

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 2nd September 2012

The news headlines:

- Amateur radio helps tracks Hurricane Isaac
- Broadcaster vacates 40m amateur band
- G5RP Trophy nominations sought

Amateur radio first responders along the United States Gulf shore were ready when Hurricane Isaac slammed ashore on 28 and 29 August. Members of the Hurricane Watch Net took to the air to track its approach and, although band conditions on 20 and 40m were not the greatest, the net continued and began passing storm conditions to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The Net ceased its operation on the afternoon of Wednesday 29 August once Hurricane Isaac was downgraded to a tropical storm.

Radio Bangladesh has left 7105kHz in the amateur 40m band. They finished the experimental transmissions and are now using 7250kHz. The move is thanks to the many amateur radio users who reported the infringement on the band. Particular thanks go to the German regulator BNetzA, who made official complaints to Radio Bangladesh.

The G5RP Trophy is an annual award for the greatest progress in the DX field made by an RSGB member resident in the UK during the previous 12 months. The award is intended to encourage newcomers to the world of HF DXing. Nominations are being sought for up and coming DXers who have made rapid progress within the last year in the field of DXing. Nominees for the award do not necessarily have to be recently licensed. The HF DX bug can bite at any time! If you are an active DXer and would like to recommend someone to be awarded the G5RP Trophy for 2012, please send your nomination, with a brief outline of why you think they deserve the award, to Ian Greenshields, G4FSU, RSGB HF Manager, by email to ian.greenshields@gmail.com or by post, QTHR, to arrive no later than Friday 21 September. This prestigious award will be presented at the RSGB Convention on 13 October.

Dr Chris Bridges recently appeared on Sky News discussing why space is cool. On 15 and 16 September he will be giving two presentations to the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium at the Holiday Inn, Guildford, GU2 7XZ. The event is open to all. Chris will cover the Nexus Android Smartphone amateur radio satellite STRaND-1 that will carry both a Resistojet and a Pulsed Plasma Thruster module. He will also cover STRaND-2, which will use Microsoft Xbox Kinect controller technology. These satellites are being built by volunteers from the Surrey Space Centre and SSTL. Further details are online at www.uk.amsat.org/9946.

The International Amateur Radio Union says that it will back the European Broadcasting Union proposal that the top level internet domain dot radio be used to help to create a global radio community. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, says that the IARU believes that the proposal could provide a unique opportunity to standardise radio domain names on the internet. The complete story on the new dot radio domain and how it will impact all spectrum users is online at www.tinyurl.com/iaru-dot-radio.

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

Telford & District ARS are holding their Amateur Radio Hamfest at Enginuity, Coalbrookdale, Telford, today, Sunday 2 September. Doors open at 10.30am and admission is £3, with accompanied children free. There will be new and second hand radio equipment, antennas and parts as well as a Bring and Buy. Refreshments will be available on site and there are two pubs nearby. Rally goers can obtain reduced admission to the Enginuity Museum for a real hands-on experience. There will be a special illustrated talk at 11.30am on Light Communications; be seated early as space is limited. For more information, speak to Martyn on 01952 255 416.

Dorking & District Radio Society will take part in the National Trust's Open Day at Polesden Lacy on 8 and 9 September. They will operate special event station GB0NT. Further details from Garth, G3NPC on 01737 359 472.

The North Norfolk Amateur Radio Club Car Boot Sale will take place on 9 September at Muckleburgh Military Collection, Weybourne NR25 7EG. Radio and non radio pitches are available from 7am, doors open 10am. The Radio Museum will be open and admission is free. For further information see www.gb2mc.com.

The Friskney & East Lincolnshire Communications Club Rally will take place in the Friskney Village Hall, Church Road, Friskney on 9 September. Details from Bren, 2E0BDS on 01754 820 060.

Now for the news of special events

Kent Weald Radio Club is operating GB1HA today, Sunday 2 September. The event is part of sponsored activities being held at the Headcorn Aerodrome, Kent, in aid of the air ambulance and other local charities, and to demonstrate amateur radio to any visitors. Operations will be on HF and VHF and is open to visits from the public.

Hinckley Amateur Radio Electronics Society will be running a special event station at the Shackerstone Family Festival today, 2 September. Directions for this event are at www.shackerstonefestival.co.uk, with the nearest postcode being CV13 6NB.

Preston Amateur Radio Society will be activating GB0PGY during the month of September to celebrate the Preston Guild, an event which takes place every 20 years. The first transmissions will take place today, Sunday 2 September, and then at various times through the month.

It is hoped that GB2OWM will be on the air Orkney Wireless Museum at Kiln Corner, Kirkwall. Operation is planned between Thursday 6 September and Wednesday 12 September during the 22nd Orkney International Science Festival. Listen out for the station on weekdays and Sunday afternoons between 2 and 4.30pm and Saturday morning between 10am and 12.30pm. Operation will be primarily on HF SSB.

GB1SKC will be on the air for Churches and chapels On the Air, organised by WACRAL, on Saturday 8 September.

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

OE4JHW will be operational as 8Q7OE from the Maldives between 3 and 14 September. Activity will be holiday style on 10 through to 40m using SSB and BPSK. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau, alternatively use either Logbook of the World or eQSL.

Moise, F4EZG, who also operates from Madagascar as 5R8VE, will be active from Nosy Alanana off the coast of Madagascar until 3 September. This small island counts as separate from Madagascar and is IOTA AF-090. He will be active mainly on 15 and 20m.

Michael DF8AN will be on the air as FR/DF8AN from Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean until 10 September. Look for him on SSB on 10, 15, 20 and 40m.

Yuki, JH1NBN will be on the air as C21BN from Nauru from 3 to 10 September. Activity will be on 10 to 40m. QSL to his home callsign.

Erik, LA2US is on the air as JW2US from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until November 30. He is there on work assignment at a meteorological station located about 50 meters from Tromso University. He is generally active on 20, 30 and 40 meters. QSL to his home callsign.

A large group of operators will be on the air as NH8S from 5 to 19 September from Swains Island. Activity will be on 160 to 6m, including 60m, using CW, SSB and RTTY, with seven stations active around the clock. QSL direct to AA4NN.

Now the contest news

Today, 2 September, sees the RSGB SSB Field Day finish at 1300UTC. Expect the 3.5 to 28MHz bands to be busy, the exchange being signal report and serial number.

The 144MHz Trophy Contest also finished today, 2 September, but at 1400UTC. It is hotly contested in the Open category, but there are four other categories and three of them are for single ops, so there are opportunities for all to strive to do well. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The IARU 144MHz Contest takes place at exactly the same time as the RSGB 144MHz Trophy and so also finishes at 1400UTC today, 2 September. The exchange in these two contests are the same and all those who submit a log for the RSGB event will be automatically entered for the IARU event, unless they specify otherwise.

Overlapping the last three hours of the 144MHz Trophy Contest, and then continuing for one hour on its own, the fifth and final 144MHz Backpacker contest also takes place today. In the Backpackers there are two permitted power levels, 3W and 10W. The exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The All Asian DX SSB finishes at 2359 today, 2 September. Using the 1.8 to 28MHz bands the exchange is signal report and age, although ladies are allowed to give 00.

The 144MHz UK Activity Contest takes place from 1900 to 2130UTC on 4 September. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

Next weekend, on 9 September, the second 70MHz contest takes place from 0900 to 1200UTC. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

Also next weekend, from 0000UTC on the 8th to 2359 on the 9th, the WAE DX SSB contest takes place. European stations can only work non European stations for this contest. Using all contest bands from 3.5 to 28MHz, the exchange is signal report and serial number.

And now the solar factual data for the period from Friday the 24th to Thursday the 30th of August, compiled by Neil Clarke on Friday the 31st August.

All the visible groups were small and magnetically simple and with it solar activity was at very low levels. On the 30th though, a sunspot group started to rotate into view over the south-east limb and solar activity increased to moderate levels, when the only M class solar flare of the period took place. Solar flux levels increased from 104 units on the 24th to 128 by the 30th. The average was 113 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 30th was 124 units, the same level as last week. X-ray flux levels increased from B1.6 units on the 24th to B6.7 by the 30th, the average was B3 units. Geomagnetic activity was unsettled from the 24th to the 26th due to a small coronal hole. Activity then decreased and the

Ap index on the 30th was 3 units. The average was Ap 7 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds increase from 350 kilometres per second to 700 by the morning of the 27th. Speeds then gradually declined to 400 kilometres per second by the end of the period. Particle densities were low, except for a brief increase to 14 particles per cubic centimetre on the 25th. Bz varied between minus 9 and plus 11 nanoTeslas during the disturbance and between minus 2 and plus 4 nanoTeslas on the 29th and the 30th.

And finally the solar forecast from Sunday the 2nd of September. A new sunspot group has just rotated into view in the last few days and this could be the source of any large solar flare activity taking place this week. Solar activity could be at moderate levels on some days. Solar flux levels should increase and be around the 140's. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet levels most days. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 23MHz for the south and 20MHz for the north. Darkness hour lows should be about 11MHz. Paths this week to South America should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 30MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 24MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 1200 and 1800 hours. With the summer Sporadic-E season just about over now, no more forecasts will be made in this report. However, occasional openings will take place for the next few weeks.

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

We start with clubs that have several events this week. On Sunday 2 September Central Radio Amateur Circle is making a group visit to Telford Hamfest today, 2 September. The regular night on the air is on Thursday from 20.00 on 145.300MHz. Details from Martin Hallard, G1TYV, by email to radio-circle@live.co.uk.

Lincoln Short-Wave Club is taking part in the SSB Field Day & 144MHz Trophy today. On Wednesday there's a natter night with G5FZ on the air. Thursday sees a club repeater net on 145.725MHz from 20.00. The Surgery in the Shack is next Saturday from 9am, and next Sunday sees the second 70MHz Contest. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788 356.

Midland Amateur Radio Society is at the Telford Hamfest today. On Wednesday there's an open meeting plus training classes, and the shack will be on the air. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 07808 078 003.

South Birmingham Radio Society has a club stand at the Telford Hamfest today. On Monday they will be unpacking the trailer and holding a rally debrief. Wednesday sees a lecture in the main hall and Morse class. On Thursday there are training classes with Dave Murphy, G8OWL, and Friday sees shack and aerial work. Contact Don, on 01214 581 603.

Telford & District Amateur Radio Society is running the Telford Hamfest today. On Wednesday GX3ZME is on the air on HF and 2m, plus there's a committee meeting. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

Wythall Radio Club has a club net on 145.225MHz today and next Sunday. On Tuesday there's a free 'n' easy evening alongside the 2m UKAC Contest. Friday sees a social evening in the shack. Details from Chris, G0EYO, on 07710 412 819.

On Monday Friskney and East Lincolnshire Communications Club has a VHF SSB club net on 144.165MHz USB, vertical polarization. Tuesday sees a club meeting from 19.30. On Wednesday there's a M3+M6 club net on GB3FR, and Friday sees a simplex VHF net on 145.450MHz. Next Sunday is the FELCC radio rally and sale at Friskney Village Hall, Church Road, Friskney, PE22 8RR, from 9am. Contact the FELCC Information Line on 07554 362 020 for more information.

Now we return to the traditional listing in date order. On Monday 3 September Aldridge & Barr Beacon Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on computers in radio. Contact Albert, G0KFS, on 01922 614 169.

On Monday 3 September Welland Valley Amateur Radio Society has a 2m club net on 145.275MHz FM. For more information contact Peter D Rivers, G4XEX, on 01858 432 105.

On Tuesday 4 September Derby & District Amateur Radio Society is holding a junk sale. Contact Richard Buckby, by email to radio@dadars.org.uk.

On Tuesday 4 September Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is having a DF hunt on 2m, from the normal start point.. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Wednesday 5 September South Kesteven Amateur Radio Society is having an informal evening. Contact Nigel, M0CVO, on 01476 402 550.

On Thursday 6 September Salop Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night and committee meeting. Details on the club website at www.salop-ars.org.uk.

On Friday 7 September Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club is having an update on the K2. Contact Chris, M0BQE on 01905 776 869.

On Friday 7 September Coventry Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on the 2011 T32C Kiritimati DXpedition. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777 363.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Monday 3 September Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is on the air and continues its Advanced course. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 01914 770 036.

On Monday 3 September Bolton Wireless Club is having a talk on astronomy projects for the amateur by Ross, G6GVI. For details, send an email to boltonwireless@gmail.com.

On Monday 3 September Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on operating in the 2012 RSGB Commonwealth Contest from Malta by Peter, G3PHO/9H3C. More information from Peter Day, G3PHO, by email to sarc@g3pho.org.uk.

On Tuesday 4 September Chester & District Radio Society is having a talk on operating procedure. Contact Bruce Sutherland, M0CVP, on 01244 343 825.

On Tuesday 4 September Morecambe Bay Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on homebrew antennas by Ken Hough. Contact Sheila, on 07867 516 836.

On Wednesday 5 September Denby Dale Radio Club is having a talk and demo on fact and fiction in microwave radio by Gary Whittaker, M1EGI. Details from Richard, M0RBG, on 07976 220 126.

On Thursday 6 September South Manchester Radio and Computer Club is having a post-expedition report by Ron, G3SVW. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 01619 693 999.

On Thursday 6 September Spen Valley Amateur Radio Society is having a layman's guide to software defined radio by Ian, G7DWY. Details from Russell, G0FOI, on 01274 875 038.

On Friday 7 September East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club is on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Saturday 8 September Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club commences its weekend event operating G5N for the SSB Work All Europe Contest. Contact Bob, M6KLO, by email to mail@g0nwm.com.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

On Tuesday 4 September Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society is having a club evening. Details from Norman, GM1CNH, on 07740 946 192.

On Wednesday 5 September Ayr Amateur Radio Group is holding a Bring and Buy sale and a group programme discussion to decide the way forward. Details from Tom Ferguson, GM1OST, on 01292 532 088.

On Thursday 6 September Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society is holding a junk sale. Contact Fred Gordon, MM0ODL, on 01975 651 365.

On Friday 7 September 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

We start with clubs that have several events this week. Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society is having a radio night and post event equipment check tonight. On Friday there's a talk by the Sussex Lowland Search and Rescue Team. Contact Rob, 2E0RJA, on 01444 232 129.

Farnborough & District Radio Society is running a Top Band net on 1.995MHz from 8pm on Monday. On Wednesday there's an 80m CW net on 3.570MHz, then a 2m net on 144.675MHz on Friday. Contact Neville, G3SPD, on 01252 404 816.

Southdown Amateur Radio Society is having a talk at Chaseley on Monday. On Wednesday they are operating at the Hailsham Shack. Details from John, G3DQY, on 01424 424 319.

Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack on Tuesday. On Friday they commence the Brede Church weekend for Churches on the Air. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720 815.

Now we return to the traditional listing in date order. On Monday 3 September Braintree & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on scanning by Howard, G6LXK. For more information contact John, M5AJB, on 01787 460 947.

On Monday 3 September East Kent Radio Society is having an evening of holiday photos. Details from Karl Davies, M1DFM, on 01227 710 120.

On Monday 3 September Surrey Radio Contact Club is having a talk on the history of sound recording by Alvin, G6DTW. Contact John, G3MCX, on 02086 883 322.

On Tuesday 4 September Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is having a discussion on practical antennas. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Tuesday 4 September Leiston Amateur Radio Club is holding a practical session on experiences with portable antennas & digital modes. Details from Andy, G3ZYP, on 01394 460 441.

On Tuesday 4 September Stevenage & District Amateur Radio Society is looking at its L-C meter club project. Contact Martin Juhe, M0XJP, on 07973 793 770.

On Wednesday 5 September Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society is holding a general meeting. More details from Terry, G0VFW, on 01442 831 491.

On Wednesday 5 September Havering & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on operating in St Lucia by Jonathon Mitchener, G0DVJ. More information from John, M0UKD, on 07890 222 111.

On Wednesday 5 September Norfolk Amateur Radio Club is holding a club forum to discuss talks that you would like to hear – or offer. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898 678.

On Wednesday 5 September Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on how to reach the top in SOTA by Bob, G3VXJ. Contact John, G8FMJ, on 01273 593 232.

On Thursday 6 September Bredhurst Receiving and Transmitting Society is holding a club night, with CW practice from 8:30 - 9:00pm. Details from Charles, G4VSZ, on 07982 244 788.

On Thursday 6 September Cray Valley Radio Society is having a talk on Health & Safety for the radio amateur by Dave, M0BGR. Details from Malcolm Bryan, G8MCA, on 07906 433 965.

On Thursday 6 September Horndean & District Amateur Radio Club is having a natter night and social evening. Contact Stuart, G0FYX, on 02392 472 846.

On Thursday 6 September Vange Amateur Radio Society is holding a junk sale. Contact Steve, G0KVZ, on 01268 552 606.

On Friday 7 September Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club is having an evening of short talks. Contact Bob, G300U, on 01737 552 170.

On Saturday 8 September Bromley & District Amateur Radio Society commences its Foundation course. Details from Andy, G4WGZ, on 01689 878 089.

On Saturday 8 September Dorking & District Radio Society commences its weekend event operating GB0NT for the National Trust open day at Poulshden Lacey. Details from Garth, G3NPC, on 01737 359 472.

On Saturday 8 September Harwell Amateur Radio Society is holding its annual summer barbecue. Details from Malcolm, G8NRP, on 01235 524 844.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

We start with clubs that have several events this week. Exeter Amateur Radio Society holds its Monday HF net on 3.675MHz at 19:45. On Tuesday the 2m net is at 19.45 and the 4m net takes place on Thursday at 19.00. Contact Nick, 2E0NRJ, on 01363 775 756.

Cornish Radio Amateur Club is holding a committee meeting on Wednesday, and having a main club meeting on Thursday. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844 939.

Now we return to the traditional listing in date order. On Sunday 2 September Jersey Amateur Radio Society has the second part of its Field Day and will be active on all HF bands using phone and CW. Details from Rob Luscombe, MJ0RZD, on 07797 923 916.

On Monday 3 September Riviera Amateur Radio Club is having a club night. Contact Alan Wyatt, G2DXU, by email to rivieraarc@gmail.com.

On Wednesday 5 September Taunton & District Amateur Radio Club is visiting GB2NLO at the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth. More information from Peter Robinson, G0EYR, on 07811 635 819.

On Wednesday 5 September Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club is looking at Eddystone radio restoration with Mike, M1DPB. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417 048.

On Thursday 6 September Swindon & District Amateur Radio Club has a talk. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317 750.

On Friday 7 September Torbay Amateur Radio Society is having a natter night and running the TARS 80m net. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to g6fsp@tars.org.uk.

On Saturday 8 September Appledore & District Amateur Radio Club is running a special event station at Arlington Court for the National Trust. Contact Brian Jewell, M0BRB, on 01237 473 251 for more information.

NEWS FOR WALES

On Monday 3 September Dragon Amateur Radio Club is having a talk on contests as a learning tool by GW0ETF. More information from Stewart Rolfe, GW0ETF, on 07833 620 733.

On Tuesday 4 September Carmarthen Amateur Radio Society is having a night on the air on GB3FG. Details from Lloyd, 2W0LLT, on 01239 711 297.