

UK Microwave Group

Spectrum Report - 2008



Forum Membership

Sam, G4DDK, was appointed the UKuG Committee Spectrum representative at the UKuG AGM in November 2007. Sam has worked on Frequency Management projects in Europe as well as on a number of FM projects in the UK. G3PFR and G3YGF continue to provide advice.

Successes

Beacons

UKuG has continued to engage with beacon builders in the UK. As result of this we now have one of the most extensive networks of microwave band beacons in Europe.

Several new beacons have appeared in the UK in 2008

GB3CAM 10 & 24GHz

GB3FNM 5.7, 24GHz & 47GHz

GB3CFG 1.3GHz

GB3KEU 5.7GHz

Several others have been restored to service.

A new beacon spotting web page facility has been introduced and this now provides the most up to date beacon information in Europe.

Beginners and Intermediate Workshops

Workshops have been held in Potters Bar (Beginners) and Sheffield (Intermediate), since the last report.

Round Tables

In the period well attended Roundtables have been held at Martlesham, Bath, Sheffield and Crawley.

Radcom/Scatterpoint

The RADCOM Microwave column (The GHz Bands) was restored to monthly from June 2008.

A number of Microwave related articles and reviews have appeared in the last year and this will continue, as effort allows.

Scatterpoint continues to cover the Microwave scene, with construction technology and activity content. Now available through a special Yahoo Group for those with e-mail difficulties.

Opportunities

The opportunity has been taken to attend many of the UK and international UHF and Microwave events and to use those opportunities to publicise the UKuG. Closer ties are being forged with other Microwave subject related groups. BATC used the Sheffield Microwave RT as an opportunity to stream live video of the event. This is known to have been watched on at least 4 continents.

Failures

The combination of 24GHz with 10GHz and 5.7GHz in the popular Cumulative contest has not been too successful and it is likely that 24GHz will be separated again in 2009. This band is probably best suited to either stand alone or combining with 47GHz.

Threats

Quite a number of members are concerned by the uncertainty and potential impact of the 2012 Olympics on Spectrum. – not just for the period but in respect of retention afterwards. This concern continues.

The possible loss of the DX section of the 1.3GHz band, to Galileo, continues as a major concern.