

GB2RS NEWS

Sunday 21st April 2013

The news headlines:

- **Amateur volunteers at Boston Marathon**
- **South Africa licences 5MHz**
- **Distance Learning for the Advanced Exam**

As has happened many times in years past, over 200 amateur radio operators participated in communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday 15 April 15. Unlike previous years, this year's marathon will be remembered for the bombings that took place at the finish line. Despite this tragedy, professional first responders, medical volunteers from the American Red Cross that staffed the route and amateur radio operators performed magnificently in the face of adversity. The RSGB were delighted to learn that no amateur radio volunteers were injured on the course, including ARRL colleagues. The full story can be seen at www.arrl.org/news.

South Africa is the latest entrant onto 5MHz. The SA equivalent of our Ofcom approved two 5MHz frequencies for the South African Radio League to carry out propagation research. The SARL expects the licenses to be issued next week and is in the process of creating a special webpage for the project. It is planned to schedule transmissions on one channel from various parts of South Africa at various times and radio amateurs will be requested to send in reception reports. The second channel will be available for individual QSOs.

The Bath based Advanced Distance Learning Team are starting to plan for their next course, which will run from June to December 2013. There are no fees for the classes but students will need a copy of the RSGB Advance! textbook and will, of course, need to pay the exam fee. The exam can be sat either in Bath or at any local exam centre. There is a deposit to pay that is intended to signal some commitment to the training. Deposits are refunded to those that take an active part in the learning; those that drop out, or study in silence, agree to donate their deposit to a radio charity. So, how does it work? Each week, students receive guided reading instructions and revision questions. Allocated tutors mark students' answers and provide worked solutions in return. Tutors will also provide points of clarification on request. The material is supplemented by additional exercises and some video demonstrations on YouTube. Pass rates for those that sit the exam after the Distance Learning have been between 90 and 100% since the courses started in 2011. Further details can be had from Steve Hartley, G0FUW, via G0FUW@tiscali.co.uk.

After almost a year of planning and building, a new RSGB website is up and running. A web-based Software Defined Radio for the 5, 7 and 14MHz bands is now available and can be found under the MyRSGB drop-down menu. Also on the new site are Live DX Cluster and Live solar data pages under the News drop-down menu. Check out www.rsgb.org.

G100RSGB, the special event callsign celebrating the RSGB Centenary, moves to Region 10 this week. Today, 21 April, is the final day of GU100RSGB operation by the Guernsey ARC with operation on the HF bands and 6m to 70cm. Monday, the callsign reverts to G100RSGB and will be run by the Wessex Group from Cold Ashton for 24 hours of operation. Tuesday 23rd is the turn of Chippenham & District ARC using the 2, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80m bands. Wednesday sees the callsign in Chandler's Ford with the Itchen Valley club and on the 25th the club move operation to Winchester, both with HF stations. On Friday the FOC will run a station from Brighton using mainly CW on the HF bands. Then next weekend, Trowbridge and District ARC will run HF and VHF on Saturday and CDXC on Sunday with a station in Maplehurst. Details of how to get your QSL card are on the website, www.rsgb.org.uk under the Operating drop down menu, clicking on Centenary Station.

Communicating between a cave and the surface is a formidable challenge, yet it is a common requirement for underground explorers and it plays a vital role in coordinating cave rescues. With the growth of interest in low frequency radio in recent years, radio amateurs and electronics enthusiasts are well placed to make a contribution in this area. If you would like to get involved in this unusual yet fascinating realm of radio, and perhaps make a contribution to the state of the art, the Journal of the Cave Radio and Electronics Group (CREG), published by the British Cave Research Association (BCRA), is essential reading. Check out the website at <http://bcra.org.uk/pub/cregj/>.

ED8ZAB is the first D-Star repeater in the Canary Islands. It is rated at 10 watts and transmits on 438.462.5MHz at 1200m altitude from Gran Canaria. A new CCS system consisting of a routing via DTMF has been installed; send the DTMF D-Star 40412 from your nearest repeater. Please send reports to ed8zab@yahoo.es.

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

Today, 21 April, the West London Radio & Electronics Show takes place at Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames TW16 5AQ. Doors open at 10am and there will be trade stands, a Bring & Buy and special interest groups. Details from Paul, M0CJX, on 08451 650 351.

Also today, 21 April, the RADARS Rally and Surplus Equipment Sale will be held in The Hugh Ripley Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2TP. Doors open at 10.30am and entry is £2. There will be trade stands and a Bring & Buy. Details from rally@ripon.org.uk.

Next Sunday, 28 April, the 29th Yeovil QRP Convention will take place in Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AA. Doors open at 9.30am and there will be trade stands and lectures as well as a Bring & Buy. Details from Steve, G7AHP on 01803 666 407.

Now for the news of special events

Gordano Amateur Radio Club will be operating GB5IMD, an International Marconi Day special event station, on all bands from 10 to 80m from Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel on 20 April. On the 19th and 21st the club will be operating as GW0GRG/P.

GB1PC will be on the air until 28 April to celebrate the new police service of Scotland.

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

Andy, M0HLT, will be off to the Falkland Islands on a 2 year work contract. Arrangements have been made to acquire a VP8 callsign for use when work allows. He will be meeting up with Bob, VP8LP and operating from his location with his kind permission when work commitments allow.

Hans, DL6JGN and Guenter, DL2AWG will activate Nukunonu Atoll until 30 April. They will use the call ZK3N and be active on CW, SSB and RTTY. This one counts as OC-048 for the Islands on the Air Award.

Prefix hunters will be interested to work XR86PL. This station is on the air from Chile until 30 April. It marks the 86th Anniversary of the Chilean Police. QSL Manager is CE3ETE.

Pai, VU2PAI and Krish, W4VKU are due to appear as 8Q7KP, with two stations on the bands from 23 to 30 April from Bodu Finolhu Island, AS-013. QSL via OQRS, eQSL and Logbook of the World.

Members of the Kilmarnock and Loudoun ARC are signing as MM0KLR from the Isle of Canna, EU-008, between 22 and 27 April. All HF bands and all modes will be used. QSL via MM0KLR via the bureau or direct to MM0GHM.

Now the contest news

Today, Sunday 21st, the second of five UK Microwave Group Low Band contests takes place between 1000 and 1600UTC. The bands for this one are 23cm, 13cm and 9cm and the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The 50MHz UK Activity Contest takes place on 23 April from 1900 to 2130UTC. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

On the same day, the SHF UK Activity Contest takes place from 1900 to 2130UTC on the 2.3GHz and up bands. Using all modes the exchange is signal report, serial number and locator.

The RTTY leg of the SPDX Contest runs for 24 hours from 1200 on Saturday 27th. Using the 3.5 to 28MHz bands, the exchange is signal report and serial number, with SP stations also sending their Province code.

Finally for this week, the BARTG Sprint 75 Contest takes place for four hours starting 1700 on Sunday 28th. Please note that all activity is 75 bauds and the contest exchange is a serial number only.

And now the solar factual data for the period from Friday the 12th to the 18th of April compiled by Neil Clarke, G0CAS on Friday the 19th of April.

Solar activity started at moderate levels when a M3 class solar flare took place during the evening of the 12th. Since then activity was low with only occasional C class solar flares taking place. However, none occurred on the 14th and solar activity was at very low levels. Solar flux levels declined from 138 units on the 12th to 105 by the 18th. The average was 117 units. The 90 day solar flux average on the 18th was 111 units, that's two units down on last week. X-Ray flux levels declined from B5.9 units to B2.8 units by the 17th and the 18th. The average was B3.5 units. Geomagnetic activity was quiet every day. The most disturbed day was the 14th, with an Ap index of 10 units. The average was Ap 5 units. Solar wind data from the ACE spacecraft saw solar wind speeds decline from 550 kilometres per second to end of the period at 280 kilometres per second. Particle densities were low except for the morning of the 14th, which increased to 20 particles per cubic centimetre. Bz varied between minus 5 and plus 6 nanoTeslas except for the 14th, which varied between minus 8 and plus 12 nanoTeslas.

And finally the solar forecast for the coming week. At least for the first half of the week the quiet side of the Sun will be in view. However, after midweek the more active side of the Sun will start to rotate into view. Solar activity is expected to be very low on the occasional day but should increase later in the week. Solar flux levels are expected to be around the 100 mark but should increase to around 110 units by the end of the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to start at quiet levels but by midweek increase due to two recurring coronal holes. There are two holes, one in each hemisphere with the hole in the southern hemisphere the larger. Activity should have declined to quiet levels by the end of the period. MUFs during daylight hours at equal latitudes should be around 23MHz for the south and 20MHz for the north. Levels could be slightly lower during any geomagnetic disturbance. Darkness hour lows should be around 12MHz. Paths this week to the Middle East should have a maximum usable frequency with a 50 per cent success rate of around 23MHz. The optimum working frequency with a 90 per cent success rate will be about 18MHz. The best time to try this path will be between 0900 and 1600 hours UTC. Normally, around the end of April sees the start of the summer Sporadic-E season. It will still be some weeks yet before openings become frequent and reach the VHF bands.

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. Today, Sunday 21, April Wythall Radio Club has a trip to the Kempton Park Rally starting at 8am and at 8pm there's a club net on 145.225MHz. On Monday there's a curry night at the Monsoon at 7.30pm and at 7.45pm Morse Class on Tuesday. On Friday there is a shack social and next Sunday, the 28th, there's a club net on 145.225MHz starting at 8pm. Details from Chris, G0EYO, on 07710 412 819.

On Monday 22 April Friskney and East Lincolnshire Communications Club has a VHF SSB club net on 144.165MHz USB, vertical polarization, starting at 7.30pm. On Wednesday there is an M3+M6 club net on GB3FR, starting at 8pm. Finally for this week, on Friday, there is an HF club net on 3.748MHz at 8pm. Non members are welcome to join all nets. Contact the FELCC Information Line on 07554 362 020 for more information.

On Monday 22 April South Birmingham Radio Society is getting ready for field day. On Tuesday there is a coffee morning from 11am to 1pm. Thursday sees training classes with Dave Murphy, G8OWL and Friday there is shack and aerial work that needs doing. Contact Mick Cleary, G7RRP on 07595 696 359.

On Tuesday 23 April Lincoln Short-Wave Club will take part in the 50MHz UK Activity Contest. Wednesday sees a talk by George, M0XVR on Life in an AWAC at the BSA Club at 8.30pm. On Thursday there is a Simplex net on 145.375MHz from 8pm. Friday sees the club taking part in the 1.3GHz UK Activity Contest and on Saturday there is the usual Saturday surgery and mentoring session from 9am. For more information contact Pam Rose, G4STO, on 01427 788 356.

Now we return to the traditional listing in date order. On Monday 22 April Gloucester Amateur Radio & Electronics Society is holding an HF operating and construction evening. Details from Anne, 2E1GKY, 01242 699 595 daytime.

On Monday Sutton Coldfield Amateur Radio Society has a 2m HF and Morse on air evening when arrangements for Mills on the Air will be discussed. More information from Robert Bird, by email to spirit.guide@hotmail.co.uk.

On Tuesday 23 April Derby & District Amateur Radio Society has a video evening. Contact Richard Buckby, by email to radio@dadars.org.uk.

On Tuesday Dudley and District Amateur Radio Society will take part in the 3cm and 6m contest. Details from Miles Hall, G4GSB, by email to g4gsb@gmx.com.

On Tuesday Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club is looking at video from the internet. More information from Chris, G1ETZ, on 01509 504 319.

On Wednesday 24 April Midland Amateur Radio Society has a social events planning meeting and training classes. Details from Norman, G8BHE, on 07808 078 003.

On Wednesday South Notts Amateur Radio Club plans to service its dipole and vertical. Details from Terry, M0RIA, on 01159 372 942.

On Wednesday Telford & District Amateur Radio Society will take hold their first 2m walking DF hunt. Contact Mike, G3JKX, on 01952 299 677.

On Thursday 25 April Salop Amateur Radio Society has a shack night on the air. Details on the club website at www.salop-ars.org.uk.

On Friday 26 April Coventry Amateur Radio Society has an evening entitled Project Calibration Night. Contact John, G8SEQ, on 07958 777 363 for details.

On Friday 26 April Hucknall Rolls Royce Amateur Radio Club has a club meeting including a members forum. Details from Dave Wilde, G1YAI, by email to treasurer@hrrarc.com.

On Saturday 27 April Rugby ATS is holding its AGM. More information from Steve, G8LYB, on 01788 578 940.

NEWS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

Today, Sunday 21 April, North Cheshire RC is taking part in Maritime Radio Day. Next Sunday, the 28th, there's an online tool box evening. Details from Jill Gourley, by email to jillgourle@aol.com.

On Monday 22 April Angel of the North Amateur Radio Club is on the air. Contact Nancy Bone, G7UUR, on 01914 770 036.

On Monday 22 April Bolton Wireless Club has a quiz night when teams do battle with general knowledge & radio subjects. For details, send an email to boltonwireless@gmail.com.

On Monday Sheffield Amateur Radio Club is having a CW night. More information from Peter Day, G3PHO, by email to sarc@g3pho.org.uk.

On Tuesday 23 April Chester & District Radio Society has an operating afternoon at Chester MBC. Contact Bruce Sutherland, M0CVP, on 01244 343 825.

On Wednesday 24 April Denby Dale Radio Club has a night on the air starting at 7.30pm on 145.575MHz. Details from Richard, M0RBG, on 07976 220 126.

On Thursday 25 April South Manchester Radio and Computer Club has a talk on My Arctic Adventures by Dave, G3WFT. Details from Ron, G3SVW, on 01619 693 999.

On Friday 26 April East Cleveland Amateur Radio Club has a night on the air. For more information contact Alistair, G4OLK, on 01642 475 671.

On Friday Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club has a Morse evening and the club callsign G0NWM will be on the air. More details from Bob, M0KLO, by email to mail@g0nwm.com.

NEWS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

On Tuesday 23 April Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club has a shack night. Next weekend, the 27th and 28th, the club is on the air using solar power at The Good Life sustainability event from Oxford Island, Craigavon, Co Armagh. Contact Brian Burns, M10TGO, by email to muarc.secretary@yahoo.co.uk.

NEWS FOR SCOTLAND

Today, Sunday 21 April, Stirling District Amateur Radio Society will be open from 10.30am to late afternoon for construction, RCE training, projects as well as operating. On Thursday it's the weekly club meeting John McGowan, gm0fsv@gm6nx.com and then next Sunday, the 28th, the club will be open from 10.30am to late afternoon for construction, RCE training, projects as well as operating. Details from John McGowan, by email to gm0fsv@gm6nx.com.

On Tuesday 23 April Kilmarnock & Loudoun Amateur Radio Club is having a club night. Meetings start at 7.30pm prompt. Contact Graham, MM3GDC, by email to mm3gdc@btinternet.com.

On Tuesday 23 April Livingston & District Amateur Radio Society has a Morse code practice evening. Details from Norman, GM1CNH, on 07740 946 192.

On Wednesday 24 April Lothians Radio Society is watching the video Code Breakers. Contact Alan J Masson, GM3PSP, on 0131 623 4580.

On Thursday 25 April Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society has a Morse & on the air evening. Contact Fred Gordon, MM0ODL, on 01975 651 365.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH EAST and EAST ANGLIA

Today, Sunday 21 April, East Kent Radio Society will be attending the Kempton Park Radio Rally. On Monday there is a Cheese and Wine evening at the Mill. Details from Karl Davies, M1DFM, on 01227 710 120.

Today, Sunday 21, April Radio Society of Harrow is at Old Redding operating GX3EFX/P. On Friday the club has part 2 of the talk on 40 Years at the BBC. More information from Linda, G7RJL, on 02083 868 586.

On Monday 22 April Farnborough & District Radio Society has an 80m slow speed CW session on 3.57MHz from 1pm and a Top Band net on 1.995MHz at 8pm. On Wednesday there is a skittles evening at 7pm in the Jolly Farmer at Blacknest, to which all members and partners welcome. On Friday there is a 2m net on 144.675MHz at 8pm. More information from Neville, G4SPD, on 01252 404 816.

On Thursday 25 April Horsham Amateur Radio Club has a social in The Parrot at Forest Green. Next weekend from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th there is a trip to Chemin de Fer, Baie de Somme. Details from Alister, G3ZBU, on 01932 242 243.

On Thursday 25 April Reading & District Amateur Radio Club has a talk on The Blue Van, TV for the Amateur by Tony, G1HBD. On Saturday the club is running the Intermediate course. Details from Pete, G8FRC, on 01189 695 697.

On Monday 22 April Maidstone YMCA Amateur Radio Society has a club meeting. Details from Ian Hope, 2E0IJH, by email to info@g3trf.org.

On Monday Surrey Radio Contact Club has an informal chat, move-it-on and fix-it evening led by John, G8MNY plus the Club Construction Project. Contact John, G3MCX, on 02086 883 322.

On Tuesday 23 April Brede Steam Amateur Radio Society is at the shack. For more information contact Steve, on 01424 720 815.

On Tuesday Dorking & District Radio Society has a visit to Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd with Prof Sir Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. Contact Garth, G3NPC, on 01737 359 472.

On Tuesday Harwell Amateur Radio Society is having a shack activity night. Details from Malcolm, G8NRP, on 01235 524 844.

On Tuesday Stevenage & District Amateur Radio Society has an operating evening. Contact Martin Juhe, M0XJP, on 07973 793 770.

On Wednesday 24 April Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society is having a talk on operating in the VHF Contest & UK Activity Contest by Roger, G3MEH. More details from Terry, G0VFW, on 01442 831 491.

On Wednesday 24 April Darenth Valley Radio Society has a Fox Hunt and anyone is welcome to join in. More information from Bob, M0RAW, on 01322 663 804.

On Wednesday Dover Radio Club has a talk on Whisper by Matt, M1CMN. Details from Pete, M0PKH, by email to peter.halloway@sky.com.

On Wednesday Newbury & District Amateur Radio Society has a presentation by Charles, G4JQX on making use of modern military surplus equipment. Contact Rob, G4LMW, on 01635 862 737.

On Wednesday Norfolk Amateur Radio Club has an informal meeting with the club room and workshop open. Details from Chris Danby, G0DWV, on 01603 898 678.

On Wednesday Worthing & District Amateur Radio Club has an on the air evening. Contact John, G8FMJ, on 01273 593 232.

On Thursday 25 April Bittern DX Group Club has a meeting at The Roman Camp Inn, Aylmerton. Details from Linda, G0AJJ, on 01692 218 562.

On Thursday Bredhurst Receiving and Transmitting Society has a talk and demo on RADAR by John, G6SXC. More information from Charles, G4VSZ, on 07982 244 788.

On Thursday Edgware & District Radio Society has a talk on ion mobility spectrometry by John, G4GYS. More information from Mike, G4RNW, on 02089 500 658.

On Thursday Hilderstone Radio and Electronics Club has a talk by Dr Ken Smith, G3JIX on The First QSO. More details from Chrissie Turner, by email to hilderstoneclub@gmail.com.

On Thursday Shefford & District Amateur Radio Society has its spring junk sale. Details from John Burnett, 2E0OAK, on 07860 804 793.

On Friday 26 April Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club has a talk on Duxford, 1917 to the present day by Peter Murton from the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Details from David, M0ZEB, on 01353 778 093.

On Friday Fort Purbrook Amateur Radio Club has an operating night to practice for G100RSGB. Details from Neil Hoare, M0NEH, on 02392 378 559.

On Friday 26 April Mid-Sussex Amateur Radio Society has a workshop evening. Details from Mike Mundy, G1TDL, on 01444 246 899.

On Friday Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society has a talk on electrical safety. Contact Andrew Maish, G4ADM, on 02083 353 434.

On Saturday 27 April Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society is running a demonstration station for the public open day at Sandford Mill Radio Museum. Contact Martyn, G1EFL, on 01245 469 008.

On Sunday 28 April Coalhouse Fort Amateur Radio Society will put GB1CHF on the air 11am to 5pm for History Day. Details from Tony Reynard, G7HJT, on 07976 553 345.

On Sunday 28 April Lowestoft & District PYE Amateur Radio Club has a club night at the shack. Details from Tim Ward, 2E0TJW, on 07810 481 182.

NEWS FOR THE SOUTH WEST

We start with clubs that have several events this week. On Monday 22 April Exeter Amateur Radio Society has a talk on the disabled amateurs charity RAIBC by Skip, 2E0TGT at 7pm. On Tuesday there is a 2m net on 145.575MHz at 7.45pm and a 4m net on 70.425MHz at 7pm on Friday. Contact Nick, 2E0NRJ, on 01363 775 756.

On Tuesday 23 April Riviera Amateur Radio Club is putting MX0RIV on the air from 7.30pm. On Wednesday there's a 2m net on 145.425MHz at 8pm. Contact Alan Wyatt, G2DXU, by email to rivieraarc@gmail.com.

On Wednesday 24 April Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Amateur Radio Club has an on the air night. On Friday there's a 2m net at 8pm. Contact Tony, G0WMB, on 01454 417 048.

On Thursday 25 April Yeovil Amateur Radio Club has a briefing for QRP Convention, which takes place on Sunday 28th at Digby Hall, Sherborne. Details from Rodney Edwards, M0RGE, 01935 825 791.

Now we return to the traditional listing in date order. On Sunday 21 April Cornish Radio Amateur Club is dismantling the GB4IMD special event station. Details from Steve, G7VOH, on 01209 844 939.

On Sunday Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society has a talk on High Altitude Balloons by Jules, G0NZO. More information from John, G4POF, by email to g4pof@hotmail.com.

On Monday 22 April Weston Super Mare Radio Society is having a construction natter night. Details from Paul, G3SDH, on 01761 221 206.

On Tuesday 23 April Mid Somerset Amateur Radio Club has a social gathering at The King's Arms in Shepton Mallet from 7pm. Details from Nick, 2E0FGQ, on 01749 346 320.

On Thursday 25 April South Bristol Amateur Radio Club has an open house and on the air night. Details from Andrew Jenner, G7KNA, on 07838 695 471.

On Thursday 25 April Swindon & District Amateur Radio has a club talk. Contact Den, M0ACM, on 07810 317 750.

On Friday 26 April Torbay Amateur Radio Society has a 90/10 Auction, so sell off all your excess equipment, or try and grab a bargain. For more information contact Dave, G6FSP, by email to g6fsp@tars.org.uk.

NEWS FOR WALES

On Thursday 25 April Aberystwyth & District Amateur Radio Society is having a club night on the air on 145.500MHz then 145.550MHz. Details from Ray, GW7AGG, on 01970 611 853.