



MKARS News

Letter from the Chair

Dear Club Member,

I thought I would once again write this update and send it out to our members, as some members do not 'do' Facebook, and may also not keep track of what the Club is doing on the Club website.

It's again been a testing time for the Committee as we wanted to get going with some face-to-face Club meetings as the lockdown restrictions were lifted.

However, the tightening of the regulations once again from the 2nd week of September has meant that we had to put those plans 'on hold'.

We will therefore contin-

ue our Zoom talks (2nd and 4th Mondays of the month), Zoom coffee chat sessions (every Friday) and Club nets (Sundays and Wednesdays) programme as we run up to Christmas.

We also have our special interest groups of CW and contesting still operating.

Our VHF/UHF/SHF contest team continues to make good progress in the UKAC's and we have many of the new members beginning to make a significant contribution to our Club score.

Simon M300V and John M6JPO have been steadily improving their scores on 6m, 2m and 70cm, Andy 2E0XMB, has made

a superlative contribution to many of the VHF/UHF sessions and Tim G6GEI and Las M6BOY have been leading the way on 13cm. However, we still need new members to the team. Please join us!

Despite the difficulties of not being able to meet face to face, we have a full Club programme for the next few months leading up to our AGM in October.

You will find all the dates for your diary on the back page.

Take care, stay safe and 73's,

Phil G4FVZ

Chair 2019/2020

Committee News

The Committee has reflected on what has been a difficult year to maintain momentum of the Club when we couldn't physically meet or undertake group activities.

Our outings have been modest compared to previous years, but on the other hand we have lost the opportunistic but significant income from

running the MKARS rally. To reflect all of this, the Committee will be recommending a reduced membership fee of £15 for 2020 - 2021.

The Committee will also be announcing 'Club Member of the year' and 'New Club Member of the Year' Awards at the AGM.

If you would like to help in running the Club and

take up a post on the Committee, please come forward.

Now is the time to do this and we need your nominations. Please contact Will, G1YYU, or Phil in the next few weeks if you would like to discuss your interest and progress your nomination.

October 2020

Highlights:

- October club programme announced
- Regular events
- Contest success
- Club AGM to be held on Monday 26th October
- Could you join the committee?

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Phil G4FVZ

Contesters Special Interest Group



CQ Contest,
CQ Contest ...

Following their success of achieving 4th place in the VHF lockdown NFD in July, the club contest team have continued to progress well in the VHF/UHF Activity Contest series known as the UKAC.

Each month there is a 2½ hour contest on each of the VHF, UHF and microwave bands from 6m upwards. The short evening format makes these an enjoyable introduction to contesting if you have never taken part in a contest before or been put off by the fast and furious HF band 24 hour weekend contests.

In September the team have moved up a place in the 2m

contest league table overtaking Trowbridge & District ARC and are pushing to rise in the tables on other bands too. Overall the club hold 8th position nationally across all of the bands.

Why not give it a go and add some points to the club score? Every point counts! You may well bag some nice DX too. There is no need to operate on all the bands or even every month. There will always be a friendly call from other members of the team to get your point tally started and pointers to where to find interesting contacts (read lots of points!) throughout each session. The monthly timetable is:

1st Tuesday	144MHz
2nd Tuesday	432MHz
2nd Thursday	50MHz
3rd Tuesday	1.3GHz
3rd Thursday	70MHz
4th Tuesday	SHF

You can operate from home or go out portable. You don't need lots of equipment or power. Each contest has a low power section that is restricted to 10W and a single antenna.

The Contesters also meet on Zoom once a month (4th Thursday) to discuss Club progress in the competitions, and technical and operational aspects that will increase the Club score. For more information contact **Tim G6GEI**

“The CW group welcomes those wishing to learn the code as well as those looking to become more proficient in the art of CW”

CW Special Interest Group

The group exists to help club members learn and improve at using CW (Morse Code).

We had a successful introductory session just before lockdown and formed two groups – learners and improvers.

Since that time, we have

struggled to make progress with the learners group, but intend to start the classes again via Zoom. We had a test run in September, led by Will, G1YYU, and it seemed to go well, and we intend to get the class back on track from November. We hope to run this on the third Monday

of the month.

The improvers group has regularly met twice a week via a 2m Sked, and speeds have steadily improved, although keying accuracy is still somewhat lacking!

Shack Corner

In this issue we take a look at the ARISS SSTV project which transmits slow scan TV images from the International Space Station (ISS) on 2m FM. Several club members have been actively monitoring the ARISS missions in August and September receiving some superb quality pictures from the space station transmissions. An unexpected bonus mission started on 3rd October which is scheduled to last for 5 days. This is the "Expedition 63 - ARISS Series 16 Satellites" mission and the set of 12

transmitted images show satellites from Sputnik 1 through the decades to new launches planned for 2021 and 2023.

The video signal from the ISS can be found on 145.8MHz FM using PD-120 coding. It can be easily received even on a handheld rig. Another option is to use a webSDR. Pictures can be decoded on a PC using Yoniq software or alternatively just install the Robot36 app on your smartphone and hold the phone in front of the radio

speaker. Each picture takes 120 seconds to receive and on each pass you will generally receive 2-3 different images. The pass times can be found on the AMSAT website.

An award is available for anyone who sends reception reports to the ARISS team.



SSTV from the International Space Station
Brendan, G8IXK



Club Meeting Report—14th September

On Monday 14th September we were delighted to welcome Paul Gibson, MOTZO as a guest speaker. Paul gave us a Zoom talk on 'Getting FT8 going on a Raspberry Pi'.

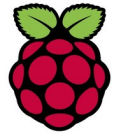
Paul saw lockdown in March as an opportunity to get more active on the air. He had set himself a target of at least one QSO per day on average and is now easily exceeding that with FT8 in the mix.

Paul took us through the hardware and software that it takes to get it going and

included a live demonstration QSO during the talk.

Paul also introduced us to CloudLog (see cloudlog.co.uk) which he uses and showed some of the powerful features of the package and how it can analyse and map your QSOs

A recording of Paul's talk is available for those that missed it.



An introduction to setting up and running an FT8 station using WSJT-X and Gridtracker on a Raspberry Pi

Club Meeting Report - 28th September

John Gould, G3WKL gave a very interesting presentation on 'Mounting a DX-pedition'.

John had been part of the 2004 Five Star DXers Association expedition to Rodriguez Island in the Indian ocean operating as 3B9C.

The station was operational for 4 weeks with three teams of operators. The accommodation was in two chalets in the grounds of what he described as a "very

nice hotel". John was fortunate to be offered a place in the first team and described how they erected antennas on the beach on arrival (and then had to move one due to the tide pulling on the ground radials!).

Rigs were operational on all bands from top band up to 70cm (used for EME). The operators were assigned to 4 hour shifts on the various bands. John's main focus was 30m CW. He described



3BC9 Antennas, from G3BJ

what it was like to be on the receiving end of a pile up trying to keep all of the callers happy—not an easy task!

"I worked more contacts in two weeks than I'd normally work in several years!"
John G3WKL

Membership News

New Members

During the last period we were delighted to welcome the following new members of MKARS:

MOJGQ: John Tomkiss,

2EONLJ: Jason Carley

John Gibson

MONBY: Noel Bradford

G6GCM: Tim Collings

Awards

Congratulations to John Owen, M6JPO who has been progressing over the summer through the bronze and silver levels in the Beyond Exams Club Scheme and has now achieved the Gold level.

The scheme was introduced by the RSGB to encourage club members to try new aspects of the hobby and participate in their local club,

Our training manager, Francis MOUKF, administers the scheme at MKARS and will be delighted to receive your claims for the award! For more information ask Francis or simply pop "RSGB beyond exams" into your favourite search engine.

There is also an individual scheme with 150 potential activities. What are you going to try next?

Welcome
Congratulations!



Milton Keynes ARS
Amateur Radio Society

Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society

Meeting Venue:

Milton Keynes Irish Centre
Pavilion Manor Field
Milton Keynes
MK2 2HX

(Due to COVID-19 restrictions all club activities are currently online or on air)

Web: www.mkars.org.uk
Email: information@mkars.org.uk

Please send items for the club newsletter to information@mkars.org.uk

The club for Radio Amateurs in and around Milton Keynes



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
GROUPS/MILTONKEYNESARS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/MILTONKEYNESARS)



Weekly nets and coffee chats

Sunday 20:00 —club net on GB3MK

Wednesday 20:00 —Club net on 28.4MHz

Friday 10:30—coffee chat on Zoom

Members Ads

This area is for placing advertisements for the MKARS members for items for sale, exchanged or available to be freecycled. Please included some words of description about the item with its condition and then your contact details.

Please ensure that all local and national COVID guidelines and restrictions are observed when viewing or collecting items.

For sale

Upgrading your station? —Want to sell some kit to fund a new purchase or make space? Send an email to information@mkars.org.uk and we can let the rest of the club know what you are selling.

Wanted/Exchange

Are you looking for a piece of kit for your station? - drop us an email and we will include it in a future edition.

Club Calendar

On **Monday 14th September** at 19.30 we were delighted to welcome Paul Gibson, MOTZO, who gave us a Zoom talk on 'Getting FT8 going on a Raspberry Pi'.

Paul walked us through what it takes to get it going and gave a live demonstration. A recording of Paul's talk is available for those that missed it.

On **Monday 21st September** at 19.30 we had a CW interest group meeting on Zoom and will be continuing these as regular events. Many members interested in learning CW

Monday 28th September at 19.30 we had a Zoom Club talk from John Gould, G3WKL on 'Mounting a DX Expedition'. John recounted his personal experience of joining a team going to an Indian Ocean Island and making 1000's of QSOs in a two-week period.

Moving into October, on **Monday 12th October** at 19.30 we had Francis MOUKF give us a 'teach in' on using GB3MK with the Echolink facility. Further details are now on the Club website

Looking ahead, on **Monday 19th October** at 19.30 we have Tim, G6GEI, to take us through the construction and use of the GM3SEK designed mains filter to help clean up the shack from interference. Many anecdotal reports indicate that this unit has a significant effect on reducing electrical interference particularly on the HF bands and has allowed the enjoyment of amateur radio once again.

Finally, as we run up to the end of October, we have set the **AGM for the Club as Monday 26th October** at 19.30, and after much discussion, we have decided to run this via Zoom. Join the meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82449490947?pwd=VmxzSUZ0SndFaCs3K1VEekNRZH05UT09>

I hope you can all make it.

We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of MKARS news. We look forward to featuring your projects in Shack Corner. To tell the rest of the club what you are doing or place a Members Ad, please email information@mkars.org.uk



Milton Keynes ARS
Amateur Radio Society

GB2BP - Bletchley Park
G8MKC - Training & Events

M5MK - Club Contest Call
M5EI - Irish Centre Call