NEWSLETTER

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C.D.A.R.S.

AUGUST 2023

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Last month several members of our club visited the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park.

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

VHF Field Day

Wiggington 2023

Wiggington 2023

With knee high hay and damp ground, VHF Field Day at Wiggington has come around again.

QSO Maps

6m, 4m and 2m maps of all the QSO's made over the 2 days, some interesting results there.

Morse Code

How S.O.S. came about and its use today.

Spotlight

Atlanta, childhood home of Martin Luther King jnr, one of Jeremy's QSO's from 2022.

Want to write something for the newsletter? Then you can contact me on bryanpage1@btinternet.com

If you want something or have anything for sale, why not drop me an email and I'll put it in 'For sale and wanted'.

Morse links

If you're interested in Morse code, here are a few useful links:

FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

https://fists.co.uk

Wikihow

How to learn Morse Code

https://www.wikihow.com/Learn-Morse-Code

The Ham Whisperer

Morse Code Course

http://www.hamwhisperer.com/p/morse-code-course.html

LEARN MORSE CODE

LEARN MORSE CODE in one minute !

http://www.learnmorsecode.com/

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

https://lcwo.net/

Tools for learning Morse Code

https://www.aa9pw.com/morsecode/

Celebrating the unique art form of Morse Code

https://cwops.org/

Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

http://www.g4fon.net/

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August 2023

Regulars

6

Other

Reviews

None this month

Features

None this month

Chairman - Dave Keston (G8FMC)
- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)
- Roger Fellows (M7RMF)

Secretary - Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)
- James Stevens (M0JCQ)

Treasurer - Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
- Peter Holliday (2E0PTH)

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

Editor - Bryan Page (M0IHY)

Welcome


Bryan M0IHY

No HF contests this month.

Thanks to Peter (2E0PTH) and Mark (M7EFR) for their VHF Field Day photo's, also to Malcolm (G3ZNU) for the QSO maps.

Spotlight is another of Jeremy's QSO's, this time from Atlanta, childhood home of Martin Luther King jnr, and host to several large American corporations, in all a very interesting place.

There are no **Reviews**, or **Features** this month, if anyone would like to see their own personal Review, or Feature in the newsletter please email me the details.

The club was invited to the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park on the 28th of June, thanks to Malcolm (G3ZNU) for the pictures and write-up..

Next month (2nd and 3rd of September) is HF Field Day, again at Wiggington, for those attending please take lots of pictures (I'm sure there's a David Bailey (famous 1960's photographer) amongst you all) to include in the September newsletter. Angie (M6WTL) and I will be at the G-QRP Convention at Telford on both those days, hopefully I'll have something of interest to say.

A big thank you to Mark (M7EFR) for taking on looking after the club generator and tent, this has now given me the opportunity to sort out the shed that it was held in for the past couple of years, a metal frame covered in a tensioned plastic cover, complete with holes where the cover has rubbed against the frame over the years and now leaking like a sieve!

Dave's (G8FMC) exploits at G0ODQ's QTH last month bring a sense of humour to what can go wrong in Amateur radio, I think the carpenters rule of "measure twice, cut once" applies here, at least the measure bit!

Putting the newsletter together gives me great pleasure, sometimes I'm scratching my head for ideas that might pique your interests, so a big thank you to those that supply me with articles, however small, to bulk the newsletter out.

Bryan M0IHY

Chairmans Ramble


Dave (G8FMC)

Well, it seems that nobody has been brave enough (or too generous) to 'spill the beans' on my 'Miscalculation' mentioned last month, that happened (featured even?) during our antenna session at the QTH of John G0ODQ. So I may as well 'fess-up' myself and let all the club members have a laugh at my expense? (I can take it)

The moral of this story is that one should always have all your radio and antenna kit in order and correctly labelled? Those that know me well and have visited G8FMC QTHR, are aware that I have 'Stuff' all over the place with no logic or system to where it is kept; relying heavily on an ever failing memory.

"Tomorrow I will get organised" might end up as my epitaph?

Anyhow we were doing useful work on the Clubs OCFD (Off Centre Fed Dipole) noting that it tuned high on most bands, so tried adding some wire one end, to try and bring the resonance into mid-band for most bands. Adding to just one end, rather than both, is not an issue as the exact off-centre position of the feed is not too critical. We were doing checks using the RBN (Reverse Beacon Network) to see where our signal travelled to.

I suggested that we do some direct comparisons with a dedicated 40m Dipole that I had. (Unlabelled, but recognisable by the white wire used for each leg) So, we had the OCFD strung between the 2 club telescopic masts in John's garden and had the 2 newly re-acquired 'Racal' poles ready with halyards in John's field just-over-the-fence. A longish feeder (minimal loss at LF) and a 2-way antenna switch and we would be able to do instant comparisons. I know we had put up the Racal poles a little less than the 132ft (40m) spacing for an 80m Dipole, but was surprised when it seemed the 40m Dipole almost filled the gap between the poles more than expected. Next check with the antenna analyser and great horror, resonance seemed to be about 4.5MHz, rather than 7.1MHz?

Some considerable time was then spent trying to find the faulty coax or connection, involving dropping the antenna several times to make adjustments. We did find a dodgy lead and after yet another trip back to my car for extra kit, I found John G4CZB approaching me, brandishing a long tape-measure, to inform me that my '40m Dipole' (which would normally be about 66ft long) had just been measured at about 90ft! Apparently my face was 'a picture' and whilst still in-shock, he also informed me that a quick calculation suggested that the resonant frequency would be about 4.5MHz; just as measured! Thanks John. It would appear that I own 2 x Dipoles with white wire and the one I picked up was what was used as the centre part of my 160m Dipole used last November for the AFS contest. Suitable labelling would have saved us a lot of time and my embarrassment – take note!

The next Wednesday was our Informal/pub meeting and we all sat outside as it was very warm. After some general chat I called the meeting to order and as a first item asked for help in "using one of these" brandishing an ancient 100ft Tape-measure. There was a massive burst of laughter with folks almost falling off their seats, except for Ant and Mark, who had not witnessed the events a few days earlier, who had very puzzled expressions.

I let Malcolm explain the story above.

So, as I alluded to last month 'look what you missed' (at my expense) to those that were not there.

We have a report and pictures of the visit to the NRC at Bletchley Park elsewhere, we also have a report and pictures for VHF Field Day. Both events enjoyed by all.

73 all, Dave K, G8FMC (Chairman and Contest Coordinator)

National Radio Centre visit

CDARS visit to the National Radio Centre, Bletchley Park

Our June club meeting was not at Ashley Green, instead we had organised a visit to the National Radio Centre (NRC), located within Bletchley Park. The NRC was set up by the RSGB and opened formally in 2012, with equipment largely donated by the main amateur suppliers and is run by a small army of volunteers under the management of Martyn Baker G0GMB.

Externally the NRC is not that impressive – a wooden structure on the edge of the Bletchley Park site. But inside the quantity and variety of kit is impressive. There are three main areas. The first is a history timeline showing the development of radio with copious examples of amateur equipment – some with their own historical significance such as the transceiver used by Laurie Margolis G3UML to receive news of the Falklands invasion. The second is a spectrum and technology display, with some working exhibits to explain some of the technologies that underpin radio communications. It's good educational stuff aimed squarely at people who don't know a lot about radio technology, and the exhibits are great for youngsters to play with. Thirdly and of most interest to us was the radio shack of GB3RS.

Demonstration stations open to the public (and they get a lot of visitors to the NRC) have to think carefully about what bands and modes they use. Not surprisingly therefore, the main focus is on the HF bands to maximise the likelihood of strong and clear signals, with the bonus of DX thrown in. I was struck by how low the noise level was using the FlexRadio and the SteppIR beam antenna. If only my noise level was that low at home, I might not have to use so much FT8! The beam antenna is high up on the roof of the adjoining building, so not surprisingly the signals received on the HF bands were strong. We didn't have any QSOs – too much talking – and it would be good to see the station in full flight during a normal working day.

In the corner of the radio room is a station set up to work through the geostationary QO-100 satellite. The NRC has put up three dish antennas for this satellite – one for transmitting, one for narrow band RX and one for ATV RX. Separating the functions makes things easier to engineer, and keeps the TX dish well controlled for EMC purposes. Again signals were strong on the downlink, and putting out quick calls through the satellite meant you could hear your own signals coming back with a rather off-putting delay. Fortunately they provide a footswitch to kill the audio on the downlink so you don't get tongue-tied!

They also showed us the new QO-100 exhibit which will demonstrate ATV (downlink only), about to be put into public viewing. They have developed a special user-friendly screen to select ATV signals on the downlink easily just by touching the screen. It will be an impressive addition to the displays.

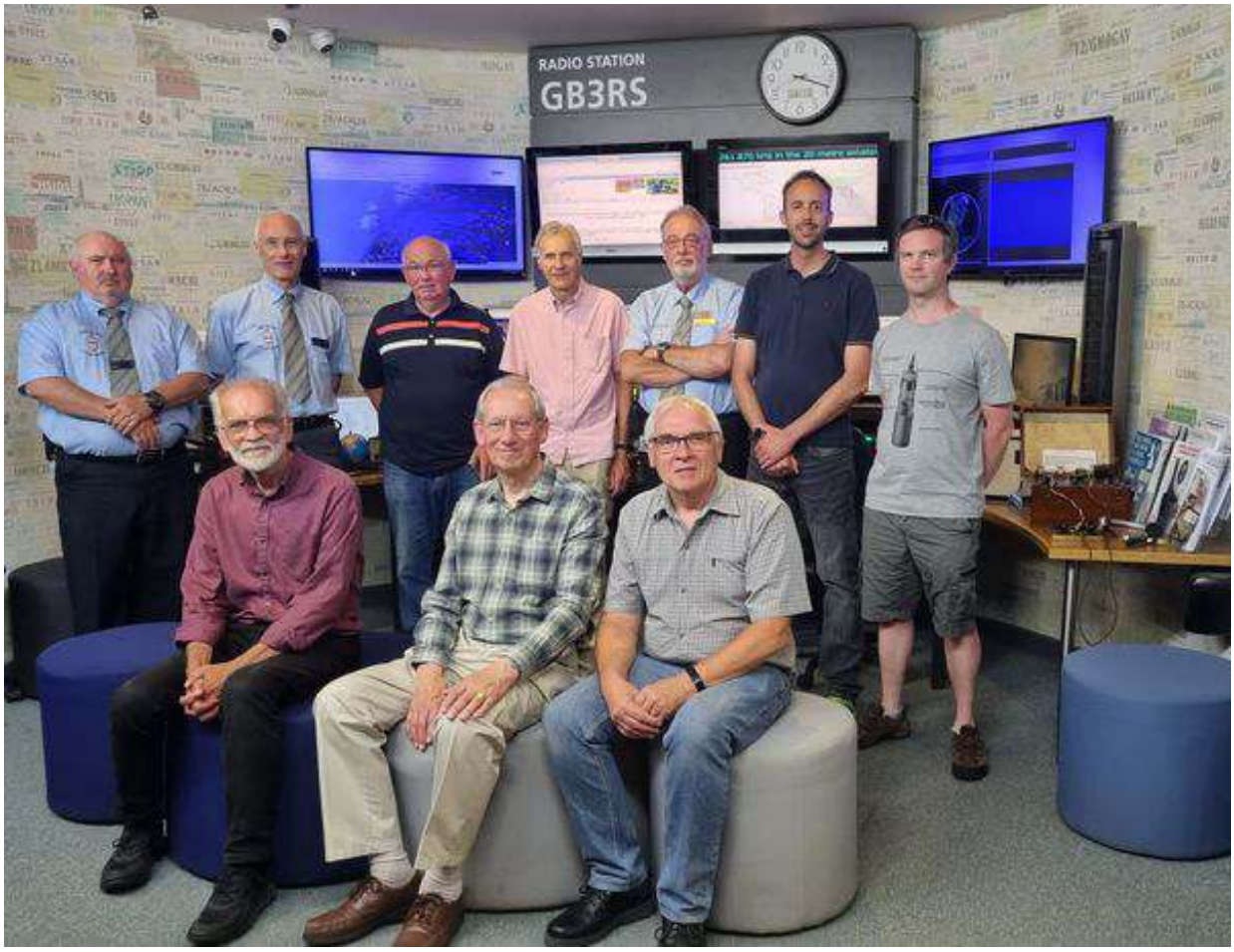
Martyn G0GMB explained that visitors, on seeing the huge amount of impressive and expensive kit, may be put off amateur radio as a rich person's hobby. So there's an extra display cabinet showing second hand gear that can be easily purchased for modest amounts of outlay. Some familiar rigs in there, not new but still very serviceable for people starting off in the hobby.

The whole team at the NRC were very welcoming, and clearly delighted to have radio clubs visit. They were keen to explain the narrative they use with visitors which tells the story linking Bletchley Park with amateur radio through to today's relevance of the technical hobby we all share.

If you have not visited Bletchley Park or the NRC it's definitely worth a trip, and if you're an RSGB member you can download a free entry ticket to the whole of Bletchley Park from the RSGB website.

Malcolm G3ZNU

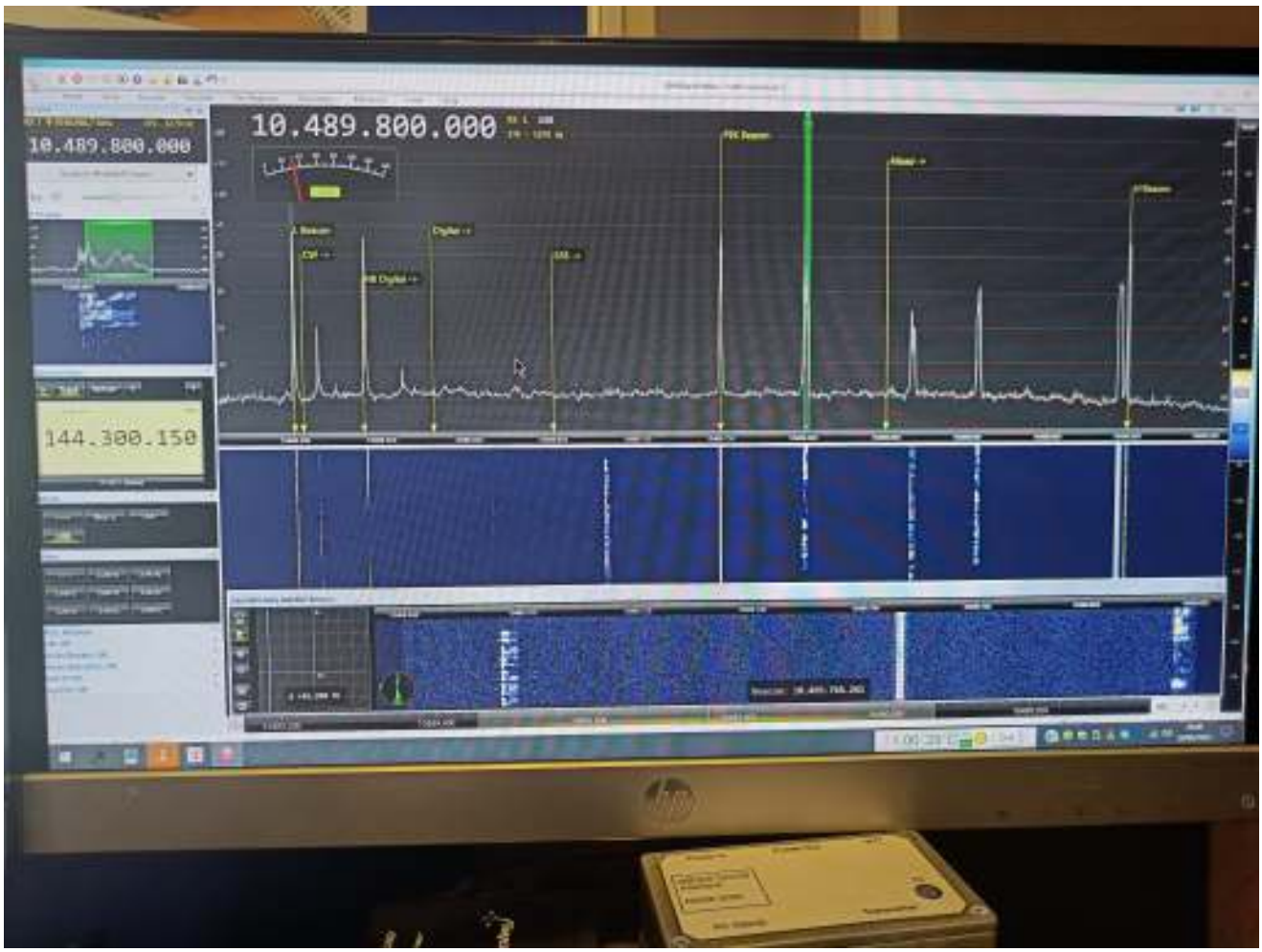
Dave (G8FMC), James (M0JCQ), Roger (M7RMF) and Ant (M0UBT)



Rear: NRC volunteer, NRC Volunteer, John (G0ODQ), Malcolm (G3ZNU), NRC Volunteer, James (M0JCQ), Ant (M0UBT)
Front: Peter (2E0PTH), Dave (G8FMC), Roger (M7RMF)

The Magnificent 7?

Malcolm (G3ZNU), Peter (2E0PTH), Dave (G8FMC), James (M0JCQ), Roger (M7RMF), Ant (M0UBT), John (G0ODQ)



QO-100

VHF Field Day - Day 1

Roger (M7RMF), Matt (M1DTG), Malcolm (G3ZNU), Dave (G8FMC) and Mark (M7EFR)

Mark (M7EFR) and Matthew (Roger's grandson)

Malcolm (G3ZNU), Matthew (Rogers grandson), Roger (M7RMF)

Malcolm (G3ZNU), Roger (M7RMF) and Matthew (Rogers grandson)

Roger (M7RMF) and Matthew (Rogers grandson)

Roger (M7RMF) and Malcolm (G3ZNU)

Roger (M7RMF) and Malcolm (G3ZNU)

Malcolm (G3ZNU), Roger (M7RMF) and Matthew (Rogers grandson)

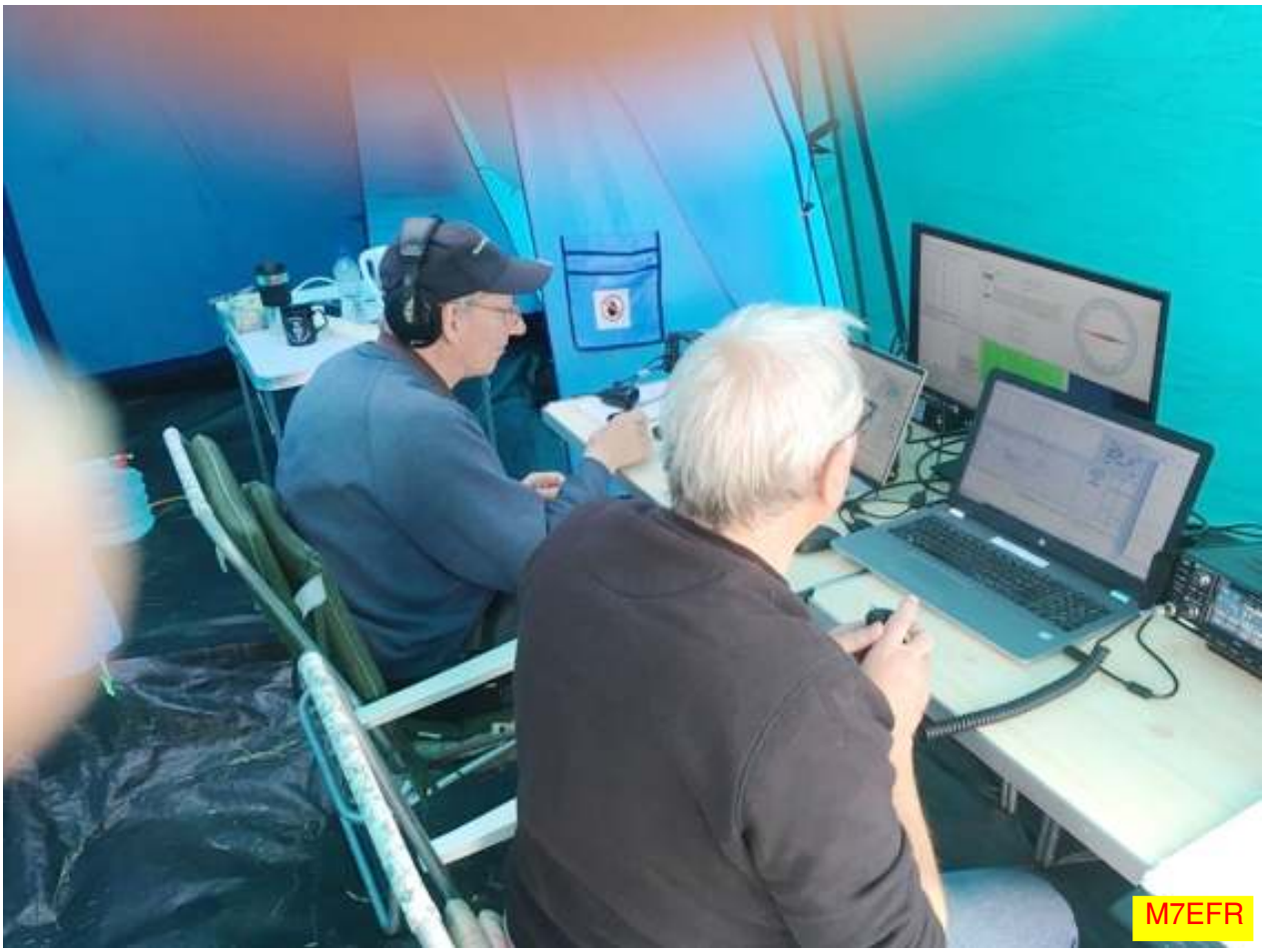
Malcolm (G3ZNU), Roger (M7RMF) and Matthew (Rogers grandson)

Antenna rotator controller, no tiller bar this year

Malcolm (G3ZNU) and Dave (G8FMC)

VHF Field Day - Day 2

Roger (M7RMF) and Dave (G8FMC)



Dave (G8FMC) and Roger (M7RMF)

Antenna rotator, I hope you checked the 'K' load factor!

Roger (M7RMF) and Peter (2E0PTH)

Malcolm (G3ZNU) and Roger (M7RMF)

There are a large number of sections that groups can choose between when entering VHF Field Day. For a relatively small club such as ours, the “single transmitter” section is appealing – a choice of three bands from the five possible ones, only one transmitter active at a time, single antenna mast no more that 12m high. Not a lot of groups enter this section, and last year we did rather well. However one group last year “gamed the system” by being almost the only entrant in the higher (70cm & 23cm) bands, thus grossing a high normalised score and winning overall.

We were torn this year – should we stick with the bands we used last year, gamble on running the higher bands (for which we are less well equipped), or do something different altogether? We decided that, for us, VHF FD is a great opportunity to play radios in a field and the competitive aspect is just a bonus. On the lower bands we would make more QSOs, adding to the interest for all concerned and gaining experience for those who have not lived a life of radio contests.So we ran stations on 6m, 4m and 2m with two antennas on one mast. For 2m we used an M-squared 9 element borrowed from G0ODQ, and for 4m & 6m we borrowed G3MEH’s dual band beam (3 ele on 6m, 4 ele on 4m). The 6m and 4m legs of VHF FD are run on different days, so at any one time we only needed to have two stations active.

For the first time we used a rotator, mounted at the base of the mast and connected to a controller that was itself connected to the Minos logging program on the 2m station. This proved very effective as, once we knew a station’s locator, we could quickly turn to the correct direction without having to guess.We also ran the KST messaging application on both active bands which helped set up some QSOs, particularly the early morning 2m DX on Sunday.

The charts show the stations we worked. 6m was blessed with plenty of Sporadic E propagation so we worked lots of DX stations – the best DX being LZ7B (Bulgaria) at over 2200km. The Es did not reach up to 4m on Sunday so it was mainly UK stations, best DX being GM4ZUK/P. There was plenty of tropo propagation into Europe on 2m, with the best DX being HB9G/P (Switzerland) at 770km. As usual, there were many that we couldn’t work with 100 watts and our single beam antenna.

Erecting the station and packing away went remarkably smoothly, in no small part thanks to Dave G8FMC who provided all the poles and knew exactly which ones to put where, and John G4CZB for the loan of the guys and rotatable guy rings. And of course to all those club members who came out to assist and operate, we hope you enjoyed the weekend!

Malcolm G3ZNU

Just a few words from an old new boy on my enjoyment of the VHF NFD 1st July this year. Dave invited me to help out with the set-up for the weekend. My first impressions are the same as my observations at the club meetings, namely that everyone is so very knowledgeable, as well as being skilled at the practical level. That’s the reason I joined anyway. The best way to learn something well is to join in as best as I can with those who clearly know what they’re doing.

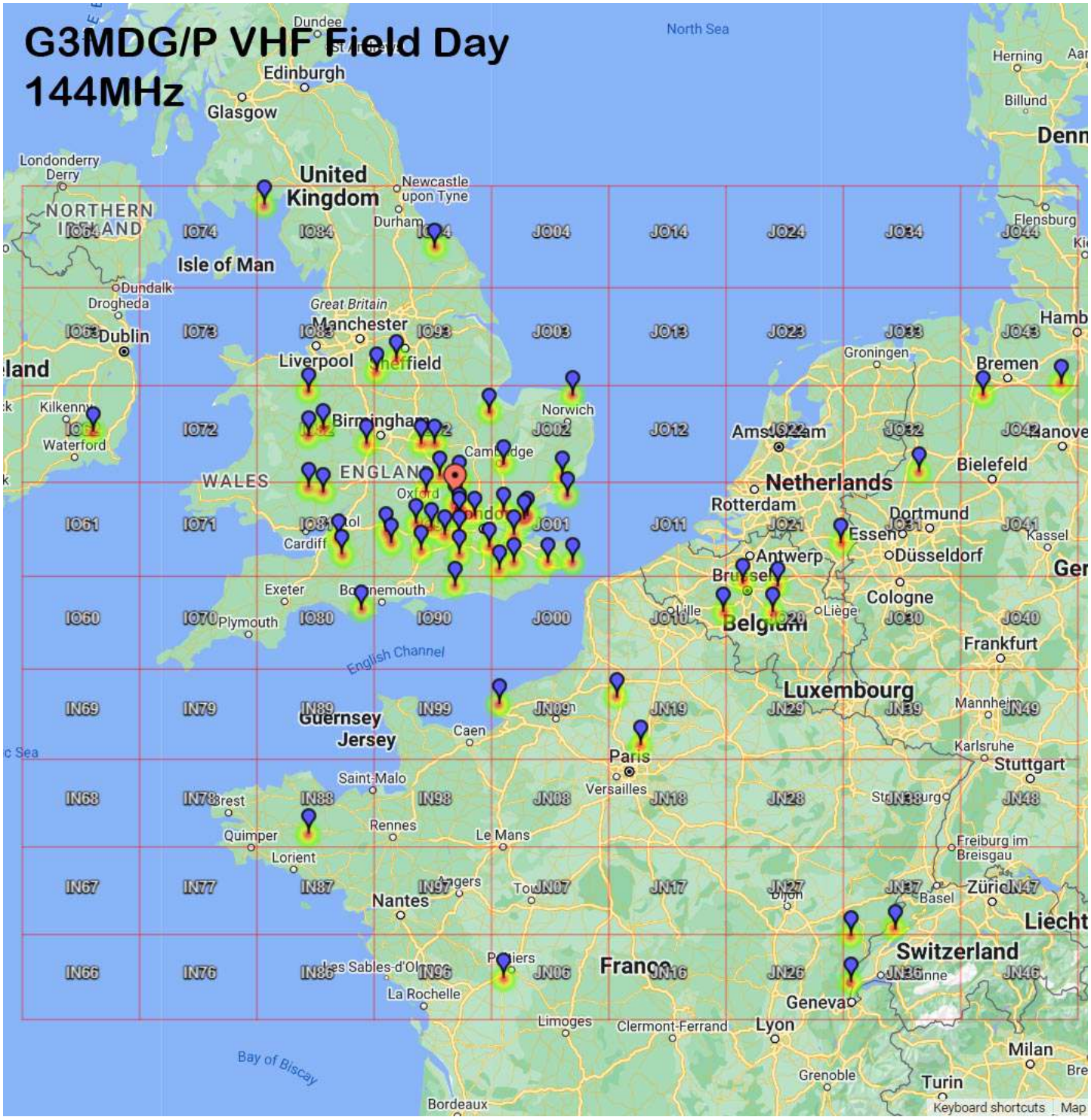
So it was no surprise when Dave and Malcolm began unpacking all the gear for the mast and the very simple but clever way that it was raised by the ‘Gin?Jin?’ It was also clear that many people had lent items to help, including Roger’s Yagi, and someone had lent us a Yaesu rotator, which was probably the star of the show. Everyone chipped in which is certainly one of the strengths of the club.

Skipping forward to the Sunday, with about an hour left before the end of the contest I decided I should jump in at the deep end and have a go at the actual contesting so I sat down and picked up the mic. I am indebted to Malcolm for quickly stepping forward to log for me, and guide me through. Once in the seat I found it quite difficult to catch all the call signs which are rattled out quickly. It also became clear that many of the responders are known to the experienced hands…”…That’s Graham…hello Graham….that’s John, Hi John…etc” I doubt if I will ever get to that advanced stage but I think I got one eligible QSO eventually. (maybe).

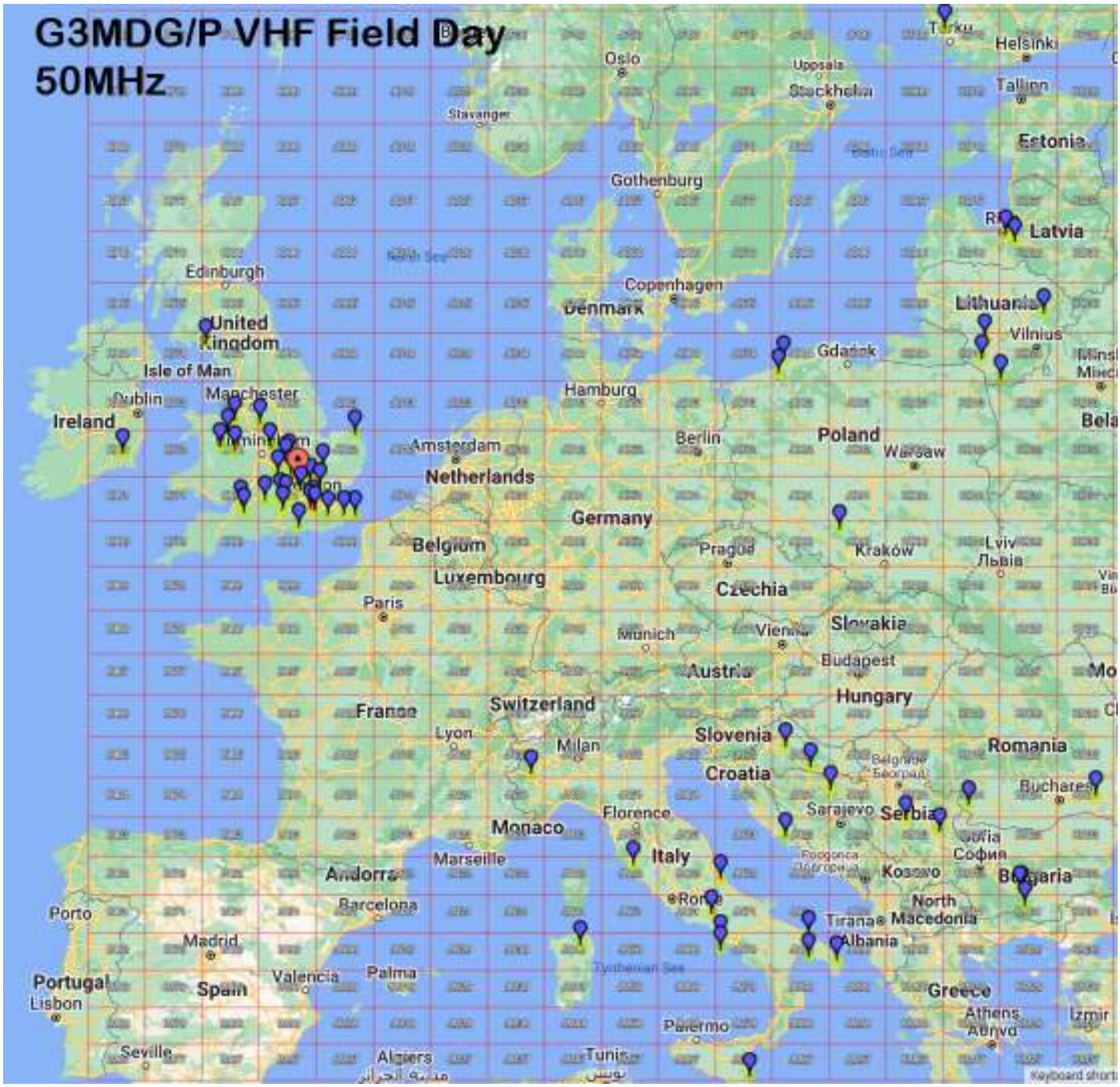
I’m not sure that contesting is for me long term, but I know that some love it and some feel it has become too ‘sporty’ but equally it’s a good way to keep alive a hobby that could slip away otherwise. I guess it’s the usual case of having a balance and I will happily attend future events where I can.

Mark M7EFR

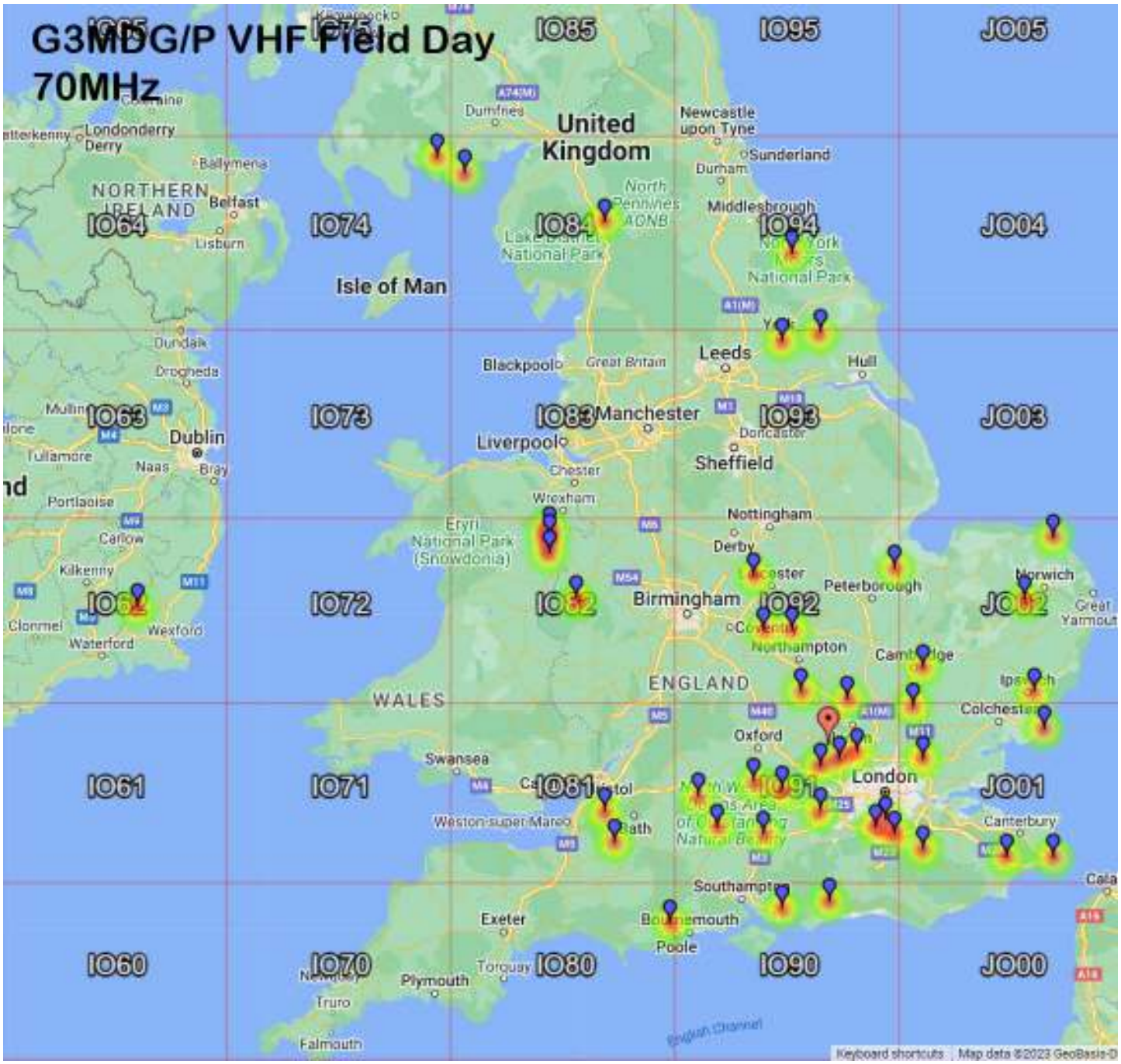
VHF Field Day 144MHz contact map



VHF Field Day 50MHz contact map



VHF Field Day 70MHz contact map



CW corner

Credit: various Internet

The history of the S.O.S

The S.O.S as it is used today, was introduced by the Imperial German Marine in 1904. It was mandatory for all German ships starting in 1905. It was meant as a distress signal, and should be repeated until all other stations stopped sending. Afterwards the real message would be sent. Also, there is no pause between the characters.

At the time, the market was controlled by two companies; one was Telefunken, and the other was Marconi. Marconi was under British control, Telefunken was German. Marconi used CQD as a distress signal.

The people doing the communication were employees of either Marconi or Telefunken; they were not employed by the ships' owners. These operators were not allowed to answer calls sent by the competing company, which also included distress signals. As this was against the laws of the sea, a conference in Berlin decided to use the German distress signal internationally. This started in 1908. When the ship Republic sent a distress signal in 1909, it was still CQD, and the Titanic also sent CQD at first, in 1912.

The first ship to use the new signal was the RMS Slavonia, in 1909.

Replacing the S.O.S signal

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) is a satellite-based system that was introduced in 1999 to handle distress situations. It defines four different regions, three of which are covered by satellite. The fourth, which covers the polar regions, is covered by shortwave radio. With the introduction of GMDSS, the S.O.S signal is no longer used.

The International Morse Code

The International Morse Code has, except for some minor changes in 1938, remained the same since its inception. (The American telegraph industry never abandoned the original Morse Code, and so its use continued until the spread of teleprinters in the 1920s and '30s.) International Morse Code was used in World War II and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. It was used heavily by the shipping industry and for the safety of the seas up until the early 1990s. Although amateur radio made up only a small part of Morse Code usage, it did prepare many hundreds of operators for military duty in communications. In the early 2000s most countries had dropped the ability to decipher Morse Code from the requirements for obtaining an amateur radio license.

RISE AND DECLINE OF THE CODE

- Journalists and newspaper businesses greatly benefited in electric telegraphy. Pieces of news can be transmitted in Morse code between stations almost instantly.
- During World War II, radiotelegraphy or electric telegraphy was used for long-range ship-to-ship communication. Encrypted messages using Morse code was favored against the unsecured voice radio systems on ships.
- Morse code was also used by long-range patrol planes that were tasked to scout enemy cargo ships, troopships, and warships.
- The famous S.O.S., though it may seem to be an abbreviation, is actually just a distinctive Morse code used as a distress signal. This Morse code is transmitted with no spaces between the sequence of dots and dashes. Because it is highly used in emergencies, S.O.S. has been used informally to indicate a crisis.
- On January 31, 1997, the French Navy stopped using Morse code and transmitted the final message "Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence."
- On July 12, 1999, the final commercial Morse code transmitted in the United States signed off with Samuel Morse's 1844 message.
- The Morse code S.O.S. was an international standard for maritime distress until 1999 when the Global

Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) replaced it.

- The development of new technology for communication made the regular widespread use of the telegraph fall down. It was soon replaced with more convenient ways of communication.
- Though no longer used as much, the United States Air Force still teaches Morse code to ten people every year, as of 2015.

MODERN DAY USES FOR THE PUBLIC

- Morse code has been used for over 160 years, longer than any electrical coding system.
- The old Nokia tone alert for incoming messages is actually a Morse tone for SMS.
- People of different disabilities also use Morse code as assistive technology. Android 5.0 and higher have a feature that enables users to input messages using Morse code. Persons with severe motion disabilities can send Morse code with minimal motor control.
- Computers can also translate Morse code into speaking communication aids.
- Q.S.T., a radio amateur magazine, reported the case of an old shipboard radio operator who lost his ability to speak or write due to stroke and uses Morse code to communicate with his physician by blinking his eyes.

Spotlight - Atlanta

QSO with Charles Van Hoorn

Band:	20m	**QTH:**	Atlanta
Mode:	CW	**Coordinates:**	33°44'N 84°23'24"W
Date:	2nd January 2022	**Time Zone:**	UTC-4/5
Time:	13:21z	**Population:**	498,715 (as of 2020)

Source: Wikipedia

Flag

Seal

Atlanta is the capital and most populous city of the U.S. state of Georgia. It is the seat of Fulton County, the most populous county in Georgia, although a portion of the city extends into neighboring DeKalb County. With a population of 498,715 living within the city limits, it is the eighth most populous city in the Southeast and 38th most populous city in the United States according to the 2020 U.S. census. It is the core of the much larger Atlanta metropolitan area, which is home to more than 6.1 million people, making it the eighth-largest metropolitan area in the United States. Situated among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains at an elevation of just over 1,000 feet (300 m) above sea level, it features unique topography that includes rolling hills, lush greenery, and the most dense urban tree coverage of any major city in the United States.

Atlanta was originally founded as the terminus of a major state-sponsored railroad, but it soon became the convergence point among several railroads, spurring its rapid growth. The largest was the Western and Atlantic Railroad, from which the name “Atlanta” is derived, signifying the city’s growing reputation as a major hub of transportation. During the American Civil War, it served a strategically important role for the Confederacy until it was captured in 1864. The city was almost entirely burned to the ground during General William T. Sherman’s March to the Sea. However, the city rebounded dramatically in the post-war period and quickly became a national industrial center and the unofficial capital of the “New South”. After World War II, it also became a manufacturing and technology hub. During the 1950s and 1960s, it became a major organizing center of the American Civil Rights Movement, with Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and many other locals becoming prominent figures in the movement’s leadership. In the modern era, Atlanta has stayed true to its reputation as a major center of transportation, with Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport becoming the world’s busiest airport by passenger traffic in 1998 (a position it has held every year since, except for 2020), with an estimated 93.7 million passengers in 2022.

Downtown

Native American settlements

For thousands of years prior to the arrival of European settlers in North Georgia, the indigenous Creek people and their ancestors inhabited the area. Standing Peachtree, a Creek village where Peachtree Creek flows into the Chattahoochee River, was the closest Native American settlement to what is now Atlanta. Through the early 19th century, European Americans systematically encroached on the Creek of northern Georgia, forcing them out of the area from 1802 to 1825. The Creek were forced to leave the area in 1821, under Indian Removal by the federal government, and European American settlers arrived the following year.

1996 Summer Olympic games


The Olympic flag waves at the 1996 games

Atlanta was selected as the site for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Following the announcement, the city government undertook several major construction projects to improve Atlanta's parks, sporting venues, and transportation infrastructure; however, for the first time, none of the $1.7 billion cost of the games was governmentally funded. While the games experienced transportation and accommodation problems and, despite extra security precautions, there was the Centennial Olympic Park bombing, the spectacle was a watershed event in Atlanta's history. For the first time in Olympic history, every one of the record 197 national Olympic committees invited to compete sent athletes, sending more than 10,000 contestants participating in a record 271 events. The related projects such as Atlanta's Olympic Legacy Program and civic effort initiated a fundamental transformation of the city in the following decade.


The sarcophagus for Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King is within the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta proper.

Civil Rights movement

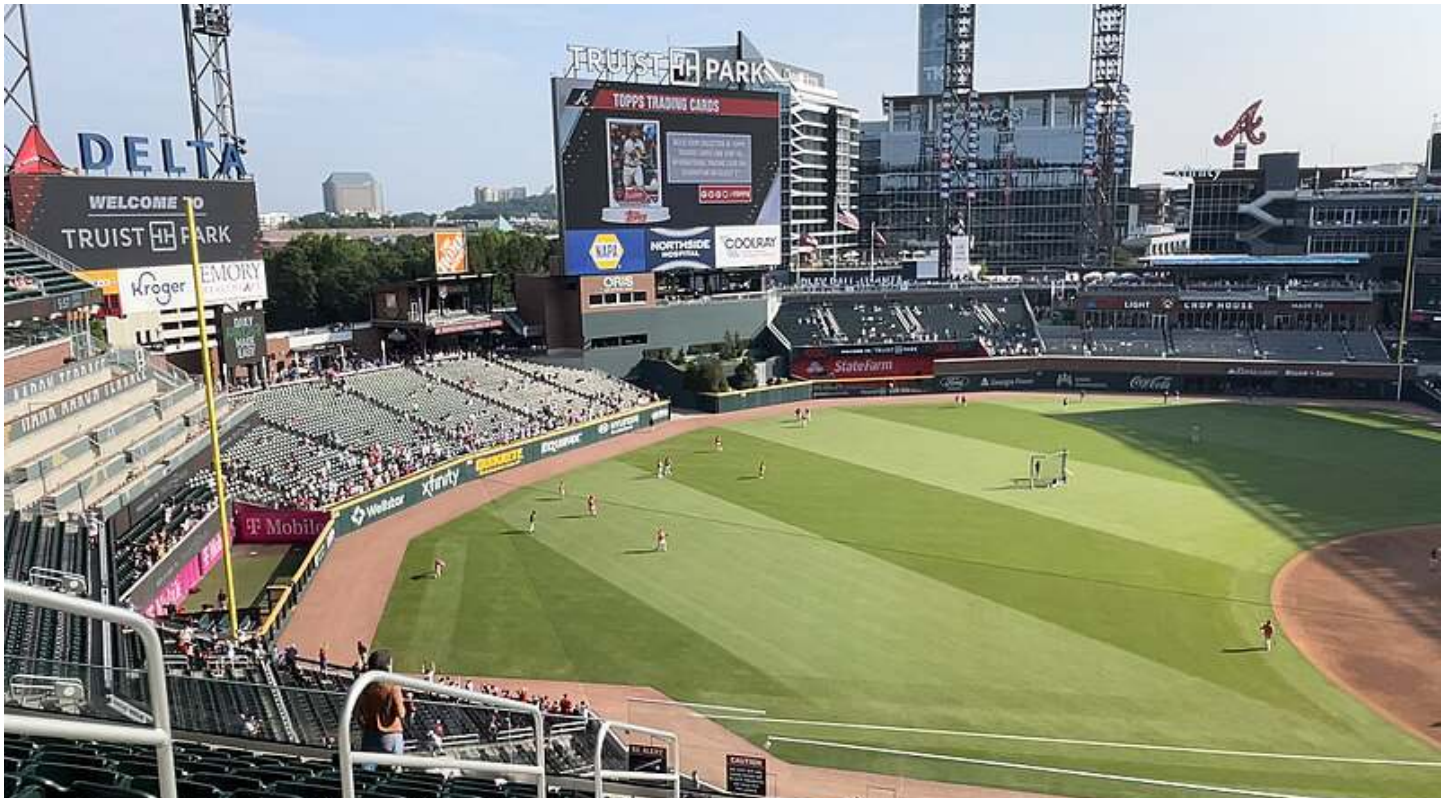
African-American veterans returned from World War II seeking full rights in their country and began heightened activism. In exchange for support by that portion of the Black community that could vote, in 1948 the mayor ordered the hiring of the first eight African-American police officers in the city. Much controversy preceded the 1956 Sugar Bowl, when the Pitt Panthers, with African-American fullback Bobby Grier on the roster, met the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. There had been controversy over whether Grier should be allowed to play due to his race, and whether Georgia Tech should even play at all due to Georgia's Governor Marvin Griffin's opposition to racial integration. After Griffin publicly sent a telegram to the state's Board of Regents requesting Georgia Tech not to engage in racially integrated events, Georgia Tech's president Blake R. Van Leer rejected the request and threatened to resign. The game went on as planned.

In the 1960s, Atlanta became a major organizing center of the civil rights movement, with Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and students from Atlanta's historically Black colleges and universities playing major roles in the movement's leadership. While Atlanta in the postwar years had relatively minimal racial strife compared to other cities, Blacks were limited by discrimination, segregation, and continued disenfranchisement of most voters. In 1961, the city attempted to thwart blockbusting by realtors by erecting road barriers in Cascade Heights, countering the efforts of civic and business leaders to foster Atlanta as the "city too busy to hate."

Desegregation of the public sphere came in stages, with public transportation desegregated by 1959, the restaurant at Rich's department store by 1961, movie theaters by 1963, and public schools by 1973 (nearly 20 years after the US Supreme Court ruled that segregated public schools were unconstitutional).

In 1960, Whites comprised 61.7% of the city's population. During the 1950s–70s, suburbanization and White flight from urban areas led to a significant demographic shift. By 1970, African Americans were the majority of the city's population and exercised their recently enforced voting rights and political influence by electing Atlanta's first Black mayor, Maynard Jackson, in 1973. Under Mayor Jackson's tenure, Atlanta's airport was modernized, strengthening the city's role as a transportation center. The opening of the Georgia World Congress Center in 1976 heralded Atlanta's rise as a convention city. Construction of the city's subway began in 1975, with rail service commencing in 1979. Despite these improvements, Atlanta lost more than

100,000 residents between 1970 and 1990, over 20% of its population. At the same time, it developed new office space after attracting numerous corporations, with an increasing portion of workers from northern areas.



Truist Park

Truist Park is a baseball stadium in the Atlanta metropolitan area, approximately 10 miles (16 km) northwest of downtown Atlanta in the unincorporated community of Cumberland, in Cobb County, Georgia. Opened in 2017, it is the ballpark of Major League Baseball's Atlanta Braves.

Guest staying in the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel (circular) have a clear view of the huge lighted Coca Cola bottle which sits atop the World of Coca Cola building in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

Centennial Olympic Park

Centennial Olympic Park is a 22-acre (89,000 m2) public park located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, owned and operated by the Georgia World Congress Center Authority. It was built by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) as part of the infrastructure improvements for the 1996 Summer Olympics. It plays host to millions of visitors a year and several events, including a summer popular music concert series (Wednesday WindDown), the annual SweetWater 420 Fest and an annual Independence Day concert and fireworks display.

Centennial Olympic Park

Georgia State Capitol

Georgia State Capitol

The Georgia State Capitol is an architecturally and historically significant building in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. The building has been named a National Historic Landmark which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As the primary office building of Georgia's government, the capitol houses the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state on the second floor, chambers in which the General Assembly, consisting of the Georgia State Senate and Georgia House of Representatives, meets annually from January to April. The fourth floor houses visitors' galleries overlooking the legislative chambers and a museum located near the rotunda in which a statue of Miss Freedom caps the dome.

Like many U.S. state capitols, the Georgia State Capitol is designed to resemble the Neoclassical architectural style of the United States Capitol, in Washington, D.C. Former Confederate general Philip Cook was a member of the commission that oversaw planning and construction of the building. The commission engaged architects Willoughby J. Edbrooke and Franklin Pierce Burnham, of Chicago to design the building and Miles and Horne of Toledo, Ohio for construction. Work completed in March 1889. Sculptor George Crouch executed all the ornamental work on the building.

The Capitol faces west on Washington Street. The façade features a four-story portico, with stone pediment, supported by six Corinthian columns set on large stone piers. Georgia's coat of arms, with two figures on each side, is carved on the pediment. The Capitol's interior represents the 19th-century style of its time. It was among the earliest buildings to have elevators, centralized steam heat, and combination gas and electric lights. Classical pilasters and oak paneling are used throughout the building. The floors of the interior are marble from Pickens County, which still produces marble today.

Jeremy G3XZG

Contest Corner

August
VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Tue	01 Aug	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	01 Aug	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	02 Aug	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Sat	05 Aug	1400-1800	144MHz Low Power Contest
Sun	06 Aug	800-1200	432MHz Low Power Contest
Tue	08 Aug	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	08 Aug	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	09 Aug	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	10 Aug	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	13 Aug	1400-1600	70MHz Cumulatives # 5
Tue	15 Aug	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	17 Aug	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	22 Aug	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

September
HF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Sep	1300-1300	SSB Field Day
Mon	04 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Wed	13 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Mon	18 Sep	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	28 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA
Sat-Sun	30/09-01/10	1200-1200	UKEI DX SSB Contest

September
VHF

Day	Date (2023)	Time UTC	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 Sep	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest
Sun	03 Sep	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	05 Sep	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Sep	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Sep	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC
Tue	12 Sep	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Sep	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 Sep	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC
Thu	14 Sep	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	17 Sep	900-1200	70MHz AFS Contest
Tue	19 Sep	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Sep	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Sep	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

For sale and wanted

If anybody has anything for sale, or wants anything, then this is the place to ask, photo's and descriptions will help, email me at bryanpage1@btinternet.com.

Any other business

We continue to do well in the VHF Championship – AFS (Affiliated Societies) section.

The results for the 50MHz Trophy, eagerly awaited last month were duly published and we performed slightly better than expected. Less errors than some others. This has firmed-up our 2nd place out of 73 in the club ratings. A brilliant result so far, thanks guys.

We have recently had the 70MHz Trophy event in this series, where it is a bit anyone's guess how we have done, but we had 5 on, some with quite good scores, so hopeful that we maintain our position? Conditions and activity were dire with VERY windy weather, which curtailed efforts of many significantly.

Saturday the 5th August is the 144 MHz Low Power event (Also Backpackers)
Sunday the 6th August is the 432MHz Low Power event.
Both of these are in the VHF Championship series with the AFS club element, so all contributions will be gratefully appreciated.

In the evening UKAC's we (well Northampton) are a steady 3rd place out of 41 at the moment; thanks to all contributors.
Last month I asked 'perhaps we should be listed/known as NRC and CDARS'? In view of the number of contributors from the CDARS end theses days. Is there any wish for me to raise this with John G4CZB (Northampton) before next year?

I am experimenting with a 20m band Delta-loop, configured with the apex upwards and fed part-way up one side (actually ¼ wave down from the apex) This gives predominantly vertical polarisation and good low-angle radiation for DX, with maybe about +2dB of gain?
It is many months since I had anything to cover the 20m band and I was surprised at how noisy it was. How much was conditions and how much new electronics acquired by my neighbours in recent months I am not sure? Late afternoon that day I could only hear a couple of Germans, two Russians, one Spanish and a weak Scandinavian. Not great?
Anyhow a listen this morning at about 10.00am found the band completely empty except for a weak-ish signal on 14.255MHz. A careful listen revealed an American accent? Sure enough NX4TT in Florida! Now it must have been about 3.00am in the early morning over there and way off optimal propagation time? I guess the Delta-loop must be working?
I monitored him for a short while, working the UK and EU. I heard him say that he was; "using 1,500W to a 4 over 4, over 4, over 4"! i.e. 4 stacked full-size 4 element 20m Yagi's. That is a BIG antenna system on probably a 120ft tower? Well, we always knew the yanks liked to do things bigger and better that everyone else! I think it is safe to say that yes, my Delta-loop is working, but his massive system was doing most of the work.

I hope to be able to do some comparisons between the Delta-loop and my 'Cobweb' during this weekend in the IOTA contest. More info next time.

73, Dave K, G8FMC