



TARS TALK

Official Magazine
of the
Torbay Amateur Radio Society

Number 105

Autumn 2018



Railways on the Air special event station at Buckfastleigh, Devon

Your Elected 2018/19 Committee

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Club Equipment Co-ordinator PRO	Peter Tanner - G4VTO
Official Photographer	David Bowyer – M1AEI
Training co-ordinator and Vice Chairman	Linden Allen - M0TCF
Committee Member	Pete Tolcher - M0LAI Che Letton 2E0MRC Ken Harper G0EKH

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
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TARS TALK Advertising	

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Chairman's Ramble

Jeff MOWSZ

Its been a busy period for the club with lots of things happening. Membership continues to grow as we are both attracting new members and "growing our own" by the efforts of the training team. More passes at Foundation and Intermediate levels and more training courses in the pipeline. This all bodes well for the club and keeps us thriving.

We have been very lucky with some great club events and evenings including the Tesla Demonstrations which I am sure went down very well. I know a few Club members have already gone out and bought coils to scare themselves and family with as well as causing copious amounts of RF on the HF bands. I do however jest as I am sure as responsible Radio operators we would never do such a thing!!

Our annual rally was again a great success and well supported. My thanks to all of you who put it together and made the day such a good event. Hopefully we can continue to build on this.

Our field days again proved to be excellent adverts for the club and with things such as the Geoparks, Railways and JOTA, we have again got the Amateur Radio message out to the wider public and stimulated some interest in the hobby. We have been invited back too, so we must have done something right.

There are more good things planned for the future too not least our upcoming

Christmas party. Thanks to those organising this. Those who were at the club on Friday may have seen a very interesting Direction Finding Device that MOKRE has come up with and it is hoped that we may be able to use a few of them in the warmer months to do a DF challenge/Foxhunt probably ending up in a pub somewhere for lunch or an afternoon beverage.

Our new website is well underway with a great team working on that. It will bring the Club showcase up to date and also be a very valuable resource in the future for all club members.

Its always sad when we lose a few and since the last TARS talk, we have had some Silent Keys. Good members who will be sadly missed and we must remember them.

Its been a very interesting year for me after taking on the role of Chair. A steep learning curve but I would hope that the direction the Committee are taking will stand the club in very good stead for the future. It was commented to me by a visitor that "its nice to come into a club that is actually doing something practical with Radio on a club night" That's something I would certainly wish to promote and encourage.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and loyalty to the club. Without our members, there is no club so its all down to you folks who make TARS what it is.

Jeff MOWSZ

TARS Members Help Out!!!!

During a recent Special Event Station activation over the Railways On The Air weekend two members of TARS were able to render 1st Aid Assistance to a member of the public who had been taken ill in the grounds of Buckfastleigh Railway station.

Jamie (M6XJD) and Lin (M0TCF) were working HF during the afternoon session when they were made aware of a situation arising near by; a gentleman of senior years appeared to collapsed next to a bench near by. The two ops immediately attended the scene and put their knowledge of 1st aid into action.

'Having checked the surrounding area for danger', we went into well practised routine of 'DRS ABC' - an acronym used to help first aiders remember the correct procedures. Fairly soon we'd established what had happened, fortunately the gent concerned was still conscious and able to give us some information, although his greatest concern seemed to be his faithful friend 'Ben', the border collie!

We quickly realised, despite Mr Brown's protestations, that all wasn't well with him and an ambulance was called. In the mean time we kept him warm, offered reassurance and kept Ben close by so he could be seen.

A little while later the Railway Station Manager arrived with his first aid kit, he asked us few questions and satisfied

himself that we were competent to carry on (tbh I think he was a bit relieved too!!).

Some time later the ambulance arrived and we handed Mr Brown over to the crew with a quick brief about his condition and what we'd done. They put him on an ECG machine and decided very quickly that he needed to go to hospital urgently. The question then arose what to do with Ben the dog?? The ambulance crew were adamant they couldn't take the dog with them to the hospital.....Harold became rather agitated at this news and I then asked Jamie what harm it would do if we took the dog back to Mr Brown's wife – he agreed it was the best course of action and we put our offer onto the crew. Mr Brown used his mobile to contact his wife and tell her what was going on and to expect us. With that, we departed the scene with Ben in tow. The Ambulance slowly following us on behind.

It would seem that Mr Brown and his wife were staying very close by the station and in only a few minutes we'd reunited Ben with his lady owner. At the same time both Jamie and I took the opportunity to reassure Mrs Brown that her husband was in the best of hands and he would be in contact very shortly with further news.

With that we made our way back to the radio station and had a well-deserved cup of tea :)

A few weeks passed and one day a letter arrived. Enclosed was a short note of thanks from Mrs Brown explaining that her husband Harold had been returned home to Birmingham and had then

undergone heart surgery to replace an aortic valve! There was also a very nice thank you card featuring a very handsome Collie from Ben the dog!

My thanks to Jamie for his assistance and sense of humour while we dealt with this potentially serious situation.

If anybody in the club is interested in taking part in some First Aid Training then please let me know, you never know – its could save a life!

Lin M0TCF.

*****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.

RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL

Stephen Reading G4LZD

Who would have thought that, after 32 years absence from the hobby, I would want to get myself tied up in knots again? Well it happened!

A little bird (species unknown) told me, that an old friend - a Radio Amateur and motor engineer (who serviced my car on a regular basis) had had an encounter with the Grim Reaper and was no more. Saddened by this I spoke to a lady neighbour of mine who used to work with Tim (Bob) G4VHL. She was also rather taken aback too.

A few days later the `phone went and a voice said: "I`m calling you from the grave" - it was G4VHL who was alive and kicking after all. The Grim Reaper had passed over him just like the Passover in the Bible.

Absolutely delighted I agreed to meet him for coffee at Sainsburys in Dartmouth. It was there that I fell for it! He had left the hobby to fly model aeroplanes for some years but had been drawn back in again. I too had taken up flying model aircraft for quite a few years but had got bored eventually.

G4VHL had a persuasive tongue and he did a good job of twisting my arm to come back into the hobby.

Licensed in 1981 I bought a pair of Trio 599 Custom (M) Specials and a vertical from Mark Marment a G8 at that time and who I worked with at Racal Decca in Dartmouth. He was a real technician and he got me up and running on HF. I became a member of TARS when the club was located in Torquay. I stayed a member for a number of years building up a reputation for my Morse code abilities and later working QRP on VHF. These were the days when 10m was wide open more or less 24hours each day.

Unfortunately I had a very aggressive neighbour who started to get interference on his TV. I was inspected by the Post Office and given a clean bill of health. I tried to resolve his TV problems but his set was so old the Post Office told me it was a waste of time to try.

I purchased an FT290R and erected an indoor 5 element Yagi with rotator. That kept me active QRP. I did eventually (with the help of G4VHL) get the 5 element Yagi and rotator up at the side of the house. It looked like a TV antenna which is why I got away with it. I did a lot of operating through the Russian Satellites RS5 and 8 I think they were. I kept my fingers crossed that the neighbour didn't see it rotating.

This neighbour was considered dangerous by the Police who avoided him and they seemed powerless to intervene. Even though I was off HF, he would hammer on our door at 1am alleging I was on the air transmitting. I had to call the Police out

many times but they shied away from taking action.

Stress on the family became extreme and in 1986 I decided to call it quits. I packed the Trio's away in their boxes and the FT290R as well. I binned my QSL cards, logbooks and Awards. I took down the beam and the mast and got rid of the rotator (not a good move I perceive now).

It still took about six months for that guy to accept I had ceased operations and to leave us alone.

I vowed never to get involved in Ham Radio again - Now look what's happened.

My meeting with G4VHL became a norm rather than an odd occasion - it was always at Sainsburys in Dartmouth on a Friday morning. Tim (Bob) in the meantime had found out that there was another Ham operating in Dartmouth but he didn't know where or who he was. After some investigation this Ham turned out to be Dave John, G3WCB.

In the meantime my arm got twisted even harder and found myself forking out for one of the new Transceivers, the FT991A complete with power unit and an LDG Autotuner. She who must be obeyed is very supportive and I got no `aggro` there I am pleased to say. I remembered that I had some HF antennas in the loft but couldn't remember much more than that one was a Mosley Ta-33jr trap dipole. Surprisingly at least one of the antennas worked but not without problems. It was obvious that I needed help because all that I had learnt in the past had gone `out

the window`. I put that down to ageing, a few major operations and the effects of anaesthetic and laziness on my part. This is where I got a lot of help from both G4VHL and G3WCB.

The three of us continued to meet at Sainsburys and at the suggestion of G3WCB the West Dart Radio Group was formed. I had re-joined TARS with the help of Dave, G0DDF (the thumb). G3WCB joined TARS and G4VHL re-joined.

We were soon joined by G3WGN, Dave Aslin from Cornworthy, John 2EOBXR from Blackawton and Greg Hopkins, G4CST from Brixham and a delegation from TARS - John Head, G4VUD, Bill Butchers, G8XTS and Dave the Thumb G0DDF. I had a tremendous amount of help from G3WCB, G4VHL, and G3WCB and they organised an antenna party to come to my property. They worked out a Windom antenna which works a treat.

Because Sainsburys in Dartmouth became rather crowded on a Friday we decided to move to Gardentime near Dartmouth where we have established ourselves. Roy Evans G8XTO and his wife Kate visited and so did Ken Harper G0EKH.

All this came about as a result of one unexpected telephone call.

What next, I wonder?

Stephen Reading G4LZD, Dartmouth

70 Years of Amateur Radio

Derrick Webber G3LHJ.

My Amateur Radio from a young boy of 12 years old, my Dad in his younger days used to build Crystal sets also with some Valves, these were stored up under the roof for quite some years. During the later years of WW2, I joined the "Air Scouts", with a Pal and we took interest in the "Communications Badge" we had to learn the Morse Code which we had great fun in learning it. With all the Army surplus gear about we manage to find 2 Morse Keys, Ear phones and some twin wire which we ran from the front gate up to the shed at the top of the back garden, we had great fun sending messages to each other.

When WW2 ended in 1945, one of Dad's friends ask if he still did Radio, he said the Radio Amateurs were back on the Air again, well that got dad & I started, the old bread board TRF Receiver was got down from the roof space, bought a 120v dry battery & cadged a 2v accumulator from a friend, that was my first sight of home brewing, surprisingly the little TRF receiver worked, but only on the Medium Waves, fortunately we had a few Ex-Government Radio Gear shops opened up in the town which we dully visited many times, our first Receiver was a R107, which covered Top Band, 80,40,20. we were picking up local Radio Amateurs and we heard of a local Radio Club mentioned, we paid a visit in early 1946, at the YMCA their meeting premises in Torquay, The Torbay Amateur Radio Society

membership was quite small, about dozen or so chaps, around May time they were getting ready for the annual RSGB Field Day which was held on Little Haldon, I remember Dad & I paid a visit on the Sunday morning, it was quite a set-up, a 3 Element Beam constructed of wood and on a home brewed wooden lattice tower, there was a HRO for the receiver and home brewed Transmitter, they had 2 operating positions, one for the logger & the other for the TX man, head phones were used and there was intercom between the 2 Op's !!!!. they were pleased with the number of contacts made.

Back at home we were getting our station together using what used to be Dad's Birds aviary during the war years, this was up at the top of the garden, some wire was put up for the Antenna, and we were now SW Listeners, I also had my own SWL station in my Bedroom, using a R109 + a HF Converter, I was ISWL G2510, some Qsl's were sent & received to us, then the Transmitting Bug was biting, so Dad done some swotting for the RAE and took the Exam in May 1948, there was a 4 months wait for the result and to our disappointment Dad failed, in those days there was only one Exam a year so we had to wait until next May for Dad to take the RAE again, this September it was all smiles, he had passed, and in the post came the Licence G3GDW, we were soon on the Air as we had been busy building the Transmitter, a Xtal CO/BA & a 807 PA on 40/80M. we had to use CW for the first year of our Licence, one of our visits to the Radio Store we pick up some ex- army Rigs which we were able to strip & modify

for our Amateur Bands, Top Band was a new one for us which was used for the local Nets. We started working some DX with a new Home Brewed rig running at 50 Watts on CW & Phone (no SSB yet), with the aid of a ex-army wooden Tri-pod telescopic mast, we built a 2 El ZL Special beam & sat it on top of the mast with a bearing and a bicycle cog wheel which had a Chain around the Cog wheel, with the aid of flexible wire and pulleys into the shack to a similar Cog wheel set-up and an old car driving wheel, we were able to turn the Beam, it was certainly a Harry Tate system but it worked, the odd bit of wire was replaced with an Open wire fed Windom Antenna, we both enjoyed contest operating, the Top Band ones were our Favourites.



In those days the Junior Op were allowed to operate, so I did quite a lot of operating mostly on CW. Remember moving from the straight Key to a Bug Semi-auto Key by Eddystone, It really looked like a Bug , then I spotted a circuit for an Electronic Keyer by OZ7BO using 12AT7 Valves, which I built and used it for many years with a Home brewed Paddle.

We also enjoyed RSGB National Field Days in the month June with TARS, Dad & I used to run the "A" Station as G3GDW/P,

operating sites were the Milber Woods Area, Newton Abbot & from about 1956 we had the site of CENTRAX Sports Field, also in the same area, a super site and we has some FB weekends spent there, lot of the Families used to come up and join us, the high light of the Field Day was the "Fish & Chip" run on Saturday evening, there was always good support from the Club members, most times in the twenties attending, helping to raise the 60ft Masts for the LF Antenna's & the Tower for the 3 Band HF Yagi.

In August 1952 I had to take out 2 years of home life with the National Service, with my knowledge of Radio Operating I manage to enter into the Royal Signals, doing my Square Bashing at Catterick Camp up in Derby, I was selected for a "Op Spec" trade, and done my training at Garet Hayes near Loughborough, the Camp had a Ham Station "G3CHR" I used to Qso Dad in the evenings which was great (also for my Mum Hi) , the pass out speed for a Op Spec was 21 WPM, I could read 20 WPM when I arrived , so I had to join the class that were on 15's, I had to the learn the Bard Letters which the Russians used, there were about 7 of them, also the Short Numbers :- A = 1 ...E = 5 etc, I did the 20 week Course in 8 Weeks, Xmas Day 1952 was in Fayed, Egypt and New Year's Day 1953 I was in Cyprus which was my home for 19 Months at 2 Wireless Regiment just outside Famagusta, the first few months I was taking mostly Russian traffic, using the old AR88's, then for the rest of my time there I moved over to taking Arabic traffic, which was much faster, and very active, we certainly kept the decipher

boys busy, there were quite a few Radio Hams about, Sgt Jim Howes was one, who lived on the married Quarters, his call was ZC4GT, I spent many an hour at his home using his station, he help me to get my own ZC4 call, we had to go to the Communication Offices in Nicosia & prove I was going to experiment with transmitting equipment ,then on June 27th 1953 was duly issued the call ZC4LW, my billet in the camp was a Tent, holding 4 of us, I had to get permission from the CO to operate from the tent, which I did & he gave permission, I managed to scrounge a AR77 receiver from the repair work shop with the aid of Jim, also managed to build at Jim's Qth a little 3 valve CW TX with a 807 PA , xtal controlled at first, then a VFO came later, this was installed in my Bed Side Locker, a 20M dipole was put up between the NAFFI Flag Pole & the top of the tent, I made many Qso's with the little rig, a few Statesiders and into G land also with Dad again, plenty of eastern EU.. Also managed to attend the NFD site with the ZC4 boys in June 1953, there were quite a few Radio Amateur Civilian Operators living in the married quarters and I paired up with a couple, Celia & Pete Bateman ZC4PB (G3LCG) they made me very welcome, it was just like being one of the family, Pete had an Ford car which they took me all over the Island on my days off, Pete was a Civilian Op at the same Op's block as myself, Pete is S/Key now but I still keep in touch with Celia.



My station in the Bedside locker created quite a bit of interest with the lads, especially the CO on tent inspection morning !!, the Lads use to call me "Morse Mad Webber" I use to do a 6 Hour shift reading CW then return to the Tent and get the old Key out & pound CW again hi.

August 1954 saw me Demobbed at Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, so not far to get home . So it was back to doing some operating from Dad's station G3GDW again, tried to get a deferment from ZC4LW call to a G License but no go from the GPO, the RAE had to be taken, so did some Radio swotting in between courting Sylvia Hi, in May 1956 I took the RAE, in July Sylvia & I got married, then Passed the RAE and September was issued with the Call Sign G3LHJ, we were living in a up Stair Flat, in Pine Wood Road in Milber, outside antenna space was limited, so some wire antennas were put in the roof space, using my R109 RX set-up & a home brew TX, I did make a few

Qso's, at the end of 1957 we move to a Maisonette in Keyberry Park, Decoy, which had a spare room for my station and a 250ft long garden, Top band here we come hi, Made quite a few Home Brewed receivers also acquired some ex-Government ones, like the "Sputnik Special" and the ole 1155 RX most of the transmitting rigs were built in TU Units, so a console was built using a Rack & Panel system, (no SSB yet), TX PA was 2X807's in one TU unit & a multi band exciter with VFO in another TU unit, did some AM operating with a H/B Modulator unit. The Antennas were at first a 267ft Long Wire, and a 20M Dipole between 2 Chimneys, next was a 2 Band Quad for 20/15M, on a 35ft 1¼ steel gas tubing, using the same turning system as Dad's, a few years later a Home Brew "Quad Spyder" was made and garden Bamboo's to support a 3 Band Quad on top of the same mast, it was a Monster size on the ground but a super Antenna – DXCC in no time, it lasted for about 5 years when gales brought it down and smashed it to bits, the AR20 rotator survived though, so hand in pocket purchased a Moseley TA33Jr a 3 El Yagi – 20/15 & 10M, being lucky when the Quad came & no other damage, decided to move the mast down to the bottom of the garden, which was on the Railway embankment, the cost went up a bit because some low loss coax was required, being 270ft from the shack, surprising how many people saw the Beam from the passing trains hi, the beam worked well, but not a patch on the Quad.

The SSB Mode started to get popular, so I set about building the 9Mhz Phasing SSB Transmitter in the current RSGB Hand

Book, it started off as a 20,40,80M TX, after a few teething problems it performed well both on SSB & CW, lots of good DX was worked most of it was CW really as being my first love, 1965, saw me join The First Class (CW) Operators Club (FOC) number 841, also enjoyed using QRP from Home Brewed rigs, 200 Milliwatts to 5 watts, and became a member of the G-Qrp Club #898, in the early 70's some mods were done on the SSB rig to operate on 15/10M with the aid of a dear friend, George W8HJ from Toledo USA, we became friends when he came over to the UK with his Xyl Barbara, her parents lived in Paignton, so when George asked around for any Hams in the district someone put him on to me, we made a sked a time on 20m for when they returned back to the USA, these were difficult contacts on 20M, believe it was in the Low Sun Spot time, anyway he said 15/10 M would be better, so he kindly sent over the Mixing Xtals needed for the mod to the TX, all went well and we had many FB skeds for over 12 Years every Saturday & Sundays, quite a few of the TARS Members use to join in, George very kindly presented TARS with a "Trophy" to add to the Clubs Contest Trophy collection, it's called "The W8HJ HF World Friendship Trophy", in 1979 Sylvia & I spent 3 weeks with them in Toledo, it was great to work G3NJA/P in NFD from George's station sadly George passed away in 1981, we had made over 400 Qso's.

The old Home Brewed rig was getting a bit worse for wear & all the "Black Box" adds in the magazines were tempting, so I purchased my first commercial rig the

Kenwood TRIO TS 510, great little rig, all Bands at 100Watts CW/SSB. A little later a Linear was added with a pair of 813's (the shack warmer), by now quite a few of my Goals were obtained, DXCC, (100 different countries), DXCC Honour Roll, Worked all States, Worked All Continents, and quite a few more certificates, too many for the shack walls so they are in Albums Hi,

1981 was the year we moved house again after 27 years here, having lost both Mum & Dad, we took over 43 Lime Tree Walk my old home stead, My old Bedroom was to be my new Shack, Dads 90ft LW was still up, his Tower I had removed 2 years ago, so I planted a new ALTON 2 section telescopic Mast, and after a while I re-built the TA33Jr & installed it on top of the Mast, I managed to re-assemble the Console and the Station was ready to go again. I was now Computer Logging with a Sinclair ZX100, also into Packet Radio, then purchased my first real Computer and installed a Logging Program "Shacklog" which I am using to this day with some 90,000 Qso in the log. I have been a continuous member of the RSGB for over 54 Years, also enjoy membership of the CDXC Now operational on Data Modes RTTY & PSK. The Station now is a little different, still the same Console, but with added equipment, Elecraft K2 for my QRP Activities, ICOM 7300, which I use mainly for 6M, YAESU FT 990. & a FT dx 3000, the Linear is now an AMERTON 811. also the HF antenna is now a Moseley TA33Jr/WARC. A Vertical V2000 3 Band 50/144 & 70CMs on the chimney.



Now at the age of 87 & in my 70th Year of Amateur Radio I still enjoy contesting on all modes although CW is my favourite, run 2 of the TARS 80M nets, President of TARS & was President of FOC for a YEAR in 1991. I hope I can continue for some more years in this Fascinating Hobby of ours.

Derrick – G3LHJ

*****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
£23.00	Sweat Shirt
£30.00	Thor (thin) Fleece Jacket
£35.00	Sigma (thick) Fleece Jacket
£28.00	Sleeveless Jumper
£30.00	Long Sleeved Jumper
£10.00	Own Garment

Please contact Pam G7SME to place your order.

Society News:

Rally Report 2018

Peter – G4VTO

As it was my suggestion to create a Rally team for this year, I feel would like to take the opportunity to introduce and thank the other team members. Firstly I would like to thank the club members who assisted to get this years rally off the ground, We are grateful for the door staff, parking attendants and all those who assisted the traders with a lifting and carrying as well as the small army of volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks on the day including serving on the tables. Further thanks to the Instant draw, White elephant, memberships, 90/10 and the draw ticket seller teams, your help was invaluable and we would not be able to hold the rally without it.

The Rally team this year comprised of:-

Mike G1TUU, who was able to offer advice based on previous years experience, he liaised with the racecourse management and also advertised in a number of magazines, he spoke with traders on the day to discuss any further requirements, and represented the club with escorting the Mayor who kindly officiated the day.

Brook G0VEB for sourcing new traders from other clubs rallies and dealing with the accounts, which given the number of traders, prizes and visitors could not have been an easy task.

Ged G6CLD, for keeping the rest of us in order, dealing with bookings and traders table positions, which can change at a

moments notice with last minute bookings, her indication of traders position on the day made setting up the process much easier, her commitment to the rally helped to ensure everything ran smoothly

Colin G4FCN, for the many printing tasks he undertook, as well as designing, collating and producing the programme, which I'm sure many will agree looked professional and informative.

Peter G4VTO, who chased traders (both old and new) and hopefully steered the team towards the end aim, a successful 2018 rally.

Once again many thanks to this team for all your efforts.

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

Monthly Meeting - September 2018

Peter – G4VTO

The Torbay Amateur Radio Society monthly meeting started out with Jeff, our Chairman, welcoming everybody in Croatian, the native tongue of our subject tonight Nikola Tesla.

Our guest Alec G8GON then took over the meeting first showing a video of the life of Tesla. Nikola Tesla was born in 1856 in Croatia where he grew up and was educated. He showed a flair for inventions from a very early age so that in 1884 he was asked by Eddison to work for him but he soon found out that Eddison just put his name and marketed ideas his employees discovered so he soon left. Working on his own he came up with over 700 inventions being a visionary he prophesied and developed many things we now take for granted - alternating current, street lights and radio, but he is probably most remembered for his "lightening" apparatus often used as a party piece at Science conventions. His ultimate goal was to transmit electricity through the air, something that is being experimented on today. In later years he became a little unstable - as geniuses often do - with phobias until his death at the age of 86 years old.

Alec ably assisted by his wife, displayed and explained in detail the Tesla machines a lot of which he had built himself, and the sparks certainly flew whether it was a small project which can be purchased in kit form but still capable with the spark generated of making fluorescent tube glow with the plasma. Alec went on to explain how this was achieved by coils of

wire accurately spaced and using a large capacitor to store the energy for release. A high voltage spark with very little amperage being released. Whilst the members sat spell bound many ideas were shown culminating with two machines one sending a spark 2 foot or so between two globes and the other playing music when the spark hit the air.



Thanks Alec, a very enlightening evening for us all.

2018 Jamboree on The Air Report

Lin M0TCF

Activities with 1st Bradninch Scout Group – GBOFBS.

JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is always an eagerly anticipated event on the TARS Training Team's calendar, this year was no less so! As with last year, Che 2E0MRC and I (M0TCF) liaised with 'Hairy Jon' the Group Scout Leader from 1st Bradninch Scouts during the weeks running up to the event, clarifying our proposals and putting into place various points that we had learned from last year event.

In the run up to the JOTA weekend, the club per-say, was 'warmed up' for the event and after a short briefing, a show of hands was called for; various mitts went vertical and Che and I deemed ourselves satisfied we would be able to assemble, run and knock down the station. As it turned out, we were slightly overwhelmed by the actual response from club members – more on that later.

We all watched the weather forecast during the preceding week, the previous years weather had been a little on the extreme side, being on the tail end of storms from the Atlantic Hurricane season. Our exposed operating site seemed particularly bleak back then, even though we were in a building! As it turned out, the powers that be favoured us this year with another extreme – hot and sunny windless days, which were a pleasure to behold, esp at this late time of the year!

Friday was spent setting up our station and antennas. I'd deliberately decided to start early this time, as direct consequence of another lesson learnt from the previous year. When, due to a lack of practice and experience, we'd almost run out of time in the afternoon putting antennas up and had to conclude our work in rather 'dimpsy' light (a genuine Devon word). So, shortly after I arrived with Alan M6RPU, Simon the Club Manager appeared and unlocked the building and left us in the tender care of Jon, who proceeded, unbidden to cook us all breakfast!

Working steadily through the morning (fortified with many cups of coffee) the team of four managed to get 5 masts up, equating to 3 antennas – a dual band, trapped dipole system for 20 & 40, an 8 Band inverted 'L' Marconi type antenna and a 20,30,40 SOTA Trapped dipole. As the day progressed various members of the team came and went, bring equipment and stores to help set up the station. We arranged our work area with three indoor operating points, for SSTV, Data Comms and HF SSB. Slade 2E0SQB, sensibly opted to work outside on Sat Comms..... John 2E0SPS (arrived on Saturday) and decided, for very selfish reasons, to set his DSTAR station up on a pub bench outside in the sun!

A pleasant evening was spent in the company of Che and Jon sampling various offerings from the local hostelry and after a Fish n Chip supper, an early night was decided on. So we returned to Che's QTH and sat in the kitchen talking radio, listening to random 80's music and easing down a brew or two! Our early night

passed into history and we both went to our beds at 0130 hrs (typical....)

All too soon the sun rose and the alarm went off. Up and at them was the order of the day and by 0830 hrs we were back at the Cricket Pavilion just in time to meet Jon, who was taking orders for Breakfast!! We'd scheduled our day into various periods; having the Beavers visit us first for an hour or so, followed by the cubs for an hour and a half or so, then lunch. We'd invited the Scouts and Explores to join us for lunch if they so wished and then stay with us for the whole afternoon and into the evening.

I can't say that we were absolutely overwhelmed by youngsters – simply because we weren't, but those who did visit us were attentive and interested. Our 'theme' for this year was 'Spy's & Spying' which allowed us to make use of pre-prepared equipment and lead activities that we hoped would be of interest to all ages. To our surprise and pleasure two of our suggestions went off really well, one was to ask each 'age group section' to create their own banner for broadcasting via SSTV, this really caught their imagination and we had some very dedicated artistic talents demonstrated! The other activity that caught their imagination was a simple 'Code Wheel' - one complete Alphabet, set inside another, which could be rotated and used for a substitution code. The simplicity lead to quick understanding and use, from then the kids were encouraged to come up with their own methods of encryption etc. Later we were able to introduce the Scouts and Explorers to an Enigma Machine Emulator based on a Pringles

Crisp Tube. That was 'interesting' but things got even better when we were able to give them the opportunity of using some 'electronic' emulators as well. After an initial practice they were away (using PMRs) , passing messages encrypted on the Pringles Tubes and decrypted on the electronic versions and vice versa.

We also got a group of the Scouts making antennas from 'weird' stuff – in our case it was Copper 'Slug' tape and an Acrylic board. We suggested two designs for them to experiment with, a Moxon Square and Yagi. Both were laid out, one on either side of the acrylic (in hindsight, we could've just as well used cardboard or one of the windows!) and then taken outside and tested. Remarkably, the Yagi worked extremely well, at both VHF & UHF and the operators were able to open up a number of repeaters including GB3TR, GB3EW & GB3EX – not bad for bits of copper backed sticky tape and a bit of old coax.



Unfortunately the Moxon Square was not a success, which became patently clear by the, shall we say, less than careful construction techniques employed by the builders. Sometimes written instructions

need careful explanation along with confirmation of knowledge regarding measurements etc.....

Whilst the larger part of each group was taking part in back ground activities, we managed to get every single group member (children & adults) on to the radio(s) and make some JOTA contacts, we even roped in one or two mums and dads as well.

The day proceeded at a pace and before we knew it, it was well past tea time! Most of the young folks disappeared off for evening meals etc. and the remaining team set to demolishing a huge chicken curry that Jon's dear lady wife had prepared for us!. We cracked on operating for some time but, as always tiredness crept up on us and the combination of poor operating conditions and drooping heads told us all it was time to call it a day – a very successful day all the same.

The following morning the team met up again, and began the not to onerous task of knocking down the station – unfortunately, JOTA seems to coincide with a European Contest on the Sunday and basically that was that! Whatever smaller/weaker portable stations etc. there might have been were completely wiped out by European operators running more power than the average microwave oven! We resolved to keep on trying for a while longer, with the intention of close down at midday, as it happened more TARS members turned up a little later and the site was slowly cleared, antenna by antenna, mast by mast, with the final

transmission being made around 1130 hrs. By midday the site was empty and the keys handed back over. A quick hand shake all round, we bade farewell to Bradninch and headed home.

The following day I received an email from the Scouts thanking us for our efforts and a small request.....?? Would we go back again next year please, as a 'Scout District Event Station'?? Apparently the short visit from, and explanation of our activities etc. to the District Scout Commissionaire was enough to persuade him that it would be a good idea and so he passed the message 'down the line' - we were, of course, somewhat surprised and only to happy to accept and agree. Planning has already started.....

I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to all the team who turned out to help run GB1FBS so successfully; including Vicky M6VXC (HF), Alan M6PRU (HF), Che 2E0MRC (HF & Data), John B. 2E0SPS (DSTAR), Roger 2E0GHR (Projects), Nick MONXB (Projects, HF) , Kerry MOKRE (HF, Data & Projects), Slade 2E0SQB (HF & Sat Comms), Mark & Dave (HF SSTV). (All I had to do was make sure it all worked - easy life lol) Last but by no means least also a huge thanks to 'Hairy Jon' for keeping us all fed and watered.

73's Lin MOTCF

Picture Gallery

The Cherry Pie Fayre July 2018



TARS Rally, August 2018



Railways on the Air, September 2018



Alec G8GON at Septembers Meeting



Jamboree on the Air, October 2018



Jamboree on the Air, October 2018



Rock and Roll Radio

Part XXVI

Peter Lewis – G4VFG

When we were young we often heard old people exchanging notes on their respective ailments, and thought “Miserable old Gits hope we don’t go on like that”. Funny thing is forty years down the road and we’re exchanging aches and pains. A mate of mine phoned and gave me news of his cold, and asked me if I had ever heard of a band called Queenscritch. I corrected him and said it was Queensryche, which was close, but sounds a whole lot different. I was pleased to say that I could do even better and record a cassette for him. There are still a few of use luddites out there who have collections of old Hi-fi gear that can still use cassettes. Forget Dolby and Chromium Dioxide, which were both a waste of time.

I find that TDK is a good cheap and cheerful ferric tape and coupled to a good high end Hi-Fi with cassette it can produce a decent recording especially from CD’s. As recently as five or six years ago cars were being produced with cassette players so there is a use for home make recording from CD to cassette.

It was always harder to produce decent recordings from vinyl to tape, due to tone correction problems. Recordings could often lack Bass or Treble. Maybe the newer systems of digital conversion of vinyl on special decks to a computer, and

thence to CD work better. I have yet to find anyone with such equipment.

As I type this, I am recording a Queensryche CD for my friend, and haven’t played the album for a while. I had forgotten what a meaty little band they are, good guitar and some decent vocal harmonies.

That is the thing with music or indeed film collections, they can be enjoyed many times,. If we become tired of them, well there is always the charity shop, a fine and worthy means of recycling.

Returning to the seventies it was strictly vinyl, which was still in its heyday and along with recorded cassettes was still selling well. It was interesting to note how the music press was predicting the demise of recording sales due to the use of home cassette machines. In fact many record sleeves carried the slogan “Home recording is killing music and it’s illegal” Nobody took any notice, and vinyl, and cassette machines held up until the advent of the CD.

In later times the same cry was heard when all manner of digital recording devices appeared. The CD single has bitten the dust, just as the vinyl single before it, but what was not anticipated was the revival of interest in live music. We shall look at some of these as we arrive in future decades.

As far as discos were concerned there was always a threat that the authorities would start banging the drum about breach of copyright, and payment of royalties. In

the seventies it never happened because nobody took it seriously. It is again interesting how much of an original recording can be sampled before an artist had to pay royalties to the originator.

I remember that our band played at one pub, and the landlord asked us to present a playlist for as he put it for royalty purposes, so we compiled a list. A live band or a disco for that matter will modify what is played depending on audience response. At least that is what anyone with any sense will do since it is Joe Public who pays their money, and they should therefore be afforded due respect.

The new mixer was taking shape well and ended up with six FETs and eight transistors. The FETs handled three stereo inputs for two decks and one tape. There were two Baxandall tone amps, a mike amp, and a PFL amp. PFL and pre fade listening was a useful gadget to help find the start of a record or track. Some used LED display but an earphone was better. I used an old GPO telephone handset, and more than once a punter remarked "OH sorry you are on the phone" I recall handing the phone to one or two people and suggested "It's for you". It's all good for a laugh and adds to the fun of the thing.

I am lucky to still be in touch with a couple of friends who played in our band. I saw them at Christmas, and one remarked "I remember the flying PA speakers" Perhaps it is time to explain that one.

A farmer friend of mine allowed us to use his barn to practise. We had a good day,

and duly packed the gear away in our cars. Two PA speakers were roped to the roof rack of my Escort. We beaned along a country lane and rounded a corner and had to brake hard because of a coach load of French tourists had stopped in the middle of the road. The speakers carried on and landed in a heap scattering a gaggle of people, who jabbered in French. I managed to say "Escuse Moi", nous arretons vite, et les boites arrive sure la terre" they looked at me and sighed and no doubt muttered about "Les Roast Beefs avais un maladie de Tete" My apologies to any of our French friends reading this, and deploring my lack of accents. "C'est la vie"

Our band, currently under the name of Samurai performed several local gigs during the long summer of 1976. That was around the time that we last had a single Wimbledon Champion, in the form of Virginia Wade, or was that in 77.

Never mind who's counting, and like the 1966 World Cup it has yet to be repeated.

The disco filled in the intervals and the mixer performed well, once a few modifications were made. Without delving into serious electronics, because many are better at it than myself. It is however interesting to note the problem of distortion in and tone amp. This was cured by examining the voltages on the collector and emitter of the transistor stages. Lower a resistor value to increase the voltage across the device the signal to swing both ways without flat topping. It was interesting to discover the relationship between signal voltage

amplifiers will use higher supply voltages. Simple once it had been thought about.

Our band seemed to have a thing about PA equipment. A few years later we borrowed a Simms-Watts PA amp from a chap that our Shadows playing guitarist friend knew. He asked us to take good care of it. We assured him we would. We set up, I believe in the Kings Arms at Ivybridge, and did the usual sound check One, Two testing and all that guff. Someone had a dicky lead, and put their pint of beer on a speaker cabinet. I had a spare and we fiddled about and all was well. Someone said "OK, let's hit it" and off we went. I was playing drums on this occasion. As the number ran through, out of the corner of my eye, I saw I saw the pint moving towards the end of the speaker cabinet. Trying to play drums and catch a pint glass is never going to happen. At the next moment the pint disappeared from view. A second passed, and then there was a loud bang, and the sound went quiet. "OOerr" thought I "Better put a record on". Someone remarked that the PA had it. The four EL34 valves, being hot, but not like a pint of Worthington's Best Bitter poured over them, so they went bang.

"The guy will do his nut" said someone who was the master of the understatement. What happened next? Like any good serial the credits roll, and leave the audience kicking the tele.

Until the next one – all the best and 73

Peter G4VFG/G239322

TARS Training Team News

Lin - MOTCF

September Course a Complete Success! (again)

The training Team are very pleased to confirm that all the candidates who attended the weekend Foundation training course at TARS HQ passed with good marks. Despite a bit of wobbly start by Jamie (now M6XJD) they all cracked on and by the end of Sunday appeared confident as exam time approached.

As a result of their hard work, Alan (M6PRU) has opted to join the training team and has also joined the Intermediate Course Workbook Pilot Project, Peter (now M6...) is busy hunting down vintage hybrid valve gear, which he remembers his Dad using many years ago! Jamie has also joined the Training Team and seems to be splitting his very limited time between his new passion for Amateur Radio and his other hobby running the 'Courtney Park Air Raid Shelter Heritage Association'!

As noted above, the Intermediate Course Workbook has now reached the 'pilot stage' and is out for testing with a number of TARS Members. Three of the volunteers will also be taking their Intermediate Exam on the 9th of December, along with the candidates from the next Foundation Course. Hopefully, by the time this edition gets to members we will have 4 new Foundation

Call signs and three new Intermediate's as well!

Call Sign Updates.

Due to the number of Foundation candidates that have passed exams, the RSGB & Ofcom have found themselves in that odd situation that arose a little over a decade ago – they're running out of Call Signs (at Foundation level) and have now activated and begun issuing Mike Seven (M7) Calls! At this point in time OfCom have no intention of issuing M7 Calls with a two-digit suffix (as far as I can ascertain anyway!!).

Forthcoming Events.

Training Courses.

The next Foundation course is being held over the weekend 07 – 09 Dec 2018, we currently have three candidates taking part, with an external candidate joining the course on Sunday afternoon for the exam.

Club members are requested to have their HF /VHF radios on during Saturday 10th (PM) to assist candidates making contacts etc. The Training Team has become aware, that in the past, due to local QRM etc., contacts have been left wanting on occasion! We will try our best to overcome such issues from now on – probably by taking candidates 'portable' for a period of time.

The next Intermediate Practicals Day is being held on the 9th of Dec 2018, with

the exam afterwards, coinciding with the Foundation team.

Friday Night Projects.

Whenever possible the Training Team runs practical projects on Friday evenings. This year's success's have ranged from building a set of Band Pass Filters for the club portable station(s) to an inexpensive multi-band vertical antenna. Future projects planned include the construction of an HF Linear Amp, suitable equipment for the club to have a go at 'Fox Hunting' (Radio Direction Finding), as well as developing practical ideas to be included in the forthcoming 'Foundation Candidates Exam Preparation Handbook'.

Training Courses 2019.

The Training Team have provisionally planned to run one more Foundation & Intermediate course during the early stages of 2019, probably some time in March.

After March 2019, the training team plan to take time out to develop the TARS Training Scheme's in line with the syllabus updates that are due to come into effect in September 2019. However, this won't stop us from putting more candidates through exams etc. if the requirement arises!

Finally:

The whole Training Team and the club wish to offer their sincere thanks to Mike Garry M0LOB for his help and support over the last three years since the current team was formed. Mike was one of the two original volunteers who put themselves forward when I took over as the club Training Manager and has been a stalwart of the team ever since! He has now decided to stand down and pursue other facets of the hobby within the club, but has promised not to be a stranger during training courses – Thanks Mike.

On the personal front I'm happy to stay where I am for now, however I am conscious that all good things come to an end too! With that in mind, I have now devolved responsibility for the delivery (and development) of the Foundation Course to members of the training team and aim to do a similar thing with the 'Intermediate Practical's. I'm also very pleased to tell the club that I have been accepted onto the ranks of the RSGB Training & Exam Committee's Train the Trainers Team, which currently takes up very little of my time, but we are hoping to increase our delivery next year.

If you know anybody who wants an Amateur Radio Licence then point them in our direction ASAP!!!!

73's for now. Good DX all.
Lin MOTCF (Training Team).

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.

TARS 30 AWARDS recently awarded:

#81 to Roy G8XTO ,

#82 to Eddie 2E0EVM,

Congratulations to both, there a few more getting near that 30 mark.

I do have Award entry forms available on club nights from Derrick G3LHJ.

Equipment available for Loan

Buddipole, mast, tripod guy wires etc. it does 40m to 2m.

Also extended whips, balun and coil to enable 80m (am waiting the 2nd coil and counter poise)

Happy to loan for club events and also if members are going away.

It packs down into a 2ft long bag and takes about 5 mins to assemble.

Contact Steve Daniels , G6UIM

Membership Matters

Dave GODDF

With regret we have to announce that John Teed G3WWT passed away in Mid-October. He is a sad loss to the society and our sympathies are with the family.

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership this year and a warm welcome to the new members!

Since the last issue of TARS Talk we have had 8 new members. Please welcome:

G8GON	Alec Jefford
G8UWE	Muriel Jefford
SWL	David Moyse
SWL	Damon Young
2E0EVM	Eddie Scott
G4CLN	Phillip Redfern
G0CWQ	Alex Nesbitt
SWL	Alan Hartwell

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.

The current paid up membership numbers as of 28th November are as follows:

Membership Class	November 2018	Year 2017
Associate	6	7
Family	6	6
Full	86	82
Honorary	2	2
Joint	15	15
Junior	2	3
Life	24	25
Totals:-	141	140

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 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

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event (Clock Times)	Event	Organiser / details
December	Business Meeting	Note – where will be no business meeting in December – normal service will resume in January	
14 th December	Christmas Party	Join in with the fun by bringing along some offerings for the party. Get together and form a team for the annual Quiz	2EOKRE
26 th December	Special Event	A Boxing Day Special event – details not available at the time of publication	2EOKRE
28 th December	YEOVIL ARC TABLE-TOP RALLY	Sparkford village hall, Church Rd, Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7JN (on the A303 north of Yeovil). 10 Tables, light refreshments, off road parking, wheelchair friendly. £2 admission.10am till 3pm.	Bob Harris, G8UED, 01963 440167, wjh069@g mail.com
Saturday 5 th January 2019	RSGB Affiliated Society Team Contest 1300 - 1700	CW: 3510-3565 kHz - any speed, 3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations 7000-7040kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 6 th January	G3LHJ
11 th January	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2EOKRE
Sunday 13 th January	RSGB Affiliated Society Team Contest 1300 - 1700	PSK63: 3580-3590 kHz; 7040-7045 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz; 7045-7060 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 14 th January	G3LHJ
Saturday 19 th January	RSGB Affiliated Society Team Contest 1300 - 1700	SSB: 3600-3775kHz, 7060-7200kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 20 th January	G3LHJ

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event (Clock Times)	Event	Organiser / details
25 th January	Monthly Meeting	<p>Construction Night</p> <p>Your chance to demonstrate and have judged you amateur radio project that you have built in 2018 to win the trophies.</p> <p>As a remind the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Cup for Home Brew • Construction Shield for Kits 	G3LHJ
Monday 4 th February	Contest 2000 - 2130	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 5 th February	G3LHJ
8 th February	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2EOKRE
Wednesday 13 th February	Contest 2000 - 2130	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 14 th February	G3LHJ
23 rd February	Annual General Meeting	<p>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.</p> <p>Any matters that members wish to raise at the meeting should be submitted in writing to the secretary by the 12th February 2019.</p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting are included in this edition of TARS TALK and will be taken as read at the meeting</p>	2EOKRE
Thursday 28 th February	Contest 2000 - 2130	<p>CW: 3510-3565 kHz – any speed</p> <p>3565-3570 kHz - 15wpm maximum speed for 'running' stations</p> <p>Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 1st March</p>	G3LHJ

Dates for Your Diary

Date and Times	Type of Event (Clock Times)	Event	Organiser / details
Monday 4 th March	Contest 2000 - 2130	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 5 th March	G3LHJ
Sunday 3 rd March	EXETER RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY	America Hall, De la Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PW. Doors open at 10.30am (10.15am for disabled visitors). Admission £2 (under 16s free). There will be trade stands, Bring & Buy (book in from 10.15am), and catering will be available.	Pete, G3ZVI on 07714 198374 or g3zvi@yahoo.co.uk
8 th March	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2E0KRE
Wednesday 13 th March	Contest 2000 - 2130	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 March	G3LHJ
Sunday 24 th March	CALLINGTON RADIO RALLY	Callington Town Hall, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7BD. Doors open 10am – 1pm and admittance is £2. There will be a Bring & Buy (10% commission) 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).	Roger 2E0RPH on 07854 088882 or email 2e0rph@gmail.com.
Thursday 28 th March	Contest 2000 - 2130	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 29 th March	G3LHJ

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event (Clock Times)	Event	Organiser / details
29 th March	Presentation Night	This meeting will see the presentation of the societies trophies and awards for events that have taken place in 2018. There will be a buffet meal provided for ticket holders for a price of £4	G3LHJ
Monday 1 st April	Contest 2000 - 2130	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 2 nd April	
Wednesday 10 th April	Contest 2000 - 2130	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 11 th April	G3LHJ
12 th April	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2EOKRE
19 th April	NO MEETING	Good Friday	
Thursday 25 th April	Contest 2000 - 2130	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 25 th April	G3LHJ
26 th April	Monthly Meeting	The annual 90/10 sale (10% of anything sold goes to society funds). Your chance to clear your shack of any unwanted items	GOVEB
10 th May	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2EOKRE
Monday 13 th May	Contest 2000 - 2130	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 14 th May	G3LHJ

Dates for Your Diary			
Date and Times	Type of Event (Clock Times)	Event	Organiser / details
Wednesday 22 nd May	Contest 2000 - 2130	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 23 rd May	G3LHJ
24 th May	Monthly Meeting	To be advised	2E0KRE
Thursday 30 th May	Contest 2000 - 2130	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 31 st May	G3LHJ
Monday 10 th June	Contest 2000 - 2130	PSK: 3580-3590 kHz RTTY: 3590-3620 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 11 th June	G3LHJ
14 th June	Business Meeting	The normal monthly business of the society will be discussed at the meeting	2E0KRE
Wednesday 19 th June	Contest 2000 - 2130	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 20 th June	G3LHJ
Thursday 27 th June	Contest 2000 - 2130	SSB: 3600-3775 kHz Logs must be submitted by 23:59:59 UTC on 28 th June	G3LHJ
28 th June	Monthly Meeting	To be advised	

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

TARS TALK is the magazine of the Torbay Amateur Radio Society. It is published three times a year. Articles for consideration for publication in the magazine can be e-mailed to editor@tars.org.uk or posted to the editor of TARS TALK. The editor reserves the right to alter any article submitted to fit to the space available in the magazine. The views expressed are those of the individual authors and may not be those of the editor or those of the TARS Committee or the RSGB. In accordance with the Data Protection Act no details of members will be published without prior permission from the member concerned.

Next date for copy to be received by the Editor is 28th March 2019.

PETER TANNER

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Torbay Amateur Radio Society

Annual General Meeting 2018 – 20.00 hours Friday 23rd February

Record number of members present - 35

1. **Apologies** – M1AEI, Giorgio Romanin, M3LMG, M3VBG, G0NUZ, M0TQR, 2E0MRC, G0GHR, M1EIW.
2. **G3LHJ** asked for all to stand and remember those members we have lost this year.

Mike G1FON/DL7FV, John G4OYC, and Walt G3HTX.

3. **Minutes for the 2017 AGM** were previously published in TARS talk, also available on the website and copies with tonight's agenda.
4. **Matters Arising from the AGM** – Item 15 – Proposed change to Clause 4 in the Constitution. After a discussion at committee, it was unanimously agreed to postpone such a Constitution change until such a time when G3LHJ retires from his position as President.
5. **Presidents Address - Derrick G3LHJ**

It is sad that I have to start my AGM address again this year with Silent Keys, the past year we have lost three TARS members, Mike G1FON/DL7FV passed away at his German home in March, before his Qsy to DL land he was a very active member, past chairman and did a lot towards GB3TR, the TARS repeater in it's early days, the memorable event was planting the tower at Andy's G3TLK's Qth.

In March, John G4OYC went Silent Key also a long-standing member and past membership secretary, he battled with health problems, but also managed to get on the TARS 80M nets. Then quite recently Walt G3HTX went silent key again a long-standing TARS member, a past Chairman and committee member. Back in the 80's he was a TARS 80M net controller, Walt also struggling with health problems but always managed to attend some TARS meeting evenings with the aid of John OYC giving him a lift in his car, then it became difficult when John passed away but a new member Roy G8XTO who oved in a few doors away from Walt stepped in as taxi.

I would like to think that the TARS society has a great family out-look and there is always someone there to help anyone in need, that the need.

On a moor happier mood, I would like to thank everybody who helped with all the Special Events which were many this past year, a memorable one being our 70th Birthday Party at Peter G4VTO's Qth. Many thanks to Peter and Gail for letting all of us celebrate in your beautiful garden.

This year we will see a substantial change in officers of the TARS Committee, my thanks to John G4VUD Chairman, Pam G7SME and Mike M0LOB as Vice Chairman who are standing down after many years of sterling work to make TARS a great society, also to the rest of the committee who are willing to stay on for another year. My thanks for all their input.

Also, a big thank you to Dave G0DDF who has kindly taken over as Membership secretary from Ged G6CLD, thanks Ged for all those many years in that post.

We now have a great Training Team headed by Lin M0TCF, which is helping to increase our membership and getting them on the air, we wish the Team well for the coming yea, I know they have a busy time ahead with the new "On-line" exams.

I will finish now in wishing TARS a very successful coming year and please everyone give a little if you can.

Take care 73's & 88's.

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

I was getting worried as the months went by with no hint of a replacement for Chairman coming forward.

Many thanks to the committee for all the work in publicity, organising and helping to run Special Events, we had nine last year – Railways on the Air, Geo Parks, Kingsteignton Hobby Fair to name a few, and TARS will continue to go from strength to strength. I wish my successor all the best on taking over this chair.

7. Treasurers Report – Brook G0VEB.

The full audited financial report is copied on the back of the agenda and all those members present should have a copy. We have a healthy balance in the bank, and I was able to transfer a £1,000.00 into our business account recently.

I have rounded up the figurers, and I apologise for getting the year wrong at the bottom of the accounts sheet. I would like to thank Peter G4VFG for auditing the accounts again.

8. Secretary's Report – Pam G7SME.

Good evening everyone. Here is my last report as your secretary.

Our 70th Birthday party BBQ at G4VTO's was well attended. The food cooked by G4FCN and G6FSP, and special event station set up and run by M0TCF. It was such a success that it is hoped we can repeat it this year.

Special Event Stations so far this year will again include Geo Parks at the end of May, and Railways on the Air in September, and a new event at the Helicopter Museum at Weston-Super-Mare in April later in the year.

We had visits from and old favourites speakers last year The Totnes Image Bank, Geoff G7JHE telling us of his National Service experience.

They have re-booked them this year we can look forward to May's meeting with Geoff's motorcycle test experience.

More of our club members are giving up their time to give a talk at our monthly meetings Don G4NNP will tell all about Colossus in July, the training team are planning something in August.

This leaves June with G3ZVI, with a talk on Repeaters, September with G8GON and his Tesla Coils, October we hope to book Ron Vincent (has someone got his contact details?) and November with the Image Bank, and the Christmas Party and Quiz to round off the year.

I thank the outgoing Committee for all their help over the past years, and may I wish the new committee all the best for 2018, including my successor.

So, I will finish by thanking everyone for all their help and assistance.

9. Membership Secretary's report – David G0DDF

As most of you will know I took over the membership secretary's position after Ged stepped down last year. Ged had been TARS membership Secretary for 18 years and I would like to thank Ged for passing over accurate and up to date records which greatly helped me to take up the post 'running'. Also, for helping me around some of the 'quirks' of the Membership Secretary job.

Membership had increased to 140 towards the end of 2017 compared to 129 in 2016. This has been due to the improved training facilities offered by the TARS Training Team, responses to requests to join the TARS Facebook Page and of course the warm welcome that you give to prospective members who turn up here on a club evening wondering what they have let themselves in for!

This is made up of:

Membership Class	January 2018	Year 2016	Comments	Difference
Associate	7	4		3
Family	6	6		0
Full	82	74		8
Honorary	2	2		0
Joint	15	15	G3LHJ in Hon	0
Junior	3	2		1
Life	25	26		-1
Totals:-	140	129		11

So far, this year, as of today, we have 125 (as of 21/02/2018) members paid up and I would like to thank you all for paying your membership subscriptions promptly as it really does make a difference to the administration overhead that both Brook, the Treasurer, and myself have to deal with. This leaves 15 (as of 21/02/2018) members who have not re-joined which is common for this time of the year as some members

seem 'reluctant' to part with their cash! Joking aside, this number usually goes down when reminders are sent out.

We have welcomed over 20 new members to the club in 2017, and as of today, we have 7 new members for 2018.

10. Contest Managers Report – Derrick G3LHJ

Once again TARS have done quite well in contests over the past year, even though bank conditions have been poor and will get worse.

We seem to maintain the usual support to the regular Team contests, the RSGB 80M Club Championships kick off the contests 2017/18 year is on CW, SSB and DATA and RTTY & PSK63, we lost out this time and came second in the local club section, after winning it for the past three years.

The next Autumn contests on CW & SSB in the local club's sections we entered the A-team came 15th, the B-team 35th out of 45 entered clubs and ending our year.

The January RSGB Affiliated Team Contest on 40M and 80M, were three sessions on 3 weekends on CW, SSB and for the first time this year DATA Modes were added, with slightly longer contests from 2 – 6pm and 4 operators per team.

Results in the Local Clubs section were on CW -A team came 13th.

SSB A-team 12th, B-team 22nd and C-team 57th.

Data Modes A-team – 8th, B team 22nd.

We could still do with some more operators; the club championships and the Autumn contests are only an hour and a half long in the evenings from 8 – 9.30pm.

In the major contests, several members have done well on all bands and modes, also they received some wall paper, in the RSGB 2017 IOTA Contest, TARS had six members taking part.

I was pleased to see some new call signs taking parts in our own TARS contests, and all will be revealed at the Presentation Evening next month.

Have fun this session and good luck in any of the contests.

11. GB3TR report – G8XST

Good evening. 2017 was another good year for TR. It's running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and has provided very reliable with very few issues.

In September we received reports from users that the signal was down in the Exeter areas. We carried out both on-site and off-site tests and found all to be Okay. As a precaution I decided to replace the aerial and co-axial cable, which was installed some 20 years according to the site log-book. This was carried out in October/November with the help of other club members (many thanks to them) this did not come cheap, costing some £80 to £100, plus time. Since this has been done all appears to be back to normal and no further reports received.

2018 will see more work in and around the site, I will be adding some other features to TR with the addition of the AUDIO TEST (echo reflector) test. More options to follow.

IRLP is still being used but is quiet at times, we did have some outages mainly computer related and port forwarding issues.

12. Rally Report – Mike G1TUU & G4VTO

Last years rally was successful, even though the venue is expensive, but it does have all the facilities we need all under one roof, including free carparking.

We now have a subcommittee of Ged, G6CLD, Brook G0VEB and Peter G4VTO. Thank you cards were sent to all the traders after the rally thanking them for their continued support, flyers have been printed and distributed at local rallies by G0VEB and G4VTO has sent out letters to the usual traders advising them of the date change to 26th August, the Bank Holiday weekend, instead of the second weekend in September.

13. Election of Committee Officers – President G3LHJ Derrick takes the chair.

The following new members have been proposed:

Chairman – Jeff Hocking M0WSZ, proposed by G6GLP, seconded by Brian M0TQR. There were no other candidates. All present voted in favour.

Jeff then took the chair and thanked everyone for their support.

Secretary – Kerry Knight 2E0KRE proposed by M0TCF, seconded by G6CLD. There were no other candidates. All present voted in favour.

Treasurer – Brook G0VEB agreed to continue, and with no other candidates all members present voted in favour.

14. Election of the remaining committee members.

We have two new proposed members for this year's committee.

Che Letton 2E0MRC proposed by M0TCF, seconded by G6CLD

Ken Harper G0EKH proposed by G6GLP, seconded by G3SNU.

There were no other candidates. All present voted in favour.

The following have agreed to remain on the committee for 2018 – David Fairchild G0DDF; Peter Tanner G4VTO; Bill Butchers G8XST; David Bowyer M1AEI; Peter Tolcher M0LAI; Mike Dixon G1TUU & Linden Allen M0TCF.

Proposed by M0LOB, seconded by G4VFG. Voted en-bloc all members present voted in favour.

15. Notices

If anyone wishes to order a TARS badge with your callsign, please see G3LHJ.

The International Helicopter Museum event in Weston-Super-Mare on 7/8th April in aid of the BLESMA charity this year. will have as a special quest visitor Jonny Thompson one of the famous Dambusters attending for one day, but not know which day just yet.

16. Next Meeting Dates.

The next business meeting takes place on 9th March.

The presentation Evening and Buffet takes place on 23rd March, with tickets available from G3LHJ at £4 each. As G7SME not available to organise the food this year, platters of sandwiches and cupcakes will be ordered, hopefully by the new secretary.

Just a reminder that there is no meeting on 30th March – Good Friday.

27th April I the 90/10 Auction,

Meeting ended at 20.45, followed by the raffle.