

NARS NEWS

An occasional Newport Amateur Radio Society Newsletter – Feb/March 2016

145.425 FM Net Frequency

Just so everyone is aware, TUESDAY evening at 8pm clock time is the Newport Club Net on 2 metres. Please do call in. Throughout the week club members can also regularly be heard on the frequency, alerting others about some juicy HF DX or just in general natter.



Great to have John GW8IQC on the channel!

Dates for your diary:

Our events organizer, Margaret GW4SUE, has advised us of the following dates when the club plan to operate special event stations:

16/17 July: Historic Bridges on the Air (Newport Transporter Bridge)

20th August: Lighthouse activity at East Usk Lighthouse.

24th September: Tintern Halt, Railways on the Air.



Club Auto Tuner

Thanks to Dale 2WOODS securing the bid on ebay, (at £93), we now have an SGC230 tuner.

Here we go with another 'occasional' club newsletter. Thanks this time to David GW8YNJ, Martin GW4TPG and Richie 2W0LGE for their articles. David sent some super photographs of his trip to Belgium, their inclusion in the newsletter doesn't do them justice but hopefully Martin will include them on our web site. Richie helped with the final proof run on the last newsletter, for which many thanks. This time I'm trying to produce the newsletter under Windows, so expect the format to be all wonky (!), next time think I'll be back on the iphone !.... 73, Steve GW4BLE.

My First Contest....

So, over the last couple of weeks, I have been slowly moving into a new shack room, getting everything set up. GW4BLE (Steve) and GW3NWS (Ross) introduced me to Logger32 which is a great piece of software for keeping logs. Everything is getting sorted out slowly in the shack and Steve mentioned that there was a PSK63 contest happening, specifically the UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, from 12:00Z, Jan 9th, through to the 10th ending at 12:00Z. I thought... why not

So I decided to use Ham Radio Deluxe for my data qso's, with its inbuilt Digital Master 780 and logging utility. I managed to get it all set up and working, macros to hand, automatic serial number incrementing, qrz lookups, etc etc. Thankfully, I am able to export the logs from HRD and import them into Logger32 via the trusty adif file format.

I started around 10:15pm on the Saturday, rather late I know. I managed to get 50 contacts in the log before I shut down around 1:30am, stations became few and far between after mid night. Many European countries worked that evening, Greece, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, Poland, Coatia and into Russia to name but a few. I also managed to contact a US station, N1NHY, who unfortunately wasn't partaking in the contest. I switched to non contest macros, and had a 5 min qso with Robert over there in Maine. Good stuff indeed !

Sunday morning I was back at it around 9:50am and worked some more stations in Europe and beyond. The Newport Amateur Radio Society club net featured between 10am and 10:50am, so I was back at it again around 10:55am calling CQ and jumping on those I didn't already have in the log. Some interesting stations on 15m worked, A65DC in the United Arab Emirates, UN6TA and UN7PGA in Kazakhstan.

All in all, very happy with the results, 100 contacts in the log, and a few lost due to fat finger moments on my part. The antennas here seemingly working quite well, the fan dipole 80/40/20 home brew at around 35ft top, and an inverted L, 128ft long, 60ft slight sloping vertical with a 68ft horizontal section.

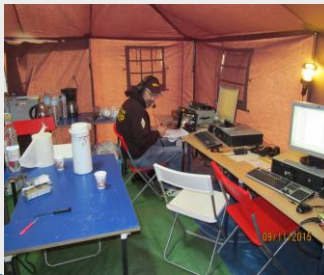
A brief setup issue on my part with the Kenwood TS-590SG. I had left the auto notch filter on, and it was playing havoc with the psk63 signals. I realised this after about 20 mins of trying to decode all sorts of corrupt signals. Ah well, I know for next time :)

A most enjoyable 4 hrs or so.

73, Rich, 2W0LGE

Amateur Radio Station ON4PTC/P

(Passendale Tyne Cot / Portable).....David GW8YNJ



In November 2014, I went on a coach trip to Belgium, staying for 4 days in a hotel near Ieper, to attend some of the commemorations associated with Armistice Day. On one day there was a visit to Tyne Cot Military Cemetery. Returning to the coach, I heard someone calling CQ. Behind the hedge, on my left hand side, there was the Passchendaele Amateur Radio Club's Annual Commemoration Event Station. I was asked to go on the radio, but I had to decline, as I the coach was about to leave.. After returning home, I decided to volunteer for the 2015 Armistice Commemoration. I booked the ferry and accommodation and was all set for my visit, of ten days. The Passchendaele Club holds the Event, depending on the dates, for 5 or 6 days (and nights) finishing on the 10th November – the Battle of Passchendaele lasted 100 days and officially ended on the 10th November 1917.

I checked the Triumph Tiger over and loaded the panniers, on Wednesday 4th November. I pushed the Tiger out of the garage the next morning, to ride down to Dover (I always stay at Bleriot's in Park Avenue, the night prior to the ferry crossing - Martin, the owner, is a fellow motorcyclist) pressed the Start Button, and nothing – not a click even. I checked the battery voltage, and at 4.65V it was not not good. I arranged the breakdown for the bike, and changed the ferry tickets, for the car. The journey to Dover was horrendous – pouring rain and accidents on the M4 and M25, so the car was much better!

The Dover to Dunkirk ferry was virtually empty, with the restaurant and bars closed. No problem landing in France and driving the 50 odd miles to Tyne Cot, via Poperinge and Ieper. Found my accommodation in the centre of Ieper and parked the car outside one of the Club Member's houses near the Menin Gate.

Saturday was taken up with erecting tents, aerials and connecting & starting the Generator. We were situated in an enormous field, the "normal" one having been ploughed for tobacco – seems that sugar beet, maize and tobacco are the main crops. 2M Colinear, 80M Inverted V, 40M Long Wire and 20M 4 Square were up and running by approx. 6.30 pm. Weather held, a bit of drizzle when we were packing up on the morning of the 11th, but radio conditions were mostly bad, with the odd few minutes of good contacts. On all Bands, contacts were mostly confined to Russia, Ukraine, Baltic Countries, Norway, UK (mainly Midlands, a few Welsh, Northern Irish, couple of Scots,) Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. We were hoping to transmit until 11.00 am on the 11th, but it was decided that we would pack up at 9.00 am and did so just in time to hear the lone Piper playing at the Cross of Sacrifice, at 11.00 am.

We all had a good time even though many Club Members had difficulty with attendance, as there are only about 5 retirees, the rest having to take time off work. Food and drink (beer if you weren't driving, or staying overnight) was all provided by the Club – Membership Fees at 10 Euros a year entitles you to all the benefits.

I am definitely attending next year and Linda is seriously thinking of going with me – if only for the beer and chocolates. One Member, Greg, took me to a Beer Warehouse, where I picked up some bargains to bring home. Anyone is welcome to attend – B&B, Hotels and camping (in the Location Field – the key for the Public Toilets is available at night) are all within a short distance. If you would like to operate at night, or camp, one of the Members can offer washing/shower/breakfast facilities at his nearby farm.

Sites of interest, nearby, include Passchendaele 1917 Museum (in Zonnebeke,) Village of Passchendaele, Ieper (Menin Gate, In Flanders Field Museum), Hooze Crater and Messines Museum, plus as many CWGC Cemeteries and Battlefield Memorials as you would want to see.

New home for the Acom 1000

As reported previously, the club's Acom 1000 amplifier now has a

new home at the QTH

of Rob, GW0RYT, in Risca. Here's the amp in Rob's shack....



Christmas Meal ?

Hint to Briony ;-)- my photos weren't the best this year, but hopefully some will appear on the cub web site soon....



There's quite a bit of interest lately in the cheap range of Baofeng hand-helds (walkie talkies), Martin GW4TPG has kindly provided some links to reviews and other information on the internet. Put your mouse over the links and Press Ctrl+Click from your keyboard (or press with your finger) to access:

YouTube review :-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56PvtAqacz8>

Sinotel - on line shop:-

https://www.sinotel.co.uk/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=1&zenid=l3kp9fue4c779bsug7g0har114

Baofeng UV5R on Amazon :-

http://www.amazon.co.uk/BaoFeng-UV-5R-136-174-400-480-Dual-Band/dp/B007HH6RR4/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1452322652&sr=8-1&keywords=baofeng+uv5r

Later version but basically the same radio :-

http://www.amazon.co.uk/BaoFeng-GT-3-Two-Way-136-174-400-520MHz/dp/B00GCZVXPI/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1452322700&sr=8-2&keywords=baofeng

this one is sold with a "high gain" rubber duck antenna - yeah right, watch out for those pigs flying past !!

73

Mart GW4TPG

And finally, take some time out to enjoy this, Ctrl+Click to follow link, (or press with your finger) and turn your speakers up (note, you do not need an account, or have to sign-up, just hit the play arrow)....

https://www.dropbox.com/s/83mflx8ibb0dlw2/IMG_8415.MOV?dl=0