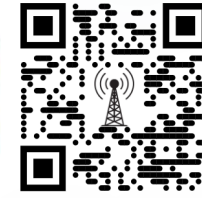




Stafford and Districts Amateur Radio Society



Scouts Communicator Activity Badge



Welcome

We are a group of amateur radio enthusiasts from the Staffordshire area. We hold a club meeting every Wednesday evening from 8pm to 10pm in Stafford where we get together to discuss our hobby, operate our club station and work on club projects.

During spring and summer months, you can often find us operating from Cannock Chase using our club call sign GX3SBL. Previous activities have included operating from Tackeroo and Billington in Staffordshire, Buxton in Derbyshire and the Island of Anglesey in Wales where we have setup a radio station and used club equipment over the period of a weekend or possibly a week and we have encouraged our club members to visit and participate in these activities.

During the winter we work on our own and/or club projects, building, testing, servicing and repairing equipment. Other winter activities include talks and demonstrations from club members and visitors.

If you are interested in joining us, feel free to get in touch with our membership secretary for more information on how to join. Or come along and say hello on most Wednesday nights from 8pm at Wildwood Community Centre, Stafford.

Our club website can be found at: <https://g3sbl.org.uk>.

Further information regarding the Amateur Radio Hobby can also be found by visiting the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) website at: <https://rsgb.org>.

Agenda

- 1) How do radio waves travel around the world?
We refer to this as ionospheric propagation.
The sun energizes several layers of the ionosphere. These layers can absorb or “reflect” radio waves. Whether and how well radio waves are “reflected” depends on the frequency used.
- 2) The most commonly used HF and VHF amateur frequency bands.
HF – High Frequency, 3 MHz to 30 MHz. 80m, 40m, 20m etc.
VHF – Very High Frequency, 30 MHz to 300 MHz. 2m etc.
- 3) Phonetic alphabet.
Effective method of ensuring voice communication can be understood.
Helps differentiate between similar sounding letters, such as B and D, F and S, M and N etc.
- 4) Q codes.
Standardized collection of three letter codes that each start with the letter “Q”.
Q codes are operating signals originally developed for commercial radiotelegraph communication and later adopted by amateur radio.
- 5) Call signs purpose and format. UK and some Europe regional prefixes.
UK call signs start with G, M and 2. Republic of Ireland – EI, France – F, Germany – D, Italy – I, Poland – SP, Netherlands – PA, Russia – R etc.
- 6) Regulations governing the use of amateur radio equipment:
 - The amateur licence is for self-training in radio communications and is of a non-commercial nature.
 - More advanced classes of amateur licence allow greater facilities and the ability to build/modify transmitting equipment.
 - Any transmitting station must be clearly identifiable by transmitting the call sign as frequently as practicable.
 - Only send messages to other amateurs.
 - Secret codes are not permitted.
 - Broadcasting is not permitted.
 - Only the licensee or another UK licenced amateur operating under his/her supervision may use the Radio Equipment.
 - In certain circumstances the licensee may allow the equipment to be used by a member of a User Service.
 - Ofcom must be notified of licensee change of address.
 - A person authorised by Ofcom has the right to inspect, require the modification, close down or restrict the operation of the Radio Equipment.
 - Understand and apply the Schedule to the licence, identify allowable frequencies and power limits.
- 7) Tuning a receiver.
- 8) Examples of typical greetings messages:
Calling CQ on HF, VHF and answering calls.
- 9) Log 25 different amateur radio stations, possibly including broadcast stations in the following logbook.

