

NARS NEWS

An occasional Newport Amateur Radio Society Newsletter - December 2015

Christmas Meal

A reminder that the Christmas meal is on Monday 4th January 2016. Table is booked for 7pm at the Blaina Wharf. Any special dietary requirements, please advise Dale 2W00DS.

145.375 Net Frequency

Richie's write-up is alongside (thanks Rich!), we are hoping to have John GW8IQC, from High Cross, join us on the net in the New Year.

New Arrival

Weighing in at 7lbs 2 ounces, first grandchild for GW4BLE arrived on Christmas morning - William Nicholas Cole.

Here's Steve with XYL Mandy, son Adam, and grandson William



2m Net NARS – Tuesday Evening Report - The last 2m net of 2015
30th December 2015 by 2W0LGE

So, it was the evening of the last NARS 2m net in 2015. I headed to the highpoint in Catsash again, some 600+ft ASL. The Newport Amateur Radio Society net was due to start at 8pm on 145.375. I could hear other stations on frequency on the way, and when I arrived at the highpoint other stations were booming in 5/5-5/9+. I was running 50 watts, through a NR7900 diamond antenna, from a Kenwood TM-D710GE.

I made contact with **GOIUE** (Jon) on frequency, at around 7:55pm and we had a short QSO. I politely asked if he could instruct any NARS members arriving on frequency to QSY to 145.400. Jon was a good 5/9 from the Chippenham District Amateur Radio Society, and it transpired this was their yearly Christmas/New Year net.

We moved to 145.400 and were joined on frequency (in rough order of appearance) by :

2W00DS – Dale – Dale was holding fort on 145.400 ready for the members to call in. His location Ridgway, Newport, and was a strong 5/9 with me, although I could move 12-20 inches in the Landrover, and he would drop to 3/1, amazing phasing conditions. When Dale headed to his mums at the end of the net he was still 5/9 with me.

MW0OPY – Doug – Doug was a great signal to me, even on 10w, 5/9 all the way from close to Bassaleg. I think he was using a beam, generally pointing East.

GW4SUE – Margaret – Margaret also a great signal on the old Yaesu 227 Memorizer at 10 watts. 5/9 throughout the evening without variation.

GW4BLE – Steve – Grandad Steve, or is it Grampy, Gramps, Grancha ? :) Great signal from his station, 5/9 no issues what so ever. He noticed a reduction in current draw, so perhaps an swr issue related to water ingress perhaps?

GW3NWS – Ross – Ross was woken from a nap by a phone call from Doug. He tells us that Holby City sent him to sleep. Great to hear Ross on, and a booming signal from his antenna that touches the stars. 5/9 endstop.

GW4OGO – Steve – Steve arrived on air, and we should now call Ross, Ross Clavevoyant (clairvoyant), as he passed it over to OGO without knowing he wasn't on air. It so happened, that Steve had turned on that very moment. Spooky indeed !!! Strange goings on with signals from BLE to OGO on 2m, and perhaps a slight issue at both stations, who knows.

GW4TPG – Martin – Great to hear Martin on frequency. I had to move the truck a couple of feet to phase him in. He was 1/0, and then 5/3 within a few feet, so quite amazing. We had a quick qso to get us in each others log, but I had a fat finger moment, and half of my over went to another frequency.... eeeek.

After the net ended around 9:30 or was it 9:40, I moved to the calling channel, but no luck there. I then repeater hopped and put a call in through **GB3DR** (about 70 miles away, and an S9 signal) at around 9:50pm. **GOJLA** came back to me, Dennis, from Weymouth, on the south coast. We had a good natter for nearly 40-50 mins and were also joined by **2E0BWK/M**, Kevin, from Peasdown, Bath, who was down from Harrogate visiting family.

I did a couple of tests with Dennis, and was able to get into **GB3DR** on 5 watts from the high point in Catsash, the audio his end not really much different. Unfortunately we couldn't achieve simplex.

The winds were starting to build as storm Frank approached, and I headed down to the home QTH around 10:45pm.

Quiz Night

The annual quiz with Cwmbran Club took place on 23rd September and a fun night was had by all. The NARS team of Dale, Margaret, Carol and Doug did us proud and as has become tradition we retained the trophy for yet another year.

Cwmbran club are to be thanked for their hospitality, providing a super buffet after the quiz.

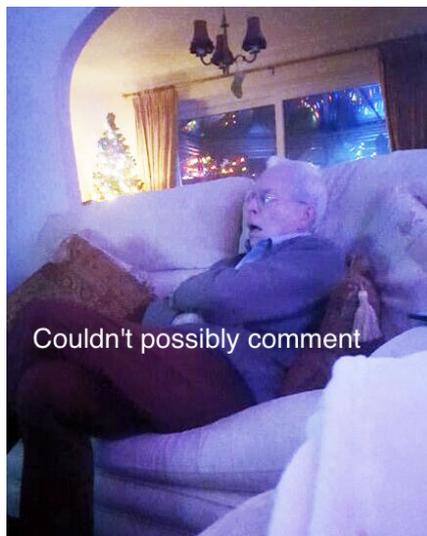
A video of the quiz highlights is available at: <https://youtu.be/U955wXb1TII>

New Monitor ?

Choosing a monitor suitable for the radio shack computer can be a difficult decision. Widescreen is the way to go these days of course, but often they can be noisy, causing QRM on the bands - and of course it's not 'just' the monitor but the power supply to. Having a fixing plate on the rear of the monitor (called a VESA plate) is a bonus - it means that with a suitable swivel bracket it can be fitted almost anywhere. Priced at £112 (inc delivery) a BENQ GL2450HM 24 inch from Amazon fitted the bill for me and is highly recommended.

New Callsigns

They got a mention in the last newsletter, but now we know their calls, that's Richie ex-MW6LGA now 2W0LGE and Dale ex-MW6FNV, who is now 2W0ODS. Well done !



It was a full house at the GW4SUE house over Christmas but two days past Boxing Day and there appeared to be some confusion on exactly what day of the week it was....

Meanwhile in Magor the plumbing had been fixed and 2W0LGE's mum was pleased - not only that but there's now a huge washing line between two tall trees (nice one Rich!)....

Has anyone heard 2W1ADO lately?, our Mr Fixit appeared for 5 minutes on 375 the other morning when GW4OGO and GW4BLE were in QSO, but his "back to you Steve" confused matters somewhat. A little birdie tells me that Ken can now also tune 80m....

At his flat in Duffryn 2W0ODS has, on occasion, been known to awake from his slumber and appear on 2 metres before Midday; Dale's been settling in well and has his three monitors powered up and is making plans for that long wire in a tree....

Ross GW3NWS has been working on a power supply repair and also his SDR project is well under way, he also reports working some DX on the HF bands over Christmas....

GW4BLE's HF station has been quiet over Christmas, QRT from the 23rd until the 30th, although just before then a good day was had on the 20th with a few Japanese worked on 40m and a good 10m late afternoon run to North America....

Poor old Doug MW0OPY has pulled a hernia by the sounds of it, but hopefully all will be well soon, with an epic sea faring trip on the cards in 2016....

Also in 2016, after several months of free emailed copies of the ISWL (International Short Wave League's) 'Monitor' magazine, Martin GW4TPG has vowed to renew his long-lapsed membership....

The source of the Monitor freebies will however remain a secret....



Construction Corner

Ross and Dale proudly show off the results of their recent project - a 2 metre 'log' periodic....?

Wednesday 8pm?

If you are in the shack on Wednesday 6th January at 8pm why not tune into 3700-3775 KHz SSB for an hour in the UK & Ireland Contest Club (UKEICC) contest. Work anyone, with the exchange just your locator - we are in IO81. No need for a signal report.

More details at UKEICC.com

A Happy &
Healthy
New Year
To All



Final meeting of 2015 - December 18th