



Mawrth / March 2020

Rhif / Issue 123

Cylchgrawn Clwb Radio Amatur Y Ddraig

The Journal Of Dragon Amateur Radio Club

Club Programme

Programme Cancelled

April

6th	1 st Aid for Amateur Radio (TBC)
20th	Pre Blackpool and Marconi Day Planning
25th	International Marconi Day at Waunfawr
26th	Blackpool Rally

May

4th	DMR with the Reverend Sewell
6th—10th	Mills on the Air at Melin Llynnon
18th	HF Radio on the Air and Natter Night

June

1st	North Wales Police Radio Room Visit (TBC)
15th	Radio Astronomy (TBC)
20th—21st	Museums Weekend at Holyhead Maritime Museum

Welcome to the March edition of Llais Y Ddraig, the first 'Lock Down' issue due to the current COVID-19 global health pandemic. The club programme above is for information only and currently all club activities are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Fingers crossed we shall all meet together again in due course.

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From the Chairman ...

**A Few Words From The GRUMPY OLD Chairman...
AKA Danny Shurmer GW7BZR**



Please note that these words from our illustrious and very grumpy Chairman were penned prior to the COVID-19 'lock down'.

Hello!! So what has the club been up to since I last wrote on here? We had a Christmas get together with loads of food and a quiz and raffle and everybody enjoyed it. Before that we had an exam. Six out of seven passed which is good and they have all got callsigns now. The one that did not pass will try again in a few weeks and hopefully pass. We have had a few talks and a special event but you will read more about that later. There are some more events planned for the next couple of months and a trip to Blackpool. If you take part in these events you will enjoy the hobby more so keep up the good work!!

Regards and 73s Danny GW7BZR

From the Editor ...

Welcome to the March issue of Llais Y Ddraig / The Dragon's Voice. This issue comes to you during a global health crisis with the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus. Whilst we are stuck in our homes, I encourage all of you to do what amateurs do best, get on your radios and have a natter! Perhaps take part in a contest or two, build that aerial you always wanted to try or monitor the higher bands 28MHz thru 145MHz for some sporadic e openings.



Whatever you choose to do with the hobby, do let me know how you get on, drop me a line at the usual email address or post it on our Facebook group! The more material I receive the better your club journal will be. For example you will notice that this issue of Llais Y Ddraig is thinner than usual, due to the lack of material provided, so next time don't be shy and tell us all what you are up to!



Finally, I know the current situation means many if not all of us are isolated at home. If any of you need assistance please do ask! I also hope you will join me in thanking all our NHS workers, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, police, fire service and all other essential workers a huge vote of thanks for all they are doing to keep us healthy, safe and fed!

Simon Taylor MW0NWM

**A DAY AT THE SEASIDE or
HOW TO NEARLY DROWN or
HOW TO FREEZE ONES B***S OFF
or
IT'S A BIT WINDY HERE TODAY!!**

By Danny GW7BZR

T'was a cold and windy day at the end of January with the prospect of rain that our secretary decided to put up an AM special event station. Now normally I like special event stations but AM? Never work I thought but what the hell lets try it. I got behind Simon on the way and showed

him the way down. We arrived and it was blowing a hooligan. Karl had arrived by then so we started on the antenna. This was an 80m dipole and it would work well with the FT990. The tent was eventually put up and the rest of the equipment arrived courtesy of Dylan. The first generator broke its string and while Karl was fixing that a smaller unit was started up. Simon had his own transmitter and using the 990 as a receiver much to my surprise he started talking to people!



Now Simon was doing well in the tent, I made the tea and noticed a Labrador type dog in the marsh but never paid much attention. The tide had started to come in and it came in fast but Simon the main operator was told the tide was miles away but in reality only feet away. The generator had been moved and the coax was under water but we were still getting contacts. We kept monitoring the tide but thankfully it stopped inches from the tent. More tea was required and one of our amateurs nearly went MM. We were visited by a few people and club members but was a very worried man who had lost his dog called Seamus. He had been spotted at the top of the road so I ran him up there for a look.

I went on for a short while and made a few contacts. I was surprised with how good the reception was and it was more of a natter on the radio than anything else. It was getting colder and by this time we had visits from a drone and numerous males and females from the club. It was decided to close the station down at 1600 and everything was packed up and left clean and tidy.

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE ctd:

Right: Karl 2W0FNA attempting to go Maritime Mobile... naughty boy!



A good day was had by all and 60 odd contacts were made much to my surprise. I think the event was a very good one and should be repeated. We all went home at this time and I was the last to leave. Some thing was playing on my mind and I had to sort it out. One phone call later confirmed that Seamus the dog had been found very tired and bedraggled but was safe. To me that completed a very good day at the seaside

Danny GW7BZR



GB0AMC (Amplitude Modulation Cymru)

By Simon MW0NWM

Danny has already written an entertaining piece about our special event station in January, held at Traeth Dulas on Anglesey; where we used the original voice mode AM. What Danny didn't mention was why we were out in the cold, windy winter weather running a special event station using the relatively used mode of Amplitude Modulation!

I am involved with a Facebook group called 'AM Amateur Radio Europe', which hopes to revive some interest in the mode. As a group we decided to organise a winter operating event which we called 'AM QSO PARTY'. I then came up with the hair brained scheme to run an outdoor special event station for the event! As Danny mentioned we did quite well making over 60 very leisurely QSOs in around 6 hours, not too bad at all.

Whilst our station GB0AMC worked primarily on 80 working mostly around the UK, we did work a couple of overseas stations. However it is pleasing to report that operators in the following countries took part:

CT	Portugal	DG	Germany	EA	Spain		
EI	Republic of Ireland	G	England	GW	Cymru / Wales		
GM	Scotland	GI	Northern Ireland	HB	Switzerland		
IZ	Italy	OE	Austria	PB	Netherlands	S5	Slovenia
SM	Sweden	SP	Poland	W	USA	YO	Romania

Thank you to all club members and friends who supported our station or took part in the event from home.



Club 2 Metre Net

Whilst we are all stuck at home in 'Lock Down' and practising our 'social distancing', we can all feel isolated from family, friends and activities we enjoy. Therefore Dragon ARC plan to run a 2 metre net on club nights, the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Details of frequencies may change, or we decide to try using a local repeater to improve coverage, so please do keep an eye on Facebook for any changes. Simon our club secretary will also attempt to email any change of plan to members also.

Do call in and join the net!

Dragon Amateur Radio Club 2 Metre Net

Monday 6th April
20:00 local time
145.550.

If this frequency is busy,
please listen on 145.500
for details of where we
shall be.

Net Control will be
Danny GW7BZR



Training Update ...

Simon MW0NWM and Danny GW7BZR



Since October 2019, we have re-started our amateur radio licence training programme with a Foundation Licence course. In mid December we had 6/7 pass their exam, which was visited by Dave Wilson M0OBW, President of the RSGB who was acting in his capacity of Examinations Standards Co-Ordinator. I am pleased to say that not only did our students do well, but our examinations team were given a great report.... Brilliant news!



Congratulations to the following who all passed their exam:

David
Cath MW7CVT
Janet MW7JAB
John MW7?
Paul MW7KLJ
Steve MW7?



Martin who narrowly missed out has been studying hard with us since Christmas and will be taking his exam again as soon as we are able to arrange it. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well.

Many of you will have met Alan who recently joined the club. Since the new year he has also been studying with Martin, but was fortunate to be able to sit his exam a couple of weeks ago. Alan also passed his Foundation examination, congratulations to you Alan MW7DIY!



Thanks also to Karl 2W0FNA who has helped out with training.

Finally we had hoped to run an Intermediate Course about now, unfortunately the current COVID-19 crisis intervened. Hopefully we can make a start later this year.

Club Junk Sale



A good crowd of 30 members and guests arrived at the Dargon ARC headquarters for our first Junk Sale of 2020. There were plenty of great items on sale, many coming thanks to a generous donation from the family of a local gentleman (not a radio amateur) who had recently become a 'silent key'.

Items on sale included hundreds of components, receivers, AMU's, PSU's, signal generators and much more. Also there was a unique opportunity to purchase the colourful socks created by Cath MW7CVT. Danny 'BZR', Simon 'NWM' and Liz Cabban can all tell you just how comfy they are too!

Great fun was had, particularly with our 'grumpy chairman' as auctioneer and we raised over £200 for club funds.

On our Facebook Page ...



Recently licensed Janet MW7JAB has been busy since the new year activating SOTA summits, the last was a failed attempt on Moel Elio when her aerial broke. Unfortunately she is now grounded due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be busy in her role as a nurse at Ysbyty Gwynedd. I am sure we all wish Janet well in this very challenging time.



Karl 2W0FNA has been going out portable at Traeth Dulas with his 20 metre vertical aerial and FT857 hoping to make his first contacts with our antipodean cousins.

On the 28th February, success. Karl wrote 'Very rough on Dulas beach today but well worth it 2 VK's in ten minutes plus a few more rare contacts!'

Well done Karl, good work on 50 watts...

On the 22nd March, Stewart GW0ETF took part in the Russian DX Contest. A nice number of QSO's for a 14MHz only entry, well done!

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	DXC	OBL	Pt/Q
14	CW	479	2591	49	46	5.4
14	USB	46	276	4	3	6.0
Total	Both	525	2867	53	49	5.5
Score:		292,434				
1 Mult		= 5.1 Q's				

Rescore

On our Facebook Page ...

On the 28th March, recently licensed Cath MW7CVT wrote:

‘I’ve swapped roles with [Kevin Thorley](#). I’m listening to the radio whilst he has to make tea lol’

Poor old Kevin, I am not sure that you will ever get your shack back again!



Date	Time	Call	Band	Freq	Mode	Grid	Country	Operator Name
2020-03-28	16:58	EA4AA	10m	28.455	SSB	IN80bk	Spain	Carlos -
2020-03-28	15:53	EA4EUI	10m	28.490	SSB	IN80cg	Spain	Francisco J. Moscatel Gonzalez
2020-03-28	15:43	TK4LS	10m	28.474	SSB	JN42qa	Corsica	Laurent
2020-03-28	15:42	EA1OT	10m	28.540	SSB		Spain	LUIS LLAMAZARES
2020-03-28	15:40	EA1J	10m	28.487	SSB	IN71ps	Spain	LUIS ANGEL MARTINEZ
2020-03-28	15:01	EE7K	10m	28.000	SSB	IM86tu	Spain	Contest Call -
2020-03-27	10:27	W0AEP	20m	14.254	SSB	FM61hn	United States	THOMAS S DAL MISANO

Once again on the 28th March, Karl posted a section of his ten metre log. Nice to see someone taking advantage of the early season sporadic-e!

In early February, Simon MW0NWM gave a talk about the ‘Birth of Broadcasting in Britain’, at Bangor University for 30+ members of Gwynedd Engineering Society.

Finally, if you are not on Facebook, join and become a member of the Dragon ARC Facebook Group,



Fun on Ten

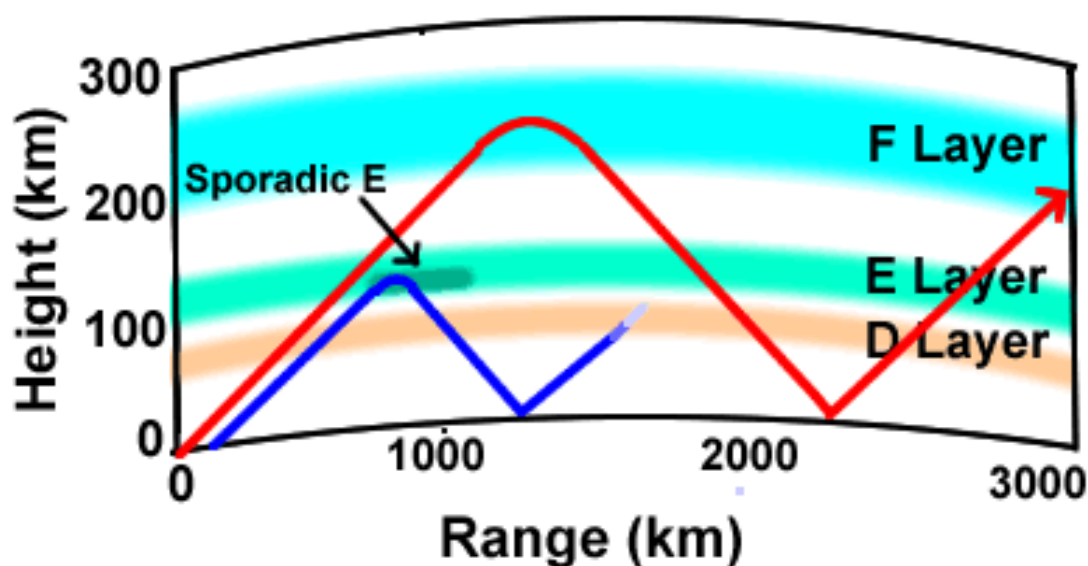
Introducing Our Summer 28MHz Contest



The Ten metre band, 28-30MHz is an interesting HF band. Outside the maximum of the sunspot cycle the band can often appear dead. However during the summer months, from April until the end of August, Sporadic E propagation can enable some surprisingly distant contacts. There is also a winter sporadic e season.

But what is Sporadic E? **Sporadic E** or E_s is an unusual form of radio propagation using characteristics of the Earth's ionosphere. Whereas most forms of skywave propagation use the normal and cyclic ionisation properties of the ionosphere's F region to refract (or "bend") radio signals back toward the Earth's surface, sporadic E propagation bounces signals off smaller "clouds" of unusually ionized atmospheric gas in the lower E region (located at altitudes of approx. 90 to 160 km). This occasionally allows for long-distance communication at VHF frequencies not usually well-suited to such communication.

Communication distances of 800–2200 km can occur using a single E_s cloud. This variability in distance depends on a number of factors, including cloud height and density. MUF also varies widely, but most commonly falls in the 25 – 150 MHz range, which includes the FM broadcast band (87.5–108 MHz), Band I VHF television (American channels 2-6, Russian channels 1-3, and European channels 2-4, the latter no longer used in Western Europe), CB radio (27 MHz) and the amateur radio 2-meter, 4-meter, 6-meter, and importantly for us, the 10-meter band. Strong events have allowed propagation at frequencies as high as 250 MHz



Fun on Ten Ctd

Introducing Our Summer 28MHz Contest

An aerial for Ten is quite easy to make, for example a simple dipole, or quarter wave wire vertical would enable you to take advantage of the sporadic e season. There are several websites which will calculate the dimensions you will need to build your own. However if you do not want to build a dedicated ten metre aerial, you could but a commercial one or simply use your usual multi band HF aerial.

THE CONTEST

Aim of the Contest:

To make as many contacts as possible, including as many DXCC as possible using the Ten Metre (28 - 30MHz) band.

Duration:

1st April until 31st August

Modes:

This is a multimode contest and includes **CW** and all voice modes, **AM**, **FM** and **SSB**.

Power:

There will be three power categories:

- 1) **10 Watts**
- 2) **50 Watts**
- 3) **100 Watts**

Logs can be paper or electronic and will be submitted to the Secretary in person or via email to darcssecretary@gmx.co.uk.

Good Luck in the Contest!

Some of the material in this article was obtained from the Wikipedia website.





We are on the web!

<https://www.dragonarc.org.uk/>

Committee for 2020

Cadeirydd / Chairman

Is-Cadeirydd / Vice-Chairman

Ysgrifennydd / Secretary

Trysorydd / Treasurer

Danny Shurmer

GW7BZR

John Parry

GW3VVC

Simon Taylor

MW0NWM

Cath Thorley

MW7CVT

Aelodau / Members

Cliff Nicholls 2W0CBZ

Kevin Thorley MW1CFA

Stewart Rolfe GW0ETF

Karl Byast 2W0FNA

Non Committee-Unofficial Roles:

Door / Subs Beth Roberts

Refreshments Cliff Nicholls 2W0CBZ

QSL Manager Tony Wright GW0LIS

Equipment Officer Dylan Williams MW1EPI

All submissions for Dragon's Voice to the **Editor**, Simon Taylor MW0NWM at:

darc.secretary@gmx.co.uk

For further information about Dragon Amateur Radio Club and our training courses, please email the club secretary Simon Taylor MW0NWM at:

darc.secretary@gmx.co.uk

The next issue of Llais Y Ddraig / The Dragon's Voice, No. 124 will be issued in Mehefin / June 2020. Please do send material for inclusion.