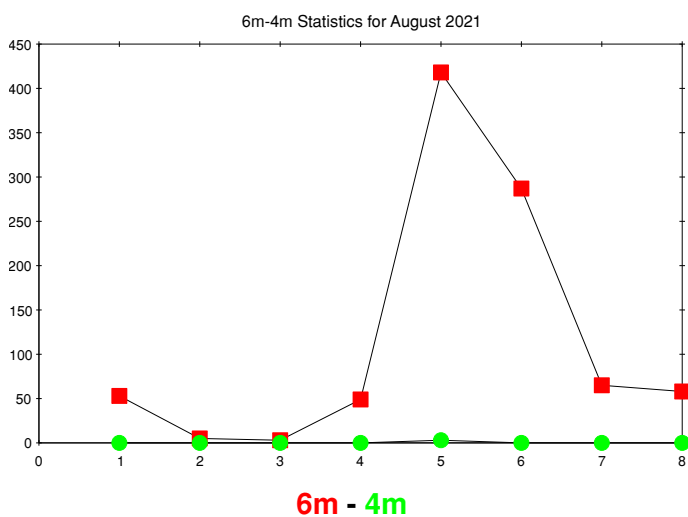
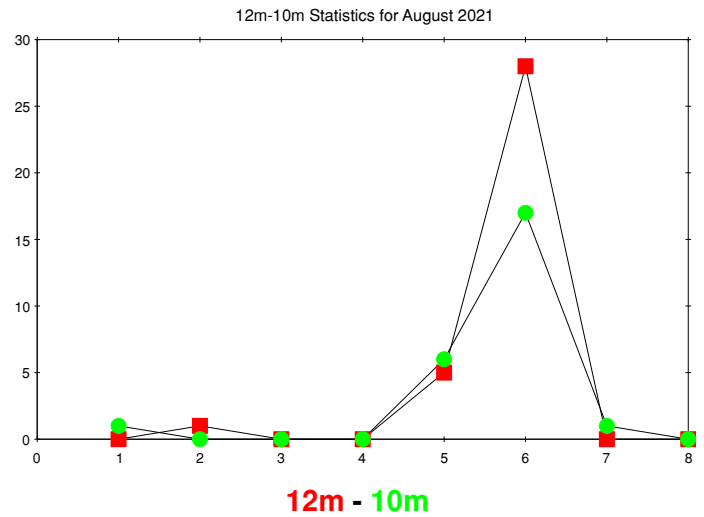
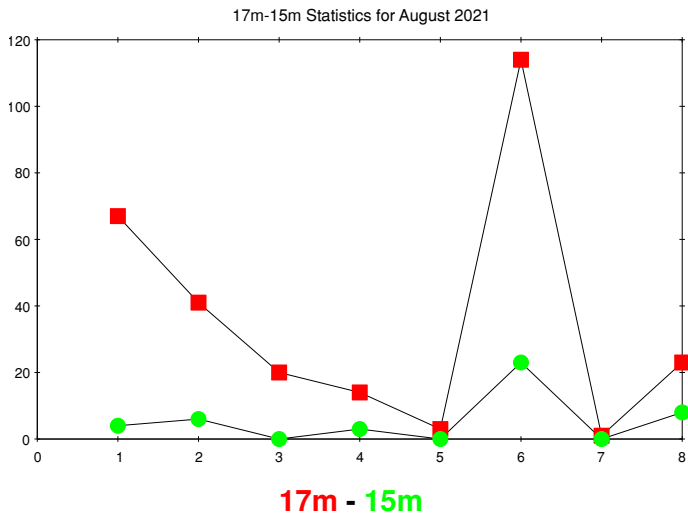
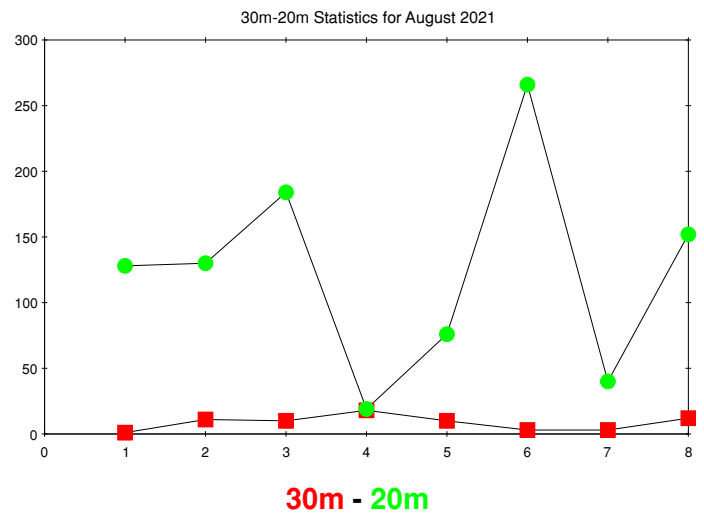
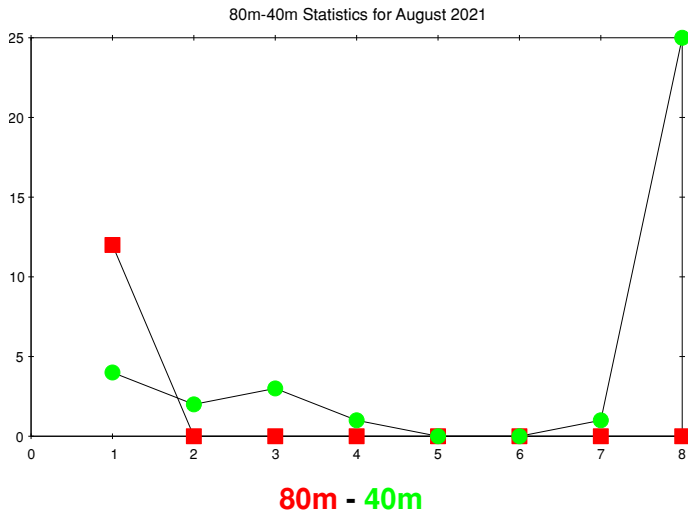


No pretty display this month, far too crowded requiring a magnifying glass to see the results!

Germany	44	Sweden	3
Russia	38	Wales	3
England	33	Bulgaria	2
Italy	19	Greece	2
Spain	19	India	2
Netherlands	14	Serbia	2
Poland	14	Switzerland	2
Finland	11	Belize	1
Hungary	11	Estonia	1
United States	11	Guernsey	1
Scotland	9	Hong Kong	1
Czech Republic	8	Iceland	1
Ukraine	8	Ireland	1
Belgium	7	Jersey	1
France	7	Kuwait	1
Canada	6	Latvia	1
Croatia	6	Norway	1
Denmark	6	Oman	1
Indonesia	6	People's Republic of China	1
Romania	5	Portugal	1
Austria	4	Republic of China (Taiwan)	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	Singapore	1
Slovenia	4	Turkey	1
Japan	3	United Kingdom	1

QSO Countries

'Air Miles', bands by the month



Any other business

David Dix (G8LZE)

Dave is known either personally or through QSO's to many of us, particularly those who take part in contests and joined the club last year as he was giving his points to CDARS and NRC in our collective contest activity.

Malcolm has seen a posting on the VHF contesting Facebook group by Carl M0ICR that Dave died in the early hours of 27th August, but at the moment we have no further details.

Sadly, another silent key.

73, Jeremy.