

C.D.A.R.S.

April 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Clansman Military Radio'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



For Sale & Wanted

Still Lots of Items
Up For Grabs

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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Chairman	- Dave Keston (G8FMC)	Secretary	- Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)	Treasurer	- Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
	- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)		- John Hall (G0ODQ)		- Peter Holliday (M8PTH)
	- Roger Fellows (M8TGU)				

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

Newsletter Editor - Roger Fellows (M8TGU) newsletter submissions to: cdarsnews@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of the CDARS Newsletter. Yes it's April and we're already a quarter of the way through 2026. Somebody somewhere needs to put the brakes on!

With time racing away we will shortly be embarking on a couple outdoor club events. Firstly, just over a month away, on May 9th-10th, is the annual Mills on the Air weekend. We will again be setting up 'camp' at Brill Windmill and hoping the weather stays fine. As always it takes a bit of effort to set up the antenna's etc and we would appreciate assistance from anyone that can make it to setup and breakdown on either Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon.



Roger M8TGU

Just two months later it's the VHF NFD weekend of 4th-5th July. Usual setup is likely to be on Friday 3rd. As with the Brill weekend assistance would be appreciated to help erect antenna's and of course the mast. More info on this nearer the time. And at that point we will be half way through the year

In the mean time we still have our regular formal meetings to look forward to. At the moment we have the April meeting sorted and also a possible for May. However we are a bit short going forward. If anyone has any ideas for a talk/presentation on a subject then please do let a member of the committee know. It doesn't necessarily need to be about radio. Guy's (M0GUY) talk about 3D printing last month was an interesting example.

Anyway there's some food for thought. Until next month I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

My deaf/low output Icom IC-706 saga continues:

To follow on from last month, I treated the antenna socket centre pin & more importantly the PL259 to N adapter to some Electrolube & the radio behaved perfectly for the first part of the March 144/432MHz contest. Then on the Sunday it played up again!

At the start of the 70cm UKAC the following Tuesday, my setup seemed to be fine. However after just 2 QSO's it went sick again! I think we have 2 faults; the long standing one plus a recent additional intermittent, that looks like it might be temperature dependant?



Dave G8FMC

I really have to get it properly repaired though, so investigated repair options. My initial favoured option was Geoff at Castle Electronics in North Wales. It seems he is no longer in business & might even have gone Silent Key? Stumbling on what I thought was a Radio World web site page, I found that they were offering repairs by Geoff. A phone call revealed that I was looking at a very old Blog page! Radio World told me they had not used Geoff since before COVID!!! They had another repairer they rated highly, so I provisionally set up arrangements to ship the radio to them. Initial enquiries of carriers looked promising, with modest charges. Big snag, insurance of the item was only for a value of £50! By the time one ups that to a more realistic £250 - £300 the cost multiplies.

A quick calculation suggested that a personal visit to Walsall in basic petrol costs would be comparable, without the need to double-box it etc. I may visit my friend John G4KXP in Droitwich soon for a couple of nights & the pair of us take a day trip to Radio World for a browse & radio drop-off? It is less than an extra hour from John's QTH & I am overdue for a visit anyhow!

SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radios) I wonder how many of you know what this is all about?

There are a select few who practice this art, which when successful, can produce quite amazing scoring rates for contesting. Andy G4PIQ is our VHF Contest Manager, but one of the top HF & CW operators as well, frequently featuring in the top few places of contests. I mention his 80m CC exploits in my Contesting page this month. Even if not interested in contesting, I suggest you take a look at that paragraph. I was not sure whether to put it here or in the Contesting page, as I think the basic principal is quite fascinating, even if you decide like me, that to try to do that would end in disaster!

Perhaps there is a short video out there that the club can run, just to appreciate what can be done with SO2R? (if you have the resources & the brain to cope?)

So just a few lines this month, maybe a bit more next month?

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

Contests/Operating

UKAC's 2026: (CDARS + Associate members only)

As anticipated there was a rush of results just after I had sent my piece to Roger for publication! Again this month there is a bit of a back-log of pending results. Current placing overall for CDARS is 3rd not far behind Guildford & Spalding. We are still holding top-spots on 2m & 70cm. Slightly surprisingly NRC have got the top spot for 4m, in spite of only 3 entrants. Jason G7LII/P is doing very well on this & other bands, so he is the top performer for Northampton ATM. CDARS are 3rd on this band, also with just 3 entrants.

80m CC Series:

I seem to be the only CDARS member supporting this ATM & I am adding my few points to the NRC pot (where I am also a full member) John & myself seem to be the main supporters of this, with a couple of other NRC members on the SSB sessions only. In spit of this modest support NRC are 13th out of 40 local clubs.

John always sticks to the 10W Unassisted category, which is quite a challenge when 80m gets rather crowded! On Data & CW John is 2nd behind Andy G4PIQ & only a few places lower on SSB. No magic, just a good radio, good operator & a simple 80m Dipole at just 8m AGL!

I must just add a word about Andy G4PIQ: A lovely bloke & an incredibly successful operator, in a completely different league to myself (& many others) Now Andy talks fast & acts fast. He seems to think even faster & finds multi-tasking easy!!! On HF he runs full SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radios) within the same band. (Even more challenging than SO2R split-band) For those that do not know about SO2R a brief description.

He uses 2 x Elecraft K3 radios plus suitable controllers & a separate RX antenna sited a bit away from the main (TX) Dipole. (I think he has a bit of land!) A single stereo head-set is used with the RX from one radio into the left ear & the RX from the other radio into the right ear. He will 'Run' on radio 1 (call "CQ contest" using a pre-recorded voice keyer, with an RX pause for a few seconds, then repeat) whilst tuning the band in S&P mode (Search & Pounce) on radio 2. He will flip between the two radios as appropriate to maximise his 'hit-rate'.

On CW his recent 'hit-rate' was 169 QSO's in a mere 90mins! Mind you John has managed 136 with just 1 radio, to generally take 2nd spot. Great effort John.

The late wonderful Jeremy G3XZG, could send & receive CW whilst having a conversation with someone alongside him in the shack. I have been that someone & been mesmerised by his ability to compartmentalise/multi-task. I think his lack of sight actually helped in these situations as there was NO visual distraction to use-up some of the brain function? Ah Jeremy we so miss you. Another wonderful person sadly taken too early.

AFS Superleague: (CDARS and friends)

The final 432MHz session results put the CDARS 'A' team 3rd, behind Camb-Hams & Parallel Lines. (Note; Parallel Lines might have migrated from 'Local' to 'General' for the UKAC's, but for all other contests they are still a 'Local' club! Albeit with slightly reduced participants, as some of their more distant members would be outside of the 80Km limit, so supported their primary/more local clubs) Our 'B' team was the 2nd placed B team, again behind Parallel Lines (who also had a 1 man C team; i.e. they fielded more entrants than anybody else!)

The final overall placing was 4th (out of 52) behind Camb-Hams, Spalding & Norfolk. Interesting that the top 3 are all roughly in the East Anglia area & great HF operators? Also interesting is that had we entered the 'General club' section we would have been a clear 2nd behind Addiscombe & comfortably ahead of Harwell & the rest!

continued.....

March 144/432MHz

Well this is now over & done. I was awaiting results & had given up & sent my draft to Roger. Within hours the results came through; so a quick re-draft & re-submit!

I did not push folks to maximise 'Club' points this year, as we are not likely to win the VHF Championship again, with the loss of Roger G3MEH & the NRC boys no longer in our team. So I invited those that participated to do whatever category they wanted. Phil M0NVS (M0N) now has mains power to his site on the Bovingdon farm. He is refurbishing an old caravan, so can now run 1,00W of RF, plus have a heater, plus boil the kettle! So much better than a Gazebo, or squashed in his van, particularly in winter! It seemed to pay off as he did a solo stint entering the SO (Single Operator Others, or Open i.e. NOT at home location, which is SF) As anticipated from claimed scores he won that category comfortably. Well done Phil.

On 2m; Charlie G0SKA entered the SF category & came 3rd. In 6S John G0ODQ bagged 10th & I was in the bottom half at 23rd out of 42.

On 70cm Phil again got top spot in SO. In 6S John was 3rd & myself 23rd out of 38. UK activity was rather dire! This did mean less local QRM & higher points/QSO, but in my case fairly pathetic numbers well below a lot of others. Roger G3MEH very generously offered me the loan of his amplifiers, but as it turned out the extra power would have only got me another 3 QSO's! My take-off to the EU is so limited by those damned trees!

"If you can't hear them you can't work them"!!

Matt G0XDI was operating G8T with the Black sheep team at their new site & achieved a combined score of 233,535 pts from 589 QSO's! That clearly won them the 'Open' category. I suspect the majority were German stations & only about 10% UK?

The overall position for the VHF Championship is 2nd significantly behind Hereford, who look like they are determined to win the trophy this year!

14-15th March was The Commonwealth event.

This as previously stated this was HF & CW only, so for the dedicated few. I don't think any CDARS members entered that? Maybe next year Marc? John G4CZB from NRC did enter & ATM looks like he might be the highest 'G' entry in his category? (Single Op, low power unassisted, as usual) Keeping fingers crossed for you John. (He will know the outcome before the rest of us as he is the adjudicator for this one! Results are verified by Ian G0FCT, to avoid any comments about John 'marking his own homework'.)

73, Dave K, G8FMC

Clansman Military Radio's.

At the formal club meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall on February 25th Terry G4UEM gave a talk to members about the Clansman Military radio range. Below are some photo's from an enjoyable evening.



Terry G4UEM with the Clansman
RT320



Marc G5TEA sporting with the
Clansman RT350



John G4CZB with the
Clansman RT350



The Clansman RT321 above and the
RT 320 radio below.



Contest Calendar for April & May 2026

April - HF

Day	Date (2025)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	11-12 Apr	1200-1200	FT4 International Activity Day
Mon	13 Apr	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Wed	22 Apr	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Sat-Sun	25 - 26 Apr	1200-1200	UKEI DX CW Contest
Mon	27 Apr	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	30 Apr	1900-2030	80m CC DATA

April - VHF

Day	Date (2025)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Wed	01 Apr	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	01 Apr	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Tue	07 Apr	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Apr	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Apr	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	08 Apr	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	09 Apr	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	14 Apr	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Apr	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Apr	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	21 Apr	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Tue	28 Apr	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

May - HF

Day	Date (2025)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	12 May	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Mon	19 May	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest
Wed	21 May	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Thu	29 May	1900-2030	80m CC CW

May - VHF

Day	Date (2025)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat-Sun	02-03 May	1400-1400	May 432MHz-245GHz Contest
Sat	02 May	1400-2000	432MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	05 May	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	05 May	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	06 May	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	06 May	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	08 May	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Sun	10 May	900-1200	70MHz Contest CW
Tue	12 May	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	12 May	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	13 May	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 Hours)
Wed	13 May	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 Hours)
Sun	17 May	1100-1500	1st 144MHz Backpackers
Sun	16-17 May	0800-1400	144MHz May Contest
Tue	19 May	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	21 May	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sun	24 May	0800-1400	10GHz Trophy Contest
Tue	26 May	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

(Start times are all at 8pm unless otherwise noted)

April 2026

1st - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

8th - Informal Meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

15th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

**22th - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall.
A talk and demonstration by Malcolm G3ZNU and Peter M8PTH
on digital voice using the FreeDV software.**

29th - 5th week meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green.

Listed below are dates of RSGB, UK and International contests for April 2026

EA RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 4 to 1200Z, Apr 5

SP DX Contest 1500Z, Apr 4 to 1500Z, Apr 5

JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12

IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 11 to 1800Z, Apr 12

Africa FT4 DX Contest 1500Z-1800Z, Apr 11

ES (Estonia) Open HF Championship 0500Z-0859Z, Apr 18

Dutch PACCdigi Contest 0700Z-1900Z, Apr 18

Helvetia Contest 1300Z, Apr 25 to 1259Z, Apr 26

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.

April 2026

5th - Broadcast Engineering Museum Open Day, 41 Capper Avenue, Helmswell Cliff, Nr Gainsborough, Lincs. DN21 5XS.

11th - QRP Convention, Digby Hall, Sherborne, Dorset.

12th - BVWS Swapmeet, Golborne Sports & Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 3HG.

12th - Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition, Northbreck Castle Exhibition Centre, Blackpool, FY2 9AA

18th - Moray Firth Amateur Radio Society Surplus Sale, Roseisle Village Hall, Nr. Burghead, Inverness.

19th - Cambridge Repeater Group Rally, Foxton Village Hall. Hardman Road, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6RN.

June 2026

14th - Junction 28 Radio Rally, The Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, Derbyshire. DE55 2EJ

21st - Suffolk Wireless Revival (Ipswich Radio Rally) Kirton Recreation Ground, Back Road, Kirton, IP10 0PW (off A14).

August 2026

9th - Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest, Cobham Sports & Social Club Ground, Merly, Nr Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA.

October 2026

11th - Annual Hornsea Rally, Driffield Showground YO25 9FB

25th - Galashiels Radio & Computer Rally, The Volunteer Hall, St. Johns Street, Galashiels, TD1 3JX.

(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)



For Sale and Wanted

For Sale: Wouxun KG-UV6D Two-way radio. £30.00 (See pic right)

2m (5W) and 70cm (4W).

In original box with charger, handbook and a replacement for lost antenna.

Transceiver works well but I can't guarantee the battery life which appears OK.

Contact: 07909783027 or email g8mfh@aol.com.
You can also find me at the club meetings.

Bob G8MFH



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 £30) New & boxed.	£20 (<i>price reduced</i>)
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
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
14. Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
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.	Offers
20. QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

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