

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 29th January 2012

The news headlines:

- **Logbook of the World to support CQ awards**
- **Latest news from the World Radiocommunications Conference**
- **Acting Chairman for ARDC announced**

CQ Communications and the Amateur Radio Relay League in the USA have signed an agreement to begin providing support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World electronic confirmation system. CQ's awards are the first non-ARRL awards supported by Logbook of the World and will be phased in, beginning with the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to use Logbook of the World logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard Logbook of the World credit fees and CQ award fees will apply.

RSGB Past President, Colin, G3PSM is attending the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 as part of the UK delegation until 17 February. He is posting daily news on the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org/WRTC-12-news/. Over 3000 participants, representing more than 150 out of the ITU's 193 Member States are attending the four-week conference, making it one of the most significant ITU events. About 100 Observers from among ITU's 700 private sector members, along with international organisations are also attending.

As notified in the February edition of RadCom, the RSGB is seeking a new Chairman for the Amateur Radio Development Committee. Until that appointment is made, Steve Hartley, G0FUW, has been appointed Acting Chairman, ARDC with immediate effect.

The Chibis-M microsatellite, also known as RS-39, was jettisoned from the Progress M-13M cargo spacecraft Tuesday 24 January. The satellite is designed to study atmospheric phenomena such as Terrestrial Gamma Ray Flashes associated with lightning. RS-39 has CW beacons on 435.315 and 435.215MHz and amateurs are asked to submit reception reports via e-mail to the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences at amateur-rs39@chibis.cosmos.ru. Each report will be acknowledged with a special QSL.

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society was founded 1932 and, as part of the 80th anniversary celebrations, the IRTS will be using the special callsign EI80IRTS. A certificate will be available to all amateurs and SWLs with bronze, silver and gold levels for contacting the station during 2012. The certificate is sponsored by Dundalk Amateur Radio Society and details can be seen at www.ei7dar.com/ei80irts.html.

You can now read about some of the activities and decisions of the RSGB Board in a new running log on the RSGB website. Check out www.rsgb.org/boardprogress/.

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

The Horncastle Winter Rally will take place today, 29 January, in the Horncastle Youth Centre, Lincolnshire LN9 6DZ. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £1.50. Details from Tony, G3ZPU on 01507 527 835.

Next weekend, 5 February, the 27th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally will be held at The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA, which is at the southern end of A130. Doors open at 10.30am. Details from Dave, G4UVJ, on 01268 697 978 during the evening please.

Also on 5 February, the Radio-Active Rally will take place in the Civic Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5DG. Doors open at 10.30am and there will be trade stands and Bring & Buy. More information from Simon Chettle, G8ATB, on 01270 841 506.

Now for the news of special events

Listen out for stations taking part in SOS Radio Week in conjunction with the RNLI. Lots of stations will be on the air fund raising for the charity. See www.sosradioweek.org.uk/stations/ for details of those taking part.

Station personnel at 4U1ITU, the amateur radio station at the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva, have installed a webcam in the station, allowing anyone with an Internet connection to view live happenings at the station. 4U1ITU will be signing as 4U1WRC during the 2012 World Radio Communication Conference that runs until 17 February. The station will revert back to 4U1ITU just in time for the ARRL International DX CW Contest on 18 and 19 February.

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

Members of the Buddies in the Caribbean will mount a mini-DXpedition to Grenada between 1 and 9 February. The team specialises in 100 watts or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems. Modes used will be CW, SSB, and the digital on 10 through to 160 metres. QSL via Logbook of the World, eQSL, or regular mail to operator's home callsign and include a self addressed stamped envelope if you go the postal route.

JA1XGI will be active from Hawaii as W8XGI/KH6 between 31 January and 4 February just prior to his upcoming trip to Tonga. Operations will probably be on 6 through to 20 metres with an emphasis on 30, 17 and 12 metres. He is expected to operate mainly CW, with some SSB and the digital modes. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by via the Bureau. QSOs will be uploaded to Logbook of the World.

Laci, HA0NAR is leading a small group that will be on the air as FWOR from the Pacific islands of Wallis and Futuna until 23 February. QSL Manager is HA0NAR.

Dennis, WA2USA/4, will be active from St. George Island from 1 to 27 February. More information can be found at: www.wa2usa.com. QSL via his home callsign either through the bureau or direct.

Now the contest news

The CQWW 160m DX Contest takes place for 48 hours ending at 2200 today, 29 January, using CW only. The UK is CQ Zone 14. USA stations will send a signal report and their 2-letter State code, while Canadian stations will send a signal report and their 3-letter Province code. Accurate logkeeping is a must in this event, because there are penalties for bad or busted QSOs.

The BARTG RTTY Sprint finishes at 1200UTC today, 29 January. Since last year it has become an event in the HF Championship, but it is still adjudicated by BARTG and competing stations need to submit their entries to BARTG. Single band entries are not allowed and the contest uses the bands from 3.8 to 28MHz. The contest exchange is serial number only. Stations who have been placed in the Top 10 of any BARTG event in the past three years must enter the Expert category

The 70MHz UK Activity Contest takes place on 31 January from 2000 to 2230UTC. Using all modes on the band, the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The 432MHz AFS contest is the final Super League event of the 2011/2012 season. It takes place for four hours on the morning of the 5th from 0900 to 1300UTC. A French contest coincides with the first couple of hours, so don't forget to take advantage of the activity by beaming that way early on. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The European Phase Shift Keying Club's PSK63 Contest takes place next weekend on 4 and 5 February. Last year there was a big increase in participation but in several of the categories there were no entries at all from parts of the UK. Using the 3.5 to 28MHz bands between 1200 and 1200UTC, the exchange is signal report and serial number

And now the solar factual data for the period from Friday the 20th to Thursday the 26th of January, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 27th of January.

The two large sunspot regions mentioned in last week's report continued to dominate the solar disc and solar activity. Numerous C class solar flares took place on a daily basis but the largest event was a long duration M8 proton solar flare during the morning of the 23rd. Associated with this event were multi-frequency radio emissions spanning from 25MHz through to 15.4GHz, a fast moving large coronal mass ejection and a sudden ionospheric disturbance. Solar flux levels declined from 142 units on the 21st to 126 by the 25th. The average was 137 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 26th was 143, that's one unit down on last week. X-ray flux levels varied little day to day and averaged B5.8 units. Geomagnetic activity started at quiet levels but during the early hours of the 22nd a coronal mass ejection arrived from the solar flare of the 19th. The Ap index for the 22nd was 24 units. This was the first disturbed day since the 1st of November last year. Then around 1500 hours on the 24th a second, faster coronal mass ejection arrived associated with the M8 flare from the 23rd. This disturbance did not last as long but the Ap index for the 24th was also 24 units. Activity then declined back to quiet levels by the 26th. The average was Ap 13 units. Solar wind data from the ACE

spacecraft saw solar wind speeds increase from 290 kilometres per second on the 21st to 650 by the 25th. Particle densities increased to 63 particles per cubic centimetre during the 22nd. Bz varied between minus 4 and plus 6 nanoTeslas on the quietest day and between minus 29 and plus 28 nanoTeslas on the 22nd and between minus 18 and plus 29 nanoTeslas during the 24th.

Radio aurora took place on four consecutive days from the 22nd. By far the strongest was the evening of the 22nd, which lasted into the 23rd, when stations on the south coast could participate. Northern England and Scotland also had the pleasure of an exceptional visual aurora, where skies were clear of clouds. Further down the radio spectrum, the HF bands were badly degraded especially the high latitude paths. However, they recovered quite rapidly with MUFs back up to 27MHz or higher with paths to Africa and South America on 28MHz better than expected considering magnetic levels.

And finally the solar forecast. This week the slightly quieter side of the Sun is expected to be facing our way. Solar activity should be low on most days with only a slight chance that activity will increase to moderate levels. Solar flux levels should be in the 120s for most of the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet everyday. This week there is only a small chance that any coronal mass ejections will head our way. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 29MHz. Darkness hour lows are expected to be about 8MHz. Paths this week to the east coast of North America should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 28MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 50 per cent success rate will be about 21MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 1300 and 1800 hours UTC.

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 email 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 30 January Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is having an informal, workshop and construction evening. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548 478, daytime.

On Monday 30 January South Birmingham Radio Society is having a field day planning meeting and equipment review. Contact Don, on 01214 581 603.

On Tuesday 31 January Derby & District Amateur Radio Society is on the air. Contact Richard Buckby, by email to radio@dadars.org.uk.

On Tuesday 31 January Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having a practical evening. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Tuesday 31 January Wythall Radio Club is having a talk on VHF by Tim Kirby G4VXE, VHF columnist of Practical Wireless. Details from Chris, G0EYO, on 07710 412 819.

On Wednesday 1 February Midland Amateur Radio Society is holding an open meeting and training classes. Contact Norman, G8BHE, on 07808 078 003.

On Wednesday 1 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a lecture in the main hall. Contact Don, on 01214 581 603.

On Wednesday 1 February Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is putting G3ZME on the air and having a committee meeting. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 2 February Salop Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night and holding a committee meeting. Details on the club website at www.salop-ars.org.uk.

On Thursday 2 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having training classes with Dave Murphy, G8OWL. Contact Don, on 01214 581 603.

On Friday 3 February Coventry Amateur Radio Society is holding its construction competition. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777 363.

On Friday 3 February South Birmingham Radio Society is having a construction evening. Contact Don, on 01214 581 603.

On Sunday 5 February Wythall Radio Club is taking a trip to the Radio Active Rally, Nantwich. Details from Chris, G0EYO, on 07710 412 819.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 30 January Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is on the air. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 01914 770 036.

On Monday 30 January Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by G3PHO on the G7FEK multiband HF antenna. More information from Peter Day, G3PHO, by email to sarc@g3pho.org.uk.

On Monday 30 January South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is holding a technical forum. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 01619 693 999.

On Monday 30 January Thornton Cleveleys Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on the birth of radio by Jack, G4BFH. Details from Jack Duddington, G4BFH, on 01253 853 554.

On Tuesday 31 January Chester & District Radio Society is having talks by construction competition entrants. Details from Bruce Sutherland, M0CVP, on 01244 343 825.

On Tuesday 31 January Halifax & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Raymond, 9H4RN on getting started with ham radio in Gozo, Malta. Details from Anthony Vinters, G0WFG, on 01422 822 636.

On Tuesday 31 January Warrington Radio Club is having a talk on Home Antennas Plus by Roger Spensley, M0DWQ. Information from Leigh Jepson, 2E0LDJ by e-mail to leigh@2e0ldj.net.

On Wednesday 1 February Denby Dale Radio Club is watching the VP8ORK and T32C DXpedition videos. Details from Richard, M0RBG, on 07976 220 126.

On Wednesday 1 February Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is dining at Driffield. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240 573.

On Wednesday 1 February Maltby & District Amateur Radio Society is on the air. Details from Keith, G1PQW, on 07801 156 678.

On Wednesday 1 February Mid-Cheshire Amateur Radio Society is making final assignments for the Radio Active rally. Contact Peter Paul Fox, G8HAV, on 01606 553 401.

On Thursday 2 February Spen Valley Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on a simple and cheap antenna analyser by Russell, G0FOI. Further details from Russell Wilde on 01274 875 038.

On Thursday 2 February South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a talk on the wonders of China by Dave, G4UGM. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 01619 693 999.

On Thursday 2 February Wakefield & District Radio Society is holding a rally planning meeting. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563 117.

On Friday 3 February East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is having a radio components catalogues evening. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Friday 3 February Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club is discussing Noises Off. Contact Bob, M6KLO, by email to mail@g0nwm.com.

On Sunday 5 February Wakefield & District Radio Society is having a training day from 13:30. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563 117.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club plans another course for the Intermediate amateur radio licence, both practical assessments and examination. The first session will be at 1pm today, 29 January, in the SHARE Centre, BT92 OEQ. It may be possible to join the course at subsequent sessions. Contact Michael MI5MTC by e-mail to sec@learc.eu.

On Thursday 2 February Bangor & District Amateur Radio Club a presentation about Logbook of the World by Richard, G14DOH. Contact Mike, G14XSF, on 02842 772 383.

On Saturday 4 February Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club is having an informal radio, computer and electronics bring and buy sale with coffee morning. For more information send an email to cqmuarc@gmail.com.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

On Tuesday 31 January Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is having a club evening. Details from Norman, on 07740 946 192.

On Thursday 2 February Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is holding a junk sale. Contact Fred Gordon, MM0ODL, on 01975 651 365.

On Thursday 2 February Moray Firth Amateur Radio Society is having a talk and demonstration of Radio and TV of Yesteryear by Steve Liley and John Rennie, GM4UWX. Contact Jim Nicol, MM0SMD, on 01340 820 134.

On Thursday 2 February Paisley Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on microwaves by MM1HMZ. Contact Bill Anderson, 2M0BZZ, on 01505 613 633.

On Friday 3 February Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club is having a normal club night. More information from Bob, GM4UYZ, on 01875 811 723.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH EAST and EAST ANGLIA

Chesham and District Amateur Radio Society will be running an Advanced licence course at the White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG, which is accessible by road via the M25 or M40 and a few minutes walk from Chesham underground station (Metropolitan Line). Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons between 2 and 6pm starting on 25 March. For further information please contact the tutor, Roger, G3MEH, by e-mail to g3meh@hotmail.co.uk or 01442 826651.

On Tuesday 31 January Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720 815.

On Wednesday 1 February Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on PICs by Gary Matthews. Details from John, G8FMJ, on 01273 593 232.

On Thursday 2 February Cray Valley Radio Society is having a talk on amateur radio test equipment by G8MCA. Details from Malcolm Bryan, G8MCA, on 07906 433 965.

On Thursday 2 February Horndean & District Amateur Radio Club is having a natter night and social evening. Contact Stuart, G0FYX, on 02392 472 846.

On Thursday 2 February Horsham Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on vector network analysis using the Mini VNA by John Matthews. Details are on the web at www.harc.org.uk.

On Thursday 2 February Lowestoft & District PYE Amateur Radio Club is having a club night at the shack. Details from Lee, 2E1LJL, on 01502 564 242.

On Friday 3 February Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club is holding its AGM and construction contest. Contact Bob, G3OOU, on 01737 552 170.

On Saturday 4 February Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is holding its AGM at the shack at 11am. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720 815.

On Sunday 5 February South Essex Amateur Radio Society is at the Canvey Radio Rally. Details from Dave, G4UVJ, on 01268 697 978.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

On Monday 30 January Bristol RSGB Group is holding its AGM. Details from Robin, G3TKF, on 01225 420 442.

On Wednesday 1 February Cornish Radio Amateur Club is holding a committee meeting at Perranarworthal Church Hall. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844 939.

On Wednesday 1 February Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club is watching a selection of relevant amateur radio videos. Contact Peter Robinson, G0EYR, on 07811 635 819.

On Wednesday 1 February Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on Linux in the shack by Adrian, 2E0SDR. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417 048.

On Thursday 2 February Cornish Radio Amateur Club is having a main club meeting. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844 939.

On Thursday 2 February Saltash & District Amateur Radio Club is having an introduction to Morse. Contact Brian, M0BHG, on 01752 844 321.

On Thursday 2 February South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having a music night with Daygan. Details from Andrew Jenner, G7KNA, on 07838 695 471.

On Thursday 2 February Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club is having an activity night. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317 750.

On Friday 3 February Bournemouth Amateur Radio Society is having a talk by Ted Nelson on his experiences as a young airman during World War Two. Contact Russell Saunders on 01202 885 278.

On Friday 3 February Torbay Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to g6fsp@tars.org.uk.

NEWS FOR WALES

No news items have been received for Wales this week.