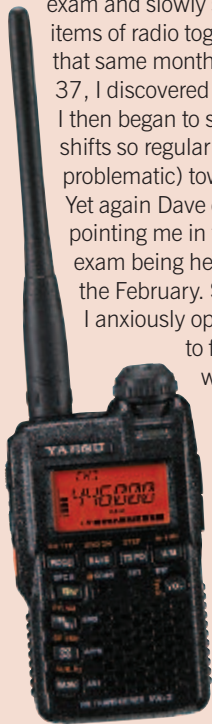


**12 MONTH CYCLE****Lee Davies, M0LPD**

It is just less than 12 months ago that I began to ponder what I could do to help me pass the winter nights as they began to approach. I'd finally passed some work exams that had proven problematic for several years and could let down my hair (if only I had some!). Then it came to me, I'd promised myself I'd get my amateur radio licence. So, several hours on Google and multiple e-mails turned up nothing. Not being one to give in I found the website of the RSGB, then I fired a e-mail off to Dave Wilson, M0OBW. He was good enough to put me in touch with Chris, G1PUV at South Cheshire ARS and, before I knew it, I was on my way to my Foundation Licence, which I got in November 2008. Having had the touch paper lit and with a mission to work HF while on holiday in Europe, it quickly became apparent that I would need to get my Advanced licence under my belt. In December I completed my Intermediate exam and slowly started to get some items of radio together of my own. In that same month, at the young age of 37, I discovered I had severe dyslexia! I then began to study at home (I work shifts so regular club nights are problematic) toward my Advanced. Yet again Dave came to the rescue, pointing me in the direction of an exam being held in Manchester in the February. Several weeks later I anxiously opened the envelope to find I'd passed – what a relief!



the reply, "Congratulations... where now?"

Passing the Advanced is no small task but, clearly, if you apply yourself you can achieve great things. I take my hat off to all those that did the RAE and the Morse. So here I was with my new call M0LPD and on letting Dave know the result I got

Having a ten year old son sat around in the shack (the wife thinks it is a conservatory) was only going to lead to one thing. This is a lad who would sit playing with a box of wires in preference to sitting watching the footie and who am I to suppress such natural talent and inquisitiveness? Before I knew it I was helping Dave out with a course for a Foundation exam for my son, Conor, and father in law, Nicky, along with three other lads from the Scouts who had become interested following a JOTA session. All passed!

Following the course I knew I wanted to put something back in to the hobby after all the time, kindness and support I have been given so far, so I applied to become a trainer. This week I have received my trainers pack from the RSGB. Having a wife who is a teacher at the local Primary school (4 years to 11 years) and being a governor myself has already opened up an avenue to provide training for the older children and get some of them through their foundation licences and on to the air. The head was very keen for a Radio Club, after all the hobby pulls together so much of the curriculum its surprising radio doesn't play a greater part nationally. Shortly I'm attending a Train the Trainers session at Telford.

So there we are, in less than 12 months I have gone full cycle... from wondering how I'm going to get in to the hobby to now being in a position to provide training to others. I'd like to thank all at South Cheshire ARS, The Beacons RC and a huge thank you to Dave, M0OBW and Kath, M1CNY.

And, finally, a cheeky appeal, if anyone has any kit or books gathering dust that they feel could be donated to good use training the children at Seabridge Primary, my local school to Foundation level then all offers would be appreciated. I can be contacted via lee@lrproject.com.



tackling the main course because we all know what happens when the section about 'Basic Electronics' is approaching – suddenly a mass outbreak of flu occurs!

All I would say is don't be afraid and work hard then it will be all right. I would also like to thank the club 'backroom staff' for giving me a lot of support in the three years I have been teaching at Worksop G3RCW. Finally, to anybody who is thinking about setting up a MO course, please feel free to contact me (e-mail on QRZ page) or the club.

**LONDON 2012****Kevin Duckhouse, MW3RNI**

Looking forward to the 2012 Games, I am as hopeful as the next licensee about the opportunity to mark the occasion with a special personal callsign - Ofcom willing. The eyes and ears of the world will be on us and for anybody wanting to QSL in a special way, here is the chance.

It occurred to me that there has to be an easy way around the callsign prefix maze that entangles us: what with G-callsigns, M-callsigns and the (as some find, inauspicious) regional identifiers; whilst taking care to protect the famous trademark.

Then it struck me that we have the spectacularly unique prospect of taking advantage of the "2" series and in a way which no other country could hope to beat in any of our lifetimes.

Instead of replacing part of any callsign with an alternative prefix, all that would be required for those wishing to participate, is to add '2012' to the beginning of every and any British amateur radio callsign for the duration. A kind of super-prefix, and in the instance of those already possessing Intermediate callsigns, just extend the 2 into 2012 - and there we may all have it!

I do hope the RSGB will be able to secure this for us all to happily enjoy. Long may the pileups of international goodwill reign, and let the QSL Bureau be very busy!

**THANKS****Chris Smith, G4NUX**

I would like to express my thanks to all those who responded to my plea in Helplines for information about Frank Rose. I had no idea that Frank had held a licence for so long. The one piece of information that nobody supplied was Frank's age when he died.

My thanks again to all who took the time to respond by email, letter and phone.

**Tom Morgan G0CAJ, ZS1AFS, ZT1T**

I wrote to Helplines, yet again in 2009, for assistance. The response from individual RSGB members was overwhelming. I needed the manual for a Jaybeam 2-ele TB2 antenna. I was inundated with help, from many hams including some from Scotland. The company, Jaybeam, had been unable to help.

I should mention G3JKV who sent me a complete original and the several RSGB

**ADVANCE ONWARDS!****Mike Hall M0MGH**

I would like to send out this appeal to all Intermediate licence holders to try to work towards getting their Advanced licence. At my local club at Worksop (G3RCW), we run courses for all three levels and I run the Advanced course lessons. I would like to ask the 2Es in our area to consider taking the MO course because not only does the licence give greater access and privileges, it also helps the candidate to understand why we have the structure of the courses and the necessary progression that's required along with

technical insights that would otherwise not be recognised or known about.

I also find the achievement of passing as great a thrill for me as it is for the candidates. I am also amazed at how hard people work towards it – those that really want it. The gulf is wide, however, between the Intermediate level and the Full licence course in terms of mathematics and often proves to be too great a stumbling block. At Worksop club we've been mulling the idea of a pre-Advance course that would deal with calculators and basic formulae. A sort of primer if you will that will enable candidates to gain confidence in

members who sent me scans of TB3 antenna and offers to measure their TB2 for me.

As someone who spends most of the year in South Africa, I am grateful for the help and support that RSGB members have afforded me during my summer stay. I will be on 20m from South Africa by the middle of September, on SSB around 14.200MHz and PSK31. I will be looking for UK contacts. Once my station has been fully assembled (I dismantle it if I am out of the country) I will be using my call ZS1AFS. Also, I will be using my new special callsign, ZT1T. It is the first and only ZT1, so it will be one for the callsign collectors.

## TO THE RESCUE

**Phill, G6EES, Vice Chairman, NADARS**

On Sunday 9 August, the Newbury Radio Society hired a bus to take 14 club members to the Flight Refuelling Hamfest in Wimborne Dorset in the morning, followed by a visit to the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford in the afternoon. The venues were fantastic and we can recommend you attend both next year.

As you can imagine, it was a full day with a tight schedule. Having spent an enjoyable 2.5hrs at the rally, we all boarded the bus for departure to the museum. Some minutes later, still sitting in the rally car park with none of the usual engine noise from the front, our driver announced that the bus could not be started due to a flat battery (trust the driver to leave the air-conditioning running without the engine!).



We all got out and started to push. Can you visualise the scene of 14 ultra fit (??) club members pushing this huge bus – I confirm that we did move it a couple of feet!!

Then, without being asked, a knight on a shining white horse (actually a white Range Rover) came to our rescue with a set of jump leads. A few minutes later, there was the usual rattle of the diesel engine coming from the front of the bus and we were back on our way.

The Newbury Radio Society – and especially the 14 members on the bus – would like to thank the rally organisers for a great event, but most importantly to give a special vote of thanks to Jules Smith, GONZO, the man who saved our day with the jump start.

## BEGINNERS

**Les Brook G4OGD**

May I respond to the letters from Andrew Howlett, G1HBE, Stewart Rolfe, GW0ETF and Terry Burbidge, G4MKP and say how disappointed I am with all three of their letters and the attitudes they express.

Amateur radio is a very inclusive hobby and counts among its enthusiasts a wide range of abilities and different interests. The common theme being an interest, if not a love of radio and communications in general.

True there is a very technical element to what we do, but that does not exclude those who choose to concentrate on the communication part of our hobby and many a time I have spent 'chewing the fat' with locals and those further a field, not only about radio but other things.

I wonder how many amateurs these days don't have a black box in the shack. Or how many could explain what a roofing filter is or what it does for the modern receiver. Actually, it doesn't take two minutes to find out. But does it matter that much if you are more interested in chatting and logging QSOs.

It saddens me greatly to read Stewart's comment "I would suggest there are other communications-type pastimes that would suit him better". I would say to Kevin, "don't worry too much about the technology. Concentrate on what you enjoy the most about our hobby and if you feel the need to dip into how it works there will be plenty, more supportive amateurs for you to approach".

Clearly, G1BHE, GW0ETF and G4MKP will not be among them. Shame on you.

## INTERNET GATEWAYS

**Martin Davies, GW4GNY**

I was tuning 40m late this morning and was surprised to hear an albeit weak signal from a station signing with a USA callsign. I went back to him and although copy was difficult, discovered that he was, in fact, speaking into his home computer and that his signal was emanating from the 'internet remote base' at HB9Z. An internet search revealed that there are other such 'gateways' in existence.

I feel that if the number of these virtual transmitters increases it will cause havoc to HF operation as we know it. I feel that at the very least stations should be compelled to sign with the callsign of the relay station and not their home call. I had in fact worked Switzerland not the USA. Any QSL from such a QSO would be of little value DX wise.

## TUNING UP

**Phillip Probert, GW1PJP**

Here I sit in my shack reading the September issue of *RadCom*, headphones on listening to the DX ... C21... also AP2. If I wait, they should get louder. Again, some clown starts to tune up on the DX frequency. Again, I rip off the headphones. Why do these clowns (I will not call them operators) do it? They give themselves away as soon as they have tuned up they are normally the loudest signal and they then continue to call over the QSO in progress. It is an education in good and bad operating practice to listen to the pile ups on the DX station.

Reading GM4FDM's comments about new licensees not being heard on the air, when I started 25 years ago it was suggested

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to me to cut my teeth on the many contests and WAB net that were taking place, which I did building up my confidence. I soon made the step up calling CQ. With 6m, the DX bug really kicked in. Even now I chase IOTA on all bands and never miss a contest, always giving away points.

I have a motor home so operate when I am away all through Europe. My favourite has been Lichtenstein on 6m.

Well AP2 is now louder now, so let's get of this PC and see if I can make contact.

## PALM PEG LEGS

**Adam, M6RDP**

I have just purchased a set of Palm Peg Legs for the Yaesu 817 from Martin Lynch and Sons. I was a bit worried that they might be tricky to fit, but they were a doddle, even for me! They came with very clear instructions and even with spare screws and washers and, more importantly, spare rubber 'socks' to fit over the ends in case the original set wears. There were also a set of four clear rubber 'stubs' (for want of a better word) that attach to the bottom of the 817 to protect it on rough surfaces that might be encountered when out portable and the legs are raised.



Once fitted, the legs looked as though they had always been there, and there was a lovely professional feel to the movement as I lowered and raised them.

This has to have been the best £14.95 I have spent in many, many years. Absolutely delighted with my Peg Legs and my thanks to Palm for the thought and skill that went into them.