



TARS TALK

Official Magazine
of the
Torbay Amateur Radio Society

Number 103

Winter 2017/8



Your Elected 2017/18 Committee

Chairman	John Head – G4VUD 21 Reynell Avenue Newton Abbot - TQ12 4HE 01626 205514
Vice Chairman	Mike Garry – M0LOB
Secretary RSGB Liaison	Pam Helliwell – G7SME 1 Beechfield Ave, Barton Torquay, Devon TQ2 8HU 01803 326033
Treasurer	Brook Verrall – G0VEB 28 Higher Holcombe Road Teignmouth - TQ14 8RJ 01626 773525
Membership Secretary GB3TR	Dave Fairchild G0DDF Bill Butchers - G8XST
Rally Manager	Mike Dixon - G1TUU
Club Equipment Co-ordinator PRO	Peter Tanner - G4VTO
Official Photographer	David Bowyer – M1AEI
Training co-ordinator	Linden Allan - M0TCF
Committee Member	Pete Tolcher - M0LAI

There are some vacancies for the committee if anyone is interested in standing to assist with the running of the society

You can e-mail members of the committee at callsign@tars.org.uk

Other Society Contacts

President	Derrick Webber – G3LHJ
TARS Contest Manager	
TARS TALK	Dave Helliwell MIRSE – G6FSP
Webmaster	Colin Coker – G4FCN
TARS TALK Advertising	

Date for next copy:
30th April 2018.

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Chairman's Ramble

John G4VUD

Hello and welcome to everyone, this has been a very busy and at times hectic period.

The final round-up for the rally proved that we had yet again had a very successful event and should help the club to continue along the lines it has pursued for many years now in a solid and stable manner. I would like to thank again all those that attended and helped out in the many different ways from the signing in table to the various stall assistants and the car parking team, who do a great job, but we never see them until the end when they get a chance to look around the rally themselves.

The Christmas party went off very well, unfortunately the contest teams were all "in house" this year, but Lin TCF did a great job in his quiz master post aided by Mike LOB as the scorer, the winners were the "Tetrode" team made up from Peter VFG, Les NUZ, Don NNP, and yours truly VUD, Les (lucky lad) was volunteered to look after the wonderful cup this year.

We have a fairly full program lined up for 2018 where I hope the club will be attending a few events, one big one coming along is being organised from this end by Lin TCF with the BLESMA event at the Helicopter Museum at Weston-Super-Mare 5th > 7th April, visit his Facebook page for more info, he wants plenty of operators and loggers for this one.

This period and indeed for most of this year has shown a very busy Friday night

attendance. The training team lead by Lin TCF have injected a great deal of activity and enthusiasm into the Friday nights with their aerial construction and testing out of various projects they have been doing. The best Friday to date was January 19th, when 40 signed the book, and I had to get in an extra litre of milk to cope with the rush, a very busy time indeed, and thanks to those that helped me with the dish-washing etc. during the evening. The coming weeks will see the Construction Cup night and the AGM, so I am hoping that we get good attendances for those events at the very least, and you will be welcoming a new Chairman into the fold at the end of it all.

John

*****For Sale*****

TARS TALK ON CD

£8.00 each for members, £10.00 for non members. Available from G4FCN at the Club on Friday evenings or by post if required, carriage and packing £1.00.

Workshop Tips No 21

Colin G4FCN

Having spent an hour or so at Club HQ the other evening with the lads (and young lady) who were building some kits, it became apparent that tips that I have picked up over many years of building bits and pieces on the bench will be useful..... I am sure there are many other tips you could add to this list.

1. Make sure you have a clear and clean work area. Put away any tins, boxes, tools etc that you are not going to need immediately
2. Make yourself a board with a raised edge around the outside. This will stop any small bits leaving the bench and ending up on the floor to be forever lost. This needs to be something that is inflexible, a piece of mdf, for example (not hardboard or thin plywood) with a length of small quadrant or square section wood glued around the edge.. Make sure you have room for your components and any tools you may need (soldering iron stand and solder.
3. Before starting on the build, ensure you have all the components to hand and that the values are correct (check them against the circuit diagram and components list). Use a multi meter to conform resistor values, or if you have one, a component analyser which will also do capacitors and inductors. . Some good examples can be found on the

internet that will not break the bank, and if you plan on doing a lot of building with soon pay for itself in saved time and tears!

4. As you check each one, attach about 1mm of one of the component leads to a length of double sided sticky tape stuck to a sheet of paper. as you stick each one, write the component value and circuit diagram designation on the paper. Do each type of component in turn, when all done put another strip of tape over the top of the stuck down end to ensure they don't go walk about. Then tick off in the components list each one as you identify them.
5. Now time to solder them to your pcb. Starting with the lowest profile component, locate the position on the pcb, bend the component leads to fit the hole spacing and insert into the board. Before you solder, make sure it is in the right place, the value is correct, and just as important, the orientation is correct. When you are absolutely sure you are correct, solder one lead, then checking orientation again, align the component to that it is either flush with the board at both ends, in the case of multi leaded components, make sure each leg is the same distance from the pcb. For heat sensitive components allow each joint to cool before going onto the next joint.
6. Finally, when the component is fully soldered, carefully check that there are no solder bridges between

tracks (use a magnifier if necessary) before going on to the next.

7. When all the components have been soldered, check again for solder bridges and then hold the board up to the light to make sure all the holes that should have component in are soldered (no empty holes).
8. If there are IC's to go into sockets, leave them out for now.
9. Connect the battery (or or PSU with a milli ammeter in series with one of the power leads. This should show minimal current draw, exactly how much will depend on the circuit. If there are no IC's, then the current will be higher, If you think it is too high, or the kit instructions give you a current value and it is much removed from this value, disconnect the power and check your board again.
10. Hopefully, you will now have a working project.

There are many construction aids available, the most useful is called a third hand (sometimes called a helping hand.). It consists of a heavyweight base with crocodile clips to hold your pcb firmly while you work on it. Some are also equipped with a magnifier. If you plan on doing a lot of building work on the bench, get one, you won't regret it.

This issue of Tars Talk has exhausted my list of Workshop Tips. This column has been going for a few years now. Maybe you have something you could contribute to keep the column alive. It is really good

to see the interest in various bits and pieces being constructed. If you have something that you think would be worthwhile including, send it in to the Editor. If you are unsure whether your offering has already been published, drop me a note and I will look up my list of previously printed Tips

Colin - G4FCN

*****For Sale*****

70th Anniversary Polo Shirts and Fleece Jackets

Many colours and styles are available, but I have been given quotes for hard wearing and popular styles and the prices are as follows.

£20.00	Short Sleeved Polo Shirt
£23.00	Long Sleeved Polo Shirt
£23.50	Sweat Shirt
£30.00	Thor (thin) Fleece Jacket
£35.00	Sigma (thick) Fleece Jacket

Each Garment choice is available in many colours and sizes up to 4XL.

Each Garment choice will also include your name and call sign along with the 70th Birthday Logo design.

Please contact Pam G7SME to place your order.

Payment is due on delivery of order. Any further information or to place an order please ask or email Pam at pam@g6fsp.com

Society News:

Society Activities November 2017

Peter – G4VTO

At the monthly meeting of the Torbay Amateur Radio Society Barry Weekes of the Totnes Image Bank came along for this annual show, this year there were two presentations, the first being a selection of Aircraft pictures that the Image Bank had been presented on the closure of the Torbay Aircraft Museum. The untitled slides showing equipment and Aircraft from the 1st and 2nd World Wars. The jovial banter between the forty or so members of the Society present produced a very relaxed atmosphere. Many recalling their past experiences and memories from the slides and guessing at the various Aircraft and equipment only to have some doubt cast in their minds when further pictures were shown, although some of the pictures were fairly old they were all in excellent condition covering the many aspects of war-time subjects. The second set of slides showed the construction of a selection of the older buildings in Totnes uncovered during various stages of alterations and refurbishments over many years as the businesses changed use or ownership. As some of the buildings were 300 years or more old the difference of construction over time often hid early architectural features which had gone out of style. As you can imagine dry rot and wet rot were very prevalent with many of the properties still having a well in the basement being fed by the underground

streams that had slowly become into disrepair. I am sure the membership present would agree that it was not a night to miss.

Thanks once again to Barry from the Image Bank. Looking forward to next year's presentation.

Peter – G4VTO

Connectors For Sale

The society has obtained a small number of useful connectors for members to purchase. They are available on any Friday night or contact a member of the committee.

Inter-series connectors:

SMA plug to BNC socket	£3.30
UHF socket to BNC plug	£2.30
UHF socket to UHF socket	£1.20
BNC socket to BNC socket	£2.00

RF Plugs:

UHF (PL259) Small entry	£1.00
UHF (PL259) Large entry	£1.00
BNC plug small entry	£1.50

Audio connectors:

3.5mm stereo plug	£0.70
3.5mm stereo socket	£0.70

Dual Band Beam Antenna for 2m/70cm Low Earth Orbit Satellite Work.

Lin – M0TCF

I recently became interested in Amateur Satellite's and having firstly joined AmSat, I then followed the very useful advice on their website(s) and managed to find, track and access one or two satellites. I'd been using either the stub antenna on my Hand Held (Handy) and then, using first a home-brewed beam antenna and later a commercially made 'Arrow' antenna.



First attempt – far too heavy!

Neither the home brewed items, nor the Arrow proved ideal! I simply found them too heavy to hold up in the sky for an extended period of time! I'm no weakling (and did, many years ago taken part in 'Poky Drill' exercises whilst in the Army – how my body ached afterwards!!!), having said that I thought I could come up with something less stressful on the old arms and shoulders!



The commercially made 'Arrow Antenna' with built in diplexer. Nicely made, but still heavy!

Part of the solution presented its self in a rather unorthodox way. I was clear that part of my quest was to find an inexpensive source of materials from which to construct my antenna from. The most expensive part seemed to be the commercially available dipole centre that I wanted to use and it was while sorting out some junk mail that I hit upon what became my final solution; I spotted an advertisement for TV aerials.

I decided to investigate a little further, having reasoned that whatever the manufacturers used to make their antennas from it must be fairly robust? Most seem to survive the very worst the weather can throw at them for year after year. A local Trade outlet proved to be the least expensive source for my needs and I set to sorting the 'kit' out into useful and 'less useful' items (nothing is ever junk in my workshop!!).

Very soon I had pretty much all that I needed, however the blades I wanted to use for the reflector elements were approx 50mm to short, but a little imagination along with a rivet gun solved that issue very quickly.

Having consulted my library, an online 'calculator' and numerous websites I set to marking out my boom, drilling and fitting the reflectors, driven element and directors for my dual beam. What I ended up with has turned out to be extremely successful, having been constructed in various different guises over the last few months and tested by various members of the Club.



Mk1 version of my design



Mk2 Version of my design this one breaks down for ease of transport in the field.

Lin – MOTCF

Picture Gallery

TARS Christmas Party



Winners of The Quiz Cup for 2017 – is there no one out there who can beat them?



The scorer



Raffle Prizes



Picture Gallery

TARS Christmas Party



Torbay Amateur Radio Society

Annual General Meeting 2017 – 20.00 hours Friday 24th February

Record number of members present – 31 out of 100 (31%)

1. **Apologies** – M1AEI, Giorgio Romanin, G1EUA, M3LMG, M3VVG.
2. **G3LHJ** asked for all to stand and remember those members we have lost this year:

Geoff G3GHS, Pat XYL, Reg G4LAK and on Wednesday 22nd February 2017, John G4OYC.

3. **Minutes for the 2016 AGM** were previously published in TARS talk, and copies attached to tonight's agenda.
4. **Matters Arising from the AGM** – none reported.
5. **Presidents Address - Derrick G3LHJ**

Sorry to start off with sad news. I am sad to say Geoff G3GHS went silent key in October after a long battle with health problems, he did manage to get onto the TARS nets from time to time, we do miss him checking in from Gorran.

Also, very sad to say that John G4OYC went silent key on Wednesday 22nd February. He had a rough time over the past years and had to have a major operation last week but sadly after a few days he didn't make it.

Reg G4LAK lost his wife Pat. Sympathy cards have been sent to all of the bereaved families from myself and on behalf of TARS.

2016/17 has been another successful year, with numerous outside events also on the contest scene where the society won a National Trophy.

It's good that our membership is staying stable over the 100 mark with some new faces and call signs last year.

Many thanks for all your help with the outdoor events, it makes the committee happy and their jobs easier.

We do need a few more on the committee, so please come forward and help the society, there is a need for a new membership secretary, with Ged G6CLD standing down after a very long spell in the post, our very many thanks to you Ged for an excellent job well done, I am sure she would give any help to the next person taking over, I would say it's a very interesting post to take on, with the computer at hand it makes the job much easier.

I will finish now and say a Big Thank You to all the committee, and to the 2017/18 committee my best wishes and again to all the membership a thank you and keep up the good work.

6. **Chairman's Address – John G4VUD**

We started off 2016 with our Construction night, then the AGM where I was voted in as chairman for a second term; then in March the presentation evening.

Throughout the year, we held special event stations with GEO parks (twice), then with the Hobbies Show in Kingsteignton and Railways on the Air from Buckfastleigh station.

TARS won Club of the Year for region 11 large club section again in 2016, and we will enter again.

We also managed this year, to rig up an outside aerial system, unfortunately as must erect it each Friday it is in use, but it does work quite well, so thanks the Peter G4VTO, Bill G8XST and Colin G4FCN for getting the bracket up in the air.

The rally proved to be another success – more information when G1TUU presents his report. The Christmas Party was a bit different last year as the Quiz Cup was not fought over, but we matched wits with the Lades and their Guide dogs from Jasmin House instead.

If I am elected again this year, it will be my third, and therefore my last as I feel three years in the position is more than enough, or it is for me.

I was also saddened to learn that one of the team would also be standing down, and will be sorely missed. On that note we also lost two from the committee during the year, and they have not been replaced, and only one new member has volunteered this time. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but with over 120 members we are having trouble getting committee positions filled, it's not being fair on those few who do volunteer.

I have already thanked those that turn out each time for the club at special events, but to have the same 10 or so people turn out each time is not a very good reflection upon the rest of you. At that rate, I can see a time when we do not do outside events at all, except for the rally, and if we want this hobby of ours to survive we must be out there spreading the word, and supporting these events.

That's enough babble from me, onto our esteemed treasurer Brook G0VEB for his report.

7. **Treasurers Report – Brook G0VEB.**

The full audited financial report is copied on the back of the agenda and all those members present have been given a copy. We have a healthy balance in the bank, but if the Scout Hall fee and Race Course fees increase we will need to rethink outgoings.

G6GLP asked out differing rally costs. G0VEB replied by stating this was due to being overcharged on tables as we had put them away after previous rallies. Last year the tables we used were left up, so we were only charged for those. This did make quite a difference in the overall charge.

8. **Secretary's Report – Pam G7SME.**

Happy 70th Birthday to the Torbay Amateur Radio Society.

It's nice to see so many members in their birthday shirts!!!! In my tenure as secretary I have been busy trying to arrange and book guest speakers for this year. Some dates have had to be changed and events re-arranged, but I am sure the finalised calendar will be fun-packed and interesting, to hopefully include a German Summer visitor and for our Rally, the RSGB President, Nick Henwood.

Unfortunately, the Brewery trip had to be cancelled last year, but we organised and ran a very successful Train the Trainers day. We had visits from Totnes Fire Officer Simon Tanner M3VTO, Stover Canal Trust and Devon Freewheelers. (at a second attempt), and old favourites from The Totnes Image Bank, and this year we are planning to visit the Fire Station and the Stover Canal. Special Event Stations will again include Geo Parks at the end of May, Hurdlestone Challenge in June, and Railways on the Air, and the Kingsteignton Hobby Show later in the year. There will be a few extra events including Coast watch special event station and a GB70TR special call sign (if we can get it) to run from the BBQ, in August to the Rally in September.

I also hereby give notice that this year will be my last as secretary and committee member. With over 100 paid up members of the society, it seems selfish to keep serving on the committee, it's time for other members to take over. So, I will finish by thanking everyone for all their help and assistance.

9. **Membership Secretary's report – Ged G6CLD**

Membership has increased to 129 in 2016 compared to 120 in 2015.

This is made up of:

Associates	4	(4)	Family	6	(8)
Full	74	(68)	Honorary	2	(2)
Joint	15	(15)	G3LHJ in Hon		
Juniors 2	(0)		Life	26	(27)

So far, this year, as of today, we have 100 (99) members paid up, which leaves 29 members who have not re-joined, but of course this number will go down, when the letters are sent out remind them their subs are due.

We have welcomed 13 new members to the club in 2016, and as of today, we have 1 new member for 2017.

As some of you will know this will be my last membership report, I am leaving the committee and this job which I have been doing since 2001. Whoever takes on this post I will help them in any way I can.

This completes my report for this year.

10. **Contest Managers Report – Derrick G3LHJ**

There was plenty of contest activity during last year, our main achievement was winning the Newbury Trophy for the third time running and that was in the 80m Sprints for the local clubs, our winning margin was over 10,000 points.

During last year 20 TARS members took part in many contests and modes, the regular members such as G3LHJ, G3SNU, M0TQR and G6GLP take part in all the major contests, they have received quite a few Certificates by doing single bands on CW, RTTY or PSK modes, we are short of CW operators but thanks to G6GLP for running slow Morse sessions on Tuesday evenings on 3.545Khz, so we hope to get new CW operators soon.

Things have changed on the RSGB contests, where most of them now have a shorter time limit for up-loading your log to the robot. It's now midnight the day after the contest end, so we are getting a much quicker show of results.

I still enjoy putting together my HF Contest News, and hope you find it useful if you are not on my emailing list, let me know.

I wish you all the best in contesting this year. It's getting more of a challenge now with the sun spots rapidly disappearing, and time to make sure your antennas are working efficiently. So Happy Contesting.

11. **GB3TR report – G8XST**

Last year we did not have many problems with any of the equipment on site, however early in 2016 we did replace the duplexer (cavities) with a set of professional ones.

This was due to a deal between the operators of GB3TR and GB7TQ, and there were no costs involved to either repeater group.

We did have some problems with the I.R.L.P. link. This was due to a computer and port forwarding issue, which has now been fixed.

We now have all our NOV's (Notices of Variations) in place for the next couple of years.

Thank you to all who have put your hands in your pockets and paid towards keeping GB3TR on the air. It costs about £1 a day at present prices to keep on the air, all other costs are met by the guys who help to run the site.

12. **Rally Report – Mike G1TUU**

This is the time to look back at 2016, and my only input was as rally co-ordinator but made less stressful with all the help from club members.

It starts with arranging a date then confirmation by paying the deposit.

The rest of the year is spent chasing traders.

This is helped by G4VTO taking and making phone calls, a bit like plod hard cop soft cop or maybe a different dialect but the result has helped over the years.

All the activity needs help on the weekend from club members and this shows the best side of TARS. We are doing it all again this year and with members help even in the age of the Internet, China and big regular traders retiring we are hoping for success. So join me and make it a success in 2017.

13. **Election Of Committee Officers**

President G3LHJ Derrick takes the chair. The following members have been proposed:

Chairman – John G4VUD, Secretary – Pam G7SME and Treasurer – Brook G0VEB

Proposed by Dave G6FSP, seconded by Colin G4FCN, all member present agreed, no abstentions.

14. **Election of the remaining committee members.**

The following have agreed to remain on the committee for 2017 – Peter Tanner G4VTO; Bill Butchers G8XST; Mike Garry M0LOB; David Bowyer M1AEI; Peter Tolcher M0LAI; Mike Dixon G1TUU. We had one new member proposed Linden Allen M0TCF.

Proposed by G4FCN, seconded by G4VUD. Voted en-bloc all members agreed with no abstentions.

15. **A Proposal to change Clause 4 in the Constitution**

was made by G6FSP and seconded by G4FCN. Every member present had a copy of this proposal and G6FSP gave a brief precis and asked for comments from the floor.

One question asked by 2E0WSZ asked should 31 members vote on such a change and all paid up members should be asked this question.

It would cost the society more than £150 to send every member this proposal and ask for them to respond by post. A Survey Monkey on-line set up may get those with computer access responding to this proposal.

The outcome of whether the entire membership is asked will be discussed in committee.

The amendment as proposed went to the vote.

Two votes for 27 against with 2 abstentions.

The vote for “No Change to Clause 4 in this current form”

Proposed by Jeff 2E0WSZ, seconded by Brook G0VEB. Voting went with the majority.

16. **Next Meeting Dates.**

The presentation Evening and Buffet takes place on 31st March, with tickets available from G3LHJ. 28th April I the 90/10 Auction, and a reminder that there is no meeting on 14th April – Good Friday.

Meeting ended at 21.05, followed by the raffle.

Draft Agenda for the 2018 AGM:

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Record of Members Present –
- 3 Minutes for the 2017 AGM – to be taken as read.
- 4 Matters Arising from the last AGM.
- 5 Presidents Address - Derrick G3LHJ
- 6 Chairman’s Address – John G4VUD
- 7 Treasurer’s Report –Brook G0VEB
- 8 Secretary’s Report – Pam G7SME
- 9 Membership Secretary’s report – David G0DDF
- 10 Contest Managers Report – Derrick G3LHJ
- 11 GB3TR Report – Bill G8XST
- 12 Rally Report – Mike G1TUU & G4VTO
- 13 Election of Committee Officers – President Derrick G3LHJ takes the chair.
- 14 Election of the remainder of the committee
- 15 Notices / matters notified in advance.
- 16 Next Meeting Dates

Rock and Roll Radio

Part XXIV

Peter Lewis – G4VFG

We come to number twenty four for the journey which started with Rock Around the Clock in 1955. Bill Haley came to Torquay in the seventies, and I was lucky enough to see him and his Comets. Most of the Comets looked like younger guys replacing the originals, but none the less it was a good show. This series started being written in 2009 in the summertime if I recall correctly. The noughties have been and gone, and for some reason I never can spell them correctly (Editor's note _ thank goodness for spell check) We have now arrived in the next decade, and towards the end of January 2010, the snow which caused such a rumpus has all gone from the West Country, and the last few days have been almost Spring-like. A Primrose plant next door is already flowering. The poor thing is confused. Radio two is carrying a programme of sounds of the seventies with Jonnie Walker who is still going strong, having started on those Pop Pirate ships. I gleaned a useless piece of information from a recent tele programme. Spring takes eight weeks to reach the most northerly, so spring in the Scillies is two months earlier than in Shetland. Not a lot of people know that, which should be spoken in a Michael Caine accent.

To the sound of some excellent memory jerkers, we must move on. A couple of days ago whilst cycling I saw a Norton

Motorbike, a Triumph Herald, a nice Austin Healy with the top down being driven by a Gent in a tweed cap. De Rigueur for such vehicles, I suppose, although I fancy a leather flying cap and a white scarf like Biggles. Last but not least was a Morris Minor. It was great to have reminders of a world when the Pound in your pocket was made of paper, and worth more than it is now, I seem to remember a phrase by a certain pipe smoking Labour Prime Minister who said Government policies would not affect said pound in said pocket. Of course, that was so much "hot air".

Many groups of people mention "The Good Old Days" as a group of us did at a recent radio club meeting. I suspect that it all depends on your age and perspective. There was three-part programme about the previous decade which explored the ups and downs, and concluded that for many, it of their lives. Now here's the thing. I am willing to bet that those with that view will be under the age of thirty-five, which is the theoretical start of middle age, so they say whoever "they" are. After that it is supposed to be downhill all the way. Well, let's use an aeronautical term and suggest a very shallow glide path to stay aloft for as long as we can, prior to hitting the deck!

Enough of this musing as the Morris Minor time machine awaits. In the seventies we were lucky enough to see several rock heroes. Whilst at a two-day festival at Knebworth, we saw the Rolling Stones and Lynryd Skynrd. We kipped in sleeping bags in a ploughed field as I recall which was

hardly five star. The Bristol Hippodrome rocked to Rickie Blackmore's Rainbow, with Cozy Powell on drums. He was one of my favourite drummers, sadly no longer with us. There was a venue in Cornwall called Carlyon Bay (Editor's note – Locals called this place Crinnis) where we saw Alice Copper, Slade, Uriah Heap, Whitesnake and Thin Lizzy, to name a few.

It has closed down now to be replaced by the ubiquitous luxury flats, and apartments. Who can afford them -Lord only knows. It won't be the local that is for certain.

We are lucky to still have a venue in Plymouth which sometimes attracts the big names. Those seen there include Status Quo, Deep Purple, Jethro Tull, Byran Ferry and Brian May. There are always artists that you would have liked to have seen. Two of mine are the Beatles and Led Zeppelin, but you can't win them all.

Some say that live music has become too loud. Live music has seen a revival and I doubt that the young fans of particular acts would agree. My criticism centres on the often-poor mixing, where vocals and lead instruments are drowned by general mish-mash of noise. There is no excuse with remote systems that would not be out of place in a jumbo jet cockpit. I have often noticed that support bands sound particularly muddy, and as if by magic the sound cleans up when the headliners begin to play. I may be a conspiracy

theorist, but I'm sure this sort of practise still goes on and it is very dodgy.

There! Johnnie Walker has just mentioned his days on Radio Caroline, and he is playing an excellent record. Can't get enough of your love by Bad Company, which is doubtless a sentiment echoed by many a young man over the years!

Ah, yes, we had better move swiftly back to mixers.

Bands used to use those wedge-shaped monitors arranged across the front of the stage. Nowadays artists seem to use those deaf-aid earpieces. Our band acquired the odd monitor, but never used those nasty little earphones.

Looking at old film of the sixties and early seventies, bands can be seen using those good old valve Vox AC30s and small combo, prior progressing to Marshall Amps and something more meaty. Output was measured in hundreds of watts. Music volume has risen exponentially with each decade, and a band at say Glastonbury could be chucking out hundreds of kilowatts.

A couple of stereo systems that I use are rated at fifty watts per channel, which were bigger and the valve amps seemed loud enough at the time for the pubs and size of halls that I playing in. A friend of mine recently bought a fancy new system to play music and video using Blue Ray, which I gather has nothing to do with fish, what is of interest is that the speaker cabinets are less than one foot by six

inches in size. Metric people can work that out on their electronic thingies.

Sounds measurement is something else again. The power of the admittedly loud systems so beloved of Chevette driving boy racers is rather suspect, as far as the actual rating is concerned. Having just thought this thought I realised that no boy racer will be seen these days in a Chevette, of course that was me!

I should have said Vauxhall Nova, although, although Peugeots and Honda Civic type R's seem to be the in-thing round here.

The thing is the actual rating on the box is a load of codswallop. Some are alleged to be several kilowatts which would blow all the windows out not to mention the baseball hat wearing individual's brains. Nowadays, it would seem that we are brainwashed with figures and specifications. If you can still hear the music in your head an hour after you switched the boom box off, then it was too darn loud. Simple.

Right it is time to watch the Sweeny, all in the line of research, you understand, before moving on to the Rooftop.

This was a dance hall situated in Plymouth above what was then a Gents outfitter's who saw a market selling clothes to trendy young men, at least those who thought they were trendy anyway. It was swept away with the building of the new shopping centre in the twenty first century. I refrain from calling it a Mall like the American.

The Roof Top was the venue where we saw the Australian band ACDC before they became famous, with Bon Scott the original singer and Angus Young complete with his now famous school boy uniform. They played their songs with some gusto! On that well struck chord it is time to pull the plug until the next one.

Good listening until the next one.

Peter G4VFG/G239322

Contest News

A full version of Contest news is published separately by Derrick G3LHJ. If you wish to receive this if you do not already do so, then please contact Derrick so that you can be added to his distribution list.

See dates for your diary for details of contest dates for the national club competitions.

Internal Contests

For anyone who is to enter any of the TARS internal contests this year, please **DO NOT** send them to Dave G6FSP this year as he will be too busy with working commitments to enable him to undertake any form of adjudication this year.

Anyone that is going to enter this year electronically please will they send their entries to internalcontest@tars.org.uk to ensure it gets to the adjudicator

BEEN THERE ? DONE THAT ?.....

Want to try something a
bit different??

**Special Event
Stn GB1BLV
Needs Operators**



A weekend Event in Support of BLESMA - The Limbless Veterans

Weekend 7-8th April 2018
at the International Helicopter Museum
Weston Super Mare, Somerset. BS24 8PP.

For more info contact M0TCF at TARS or
Email M0TCF@GMX.Com

Blesma
THE LIMBLESS VETERANS

TARS Training Team News

Lin - MOTCF

It's been a while since the team sent in a report, so I thought I'd better hit the keyboard and let you know what's going on in our little sphere of influence!!!

Well, firstly the team continues to grow, and with each new member we gain more experience, skills, knowledge and diverse interests. We've gone from success to success over the past year having managed to run four separate Foundation Licence courses and by the time you read this will have run our first Intermediate assessment/exam day as well.

You may or may not be aware, depending on your level of engagement with the RSGB, that a review of the training syllabuses has been carried out over the last 18 months or so, followed by a consultation paper and subsequent reorganisation of the exam and training materials. Notably, within the new syllabus is there a far greater emphasis on practical operations at Foundation level and the inclusion (for the first time) within the syllabus of the specific requirement to cover 'Data Modes' - whether this is an addition to the material we are expected to cover, or it has superseded something remains to be seen!

The TARS Training Team intends to spend the coming year updating our training package(s) and be both fully ready and compliant with the new scheme by its scheduled implementation date of Jan 2019.

Exams go Online!!

Following trials over the last 6 months, full licence exams are now available to be taken online, the role out for both Intermediate & Foundation exams online is expected very soon. I have spoken to users of the system already, who tell me it works, and works well if the internet connections are decent. The procedures for taking an online exam are broadly like that of taking a written exam. Candidates are free to use their own laptop etc. but must take the exam at a registered test centre (i.e. at TARS HQ) – whilst we do have access to the internet, at this point in time we (the team) do not deem the connection either stable or fast enough for the needs of more than one or two candidates, which isn't very satisfactory! So, for the foreseeable future we will continue to use written exams! However, we will be revisiting this subject over the coming months and will update members when things change.

Out of Band Transmissions etc.

Please ensure that you keep within the Amateur Band Allocations, especially on the 60m band (5 MHz). We share this band with the Military and they are regularly informing Ofcom of infractions etc. The new 2018 band plan is now available to view – by all – on the RSGB website, it's also been published in RadCom – Any member who can't access the internet and doesn't receive RadCom is welcome to contact the Training Team for an abbreviated copy.

73's for now.

Good DX all.

Lin MOTCF (Training Team).

Membership Matters

Dave GODDF

A reminder please that the 2018 Membership Subscriptions are now overdue. Thank you to those members who have paid promptly.

Since the last issue of Tars Talk we have had 6 new members. Please welcome:

2E0KFJ	Ken Jeffery
SWL	Lori (Steve Daniels)
M6NXB	Nick Beckett
G4VHL	Tim Langford
G3WCB	Dave John
G4UDU	Phil Godbold

Members who are now Silent Key (2018) are:

G3HTX	Walt
SWL	Alastair Finch
2E0DOX	David
G4OYC	John
DL7MV/G1FON	Mike

If you have changed your email, telephone number or home address please let me know. Also, if you know of any of our members who are sadly now SK please let me know.

I can be contacted either directly at the club, by email membsec@tars.org.uk, or writing to:

The Membership Secretary, c/o Peter Tanner Engineering, Unit 1, Burke Road, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5XL.

The current paid up membership numbers as of 27th January are as follows:

Membership Class	January 2018	Year 2017
Associate	5	7
Family	6	6
Full	60	82
Honorary	2	2
Joint	11	15
Junior	1	3
Life	24	25
Totals:-	109	140

The current subscription rates (held at the same rate for another year) are:

Full:	£15.00
Joint:	£20.00
Associate:	£10.00
Junior:	£5.00
Family:	£22.50
Life:	£500.00
Honorary:	£15.00

73's
Dave Fairchild

Slinky Spring Loop Antenna.

Lin - MOTCF

Whilst looking for information regarding Mag Loop antennas on the internet, I came across a reference to an antenna that substituted the tubular element(s) of a magnetic loop for a children's 'Slinky Spring', intrigued I decided to follow the thread.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much more except a rather vague description of the completed antenna and circuit diagram. Based on this information I built my antenna using the following materials:

1. Tesco's Own Brand chopping board.
2. A portion of a slinky (as noted from the reference text).
3. A 500Pf variable capacitor
4. Some bits of acrylic I had lying around in the garage.
5. A hoola hoop from Toys R Us.
6. Misc items (knob, metal bar, split pin etc) from the 'bits box'.

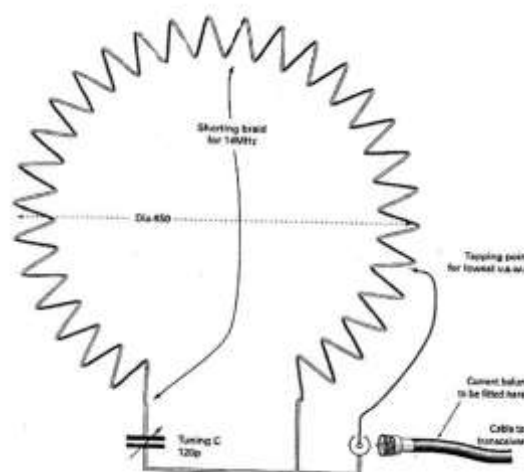
Construction was pretty straight forward, however the text did suggest the addition of a support for the hoop if necessary – mind seems rigid enough as it is!

As you can see from the diagram the antenna is unbalanced with no earth/ground, being driven directly by the coax. Another notable feature of the design is that there is NO requirement for a very expensive or even large variable

capacitor! The current is highest at the feed point (fly lead) and not across the plates of the tuning capacitor. However, like all 'unbalanced antennas' it needs some form of current balun inserting in the feed line, close to the RF input to stop common mode currents etc. flowing back down the coax to the transmitter!

It is 'tuned' by first moving the fly lead and 'tweaking' the capacitor. It is without a shadow of a doubt very broad banded, unlike a conventional mag loop! Once the 'sweet spot' has been found it needs no retuning, even if the transmitter is moved several tens of kHz off the current tuned frequency.

Brief initial testing showed that it was resonant on 40M, 20M, 15 and probably 10m as well, however I think the latter is pushing it a bit and that a resonating element with fewer turns may well tune up better at higher HF frequencies, contra-wise a longer element may assist in getting the antenna SWR down lower down the band.



Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
5 th February 2000-2130 UTC	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 6 th February	G3LHJ
9 th February	Business meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society Anyone wanting to raise an issue for discussion for the AGM must have submitted the agenda item by this meeting	G7SME
14 th February 2000-2130 UTC	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 15 th February	G3LHJ
22 nd February	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 23 rd February	G3LHJ
23 rd February	Annual General meeting	The secretary of the Torbay Amateur Radio society hereby gives notice that the annual General meeting will take place at 20.00hrs at Teignbridge District Scout HQ, Woolborough Street, Newton Abbot. Any matters that members wish to raise at the meeting should be submitted in writing to the secretary by the 9 th February 2018. At the time of publication there are vacancies for Chairman and Secretary for the TARS committee, so we urge members to consider applying for these important committee posts.	G7SME
2 nd – 4 th March	Training Event	Foundation Training Course at TARS HQ	M0TCF

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
4 th March	Exeter Radio Rally	America Hall De La Rue Way Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PW Traders, bring & buy, catering. Opens 10.30am (disabled & B&B book-in 10.15am). May open earlier if WX bad and traders are ready. Admission £2. Details from Pete, G3ZVI, 0771 419 8374, g3zvi@yahoo.co.uk.	G3ZVI
5 th March	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 6 th March	G3LHJ
9 th March	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
14 th March	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 15 th March	G3LHJ
22 nd March	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 23 rd March	G3LHJ
23 rd March	Monthly Meeting	Contest Winners Presentation Night	G3LHJ / G6GLP

Dates for Your Diary

Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
25 th March	Callington Radio Rally	Callington Town Hall, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7BD. Doors open at 10am and admittance is £2.00. There will be a Bring & Buy and trade stands. Catering available on-site. Ample free parking in the adjacent carpark. Rally organised jointly by the Devon & Cornwall Repeater Group and Callington Amateur Radio Society (CARS). More information and bookings from Roger on 07854 088882 or email 2e0rph@gmail.com	2EORPH
30 th March	Good Friday	NO MEETING	
4 th April	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 5 th April	G3LHJ
7 th – 8 th April	Special Event Station	Blesma at the international helicopter museum in Wester Super Mare, The Limbless Veterans, is dedicated to assisting serving and ex-Service men and women who have suffered life-changing limb loss or the use of a limb,	MOTCF
11 th April	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 12 th April	G3LHJ
13 th April	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
15 th April	Yeovil QRP convention	Digby Hall, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AA Doors open 9.30am to 3pm. Admission £3, regrettably only guide dogs can be admitted. There will be traders, a Bring & Buy as well as club stands. A programme of talks will take place, details on the website. Supported by RSGB, RAFARS & BYLARA [http://yeovil-arc.com/QRPconvention.php]	
26 th April	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 27 th April	G3LHJ
27 th April	Monthly Meeting	TARS 90/10 sale	TBA
7 th May	Dartmoor Radio Rally	Tavistock College, Crowndale Road, Tavistock PL19 8DD. Doors open at 10.30am (disabled 10.15am). Admission £2, under 14's free when accompanied by an adult. Ample free car parking and on-site catering. Trade and club stands, usual Bring & Buy. Details from Viv Watson, G7AWG, 01752 823 427, vivwatsondrc@aol.com .	G7AWG
7 th May Bank Holiday	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 8 th May	G3LHJ
11 th May	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
16 th May	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 17 th May	G3LHJ

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
24 th May	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 25 th May	G3LHJ
25 th May	Monthly Meeting	Motorcycle Tests and Holiday experiences G7JHE	TBA
4 th June	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 5 th June	G3LHJ
8 th June	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
13 th June	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 14 th June	G3LHJ
17 th June	West of England Radio Rally	Cheese & Grain venue, Market Yard, Bridge St., Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE. Inside & outside traders, free car parking, disabled access, café, RSGB bookstall. Open 10am to 2pm, admission £3, accompanied under 14s free. Details from Shaun G8VPG, tel. 01225 873 098 rallymanager@westrally.org.uk www.westrally.org.uk ”	G8VPG
28 th June	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 29 th June	G3LHJ
29 th June	Monthly Meeting	Repeaters by G3ZVI (to be confirmed)	TBA

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
2 nd July	80M club contest CW	CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 3 rd July	G3LHJ
11 th July	80M club contest SSB	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 12 th July	G3LHJ
13 th July	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
15 th July	Cornish ARS Radio Rally	Penair School, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1TN Doors open 10.30am, admission £2. There will be traders, Bring & Buy, club stalls, car parking. Catering is available onsite. Contact Mike G1NRF 01209 211069, mike.g1nrf@hotmail.com for more information	G1NRF
26 th July	80M club contest Data modes	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 5 th June	G3LHJ
27 th July	Monthly Meeting	Colossus by G4NNP	TBA
10 th August	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event	Event	Organiser / details
12 th August	Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest	Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, nr Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3DA Talk in will be on S22. Doors open at 10am and admission is £4 that includes parking, There will be trade stands, a car boot sale. There will be a lecture stream during the day. Tony Baker, G3PFM, 07743 475 018, tbaker@tiscali.co.uk [www.frars.org.uk]	G3PFM
24 th August	Monthly Meeting	Pre-Rally briefing	G4VTO
26 th August	Torbay ARS Annual Comms Fair	The Racecourse, Newton Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 3AF Indoor event, free parking, disabled facilities, accessible by public transport. Bring-and-buy sale, catering, RSGB Book Stall, special interest groups, trade stands, prize draw/raffle. Contact Mike, G1TUU, 01803 557 941, rally@tars.org.uk	G4VTO
31 st August	Monthly Meeting	Post Rally Review	G4VTO
14 th September	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
16 th September	Wester Super Mare Rally	Details to be confirmed	
28 th September	Monthly Meeting	Tesla Coil Demonstration by G8GON	TBA
12 th October	Business Meeting	The normal business meeting of the Society	TBA
26 th October	Monthly Meeting	TBC	TBA

TARS Useful Information

Meetings: Teignbridge District Scout HQ, Woolborough Street, Newton Abbot
Friday Nights – 1930 to 2200 – light refreshments available for a small charge.

At the formal meetings the events will start at 20.00hrs

Postal Address for corresponding with the Society: Torbay Amateur Radio Society, C/O
Peter Tanner Engineering, Unit 1 Burke Road, TOTNES, Devon - TQ9 5XL

Local Repeaters

2M Repeater - GB3TR

145.650 - Output
145.050 – Input
CTCSS Tone F - 94.8hz

23cms TV Repeater - GB3TB

Contact the TV Group for further information.
Honorary Secretary - Ken Harper - G0EKH

70cm System Fusion Repeater (C4FM) - GB7TQ

Analogue or Digital Auto Selection. Look at www.gb7tq.co.uk for more info

Other Useful Contacts

South Devon Colin Coker G4FCN

Raynet Please note that South Devon Raynet are now part of Raynet UK and are no longer affiliated to the RSGB

Society Radio Nets

1.982Mhz	Mondays – 20:00
3.665Mhz ±QRM/QRN	Mondays - 10:30, Wednesdays - 10:30, Fridays (not monthly meeting nights) - 21:15 and Saturdays - 10:00.
14.270Mhz ±QRM/QRN	Wednesday – 09:30, and Sundays 09:30.
50.155Mhz	Mondays – 20:30
3.545Mhz	Tuesday - 19.30 – Slow Morse Practice sessions

Disclaimer

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Next date for copy to be received by the Editor is 30th April 2018.

PETER TANNER

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GENERAL ENGINEERING

1 BURKE ROAD
TOTNES INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
TOTNES
DEVON TQ9 5XL

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