

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday, 17th November 2024

Slide 1

CQ, CQ, calling all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners. This is GB2RS, the news broadcasting service of the Radio Society of Great Britain. This broadcast comes to you from amateur radio station Alison G8ROG, located in Caversham Park, in the Royal County of Berkshire, Southern England in the United Kingdom.

Slide 2

Transmitting on 51.530 and 70.425 MHz via GB3BN, Bracknell, and the 3cm band. You can also see this bulletin via the BATC Website worldwide, using the URL www.batc.org.uk/live/GB2RS.

Slide 3

Good morning! It's Sunday, November 17th, 2024, and here is the GB2RS news broadcast, prepared by the RSGB and intended for all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners. A full printed version is also available on the RSGB website at www.rsgb.org, where you will find links to groups and organisations that may be mentioned in this broadcast.

Slide 4

The news headlines:

- **The RSGB has launched a new practical events section on its website.**
- **The RSGB Awards Manager has added categories to the IARU Region 1 Award.**
- **There is still time to host the Youngsters on the Air Month call sign.**

Slide 5

The RSGB is keen to promote practical events for radio amateurs to develop their skills and retain their interest in amateur radio. The Society has also demonstrated that buildathons are a great way of engaging new audiences, giving people a taste of amateur radio in a fun and supportive environment. As part of its strategy, the RSGB held two workshops at the 2024 Convention to introduce individuals to radio-related usage of Micro Controller Units, or MCUs as they are often known. The Society also holds annual build-a-radio events for youngsters at Bletchley Park, with the kits provided by the Radio Communications Foundation. To support radio amateurs in trying practical skills themselves or putting on their events, the RSGB has published a new section on its website dedicated to practical events. You'll find a guide to running a buildathon, detailed information from the MCU workshop, and a short video to inspire you! Feedback from the RSGB's events has been wholly positive, with requests for similar activities nationwide. Could your club host an event and perhaps even boost its numbers simultaneously? Find out more at rsgb.org/practical-events.

Slide 6

The RSGB Awards Manager has announced that, with the support of the Board, he has added new categories of achievement to the IARU Region 1 Award. These include WARC bands only, 10MHz only, 18MHz only and 24MHz only. The standard IARU Region 1 Award check spreadsheet should continue to be used for these categories. However, award chasers are advised to keep separate versions for each band or set of bands. There are no mode or power restrictions and no distinction between fixed and portable stations; you must operate within the same country for all QSOs used in the application. There aren't any limitations on the start dates for the awards other than the dates for particular countries as identified in the check sheet. This reflects, for example, when a country became a member of the IARU. The RSGB would like to thank the award chasers who contributed to the discussions about adding new categories.

Slide 7

With just two weeks to go until Youngsters on the Air Month, operating slots for GB24YOTA are fast filling up. The special call sign will be active throughout December and is a fantastic opportunity to get youngsters active in amateur bands. Whether you are part of a school, university, youth group, club or individual, the RSGB would love you to be involved. The Society would be delighted to see the callsign hosted daily during December and see as many youngsters on the air as possible. Be part of this goal by visiting [QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com) and searching GB24YOTA to check availability. Operating slots aren't fixed and can be adjusted to suit your timings, so don't delay. Email Jamie, M0SDV via yota.month@rsgb.org.uk now. Visit [rsgb.org/yota-month](https://www.rsgb.org/yota-month) to find out more.

Slide 8

The RSGB National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. There will also be reduced hours on New Year's Eve when the Centre closes at 2 pm. Following the seasonal closures, the NRC will also be closed for essential maintenance works on the 2nd of January 2025. Outside of these times, volunteers look forward to welcoming visitors as usual. RSGB Members can download a free entry voucher for Bletchley Park from the RSGB website via [rsgb.org/bpvoucher](https://www.rsgb.org/bpvoucher).

Slide 9

Visitors to and from CEPT [*Cee-ee-pee-tee*] countries such as the UK can now operate more easily in the Cayman Islands, which has joined the CEPT T/R 61-01 Reciprocal agreement. This change was agreed at the CEPT meeting last month.

Slide 10

And now for details of rallies and events

The Wiltshire Radio Winter Rally is on Sunday the 1st of December at Kington Langley Village Hall in Kington Langley, located just off Junction 17 of the M4. Doors open at 9am and close at 1pm. Admission is £3. Indoor tables are £10. Car boot pitches are £10 for a car-size pitch and £15 for a van-size pitch. Hot and cold refreshments will be available on site. For more information, email Chairman@Chippenhamradio.club

The Mid-Devon Amateur Radio and Electronics Fair is on Sunday, the 8th of December, at Winkleigh Sports and Recreation Centre. Doors are open from 9 am to 1 pm. Entry is £3 per person and no charge for partners. And under 16s. Free parking and Wi-Fi is available, as well as hot food and refreshments. Traders £5 per 6ft frontage with tables supplied. Booking in advance is recommended. Mains electricity is also available on request. Traders, please pre-book as soon as possible. Please contact Phil, G6DLJ via 0799 056 3147 or email wrg2024@hotmail.com.

Slide 11

Now the Special Event news

Special event station, callsign 9Y20TATT, is active from the 22nd of November until the 29th of November 2024 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society. All amateurs are invited to make contact. Limited edition QSL cards will be available, and amateurs can request certificates by making at least five unique contacts. Find out more on the event website via 9y20ta.tt

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of Radio Beograd in 1924, members of the Belgrade Amateur Radio Club, YU1ANO in Serbia, are active as YT100RB and YU1924RB until the 30th of November. For details of a certificate that is available for contacting these stations, see yu1ano.org

Special callsign HB50VC is active until the 31st of December to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Swissair Amateur Radio Club, HB9VC. QSOs will be uploaded to the Logbook of the World. QSL cards will not be provided. You can download a certificate for working this special event station from tinyurl.com/HB50VC-24.

Slide 12

Now the DX news

HC5CW and HC2AP will be active as HC5CW/8 and HD8CW from San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos Islands between the 19th and 28th of November. The IOTA reference is SA 004. They will operate on the HF bands, CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via M0OXO or OQRS.

The S9Z Team will be active from Sao Tome Island between the 11th and 20th of November. The IOTA reference is AF 023. They will operate on the 160 - 6m bands, CW, SSB, Digital modes, and also EME on 432MHz.

The 9L5A Team, who are members of the F6KOP Club, will be active from Sierra Leone between the 27th of November and the 8th of December. They will operate on the 160 - 6m bands and QO-100. QSL via F5GSJ, Logbook of the World or ClubLog OQRS.

Slide 13

Now the contest news

Tomorrow, Monday, November 18th, the RSGB FT4 Contest runs from 2000 to 2130 UTC. Using FT4 on the 80m to 10m bands, where contests are permitted, the exchange is a signal report.

On Tuesday, November 19th, the RSGB 1.3GHz UK Activity Contest runs from 2000 to 2230 UTC. Using all modes on the 23cm band, the exchange is signal report, serial number, and locator.

The RSGB 70MHz UK Activity Contest runs from 2000 to 2230 UTC on Thursday, November 21st. Using all modes on the 4m band, the exchange is signal report, serial number, and locator.

The CQ World-Wide DX CW Contest starts at 0000UTC on Saturday, the 23rd of November, and ends at 2359 UTC on Sunday, the 24th of November. Using, CW on the 160 to 10m bands, where contests are permitted, the exchange is signal report and CQ Zone. The UK is in Zone 14.

Slide 14

You are listening to GB2RS, the news broadcasting service of the Radio Society of Great Britain. And this broadcast comes to you from amateur radio station Alison G8ROG located in Caversham Park, in the Royal County of Berkshire, Southern England in the United Kingdom.

Slide 15

Now the radio propagation report, compiled by G0KYA, G3YLA & G4BAO on Thursday, November 14th, 2024.

The solar flux index took a downturn this week, ending up at 150. The visible solar disk is looking rather bare compared with a couple of weeks ago.

This is the lowest SFI value since the 2nd of May 2024, but it is only a matter of time before we see another sunspot appear as we make our way through solar maximum.

The good news is that this means we have been pretty devoid of solar flares and coronal mass ejections, with only a few M-class flares occurring. Any CMEs were not Earth-directed, and so the Kp index stayed low.

As a result, the bands are still playing ball. A quick look on 10 metres at 10.00UTC on Thursday the 14th showed the 4X6TU (Israel), OH2B (Finland), and LU4AA (Argentina) International Beacon Project beacons were romping in on 28.200MHz.

Going down to 15 meters, it was even better, with ZL6B (New Zealand), VK6RBP (Australia), and JA2IGY (Japan) all audible on 21.150MHz.

Also, the proton flux from the Sun remains low, which bodes well for polar paths.

Next week, the Space Weather Prediction Centre forecasts that the solar flux index will rise again, no doubt as new or returning sunspots appear, perhaps putting us into the low 200s.

From a geomagnetic perspective, unsettled conditions are forecast for Wednesday, the 20th of November, when the Kp index could rise to four.

Looking further ahead, fingers crossed for the 23rd and 24th weekend when the CQ Worldwide CW contest takes place!

And now the VHF and up propagation news from G3YLA and G4BAO.

It was more of the same on 50MHz last week, with what may be a mix of Es and F2-layer propagation producing morning openings in the afternoon to the Gulf States, Southeast Asia, and the Americas.

On the higher bands, with the high pressure just hanging on in its colder guise, next week looks distinctly on the wintry side for some areas.

The high pressure and its predecessor have given us at least two weeks of Tropo conditions on the VHF bands. The expected change-over to low pressure occurs on Sunday and drives a colder northerly weather pattern across the UK, even to southern areas. This means that most of next week is a good time to look for rain scatter.

Regarding meteor scatter, the peak of the Leonids occurs today, the 17th of November, with rates of 15-20 per hour.

Also, occasional peaks of the Kp index above four should tempt us to beam north for chance aurora openings. As usual, check the VHF beacons and clusters for signs of activity during the afternoon and evenings when the auroral oval is displaced southwards nearer to our part of the world.

It's a good week for EME operators. The Moon reaches peak declination on Monday morning, but path losses rise as we pass perigee on Thursday the 14th. 144MHz sky noise is moderate, reaching 500 Kelvin on Sunday night.

Slide 16

The news headlines:

- The RSGB has launched a new practical events section on its website.
- The RSGB Awards Manager has added categories to the IARU Region 1 Award.
- There is still time to host the Youngsters on the Air Month call sign.

Slide 17

For those of you leaving us now for your own local news, particularly our overseas viewers and listeners, thank you for joining us until we meet next week; bye-bye for now.

This is GB2RS

(Pause).....

Slide 18

Next, the Local News for the South-East, East Anglia, South-West and South Wales

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.

Now we start with the news of local meetings and/or on-air training this week.

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society has a CW net of 144.060MHz from 8 pm on Sundays. On Monday, there will be a Morse class from 7.30 pm around 3542kHz, followed at 8.15 pm by GB2CW slow Morse on 3555kHz. On Thursday, CW classes will be held via Skype starting at 7 pm. Visit g0mwt.org.uk.

Hastings Electronics and Radio Club holds a CW net on Monday nights at 8pm on 144.575MHz. The CW net aims at anyone new to CW or wishing to improve their CW skills. Contact Richard via herc.hastings@gmail.com

Saltash and District Amateur Radio Club will hold their AGM at Burraton Centre from 7 pm on Tuesday. Mark Chanter, M0WMB, 0781 054 8445

Chepstow and District Amateur Radio Society will hold its AGM on Tuesday, the 19th of November, in the upstairs room at Chepstow Athletic Club, NP16 5JT, from 7.30 pm. Visit gw4lwz.co.uk.

On Thursday, the 28th of November, Shefford and District Radio Society are holding an Equipment Sale. Items for sale can be seen on the club's website at sadars.co.uk.

Guernsey Amateur Radio Society has a club meeting at the Bunker, Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, from 7.30 pm on Friday. Everyone is welcome. Phil, GU0SUP, 0778 115 1747.

Nothing more is reported this week. So, whatever you are doing, look after yourself and check with the event organisers before attending. Don't forget the local, regional team is available to support you locally with up-to-date activities and support in your local area. Please visit the RSGB website at rsgb.org/regional-team and look for your local contact.

Slide 19

That ends this week's GB2RS news broadcast brought to you by Alison G8ROG, from the Royal County.

News items for GB2RS should be sent to RSGB HQ as far in advance as possible.

The deadline is 10am on Thursdays. You may contact our News Desk by phone on 0123 483 2700.

If using e-mail, please send general news items and regional news for radcom and gb2rs to:

radcom@rsgb.org.uk,

the RSGB retains the copyright to the material transmitted.

Slide 20

Information about amateur radio, or the latest GB2RS broadcast schedule can be obtained by sending an A4-size stamped addressed envelope indicating your requirements to:

The Radio Society of Great Britain
3 Abbey Court
Fraser Road
Priory Business Park
Bedford
MK44 3WH.

Our website is at: www.rsgb.org.

Slide 21

GB2RS is not licensed for two-way communication, but calls will be welcomed after closedown under the callsign G8ROG. So, until next Sunday, have a good week from the GB2RS news team.

Slide 22

Now please wait a few moments before calling in on the GB2RS News net. Give your callsign only twice and you will be called once a list has been compiled. This is GB2RS OUT.