

## NARS - May 2020 Roundup !

Hi all, just a quick recap of May, it seems to have been a quiet month, and I hope this roundup finds everyone well. At the time of writing lockdown continues here in Wales but things are slowly being relaxed in other parts of this small island. I look forward to the time when I can at least get out to a remote isolated spot and work some /P.

The three Magor hams have been spending time working in the garden. I have managed to plant some potatoes and runner beans. Steve and I have swapped some tomato plants, mine looking somewhat sickly compared to his. Ross has put together some lovely hanging baskets.



Steve has installed a new Diamond X300n antenna, fed with LMR400 so his 2m/70cm station is now firing on all four cylinders. We also had a quick 70cm qso just to test things were working as expected. One of Ross' fibreglass end supports for his 80m doublet had been accidentally(?) attacked by a chainsaw by the next door neighbour. My brother and I had a 30 minute 'install a 6m ally mast' session whilst Ross stayed indoors. The end of his doublet now back up in the air and the mast less prone to chainsaw damage !



## MW0LGE station

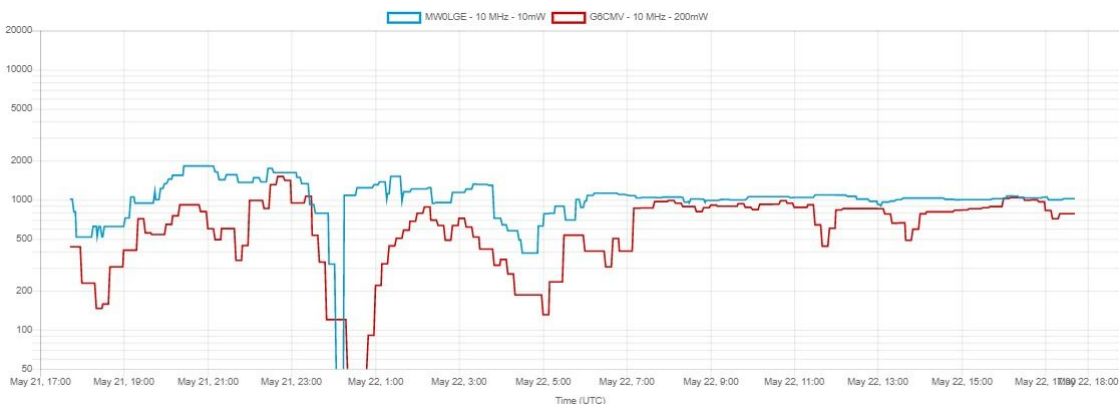
Well quite a busy couple of weeks at the start of the month. I started playing around again with a home brew mag loop. It uses some heliax as for the main loop, and a strip of brass for the coupling loop. A simple  $\frac{3}{8}$  fitting was used to make the coax connection. Like many things here is on the back burner again.



I have also been using a new portable antenna, the AdjustiWave from MM0OPX. It is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave fully adjustable vertical from 80m right through to 2m and it seems to work very well. 80m and 60m become linear loaded on a SpiderBeam 12m mast. It uses fly fishing reels and stainless wire. It is very similar to the CrankIR from StepIR but at a fraction of the cost. It will be a great addition to my portable gear. If/when the East Usk Lighthouse event happens again it might be worth setting up along with the dipole. I had a quick garden portable outing and joined the Sunday net a couple of weeks ago using it.



Lastly, I have been using the WSPR mode (weak signal propagation) directly driven from a GPIO pin on a RaspberryPi through a LPF, the output power is somewhere below 10mW. After a couple of days of testing and noticing that the Pi is quite noisy I decided to order a WSPRlite Flexi from SotaBeams. It has a very nice associated DXexplorer reporting website where you can compare stations and antennas against each other. It is an excellent device for checking antenna performance and propagation characteristics over time. An example is shown below on 30m, the trace showing the maximum average distance of the best 10 stations that heard my low power signal in each time slot. The flexi requires external low pass filters for each band.



Contact us: [support@sotabeams.co.uk](mailto:support@sotabeams.co.uk)



## Other Info

Paul has been informed by the RSGB that a new remote invigilation booking system will be launched on the 1st June. Apparently over 600 bookings were made for June to take the foundation exam, and that was before the new booking system had been put in place. No news yet on intermediate and full, but watch this space as they say. <https://rsgb.org/main/rsgb-examination-booking-coming-soon/>

- Get on the air to care : <https://www.rsgb.org/gota2c>  
CW WW WPX Contest : <https://www.dxzone.com/cq-ww-wpx-cw-contest-2020/>
- EMF consultation deadline :  
<https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/rsgb-notices/2020/05/22/ofcom-emf-consultation-deadline/>
- FT8 moonbounce :  
<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/may/ft8-used-for-ham-radio-moonbounce-contact.htm>
- VDSL again : <https://rsgb.org/main/technical/emc/vdsl-interference-reporting>
- BBC coverage : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-52442553>

## 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

I am writing this late Saturday afternoon and looking forward to a successful launch of the two astronauts with SpaceX to the ISS. So there we have it, not much to report sadly as I did not receive any roundup news from any club members. Please keep a list/mental note of what you have been doing, take some pics and send them to me via email or whatsapp. A June roundup will drop near the end of the month if there is enough to write about, but I am fearful of it becoming Magor news and not much else.

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. MW0LGE