

Isle of Avalon Amateur Radio Club AGM



Date: Friday 30th April 2021

Time: 19:00 – 20:00

Venue – Site 2, Glastonbury

Agenda

1. Welcome/ Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of the new Committee
7. A.O.B.

2 Minutes of the previous AGM

Please find these on

https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/assets/pdf/200117_IOAARC_AGM_minutes.pdf

3 Chairman's Report

Many thanks for attending this evening. It has been a long-time since we been all able to get together and I feel now is a good time to set the ball rolling and to attend to club duties. Over the last year or so it has been a difficult time for everyone and now as a club we can look forward in planning ahead.

During the last year I have very been busy planning things regarding amateur radio. I have also been planning a permanent station set up in the local area.

So here it is almost completed The New Site 2 Radio Centre. This will allow us as a club to use. It would be a case of unlock and go as it was with no need to dismantle after every use. So this can allow us to experiment more with radio and save time on setting up each time. We will then also

have a solution in place for a permanent HQ for the Club When Complete we will be the only club in the region to have an amateur radio club that is permanently set up.

4 Secretary's Report

Highlights of the year

We had a great Exercise Blue Ham in March, with 72 contacts

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/03-07-exercise-blue-ham-weekend.html>

We learned a fair amount about digital modes and propagation as IoAARC was a lead in trialling digimodes for Wessex ham. The results of this experimentation are summarised here.

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/12-17-datamodes.html>

Congratulations to Matt for keeping the ship steady through what has been a trying year, and for taking the club forward with the new facilities that you can hopefully see around you if we aren't rained off!

We have kept a reasonably [steady stream of updates to our website](#) to keep the tumbleweed out.

lowlights

It's been a tough year for everyone, with three lockdowns and means that we have had to put most Amateur Radio activities on ice after the summer. Thanks to Mike for picking things up with the training programme and with Zoom, across what has been a tough winter for many people

We have let the RSGB club membership lapse as of February, largely because we don't have any income (there were no membership fees this year due to the coronavirus pandemic). This is something we may want to revisit.

The [Wessex Ham](#) initiative championed by G4JJP has been closed because funding was not forthcoming.

5 Treasurer's Report

T.B.A.

7 AOB

Proposed by Matt 2E0FNT

- Welcoming People Back Re Launching Club Meetings –
- To aim to possibly re open on Friday 21st may 7pm at Site 2 within the government covid rules which are planned to be lowered to a crowd of up to 30 on 17th May, subject to confirmation.
- Relocating club to site 2 every week until future notice
- Temporary Suspension of club membership fees (donations to cover this years out goings)
- Resume club training and paper exams if required for trainees
- Club net refresher review attendance timing and schedules (Due To Lack Of Attendance)

- Propose to move club frequency from 145.475fm to a clearer frequency to avoid interference
- On -air events Blue Ham etc

Proposed by Richard G7LEE

- RSGB club membership – prerequisite for
- Activity contests – any interest, MGM etc
- I reproduce the what do we want to discussion from the AGM last year, to stimulate debate:

What do we want to do with radio in 20202021?

G7LEE had collected a long list of ideas that had been raised over the last year, this was an opportunity to prioritise these. I have identified a proposed champion for each of these topics – that is for someone with interest/domain knowledge to scope out possible activities in this space and propose them to the other club members, preferably to feed into the Schedule of Events meeting described above, which is probably sometime mid February at a guess?

Blue Ham TBD (info not currently on alphacharlie website)

Definitely interested to continue. Next one is???. G5FM made the observation that it would be a good idea for operators to have their own headset and CAIRO adapter prepared and tested with the rig.

This will be easier to set up at Site 2. Need to find out how to use the generator to keep up with the TX demands over a period. Most of the rest of the setup will be easier, subject to the weather/Covid restrictions. Last year the second Blue Ham event took place in June. Will be a good exercise to test our readiness to operate from a remote site for a Field day/Contest sort of operation.

Contesting

There is interest from 2E0RWW, G7LEE, M7AJ0, 2E0FNT. There are specific contests for RSGB affiliated societies¹. An easy introduction would be the [2m FM Activity contests](#) to and [70cm FMACs](#) to dip a toe in the water. Our intrepid Blue Ham operator Mike 2E0RWW volunteered as our VHF/UHF contest manager. Steve 2E0OSS has experience of contesting on HF so looked like a good champion for HF contesting. Link to RSGB [VHF Contest Calendar](#) and [HF Contest Calendar](#)

It seems to be possible for us to work contests individually but for the score to be aggregated for the club. It would be good to get to the bottom of how this works, and scores are aggregated over the year, so this time of year is a good time to start.

Callum M7AJ0 has a connection with Mendip Raceways which would be a good place for a VHF contest, or VHF [National Field Day](#)

HEMA, SOTA, Worked All Britain

G6UVO proposed as champion for HEMA,SOTA 2E0RWW for WAB?

¹ Renewing our club affiliate membership is a prerequisite for some of this contesting, though there is no reason why existing RSGB members can't do this on their own account with assistance from other club members

HEMA and SOTA are both individual challenges but other members of the club can help being chasers. Glastonbury Tor is a HEMA site and Beacon Batch is the nearest SOTA peak. Worked All Britain tends to be on 80m, which is tough /P. G4JJP is working on a fibreglass pole 80m vertical, and G7LEE has constructed an [80m spiral loop](#). G4JJP has a remarkable sounding lifting kite with the ambition of using this for a vertical!

G6UVO, 2E0RWW and G7LEE have most interest here

Increasing the number of modes/frequencies used on nets

As 2E0FNT observed, we have lost our way somewhat with nets, let's nail down what we can do and KISS. We should be mindful that newcomers may have 2m FM capability at best.

We investigated PMR446 for non-licenced members, but the results are not very good – this is a tough ask, even across what is quite a small town

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/09-18-friday-night-net-coverage-experimentation.html>

and this is backed up by a modest APRS survey done using PMR446

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/09-19-pmr446-coverage-experimentation.html>

Schools outreach, ISS etc

Callum M7AJ0 offered to champion this way of attracting newcomers to the hobby. G5FM observed he had not had much response a few years ago, but personnel may change over that sort of timescale.

Resilience

Chaz G6UVO proposed as champion

Two main threads to this.

12V standby power supplies, both for a grid-independent community role but also for things like Field Day. This fits well with site 2's requirements; this is an island site with no mains power, and also fits well with the requirements of contesting favours remote sites either to reduce HF noise levels or to get elevation for VHF. See 2021 update for progress on this

2m coverage survey from Scout Hut or Site 2. This could be achieved via APRS, particularly as several members now have the APRS enabled Anytone DMR handheld. We would need to define the terms of reference for such a survey, but coverage from relatively modern handheld to a good base station seems to be a good place to start.

Digital modes setup/training

2E0FNT as champion here, G6UVO and G4JJP expressed an interest. Scope to be defined by Matt.

2021 Update

Matt's rework of Site 2, portakabin with leisure batteries outside. Matt and Richard to rig 12V system. G6UVO provided solar panel for system. G7LEE to loan Site 2 12V petrol generator, which is designed to be floated across 12V leisure batteries. We need to investigate RF noise performance of this