

C.D.A.R.S.

August 2025

CESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VHF Field Day - Report and Photo's.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at The Golden Eagle Pub in Ashley Green and every 4th Wednesday each month at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP



Report

**Photo Report of VHF
Field Day**

Regulars

***Dates For Your Diary
*Radio Rally Dates
*Contest Results**

**Want to write something for the newsletter?
Then you can contact me on
cdarsnews@gmail.com**

**Can't find that elusive part or have anything for sale?
Why not drop me an email and put it in
'For sale and wanted'.**

Learn About.....

What are you interested in? Here are a few useful links:



FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

<https://fists.co.uk>

VK3TBS

Learn About VARAC

<https://vk3tbs.home.blog/2024/03/06/vara-varac/>

Essex Ham

FT-8 Basics

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/ft8-basics-explained>

Essex Ham

What is PSK31? The Basics.

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/psk31-the-basics>

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

<https://lcwo.net/>

Electronic Notes

What is RTTY? The Basics.

https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/digimode/s/what-is-rtty-radio-teletype.php

Meshtastic and MeshCore

Information and Downloads to build your own LoRa Node or Repeater

<https://meshtastic.org/>
<https://meshcore.co.uk/>



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

<http://www.g4fon.net/>

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Cover Photo: *VHF Field Day - Malcolm, Marc & John..*

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Chairman	- Dave Keston (G8FMC)	Secretary	- Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)	Treasurer	- Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
	- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)		- John Hall (G0ODQ)		- Peter Holliday (2E0PTH)
	- Roger Fellows (2E0TGU)				

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

Newsletter Editor - Roger Fellows (2E0TGU) newsletter submissions to: cdarsnews@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the August issue of the CDARS newsletter. As it was VHF Field Day back at the beginning of July, Dave G8FMC, has a full report of proceedings. It looks like CDARS are on for another win this year. To complement the report there are a number of photo's from various points in the weekend from antennas deployment to operating. (Thanks to those that provided the pictures.) Dave also has a full update of the other contests that CDARS and NRC are involved in.



Roger 2E0TGU

As normal there are all the regulars including a new list of radio rallies being held up and down the country. Maybe there is one near you while on your holidays. (Don't tell the XYL!!)

Unfortunately there is no 'Feature' this month. I think I have just about exhausted Wikipedia. If any one has anything they would like publishing in future issues please send them to cdarsnews@gmail.com.

Anyway I hope you enjoy this months offering and see you all in September.

Roger 2E0TGU.

Chairmans Ramble

I had my 3 night stay in Swanage Dorset with family & friends, which was great! Although short it was very welcome & was the first holiday in a number of years. The Wednesday evening was a fairly rowdy meal with 7 of us. Several of us present have had significant health and/or emotional issues in recent times & it was a very welcome 'Tonic' to let our hair down for a while.



Dave G8FMC

With a large pre-occupation on planning & then executing VHF Field-Day (reported fully on my 'other' page) I was a bit stumped on what to write about here this month? I will therefore give a brief report on a personal event that was rather enjoyable.

First, some history: I live in Winslow North Bucks & we are blessed with a very active 'Winslow Big Society Group' that organise all sorts of meetings, assistance & events for the (mainly older) residents. I could attend something almost every day of the week & the few groups I do attend myself have been a great help to me since losing my wife of 52 years, 3 years ago.

One of the last things our late Queen did before her passing was to sign the official Certificate for the "Queen's Award for Voluntary Services" in 2022 to the 'Winslow Big Society Group'. Amongst the many 'Services' provided to the area, mentioned in the 'Citation' from the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, was the 'Winslow Wheelchair Vehicle', which is available to hire (for a very modest charge of fuel costs only) to local Wheelchair users. This was acquired in early 2022 & is suitable for a manual or powered wheelchair, or modest sized Mobility Scooter; plus driver & up to 3 passengers. A very versatile vehicle suitable for many people with a range of disabilities. See Picture. It is based on a short wheel-base Ford Tourneo Connect, with extensive re-work by Brotherwood of Dorchester. Selecting a suitable vehicle, to be used by many different people, was quite a challenge; as the many interested parties had diametrically opposed features on their 'Must-have' list!

So in mid 2021 the Society found a retired engineer, who was a bit of a car nerd, who had a disabled wheelchair-user wife & some experience of good & bad WAV's (wheelchair access vehicles) Oh, that would be me then! Since I was fairly uniquely qualified, I had my arm twisted. Many months & 100's of man-hours later, searching from Glasgow to Dorchester, I found the Vehicle we purchased. I must have chosen a good compromise as the feedback from users has been 100% positive. (Whose a clever boy then; or maybe just lucky?) Anyhow it seems my efforts have been appreciated, as I recently attended a 'Garden Party' for Buckinghamshire 'Unsung Heroes' in the gardens of Penn House; the residence of the Countess Howe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. About 110 of us 'Unsung Heroes' were there, with a +1 guest each. A line-up with introduction, hand-shake & a few words, before heading over to the big marquee for a glass of bubbly & buffet. (See 2nd picture of me all poshed-up, the Lord Lieutenant & my Friend Di) The jacket soon came off as it was about 28 deg! The hat was a recent purchase to protect my bald patch from the sun. A bit smarter than an RSGB or Yaesu baseball cap?

It was interesting to chat to a few other 'Heroes' from around the county. Most of us seemed a bit bemused as to why we were there, as we just do/did what was needed at the time. It was nice for my significant efforts to be recognised though.

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



Contests/Operating

The UKAC progress for 2025: (under the NRS banner)

We continue to head up the 'Local Clubs' division, with a clear lead over Hereford.
Latest points:

NRC & Friends =	5196pts (Normalised 1000pts on all bands except SHF)
Hereford	= 3835pts
Spalding	= 2920pts

So still well clear of Hereford at the moment, but they continue to closed the gap a bit.

80m CC's: (also under the NRS banner)

The final sessions are now complete.

The very similar 'Autumn Series' will start with SSB on Monday 1st September. This will be under the CDARS banner. There are bonus points for foundation & intermediate licensees. Who can get on 80m?

VHF Championship: (under the CDARS banner)

No new results this month for the AFS section of the VHF Championship.
Hereford are in the lead with 3111 points, with CDARS & friends in 2nd place not far behind on 2930; which is well clear of Sheffield in 3rd place with 1777. There are a total of 54 clubs listed.

The 70MHz event took place on Sat 19 July, where we had 8 of us on-air, for at least some time. Even Dick G0MHZ (who does not normally do weekend contests) came on for a spell to grab a few extra contacts. Your 50MHz Dipole via an ATU works, thanks Dick. It was a bit of a drag for the 6 hrs; it should be reduced to just say 4 hrs? I think we stand a good chance of being the winning group, because of our numbers. We wait to see how we have done against Hereford & how that effects the overall listing?

VHF Field Day:

This is all now done & dusted for another year!
The summary is that it rather looks like we will have won the MS category for the 2nd year in a row? Great result team, thanks.

We again chose 2m, 70cm & 23cm as last year. The rules this year have been modified whereby we were restricted to Saturday only for 70cm & Sunday only for 23cm. This rather strange decision meant that the (fairly normal) practice of soliciting a 23cm QSO after completing on 70cm was not possible! We did call some 2m stations already worked, to ask about 23cm on Sunday with some limited success.

On the Saturday (when the 2m operator remembered!) we did ask a 2m contact if they had 70cm. This resulted in a "not at the moment; maybe later or tomorrow?" response from a number of stations! Of course under these new rules 'tomorrow' was no good to those in the MS, LP or Restricted categories!

continued.....

During the planning a few weeks ago, it seemed that we had good support from the helpers for setting-up on Friday/Saturday & taking down on Sunday afternoon. Thanks guys, it would have been almost impossible without your help. The BIG club tent needs at least 4 & preferably about 6 'bodies' to help erect it! I kept well out of the way of tent-erection, & kept myself busy assembling antennas.

What was disturbing at one point in the planning, was that we had Malcolm & myself as the only 'Contest Operators' with guaranteed availability! Before my few days in Swanage I therefore panicked & called in a few favours. We subsequently had a significant input from John G4CZB, who took over the 'Night Watchman' role by sleeping in the operating tent; a massive help John, thanks. He also bagged some useful DX early on Sunday morning. (When I was still sleeping back home)

Also a visit early on Sunday morning for a few hours by Tim G6GEI from the MK club. Phil G4FVZ (also MK) loaned us the 23cm antenna & pre-amp as last year, but was unable to join us this time as he had only just had a hip replacement operation & was at home on crutches! Maybe next year Phil? Also we had operator visits from both Charlie G0SKA & James M0JCQ, who managed to wangle some time off from grandfather & father duties respectively.

So in the end we had good operator coverage, which meant that I did not do that much. At one point I did slip into the 70cm seat & promptly worked DH8AF at 544km, our best DX on that band! He was working other German's & calling CQ in German when he just came up quite loud. I guess it was a reflection from a large aircraft? He seemed slightly bemused to be called by a UK station? After we completed, half the UK then called him (but I had bagged him first; he-he!!!)

We ended up with a better score than last year on 2m & 23cm & about the same on 70cm.

The generator behaved, but will get a full service & oil change before its next outing. Maybe a new spark plug as well? Thanks Mark.

I am leaving it to our excellent editor to gather together the various photographs taken by others & add the relevant captions. So I am drafting this a bit 'blind' so to speak.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

VHF Field Day - Photos.



Contest Calendar for June and July 2025

August - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
No HF Contests This Month			

August - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat	02 Aug	1400-1800	144MHz Low Power Contest
Sat	02 Aug	1400-1800	4th 144MHz Backpackers
Sun	03 Aug	800-1200	432MHz Low Power Contest
Tue	05 Aug	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 Aug	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 Aug	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	06 Aug	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	09-10 Aug	1400-1400	MGM
Tue	12 Aug	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 Aug	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 Aug	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	13 Aug	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	14 Aug	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	19 Aug	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 Aug	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	26 Aug	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

September - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	01 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series SSB
Sat-Sun	06-07 Sep	1300-1300	SSB Field Day
Wed	10 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series CW
Mon	15 Sep	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	25 Sep	1900-2030	Autumn Series DATA

September - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	02 Sep	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	02 Sep	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	03 Sep	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	03 Sep	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	06-07 Sep	1400-1400	144MHz Trophy Contest
Sun	07 Sep	1100-1500	5th 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	09 Sep	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	09 Sep	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	10 Sep	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	10 Sep	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	11 Sep	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	16 Sep	1900-1200	1.3GHz AFS Contest
Thu	18 Sep	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sun	21 Sep	0900-1200	70MHz UKAC AFS Contest
Tue	23 Sep	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



Listed below are dates of RSGB, UK and International contests for 2025.

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB 0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3

European HF Championship 1200Z-2359Z, Aug 2

SARL HF Phone Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Aug 3

CVA DX Contest, SSB 1800Z, Aug 23 to 2100Z, Aug 24

World Wide Digi DX Contest 1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31

All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z, Sep 6 to 2359Z, Sep 7

IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB 1300Z, Sep 6 to 1259Z, Sep 7

IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest 1400Z, Sep 6 to 1400Z, Sep 7

WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW 1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21

BARTG Sprint PSK63 Contest 1700Z-2059Z, Sep 21

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 27 to 2359Z, Sep 28

Full details and more contests at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Please double check dates, start/end times etc in good time prior to the event.

Radio Rally Dates.

Full details of the events are available in Radcom & the RSGB website.

August 2025

3rd - BATC Convention for Amateur TV (CAT 25) Part 1, Midland Air Museum, Rowley Road, Coventry, CV2 4FR.

3rd – Kings Lynn Amateur Radio Club 2025 Rally
Gaywood Community Centre, off Gayton Road, Kings Lynn, PE30 4EL

8th – Cockenzie And Port Seaton Amateur Radio Club Annual Mini Rally and Junk Night, Port Seaton Community Centre, South Seaton Park, Port Seaton, EH32 OBG.

10th - Flight Refuelling Hamfest. *(Further Details to Follow)*

10th – Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society (RATS) Annual Radio Rally, Princethorpe College, Princethorpe, Rugby, CV23 9PY.

17th – Finningley ARS Rally, 10am, DN8 5SX. Full details are available at g0ghk.com

24th – Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society Rally
Heron's Lodge Guide Activity Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9AA (opposite the National Badminton Centre)

24th – Torbay Amateur Radio Society Rally. More details at TARS website.

25th – HARS Radio Rally, HARS Radio Rally will be on August Bank Holiday Monday.
Please note important change to the venue. The new venue will be at the Ramsey Rural Museum, Wood Lane, Ramsey, PE26 2XD.



(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)

For Sale and Wanted

SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Dave G8FMC)

ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1. Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £62) New & boxed.	£40
2. Comet CHA-250HD/BXII Multi-Band HF Vertical Antenna (new £350) 250W SSB 75W Data. See March 2024 PW review. As new,unused	£220
3. Moonraker MRQ750 2m/70cm Mobile whip (new £35) Unused as new	£25
4. HF Mobile/portable antenna PL259 fitting e.g. large mag-mount? Unused	SOLD
5. Modified Cobweb antenna (Polish) (new £200)	£70
6. Sangean ATS-909X2 all-band portable receiver £225 ish new boxed	£150
7. QRM Eliminator X-phase 1-30MHz - £45 new	£25
8. Kent Straight key	£65
9. CW Keyer TC 701 - £70 new	£45
10. Soldering Station (basic) 60W	Offers
11. IGEN Max regenerative receiver. eBay US has an unbuilt kit at £160.	£50
12. Lead-free solder & cleaner (in bag)	Offers
13. SWR meter Moonraker SWR-300 120-500MHz £35 new	SOLD
14. Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
15. Signalink USB sound Card 8pm. £120 new	SOLD
16. Metro VNA in case (£270 new)	£175
18. Prepp Comm multi-band morse transceiver. Approx £358 new.	£225
19. MFJ Super Hi-Q Loop Remote Control . Unknown model.	?
20. QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested:- g8fmc547@gmail.com