

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 29th August 2010

The news headlines

- **Final preparations underway for SSB Field Day**
- **Amateurs assisting in Pakistan floods**
- **Deep space lecture for the RSGB Convention**

The ever-popular RSGB SSB Field Day taking place on 4 and 5 September starts the month's HF contesting. There are Open and Restricted sections, the Restricted having become slightly more popular than the Open over the past decade. In recent times the winning team in the Open section have generally logged well over 1000 QSOs, while the winning Restricted team have generally logged about 1000 QSOs. A spot of advice to participants, have a suitable number ready to give participants in the All Asia DX Contest that runs concurrently. The Asians will be looking for your age, rather than a serial number. Unfortunately, the long range forecast looks like unsettled weather for the whole country, so it could be a rather damp, but enjoyable, event.

The IARU reports that the medical and food support being provided to those affected by the flood disaster in Pakistan is being assisted by the combined efforts of radio amateurs, a group of four wheel drive enthusiasts and the Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians. More than 20 amateurs are keeping lines of communications open and the plan is to increase this number. With both landlines and mobile phone services failed in the flood affected areas, most of the radio traffic is through a 2m repeater that is now linked to two homebrewed 2m/70cm cross-band repeaters extending coverage to a radius of almost 300 miles. A few stations are monitoring 7.040MHz but due to poor propagation it is currently of little use, but should be kept clear for disaster use. Pakistan's national radio society is seeking to finalise arrangements including those from neighbouring countries to contribute to and help sustain the emergency communications that will be required for a considerable time to come

There will be a lecture on deep space reception techniques covering the 2.2, 8.4 and 32GHz bands by Paul Marsh, M0EYT at the RSGB Convention. He plans to give an overview as to what can be received with a modest ground station using a small dish. There is also the matter of locating the deep space object and dish pointing. Paul will show how to accurately point your antenna. The lecture should be of interest to weak signal microwavers, frequency and time fans and software defined radio users. The RSGB Convention takes place on 8th to 10th October at Horwood House near Milton Keynes and Paul's lecture will take place on Sunday 10th at 2pm. More details can be found at www.rsgb.org.uk/rsgbconvention.

At the end of last week, the Montenegrin Amateur Radio Pool was accepted as an IARU Member Society.

India's amateur radio operators now have access to the 6m band. The new allocation says 50 to 54MHz on F1B, F2B, F3E, F3C modes using 25 watts. Indian amateurs are hoping there is a mistake and are seeking clarification as previous allocations allowed CW and SSB among other modes on VHF/UHF. The other interesting development is that 400 watts DC input power has been allowed on all HF bands for the General class licence. Earlier the limit was 150 watts input with 400 watts being allowed in very small sub-bands for the old Advanced class licence holders.

The 22nd Foundation course run by the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society starts on 2nd September at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford and will run for 6 Thursday evenings. A 5 week Advanced revision course starts on Thursday 28th October, with the exam taking place on Monday 22nd November. To book a place on a course contact Clive, G1EUC on 01245 224577 or by e-mail to training2010@g0mwt.org.uk.

Following success in the June Advanced exam, a number of local amateurs have asked if a Morse class can be run in Bath. Steve Hartley, G0FUW, has agreed to arrange a course if there is sufficient interest. It is proposed to run the classes one evening each week 7 to 9pm from early September. Costs will be limited to classroom hire so the more that take part, the less it will cost. If there are any would-be key bashers in the Bath area they should contact Steve on 01225 464394 between 7 and 9pm or via e-mail to G0FUW@tiscali.co.uk

For the week starting 18th September, members of Sands Contest Group and Workington Radio Club along with Brendon Minish, E16IZ will be visiting the Isle of Arran off the coast of south western Scotland, operating under the callsign MS0SCG. They plan to operate on VHF, HF, SSB, CW and data modes. The location is IOTA island number EU123 and SCOTIA island number CS14.

It is hoped that the Orkney Wireless Museum amateur radio station will be in operation from its premises at Kiln Corner, Kirkwall between Thursday 2 September and Wednesday 8 September during the 20th Orkney International Science Festival. Using the callsign GB2OWM, probable operating periods will be weekdays and Sunday afternoons between 2.30 and 4.30pm and Saturday morning between 10am and 12.30pm. Operation will be primarily on HF SSB. More information can be obtained from Bill, GM3IBU by e-mail to bill@gm3ibu.plus.com.

And now for the details of rallies and events for the coming week.

Today, 29 August, the Milton Keynes ARS Rally takes place at Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. There will be trade stands, special interest groups and entry is £2 for adults and 50p for youngsters under 14 years of age. Doors open at 9.30am. Why not make this a family day and visit the Bletchley Park museum too? Details from Steve Goodall, G6KJU, on 07866 673 192.

Tomorrow, Bank Holiday Monday, 30 August, the Huntingdonshire ARS Rally is being held at the St Neots Community College, Barford Rd, St Neots, PE19 2SH. Doors open at 10am and you will find trade stands, an RSGB bookstall and a Bring and Buy amongst the attractions.

The annual Telford HamFest takes place on Sunday 5 September at Telford Enquinty, Coalbrookdale, Telford, with the sat nav location TF8 7DU. As well as the varied traders and specialist groups that will be present, a guest speaker, Nick Miers, from Bletchley Park Code Breakers Centre will be giving a presentation covering the World War 2 activities at that famous Centre, and bringing an original German Enigma machine for a hands-on demonstration. The rally opens at 10:30am, with a talk-in facility on 2 metres and via the local repeater GB3TF, using the callsign GB4THF. Further information from Martyn, G3UKV on 01952 255416, or via the group's website www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

Now for the news of special events

1st September sees the start of several special event licences. GB2BCL will be on the air from Barmoor Castle in Northumberland, GB0PC is part of the Peterlee Carnival and GB0SMA will be active from Stowe Maries Aerodrome in Maldon.

GB4BLR will be on the air from 3 September at the Battlefield Line Railway in Leicestershire and GB2LGR will be active from Langar Airfield in Nottinghamshire.

Then from 5 September, GB2EFF will be on the air for the Epping Forest Festival.

And now the HF DX news compiled from 425 DX News and other sources

VK6LC will be operational as XV2LC from 10 September from Ho Chi Minh City and as XV4LC from the Mekong Delta. Listen out for him primarily on CW with some SSB. QSL via VK6LC.

IZ4AKS/3B9 will be active stroke from Rodriguez Island until 4 September. His operation will be holiday style on 40 through to 10 meters SSB with the possibly of some RTTY and CW as well. QSL direct only to IZ4AKS at his Callbook address.

Niels, OZ7FOC, is going to hit the airwaves from Samos between 29 August and 3 September. QSL via homecall.

Four Australian amateurs will be on Vanuatu, YJ, until 2 September. This will be a fairly low-key operation, running just 100 watts to verticals and dipoles, but is one of the few expeditions slated for September.

Laci, HA0HW, will sign J48HW from Thassos Island until 7 September. QSL via HA0HW.

Moving on to another non-RSGB events, the All Asian DX SSB contest kicks off on 4th and 5th. Exchange a signal report plus your age. If shy about their age, YL ops can send '00'.

Now the contest news

The IRTS 2m Counties Autumn Contest takes place today, Sunday 29 August. If you're outside EI/GI, work EIs and GIs only, giving them a signal report and serial number. Expect to receive a signal report, serial number and their county. In the 2008 and 2009 running of this contest no entries at all were received from outside of EI, so if a UK station had made just one QSO it would have put him in top spot. That said, if any GIs are active, their proximity to EI means you'll have to do well to beat them. It's only 2 hours long between 1300 and 1500UTC but you can use all modes on the 2m band.

Tuesday, 31 August, sees the 70MHz UK Activity Contest take place between 1900 and 2130. You can use any mode on the band and your exchange should be signal report, serial number and locator. The ever-popular SSB Field Day on 4th and 5th starts September's HF contesting. There are Open and Restricted sections, the Restricted having become slightly more popular than the Open over the past decade. From 1300 to 1300UTC, the event covers the 3.5 to 28MHz bands and the exchange is signal report and serial number.

On VHF, the first weekend of the month is a busy one, with the 144MHz Trophy on 4th and 5th and the final 144MHz Backpacker of 2010 on the 5th. To ensure there is a period during which weak-signal QSOs can take place between Backpacker entrants, there's a period of peace and calm in the final hour after the 144MHz Trophy ends. The 144MHz Trophy takes place between 1400 and 1400UTC using all modes. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator. For the backpacker Contest, the times are 1100 to 1500 UTC, again all modes with an exchange of signal report, serial number and locator.

Overlapping the two RSGB 2m events taking place on Sunday 5th is the WAB 144MHz QRP, meaning 10 watts, Phone Contest. Multipliers are WAB squares and DXCC countries. The event takes place between 1000 and 1400UTC and the exchange is signal report, serial number and WAB square.

Moving on to another non-RSGB events, the All Asian DX SSB contest kicks us off on 4th and 5th. Exchange a signal report plus your age. If shy about their age, YL ops can send '00'.

And now the solar factual data for the period from the 6th to the 22nd of August, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 23rd of August.

Solar activity for the first three days started at low levels with C class solar flares taking place on those days. The largest flare was a C4 which occurred on the 18th, when the spot group had rotated out of sight a day earlier. The remaining days activity declined to very low levels. The solar disc became spotless on the 21st and the 22nd. Solar flux levels declined from 85 units on the 16th to 75 by the 22nd. The average was 79 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 22nd was the same level as last week at 77 units. X-ray flux levels declined from B1.4 units on the 16th and the 17th to A4.9 by the 22nd. The average was A8.2 units. Despite several coronal mass ejections caught on camera by the SOHO spacecraft none headed our way and geomagnetic activity remained at quiet levels everyday with the average was Ap 5 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds declined gradually from 410 kilometres per second on the 16th to a slow 260 by the 22nd. Particle

densities were low throughout. Bz with a quiet magnetic showed variations no more than minus 6 and plus 5 nanoTeslas for the period.

And now the solar forecast. This week the slightly more active side of the Sun is expected to be looking our way. Solar activity on occasions could increase to low, but most days should remain at very low levels. Solar flux levels are expected to be into the 80's for most of the week or the 90's if any substantial groups unexpectedly appear. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet levels everyday. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 21MHz for the south and 18MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows should be about 10MHz. Paths this week to Japan should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 19MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 15MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 1000 and 1300 hours. Just a remainder that the summer sporadic-E season is just about over but for the coming few weeks, short localised openings can still take place on some days. Also, the winter season will take place from the middle of December to the middle of January. GB2RS will remind you nearer the time.

And that's all for this week from the propagation team.

Next, the Local News:

Please note that details of all RSGB-affiliated clubs and societies can be found on the RSGB website, including e-mail addresses and website links where known.

[Note to Newsreaders: Please read the local news items appropriate to the service area of your transmission.]

NEWS FOR THE MIDLANDS

On Sunday 29 August, Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society has a Social Meeting. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

On Monday 30 August, Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society plan to enjoy Bank Holiday operating at Crickley Hill. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 30 August, South Birmingham Radio Society has no meeting due to the Bank Holiday. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Tuesday 31 August, Derby & District Amateur Radio Society has a Night on the Air. Contact Richard Buckby, by e-mail to radio@dadars.org.uk.

On Tuesday 31 August, Wythall Radio Club has a Natter and On Air night arranged. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by e-mail to g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

On Wednesday 1 September, Bolsover Amateur Radio Society has a natter night planned. For details, send an e-mail to postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk.

On Wednesday 1, September Lincoln Short-Wave Club will have an SSB Field Day briefing. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Wednesday 1 September, Midland Amateur Radio Society will be on the air and enjoying a ragchew. Training classes will also take place. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Wednesday 1 September, South Birmingham Radio Society has a lecture in the main hall. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Wednesday 1 September, South Notts Amateur Radio Club has a talk on inductors by G4EDX. Details from Terry, M0RIA, via the web at www.radioclubs.net/snarc.

On Wednesday 1 September, Telford & District Amateur Radio Society HamFest – final prep. Night. + Committee (if time). Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Friday 3 September, Coventry Amateur Radio Society has a talk on military radios by Ivan Thomas, M0IRT. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

On Friday 3 September, Lincoln Short-Wave Club will be preparing the SSB Field Day site from 3pm. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Friday 3 September, South Birmingham Radio Society has planned a construction evening and ragchew. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Lincoln Short-Wave Club will be taking part in SSB Field Day. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Saturday 4 September Telford & District Amateur Radio Society will be setting up for the Telford Hamfest. Setup starts at 5pm. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Saturday 4 September, Wythall Radio Club has Session 1 of the Advanced Course. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by e-mail to g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk.

On Sunday 5 September, Midland Amateur Radio Society will be visiting the Telford Hamfest. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Sunday 5 September, South Birmingham Radio Society has a club stand at the Telford Hamfest. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Sunday 5 September, Spalding & District Amateur Radio Society has a barbecue and Fun Day organised at the Portakabin. For more information contact Graham Boor, G8NWC, on 07947 76448.

On Sunday 5 September, Telford & District Amateur Radio Society will be involved in the Telford Hamfest. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

GB2RS welcomes information from all RSGB affiliated clubs. We invite club secretaries to e-mail details of forthcoming meetings to GB2RS@rsgb.org.uk.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 30 August, Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club has no meeting due to the Bank Holiday. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 0191 477 0036.

On Monday 30 August, Scarborough Amateur Radio Society has no meeting due to the Bank Holiday. Details from Jerry Scarr, G6LBL, on 01751 476601.

On Monday 30 August, Sheffield Amateur Radio Club are putting the final preparations together for SSB Field Day. There is also a social evening. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by e-mail to trevorwood6@yahoo.co.uk.

On Tuesday 31 August, Morecambe Bay Amateur Radio Society will enjoy a film night. For more information contact Martin Hazel, M0ZIF, on 01524 581381.

On Tuesday 31 August, Otley Amateur Radio Society will be taking part in the 70MHz UK Activity Contest. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Wednesday 1 September, Halifax & District Amateur Radio Society is holding its AGM. Contact Anthony Vinters, on 01422 822636.

On Wednesday 1 September, Hornsea Amateur Radio Club has a talk on the Audio Signal Generator Project by Bob, M0GAP. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Thursday 2 September, Brigg & District Amateur Radio Club will be enjoying the Moonbounce experience with Howard Ling, G4CCH. Details from John, 2E0III, on 01652 632938.

On Thursday 2 September, South Manchester Radio and Computer Club has a talk on WSPR by Ron, G3SVW. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 0161 969 3999.

On Friday 3 September, East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club has a night on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Friday 3 September Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is setting up and getting ready to take part in the SSB Field Day. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Hornsea Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in SSB Field Day. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September Ripon & District Amateur Radio Society will be taking part in SSB Field day using the callsign G4SJM. They have designed a special QSL card for the event. More information from Rob Hall, M0RBY, on 0787 608 5631.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September Sheffield Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in SSB Field Day using the callsign G2AS/P from the Sports Club fields. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by e-mail to trevorwood6@yahoo.co.uk.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

On Tuesday 31 August, Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is holding a club evening. More information can be obtained from Norman, on 07740 946192.

On Wednesday 1 September, Paisley YMCA Amateur Radio Club is looking at the year ahead. Contact Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, on 01505 613633.

On Wednesday 1 September, West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is having an evening dedicated to construction projects and licence training. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

On Thursday 2 September, Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is holding a Junk Sale. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

On Friday 3 September, Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club will be enjoying a normal club night. More information from Bob, GM4UYZ, on 01875 811 723.

On Friday 3 September, West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is having presentations, guest speakers, a raffle and a quiz. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH EAST and EAST ANGLIA

On Sunday 29 August, Edgware & District Radio Society will be visiting Bletchley Park and the Milton Keynes ARS rally. More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 0208 950 0658.

On Sunday 29 August, Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society will be involved in their Annual Rally at Bletchley Park. For more information go to www.mkars.org.uk.

On Sunday 29 August, Radio Society of Harrow is involved at the Harrow in Leaf Show at the Harrow Museum using the callsign GX3EFX/P. More information from Linda, G7RJL, on 0208 386 8586.

On Tuesday 31 August, Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a club net night. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 31 August, Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society is holding a shack open night. For more information go to www.mkars.org.uk.

On Wednesday 1 September, Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society has a general meeting. More details from Terry, G0VFW, on 01442 831 491.

On Wednesday 1 September, Norfolk Amateur Radio Club will have a talk on ATUs by Peter Chadwick, G3RZP. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898678.

On Wednesday 1 September, Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club will be making the final arrangements for SSB Field Day. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Thursday 2 September, Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Foundation course starts. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Thursday 2 September, Cray Valley Radio Society has a talk on the role of the examination committee presented by Alan Betts, G0HIQ. Details from Bob, 2E0RCV, on 020 8265 7735 after 8pm.

On Thursday 2 September, Horsham Amateur Radio Club will be enjoying the G3NPF Lecture. Details are on the web at www.harc.org.uk.

On Thursday 2 September, Lowestoft & District Amateur Radio Club will be holding a club night at the shack. Details from Phil, G0JSG, on 01502 585448.

On Thursday 2 September, Verulam Amateur Radio Club is holding an informal social at the Queens Head, Sandridge. Details from Ralph, on 01923 265572.

On Friday 3 September, Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club will be listening to three mini talks by Don, G3XTT. Contact Bob, G3OOU, on 01737 552 170.

On Friday 3 September, Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society has a talk on 'what happened next' to the Belle Tote Lighthouse. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 3 September, Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group has a talk on beacons and how to benefit from them by Andy Talbot, G4JNT. Details on the web at www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Basingstoke Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in SSB Field day. Details from Clive, G4ODM, on 01256 326050.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Bittern DX Group will be taking part in SSB Field Day. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 404154.

On Saturday 4 September, Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society will be meeting at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720815.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Newbury & District Amateur Radio Society will be taking part in SSB Field Day. More details from Rob, G3LMW, 01635 862737, g4lmw@btconnect.com

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Verulam Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in SSB Field Day. Details from Ralph, on 01923 265572.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in SSB Field Day. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Sunday 5 September, Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society will be using GB2EFF as part of the Epping Forest Festival, Chingford Plain. Contact Marc Litchman, G0TOC, on 020 8502 1645.

On Sunday 5 September, Norfolk Amateur Radio Club will be holding their Gala Day as part of SSB Field Day. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898678.

On Sunday 5 September, Verulam Amateur Radio Club will be at the National Trust property in Dunstable Downs with a demo station. Details from Ralph, on 01923 265572.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

On Friday evenings at 8pm, Jersey ARS are planning informal Morse sessions. It is not essential to have any equipment or prior knowledge of Morse code and all club members are welcome.

On Monday 30 August, Bristol RSGB Group has a talk on the Falkland Islands by Steve Hartley, G0FUW. Details from Robin, G3TKF, on 01225 420442.

On Wednesday 1 September, Callington Amateur Radio Society has a talk on oscilloscopes and their use in amateur radio by Mike Bailiffe, M0XGG. More information from Chris Harris, G7UDX, on 07973 418 371.

On Wednesday 1 September, Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club are preparing for SSB Field Day. Contact William, G3WNI, on 01823 666 234 for more information.

On Wednesday 1 September, Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club has a talk on juke box restoration by Mike, M1DPB. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417048.

On Thursday 2 September, South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is looking at broadband internet operation with David, G7PKJ. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 2 September, Yeovil Amateur Radio Club has a talk on communications by Barry, M3ZUR. Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to steve@g7ahp.co.uk.

On Friday 3 September, North Bristol Amateur Radio Club has a 2m fox hunt. The location is to be arranged so bring your handie! Details from Dick on 01454 218362.

On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club are taking part in SSB Field Day. Contact William, G3WNI, on 01823 666 234 for more information.

NEWS FOR WALES

On Monday 30 August, Llanelli Amateur Radio Society will be closed due to the Bank Holiday. Contact Craig, MW0MXT, on 01269 840292.

On Thursday 2 September, Meirion Amateur Radio Society has a visit by Dave Wilson, M0OBW.
Contact John, MW0VTK, on 07772 720099 for more information.

On Friday 3 September, Newport Amateur Radio Society is back after the summer break and both
Foundation and Advanced courses start. More information from Ross Clare, GW3NWS on 01633
880146