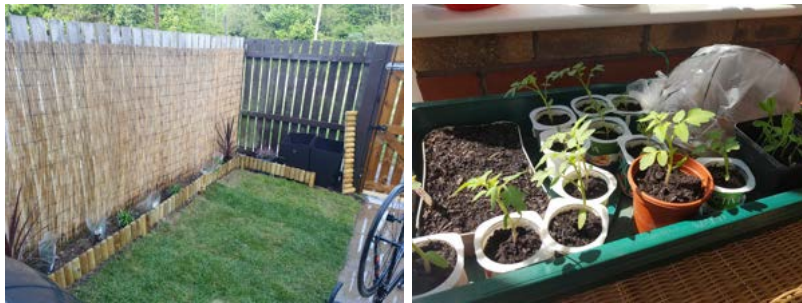


NARS - April 2020 Roundup !

Hi all, just a quick recap of April, now that we are about to move into May. I hope everyone is well and keeping safe.

A number of us are pottering around in our gardens, planting, weeding and using our gift of time to do odd jobs. My tomatoes along the top, bottom left Dale's revamped garden that he has been working hard on, and some of Steve's green finger activities bottom right.



I have been playing around with different vertical antennas, and mounting methods. John MW6WHL has been installing new antennas, a tri-band vertical (2/70/23), a 10 element horizontal 2m beam and a new G5RV, so he has been busy up and down the scaffold. Steve GW4OGO has moved his 'white stick dummy load' to the front of the house, and is a fair bit higher, signals improved in and out. Dale 2W00DS has relocated his collinear on the side of the house. I think Phil GW4REX has also done some antenna work, and is planning on installing a mini Wenvoe in Chepstow as long as he can hide from the planning department long enough? We may have 'lock down', but we certainly have some great antenna modifications happening in the club !!





RSGB reports that foundation on-line with remote invigilation exams are now up and running. Fingers crossed they will find the time to expand to Intermediate and Full. There are quite a number of new callsigns on the air now which have been gained using this new process. I wonder if it will continue if we ever come out of the current situation, time will tell.

MW0LGE station

It was nice to hear Tony MW7ANT crop up on 144.700, glad he is still enjoying radio. Also GW8WZR an old club member who has recently moved back to the area. The MW0JZE portable hex beam is working well here and have enjoyed a couple of blasts on HF during April, sideband and some FT8. Notable FT8 contacts (various bands), 4U1UN, TT8SN, 5Z4/G3AB VK2LAW and BG0BBB. Notable sideband contacts (15m) ZS95SARL and PY4BZ. Nothing to report on 6m although I did have one ssb contact with M0KMI over the water and a couple of FT8's but nothing outside the UK. I managed a couple of 2m FT8 contacts into Germany, Netherlands, France and Ireland during April on 144.174MHz, DG1KDD, PA3MZ, F6DBI, DL6YBF and EI2OC. An 'eyeball' with Russ MW7RAT as he passed through Magor during his 'government permitted exercise period' was also a high point !

The aprs station MB7UNE is now back up and running with a new Yaesu 3200dr after a nightmare experience with an Anytone 778V/U replacement. Do not buy that Anytone radio if you live within 1 mile of a pager mast, I think they forgot to add any filtering !! Also, some components are hopefully arriving soon to build some test gear so I can do some return loss measurements on my antenna system. I am waiting for a new portable vertical to arrive, and will include some info in the next round up. Watch this space !

I have also done some runs with Lelantos using the IQ data from the Anan. VDSL channels were picked up at the 8.5MHz guard band, and other places. I need to spend some more time on this, and work out if it actually is impacting ham bands at this QTH. I observed around 10dB over the guardband noise floor in Upstream2. Not good !! Read here for more info :

<https://rsgb.org/main/technical/emc/vdsl-interference-reporting/>

Also, If you are looking at building matching networks and the like, some fantastic software in the form of SimSmith will help no end ! http://www.ae6ty.com/Smith_Charts.html

Other things of note, including some links

- PACOTA is cancelled this year
- Mills on the Air is cancelled this year
- Russian contest club invites you this Saturday 2nd May : <http://rcccup.ru/>
- GB4VVV is on air until 11th May
- GB74VED is on air through May
- VE and VJ day commemorations. GB75PEACE, GB1945PE, GB1945PJ will be on the air from 1-31 May 2020 and 1-31 August 2020

RSGB Covid-19 updates : <https://rsgb.org/main/news/coronavirus-updates>

Space weather with Tamitha Skov : <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpWxfx>

Fantastic repair videos : <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrCarlsonsLab>

W2AEW over 300 lecture quality videos : https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqd3GLTluk2s_IBt7p_LjA

VK3YE who tries just about anything : https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPhfct0hwCpv_q6_BVSFsRA

8 day contest calendar : <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Nets and Keeping In Contact

We have three nets running at the moment for you to keep in contact and hear what we have all been doing during all this indoor time.

- Tuesday VHF net, 8pm local. 144.700MHz
- Thursday Club Night net, 7pm local. 144.700MHz
- Sunday HF net, 10am local. 3.705MHz +- qrm

Other Nets

- Cwmbran DARS - GB3RT net, Monday 7.30pm
- Cwmbran DARS DSTAR net - DCS 005P, Tuesday 7:30pm
- Cwmbran DARS HF net, 3.722, Thursday 7:30pm
- Carmarthen ARS - 80m ssb, Sunday, 2.30pm, contact GW0JLX on 0776 828 2880
- Bristol ARC - Nets on GB3AC Sun 8pm, Wed 8pm. Fri 7pm

Anyway, that is it for now. Another one of these round ups will drop at the end of May. So keep a list/mental note of what you have been doing, take some pics and send them to me via email or whatsapp and I will include them next time.

If you need an invite to the whatsapp group, drop me an email with your phone number and I can add you.

Stay safe, take care.

73 for now, Richie. MWOLGE