

Worthing Amateur Radio Club Successful National Science Week 2006

National Science Week sees the Amateur Radio community across the UK running special events in schools, colleges, museums and other various groups within the communities.

This annual event is supported by OFCOM, the Radio Society of Great Britain and the world's communication equipment manufacturers.



The social and community benefits of amateur radio can be seen clearly when major incidents, or natural disasters strike. 9/11, the Tsunami and other worldwide events see the amateur radio community step in instantly with emergency communications when all other systems fail; leaving emergency communications impossible with conventional systems. Amateur radio fills these voids and its volunteer operators step in to fill the vacuum. Perhaps the American amateur (HAM) radio community is better at getting this vital message of emergency radio communication

and community based assets across to the public, via their structure within college education in the U.S.A, however the UK and Europe are catching up fast.

Community events like the forthcoming London Marathon will find a network of marshalling amateur radio licensees manning the route for routine and emergency radio traffic. With these aspects of the hobby, plus innovation and experimentations by amateurs taking technology forward in communications worldwide, with many of today's accepted technologies having been conceived within amateur radio community. However; the most important aspect of national science week is to bring the science, by practical hands on involvement, into schools and colleges with radio workshops run locally by W.A.D.A.R.C. and SETPOINT Sussex, the National SETNET and STELLAR organizations.

Locally the Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club membership have enjoyed bringing Amateur Radio and the sciences to the public during the National Science Week and have an ongoing program of radio workshops and talks in schools across the region. Nine of the memberships are science and engineering ambassadors working in partnership with SETPOINT Sussex.

Worthing Museum opened its doors to National Science Week where members set up two active radio stations surrounded by the beautiful and inspiring collections of artefacts from Sussex life, period costumes, and superb local art works, including artefacts from the recently screened Channel Four 'Time Team' archaeological dig north of Worthing at Black Patch hill.



The museum has now been granted a permanent United Kingdom call sign which is GB2WM (Great Britain 2 Worthing Museum) which was used throughout science week. On the high frequency bands (HF) stations were contacted all across Europe, Africa, the America's, and middle east stations including Iraq and as far a field as Australia. These contacts were made using telephony (voice) and Morse Code (CW) modes of transmission.

The second radio station was using VHF and UHF frequencies (very high frequency and ultra high frequencies) to establish local contacts on only fifteen watts of power. Accessing an internet gateway (MB71OU) at Upper Beeding, run by Preston (G0UQY). The range of this local mode of transmission is increased via a network of computers and radios links to allow the visitors to listen to WADARC members talking to stations in Eire (E14JR Peter), 2E0GYZ Will in Swindon

Wiltshire and Carl N4NQG just off Interstate 75 in Florida U.S.A. This particular mode of operation is very popular with younger visitors as they marvel at the interaction between radio's and computers.

The ever popular Morse code practice oscillator was used to introduce Morse to the young visitors. A simple test of S.O.S. followed by the spelling of their names in Morse code earned them a certificate of achievement which they proudly clutched as they left the museum.

Various other events will be held at the Worthing Museum over the summer months, these will include radio workshops supported by the W.A.D.A.R.C. in partnership with SETPOINT Sussex and Worthing Museum to be held in August 2006. Students get to build, and take home, their very own working transistor radio. There is however a charge for these radio kits.

The W.A.D.A.R.C. wishes to thank all members who gave so tirelessly over the week and the superb staff of Worthing Museum, and Worthing Borough Council for their support.

For further information re radio workshops, amateur radio training and events at Worthing Museum please contact Lesley Gale on 01903 523769 or via ld.gale@ntlworld.com or contact Worthing Museum on 01903 239999 ex 1140 or visit www.worthing.gov.uk.

Newhaven Fort Museum: The Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club also had a busy science week within the ramparts of Newhaven Fort.

Visiting schools were treated to a talk from Kelvan Gale M0KEL on the fundamentals of amateur radio and the science behind communications including communications in space and with the International Space Station. A PowerPoint presentation was used in support, along with the excellent Radio Society of Great Britain 'Introduction to amateur radio' DVD.



Sadly the new education room and current signals room were unavailable for use due to urgent building works, but the staff of the fort, were most accommodating in allowing the club to use the school room for the week.

The ever popular Morse code oscillator was in use all week with students and visitors getting expert guidance from Don M0ZDW, Denzil G3KXF and Graham G0IOF amongst other members, on the art of communication using the code.

Students and visitors who sent their own names using the code were awarded a commemorative certificate of achievement.

Two active radio stations were set up in the school room using the high frequency, very high, and ultra high frequencies. The station used its permanent world renowned call sign of GB2NFM (Great Britain 2 Newhaven Fort Museum.) Visitors were able to hear stations both locally across the south-east, and across the world on the HF bands.

Amateur radio stations using telephony on 40metre HF band contacted across the world included; GM0WED (Scotland) – 9A60CBW (Serbia) – GP0STH (Club call sign Jersey) – SP2CCO (Poland) – GX4ARF (School pupils in Barrow on Furnace) – Using CW (Morse code) an American station WX W1CKA was contacted amongst a host of other worldwide contacts.

It was a hugely rewarding week of activities building on the foundations of bringing fun, the sciences, and bonds of friendship across the World, and language communication skills, with language students having a wealth of the world's languages available at the press of a microphone switch.

Special thanks to the excellent Newhaven Fort Staffs and all participating volunteer members of the radio club.

For further information re radio workshops, amateur radio training and events at Newhaven Fort Museum please contact Lesley Gale on 01903 523769 or via ld.gale@ntlworld or contact Newhaven Fort Museum on 01273 517622 or visit www.newhavenfortmuseum.org.uk .

W.A.D.A.R.C. visit local school for National Science Week: Members of the Worthing Amateur Radio Club in partnership with SETPOINT Sussex have spent time with pupils and teachers of Rudgewick School near Horsham and at Howard Shiner School in Petworth, running radio workshops. Pupils were given instruction on how to build their very own working transistor radio with all pupils able to keep their creations to take home. Some thirty four really happy children enjoyed the event at the Rudgewick School and fifty-four equally happy students at Petworth School, for National Science Week.

Some nine W.A.D.A.R.C. club members are SETPOINT Sussex and SETNET science and engineering ambassadors and have all been fully enhanced C.R.B. checked. For further details or bookings please contact Kelvan Gale on 1470 01903 523769 or via email at kelvan.gale@ntlworld or SETPOINTSussex on www.setpointsussex.org.uk .

The Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club is now a C.R.B. Umbrella body specializing in C.R.B. checks for small club volunteers. This service is run by volunteers for volunteers, wishing to ensure the suitability of their volunteers to work with children or vulnerable groups within their organizations. Further information or costing available from Geoff Patrick on 01903 692844 or via www.warc.co.uk crb.wadarc@btinternet.com or visit www.crb.gov.uk .