

# GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 4th July 2010

## The news headlines

- Ofcom transfers broadcast interference complaints to BBC
- French amateurs gain access to 7.1 to 7.2MHz
- Armed Forces weekend at Bletchley Park

Ofcom has announced that the first-line responsibility for handling issues of interference to broadcast TV and radio reception has transferred to the BBC. Responsibility for interference to other radio services, including the amateur services, appears to remain with Ofcom, although the RSGB is seeking clarification on a couple of points relating to this. We will provide more information when available. More information is available on the Ofcom website, [www.ofcom.org.uk/complain/inter/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/complain/inter/).

F5VGJ and F5VMR report that with effect from 1 July, French amateurs are authorised to operate in the 7.1 to 7.2MHz segment of the 40m band. This was published in the Journal Officiel by the French authorities on 30 June. Travellers to France are recommended to take a look at the band plans on the REF Union web site at [www.ref-union.org](http://www.ref-union.org) for information. They should also review Décision n° 2010-0537 by following the link from the REF web site to the ANFR web site.

Today, Sunday 4 July, Bletchley Park is celebrating the role of the armed forces throughout history and in particular the role of the cadet forces. This is the Armed Forces weekend which is a family event, and Bletchley Park is open to the public today from 10am. In addition to the activities reported in our news item last Sunday, it has also been agreed that GB2RS news readings will take place at 1300 local time on 3650kHz LSB and 145.525MHz FM. A further reading will be put out at 1430 on 7150kHz LSB. The news readers will establish a news net 15-30 minutes before each transmission and will take calls after the bulletins using the RSGB HQ callsign GB3RS. In charge of the operation will be Alison, G8ROG and Jim, G0EJQ representing the RSGB's London and Thames Valley Region 9. Anyone interested in the activities is urged to pay a visit; the RSGB will be located in B Block. The event is open until about 5pm and further details can be found at [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk).

At the RSGB Convention on 8 to 10 October, you can sit any or all of the UK amateur radio exams. If you wish to take the Foundation and or the Intermediate level exam, you will need to book 10 working days in advance of Convention to guarantee a place. For the Advanced level please book 15 working days in advance. All exams must be booked through the Examinations Department of the RSGB by email to [rce.dept@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:rce.dept@rsgb.org.uk) or by calling the RSGB on 01234 832700, choosing option 4 on the automated switchboard. Candidates for the Foundation & Intermediate exam must contact Brian Reay, G8OSN by email to [ardc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:ardc.chairman@rsgb.org.uk) and inform him of their progress on practical assessment because the practical assessment must be completed before the Convention. If required, Brian can advise on finding a local tutor to complete practical assessments in advance of examinations. It will also be possible to sit the

US amateur exams at the Convention. More details on this will be on the website, [www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention](http://www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention) when they become available.

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is now taking bookings for their forthcoming Foundation evening course that runs for 6 weeks from 2 September. The cost is £45, which includes room hire, the RSGB Exam Fee and the *Foundation Now!* manual. The course is always popular so to ensure a place contact Clive G1EUC on 01245 224577 or by email to [training2010@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2010@g0mwt.org.uk).

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

The Barford Norfolk Radio Rally takes place today, 4 July. This radio rally has both indoor tables and outdoor pitches and as well as being a traditional meeting place for many local as well as DX amateurs. Entry is just £1 per person and outdoor pitches are under £10, so together with hot and cold refreshments this is a good and affordable day out for the family. Gates open 8am for traders and 9am for visitors. Contact David, G7URP on 01953 457322 for more information.

On Thursday 8 July the Wakefield & District Radio Society is holding a table-top surplus equipment sale. Lee Marsh of LAM Communications will be in attendance and has kindly agreed to donate raffle prizes. Details from the Chairman, Ken Quinn, 2E0SSQ on 07900 563117 or by email to [2e0ssq@wdrs.org.uk](mailto:2e0ssq@wdrs.org.uk).

The South Yorkshire Microwave Round Table will take place on 10 and 11 July. Organised by the UK Microwave Group and the Finningley Amateur Radio Society, the event will be held at the HQ of the Finningley ARS near Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Registration facilities and more information is online at [www.g0ghk.co.uk](http://www.g0ghk.co.uk), just follow the links on the left side of the homepage. Prior registration is essential and numbers will be limited for the various workshops and lectures.

On 11 July, the 47th Cornish Radio Amateurs Club mobile rally takes place at Penair School, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1TN. There will be trade stands, a bring & buy as well as catering facilities. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £2. Details from Ken, G0FIC, on 01209 821073.

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

Today, 4 July, GB4BLC will be operated by members of the Coventry Amateur Radio Society. This is a joint venture between Coventry Amateur Radio Society & Bedworth lions Club, operating from 30th Signals Regiment Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote near Nuneaton. The station is promoting amateur radio & Lions Club International to the public.

Special event station GB4FFR for Flight path Friendship Reconciliation will be on the air from the ex-RAF station at Elvington, the Yorkshire Air Museum, YO41 4AU, on 10 and 11 July from 9am. The event celebrates reconciliation between Doncaster Air Gunners Association with the German Night Fighters association. Operation will be mainly CW with some SSB, mostly on 80m using vintage equipment including R1154/T1155 and vintage spy sets including 1W suitcase radios crystallised on 3.577MHz. Contact Bernard Atkinson, G0SWO on 01482 351 907.

Dorking and District Radio Society will be operating from the summit of Leith Hill, near Dorking, which is 935 feet above sea level. Using the callsign G7DOR, they will be on air on Friday 9 July from 0900 to 1200UTC using 144.775MHz, 3.772MHz and 50.230MHz. The club welcomes QSOs and skeds may be made by email to windflowersuk@hotmail.com.

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

S79BWW is travelling back to the Seychelles between 17 and 31 July. This will be the first official WFF World Flora Fauna DXpedition at Seychelles WFF004. More details at [www.ct1bww.com/s79bww](http://www.ct1bww.com/s79bww).

Andrew, G7COD is now in Angola and will be there for the next 12 months on a work assignment. He will be operational nearly every day signing D2AK, on 80 through 10, SSB and CW. Check his D2AK website for the latest information

A US group will be active from the Bahamas using their individual C6 callsigns from 9 to 25 July, with three stations active on all bands and modes.

JA2NQG, JH2BNL and JI2UAY will be on from Wallis Island, which is IOTA reference OC-054, from 14 to 24 July. The team members have requested FW5M, TO2BNL and FW5FM respectively. QSL via the operators' home calls. They will also operate from Fiji on 13 and 14 July while en route.

**Now the contest news**

The RSGB VHF NFD finishes at 1400UTC today, 4 July. Using all modes on the bands, 6m, 4m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm, the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator. There are rules on which bands can be used at certain times, so please check the rules before taking part.

July is the final month of the 80m Club Championship Contest for this year. The CW leg is on the 5th between 1900 and 2030UTC. The exchange is signal report and serial number.

The following day, 6 July, sees the 144MHz UK Activity Contest take place between 1900 and 2130UTC. Using all modes, the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

In July every year the IARU HF Championship takes place. This year it is from 1200UTC on 10 July to 1200UTC on 11 July. It is a worldwide contest in which thousands of individuals take part, but there is also a section for HQ teams, that is, teams operating under the auspices of national societies. As an individual entrant, if you work the UK HQ team on a number of bands and modes you can qualify for a certificate. About 60 of Britain's top contesters will be devoting themselves to the HQ station this year, in a bid to win the coveted HQ section of the contest. Britain has never yet been placed first, coming in at 5th place last year. As in previous years the UK HQ station will be spread right across Britain, with a total of twelve individual stations, although some stations share sites. Each station will be dedicated to a single mode and a single band; SSB and CW on each of the HF contesting bands from 160m to 10m. All the individual stations will be Internet linked, so every station will be able to tell exactly what frequency all the others are on, who they are working, etc. Each station will be located at the QTH of a top-flight club or individual and each station will have its own dedicated team of operators. The antennas for each station will be large, high, and

selectable. There will be beams for every mode and every band as well as linear amps. The HQ team ask that amateurs try and work as many HQ stations on as many bands as possible, all you'll need to give is a signal report and your IARU Zone, which is 27 for Britain.

**Now the solar factual data for the period from the 21st to the 27th of June, compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on the 28th of June.**

The latest smoothed sunspot numbers for September, October and November 2009 are now available and are 6.1 7.0 and 7.6 respectively.

The solar disc had spots every day except for the 25th and the 26th. The groups visible were small and stable and produced no solar flares. Solar flux levels increased slightly from 72 units on the 21st to 75 by the 25th and the 26th. The average was 74 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 27th was the same level as last week at 75 units. X-ray flux levels showed little variation day to day and averaged A4.8 units. Geomagnetic activity started at quiet levels but on the 26th a coronal hole disturbance arrived and lasted through to the 27th with an Ap index of 15 and 13 units respectively. The average was Ap 8 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds increase from 300 kilometres per second on the 24th to 570 by the 27th. Particle densities were low but increased to around 50 particles per cubic centimetre on the 25th. Bz varied between minus 3 and plus 1 nanoTeslas on the quiet days and between minus 10 and plus 8 nanoTeslas on the most disturbed day which was the 26th.

HF propagation was up to predicted levels and Sporadic-E continued daily on frequencies up to 70MHz, with some particularly good openings to the eastern Mediterranean.

And now the solar forecast. This week the slightly more active side of the Sun is expected to be looking our way. Saying that, solar activity is expected to remain at very low levels. Solar flux levels should be in the high 70's for most of the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet every day. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 18MHz for the south and 15MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows are expected to be about 11MHz. Paths this week to South Africa should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of about 26MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be around 21MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 0900 and 1500 hours. Sporadic-E is expected to still take place with openings on 144MHz during the larger more intense openings.

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 4 July Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society is having an open meeting at 11am followed by a social meeting. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

On Monday 5 July Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is having an operating and workshop evening. Contact Anne, 2E1GKY, on 01452 548478, daytime.

On Monday 5 July South Birmingham Radio Society is having a shack clear out and painting session. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Monday 5 July Wythall Radio Club is holding an Intermediate exam. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by email to [g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk).

On Tuesday 6 July Derby & District Amateur Radio Society has a junk sale. Contact Richard Buckby, by email to [radio@dadars.org.uk](mailto:radio@dadars.org.uk).

On Tuesday 6 July Friskney and East Lincolnshire Communications Club is having a talk on kites and radar by G7AJP. Contact Chris, M0MFP, on 01507 442240.

On Tuesday 6 July Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society is having an operating night 7 - 9pm. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

On Tuesday 6 July Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having a radio ramble to Start point. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Tuesday 6 July Spalding & District Amateur Radio Society is taking part in the 144MHz UKAC from the Portakabin. For more information contact Graham Boor, G8NWC, on 07947 76448.

On Tuesday 6 July Wythall Radio Club is taking part in the 2m UKAC contest. Details from Christopher Pettitt, G0EYO, by email to [g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:g0eyo@blueyonder.co.uk).

On Wednesday 7 July Bolsover Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night. For details, send an email to [postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@g4rsb.org.uk).

On Wednesday 7 July Hinckley Amateur Radio Society has an antenna workshop. Details from John, M0JAV, on 07836 731544.

On Wednesday 7 July Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society is having a gentleman's group afternoon. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

On Wednesday 7 July Lincoln Short-Wave Club is having a contest debrief. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Wednesday 7 July Midland Amateur Radio Society is having a rag chew and training classes. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 01214 229 787.

On Wednesday 7 July South Birmingham Radio Society has a lecture in the main hall. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Wednesday 7 July Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is having an open house with HF on the air and a committee meeting at LWVH. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 8 July Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society has a training night. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

On Thursday 8 July RAF Waddington Amateur Radio Club has a talk on Antennas by Bob Pickles, G3VCA, including different ways of making them, plus his insights into line stretchers. Details from Judy Rowlands, on 07544 456422.

On Friday 9 July Coventry Amateur Radio Society is taking part in Bunkers on the Air from Meriden, Haseley Knob & Church Lawford. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777363.

On Friday 9 July South Birmingham Radio Society is having a construction evening. Contact Don, on 0121 458 1603.

On Saturday 10 July Lincoln Short-Wave Club is running a special event station using G5FZ/P from Boultham Summer Fair. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788356.

On Sunday 11 July Kettering & District Amateur Radio Society is having a social meet from 10am. Details on the web at <http://kdars.co.uk>.

## NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Sunday 4 July Wakefield & District Radio Society is on the air operating GB0WSD from the new Wakefield Scout District Camp. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563117.

On Monday 5 July Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club invites all to come along and take to the air. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 0191 477 0036.

On Monday 5 July Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is taking part in the 80m CC CW home stations. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Monday 5 July Scarborough Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on the PJ9W 1990 CQWW SSB contest. Contact Jerry Scarr, G6LBL, on 01751 476601.

On Monday 5 July Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a social night and taking part in the RSGB 80m Club Contest. For more information contact Trevor Wood, M0TWS, by email to trevorwood6@yahoo.co.uk.

On Monday 5 July Workington and District Radio and IT Group is having a presentation. For more information get in touch with Barry Easdon, G0RZI, on 01946 812092.

On Tuesday 6 July Chester & District Amateur Radio Society is having a radio operating evening. Details from Barbara Green on 07957 870770.

On Tuesday 6 July Morecambe Bay Amateur Radio Society is holding a fox hunt. For more information contact Martin Hazel, M0ZIF, on 01524 848193.

On Tuesday 6 July Otley Amateur Radio Society is taking part in the 144MHz UKAC. Contact Paul, 2E0PAK, on 07768 996370.

On Wednesday 7 July Hornsea Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on 5MHz WSPR propagation by Andy, G0VRM. Contact Gordon MacNaught, G3WOV, on 01377 240573.

On Thursday 8 July Preston Amateur Radio Society is having a club night. Contact Richard, M0RDZ, on 0785 587 3566.

On Thursday 8 July South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a talk by Bill, G4SVR on his Egyptian tour. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 0161 969 3999.

On Thursday 8 July Wakefield & District Radio Society is holding its grand table top sale and barbecue. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563117.

On Friday 9 July East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Saturday 10 July Wakefield & District Radio Society is holding a demonstration with training and will be on the air from Huddersfield District Guide Camp. Listen out for GX3WRS/P. Contact Ken, 2E0SSQ, on 07900 563117.

## **NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

No news items have been received for Northern Ireland this week.

## **NEWS FOR SCOTLAND**

On Wednesday 7 July West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is looking at construction projects and holding license training. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

On Thursday 8 July Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is on the air and holding a beginners CW class. More information from Lewis, GM4AJR, on 01224 575 663.

On Friday 9 July Borders Amateur Radio Society is having a general chat night. Contact Ray, GM0CDV, on 01573 228730.

On Friday 9 July West of Scotland Amateur Radio Society is having a club night including presentations, guest speakers, a raffle and quiz. More information from Fred Coombes, 2M0BIN, on 01415 715512.

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

On Sunday 4 July Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society is operating GB0IS for Theydon Bois Donkey Derby from Theydon Bois. Contact Marc Litchman, G0TOC, on 020 8502 1645.

On Sunday 4 July Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is at the Barford Radio Rally. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898678.

On Monday 5 July Braintree & District Amateur Radio Society is holding a 70cm DF hunt. For more information contact John, M5AJB, on 01787 460 947.

On Monday 5 July Burnham Beeches Radio Club is getting ready for the McMichael Rally. Contact Dave, G4XDU, on 01628 625 720.

On Monday 5 July Southdown Amateur Radio Society is holding a barbecue at the QTH of G6GVM. Details from John, G3DQY, on 01424 424 319.

On Monday 5 July Surrey Radio Contact Club has its summer barbecue. More information from Ray, G4FFY, on 01732 357474.

On Tuesday 6 July Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720815.

On Tuesday 6 July Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a constructor's competition with Carl, G3PEM. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 6 July Horndean & District Amateur Radio Club is having a natter night and social evening. Contact Stuart, G0FYX, on 023 9247 2846.

On Tuesday 6 July Leiston Amateur Radio Club is holding a fox hunt on foot with M0BCT. Details from Dave, G4HUP, on 01473 737 717.

On Wednesday 7 July Havering & District Amateur Radio Club has its quarterly business meeting. Contact John, M0UKD, on 07817 365354.

On Wednesday 7 July Newbury & District Amateur Radio Society is having an extra meeting not on the normal date. There will be a talk on soaring by Geoff, G3NAQ. Details from Richard, G3ZGC, on 01635 46241.

On Wednesday 7 July Southdown Amateur Radio Society is operating at the Hailsham shack. Details from John, G3DQY, on 01424 424 319.

On Wednesday 7 July Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on Echolink & VOIP by Matt, G8XIT. For more information contact Roy, G4GPX, on 01903 753 893.

On Thursday 8 July Bittern DX Group is having an informal club meeting. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 404154.

On Thursday 8 July Edware & District Radio Society is having a talk by Eddie M0HIE on life after School. More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 0208 950 0658.

On Thursday 8 July Lowestoft & District Amateur Radio Club is at the shack. Details from Phil, G0JSG, on 01502 585448.

On Thursday 8 July Reading & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on building aerial tuning units by Peter Chadwick, G3RZP. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

On Thursday 8 July Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society is holding its club barbecue. Details from David, G8UOD, on 01234 742 757.

On Friday 9 July Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a shack night. Contact Peter, G4AKG, on 01444 239371.

On Friday 9 July Whitton Amateur Radio Group is having a talk on Hamtests.co.uk by M0TZO. Details on the web at [www.warg.info](http://www.warg.info).

On Friday 9 July Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society is planning for its annual camp. Contact Jim, M0CON, on 020 8874 7456.

On Saturday 10 July South Essex Amateur Radio Society is holding a field event at the Canvey Island Yacht Club fun day. Contact Norman, M0FZW, on 01268 692776.

On Sunday 11 July Southdown Amateur Radio Society is operating GB2PW at Polegate Windmill Fete. Details from John, G3DQY, on 01424 424 319.

## NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

On Monday 5 July Cornish Radio Amateur Club is having a committee meeting. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844939.

On Wednesday 7 July Callington Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on antenna myths by Ray Lawrence, G8AWB. More information from Chris Harris, G7UDX, on 07973 418 371.

On Wednesday 7 July Cornish Radio Amateur Club is having an outside visit to the Four Lanes Transmitter Mast. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844939.

On Wednesday 7 July Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is having a mobile DF fox hunt. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417048.

On Wednesday 7 July Trowbridge & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on editing the RSGB Yearbook by Steve White, G3ZVW. Details from Ian, G0GRI, on 01225 864 698, evenings and weekends.

On Thursday 8 July South Bristol Amateur Radio Club is having a debrief with G7LPP after VHF NFD. Contact Len, G4RZY, on 01275 834 282.

On Thursday 8 July Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club is having a DF contest. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317750.

On Thursday 8 July Yeovil Amateur Radio Club is having a talk by M0WOB on his collection of variable capacitors. Contact Steve Crask, G7AHP, by email to [steve@g7ahp.co.uk](mailto:steve@g7ahp.co.uk).

On Saturday 10 July Cornish Radio Amateur Club is setting up for the Cornish Rally, which takes place on Sunday 11 July at Penair School, Truro. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844939.

## NEWS FOR WALES

On Monday 5 July Dragon Amateur Radio Club is watching an RSGB film. Contact Stewart Rolfe, GW0ETF, on 07833 620733.

On Monday 5 July Llanelli Amateur Radio Society is on the air. Contact Craig, MW0MXT, on 01269 840292.

On Tuesday 6 July Chepstow & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on mobile phone networks by Roy Phillips. Details from Wil Oliver, MW6KGB, on 01291 621342.