

BATC Spectrum forum report October 2012

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BATV.TV streamer: This covered three events this year, one for the BATC convention and two for other sectors of amateur radio. RF highlights included a local demonstration of Digital TV at 47GHz in addition to an excellent digital station measuring monitoring software package by F6DZP entitled "Tutiune"

The World EME conference at Cambridge was a key event over a two day period. A different production technique was used to produce "near live" delivery, rather than a "live" transmission. In practice a typical time delay before the lecture appeared on the "video on demand" play-out was 15 to 20mins maximum. This mechanism avoided any post production work at a later stage, but the demands on the live record team were greater.

The AMSAT-UK Colloquium from Guildford followed a similar production pattern. The lecture quality at both events was first class providing a valuable library of technical reference material to the wider amateur fraternity.

Repeaters and licensing: No progress can be reported on any of the existing repeater NOV proposals covering 23, 13, 9 and 3cms. Some of these are now more than two years old. Notwithstanding the additional disruption due to the recent Olympics, frustration at the lack of any meaningful results continues to disappoint the groups and individuals involved and it is hard to explain why the RSGB, as the National Society, appears to be powerless in this arena.

In advance of the planned and expected changes to our UHF and microwave spectrum allocations, several existing repeater keepers report that they have adopted digital outputs as their normal output transmission (generally 4Ms/s QPSK DVB-S), rather than the much wider analogue FM modulation. Inputs are analogue or digital with receivers frequently automatically sensing the incoming signal format.

Activity: In addition to the repeater activity, a growing number of amateurs are operating digitally for simplex operations using 2Ms/s DVB-S on 437MHz. A poll of attendees at the recent BATC Convention indicated 30% of the stations already have 70cm equipment, or planning to build for this band. Intra EU 70cm contacts, across the channel, are also increasing as more stations become active.

Awards: In recognition of the outstanding work of the **DigiLite** team for the "open software" and the first class RF engineering work to make the kits for the QPSK digital transmitters, the BATC have presented the "Grant Dixon" award to Brian G4EWJ, Rob M0DTS, Malcolm G0UHY and David G8AJN.

150 of the DigiLite kits have been sold to UK and other stations around the world. It is tribute to the hard work and dedication of the group who achieved such high standard of engineering despite their wide geographical spread.

Liaiso: We are delighted to have been able to work with the RSGB to present a joint response to the recent OFCOM Condoc *VHF Spectrum Release in the range 143 MHz to 156 MHz* – this is available here

<http://www.rsgb.org/committees/spectrumforum/pdfs/consultations/responses/vhf-spectrum-release-v3-2.pdf>