



QRZ

The Quarterly Journal Of The Halifax & District Amateur Radio Society (H.A.D.A.R.S) Issue 1 – October 2022

IN THIS EDITION

Authors Wanted! If you fancy yourself as a writer of short informative articles on an amateur radio topic, then this may be for you!



Get ready for the 2023 operating season with new HADARS Activity Awards and Challenges



Max's Morse Corner. All the latest news on current CW activity, contests, practice nets and training



Upcoming Special Event Station news and Portable activity



Contest News for the months ahead – the best picks for best results with limited time

'QRZ' RETURNS FROM THE PAST



Long before Facebook, long before widespread public use of Email, and long before Websites were something we'd even heard of, HADARS kept in touch with members by a printed Newsletter called QRZ.

Its success and popularity waxed and waned depending on who had the patience to (quite literally) cut and paste articles together and photocopy them, and who could write informative articles.

The last issue was probably produced in the late 1980's unless someone knows better, but now it's back as a means of showcasing all that's best about HADARS and our club lifestyle. We will begin by producing the journal on a quarterly basis, with roundups of recent activities, and news about events and dates for the coming quarter. We hope you enjoy this refreshing alternative from the usual social media publicity.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

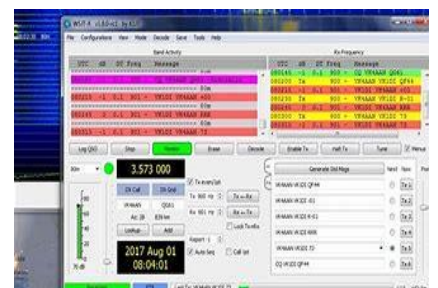


Don't forget the HADARS Christmas Special on **Tuesday December 20th**. Supper will be provided, plus prize giving for the activity challenges, and more than anything, a chance to meet old friends- We would love to see members old and new, and especially those who can't usually make club night. Details of the supper will be provided shortly, and requests made for booking

DIGITAL WORKSHOPS

We are now holding **DIGITAL WORKSHOPS** in the main club room, on most Tuesday evenings, (except published speaker's evenings). Our resident FT8 exerts will help guide you through the maze of operating practices and equipment configurations.

The Club Shack will be operational to demonstrate this amazing low signal mode, and will also be available for other modes too.



CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first edition of the 'New' Quarterly QRZ Newsletter, and thanks must go to Max G4SDX for bringing to reality an idea first touted shortly after my appointment as Chairman. So far this year we have had talks on a number of subjects.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find details of what we have planned in the coming months. You will also find a number of articles on topical subjects. But, this is just the first issue. We are looking for writers, either on an ad hoc basis or more regularly. If you think you have what it takes why not get in touch. The next edition will be out for release around Christmas.

Talking of Christmas, you will note that we have a Christmas Social event planned. Last year we had a pie and pea supper which I hope was enjoyed by all. We have this year's event to look forward to. The question is would members prefer pie and peas this year, or would members prefer sandwiches. Perhaps members could let me have some feedback. Whatever is decided we will of course ensure that a vegetarian option is available

Darren MOWIT - Chairman

HADARS CLUB CHALLENGE NEWS

First off on the 2022 Challenge front, is to report on the HADARS 6M Challenge. This challenge ran from January 2022 until the end of August 2022 with the aim of building a 6m antenna and working as many stations as possible, through the height of the Sporadic E Season (SpE). As the organiser, I was not allowed to enter, but built my own 6M horizontal dipole and choke balun anyway, from telescoping aluminium tube.

The antenna was very effective when mounted at around 6m to 8m from the ground, but the widely expected SpE propagation didn't really materialise over the long hot summer, except for very 'Sporadic' appearances. We do, however, have a worthy winner of the competition, using a home sleeve dipole made from coax (AKA the Flowerpot Antenna). The winner (for he shall remain nameless until after the prizegiving in December) worked nearly 40 contacts on the antenna, using FM, SSB and FT8, many of those from portable locations. A full write up will appear in the January edition of QRZ.

Now on to the portable league, which will draw to a conclusion at the end of October. Logs have been received from Dean G4DBI, Hardy M5HWB, Mark MOTMR and Max G4SDX. The results will be finalised after the last organised /P event from Eric's farm on Sunday 16th October. Many thanks to those that took part and did so well, despite the QRM from the Ubiquitous Ice Cream Vans, who have colonised nearly every available high ground parking area.

The challenges for 2023 are still being thought through and finalised, and it has been suggested that once again we run an antenna challenge, but one where the design, parts and components are provided. If this is to be feasible, I need member feedback on what band and antenna would be most popular, and what budget limit should be set.

Suggestions might include a wire version of the Rybakov HF Vertical (similar to an HF360 in principle), A lightweight compact 2m beam, or a lightweight pedestrian portable design. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please pass them on. Remember that materials costs are skyrocketing and the Rybakov with its matching transformer and choke might cost £50 - £60 in parts if starting from scratch – considerably cheaper than the commercial alternative, and possibly stealthier, but not costing pennies unless you have a shed full of junk like me.

I am open to any fresh ideas that are both practical and have the potential to engage with the members and make the activity fun and rewarding.

Cheers – Max G4SDX

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – CLUB CALENDAR



Here are our planned calendar events for the final run up to Christmas 2022! Please note that we will confirm the actual subject detail of some events nearer the time as soon as we have firm dates from our speakers.

Please do your best to come along and support our guest speakers and presenters

Tuesday 11th October

CW Intermediate training will continue from 7pm until 7.45pm – please feel free to join in if you're just a bit rusty. We can adjust the content to the students abilities each week.

The club rig will be on air with the next 'DIGITAL WORKSHOP' showcasing hints and tricks with FT4 and FT8 Watch the QSO's progress on the big screen as they happen and have ago yourself!

Tuesday 18th October

CW Intermediate training will continue, along with the Digital Workshop, and a general natter night. Advice and help on the Construction Project will always be on hand each week.

Tuesday 25th October

The first in our 'ASK THE ELMER' series, where members can pose questions to our resident radio experts, or as our American friends like to call them, 'Elmers'. Max G4SDX will lead the discussion on the topic of this week, which will be 'Antennas', and will include feed line issues, matching and noise reduction. Please bring along your questions and queries, or email them if you can't attend in person – we will respond with any answers or advice given.!

Tuesday 1st November

There will be a technical talk on the subject of the Nano-VNA and how to use this amazing piece of test equipment. Hardy M5HWB will be leading the discussion and demonstrating some of the uses for the VNA.

Tuesday 8th, Tuesday 15th November, Tuesday 6th December & 13th December

General club natter nights – the Digital Workshop will be running on the club radio, and catch up on Construction and Morse will take place for those involved.

Tuesday 22nd November

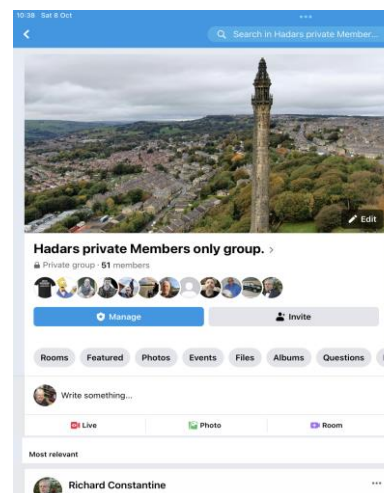
The second 'Ask the Elmer' evening will take place, with Dean G4DBI, Max G4SDX and Hardy G5HWB leading discussions, along with our other resident outdoor experts, on the topic of 'Radio in the Great Outdoors'

Tuesday 20th December

HADAS Christmas special! (See front page article).

NO MEETING on December 27th!

FACEBOOK NEWS



Feeling a little confused over the Club Facebook Groups? Well, that I suppose is understandable with two seemingly identical groups. However, the reason is a little more complicated, and it involves how we are able to control and share some Facebook content across wider social media platforms.

We now have two club groups – a 'Private' members group, which does exactly what it says on the tin. It is a private place where we can share stuff, oddball humour and club chatter that we might want to keep 'private'.

The 'Public' group is a Moderated Group, and is a place where we share posts and public content that showcases our club on public forums (Like 'Amateur Radio UK') and is open to anyone to join and comment on, subject to Admin approval. Obviously, we need to keep control of what others see and post on our public pages.

Some posts may appear on both groups, some posts may be moved to the club chat, if that is a more suitable forum.

DX NEWS

We start off this column with a mention about DX Clusters and how you can use them to see how a band is opening in real time. For a simple beginners view, the RSGB operates a live DX cluster feed at <https://rsgb.org/main/operating/dx-cluster/>. This is simply a list of who has spotted who, or who has worked who, on a cluster powered by Dxlite and operated by G7VJR.

You can see from the list, minute by minute, the paths that are open on all amateur bands, and if you might be able to make a contact on the same path – for example you might see that G4XXX has just heard WA4ND calling CQ on 15m and has posted that information on to the cluster database. Give it a try, it's a great introduction to Clusters, for anyone with a desire to log those rare stations.

A really good world map and grey line predictor can be found at [DxCluster \(dxcenter.com\)](http://DxCluster(dxcenter.com)). This not only shows the path hops, but the locations and modes in use. Highly recommended for those using analogue modes

The Autumn Equinox is now upon us, and with it the increased chances of settled high pressure systems and cooler, denser, air masses that are the key to the formation of tropospheric ducts. Early morning (particularly frosty, misty mornings) around sunrise may offer the best chances of hearing VHF/UHF DX before the sun fully rises and dissipates the temperature inversion. Post to the Club Facebook page if you hear any openings as we drop down into winter.

If you are a keen DX'er, we'd be very interested to hear from you, especially if you'd be interested in writing a DX column for us on a regular basis. Contact the Editor, Max Townend G4SDX, if you would like to send us your reports, suggestions, and predictions for DX in the next quarter.

CONTEST NEWS & RESULTS

Firstly, congratulations to Mark Gilchrist M0TMR for getting HADARS on the scoreboard in the RSGB UKAC 432MHz contest in September – positioned 226 against some really serious contest groups and individuals with some even more serious gear, he improved his previous score by two places – which is what contesting is really all about for us lesser mortals against the big boys. Mark is also putting personal scores in for the Club in the 144MHz Contests as well, and improving his scores every time!

For those that want to get some practice in for the 2023 RSGB 80m Club Championship contest, the RSGB runs the Autumn Series along similar lines – there are still some opportunities to have a go at SSB, CW and Data Mode entries. Thursday 27th October sees an SSB event, Monday 7th November is Data Modes (RTTY, PSK), Wednesday 16th October is SSB, and the final event in the series on Thursday 24th November is CW. All events start at 1900 UTC and run to 2030 UTC on 80m.

One of the big chances to work some rare DX will come over the weekend of 29th and 30th October, with the CQWW SSB contest. With the bands picking up during the day as we drop into winter, you should be able to tick off some of those rare DXCC entities without putting up with sleep deprivation. The CW event is on the weekend of the 26th and 27th November. Entry classes for all power levels including QRP.

Good chances to work Stateside on 10m using both SSB and CW can be had over the weekend 10th and 11th December, when the ARRL hold their 10m Contest. With the band now springing back into life, I'd strongly recommend this to any operator wanting to get some choice US locators.

Check out <https://www.cqcontest.eu/> for one of the more useful UK and Europe contest listing sites.



Please send any contest news or results to the QRZ Editor, Max Townend G4SDX at George.townend@btinternet.com

THE HALIFAX CHALLENGE

For a bit of fun in 2023, I thought I'd set another little challenge. There are (according to Google) 14 cities called 'Halifax' in the world. In America they are located in Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, Kentucky, Missouri, and Georgia. There is a Halifax in Nova Scotia (Canada), two in Jamaica, one in South Africa, and one in Queensland Australia. The question is, how many can you work in the coming year?

This is an open challenge – use any mode, any band, even Wires X, Dstar, DMR, VOIP, Echolink and any other means at your disposal. There will be certificates, and maybe even cake. Go for it!

MAX'S MORSE CORNER – CW NEWS AND EVENTS



Sadly, my first job is to report that Peter Rosamond, G4LHI in Huntingdon, is now Silent Key. Peter was one of the great CW stalwarts on the 80m and 40m bands, and a lifelong member of FISTS (No.2219). Peter taught many hundreds of CW operators in his life, and was always a real ambassador for the mode. I looked back in my log and lost count of the number of times I'd worked Peter, especially on 80m during lockdown. Any speed and any ability, Peter was your man if you were new to CW and your fist was shaking with nerves. He will be sadly missed.

CW Activity to watch out for as the lower bands begin to open up in daytime, are the FISTS Sunday ladder events. These are conversational QSO 'contests', that are anything but your 599 rubber stamp. Check around 3.558 and 7.028 on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, 1400 to 1600UTC, and 1800 to 2000UTC. QRS working is very welcome and will be responded to at the same speed.

In the words of Monty Python, "And Now For Something Completely Different". The RSGB 144MHz Marconi CW Contest will take place from Saturday 5th November at 1400UTC to Sunday 6th November 1400UTC. This should prove interesting on a band usually devoid of CW activity. A good chance to work a bit of VHF DX, and the speeds should be relatively slow (they will be desperate for every point and Km distance).

For some light CW receive practice, don't forget the Stockport Radio Society 'Teatime Morse' net with Bernard G3SHF and Tom M0DCG. They can be found (conditions permitting) on 3.564MHz from 4pm local time. I'd also be interested in anyone who might like to resurrect a club CW net, or a club CW frequency where both training and rag chews might be run. Let me know your thoughts.

PORTABLE ROUND UP – LATEST NEWS ON WORKING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

For those who like their radio outdoors in the open country, the year has been quite favourable. Several successful 'Field Days' were had courtesy of Eric MOJCK and Brian 2E0WTR and their splendid farmland. The hot summer and threats of big thunderstorms made things a bit uncomfortable at times, but the first HADARS Portable League generated some interest and friendly competition. It has, however, become increasingly difficult to find decent QRM free roadside sites in recent years, with landowners and councils having to block off many tracks, pull-ins, makeshift laybys, and common land, for fear of fly-tipping and other antisocial behaviour.

Nevertheless, our intrepid operators have managed to find spots to get antennas up and make contacts. If you know of any landowner who might be interested in allowing access to spare land, or off-road spaces, especially in the East of the Calder Valley, we'd be very interested in talking to them.

The portable league will be run again in 2023, with the rules and entry classes being simplified. There will now be only 4 classes of entry – VHF/UHF Unlimited and QRP, and HF Unlimited and QRP. There will be a special case for 6m and 4m, where scores from either band can be claimed for either HF or VHF/UHF leagues, whichever your preferred mode on the day. This is to encourage activity on these bands and to take advantage of sudden lifts when out portable. A VHF/UHF Digital mode league, and an HF Digital mode league will also run with the same rules for 6m and 4m., A full set of revised rules will be published ahead of the new year season. Garden portable will also be allowed in any league,

Don't miss our 'Ask The ELMER' event on **22nd November**, when Max G4SDX, Dean G4DBI (subject to his working shift) and Hardy G5HWB will be bringing in a few items of interest, mast supports, antennas and other portable trinkets, to lead the evenings discussions on 'Radio in the Great Outdoors'.

Photo Right: Courtesy of Drone Pilot Dean G4DBI, at the spring portable field day at Eric's farm.



OUT & ABOUT – SPECIAL EVENT NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Sadly, the planned Special Event station for Churches and Chapels on The Air at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church, was cancelled as a mark of respect for the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II. At the time of writing, no future alternative date has been issued by the organisers.

The other casualty of the period of National Mourning was the Cragg Challenge originally planned for the 18th September. This event is one of the collaborative radio volunteer events between Calderdale Raynet Radio Volunteers and HADARS. The organisers have yet to announce the postponement date, but it is thought it will be in late April 2023, possibly the 23rd or 30th. HADARS members will be warmly welcomed to assist with this event, which gives our radio relay stations a ringside view of the whole event up the winding Cragg Vale valley. Please speak to Martin M0GQB if you can offer help on the day.



On Sunday 9th October, HADARS members teamed up with Calderdale Raynet Amateur Radio Group (CRARG) to provide essential radio coverage and talk through for the 24th Calderdale Mountain Bike Marathon.

Several members of HADARS are also active members and committee members of CRARG and enjoy getting involved with charity, youth and public event marshalling and communications support.

CRARG are always looking for volunteers to help with events in the area, and if you might be interested in joining in and honing your radio skills, you will be most welcome.

Speak to Hardy G5HBW, Martin M0GQB, or Darren M0WIT for more information



Martin M0GQB travelled over the Embsay Station on Saturday 24th September to set up the club station for Railways on the Air, using the Callsign GB0YDR (Yorkshire Dales Railway).

HADARS members that visited were entertained to trips on the train and shown round the signal box by Malcolm

With the year winding down towards Christmas, there are no other Special Event activities planned this year, but always keep up to date with Special Event activity on the Local RSGB Sunday morning news broadcasts, on 144.525MHz, from 9.30 local time, every Sunday morning.

QRZ EDITORIAL

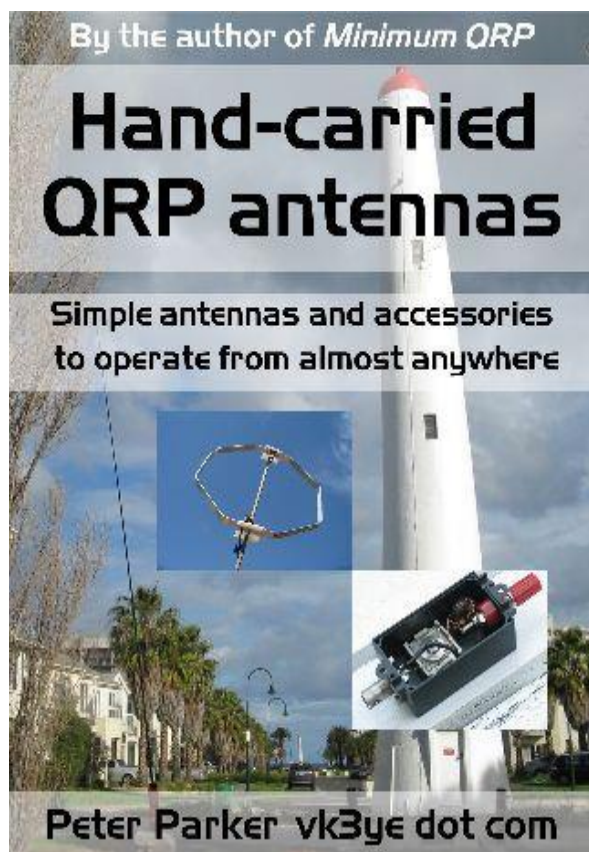
Welcome to the first 'New' issue of 'QRZ' for many a long year. You may be wondering if there is relevance in a quarterly club newsletter, given that we are almost drowning in a sea of social media, instant messaging, and live video feeds. However, I'm not so sure they reach out in the same way that traditional newsletter does to members themselves, and also to others who are looking at our organisation from outside.

So, the edition you are reading now is the first NEW QRZ, but it's also a trial edition that has been produced without member input. That is not the way I would like the magazine to go, and I'll be begging, pleading, and twisting arms in the coming weeks and months for regular contributors, and one-off articles written by members themselves.

The idea of this trial edition is for you to see the type of article I'd like to publish – short, punchy, newsworthy, and forward looking. I'd like photographs wherever possible, and anything radio related will be considered for publication. Please avoid 3000 word 'What I did on my holidays' articles, but a short 150 – 300 word article and photograph of your beach portable session, or your SOTA, or POTA activation would be great!

Best wishes for the coming Autumn & Seasonal Festivities – 73 Max Townend G4SDX

VIEWED & REVIEWED – SOMETHING FOR THE BOOKSHELF



I'm always a bit wary of books with titles like "50 Great Antennas You'll Never Build". They either aim so low that there's a whole chapter on using a screwdriver, or so high that the first example covers three acres of Wyoming. Nevertheless, I ventured the grand sum of £9.99 on Amazon for Peter Parker VK3YE's "Hand Carried QRP Antennas" in the hope of finding some inspiration for a winter project.

In terms of its publication, it's a basic book, with very simple hand drawn illustrations, and slightly grainy monochrome pictures, but that doesn't detract from its content.

Yes, there's the obligatory picture of a hacksaw, ruler, pencil, and drill, but the book covers the subject well, and in some detail. The author goes into considerable detail on matching and home brew ATU's and switching systems (which I found very useful), there's a chapter on metering and test equipment, and in terms of the antennas themselves (which almost come secondary to the other content), they range from wire beams, through linked dipoles, vertical types, and small loops (mag loops). Lots of good practical ideas in this book for not a lot of money, and you can also download it on Kindle for £3.99. Well worth a place on the shack bookshelf.

MEMBERS SALE / WANTED

QRZ will be running FREE members For Sale or Wanted adverts every quarter. Got stuff you need to shift? Need that oddball patch lead? This is the place for you!

The deadline for adverts to appear in the January-March 2023 edition of QRZ is 20th December 2022. Send (ideally) a photo of the item for sale, along with a description, price or estimate, and your preferred contact details.

Club Equipment

Over the years, the club has slowly acquired a large (and I mean LARGE) stock of equipment of all shapes and sizes, some of it unidentifiable. This stock has now grown to the point that Hardy will have to move house (again) unless we do some urgent downsizing.

We will be slowly cataloguing this stock over the next couple of months and preparing some items for sale. They will either be offered as single items, or will be sold off in sealed bid auctions.

We will be offering these items to members first, so watch this space. All proceeds to club funds.



FOR SALE: Eddystone EC9.5. Great general coverage receiver that just needs minor cosmetic attention. One owner from new, non-smoking household and not been wide banded.

OFFERS?? Will Consider PX – FT991A WHY?