

## NARS - September 2020 Roundup !

Hi all, just a quick recap of September. A very quiet month for me here, with the shack powered down and basically zero activity. A single submission this month from Dale and Mike, so a very quiet month on all fronts.

The AGM will be held later this month (date TBC), and will take place on the Zoom platform. We will have a practice run sometime this month to iron out any issues (date also TBC), so please keep an eye out for related emails.

### 2WOODS and GW8MER : Dale & Mike

Mike GW8MER has been eager to receive amateur TV and SSB from the Es'Hail QO-100 satellite @26e, he built a Minitiouner from BATC kit but was unable to receive anything from his 60cm dish.

After discussion I persuaded Mike to order a Gibertini 1m Aluminum dish, the dish was promptly ordered but would not arrive for a few weeks due to COVID 19 and the delivery being carried out personally by the eBay seller who is dropping them off around the country as he gets enough orders.

The dish arrived slightly quicker than expected, Mike informed me that it had arrived a couple of days ago and started doing the assembly of the dish mounting hardware.

I arranged (weather providing) to install the dish at Mikes on Monday the 28th, as luck would have it rain was not forecast till later on that day, so on Monday morning I gathered my tools, satellite meter/finder, coax and a set of telescopic ladders.

Upon arriving at Mikes we both put our masks on, set out a bottle of hand sanitiser and discussed the plans from at least a 2m distance.

We decided to try the new 1m dish on the wall mount that the previous dish was using, fortunately this proved to be perfectly adequate.

Using 2 sets of ladders spaced over 2 meters we set out to work, a tricky installation as Mike has a stack of Yagi's right where the dish needs to go, so we had to work around it.



The dish just about fitted there, I was concerned being larger than the previous dish it might not be able to reach 26E without hitting the house, I connected my meter up to the LNB and configured it for the QO-100 beacon on the Es'hail2 Satellite.

Finding this satellite was a little tricky as the signal isn't that strong in the UK, I decided to find Astra 28e and work back a few degrees from there. I then quickly found Es'Hail2 QO-100 and stood on top of a ladder. I was watching the QO-100 promotional video on my satellite meter/finder. After getting the dish aligned perfectly (a lot of patience is needed, very small movements of the dish will dramatically change the signal) I set out to adjust the skew and focus distance of the LNB.

Being the perfectionist that I am, I kept shouting down to Mike, I won't be a minute just another little tweak and I'll be done, between adjusting the LNB and the Dish I managed to get the signal up further.

I brought some high quality WF100 Coax with me and connected it to the LNB so Mike has 2 feeds coming in to his workshop/shack. With that done I went off to pack my tools up while Mike ran the coax in to the workshop.

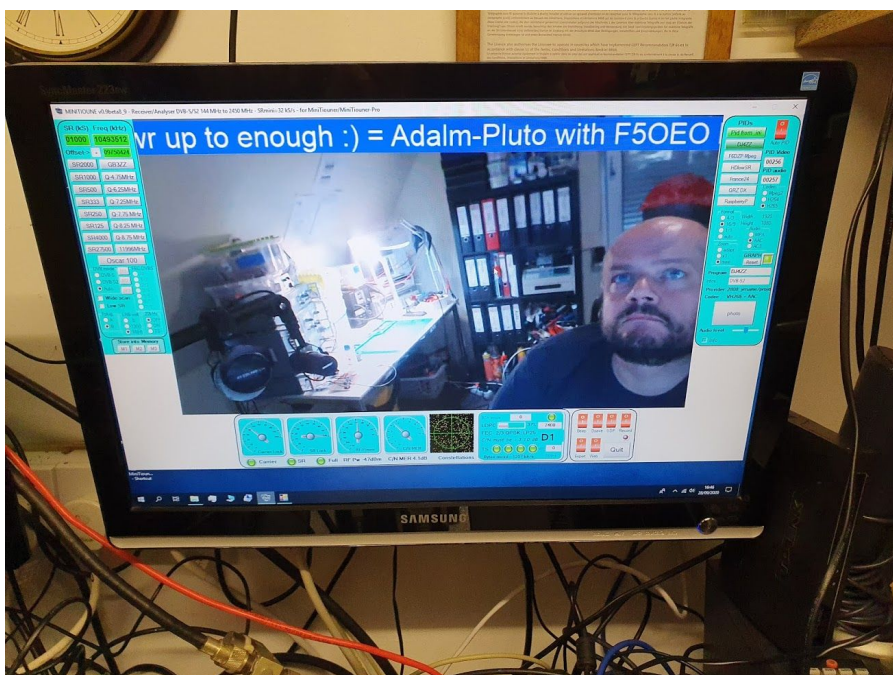
The higher quality WF100 coax will be used for amateur DATV from QO-100 and the other coax feed will be used for SSB reception.

A few moments later I could see through the garage door in to Mikes workshop that he was receiving the QO-100 beacon on his Minitiouner, although not able to fully resolve the weaker signals and lower bitrate signals, Mike had a play around and found the LO of the LNB isn't exactly on 9750MHz (To be expected as this is a LNB for domestic TV and used out of band for QO-100 reception) Though he did manage to pick up one or two stronger amateur DATV transmissions.

I headed home and left Mike in his Shack, I think he might be in there a while and his XYL will probably wonder where he's gone!

We spoke a bit later on the phone/whatsapp, with a bit of excitement Mike told me he had found the exact LO frequency by doing some quick calculations and dialled it all in. Now he's receiving the lower bitrate and lower strength signals.

So a big leap forward for Mike, the next step will be building something to transmit to the satellite!



## **Nets and Keeping In Contact**

As you know, we have three nets running at the moment for you to keep in contact and hear what we have all been doing.

- 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

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

**Also, drop me an email/sms/message with anything you get up to during October that you feel may be of interest and can be included in the next roundup.**

73 for now, Richie. MW0LGE