

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 21st April 2024

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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.

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

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Good morning! It's Sunday the 21st April 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 web site at: www.rsgb.org where you will find links to groups and organisations which may be mentioned in this broadcast.

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The news headlines:

- **Dr Stewart Bryant, G3YSX to continue as RSGB Board Chair.**
- **The RSGB has vacancies for Regional Representatives.**
- **The Radio Communications Foundation is recruiting new Trustees.**

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The RSGB Board has met for the first time since the Society's AGM, where three Directors were endorsed to serve as Nominated Directors on the Board, and one was confirmed as elected unopposed. The new Board has chosen Dr Stewart Bryant, G3YSX to continue as RSGB Board Chair until the 2025 AGM. You can find details of all RSGB Board Directors on the Society's website, and the Board Liaison roles will be confirmed and added to the page in the coming weeks. Go to rsgb.org/board for more information.

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At its recent AGM, the RSGB was delighted to confirm the unopposed election of five Regional Representatives. However, there are still vacancies for Regional Representatives in Region 11, which covers England South-West and the Channel Islands, and also Region 12 which is England East and East Anglia. These vacancies will be filled by co-option until the 2025 AGM. If you live in one of these areas and are passionate about amateur radio, keen to support local radio amateurs and club's, and have the skills to lead a volunteer team of District Representatives in the region, this could be a role for you! To find out more, please contact Tony Miles, MM0TMZ, who is the Board Liaison for the Regional Team, via mm0tmz@rsgb.org.uk.

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The Radio Communications Foundation is a small charity dedicated to encouraging people to take up radio as a hobby or, in the case of youngsters considering an RF-based career. The RCF is proud to sponsor Arkwright Scholars, work with the RSGB and Bletchley Park to deliver radio-building workshops and make grants for various projects around the UK. Further information is available via the RCF website at commsfoundation.org The RCF is now looking to recruit a couple of new Trustees to help it deliver its aims. Applicants should be interested in radio communications and be prepared to be involved in decisions over grant-making, delivering RCF

projects and attracting charity funding. The RCF would particularly like to hear from anyone with links to secondary education in the UK. Expressions of interest and applications should be sent to rcfsecretary@commsfoundation.org, preferably by the end of June.

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Following the introduction in February of the new Ofcom amateur radio licence conditions, the RSGB has continued to provide information and support to radio amateurs to help them make the most of the changes. This has included updates, club talks, and a section of the AGM event focused on those licence changes. Go to the RSGB YouTube channel, choose the AGM recording from the 'live' tab and then watch two sections. Firstly, the main Board Q&A begins just one hour and eighteen minutes into the event and includes some licensing questions from members. Secondly, a section from just before two hours and thirty-three minutes focused entirely on the new licence conditions and included three videos and a full live Q&A with four senior RSGB representatives. The Society has also published a wealth of information on its website, which you can find at [rsgb.org/licence-review](https://www.rsgb.org/licence-review).

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Nigel Limb, M7FFU, had a motorbike accident in 2015 that left him with permanent brain damage and partially blind in both eyes, but this didn't stop him from pursuing his childhood dream of obtaining his amateur radio licence. In December 2023, he passed the Foundation Licence exam. In the early 1970s, Sue Jacob, GW7YLS, was a shortwave listener and interested in amateur radio, but it wasn't until she retired and discovered that the exams no longer contained Morse code that she decided to get more involved. Within 18 months, she had passed all three licence levels. One of the great things about amateur radio is that it is accessible to everyone. The RSGB is celebrating this by collecting stories of radio amateurs who have passed their Foundation licence or progressed through the licence levels and are now discovering new aspects of amateur radio to enjoy. If you'd like to read more about Nigel, Sue and others, go to [rsgb.org/student-stories](https://www.rsgb.org/student-stories), and, if you'd like to share your story with the Society, email comms@rsgb.org.uk and the RSGB will use as many as possible.

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A new amateur radio Facebook group has been formed for those who like to travel in motorhomes, campervans, and caravans. The group welcomes all radio enthusiasts. To find out more or to join the group, search for 'UK Motorhome and Amateur Radio Group' on Facebook.

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International Marconi Day will take place on Saturday the 27th of April. Once again, the Cornish Radio Amateur Club is organising and running the event. Many amateur radio stations will operate from sites Marconi operated from or had a personal connection with. For more information and to view a list of the stations that are taking part, follow the "International Marconi Day" link on the [gx4crc.com](https://www.gx4crc.com) website.

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And now for details of rallies and events

Andover Radio Amateur Club Boot Sale is taking place today, the 21st, at Wildhern Village Hall, Tangle, Wildhern, Andover, SP11 0JE. The doors open at 10 am for visitors and at 9 am for sellers. Entry costs £2. The fee for a field pitch is £8, and the cost for a table in the hall is £10. For more information visit [arac.org.uk](https://www.arac.org.uk)

Cambridge Repeater Group Rally was due to take place today, the 21st, at Foxton Village Hall, CB22 6RN. The event has been postponed until Sunday the 14th of July. For more information contact Lawrence, M0LCM on 0794 197 2724, email rally2024@cambridgerepeaters.net, or visit cambridgerepeaters.net.

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Now the Special Event news

In celebration of World Amateur Radio Day, Martin, OK1RR, and Slavek, OK1TN, are active as OL1WARD until the 30th of April. They operate CW only on the HF bands. QSL is via Logbook of the World. Paper QSL cards will not be available.

DARC special event callsign DA24WARD is active until the 30th of April, also in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the Bureau.

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Now the DX news

John, AD8J, is active as HR9/AD8J from Roatan [ROW-AH-TIN] Island, NA-057, until the 28th of April. He operates CW, FT4, FT8, and possibly SSB on the 80 to 6m bands. QSL via Logbook of the World or direct to John's home call.

TJ [TEA-JAY], PE1OJR, is active as PJ4TB from Bonaire [BON-AIR], SA-006, until the 28th of April. He is operating SSB, FT8, and FT4 on the 40 to 6m bands. He is QSL via Logbook of the World.

Michael, GM5AUG and Kevan, 2E0WMG will be active from the Western Isles of Scotland, focusing on Barra and the Uists [YOU-ISTS], from Friday the 26th of April until Saturday the 4th of May. Worked All Britain hunters will be interested to know that the team will also be visiting Fiaraidh [FURY or FEWER-AYE], NF61, and Eriskay [EH-RUH-SKAY], NF80, which have never before been activated. The guys will be active on the 2m, 70cm, and HF bands, as well as the LEO satellites, using CW, FM, SSB, and packet radio.

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Now the contest news

On Tuesday the 23rd, the SHF UK Activity Contest runs from 1830 to 2130UTC. Using all modes on 2.3 to 10GHz frequencies, the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

On Wednesday the 24th, the UK and Ireland Contest Club 80m Contest runs from 2000 to 2100UTC. Using CW on the 80m band, the exchange is your six-character locator.

On Thursday the 25th, the 80m Club Championship runs from 1900 to 2030UTC. Using PSK63 and RTTY, the exchange is signal report and serial number.

The UK and Ireland DX CW Contest starts at 1200UTC on Saturday the 27th and ends at 1200UTC on Sunday the 28th of April. Using CW on the 80 to 10m bands, where contests are permitted, the exchange is signal report and serial number. UK and Ireland stations also send their district code.

The MGM Contest starts at 1400UTC on Saturday, the 27th of April, and ends at 1400UTC on Sunday, the 28th of April. Using machine-generated modes on the 6 and 2m bands, the exchange is your report and four-character locator.

On Sunday the 28th, the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group Sprint 75 Contest runs from 1700 to 2100UTC. Contests are permitted using 75-baud RTTY on the 80 to 10m bands, where the exchange is your serial number.

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Now the radio propagation report, compiled by G0KYA, G3YLA & G4BAO on Thursday, April 18th, 2024.

Last week saw a welcome return of sunspots, but unfortunately, it also brought unsettled geomagnetic conditions.

By Thursday, the 18th, the solar flux index was back above 200, hitting 217. Compare that to the previous week's 131, and you can see that there is a lot more activity. But, with 12 active regions visible, it looks like we could be in for a bumpy ride over the next seven days.

The Kp index hit five on the evening of Tuesday the 16th of April after the interplanetary magnetic field, or Bz, swung southwards, sparking visible aurora in the UK as far south as Dartmoor. This impacted the ionosphere, pushing MUFs over a 3,000km path down, with recovery not showing itself until 0930UTC on Wednesday the 17th.

The 10m band is struggling to open at times, although you may find FT8 still passing weak signals. SSB operators might be better advised to look at the 12 and 15m bands which may provide richer pickings.

Next week, NOAA predicts that the solar flux index may decline to 170 at the beginning of the week and fall to between 135 and 140 at the end of the week. The risk of an M-class flare is currently at 75%, with an X-class event at 20%. Despite this, NOAA predicts the Kp index will be around 2 for all of next week. However, there is a chance that a flare and associated CME could scupper that completely.

If we do get a coronal mass ejection, or CME for short, we can expect the Kp index to rise roughly 48 hours after the event, perhaps hitting 5 or more and possibly sparking visible aurora from the UK again.

Overall then, it's good news on the sunspot front, but not so good for geomagnetic activity, which could see MUFs fall if any solar flares and CMEs come to fruition.

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

The weather is likely to remain in an unsettled state, despite temporary high pressure moving across the country this weekend. This may bring some Tropo, but it's a cold air high and probably not the best for enhanced VHF conditions, except for localised overnight or early morning temporary lifts.

The weather will continue to be unsettled most of the time, leading to the possibility of rain scatter on the GHz bands, especially if we get heavy April showers.

This first weekend coincides with the peak of the Lyrid meteor shower which peaks tonight, the 21st and 22nd, so it's worth checking the usual meteor scatter frequencies. If you are not familiar with meteor rates and variations from day to day, then visit the excellent Radio Meteor Observing Bulletin at rmob.org which gives an hourly display from various locations worldwide. You can find many other useful links to meteor scatter resources by searching for 'meteor scatter' at rsgb.org

The Sun has woken up a little since last week, and a few auroral flutter signals on the LF bands suggest we shouldn't give up yet for this spring. As usual, keep a watch for the Kp index going above 5.

The late April period can provide some fleeting early season Sporadic-E events, especially for the 10 and 6m bands. A couple of weak 5MHz Sporadic-E critical frequencies were noted during the late afternoon on Wednesday the 17th on the Dourbes plot shown at propquest.co.uk

For EME operators, Moon declination goes negative again today, the 21st, but path losses are falling as we passed apogee yesterday, the 20th. 144MHz sky noise is low but will rise to moderate by the end of next week.

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

This is GB2RS

(Pause).....

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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.

On Monday, Newbury and District Amateur Radio Society will host a talk by Dave, G1EHF entitled 'Operating on 122GHz and nanowaves'. Visit nadars.org.uk

On Tuesday, Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society is holding a surplus equipment sale in its clubhouse from 8 pm. secretary@badars.co.uk

On Wednesday, Bromley and District Amateur Radio Society plans to run an Intermediate course at the Victory Social Club in Hayes on three Sundays: the 12th of May, the 26th of May and the 9th of June. An exam will be held on the afternoon of the third Sunday. There are still a few spaces left on the course. Foundation licence holders who would like to join the course can submit a request via the Society's website. For more information visit bdars.wordpress.com, or call Andy, G4WGZ, on 0168 987 8089

Crawley Amateur Radio Club will hold a surplus equipment sale from 8 pm on Wednesday. Email Stewart, G3YSX, via stewart@g3ysx.org.uk

Peterborough and District Amateur Radio Club is holding its AGM on Wednesday, Email secretary@padarc.co.uk

Thornbury and South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club meet on Wednesday at 7.30 pm; Terry, M0TJX, will give a talk entitled 'April Snippets'. The Friday net is on 145.450MHz from 8 pm. Email Terry, M0TJX, via secretary@tsgarc.uk, or call 0788 920 8090

On Thursday, Edgware and District Radio Society is holding its Constructor's Cup event. For more information, visit g3asr.co.uk

On Thursday, the Reading and District Amateur Radio Club will listen to a talk by Steve Clements, G1YBB, on a portable contest operating from 8 pm. Visit radarc.org

Newport Amateur Radio Society has a meeting on Thursday; Roger, GW6HRU, will be giving a talk entitled 'Cryptography from Ceasar to Quantum: An Introduction to Encryption and Decryption'. Visit gw4ezw.org.uk

On Friday, the Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is holding a surplus equipment sale from 7.15 pm. Prior to the sale, the doors will be open from 6.30 pm, visit midsussexars.org.uk

Hog's Back Amateur Radio Club will be listening to a talk by Ray, G4LUA entitled 'What's all this EMF stuff anyhow?' visit hogsback-arc.org.uk

Due to the recent success of its first Fastrack one-day Foundation training course this year, Colchester Radio Amateurs Club is running another course on the 11th of May. The course will cover all of the Foundation syllabi and, at the end of the day, finish with an examination, either online or on paper, so candidates leave knowing their results. During the course, the instructors will also give some practical demonstrations, including operating and setting up a station, as well as mode and signal appreciation. If you would like to apply to be on the course, please contact training@g3co.uk, or secretary@g3co.uk, or markm0ltg@gmail.com

Special Event Station GB0CCD will be on the air from the Callington Community Day on Saturday the 27th of April. Callington Amateur Radio Society will operate via the QO-100 satellite, the HF bands and local repeaters, demonstrating amateur radio to the general public. The event, in the Town Hall, New Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 7BD, is free to all. Visit callingtonradiosociety.org.uk, or call Peter, G8BCG, on 0780 141 3241.

Nothing more is reported this week. So, whatever you are doing look after yourself and check with event organisers before attending, and don't forget the local regional team are 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.

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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,

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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.

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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.

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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.