



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

Forthcoming AGM – Monday 16th March

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, where members can review the past year and influence the future direction of the club through the election of club officials.

Dave Boyles, 2E0KVJ, the Club Vice Chairman, has indicated that he will not be standing for election. I would like to thank Dave for his support over the last few years. This will, of course, leave at least one position available for any members wishing to volunteer for a committee role. I would urge any members who feel they can contribute to the running of the club to please step forward on the evening.

For the forthcoming AGM, I have been preparing my notes for my Chairman's report looking back on the club activities for the year. I was very conscious that during 2024-25 the club had very little to offer members for club evening activities. For this last year committee tried extremely hard to establish a varied and balanced programme. I think in review we achieved that and hope the members enjoyed the content. The re-introduction of the online meetings was a great success. Many thanks to John G3JKL and Ben 2E0FTZ for the technology allowing us to stream the meetings online to remote members, along with the simultaneous streaming and recording onto YouTube for later reference and review.

For this month's technical content, I've included a short article on the new digital mode on the block: FT2. This is a new, quicker variant of FT8 and FT4 for rapid-fire, quick QSOs. My thoughts are that it would be ideal for contests and DXpeditions, but a quick look on the bandscope suggests there is already plenty of normal activity.

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.

February Club Meeting – Aerial Construction Evening

February's delayed meeting was a change from the usual, featuring a practical aerial construction evening presented by Mark, G6BNB.

The objective of the evening was to build a dual-band Yagi beam using 3D-printed parts, PVC tube, and a retractable tape measure. Numerous members took the opportunity to have a go, with Mark providing the antenna components and a few hand tools.



I brought along “one I prepared earlier” in true Blue Peter fashion and Ben, 2E0FTZ, brought along his NanoVNA, which clearly showed the resonance points for both 2m and 70cm.

I don't believe any members completed their aerials on the evening, but most participants took home sufficient parts to complete the build in their own time. I have included a copy of the instructions with this newsletter.

Chris, G0FJY, also brought along his Portsdown/Langstone Digital TV Transceiver, based around the Raspberry Pi with an **Adalm-Pluto** (by Analog Devices), self-contained with a touchscreen.



LOCAL NETS

2m Eleveses 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

Elevesies Net has officially relaunched under the new callsign G5NET.

The initiative was originally established by Mike G3PGA as a daily COVID response net on the North Devon VHF repeater, GB3DN. While the region is celebrated for its scenic beauty, the pandemic highlighted the profound isolation experienced by residents in rural locations—particularly those living alone—as lockdown measures extended over several years. The net served as a vital social lifeline, providing a consistent point of contact and a sense of normalcy during a period of prolonged solitude.

Although the formal pandemic is effectively over, the necessity for community connection remains. Now operating as the "Elevesies" net, Mike continues to foster local engagement and support.

Schedule and Access:

Time: 11:00 AM
Days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Frequency: GB3DN Repeater
Net Control: Mike, G5NET (G3PGA)

The net maintains an open-door policy; all operators are encouraged to participate, and holidaymakers visiting the North Devon area are particularly welcome to check in.

CONTEST CALENDAR

Contest Name	Dates & Times (UTC)	Mode(s)
ARRL International DX Contest (SSB)	07/03/2026, 00:00 – 08/03/2026, 23:59	SSB
Novice Rig Roundup	07/03/2026, 00:00 – 15/03/2026, 23:59	CW
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	07/03/2026, 06:00 – 07/03/2026, 08:00	CW
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	07/03/2026, 18:00 – 08/03/2026, 13:59	RTTY
YB DX RTTY Contest	14/03/2026, 00:00 – 14/03/2026, 23:59	RTTY
SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	14/03/2026, 08:00 – 15/03/2026, 10:00	FM
Commonwealth (BERU) Contest	14/03/2026, 10:00 – 15/03/2026, 10:00	CW
EA PSK63 Contest	14/03/2026, 12:00 – 15/03/2026, 12:00	PSK
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	14/03/2026, 12:00 – 15/03/2026, 23:59	CW
South America 10 Meter Contest	14/03/2026, 12:00 – 15/03/2026, 12:00	CW, SSB
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	14/03/2026, 15:00 – 15/03/2026, 15:00	CW
North American Sprint (RTTY)	15/03/2026, 00:00 – 15/03/2026, 03:59	RTTY
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	21/03/2026, 02:00 – 23/03/2026, 01:59	RTTY
Russian DX Contest	21/03/2026, 12:00 – 22/03/2026, 12:00	CW, SSB
CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB)	28/03/2026, 00:00 – 29/03/2026, 23:59	SSB
EA RTTY Contest	04/04/2026, 12:00 – 05/04/2026, 12:00	RTTY
SP DX Contest	04/04/2026, 15:00 – 05/04/2026, 15:00	CW, SSB
JIDX CW Contest	11/04/2026, 07:00 – 12/04/2026, 13:00	CW
OK/OM DX Contest (SSB)	11/04/2026, 12:00 – 12/04/2026, 11:59	SSB

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

DX NEWS

Dates (UK Format)	DXCC Entity	Callsign	Operators / Info
06/03/2026 – 05/04/2026	Benin	TY5FR	By DL1BUG from Cotonou; 80-10m CW/SSB
06/03/2026 – 09/03/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	By K0YA and W5RCX; CW, SSB, FT8
07/03/2026 – 12/03/2026	Guadeloupe	FG	By HB9JAB from Grande-Terre; 20-10m SSB/FT8
08/03/2026 – 16/03/2026	Maldives	8Q7AH	By OE5AUH from Rasdhoo Atoll; 100w HF
08/03/2026 – 04/04/2026	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	By AA9A; 40-6m CW and SSB
10/03/2026 – 18/03/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	By W5JON from Calypso Bay; 160-6m SSB/FT8
10/03/2026 – 26/03/2026	Dominica	J79H	By TA2LE; 40-10m CW, SSB, FT8
11/03/2026 – 16/03/2026	Grenada	J38YI	By G3VYI; HF CW (QRV for BERU Contest)
12/03/2026 – 14/03/2026	Cayman Is	ZF2VA	By G4CWH; CW (QRV for BERU Contest)
13/03/2026 – 15/03/2026	Svalbard	JW8EKA	By LA8EKA at JW5E; 20-10m SSB, RTTY, FT8
13/03/2026 – 16/03/2026	Ogasawara	JD1	By JA0RQV; 80-6m CW, SSB, FT8
13/03/2026 – 17/03/2026	Guam	KH2	By YT1AD and YU3AA; HF CW, SSB, FT8
13/03/2026 – 20/03/2026	Dominica	J79C	By HB9JAB; 20-10m SSB and FT8
13/03/2026 – 25/03/2026	Austral Is	TX5EU	Multi-operator team; 80-10m CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8
14/03/2026 – 22/03/2026	Anguilla	VP2EYO	By K5AYO; 40-10m SSB, CW, FT8
15/03/2026 – 03/04/2026	Vanuatu	YJ1JXZ	By JK1JXZ from Port Vila; 80-6m
16/03/2026 – 27/03/2026	Belize	V31ZY	By VE2XB; 160-6m holiday style operation
17/03/2026 – 23/03/2026	Mariana Is	KH0	By YT1AD and YU3AA; HF CW, SSB, FT8
18/03/2026 – 24/03/2026	Jamaica	6Y	By JH6GFY; 20-10m CW, SSB, FT8
18/03/2026 – 25/03/2026	Cape Verde	D44OA	By HB9OAU; 40-6m CW, SSB, FT8
18/03/2026 – 31/03/2026	Macao	XX9W	Multi-operator team; 160-6m CW, SSB + Digital
19/03/2026 – 22/03/2026	Ogasawara	JD1BON	By JA1UII from Chichijima Island; HF

Notes for Operators:

- **CQ WPX SSB Contest:** March 28–29, 2026. This is a major activity weekend for many of the stations listed above (e.g., S21WD, 5W0AF, and TO7O).
- **Commonwealth (BERU) Contest:** March 14–15, 2026. Look for J38YI and ZF2VA specifically for this event.
- **3Y0K (Bouvet):** This major operation is scheduled to end around March 14, 2026, depending on extraction logistics.

Data courtesy of Ng3K.com DX Operations : 2026

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

GB7BU (was GB3BU)- UHF DMR Repeater - Bude

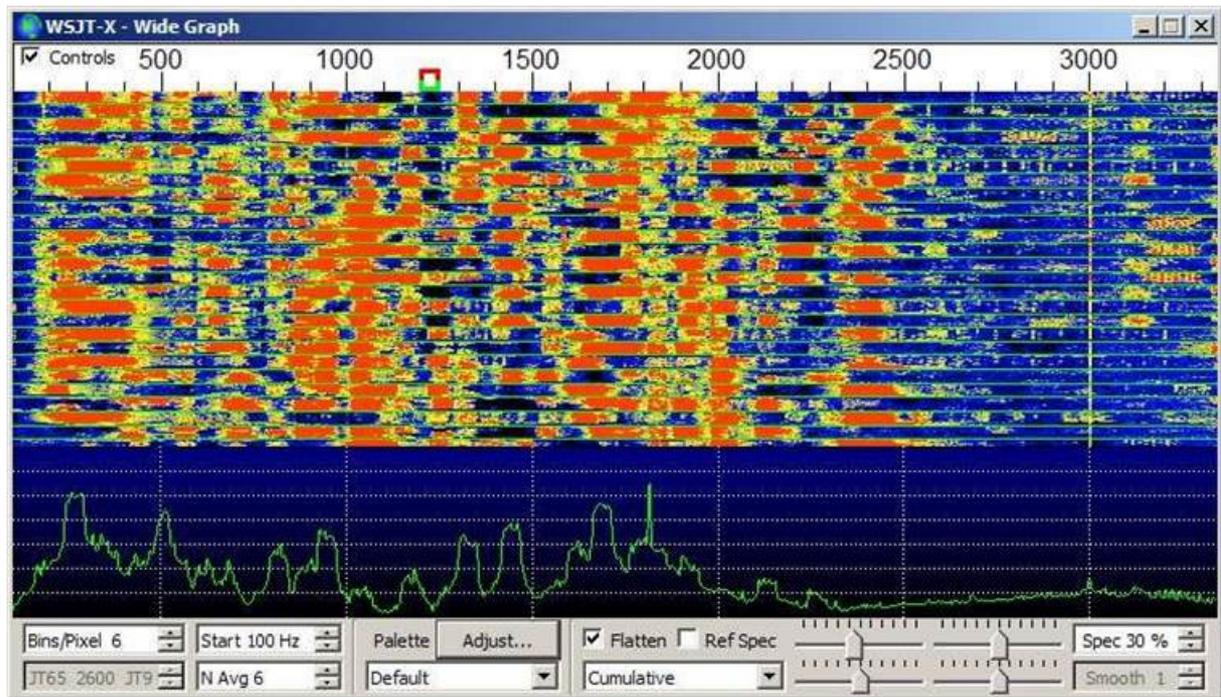
TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 Colour Code 1

Default Cnnection: 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



In the ever-evolving world of amateur radio digital communication, operators are always looking for modes that push the limits of weak-signal performance while improving flexibility and speed. One of the newest experimental digital modes gaining attention is FT2 — designed as a successor concept to the widely used **WSJT-X-based modes such as FT8.

This article introduces FT2, explains how it differs from earlier FT modes, and explores what it could mean for our club members.

What Is FT2?

FT2 is a next-generation weak-signal digital mode inspired by the structured, time-synchronized design pioneered by Joe Taylor (K1JT). Like FT8, it is optimized for:

- Low signal-to-noise environments
- Minimal bandwidth usage
- Automated or semi-automated QSOs
- Efficient DX and contest-style exchanges

However, FT2 introduces refinements intended to improve decoding accuracy, throughput, and flexibility.

Key Technical Improvements

While still under experimentation and discussion within digital mode development communities, FT2 concepts typically include:

1 Shorter Transmission Cycles

FT2 may reduce transmit/receive cycle times compared to FT8's 15-second sequence. Shorter cycles allow:

- Faster QSO completion
- Reduced band congestion
- More stations per hour during openings

2 Improved Error Correction

- Enhanced forward error correction (FEC) algorithms can:
- Increase decoding reliability
- Improve performance in fading or QRM

- Allow slightly more message data without sacrificing sensitivity

3 Better Spectrum Efficiency

- Refined modulation and tone spacing may:
- Reduce occupied bandwidth
- Increase the number of simultaneous QSOs within a segment
- Improve decoding in crowded waterfall environments
-

FT2 vs FT8 – Quick Comparison

Feature	FT8	FT2 (Concept)
Cycle Length	15 seconds	Potentially shorter
Bandwidth	~50 Hz	Similar or slightly narrower
Weak Signal Performance	Excellent	Designed to improve further
Automation	High	High
QSO Speed	Moderate	Faster

FT2 builds on what operators already appreciate about FT8 but aims to streamline operation and improve efficiency.

What Equipment Do You Need?

If FT2 follows the FT family tradition, most operators will likely use:

- HF or VHF/UHF transceiver with SSB capability
- Computer with sound card interface
- Time synchronization software
- Updated digital mode software (future releases or beta builds)

Members already operating FT8 through WSJT-X or similar platforms will probably find the transition straightforward.

Digital weak-signal modes have transformed amateur radio over the last decade. They allow:

- DX contacts with modest stations
- Operation from compromised antennas
- Activity during poor band conditions
- Accessible entry points for new operators

If FT2 matures into a standardized mode, it could:

- Increase contest-style efficiency
- Expand VHF/UHF weak-signal activity

- Encourage experimentation within our technical community
-

Should You Try It?

At this stage, FT2 is best viewed as an emerging development rather than a fully standardized replacement for FT8. However, club members who enjoy:

- Software experimentation
- Weak-signal DXing
- Digital mode development
- Technical innovation

...should keep an eye on future announcements and beta releases.

Final Thoughts

Amateur radio has always thrived on experimentation. From CW to SSB to digital weak-signal modes, innovation keeps our bands alive and active. Whether FT2 becomes the next major milestone or simply influences future developments, it reflects the spirit of technical advancement that defines our hobby.

73, Mike G4KXQ

Summary

Tape measurement yagi. The longest part is 530 mm, easy fit to your backpack. Very easy and fast deploy. Great for SOTA and portable operation.

Can be used in horizontal or vertical polarization.

Not good for windy weather.

Instructions

Easy to print, maybe you need adjust boom diameter.

Part needed:

- PVC pipe 25 mm diameter 530 mm
- Measurement tape width 12 mm length 3m
- M3 screws 10 mm length
- M3 Nuts
- Coax cable with connector
- Magnets - 8 mm diameter

Dimensions (based on DK7ZB design):

Director 2 (70cm) length 297 mm position 500 mm

Director 1 (70cm) length 323 mm position 399 mm

Radiator (2m and 70cm) length 939 mm position 370 mm

Reflector (70cm) length 320 mm position 230 mm

Reflector (2m) length 1022 mm position 0 mm

Radiator is divided to 2 parts with 5 mm gap.

Coax is soldered directly to radiator.

Maybe you need little adjust (1 or 2 mm) radiator length get best match on the middle of band.

<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:846442>

