



RSGB Propagation Studies Committee

Report for Spectrum Forum, November 2019

Online Tools

The online tools we run, including Proppy for RadCom, VOACAP for RadCom, Predtest and Propquest are all very popular according to feedback received at Newark.

RSGB have now set up quick-links to each of the tools, which will make it easier in the GB2RS audio bulletin.

These are:-

- **Propquest**

Shows real-time critical frequency and MUFs over various path lengths.
An excellent tool for HF users.

See www.rsgb.org/propquest

- **Predtest**

Designed by Gwyn G4FKH, it calculates probability of propagation over different paths and for different modes. Includes point-to-point and animated displays.

See www.rsgb.org/predtest

- **VOACap for RadCom**

Shows probability of propagation to 28 different locations around the world – the same locations used in the RadCom predictions. Can be tweaked for your particular station including mode, gain and power.

See www.rsgb.org/voacap

- **Proppy for RadCom**

Uses the latest ITURHFPPROP tool to calculate probability of propagation to the same 28 locations used in RadCom.

See www.rsgb.org/propy



Newark Hamfest

PSC had a stand at the Newark Hamfest. Peter G3XJE set up a 10W WSPR station with an HF whip clamped to the display. Despite me saying that it might not work in the 'Newark Faraday Cage', we actually got reports from all over Europe; and worked into the USA on three occasions on 20metres.

RSGB Convention

Some well-received Propagation-related talks were given by Chris G4IFX, Steve G0KYA, Gwyn G4FKH and Marcus G0IJZ.

RSGB Propagation Award

Professor Les Barclay G3HTF sadly died recently. It has been suggested that an award be set up in his name to recognise those who have made excellent contributions to propagation research and understanding - ranging from conducting original research through to spreading knowledge about propagation and inspiring interest among amateurs.

The PSC agreed and has set the (slowly rotating!) wheels in motion with RSGB to help set up such an award.

Beacons

All the Chilton (GB3RAL) beacons are off the air and are being stored. The search goes on for a new location.

There has been no progress on the WSPR beacon at Poldhu ARC. The club secretary says the project is on hold for the time being.

PSC hopes to place Martin G3USF's HF beacon list on the RSGB web site shortly. This has previously been hosted by Keele University.

Congratulations

Congratulations to corresponding member Prof. Cathryn Mitchell, M0IBG for winning the 2019 Edward Appleton Medal and Prize for her pioneering research in tomography and data assimilation.

PSC Secretary Chris, G4IFX received the Best Paper Award for his presentation entitled "Investigation of the polarisation of 50 MHz signals via sporadic-E reflection" at the Nordic HF Conference which took place from 12-14 August 2019 in Fårö, Sweden. This URSI-sponsored HF conference focuses on HF, LF and VLF communication, location and navigation systems 'beyond the horizon'.

Steve Nichols G0KYA, RSGB PSC Chairman

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