

# GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 7th March 2010

## The news headlines

- Prestigious Italian award to ARISS
- IARU request amateurs stay clear of the emergency frequencies after Chilean earthquake
- Open house at Flight Refuelling for National Science Week

Italian radio listeners' society AIR has awarded the prestigious 2010 Boselli prize to ARISS, the Amateur Radio in the International Space Station project. The award recognises how ARISS has shown the importance of radio communications to hundreds of young students in Europe and beyond. ARISS has spread the use of radio from the forefront of science in outer space to classrooms around the world. The prize will be delivered at the AIR AGM on 8 May in Faenza, Italy.

Following the earthquake that struck southern Chile on Saturday 27 February, IARU Region 2 requests that radio amateurs keep clear of the EmComm frequencies for earthquake and tsunami information so that those in affected areas may monitor the frequencies for information. These are 28.300 and 28.500MHz, 21.200 and 21.350MHz, 14.200 and 14.350MHz, 7.050 and 7.095MHz, 3.738 and 3.750MHz. In addition, the worldwide emergency communication centre of activity frequencies should be monitored, which are 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360MHz. This is a changeable situation and amateurs should check the IARU website for the latest information.

The Flight Refuelling ARS will once again be holding an open day at their Society HQ at Merley, near Wimborne Minster in Dorset, on Saturday 20 March as part of their National Science Week participation.

Doors open at 11am and active demonstrations of most aspects of current amateur radio communications will be available for viewing by the general public and fellow enthusiasts.

HF, VHF and microwave exhibits, including satellite and EME should feature, together with other items such as a working high voltage Tesla coil. The theme for Science Week 2010 is based on The Earth, so grounding will be in there somewhere. The event will be live webstreamed by members of BATC - last year's event attracted a peak web audience of over 1000. For more details look at the [www.frars.org.uk](http://www.frars.org.uk) website or send an e-mail to [jfell@tesco.net](mailto:jfell@tesco.net).

As part of National Science Week, Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is providing hands-on experience of amateur radio to a local school as well as to the community at large. On Monday 15 March, the club will hold an open house from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Sheffield Transport Sports Club, Greenhill Main Road, Meadowhead Roundabout, Sheffield S8.

The evening will include demonstrations of short wave and VHF/UHF amateur radio including HF, VHF satellite communications, data modes and the D-Star repeater system. In addition there will be a display of equipment, amateur radio videos and printed information. Visitors will be able to meet the club members and, in particular, obtain information on how to obtain an amateur radio licence. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult family member

On Wednesday 17 March Sheffield Amateur Radio Club will be at Tipton School, Crosspool, from 9am to approximately 4.30pm and, by installing two temporary radio stations and aerials, will put the school on the

air for the day. Both club callsigns will be in use, G2AS and G3RCM. For further information please send an e-mail to Peter Day, G3PHO, to scienceweek<at>g3pho.org.uk.

2E1EUB will once again be active as 2M1EUB from 20 to 27 March, operating every amateur radio satellite that he can reach from the Cairngorms National Park. Also, look for him on 160 and 80m. Check out QRZ.com under 2M1EUB for more information.

Following its most successful year ever and with record number of visitors expected in 2010, Bletchley Park is looking for more volunteer tour guides and stewards. A new volunteer recruitment campaign is being launched at a recruitment fayre on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 March, starting at 11am, where the Park's team of tour guides will be on hand to meet potential new recruits and show them the ropes.

Anyone who has a general interest in the past, or a particular interest in World War Two, is very welcome to come along to the recruitment fayre for a no-commitment and informal chat and a guided tour of the Park. Full training will be given to new volunteers who may choose how much or little time they are able to give up – weekends, weekdays, once a month, or more often. Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Niki Holmes Bridges on 01908 272675 or e-mail volunteer@bletchleypark.org.uk.

An amateur radio club for members of the Royal British Legion held its first meeting in Telford. Membership is open to all Royal British Legion members and those intending to become legion members. If you are interested in joining, contact Malcolm Seeby, 2E1DJM by e-mail at malcolm2e1djm<at>hotmail.com.

Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in National Science week when they put GB2ANG on the air on 15 and 22 March. They will also be constructing radios on those club nights and visitors are welcome. Contact Nancy Bone, by e-mail to nancybone2001<at>yahoo.co.uk.

The latest High Speed Telegraphy Honour Roll has been published with three amateurs, LZ4UU, DJ1YFK and EW8VK, achieving an amazing 1231 characters per minute. For full details check out [www.rufzxp.net](http://www.rufzxp.net).

There are 3 places left on an Intermediate Course starting on 24 March. The training centre is located at Clay Cross just a few miles south of Chesterfield and around 3 miles from M1 Junction 29. Tutors are Martin, M1ANW and Geoff, G7SRI with assistance from Steve, G6IBQ and Tracey, 2E0VWI. Disabled facilities are available together with easy parking. The website [www.m0oct.com](http://www.m0oct.com) has all the details.

Reading and District Amateur Radio Club is scheduling another Intermediate Licence Course commencing Monday 19 April through to 28 May. Details from Eric Curling by e-mail at m0luv<at>radarc.org.

Region 13 is planning another Train the Trainers session. They are looking for ten candidates and the date and venue will be chosen to suit. Check out the Region 13 website at [www.rsgb-region-13-org.uk](http://www.rsgb-region-13-org.uk) for details or contact Jim, G0EJQ on 01522 532604.

### **And now for the details of rallies and events for the coming week**

Bournemouth Radio Society will be holding its 22nd annual sale today, Sunday 7 March, at the Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Bournemouth BH10 7LH. Doors open at 9.30am and admission is £1.50 per visitor. All are welcome. Further details from John, G0HAT on 07719 700 771.

Also today, 7 March, the Exeter Radio & Electronics Rally takes place in America Hall, De la Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PW, Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £2. There will be trade stands, a Bring & Buy and catering on site. Details from Pete, G3ZVI on 0771 419 8374.

Today, 7 March, sees the Cambridge & District ARC Rally opening at 10am from the Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, A1198 London Road, Godmanchester PE29 2NH. Entry is £3 and there will be trade stands, a Bring & Buy, special interest groups and activities for the whole family. Contact David, M0GUM, on 01954 203080.

Saturday 13 March is the date for the Dutch National Radio Flea Market. See the report in May 2009 RadCom or check out [www.radiovlooiemarkt.nl](http://www.radiovlooiemarkt.nl).

### **Now for the news of special events**

Today, 7 March, listen out for GB4BAR for Brickfields Amateur Radio. It will be on the air from Binstead.

The Newbury & District Amateur Radio Society will be activating GB0VUL throughout March to promote awareness and publicity of the Vulcan Bomber. The first week is expected to be mainly CW. The main operation will be 20 and 21 March when a station will be run by Norman, M0JEC from the ATC Hut in St Michael's Road Newbury. Visitors most welcome. Full details at QRZ.com. Following a staggering donation of £458,000, the Vulcan will be making appearances at air shows around the UK. More details can be found at [www.vulcantothesky.org](http://www.vulcantothesky.org).

The ISWL Club Callsigns in use during March 2010 will be GX4BJC /A & GX4BJC /P operated /A from Walton on the Naze, in Essex by Herbie, G6XOU. MX1SWL /A operated /A from Stratton, near Bude in Cornwall by Mike, M0SMJ. All QSL info is on [www.iswl.org.uk](http://www.iswl.org.uk) or [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com). ISWL awards are available to all amateurs and SWLs.

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

5R8UI will be active from Madagascar until the end of the year. QSL to IK4ZUI.

Until 10 March, K6HFA will be on the air using both CW and SSB from Samoa, which is call area 5W. QSL to his home callsign. From 11 to 21 March N7OU and W7YAQ will be on the air as 5W0OU. QSL via N7OU.

Until 21 March, G3RWF will be on the air from Uganda with the callsign 5X1NH. QSL via his home callsign. Also from Uganda, 5X7JD will be on the air until 25 May. QSL as directed on air.

Between 8 and 22 March, HA5AO will be on the air from Lesotho using all modes and bands as 7P8AO. QSL via his home callsign.

DL7AFS and DL7ZG will sign V21ZG from Antigua for 18 days starting 16 March. They will concentrate on RTTY, PSK31/63 and SSB.

## **Now the contest news**

9 March sees the 432MHz UK Activity Contest from 2000 to 2230UTC using all modes. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

On 10 March, the CW leg of the 80m Club Championship runs between 2000 and 2130UTC. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

The second session of the 70MHz Cumulative Contest takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> from 1000 to 1200UTC. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The RSGB 73rd Commonwealth Contest runs on 13/14 March and several contest expeditions have already been announced, including 3B9/G3LZQ, 5X1NH by G3RWF, 9G5XA by G3XAQ, J38CW/J38SW by G3VCQ/M3VCQ, J6/G3PJT, J88DR by G3TBK and VP2MCC by G4FAL. Remember, during the contest they only work Commonwealth stations, which helps to avoid those big pile-ups of European or US stations. Many regard this contest as the most gentlemanly of RSGB events. It's a worldwide 24-hour CW event and a list of Commonwealth Call Areas can be found at [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/information/codes.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/information/codes.shtml). The times are 1000 to 1000UTC and the exchange is signal report, serial number and HQ stations also send HQ.

## **Now the solar factual data for the period from the 22nd to the 28th of February, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.**

February saw sunspots visible every day of the month, a contrast from February last year when only 6 days saw sunspots visible. Despite sunspots visible every day during the period, solar activity remained at very low levels with no solar flares taking place. A large coronal mass ejection took place on the far side of the Sun on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Solar flux levels declined from 84 units on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 78 by the 28<sup>th</sup>. The average was 82. The 90 day solar flux average on the 28<sup>th</sup> was 81 units, that's one unit up on last week. X-ray flux levels declined from A7.6 units on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to A2.3 by the 28<sup>th</sup> and average was A5. Geomagnetic activity was quiet everyday and the average was Ap 2 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds 290 and 410 kilometres per second. Particle densities were low throughout. Bz varied no more than minus and plus 6 nanoTeslas for the period.

And finally the solar forecast. This week solar activity is expected to be very low to low. Going on past rotational data there is a slight chance that activity could be moderate. Solar flux levels should be in the 80s for most of the week, but if any reasonably sized sunspot groups appear then levels could increase into the 90s. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet everyday but next weekend could see activity increase due to a recurring coronal hole. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 25MHz for the south and 22MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows should be about 8MHz. Paths this week to South America should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 29MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 22MHz. the best time to try this path will be between 1200 and 1800UTC. Just a reminder that these paths are based on London, slight variations will take place from different locations around the UK.

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 Monday 8 March Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is operating club equipment. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 8 March South Birmingham Radio Society is having a contest meeting. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 8 March Stratford Upon Avon & District Radio Society is having a test equipment evening with John, G0JUQ. Contact G0CHO, on 01608 664488.

On Tuesday 9 March Eagle Radio Group is having a talk on local D-Star facilities by Rob, M0AOV. Details from Terry, G0SWS, on 01507 478590.

On Tuesday 9 March Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is judging the ZN414 project entries. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Tuesday 9 March Mid-Warwickshire Amateur Radio Society is holding its AGM. Details from Bernard, M1AUK, on 01926 420 913.

On Wednesday 10 March Bolsover Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. For details, send an email to postmaster<at>g4rsb.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 March Hinkley Amateur Radio Society is having an antenna workshop on the ZS6BKW HF Doublet by John Rogers, M0JAV. Details from John, M0JAV, on 07836 731544.

On Wednesday 10 March Lincoln Short-Wave Club is putting G5FZ on the air. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Wednesday 10 March Midland Amateur Radio Society is holding training classes and having a committee meeting. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Wednesday 10 March Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is holding its construction competition. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 11 March RAF Waddington Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by Roy Frettsome, G4WPW, on the development of the telegraph from the 1700s to the 1800s. This will include keys and sounders, along with demonstrations of the equipment in operation. Details from Bob, G3VCA, by email to g3vca<at>pyewipe.co.uk

On Thursday 11 March Salop Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Charles, G4HAC on using satellite links to live stream the Shrewsbury Festival of Music 2009, with a demonstration of a live stream. Their website is [www.salop-ars.org.uk](http://www.salop-ars.org.uk).

On Friday 12 March Coventry Amateur Radio Society is having a construction night. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

On Friday 12 March South Birmingham Radio Society is having a construction evening. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

## **NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND**

On Monday 8 March Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on Modern Encryption In Your Life by AiXi Taylor. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 0191 477 0036.

On Monday 8 March Bolton Wireless Club is having a talk by Richard, G4HGI, on VHF DX modes such as meteor scatter, aurora and moonbounce. For details, send an email to boltonwireless<at>gmail.com.

On Monday 8 March Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on sunspots & the ionosphere by G3PHO. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by email to trevorwood6<at>yahoo.co.uk.

On Monday 8 March Thornton Cleveleys Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on Marconi by Phil, M3UHH. Details from John Foster, 2E0EZY, on 01253 399377.

On Tuesday 9 March Chester & District Amateur Radio Society is having a committee meeting. Details from Barbara Green on 07957 870770.

On Tuesday 9 March Otley Amateur Radio Society continues its Foundation course. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Wednesday 10 March Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is having a club night and CW class. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Thursday 11 March South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society is having a talk about portable antennas by Ray, M1REK. Contact Chris Wiseman, G0RDK, on 01782 773185.

On Thursday 11 March South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a talk on digital photography by Robin, G3RJQ. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 0161 969 3999.

On Thursday 11 March York Radio Club continues its Foundation lessons and Morse class. Details from Tony Skaife, G4XIV, on 01904 330502.

On Friday 12 March Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is on the air and having a natter night. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 0191 477 0036.

On Friday 12 March East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

## **NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

On Monday 8 March Glengormley Electronics Amateur Radio Society is registering candidates for its Intermediate Course. Details from Peter Lowrie, MI5JYK, by email to mi5jyk<at>rsgb.org.uk.

## **NEWS FOR SCOTLAND**

On Tuesday 9 March Kilmarnock & Loudoun Amateur Radio Club is having a club night. Contact Graham, MM3GDC, by email to mm3gdc<at>btinternet.com.

On Tuesday 9 March Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is having an operating evening. For more information contact Norman, on 07740 946192.

On Wednesday 10 March Lothians Radio Society Borders is having a talk by Stuart Fuller-Shapcott on the Search and Rescue Unit. Contact Andy Sinclair, by email to lrs\_secretary<at>moosedata.com.

On Wednesday 10 March Paisley (YMCA) Amateur Radio Club is holding training classes. Contact Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, on 01505 613633.

On Thursday 11 March Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by George, GM3OXX. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

On Friday 12 March Borders Amateur Radio Society is holding a junk sale. Contact Ray, GM0CDV, on 01573 228730.

## **NEWS FOR THE SOUTH-EAST and EAST ANGLIA**

On Sunday 7 March Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club is running the Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club Rally. Details from Lawrence Micallef, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Sunday 7 March Waterlooville Amateur Radio Club is having a CW night. Details from Rich, G4IBW, on 02392 680852.

On Monday 8 March Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society is having a film and video evening. More information from Andy, G8JAC, by email to g8jac<at>btinternet.com.

On Monday 8 March Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on Summits on the Air by Marc Tinkler, G0AZS. For more information go to [www.mkars.org.uk](http://www.mkars.org.uk).

On Tuesday 9 March Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720815.

On Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 March Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is running a club net. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 9 March Harwell Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on 6m DX by Colin, M0DDT. Contact Malcolm, G8NRP, on 01235 524844.

On Wednesday 10 March Aylesbury Vale Radio Society is holding its AGM. Details from Roger, G3MEH, on 01442 826 651.

On Wednesday 10 March Darenth Valley Radio Society is having a talk on RTTY by Ray Barker, G0FDU. Contact Ray by email to G0FDU<at>G0KDV.com.

On Wednesday 10 March Dover Radio Club is having a talk on spy radio by Ian, G3ROO. For more information contact Brian, G4SAU, by email to g4sau<at>darc.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 March Farnborough & District Radio Society is having a talk on imaging technology by Julian, M0XPJ. Details from Derek, G3OFA, by email to mail<at>farnboroughradio.org.uk.

On Wednesday 10 March Harwich Amateur Radio Interest Group is having a talk on VHF marine radio by Kevan, 2E0WMG. More information from Kevan, 2E0WMG, on 07766 543784.

On Wednesday 10 March Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is having an informal, construction and workshop evening. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 419204.

On Wednesday 10 March South Essex Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on marine and offshore radio by Dave, G4UVJ. Contact Norman, M0FZW, on 01268 692776.

On Wednesday 10 March Southgate Amateur Radio Club is holding its spring junk sale. Contact David Sharp, M0XDS, by email to david.sharp1<at>tesco.net.

On Wednesday 10 March Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is meeting at Lancing Parish Hall for a discussion evening. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Thursday 11 March Bittern DX Group is having an informal meeting. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 404154.

On Thursday 11 March Echelford Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on D-Star by David Lake, G4ULF. Contact John, G4GSC, on 01784 451898.

On Thursday 11 March Edgware & District Radio Society is having a talk on plastic welding by John, G4GYS. More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 0208 950 0658.

On Thursday 11 March King's Lynn Amateur Radio Club is having a club night and 2m club net. Contact Ray, G3RSV, by email to ral-g3rsv<at>supanet.com.

On Thursday 11 March Lowestoft & District PYE Amateur Radio Club is having an open planning meeting. Details from Phil, G0JSG, on 01502 585448.

On Thursday 11 March Reading & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by Andy Cunningham, M0HAK, on five ways to steal your data. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

On Thursday 11 March Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society is holding its AGM. Details from David, G8UOD, on 01234 742 757.

On Friday 12 March Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club is having a quiz night with Chris G1PXH. Details from Lawrence Micallef, M0LCM, on 07941 972724.

On Friday 12 March Itchen Valley Amateur Radio Club is holding its AGM. Contact Charlie, M0WYM, on 02380 439560.

On Friday 12 March Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a radio night. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 12 March Radio Society of Harrow is having a talk on fuel economy by M3OJH. More information from Linda, G7R JL, on 0208 386 8586.

On Friday 12 March Whitton Amateur Radio Group is having user training on the Icom PRO 3 by Garo, G0PZA. Details on the web at [www.warg.info](http://www.warg.info).

On Friday 12 March Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society is on the air, operating digimodes. Contact Jim, M0CON, on 020 8874 7456.

On Sunday 14 March Waterlooville Amateur Radio Club is holding its exam course. Details from Rich, G4IBW, on 02392 680852.

## **NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST**

On Monday 8 March Cornish Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by Clive, G3OCB, on Microsoft Excel. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844939.

On Tuesday 9 March Blackmoor Vale Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on D-Star by Alan, M0MYI. Contact Tony, G0GFL, on 01258 860741.

On Wednesday 10 March Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club is operating the club station. Contact William, G3WNI, on 01823 666 234 for more information.

On Wednesday 10 March Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is on the air. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417048.

On Thursday 11 March South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having a home brew evening. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 11 March Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club is having a natter night. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317750.

On Thursday 11 March Yeovil Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by M3ZFF on "my first year as an amateur". Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to [steve<at>g7ahp.co.uk](mailto:steve@g7ahp.co.uk).

On Friday 12 March North Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having an operating evening. Contact Dick on 01454 218362.

On Friday 12 March Torbay Amateur Radio Society is having an operating night. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to [g6fsp<at>tars.org.uk](mailto:g6fsp@tars.org.uk).

## **NEWS FOR WALES**

On Tuesday 9 March Marches Amateur Radio Society is having a quiz. For more information contact Dave, MW0AYM, on 01691 777242.

On Friday 12 March Newport Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Ross, GW3NWS, on R L Drake and the TR4 series. Contact Ross Clare, GW3NWS, on 01633 880146.