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

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EDITORIAL

Apologies for the early release of this omnibus newsletter edition, but I will be away travelling for the next few weeks. This edition will therefore cover the next two club meetings.

The September meeting featured a talk by Chris G0FJY on LoRa. I've included a short report further on in the newsletter.

The October meeting will be a Quiz Night. You'll all be glad to hear I've been relieved of the question-setting duties, as it was felt that I made the questions too hard!!! We are looking for teams of two or three members to compete on the night, so start brushing up on your general knowledge!

I will be missing the November meeting, which will feature a presentation on shack remote operation. This is a topic that is likely to become increasingly important as noise levels in typical urban shacks continue to rise. Remote stations and remotely operated SDRs offer one way of overcoming some of these problems, so this should prove to be an interesting evening.

Railways on the Air Weekend

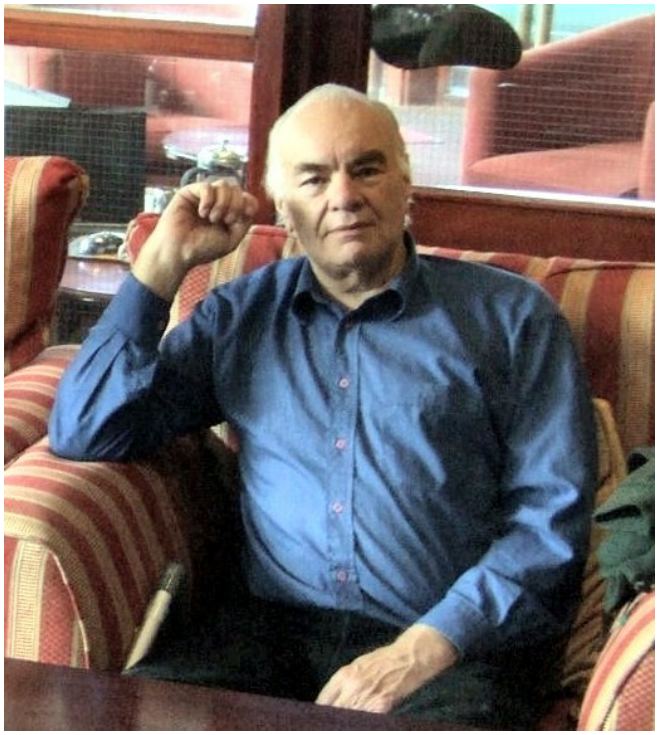
It was with regret that John G3JKL and I decided to cancel our planned Railways on the Air activation.

We had been unable to fully discuss the use of the alternative location with the owner of Fremington Quay Café, but we had a Plan B ready: reverting to the Bideford, East the Water station location.

Unfortunately, there were no offers of assistance from members at Monday's meeting. With some reluctance, John and I therefore decided to pull the plug, as we would not have been able to set up and dismantle the station safely at an open public location without additional help.

It is disappointing that the activation could not go ahead, but it is not proposed to arrange any further on-the-air activations unless there is a greater commitment from the club membership to help organise and run them.

Fred G0EOB SK



It is my sad duty to inform members that Fred Bale, G0EOB, passed away recently. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Fred was an active member of our club and enjoyed a good ragchew, whether on a local repeater or the HF bands. He loved having the latest transceivers and was always striving to put out the best signal possible.

He regularly attended a coffee morning with several local amateurs at a church in Barnstaple, something he thoroughly enjoyed. Having retired from farming on Exmoor, Fred moved to South Molton. Despite having only a small garden, he still managed, with the help of a few local amateurs, to erect some decent and effective HF and VHF vertical antennas.

Fred could always be relied upon to have an opinion on just about anything, which often resulted in him timing out during his over on the repeater! He was a larger-than-life character, a good friend to many, and his absence will leave a huge void. He is now Silent Key, but he will not be forgotten.

Fred's funeral will take place on **27 October at 11:30 am at Barnstaple Crematorium**, followed by a reception at Portmore Golf Club. All are welcome.

73
Mike (G4KXQ)

CLUB PROGRAM

Oct 19th 2026	Club Quiz Night	John G3JKL
Nov 16th 2026	Shack Remote Operations	John G3JKL
Dec 14th 2026	Christmas Party	
Jan 18th 2027	External speaker	TBC
Feb 15th 2027	On-Line Talk – Portable Antennas	Colin MM0OPX
Mar 15th 2027	Annual General Meeting	

September Talk LoRa Modulation and Its Uses



The September meeting featured a talk by Chris G0FJY entitled "LoRa Modulation and Its Uses". The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including LoRa modulation, Meshtastic, TinyGS, LoRaWAN and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Chris explained some of the technology behind LoRa, the various frequencies used and the licence-free regulations and limitations that apply. He also brought along a selection of LoRa boards and modules, giving us a glimpse of the hardware behind this increasingly popular technology.

I found the section on TinyGS particularly fascinating and perhaps a pointer towards another area of the hobby that I might explore. I was certainly unaware of just how many LoRa satellites and ground stations are already in operation. It looks like there is plenty to investigate for anyone interested in satellite communications and experimenting with relatively simple ground-station equipment.

Another area where LoRa is widely used is the Internet of Things, where it provides a means of monitoring and controlling devices remotely. There appears to be a growing network of stations across the South West, forming part of the wider Things Network.



Thanks to Chris for what was both an entertaining and educational talk. It certainly gave us plenty to think about, and perhaps a few new projects to add to the ever-growing amateur radio to-do list!

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 England Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net

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RSGB Convention

I arrived home last evening after a very entertaining weekend at the RSGB Convention in Milton Keynes. The weekend was packed with informative presentations, and I also made contact with several presenters who have indicated that they would be willing to give online talks to help fill our 2027–28 club calendar. So, hopefully, there are some interesting evenings ahead for ADARC!

One of the highlights was the keynote speech by IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, who outlined some of the challenges facing our hobby. These include an ageing amateur radio population and increasing pressure on our precious frequency spectrum from expanding commercial interests, particularly at frequencies above 146 MHz. His overriding message was simple: "Use it or we will lose it!" A timely reminder that if we want to protect our bands, we need to get on the air and use them.

I also attended a presentation entitled "AI as an Engineering Assistant", which was extremely informative. It demonstrated quite clearly how, when used sensibly by the amateur radio community, AI can be an asset rather than a threat.

Continuing the AI theme, I signed up for a paid workshop entitled "AI: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", presented by Mark Jones, M0MGX, who writes the Experimenter's Corner column in RadCom.

As many of you know, I already use AI to help develop small microprocessor-based projects and assist with preparing our monthly newsletter. However, the two hours spent in Mark's workshop opened my eyes to a very different way of using the technology. Rather than treating it simply as a "go-faster" tool for getting things done more quickly, I came away with a much better understanding of how it can be used as a genuine engineering assistant. Definitely food for thought for anyone involved in designing, building or experimenting with their own projects.

Other presentations I managed to squeeze into the weekend included:

- *"The Fox Shall Not Escape – The RSGB and Signals Interception During WW2"*
- *"ETCC, Repeaters and Technology"*
- *"LEO Satellites"*
- *"Making the Invisible Visible: Understanding Your SDR Through IQ Visualisation"*
- *"Arduino Antenna Controller Project"*
- *"Born in the Shack: How Topbytes Turned Humble Beginnings into Lasting Success"*

With up to five presentation streams running at any one time, there was inevitably plenty I missed because of clashes. You really needed to be in five places at once!

There were also representatives from lots of special-interest groups, providing a good opportunity to discover what is happening across the wider amateur radio community.

Martin Lynch & Sons (ML&S) was the only commercial trader present, being the main convention sponsor. Both Icom and Yaesu were represented on the stand, showcasing their ranges of transceivers. Among the equipment attracting attention was the newly announced Icom IC-7110, described as a "shack in a box" mobile rig.

Another interesting item on the ML&S stand was a sample of the new Xiegu G7250, a 100 W HF/6 m SDR transceiver, with a target price of around £1,000. If it delivers on its specification at that price, I suspect it will provide some serious competition for the established big three manufacturers!





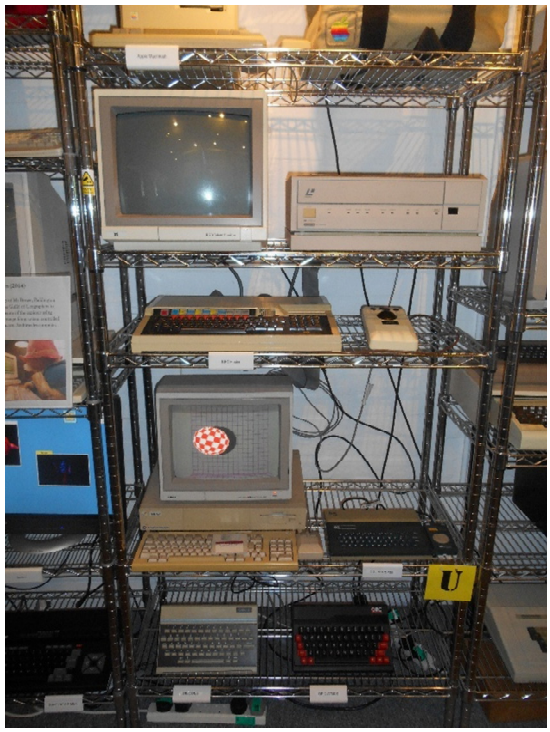
On the Friday before the convention, I took the opportunity to visit the National Museum of Computing at nearby Bletchley Park.

The museum traces the development of computing from the wartime code-breaking Bombe machines right through to modern systems. Along the way, there are plenty of computers that will be familiar to many of us, including a fascinating collection from the personal computer boom of the 1980s. I spotted several machines that I had either owned, lusted after or simply wished I could afford at the time!

For anyone with an interest in computing, electronics or a bit of technological nostalgia, I can thoroughly recommend a visit if you are ever in the area.

All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, with plenty of new ideas, interesting contacts and food for thought to bring home. Now, if only I could find a way to attend five presentations simultaneously!





Raspberry Pi Kit For Sale

Our President Terry has some Raspberry Pi development kit for sale as follows:

Raspberry Pi 3B with case, & PSU and 64Gb card
Freenove Super Starter Kit
Freenove I2C IIC LCD 2004 Display Serial 20x4 Screen
GeeekPi GPIO Expansion Breakout Board for Raspberry Pi
Pressure sensor
KOORUI E1511A Portable Monitor, 15.6 Inch FHD IPS Screen, Built-in Speakers, PSU & HDMI cable
Bluetooth Keyboard and mouse
Books :- Raspberry Pi Projects Book
Raspberry Pi Beginner to Pro Guide
Programming the Raspberry Pi
Python - Easy Python Programming for beginners

Bought everything last June intending to learn how to use and interface a Raspberry Pi - chose the 3B because it includes :-

Processor (CPU): Broadcom BCM2837, 1.2 GHz 64-bit quad-core ARM Cortex-A53
Memory (RAM): 1 GB LPDDR2
Connectivity: Onboard 802.11n wireless LAN and Bluetooth 4.1 with Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)
Ethernet: 10/100 Mbps RJ45 port
USB Ports: 4x USB 2.0 ports
Video & Sound: Full-size HDMI port, 4-pole 3.5mm stereo audio and composite video jack
GPIO: 40-pin extended GPIO header
Camera & Display: CSI camera port and DSI display port
Storage: MicroSD card slot for operating system loading and data storage
Power Input: 5V / 2.5A DC via micro-USB connector

However circumstances have changed and hence selling this comprehensive package.

Everything above is for sale for £90 ono - buyer collect from Westward Ho!

If interested or for any further information, contact me Terry G4CHD at terrywho35@gmail.com

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SSTV Operation – Weekend 02-06 October

SSTV operations returned to the ISS this weekend for a "Student Education" event.
This was a little different from usual in that operation was on 437.550Mhz using Robot 36. Because of the high frequency the doppler effect was quite pronounced. For this event I tried out the latest version of Skyroof from which has the SSTV decoder built in so no messing around with Virtual Audio Devices. The doppler frequency correction was excellent and could run unattended during the day.

The results obtained were excellent using my dual band collinear and my SDR Play receiver. (See right) I think I managed a full set of pictures for the first time ever.

I can certainly recommend the SkyRoof program, it is being actively developed by Alex VE3NEA with upgrades and enhancements being released on a regular basis with active support for Alex via the Skyroof google groups.



DX NEWS - NG3K DXpeditions (14 October-16 December)

Date Range	DXCC Entity	Callsign	Information / Details
01/10/2026 - 31/10/2026	Juan Fernandez Is	XR0Z	By CE3VTZ XQ7I fm Alexander Selkirk I (IOTA SA-101) for 10 days during October; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via M0UXR.
01/10/2026 - 04/11/2026	Gambia	C5	By YU5R F5RAV E70A; HF; for QSL, include SAE; QRV in CQWW DX SSB.
03/10/2026 - 20/11/2026	Solomon Is	H44MS	By DL2GAC; 80-10m; mainly FT8, some SSB; QSL via DL2GAC (B/d).
05/10/2026 - 25/10/2026	Somalia	6O2M	By OG2M fm Garowe, Puntland; 40-10m; SSB CW; spare time operation.
07/10/2026 - 21/10/2026	Solomon Is	H49A	By 9A3MR 9A2NA 9A3CJY 9A4WY 9A7Y DK8ZZ fm Guadalcanal I (IOTA OC-047); HF + 6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via DK8ZZ.
15/10/2026 - 02/11/2026	eSwatini	3DA0GY	By LA9GY fm Piggs Peak; 40-10m; CW SSB; QRV in Worked All Germany SSB and CQWW DX SSB.
16/10/2026 - 20/10/2026	Bangladesh	S21HRG	By 13 ops fm Tetulia, Panchagarh (NL46el); 80-10m; SSB FT8 CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS; QSL manager: S21RAK.

Date Range	DXCC Entity	Callsign	Information / Details
16/10/2026 - 29/10/2026	Lesotho	7P8	By EC7R D2ACE CT1BOL D2IM CT1BZG CT3MD fm Tamarido; 160-6m, incl 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8.
17/10/2026 - 02/11/2026	Ogasawara	JD1BQP	By JP1IHD fm Chichijima I; 160-6m; 200, 100w; EFHW, hexbeam, 6m yagi.
19/10/2026 - 19/11/2026	Tanzania	5H3MB	By IK2GZU fm Ilembula; 80-10m; CW; QSL via IK2GZU (B/d).
22/10/2026 - 26/10/2026	Micronesia	V63	By DL4XT fm Kathmandu; 160-10m; CW SSB FT8; 100-500w.
26/10/2026 - 25/11/2026	Lesotho	7P9EA	By HB9CCS fm Thaba-Tseka (KG0hl); HF; CW SSB.
28/10/2026 - 09/11/2026	Senegal	6W/I2YSB	By IV3FSG I1FQH I1HJT I2PJA I2YSB IK2AQZ IK2CKR IK2HKT; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL via I2YSB.
28/10/2026 - 06/11/2026	St Kitts and Nevis	V47JA	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct.
30/10/2026 - 05/11/2026	Vanuatu	YJ0SP	By VK2SP fm Port Vila; HF.
31/10/2026 - 14/11/2026	Futuna I	FW	By GM3GAV fm Futuna I (IOTA OC-118); mainly 40-10m, some 80 60m; CW FT8; 600w; vertical.
04/11/2026 - 11/11/2026	Cape Verde Is	D44PX	By IZ2DPX fm Boa Vista (HK86mc); 60-6m; SSB FT8 FT4; 100w; vertical, dipoles; QSL via Club Log OQRS.
09/11/2026 - 20/11/2026	Mozambique	C9	By OK1BOA OK1FCJ OK1CRM OK1GK OK2ZA OK2ZC OK2ZI OK6DJ; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS.
10/11/2026 - 24/11/2026	Guinea	3XB	By 10 ON/PA ops fm Lac de Koba; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 5 stns; 1kw; 2 hexbeams, verticals; LoTW after 6 months.
13/11/2026 - 15/11/2026	Ceuta & Melilla	EG9MM	By EA4GHH EA4HUK EA4IWX EA3JAQ fm Melilla; 80-10m; SSB + digital.
13/11/2026 - 20/11/2026	Cape Verde Is	D44JB	By EI8JB fm Santo Antao I (HK77le); 80-10m; focus on SSB FT8; vertical, fan dipole; QSL via Club Log OQRS.
14/11/2026 - 22/11/2026	South Cook Is	E51A	By YT5A fm Rarotonga I; HF; CW SSB FT8; holiday style operation.
15/11/2026 - 22/11/2026	Ecuador	HD4W	By PY8WW fm Esmeraldas Province Group (IOTA SA-056); 40-6m; SSB CW FT8.
16/11/2026 - 04/12/2026	Christmas I	VK9XY	By DL1MGB; 160-10m; CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL1MGB (B/d).
25/11/2026 - 05/12/2026	Honduras	HR9	By K6VHF as K6VHF/HR9 fm Roatan I (IOTA NA-057); 160-6m; all modes; 100w; hexbeam, longwire; QSL via Club Log OQRS.
30/11/2026 - 09/12/2026	St Martin	FS	By DL1MGB; 160-10m; CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL1MGB (B/d).

Data courtesy of Ng3K.com DX Operations: 2026

CONTEST CALENDAR - Data Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Contest	Start–End (UTC)
JARL WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, 17/10/2026 – 2400Z, 18/10/2026
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, 17/10/2026 – 1459Z, 18/10/2026
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, 17/10/2026 – 1500Z, 18/10/2026
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, 17/10/2026
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0700Z-1000Z, 18/10/2026
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, 24/10/2026 – 2359Z, 25/10/2026
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, 31/10/2026 – 2359Z, 01/11/2026
UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, 31/10/2026 – 1200Z, 01/11/2026
Russian WW MultiMode Contest	1200Z, 31/10/2026 – 1159Z, 01/11/2026
North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, 01/11/2026
EANET Sprint	0800Z-1200Z, 01/11/2026
Classic Exchange, CW	1400Z, 01/11/2026 – 0800Z, 02/11/2026
High Speed Club CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, 01/11/2026
Real Time Contest	1600Z-2000Z, 01/11/2026
YBDXPI FT8 Contest	0000Z, 07/11/2026 – 2359Z, 08/11/2026
IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1800Z, 07/11/2026
IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1800Z, 08/11/2026
FIRAC HF Contest	0700Z-1700Z, 08/11/2026
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, 14/11/2026 – 2359Z, 15/11/2026
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, 14/11/2026 – 2359Z, 15/11/2026
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, 14/11/2026 – 1300Z, 15/11/2026
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, 14/11/2026 – 1200Z, 15/11/2026
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, 14/11/2026 – 2359Z, 15/11/2026
Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	1300Z-1700Z, 15/11/2026
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, 21/11/2026 – 1200Z, 22/11/2026
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z-2359Z, 21/11/2026
REF 160-Meter Contest	1700Z-2359Z, 21/11/2026
South American Integration Contest CW	1800Z, 21/11/2026 – 2100Z, 22/11/2026
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, 28/11/2026 – 2400Z, 29/11/2026
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, 04/12/2026 – 1600Z, 06/12/2026
PRO CW Contest	1200Z, 05/12/2026 – 1159Z, 06/12/2026
FT Challenge	1800Z, 05/12/2026 – 2359Z, 06/12/2026
PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, 12/12/2026 – 2359Z, 14/12/2026
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, 12/12/2026 – 2359Z, 13/12/2026
TRC Digi Contest	0600Z, 12/12/2026 – 1800Z, 13/12/2026
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, 12/12/2026 – 2359Z, 13/12/2026
ARI 40/80 Contest	1300Z, 12/12/2026 – 1359Z, 13/12/2026
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, 13/12/2026

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 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 Phil G6DLJ

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

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 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

GB3MD – UHF Analogue Repeater – Coldridge, Mid Devon
TX 430.850 RX 438.450, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G4PKZ
South West All Star Network (SWAN HUB)
Frequencies are those transmitted and received by the Repeater .