



Derby & District Amateur Radio Society

(Inc. Derby Wireless Club, 1911)

Affiliated to the R.S.G.B.

Call signs: G2DJ G3ERD

Newsletter - February 2012

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all club members and to anyone else who finds this on the internet.

The Derby Wireless Club centenary celebrations ended on 31st December when our special event call GB1OOD elapsed. These events dominated much of 2011 and required considerable effort to implement. As such, January was a transitional month as the reality sank in; the long awaited centenary celebrations were an outstanding success but are now over.

If 2011 was retrospective then 2012 must be forward looking with a long-term view of growing the club to ensure that DADARS and Derby Wireless Club have a bright future. I know that is easier said than done, which is why we need help from all members to think of ways to promote both amateur radio and the club. How can we engage the younger generation? If you have any ideas, please bring them to the committee or just raise them in general discussion.

Annual General Meeting (March)

You may probably be aware that the AGM takes place on Tuesday 20th March at 7:30pm in the clubroom. This is a chance to elect or re-elect people into the roles of Officers or Management Committee. As an incentive, we offer free coffee, tea and biscuits - a real enticement if ever there was one. It is an important event so if you can attend please do so. If you cannot, please send your apologies to our Secretary, Clive Stevens 2E1HVZ.

SOS weekend (January)

Dave G1VAB supported SOS weekend in January by putting on a portable station from the club headquarters car park. Dave used his own call sign and worked 15 SOS stations. Dave provided a comprehensive write-up that is available on the DADARS web site under "SOS Weekend 2012".

Easter

We have a plan to operate a station from Duffield junction to celebrate the first year of the reopening of the line to Wirksworth. We expect to operate from Duffield Station using GX2DJ. Operating times and station details will appear on the web site <http://www.dadars.org.uk/> as progress is made. Volunteers are needed of course, not only to operate but to speak to the public and convert the unwashed so please submit your name to Dave, G1VAB.

Queens Diamond Jubilee (May)

For those of you not in the RSGB, February RadCom announced special call signs to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The Queen sat on the throne for 60 years, which by any standard is a

notable achievement. The arrangements extend from 5th May to 10th June allowing the addition of a 'Q' to your call: For example, G3ERD becomes GQ3ERD. You need a licence 'Notice of Variation' from Ofcom that is available on line from 1st March. The question is; do we want to run GQ2DJ and GQ3ERD as a club station over the period for fun? Let the committee know your feelings.

Olympic Torch (June)

The Olympic Games preparation will be a big event in Derby when the flame arrives in the city. I am sure that everyone (and his dog) will congregate at Darley Park to join in with the celebration on Friday 29th June. Nunsfield House ARG and DADARS will join forces to put on a station to celebrate what could be a 'once in your lifetime' event.

We are currently talking to Ofcom to confirm call sign type but cannot officially apply until 1st March. We suspect calls such as GB2012aaa will become available. (Nice call but not good for CW!) Details will appear on the web site <http://www.dadars.org.uk/> as they become available.

If you do not read RadCom then, like the Queens Diamond Jubilee, a 'Notice of Variation' to your license will be available from 21st July to 9th September allowing the use of an extra 'O' (Oscar) in your call. Here, G3ERD becomes GO3ERD. Apply online to Ofcom after March 1st.

Club Trip 2012

Still nothing heard from anyone on this. Dave Wilson M0OBW (RSGB President) recently announced that the National Radio Centre (NRC) is manageable under the 2012 budget and that it will, hopefully, open to the public soon. This could be a real good day out - is anyone interested? Another alternative is Duxford IWM. This is a chance to walk around Concord or drive a tank - another potential 'grand day out'.

Churches on the Air (September)

This will be around the second weekend of September. Clive, 2E1HVZ has arranged access to St. Osmund's Church on London Road in Derby (not far from Wickes) to operate GB1SOC as we have in the past. Please contact Clive with offers of help. Again, details will appear on the website as soon as available.

International Museums 2010 (June)

We have the opportunity to support International Museums Weekend (16th and 17th June) hopefully from the Donington Collection at the Donington racing circuit. We may be doing this in conjunction with the "Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance", or DLRAA as it is known, who hope to be fund-raising.

VHF and HF look good, as the site is about 100m ASL - about the same height as the Donington Services on the junction of the M1 and the A453. This should be an interesting weekend, especially if you like cars. Please contact Dave G1VAB with offers of help.

Other Events

We have other events pencilled in for the year. The web site will contain the details once they solidify.

Club Programme

February

7th Junk Sale
14th Committee Meeting
21st Video Night
28th Night on the Air

March

6th Junk Sale
13th Committee Meeting
20th AGM
27th Night on the Air

April

3rd Junk Sale
10th Committee Meeting
17th The Development of the Telegraph together with a demonstration of vintage telegraph sounders by Roy G4WPW.

G-QRP and Contests

The club is now affiliated with the G-QRP club courtesy of Kevin G4CMZ. The club committee asked Kevin to take the role "Contest Committee Leader" with a view of expanding club horizons and entering the club into QRP contests for those interested. Details will be posted on the DADARS club site as they become available.

Finally

Well, I think that is enough for one newsletter! Again, thanks to all those who helped make the 2011 Derby Wireless Club centenary celebrations a renowned success. Now the pressure is off, we need to give thought to DADARS future and see if we can enhance and expand the club.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in April and an Editor for that issue is required please.

Have a nice day.

73

Chris

G4AKE