

## **Avalon Amateur Radio Club Committee Meeting 6 Sept 2019 Minutes Glastonbury Scout Hut 19:30 to 20:30**



### **Present**

Matt 2E0FNT(was M3MMZ) Chairman  
Mike 2E0 new call (was M6FCT) Treasurer/Membership  
Secretary  
Chaz G6UVO Vice-Chairman  
Richard G7LEE Secretary  
Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary

Steve 2E0OSS  
Paul guest/possible new member  
Gary  
Callum (currently training for Foundation)

### **Informal Committee Meeting**

This was not a formal committee meeting, more a discussion around other activities

### **Agenda**

Martin proposed the following topics for consideration, now we have less exam commitment:

QRZ details  
RSGB Books/Training manuals  
Digimode QSOs  
SDR software  
Satellite Comms

Other topics propped by others were

Local propagation mapping  
Blue Ham 18/19 Oct  
JOTA

### **QRZ Details**

Mike was up for administering the QRZ page? There can only be one callsign administering a page like that.

AP: Mike and Martin to sort

Martin G5FM asked if everyone with a QRZ.com account could add Somerset and Glastonbury to their profile. The suggestion of post code was not favoured because of a potential security risk.

## RSGB Books/Training manuals

There is a 35% discount to be had for ordering 10+, these can be mixed across the three levels. Consensus was to hold off on this until people are feeling more flush with money. The saving is good but the capital needs to be fronted.

## SDR Software

Seems possible to get SDR Console to work on the club PC with Matt's dongle, though signal quality is still unsatisfactory – stuttering audio on Broadcast FM. CPU load was around 60%, not outrageous. There appears to be a conflict between zadig and the sound card on the Club PC

There are two [RSP1a devices](#) among Club members and a possibility of borrowing a RSP2Pro via Chaz. See Local Propagation Mapping later on for one application of this.

## Satellite Comms

There is interest in this – Chaz is looking at ways to do it. Not sure there was anything more substantive from the discussion? TBD

## Weston Radio Rally

This is on [Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> September](#)<sup>1</sup>. Plans of how to get there TBD

## Blue Ham 18/19 Oct

We have more potential operators and more understanding of operation. [MOPLT's page](#) is worth a look, he is the top scorer. G7LEE has proposed using Site 2 as a secondary station but the general consensus was that we could not see how a multi-site operation would work with the specific requirements of the 5MHz band licensing, proposal dropped.

Discussion about improving our hit rate would involve operating over more of the duration of the exercise, perhaps improving our antenna or site, and being able to use a panadapter or Web SDR to scan for signals, a lot of the operational problem is finding signals.

We can't use WebSDRs to look for calls because mobile phone data does not pass the audio or the waterfall, probably due to [carrier-grade NAT](#) in the mobile network

There are mobile versions, [for hackgreen](#) and for the [Wells WebSDR](#) which may make this workable on mobile data (or a PC via mobile data, which is probably more useful).

We need to check and perhaps rationalise the frequencies in the FT450D memories for 60m. [MOPLT has a list](#) of 16 channels<sup>2</sup> and I suspect some of these are missing on the FT450D, we may miss contacts as a result.

There is a rostering Excel spreadsheet on the Committee Groups.IO page in the [Blue Ham section](#)

## JOTA

This Scouting event is on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20 2019 [according to jotajoti](#) though there seems some confusion in the [Scouts UK site](#) with

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<sup>1</sup> The link has 2018 in it, but the page says 2019

<sup>2</sup> Two channels are for digital modes

*JOTA is also the only event that offers each individual Scout the opportunity to speak to other Scouts across the world. In 2018, JOTA will take place from **18 to 20 October 2019**. This will be the 62nd event*

But at least they agree on the date if not the current year. AP Mike to investigate

### **Acoustic Noise from Radio operation in Scout Hut**

The Scout hut has plain plastered walls which are acoustically reflective and make the room into an echo chamber. That can make it hard to hold a conversation and run a rig at the same time, and working sideband I find it easier to use headphones to get the echo away. Seeing others operate SSB on Blue Ham this is not just me.

I (G7LEE) propose that we consider using CAIRO as used in Raynet – the [website aesthetics](#) are straight outta 1995 but the Dual Operator box would serve us well, letting two people listen to the rig and each operate it alternately. If we go that way I'd suggest members get their own headset or headphones. You can still use a fist mic with CAIRO if you use another one and mod the plug to CAIRO format. I personally prefer to use a gamer headset with microphone.

We can use a simple 3.5mm breakout box to get more than headphones but the FT450D uses a LA4425A chip and is only rated at 0.6W | 8Ω at 10% distortion. Paralleling typical 32Ω stereo headphones means four sets of headphones would present 4Ω to the rig, and users could not individually adjust volume. I think CAIRO has more to offer us. TBD

### **Local Propagation Mapping**

This needs scoping more clearly. The discussion proposed using SDRs at various places, which have accurate RSSI/S-meter indications. This would give relative signal strength readings from mobile transmitters. Problems would be the differing sensitivity and antenna systems of the RX stations, and a given signal strength does not indicate a voice contact could be made – local QRM could be a problem.

At other meetings this has been floated as trying to get an indication of what sort of 2m FM handheld or mobile range would be anticipated. I (G7LEE) strongly favour APRS for that job – it spots you on a map automatically if you're in range of a lgate, and by definition shows that a one-way FM voice mode<sup>3</sup> contact was possible.

### **A.O.B.**

Chaz has proposed the following for consideration at the next more formal Committee meeting:

#### **Transport officer**

Since Petra is the only driver in the Club with a towing licence and a minibus she is now usually copied on Committee business concerning transport as the de facto 'designated driver'.

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<sup>3</sup> APRS uses 1200baud packet radio via FM on 2m. In general if packet radio gets through, an intelligible voice contact could be made; packet radio injects audio tones into the mic input of a rig and takes output from the speaker audio.

Given that few other Members would be prepared to take this role themselves I suggest that the Committee henceforth include a Transport Officer and propose her for this.

### **Rig-on, rig-off policy**

Recognising the danger of operating while driving or engaged in any other hazardous work, and the imminent tightening of the law on this point, but also the desirability of immediate comms, I propose the following as a Club policy (it would I think be the first):

'While engaged in driving or any other activity demanding their full attention Members will switch off their equipment unless they have another radio operator with them to work it.

### **Monitoring S19/145.475MHz**

It appears that all currently active members of the Club now have the facility to monitor 145.475MHz, including Foundation trainees who have been lent suitable equipment (the only current one IIRR is Gary who has an IC-2e).

When available Members will monitor 145.475MHz FM and respond if possible to the call 'CQ Club'.'

## **Document History**

| Date        | Author        | Description |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 7 Sept 2019 | Richard G7LEE | Issue 1     |