



Thurrock Acorns Amateur Radio Club

5th March 2017
Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to the second edition of the TAARC newsletter. I am still doing battle with the Microsoft publisher so if you get a line in the wrong place or something does not line up—sorry.

Since the last edition the club has completed quite a few actives with more events planned for this year . At the last club meeting it was decided change some activities so please do look at the programme on the web site for the latest details (www.taarc.co.uk)

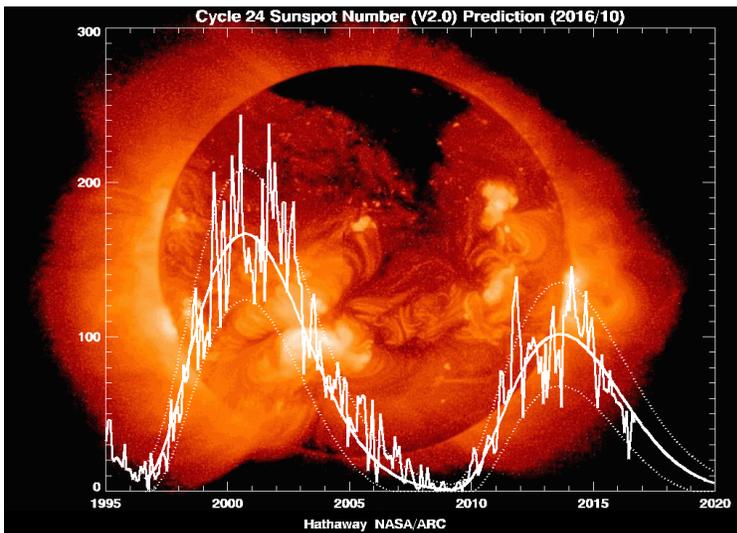
What's next I hear you ask. The next activity is the 2m activity afternoon on Saturday 25th March 13.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. We should be running a SSB, CW, SSTV and GX4HKO will be on voice. I do hope you will be able to join us even if its a quick hello.

I think I must make mention of the best event of the year. Yes it's the AGM at our next meeting. I know Gordon is busy sending out reminders and sorting out all the necessary requirements to keep us legal.

Nigel Farage for Chairman - O no did you say !!!!



From the RNLI day



https://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/ssn_predict_1.gif

I thought I would have a look at the solar activity to find out where everyone has gone. Thanks to the NASA picture above I think we can see what's occurring.

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Sunspots continued.



The picture shown on the previous page does not bode well for amateurs who wish to work on the HF bands. The predictions are still on the decline. However not all is lost. While typing this report I have been on the HF band, 20m on my normal Sunday net and I have been talking to amateurs located in Spain, Australia, Norfolk (England not Norfolk Island) and Switzerland so there is the propagation its just a matter of looking for it. For those new to the hobby you may wonder what I am talking about. Amateurs who were about in year 2000 would have found the band was wide open and with a piece of string and 2 watts you could speak to anyone around the world (well nearly). Then the band dropped away and conditions deteriorated to pick up again in 2012. However this upturn was not as good as the year 2000. Since then the HF band has been in the decline and looking at the NASA picture it shows it will continue downwards for a couple more years before it is expected to get better. However saying that digital modes are still getting around the world on low power and there is still the VHF and UHF bands. The satellites are still there on 2m and 70cm. So there are still plenty of different areas to explore.

RNLI SOS DAY

GB1TYC

This years RNLI event at the end of January went really well. The weather was good, even the sun appeared for some of the day. As always the Grays Yacht Club was an excellent location so summing up I think I can say we had a good day. Unfortunately the amount of money we raised was down but the final sum was £170 for the RNLI.



MoWJL busy on 2m

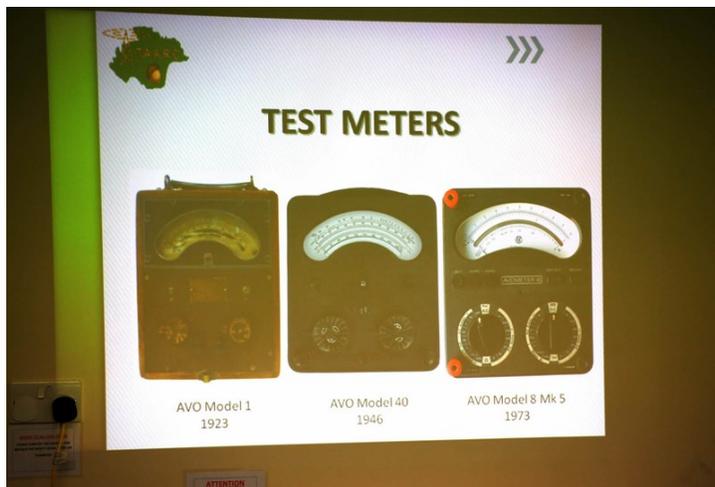


Picture L—R GoEKN, G4HCK, manager from Port of Tilbury, RNLI members (x2)

January Club meeting

Using test meters

Steve G4HXY started this years club presentations by looking at test meters. He started by showing some of the older meters which have been used in the past then moved to the digital equipment used today. He also told us about some unexpected results which could be obtained to those not aware. The good old AVO as shown below was the highlight for me—I still use one !!!



SSTV

Tuesday 7th March is the monthly SSTV net on 2 metres on 144.500. Normally we have 3 or 4 members on this net but its an open net so we hope more will join in. Its an evening for sending pictures and at the same time asking questions to learn about the programs before turning your attention to the HF bands. The net starts around 19.30 hrs (+ -).

February Club meeting



30 years in 30 minutes

At Februarys club meeting Nick (G4HCK) looked back over 30 years (+) of amateur radio looking how things had developed over that period of time. He talked about radios that glowed in the dark (19 set used in tanks) to the little Beofeng which can be held in one hand. The creed 7a teleprinter also got a mention. Today the computer has certainly replaced a lot of this quite heavy equipment and made it easier for amateurs to look at all the different digital modes.



2017

What's on the horizon.:

Next event:

21st March	AGM
25th March	2m activity afternoon
4th April	SSTV net
18th April	Lightening protection -club meet

For all the latest news go to
www.taarc.co.uk

TAARC OPEN NETS

Don't forget the weekly 2m net on a Thursday which start at 19.30 on 145.500 then qsy'2 to a near frequency. The net controller is MoWJL supported by G6AMY. The net is an open net and anyone who wishes to join is more than welcome.



A funny received from Gordon

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The following was taken from the Ofcom web site

[Monthly Amateur licence statistics](#)

I was hoping to give the latest figures produced by Ofcom but I cannot find any updates on their website since the November figures.

Final note.

For those who have not paid their subs please don't forget. Simon will be on the war path before long I am sure.

