



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

Editor
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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and that Santa delivered a shiny new radio. I've noticed plenty of bargains appearing as second-hand IC-7300 Mk1s and FTDX10s are traded in for the new IC-7300 Mk2. I'll be interested to hear about any first-hand experiences, as I'll be in the market for a new HF rig soon. (Perhaps an article for the newsletter?). While there was no new gear in the KXQ shack this Christmas, there are some Amazon vouchers and cash sitting in the lounge, just waiting to be spent.

This is my 12th edition of the newsletter since stepping into Terry's shoes last January. I hope everyone is enjoying the content and the slight change in format; as always, members' contributions and feedback are very welcome.

I have also noticed that several Intermediate licensees have taken the opportunity to "upgrade" their calls from 2E0/2E1 to M8/M9. If you have gone through this process, please let Alan (M9NAE), our Club Secretary, know so that our records remain up to date.

For this month's technical input, I have prepared an article on the **LARCSet**—a 40m all-analogue SSB/CW transceiver kit from Ashhar Farhan (VU2ESE) of BITX20 fame. If enough members are interested, I'm hoping this might make a great project for a club group build.

Monday's meeting will feature a talk from a guest speaker. **Martin M1MRB**, the lead presenter of the **ICQ Podcast**, is kindly returning to the club. Having previously given an online talk during the pandemic, he will be presenting a session entitled '**Basic Fault-finding**.' I hope all members can show their support this Monday, either in person at the clubhouse or online.

Following our last online presentation with **Tim GW4VXE** on "Basic Satellite Operation," the committee has investigated alternative online meeting platforms and has selected **Microsoft Teams**.

The meeting invitation is included with this newsletter. Members should be able to join the meeting remotely using any web browser without needing to install the Microsoft application.

The recording of Tim's satellite talk is now available on the club's **YouTube** channel. Apologies for the delay and the slightly poor recording quality; we are working to improve this for future sessions.

73 Mike (G4KXQ)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

South West Rallies for 2026:

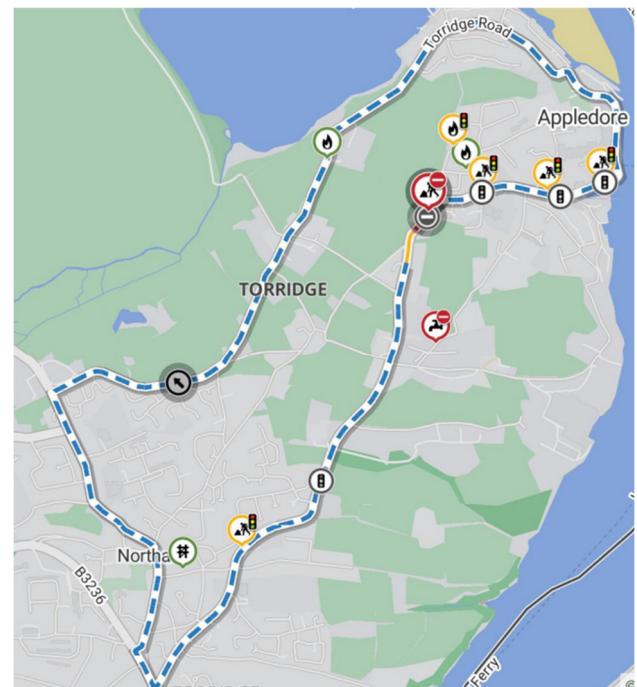
- **1 Mar 2026 – Exeter Radio Rally:** New Venue: The Kenn Centre, EX6 7UE. Free car parking. Entry fee £3. Traders' entry 8 am; public entry 10 am. Bring-and-buy, disabled facilities, catering.
- **22 Mar 2026 – Callington Radio and Electronics Rally:** Town Hall, New Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17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

Meeting Report: 15 December – Christmas Get-Together The Christmas party/get-together was rather quiet this year, with only 12 members plus 2 wives in attendance. John (JKL) provided the Christmas music, and we held a free Christmas raffle where everyone won at least one prize.

Advanced Notice – Road Closure Churchill Way Northam February

There is a planned overnight closure for Churchill Way, Northam, from Monday, February 16, 2026, to Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (7 pm to 7 am daily), for route-based treatment works. An alternative route via Heywood Road and Fore Street will be in place.

Churchill Way will be closed heading North just after the entrance to the club. It is unclear at this time if full access will be retained to the club during this closure. Any traffic coming from Appledore will have to take the coast road past the lifeboat station and Skern Lodge. The committee would like to hear members' thoughts on whether we should be holding the meeting that evening. I will mention it before next Monday's meeting.



CLUB PROGRAM

Jan 19th 2026	External Speaker - Basic Fault Finding	Martin Butler M1MRB
Feb 16th 2026	Antenna Build - Practical	Mike G4KXQ, Mark G6BNB
March 16 th 2026	Annual General Meeting	

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)

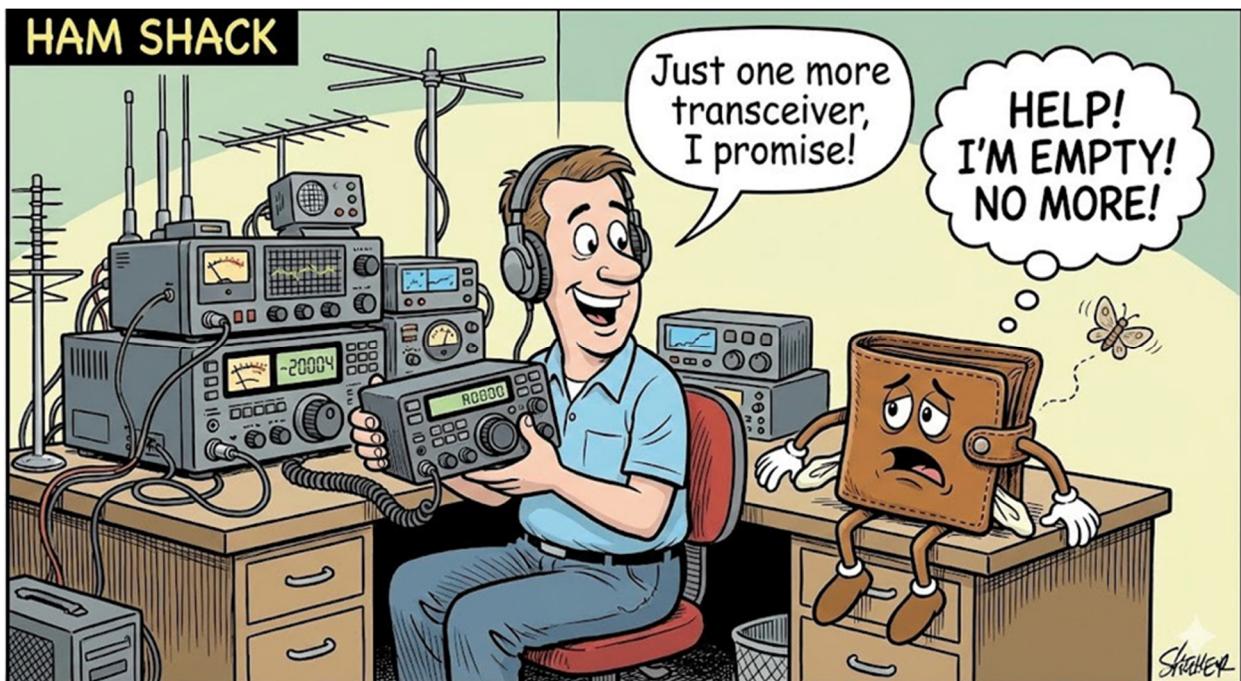
Sunday FM Net:

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



CONTEST CALENDAR

Contest season continues this month. Highlights include the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest if you're into Low Band DX, and the WW RTTY WPX Contest.

Contest Name	Dates (UK Format)	Time (UTC)
Hungarian DX Contest	17/01/2026 – 18/01/2026	1200Z – 1200Z
PRO Digi Contest	17/01/2026 – 18/01/2026	1200Z – 1159Z
RSGB AFS Contest, SSB	17/01/2026	1300Z – 1700Z
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	23/01/2026 – 25/01/2026	2200Z (Fri) – 2200Z (Sun)
REF Contest, CW	24/01/2026 – 25/01/2026	0600Z – 1800Z
BARTG RTTY Sprint	24/01/2026 – 25/01/2026	1200Z – 1200Z
Winter Field Day	24/01/2026 – 25/01/2026	1600Z – 2159Z

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REF Contest, CW	24/01/2026 – 25/01/2026	0600Z – 1800Z
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	07/02/2026 – 08/02/2026	0001Z – 2359Z
Mexico RTTY International Contest	07/02/2026 – 08/02/2026	1200Z – 2359Z
European Union DX Contest	07/02/2026 – 08/02/2026	1200Z – 1200Z
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	07/02/2026 – 08/02/2026	1400Z – 2359Z
North American Sprint, CW	08/02/2026	0000Z – 0359Z
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026	0000Z – 2359Z
PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	14/02/2026	0000Z – 2359Z
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	14/02/2026	1100Z – 1300Z
Dutch PACC Contest	14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026	1200Z – 1200Z
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026	1200Z – 2359Z
KCJ Top band Contest	14/02/2026 – 15/02/2026	1200Z – 1200Z
Balkan HF Contest	15/02/2026	1300Z – 1700Z

Data Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

DX NEWS

The highlight of forthcoming DXpeditions is **Bouvet Island, 3Y0K**. As of January 2026, Bouvet Island remains one of the most sought-after entities. Following the 3Y0J operation in 2023, its rank on the Club Log "Most Wanted" list has dropped to #10, making this a major event for those who still need it.

Current DXCC Status: Club Log Rank: #10 Most Wanted (Global).

Previous Rank: It was historically #2 for many years, but the 19,000+ QSOs made by the 3Y0J team in 2023 helped thousands of operators clear it from their "needed" list, causing it to drop to the bottom of the Top 10.

DXCC Entity	Callsign	Dates (UK Format)	Details / Operators
Grenada	J38WG	01/01/2026 – 16/02/2026	By WE9G; 160-6m; FT8, CW, SSB.
Benin	TY5GG	06/01/2026 – 06/02/2026	By F5NWF; HF; CW, SSB.
Aruba	P40AA	11/01/2026 – 29/01/2026	By DL4MM; HF; CW, FT8, SSB.
San Felix & Ambrosio	3G0XQ	12/01/2026 – 15/02/2026	Remote team from San Ambrosio Island.
Desecheo Island	KP5/NP3VI	13/01/2026 – 10/02/2026	By NP4G and team; 160-6m; CW, SSB, FT8.
Kenya	5Z4/OZ6ABL	15/01/2026 – 28/02/2026	By OZ6ABL; 80-6m; CW, SSB, FT8, FT4.
French Polynesia	FO/F6HCM	15/01/2026 – 20/01/2026	By F6HCM from Huahine Island (OC-067).
Maldives	8Q7JI	18/01/2026 – 24/01/2026	By DS1TUW; 80-10m; CW, FT8.
Barbados	8P9CB	18/01/2026 – 30/01/2026	By WA7RAR; 20-10m; SSB, CW.
Rwanda	9X2AW	18/01/2026 – 08/02/2026	By DF2WO; 160-6m; CW, SSB, FT8, FT4.

DXCC Entity	Callsign	Dates (UK Format)	Details / Operators
Maldives	8Q7EL	19/01/2026 – 26/01/2026	By IW5ELA; HF; mainly CW.
Guadeloupe	FG4KH	20/01/2026 – 10/02/2026	By F1DUZ; 80-10m; SSB.
French Polynesia	FO/F6HCM	20/01/2026 – 27/01/2026	By F6HCM from Raiatea Island (OC-067).
Micronesia	V6HUCHIDA	22/01/2026 – 28/01/2026	By JA1XGI from Chuuk Island.
Curacao	PJ2/W2APF	22/01/2026 – 31/03/2026	By W2APF; 80-10m; CW, SSB, FT8.
French Polynesia	FO/F6HCM	27/01/2026 – 01/02/2026	By F6HCM from Maupiti Island (OC-067).
St. Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	30/01/2026 – 03/02/2026	By W5JON; 160-6m; SSB, FT8.
Sao Tome & Principe	S9BV	05/02/2026 – 20/02/2026	By S53BV; 60, 40, 30, 15m; CW, SSB.
Cape Verde Is.	D4VR	06/02/2026 – 19/02/2026	By DD0VR; Boa Vista & Sao Tiago Islands.
Falkland Islands	VP8TDX	07/02/2026 – 14/02/2026	By NE8Z from Port Stanley; 40-6m.
Greenland	OX7AKT	10/02/2026 – 17/02/2026	By OZ7AKT; 160-10m; SSB, CW, FT8.
Falkland Islands	VP8TM	14/02/2026 – 28/02/2026	By DC8TM; HF; SSB, FT8.
Bouvet Island	3Y0K	15/02/2026 – 14/03/2026	Major DXpedition by LA7GIA and team.

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 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster.

Keepers Phil G6DLJ and Cliff G4PZK

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.

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 Holseworthy 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

The LARCSet - Build, Learn, Transmit!

The airwaves are buzzing with news about a fantastic new kit from HF Signals: the **LARCSet!** Designed by Ashhar Farhan (VU2ESE) and Sasi Bhushan (VU2XZ) of the Lamakaan Amateur Radio Club (LARC), this transceiver is a testament to the fun and affordability of homebrewing.

What is the LARCSet? The LARCSet is an all-analogue, 5-watt SSB/CW transceiver kit operating on a fixed segment of the 40-meter band. Its mission is simple: to get more hams on the air with a radio they can build, understand, and easily repair or modify

Specification Detail

Band 40 Meters (a 150 KHz segment of 7 MHz)

Modes LSB (Lower Sideband) & CW (Continuous Wave)

Power Output 5 Watts

Architecture Bi-directional Superhet Transceiver

Power Supply 12V DC, approx. 1.5A peak

Design Fully Analog, Open Source (GPL v3.0)



Perfect for Beginners and Builders!

- **Easy Assembly:** The main circuit board comes with most Surface Mounted Devices (SMD) pre-soldered. The builder simply handles the larger components, wiring, and case assembly.
- **A "Hacker's" Canvas:** Because it's all-analogue, it is easy to modify. Want to add a digital dial or an extra filter? This is the board to do it on.
- **The BITX Heritage:** This is an updated version of the famous BITX40, utilizing elegant bi-directional circuitry.
- **A "Hacker's" Canvas:** Because it's all-analog, it is incredibly easy to modify. Want to add a digital dial? An extra filter? This is the board to do it on.
- **The BITX Heritage:** The LARCSet is an updated and optimized version of the famous **BITX40** radio, utilizing its clever bi-directional circuitry where the same stages handle both transmit and receive functions. This elegant simplicity is what makes it so easy to understand and troubleshoot.

Open Source Advantage: Full schematics and PCB layouts are available on GitHub. This means you can truly understand how your radio works and even *hack* it—extending its functionality or even moving it to a different frequency segment!

Price Point:

Buy LARCSet Kit (59 USD inclusive of 7 day DHL International shipping with tracking & Paypal charges)

LARCSet Kit Group Buy (175 USD inclusive of 7 day DHL International shipping with tracking & Paypal charges)

What's Inside the Kit?

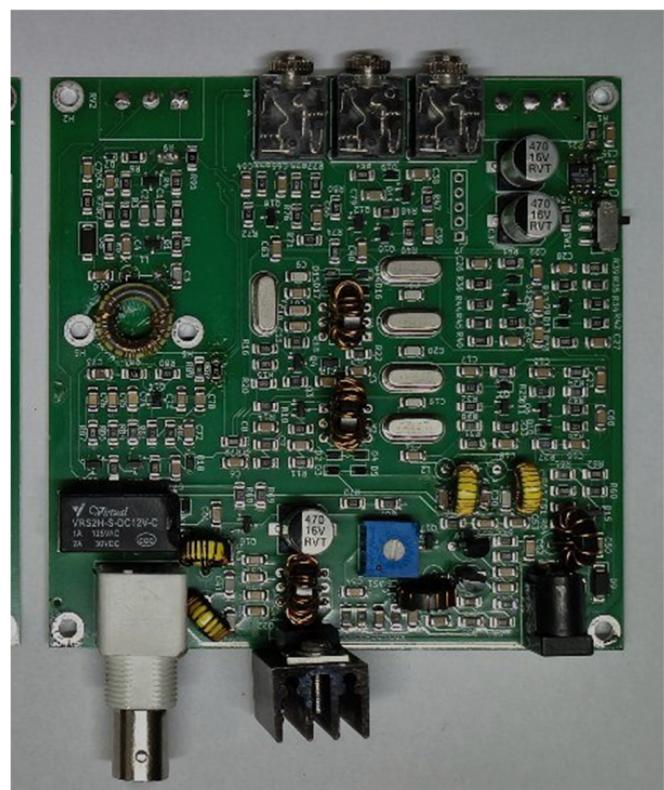
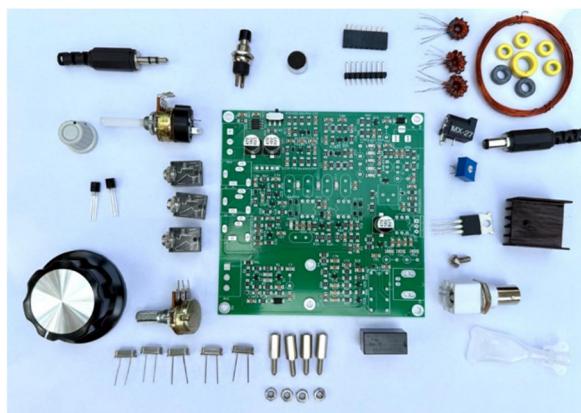
The LARCset arrives as a high-quality 100mm x 100mm PCB. The kit includes:

Pre-wound trifilar transformers take the headache out of the most difficult part of the build.

IRF510 PA Stage providing a solid 5 watts of output—plenty for QRP fun!

All necessary hardware: Potentiometers, knobs, BNC connectors, and a front panel.

Crystal Filter: A 11.0592 MHz matched crystal filter for crisp receiver performance.



The excitement surrounding kits like the LARCSet reminds us all of the core spirit of Amateur Radio: **experimentation and self-reliance**. In a world of black-box commercial radios, the LARCSet offers a refreshing return to understanding the circuits that make the magic happen.

I encourage everyone, especially our newest members, to consider this kit. It's a fantastic, low-cost path to get on the 40-meter band and experience the joy of making contacts with a radio *you* built. See you on the air—and possibly at a LARCSet Build Night!

