

C.D.A.R.S.

July 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VHF National Field Day 4/5th July 2026

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



July

2025



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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General

WhatsApp group



Scan the QR code to join the CDARS WhatsApp Group.

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Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of the CDARS Newsletter.

It's a bit thin on the content front this month but hopefully with National Field Day in a few days time there will be some content for the August issue.

To get you in the mood for NFD I've placed some photo's from last year on the front cover. The weather is looking favourable for the whole weekend so it should be an enjoyable time (No padding around in wellies and long grass!)



Roger M8TGU

Remember if you have anything you could contribute to your newsletter, whatever it may be, it would be appreciated. It doesn't necessarily need to be radio related but it would help.

Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

Well, what news do I have for this month? I think we have all been melting a bit in this years 2nd official 'Heat-Wave' for 2026, with records being broken.

Later this month for the formal meeting on 22nd July, it is actually my turn to be away on a brief holiday; a rather rare event!

Roger M8TGU & myself gave a presentation on 'Compact HF wire Antennas' at the club on 24th June, which featured, amongst others, the ex Jeremy G3XZG half-size G5RV antenna. (full review next month? Slides will be available on our web site in due course)



Dave G8FMC

I mentioned last month that I had this up at G8FMC QTHR for some tests/comparisons, where it performed quite well. In fact rather better than I expected, particularly on 20m. The evening weather was still very hot but we put this antenna up on my 30ft mast for some practical operating. Conditions were quite busy but with limited time we ended up just listening without completing any contacts.

We had a visit from Peter G8ETV, a semi-local Ham no longer active, who had an old Trio 9R59DE (valve) receiver that was looking for a good home. Peter had a tune round & demonstrated that the old RX was still performing quite well. New member Adrian took it to have a play with. Let us know how you get on Adrian.

Almost winding this up to go-to-press, without much this month. However I have a very Non-radio story to tell:

Last night (Friday 26th) rather late my car alarm suddenly went off. I rushed to grab the key/remote to unlock & cancel the alarm. A quick check on doors etc then went back indoors. (The clever 'Keyless Entry' car then locks itself & sets the alarm) About 40mins later it went off again. Another check, no obvious problems, so went to bed. Several alarm calls later at 40mins to over an hour spacing & we were at about 3.00am. This time I opened & closed all doors & the tail gate, then started the engine for about a minute. All seemed fine, so back to bed. I also cancelled the alarm (or so I thought?) At about something past 4.00am, with it starting to get light, yet another triggering of the alarm!

I was somewhat exasperated at this point. I grabbed a powerful torch & looked inside the car in case there was a moth flying about, or something. The torch beam picked up a VERY fine cobweb between the interior mirror & the gear stick! I destroyed this but no sign of the 'maker' of course. Just to make sure of no further disturbances, I actually left the car door slightly open, so the alarm did not set. A check with the Mazda garage this morning confirmed that one needs 2 presses of the cancel button, in quick succession to cancel the alarm! They also confirmed that a spider weaving a web is very likely to trigger the 'Internal Movement Detector'!

How does one deal with a tiny spider, buried in a corner of the inside of my car?

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

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

As ever somewhat of a backlog of results, plus a little flurry just after I went to press! With only 2 or 3 of us on most bands CDARS has slipped to 5th place overall, even behind Northampton (who seem to have a couple of extra entrants). Trowbridge have beaten us on 2m for the last 4 sessions, so we are in danger of losing the lead place on that band after an excellent start in January & February! We need more regular participants if we stand a chance of the separate trophy for UKAC 144MHz band.

80m CC Series (Northampton):

No great change on this series, although NRC have slipped back to 18th place out of 44 teams. I have missed a couple of sessions when they have clashed with club nights.

I was quite pleased with my last CW session, where the Morse Reader seemed to be behaving quite well & I made 45 QSO's, including GI6XX. I actually just made 50 QSO/hr for a short period purely on S&P (Search & Pounce) By careful use of the 'VFO B' knob on my K3s & the P3 display which shows BOTH VFO's simultaneously, in different colours (vastly superior to any other display I have seen) I managed to net on the next signal (within 50Hz) whilst working the current one, then flip VFO's once the present QSO is completed. Not quite 'SO2R' (Single Operator 2 Radios) but a step in that direction. SO2V I guess? This was my best CW session ever & on just 10W Unassisted. The trouble is Andy G4PIQ won on 10W yet again with 157 QSO's & John G4CZB was 3rd with 98 QSO's. Just proves that good ears & brain are MUCH superior to a PC program!

HF Field Day (CW only):

CDARS Club member Marc G5TEA spent most of the weekend at the Northampton field lending a hand (quite literally, with a paddle key!) to John & his Flying Ducks team. They were using their new call of G6ANT/P & aiming for 1,000 QSO's. Unfortunately, due in part to a technical hitch near the start, they only managed 946 QSO's. Still good in my book for 100W, single wire antenna & NO spotting or other assistance! That provisionally looks like 5th place with the top 3 in this category managing to crest the 1,000 QSO's. Well done chaps & I hope Marc was a useful addition to the team.

VHF Championship:

We have results for 4 sessions now, with CDARS in 3rd place. The May 144MHz event only had 1 serious entrant; Charlie G0SKA = 16 out of 64 in the Single Op Fixed category. I just came on in the last hour to give a few points away for the Back Packers. Dave G4RGK attempted the 10GHz but had serious equipment problems due to the heat causing the TVTR L.O. to be 'miles off frequency'! This resulted in an early close-down.

The 50MHz Trophy is running as I draft this. A mixture of extensive Sporadic E to many countries, or VERY quiet! Not many of us on for this either. In the end Phil & Stefano shared a station over the weekend & I put in a rather nominal effort. Saturdays Sp-E was manic with several stations on top of each other & several below 50.130MHz in the 'Inter-continental' band segment. Will they get disqualified, along with all QSO's from UK stations that worked them? Certainly the RSGB adjudicators are very likely to enforce the Band-Plan rules; as for the rest of Europe I have no idea?

continued.....

I had problems being heard with multiple stations calling the DX. My 200W was not enough? I suspect the 10 – 20dB of attenuation of those pesky 110ft trees played a big part? Anyhow with dire local noise (even worse than some evenings) I gave up & left them to it. A little bit more around the UK on Sunday when there was no Sp-E. I worked G8T Matt's Black Sheep team in Cornwall on ordinary Tropo, so happy with that.

VHF Field Day:

Planning & logistics are proceeding, but I suspect it will end up a bit of a last minute scramble as usual. By the time you get this the event will be almost on! The 4-5th July in the Wigginton field as usual. Initial mast erection is again scheduled for Friday pm on 3rd July.

I have sent out the request for availability & some have responded. We could still use a few more, both operators & helpers for setting up & break-down.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

Contest Calendar for July & August 2026

July - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	06 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC CW
Sat-Sun	11-12 Jul	1200-1200	GR2HQ Challenge
Wed	15 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC SSB
Sun	19 Jul	900-1600	International Low Power Contest
Thu	23 Jul	1900-2030	80m CC DATA
Sat-Sun	25-26 Jul	1200-1200	IOTA Contest
Mon	27 Jul	1900-2030	RSGB FT4 Contest

July - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Wed	01 Jul	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	01 Jul	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	04-05 Jul	1400-1400	VHF NFD
Sat-Sun	04-05 Jul	1400-1400	VHF Fixed Station Contest
Sun	05 Jul	1100-1500	3rd 144MHz Backpackers
Tue	07 Jul	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	07 Jul	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	08 Jul	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	08 Jul	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	09 Jul	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	14 Jul	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	14 Jul	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Thu	16 Jul	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Sat	18 Jul	1400-2000	70MHz Trophy Contest
Tue	21 Jul	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Tue	28 Jul	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

August - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	17 Aug	1900-2100	RSGB FT4 Contest

August VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat	01 Aug	1400-1800	144MHz Low Power Contest
Sat	01 Aug	1400-1800	4th 144MHz Backpackers
Sun	02 Aug	800-1200	432MHz Low Power Contest
Tue	04 Aug	1800-1855	144MHz FMAC
Tue	04 Aug	1900-2130	144MHz UKAC
Wed	05 Aug	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	05 Aug	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Tue	11 Aug	1800-1855	432MHz FMAC
Tue	11 Aug	1900-2130	432MHz UKAC
Wed	12 Aug	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	12 Aug	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	13 Aug	1900-2130	50MHz UKAC
Tue	18 Aug	1900-2130	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	20 Aug	1900-2130	70MHz UKAC
Tue	25 Aug	1830-2130	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

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

July 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

22nd - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall - FT8 Full Contest Demo.

29th - Fifth Wednesday - TBA

Slow Morse most Thursdays at 14.45 BST on 144.060MHz SSB.

Please see the weekly email from Malcolm G3ZNU for any changes to schedule.

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

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 4
TA VHF/UHF Contest	1200Z, Jul 4 to 1200Z, Jul 5
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jul 4 to 1400Z, Jul 5
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 11 to 2359Z, Jul 12
LABRE DX Contest	0000Z, Jul 18 to 2359Z, Jul 19
IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest	1400Z, Jul 18 to 1400Z, Jul 19
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 25 to 1200Z, Jul 26
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees - CW	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 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.

July 2026

5th - Barford Norfolk Radio Rally, Barford Village Hall and Green, Barford, Norwich. NR9 4AB.

5th - Broadcast Engineering Museum open day, 41, Capper Avenue, Hemswell Cliff, Gainsborough, Lincs. DN21 5XS.

5th - BVWS Swapmeet and Auction. (BVWS members only). Wooton Bassett Memorial Hall, Swindon, Wilts. SN4 8EN.

5th - Newbury Radio Rally, Newbury Showground. Jnct 13 off M4. Nearest Postcode: RG18 9QZ.

11th - Humber Fortress DX Amateur Radio Club Radio Rally, Welwick Village Hall, Northfield Lane, Welwick, Hull. HU12 0SH.

12th - McMichael Radio & Electronics Rally, White Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead. SL6 3LW.

19th - Lincoln Short Wave Club Summer Radio Rally, The Festival Hall, Caister Road, Market Rasen. LN8 3HT.

25th - Wiltshire Electronics Fair & Car Boot Sale, Kington Langley Village Hall, Church Road, Kington Langley, Chippenham, Wilts. SN15 5NJ.



August 2026

2nd - BATC Convention for Amateur TV, Midland Air Museum, Rowley Road, Coventry. CV3 4FR.

2nd - Finninglt ARS, DN8 5SX. More info at: g0ghk.com.

2nd - Kings Lynn ARC Rally, Gaywood Community Centre, Kings Lynn.

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

October 2026

11th - Annual Hornsea Rally, Driffeld 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.
£Offers (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