

Avalon Amateur Radio Club

20 Nov 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes

Zoom 20:30 (started 21:00 for tech probs)



Present

Matt 2E0FNT Chairman
Mike 2E0RWW Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Richard G7LEE Secretary
Martin G5FM

Chaz G6UVO was not present as Zoom is not his thing.
However, he did take the opportunity to comment on the Agenda, and contributed valuable input before the meeting.

Reinstating meetings/way forward (proposer Matt 2E0FNT)

Club meeting future plans/memberships/club nights

We decided that the new subscription year that starts April 2021 would be a good one to plan for future meetings, naturally subject to Government Covid-19 advice. Provisional plan is to hold meetings in the Scout Hut every other Friday 7pm to 9pm, and a Zoom meeting details TBD on the alternate weeks. In principle we could lower subscriptions to £26 p.a. which would reduce the bar to entry. Our costs are low and Mike 2E0RWW determined we could cover basic costs (RSGB AFS membership + Zoom with seven member subscriptions).

G6UVO's reservations¹ noted, this is a statement of intent, Matt's fear is that without something pencilled in we could just fade.

Club Equipment and storage

Deferred, as we have no access to the Scout Hut (where some equipment is stored). G6UVO summarises:

As QM I ought to be doing this. I had always intended a census of Club gear and was at one stage organising it with 2E0RWW but as things stand I don't think we have access to the scout hut. If we ever do, it might be sensible to move everything to Site 2 and put it in the freight container, for easier access in future

Club Nets

We are contradictory in what we publish here.

The Tuesday digimodes net seems to have settled in. Our aim here is more to try the digital modes and what they can do, so it is experimental by nature.

We decided to drop the Thursday 70cm net, which clashed with the Zoom meeting on Thursdays.

¹ *It would IMO be foolish to make any plans for physical meetings under the present circumstances as they would certainly be thwarted.*

Wednesday used to be the main IoA net, but has been less well supported. There was discussion of joining Taunton 's DMR net on GB7FI TS² TG810 (SW regional) which starts at 20:00 and perhaps carrying on/instigating our own on 21:00 same parameters.

I have changed the website to reflect this : <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/nets/>

On Tuesday nights 21:00 to 23:00 we have a digimode net on the 10m band 28.118MHz using various digimodes in FLDigi, talk back frequency 145.475Mhz. Use the RSID feature in FLDigi to sync to the mode, we will TXID on mode change.

On Friday we have a structured net at 19:00 and a more informal net at 21:00

I will add Wednesday once we have an established routine. It is acknowledged the use of DMR limits us to people who have this digital voice mode – the popularity of the Anytone AT878UV DMR handheld (2E0FNT, G5FM, 2E0OSS, M7AJO) supports this and widens our reach. Yaesu System Fusion users (2E0RWW, G7LEE) may be able to use Pi-Star to switch encapsulation and route to Talk Group 810 on the Phoenix-UK network.

There was discussion of the Friday 2m net on 145.475 – we have moved the formal net control version to 19:00. Some members were put off by the structured nature, but they have the opportunity on the second shift at 21:00. IoAARC has always had a split between the early risers and the night owls.

Wessex Ham

G7LEE has been on two of the Zoom meetings with this. To clarify, funding for it is being sought from the RSGB Legacy fund and there is no talk of a levy on club subscriptions. We are happy to provide input to the project and are supportive in principle. Once a clearer proposal arises from the initial meetings we will we will review them on their own merits.

G6UVO's reservations³ noted, we are not committing money to the project for the sake of clarity. Those present were happy for G7LEE to attend the WH meetings. Where Club resources are being committed then of course that will be brought to the Committee, should it get to that stage.

A.O.B.

Exercise Blue Ham

Blue Ham was in March, and we did well. We passed on the second BH due to the restrictions. It is possible that we can do this as a club in March 2021 in which case it would be a good inauguration of our return to activity. Like the meetings, this is a good idea in principle but we need to keep a watching brief. Blue Ham have not published any intended dates for 2021

² Initially cited (G5FM) as TS1, but on Phoenix-UK shown as TS 2 – see AOB

³ *Before agreeing to anything under this heading I would like to see a legal statement of what we are signing up to. I will not agree to anything on the basis of what we have seen so far as it is impossible to tell what is really being proposed.*

AGM

We should nominally hold an AGM in January. I (G7LEE) would be happy to wing this to April and beg forgiveness should someone/thing object. 2E0RWW concerned if there are specific requirements to meet, 2E0RWW will check what specific requirements if any are there and if Zoom is OK.

One of the issues is to elect officials. So a poll was taken of the following Officers if they would be happy to stand for the same roles. (Roles taken from the minutes of the AGM on 17 Jan 2020 at the Scout Hut)

- * Matt 2E0FNT Chairman
- * Mike 2E0RWW Treasurer/Membership Secretary
- Chaz G6UVO Vice-Chairman/Training Officer
- * Richard G7LEE Secretary
- * Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary

All present (*) affirmed they are happy to stand in the same role. We need to ask Chaz G6UVO. It appears we have no members because we did not take subscriptions in April.

AP: G6UVO to let us know if he is OK to continue in the previous role, if so the AGM may be short ;)

Press items

There appears to have been an issue with one press item, which had more internet and less radio than one reader preferred. We decided that content is delegated to the role of Press Officer. If anyone feels there is an issue, then by all means raise with the committee in general so we can all see if there is a change in direction needed. We did not feel this needed action.

DMR

This is slightly more relevant now we are considering joining Taunton's DMR net and/or creating one ourselves. G7LEE wrote a summary of how to create a codeplug from first principles which is on the website at <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/11-18-dmr-on-gb7fi.html>

It's worth monitoring our usage of GB7FI on <https://www.opendmr.net/monitor.php?filter=rpt&rptid=235188>

To ensure we are on the time slots and TGs we expect to be on, particularly if promiscuous mode (Digi Moni in Anytone-speak) is engaged.

FWIW the vast majority of [usage of TG810](#) for the proposed linkup with Taunton seems to be on TS2, so this is worth double-checking whether TS1 is correct in the Taunton net. It is at variance with usage, and with [Phoenix-UK's specification](#)

SLOT	SLOT	REFLECTOR	NAME
1	2		
---	TG810 **	4410	REGIONAL : SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Moving the digimodes net to a lower frequency

Our Tuesday digimodes net is on 10m, the frequency was selected specifically so we wouldn't be bothering other people much outside of the Glastonbury region during a time of sunspot minima.

This works very well, to the extent that G4JJP in Shepton Mallet struggles though it is only a few miles away. With the proposal that perhaps this net is widened to cover the SW area, and perhaps is an idea for us to do with Wessex Ham, then it should be moved down in frequency, where NVIS gets more possible. This is still challenging in the evening, and favours using 80m.

80m does mean big antennas or poor TX efficiency, and a high noise level, but we need to go that way to get below the critical frequency to enable NVIS. The critical frequency falls at night.

The [RSGB band plans](#) suggest narrow band modes (500Hz) between 3.58MHz and 3.59, and the all modes 3.65 to 3.7 MHz. I will listen to some of these and see what I hear, and propose a shift.

2m net Photos

2E0RWW is after photos of rigs set to 145.475 (and showing the frequency rather than channel number)



For some Facebook promotion. This is my contribution, as an example

Contests

This was discussed – is there any point in a presence on WAB, and Martin proposed an IoA contest (contacts with club members) We felt this was not something we could progress in all the uncertainty.

IoAARC DMR Talk Group

Matt ventured the idea of creating an IoAARC DMR talkgroup on the Phoenix-UK DMR network. We felt the idea is worth further investigation; Matt is the expert in this so he will report back.

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