# FIVE AND NINE PLUS

### THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**Club Callsigns: G2FKO and GX2FKO**
**Website: www.adarc.co.uk**

## CLUB OFFICERS

| President | Terry Adams | G4CHD | | Committee | Ben Louder | 2E0FTZ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman | Mike Wogden | G4KXQ | | | Mark Wildig | G6BNB |
| Vice Chairman | Dave Boyes | 2E0KVJ | | | | |
| Treasurer | Alan Fisher | M9NAE | | QSL Manager | John Lovell | G3JKL |
| Secretary | John Lovell | G3JKL | | Web Master | John Lovell | G3JKL |
| | | | | Exam Secretary | John Lovell | G3JKL |
| | | | | Editor | Mike Wogden | G4KXQ |
| | | | | Mikewogden@gmail.com | | |

## EDITORIAL

**Important: Club Meeting Postponed for One Week – Now Monday 23 February**

As explained during January's meeting, there are planned overnight closures for Churchill Way, Northam, from Monday, 16 February 2026, to Wednesday, 18 February 2026. Churchill Way will be closed outside the clubhouse, with no access for members.

The club meeting has therefore been moved back by one week to Monday, 23 February.

The meeting will be a practical portable antenna-building evening presented by Mark G6BNB and myself. The antenna will be made from 3D-printed parts, PVC pipe, and steel tape measures.

If any members are interested in taking home a partial parts kit, please let Mark know prior to the evening.

For this month's technical input, I am grateful to Terry G4CHD for his article describing his experience with his newly acquired Icom IC-7300 Mk2 and how it compares with its main competitor, the Yaesu FT-DX10. As I am on the lookout for a new rig soon, I found it most interesting.

73 Mike (G4KXQ)

## Important – Club Subscriptions are due March 2026

Please could all members consider this note from our Honorable Treasurer Alan M9NAE

The Bideford Lloyds Bank branch has closed and all business is now done at the Barnstaple Branch. This is a real pain as I live in Bideford and I want to reduce the number of times I have to drive to Barnstaple, park, do the banking and return to Bideford.
Because of this, I would be grateful if you could pay your club membership subscription by online bank transfer, Fastpayment, BACS or some other online method, giving your callsign, and if you are paying for someone else, their callsign.

I do the accounts from March to March so if you could not pay until March I would appreciate it; I get confused easier now.

Club bank account details:
Account name: Appledore & District Amateur Radio Club, Sort Code: 30-90-78, Account Number: 01047485.

I understand not everybody can pay, or wants to pay online. The club's membership subscription is £15.
If you could pay on the night of the AGM, Monday 16th March 2026, by cheque or cash please. The right money would also be appreciated as I have limited change.

Any questions or problems please don't hesitate to let me know.

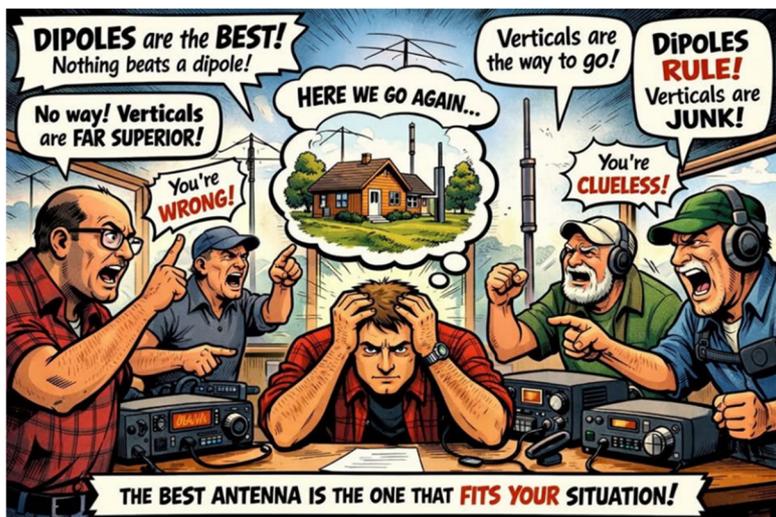Regards Alan M9NAE. Club Treasurer.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**South West Rallies for 2026:**

- **1 Mar 2026 – Exeter Radio Rally:** New Venue: The Kenn Centre, EX6 7UE. Free car parking. Entry fee £3. Traders' entry 8 am; public entry 10 am. Bring-and-buy, disabled facilities, catering.
- **22 Mar 2026 – Callington Radio and Electronics Rally:** Town Hall, New Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 7BE.

## CLUB PROGRAM

| Feb 16th 2026 | Antenna Build - Practical | Mike G4KXQ, Mark G6BNB |
|---|---|---|
| March 16th 2026 | Annual General Meeting | |



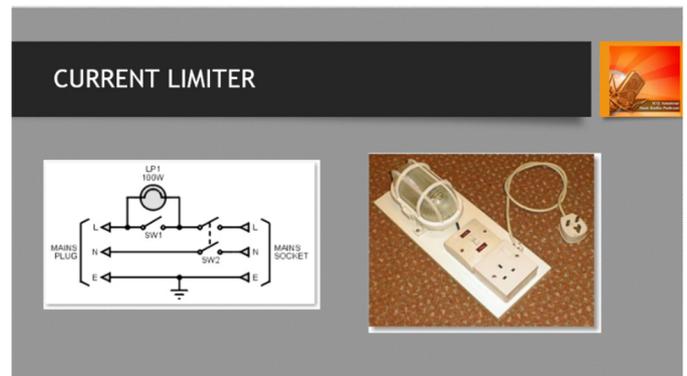THE BEST ANTENNA IS THE ONE THAT FITS YOUR SITUATION!

**Meeting Report – Monday 1st January – Practical Fault Finding – Martin M1MRB**

January's meeting was the second of this year's meetings to be presented by an online guest. This month's presenter was Martin M1MRB, who is a presenter on the ICQ Podcast and can be found on the ICQ Talk Group using any digital mode.
As with previous online meetings, the talk was available live on YouTube. This meeting was also the first to use Microsoft Teams. We experienced a few teething problems, particularly with the audio on this occasion.

The talk was recorded, and an edited copy is available on the club's YouTube channel. Martin described himself as a practical person — a fixer rather than a designer. Many of his tips came from years of experience gained in the radio, TV, and computer industries. He presented an excellent set of fault-finding methodologies, along with advice on useful tools and test equipment to have in the shack. Martin kindly supplied me with a copy of his presentation pack, and I will ask John G3JKL to add a copy to the club website for everyone to reference.

All in all, it was a great evening enjoyed by all. I have thanked Martin for his time and effort in preparing the talk.
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### LOCAL NETS

2m Elevenses FM Net:  Mon/Wed/Fri :
                      11 - 12.00 noon via GB3DN Net Control ; Mike (G3PGA)

Friday Night 2m Net:   Friday : 145.450 FM, 8 -9pm

Sunday Top Band Net:  Sunday 1.860 MHz
                      9.30 - 10.15am
                      (LSB - 32W pep max)

2m SSB Nets:          Wed: 8 - 9pm    144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)
                      Sun: approx 10.30am (follows Top Band Net)  144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)

Sunday FM Net:        Sunday: 11 to noon via GB3DN
                      Net Control : Chris (G0FJY)

**Note :-   FM Nets which use GB3DN as shown above will continue despite the recent changes. GB3DN is disconnected from the Wires-X/ Southern Fusion Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net**

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## CONTEST CALENDAR

| Contest Name | Dates (UK Format) | Mode |
|---|---|---|
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | 14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026 | CW |
| North American Sprint | 15/02/2026 | CW |
| ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW | 21/02/2026 – 22/02/2026 | CW (Major Event) |
| REF Contest, SSB | 21/02/2026 – 22/02/2026 | SSB (French DX Contest) |
| World Wide Argentina DX Contest | 22/02/2026 | CW, SSB |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB | 27/02/2026 – 01/03/2026 | SSB (Top Band) |
| UBA DX Contest, CW | 28/02/2026 – 01/03/2026 | CW |
| UBA Spring Contest, 2m | 01/03/2026 | VHF (2-meter band) |
| ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB | 07/03/2026 – 08/03/2026 | SSB (Major Event) |
| Novice Rig Roundup | 07/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | Multi-day (Starts weekend) |
| Open Ukraine RTTY Championship | 07/03/2026 – 08/03/2026 | RTTY |
| Commonwealth (BERU) Contest | 14/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | CW (UK/Commonwealth) |
| EA PSK63 Contest | 14/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | Digital (Spain) |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | 14/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | CW |
| South America 10 Meter Contest | 14/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | CW, SSB (10m Band) |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge | 14/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | CW |
| North American Sprint, RTTY | 15/03/2026 | RTTY |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | 14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026 | CW |
| North American Sprint | 15/02/2026 | CW |

**Key Highlights:**

- **ARRL DX CW/SSB:** These are the largest worldwide "DX" events of the period.
- **Commonwealth (BERU) Contest:** A major UK-centric contest where stations in the UK and Crown Dependencies work other Commonwealth stations.

Data Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

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**DX NEWS**

| DXCC Entity | Callsign | Dates (UK Format) | Details / Operators |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belize | V31DJ | 01/02/2026 – 27/02/2026 | By W0CP & K0ZV (V31DK) from Placencia |
| Mauritius | 3B8 | 02/02/2026 – 23/02/2026 | By OE6MBG (3B8/OE6MBG); focus on 80/40m |
| St Kitts & Nevis | V4 | 04/02/2026 – 09/03/2026 | By K0YA (V4/K0YA) and W5RCX (V4/W5RCX) |
| Sao Tome & Principe | S9BV | 05/02/2026 – 20/02/2026 | By S53BV; holiday style |
| Lakshadweep Is | AU7RS | 08/02/2026 – 25/02/2026 | By AU7RS Team from Agatti Island |
| Greenland | OX7AKT | 10/02/2026 – 17/02/2026 | By OZ7AKT from Kangerlussuaq |
| Mali | TZ1CE | 10/02/2026 – 01/03/2026 | By DK1CE from Bamako |
| Falkland Is | VP8TM | 14/02/2026 – 28/02/2026 | By DC8TM from IOTA SA-002 |
| Bouvet Island | 3Y0K | 15/02/2026 – 14/03/2026 | By LA7GIA and team (Highly sought after) |
| Guyana | 8R1WA | 19/02/2026 – 27/02/2026 | By IZ0EGA, IZ0EVI, IZ0EWJ, IZ6DSQ |
| Barbados | 8P9XB | 21/02/2026 – 28/02/2026 | By VE2XB; holiday style |
| St Kitts & Nevis | V4 | 21/02/2026 – 07/03/2026 | By WA7RAR (V4/WA7RAR) |
| Curacao | PJ2 | 22/01/2026 – 31/03/2026 | By W2APF (PJ2/W2APF); long-term operation |
| Maldives | 8Q7ZW | 28/02/2026 – 12/03/2026 | By OM5ZW & OM4WM from Thulusdhoo I |
| Palau | T80K | 03/03/2026 – 19/03/2026 | By OK1BOA, OK2ZA, OK3RM, OK6DJ |
| Anguilla | VP2E | 03/03/2026 – 20/03/2026 | By SQ2RAD (VP2EAD) and M0PLX |
| Guadeloupe | FG | 07/03/2026 – 12/03/2026 | By HB9JAB (FG/HB9JAB) from Grande-Terre |
| Sint Maarten | PJ7AA | 08/03/2026 – 04/04/2026 | By AA9A; 40-6m CW/SSB |
| Svalbard | JW8EKA | 13/03/2026 – 15/03/2026 | By LA8EKA from JW5E club station |
| Ogasawara | JD1 | 13/03/2026 – 16/03/2026 | By JA0RQV (JA0RQV/JD1) |
| Dominica | J79C | 13/03/2026 – 20/03/2026 | By HB9JAB from Roseau |
| Austral Is | TX5EU | 13/03/2026 – 25/03/2026 | By PG5M, PA3EWP, DL2AMD, and others |
| Belize | V31ZY | 16/03/2026 – 27/03/2026 | By VE2XB; holiday style |

- Dates for the 3Y0K (Bouvet) operation are subject to weather and transport changes.

- Many of these operations will use Club Log OQRS and LoTW for QSLing.

Data courtesy of Ng3K.com DX Operations : 2025

## LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

**GB3XM – UHF DMR Repeater - Brayford**

TX 439.5625 MHz  RX 430.5625
Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster


**GB7MX – VHF FM Tiverton** *(QRP, Solar powered)*
TX 145.075, RX 145.575, Tone 77Hz – Keeper Steve M0ZZT

**GB7MZ UHF DMR Repeater - Tiverton,** *(daylight hours solar powered)*
TX 439.5625 MHz  RX 430.5625
Colour code 1, Slot 1 Bradmeister Talkgroup 91. Keeper Steve M0ZZT


**GB3ND UHF DMR Repeater - Holsworthy Beacon** TX 439.7375 RX 430.7375 Colour code 1
Slot 1 local RF, Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

**GB3DN VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Stibb Cross**
Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6375 RX 145.0375,  Default Digital Connection : Wires-X Southern
Fusion http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm. Keeper Tony G1BHM

**GB7FB UHF DMR Repeater - Bideford** TX 439.475 RX 430.4750 Colour code 5 Slot 1 Local
RF/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster . Keeper Drew M0MFS


**GB3LZ VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Winkleigh**
Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6625 RX 145.0625, Digital Connection :
Wires-X SOUTHERN ENGLAND. Keeper Simon G4MQQ

**GB7LZ UHF DMR Repeater** - **Winkleigh**
TX 430.9125 RX 438.5125 Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster.
Keeper G4MQQ

**MB6DT VHF Fusion Gateway - Barnstaple**
Frequency 144.8125 MHz. Gateway. Keeper Darren (2E0LVC)

**GB7TG - UHF DMR Repeater - Wembworthy**
TX 430.9750 RX 438.5750 Colour Code 7, Default Connection : Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper
G7SOJ

**GB3NX VHF FM Allstar Holsworthy Beacon** TX 145.7375 RX 144.1375. CTCSS tone 77hz Connection
SW AllStar network (SWAN). Wires-X default room: Southern-Fusion, Keeper G1BHM

**GB3BU - UHF DMR Repeater - Bude**
TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 Colour Code 1
Default Connection: Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM


**GB3JH – UHF Analogue Repeater – Tiverton**
TX 430.8625 RX 438.4625, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G6ASK


**Frequencies are those transmitted and received by the Repeater**
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# THOUGHTS ON PURCHASING THE NEW ICOM IC7300 Mk2
## by Terry G4CHD

Just before Christmas, and after considering the many pros and cons, I finally decided to trade in my trusty FTDX10 and buy the new Icom IC-7300 Mk2. I am sure there are some of you reading this who would not agree with this decision, but I hope nonetheless that you enjoy reading how I arrived at my conclusion.

First, let me say that the FTDX10, being a stripped-down version of the FTDX101, is an excellent rig with a very good receiver and noise reduction system. It is probably the preferred choice for serious DX chasers or contest operators. However, I do not fall into that category, so my considerations covered a wider range of use

My main gripe with the FTDX10 was that when changing bands or modes, after pressing the appropriate button you have, in my opinion, too short a time to make your selection before the system defaults back to the original setting. This seems a small issue, but sometimes it can be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back

Another issue for me was that although the FTDX10 has a DVI-D port for an external monitor, there is no switched RF output facility to feed, for example, an external SDR receiver. This can only be achieved using an RF-sensitive switch box, and even then you must hope that the isolation between input and output is sufficient to protect the SDR receiver during transmit.

So what is it about the Icom IC-7300 Mk2 that appealed and, for me personally, won the day?  Like many things in life, the decision was based on several aspects rather than any single factor.
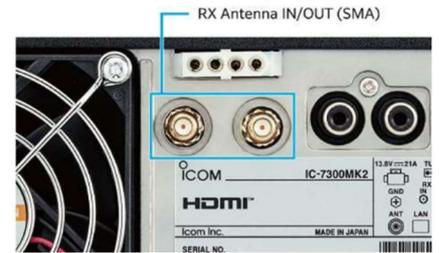
I should also point out that a few years ago I owned an IC-7300, which I used mainly for /P work and occasionally in the shack. I was not only very happy with it but also reluctant to part with it when my /P operating days came to an end. This meant that I was already familiar with its menu system and general operation.

So what were the main aspects of the new Mk2 that tipped the balance for me?
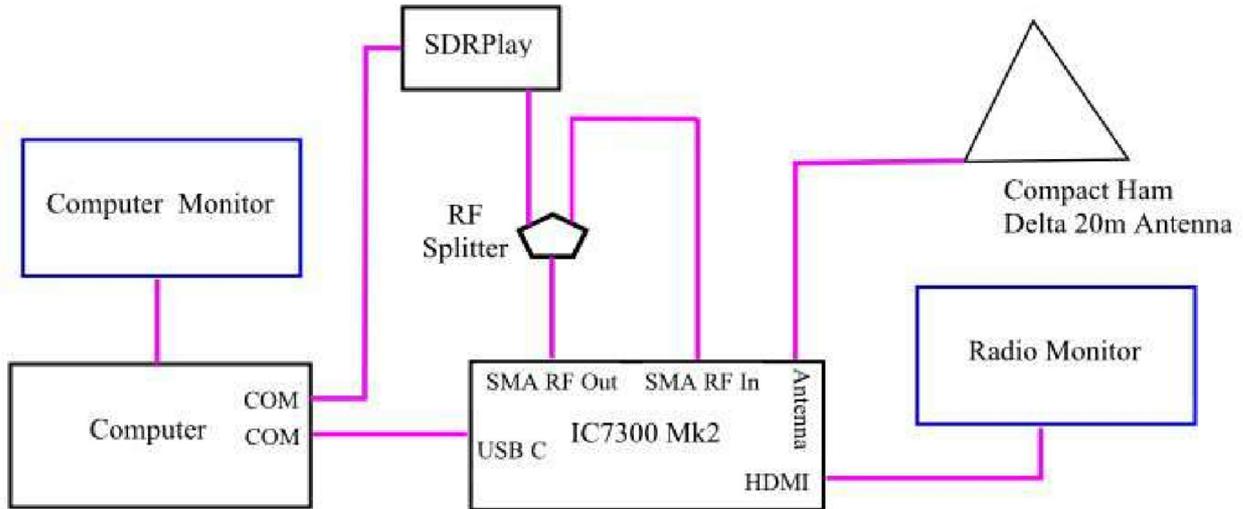
As they say — in no particular order:

- Lower power consumption and therefore lower running temperature
- HDMI monitor output (although this did mean I needed a new monitor)
- Built-in CW decoder (which obviously works best on machine-generated CW)
- As with the original IC-7300, a built-in SWR plotter and internal ATU
- USB-C interface for connecting a computer, which once the new driver is installed provides two COM ports. It is claimed this eliminates the need for OmniRig, although I prefer to continue using it
- LAN port allowing simplified remote control using Icom RS-BA1 (Version 2) software, without the need for a dedicated base-station computer physically connected to the radio

- RF Out and RF In sockets to allow the use of a separate receive antenna, insertion of a receive filter, or feeding an external SDR receiver (I used a Mouser RF splitter to take the RF Out signal and feed it both to an SDRplay and back into the RF In)



I have been delighted with my choice. The only initial problem I encountered was getting the COM ports to work, which was entirely my own fault. Icom does not supply a USB-C interface cable, so I used cables I already had. Unfortunately, both were charging cables only and not data cables. Once I obtained the correct cable, everything worked perfectly.

The following schematic diagram shows how I have my IC-7300 Mk2 set up



In a perfect world, it would be nice to have three monitors. However, with just the two shown, I use the computer monitor for Log4OM2, while the radio monitor is fed via a switch so that it can either be connected to the radio's HDMI output or used as a second extended computer monitor for SDR Console.

Finally, I use OmniRig to share the radio COM port between Log4OM2, WSJT-X, and SDR Console so that they all track each other.

SDR Console, shown below, enables any selected QSO to be assigned to an upper window (up to six maximum). One can then listen to any QSO by simply placing the mouse pointer in that upper window, and to join it, simply click the Connect button within that window. SDR Console contains its own noise blanker and noise reduction routines, and individual window bandwidths can also be adjusted.